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Monday
26 March, 2012
6 Chaitra, 1934 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

- Re: Demanding Suspension of Question Hour (page 1-2)
Written Answers to Starred Questions (page 2-44)
Written Answers to Unstarred Questions (pages 44-245)
Written Answers to Starred and Unstarred Questions set for 23rd
March, 2012 (pages 245-474)
Statement by Minister Correcting Answers to Questions (page 474)
Papers Laid on the Table (page 474-82)
Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Defence – *Laid on the Table* (page 482)
Statement by Minister –
Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twelfth
Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution – *Laid on the Table*
(page 482)
Government Bill –
The Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2012 – *Introduced* (page 483)
Matters raised with permission –
Demand for urgent need to improve service conditions of Central
Parliamentary Forces Personnel (page 483-84)

[P.T.O.]

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Intrusion into Indian Airspace by Chinese Helicopter (page 484)

Suicide by Tribal student in Andhra Pradesh for creation of Telangana State (page 485-86)

Suicide and self-immolation attempts by people in Andhra Pradesh for creation of separate State of Telangana (page 486-87)

Special Mentions–

Concern over food adulteration in the country (page 487-88)

Concern over black money hoarded Abroad (page 488-93)

President's Message (page 494)

The Budget (General), 2012-13 (page 494-552)

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RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 26 March, 2012/6th Chaitra, 1934 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

RE : DEMANDING SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 161...(*Interruptions*) This is Question Hour, and only questions will be taken up...(*Interruptions*)

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र): सर, मैंने suspension of Question Hour का नोटिस दिया है।...(*व्यवधान*)...

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

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, जब सेना प्रमुख अपना अनुभव बता रहे हैं...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री सभापति: प्रकाश जी, कृपया आप बैठ जाइए। Tiwariji, please, no display of newspapers...(*Interruptions*)

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: उन्होंने सरकार को बता दिया है...(*व्यवधान*)...रक्षा मंत्री को बता दिया है...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.161...(*Interruptions*) तिवारी जी, अखबार मत दिखाइए।...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, सेना प्रमुख कोई आम व्यक्ति नहीं है।...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री सभापति: कृपया आप बैठ जाइए। Please allow the Question Hour to proceed...(*Interruptions*)

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री सभापति: देखिए, all matters are discussed through appropriate procedures...(*Interruptions*)

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड): सभापति महोदय, सेना प्रमुख ने जो बयान दिया है...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री सभापति: कृपया आप लोग बैठ जाइए।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार): सर, यह आरोप लगाया गया है कि फौज में ऐसी गाड़ियां चल रही हैं, जो exorbitant price पर खरीदी गई हैं...(*व्यवधान*)...लेकिन कोई इंतजाम नहीं है।...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please allow the Question Hour to proceed...(*Interruptions*)

श्री बलवीर पुंज: सर...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विजय कुमार रूपाणी: सर...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: सर, वैसे आर्मी चीफ से भी पूछा जाना चाहिए कि जब उन्हें घूस ऑफर हुआ, तब उन्होंने पुलिस को क्यों नहीं बुलाया?...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): It is a highly sensitive and an important issue...(Interruptions)...

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: सेना प्रमुख का यह कहना है कि...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the Question Hour to proceed...(Interruptions). Nothing is going on record...(Interruptions)

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: *

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: *

श्री विजय कुमार रूपाणी: *

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: *

श्री सभापति: कृपया आप लोग बैठ जाइए!...(व्यवधान)... The House is adjourned till 12.00 hours.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House re-assembled at twelve of the Clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Food security for common man

†*161. SHRI RAMACHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the requirement of food security for the common man in the country cannot be fulfilled by its own resources;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the other options which are being considered by Government in such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government has adequate resources for meeting the requirements of food security for common man. The Government is implementing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under which foodgrains at subsidised prices are provided to targeted households. The Government is also implementing Other Welfare Scheme (OWS)

*Not recorded.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

such as Integrated Child Development Services, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Annapurna etc. to ensure food security of especially vulnerable groups.

Government has introduced the National Food Security Bill (NFSB) in the Lok Sabha on 22-12-2011, which aims at providing legal entitlements to foodgrains and meals to targeted population. As per provisions of NFSB, and using 2011 Census population, the requirement of foodgrains for TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes prescribed in the Bill, is estimated at 60.74 million tons. The stock of foodgrains available in the Central Pool as on 1st March, 2012 is 54.43 million tons as against the buffer norm of 25 million tons for the quarter beginning 1st January, 2012. The procurement of wheat and rice during 2010-11 was 62.53 million tons and expected procurement of rice and wheat during 2011-12 is 67.12 million tons. With the stock of foodgrains available in the Central Pool and trends in procurement, it would be possible to meet the estimated requirement of foodgrains under NFSB.

Declaration of National Projects

*162. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is declaring some projects as national projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Government launched a scheme in 2008 for expediting completion of identified National Projects. Under this scheme 14 projects were declared as National Projects.

Subsequently, project proposals from different States have been received for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects.

(b) and (c) The list of 14 projects approved as national projects is given in Statement (*See below*).

Out of the proposals received subsequently from the State Governments for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects, Government has decided to process the Saryu Nahar project and the Sharda Sahayak project for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects. Government has yet to take a decision on the remaining eligible proposals.

Statement*List of Projets declared as National Projects*

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	(1) Irrigation (ha.) (2) Power (MW) (3) Storage (MAF)	State	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Teesta Barrage	(1) 9.23 lakh (2) 1000 MW (3) Barrage	West Bengal	Under Execution
2.	Shahpur Kandi	(1) 3.80 lakh (2) 300 MW (3) 0.016 MAF	Punjab	Under Execution
3.	Bursar	(1) 1 lakh (indirect) (2) 1230 MW (3) 1 MAF	Jammu and Kashmir	DPR under preparation by NHPC
4.	2nd Ravi Vyas Link	Harness water flowing across border of about 3 MAF	Punjab	Under conceptual stage
5.	Ujh multipurpose project	(1) 0.32 lakh ha (2) 280 MW	Jammu and Kashmir	DPR under preparation by CWC

6.	Gyspa project	(3) 0.66 MAF (1) 0.50 lakh ha (2) 240 MW	Himachal Pradesh	DPR under preparation by Government of Himachal Pradesh
7.	Lakhvar Vyasi	(3) 0.6 MAF (1) 0.49 lakh (2) 420 MW (3) 0.325 MAF	Uttanchal	DPR prepared and under appraisal.
8.	Kishau	(1) 0.97 Lakh (2) 600 MW (3) 1.04 MAF	Himachal Pradesh/Uttanchal	DPR prepared and under appraisal.
9.	Renuka	(1) Drinking Water (2) 40 MW (3) 0.44 MAF	Himachal Pradesh	DPR prepared. Forest Clearance awaited
10.	Noa-Dehang Dam Project	(1) 8000 ha. (2) 75 MW (3) 0.26 MAF	Arunachal Pradesh	DPR under preparation by Brahmaputra Board
11.	Kulsi Dam Project	(1) 23,900 ha. (2) 29 MW (3) 0.28 MAF	Assam	DPR under preparation by Brahmaputra Board

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Upper Siang	Indirect 9500 MW 17.50 MAF Flood moderation	Arunachal Pradesh	Under conceptual stage
13.	Gosikhurd	(1) 2.50 lakh (2) 3 MW (3) 0.93 MAF	Maharashtra	Under execution
14.	Ken Betwa	6.46 lakh 72 MW 2.25 MAF	Madhya Pradesh	Phase-I DPR prepared and submitted to CWC in December, 2011. Under

Shortage of electricity

*163. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a report by the Central Electricity Authority has revealed that electricity shortage has increased relatively on monthly basis since 2010;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor, region-wise; and
- (c) what measures Government proposes to take to meet the growing demand of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority has not brought out any report stating that electricity shortages have increased relatively on monthly basis since 2010. However, the electricity shortages varies from state to state on month to month basis, depending upon the demand and supply of power. The region-wise details of electricity shortages, both in terms of energy and peak, for year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 (upto February, 2012) are given in Statement (*See* below). The main reasons for shortage of power in the country are as under:

- i. Growth in demand for power outstripping the growth in generation and capacity addition.
- ii. Shortage of peaking power in the grid.
- iii. Low Plant Load factor of some of the thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector and newly commissioned units.
- iv. Inadequate sub-transmission and distribution network in some States.
- v. High Transmission and Distribution Losses.
- vi. Poor financial position of State Utilities which does not enable them to raise the resources necessary for making required investments to create adequate generation capacity.

(c) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to mitigate shortage of power in the country are given below:

- (i) Acceleration in generating capacity addition.
- (ii) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.
- (iii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to reap benefits of economies of scale.
- (iv) Augmentation of domestic manufacturing capacity of power equipment.

- (v) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.
- (vi) Thrust to import of coal by the power utilities to meet the shortfall in coal supplies to thermal power stations from domestic sources.
- (vii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.
- (viii) Strengthening of inter-State and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power.
- (ix) Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network as a major step towards loss reduction.
- (x) Thrust to rural electrification through Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

Statement												
Month-wise region-wise details of shortages (both energy and peak) from April, 2009 to February, 2012												
Month	Northern Region				Western Region				Southern Region			
	Energy		Peak		Energy		Peak		Energy		Peak	
	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(%)	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(%)	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Apr., 2009	2,074	11.1	3,979	12.4	3,359	14.9	5,284	15.0	1,682	9.0	2,847	9.7
May., 2009	2,267	10.6	4,432	13.8	2,570	11.9	5,455	16.0	838	4.8	1,976	7.1
Jun., 2009	3,168	13.7	4,291	12.1	2,809	13.5	5,469	16.5	971	5.6	3,621	12.6
Jul., 2009	2,651	11.0	4011	11.3	1567	8.8	4826	15.6	1053	5.8	3052	10.6
Aug., 2009	3,635	14.7	5909	15.9	2647	12.6	6947	19.6	1187	6.3	2921	10.1
Sep., 2009	2,872	13.0	4191	12.1	2458	11.6	6274	16.9	914	5.2	2157	7.5
Oct., 2009	2,454	11.7	4487	12.8	2354	11.0	5906	15.9	1318	6.9	2837	9.8
Nov., 2009	1,889	10.2	3547	11.5	2594	12.7	6918	18.4	798	4.9	2101	7.7
Dec., 2009	2,130	10.5	4187	12.6	3646	16.0	6478	17.4	1052	5.9	2522	8.9
Jan., 2010	2,295	11.2	4254	13.0	3795	16.4	6662	18.0	993	5.3	2028	7.0
Feb., 2010	1,698	9.3	3543	10.9	3572	16.8	6805	18.2	1160	6.2	3119	10.4
Mar., 2010	2,436	11.4	3853	11.8	4030	16.4	7023	17.7	2066	9.4	3129	9.7
2009-10	29570	11.6	5720	15.4	35401	13.7	7023	17.7	14032	6.4	3129	9.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	10
Apr., 2010	3437	16.3	4714	14.4	4501	18.3	7418	18.8	2195	10.6	3160	9.8	Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
May., 2010	2492	10.9	2735	8.1	4193	17.2	6787	18.0	1332	7.1	3547	11.3	
Jun., 2010	1823	7.9	2079	5.9	3227	15.4	7034	19.5	1219	6.7	4420	14.3	
Jul., 2010	1972	8.3	3751	10.4	2392	12.5	5924	18.0	1158	6.3	3158	10.7	
Aug., 2010	1664	7.3	3719	10.0	2018	10.6	4782	14.7	1087	5.7	2883	9.6	
Sep., 2010	1149	5.5	3330	8.9	1495	7.8	3842	11.1	687	3.7	1961	6.6	
Oct., 2010	1218	5.6	2518	7.5	2837	12.0	5839	15.1	673	3.5	1304	4.3	
Nov., 2010	1152	6.2	870	2.7	2277	11.0	5946	15.6	388	2.4	1028	3.7	
Dec., 2010	1658	7.8	2714	8.1	3404	14.2	6910	17.4	421	2.3	1723	5.8	
Jan., 2011	1897	8.5	2791	8.1	3110	12.6	6654	16.7	583	2.9	2015	6.3	
Feb., 2011	1132	6.1	3054	9.1	3048	13.3	6808	16.8	788	4.0	1555	4.9	
Mar., 2011	1201	5.6	3054	9.1	3115	12.2	5979	14.7	1392	6.0	2135	6.4	
2010-11	20795	8.0	3330	8.9	35617	13.3	5979	14.7	11923	5.2	2135	6.4	
Apr., 2011	1,260	6.3	3,054	9.1	2,786	11.3	5,861	14.8	1,486	6.9	2,448	7.2	Starred Questions
May., 2011	924	4.0	2113	6.0	2750	10.9	5158	13.4	996	4.8	2309	7.1	
Jun., 2011	921	3.9	2361	6.4	1777	8.1	4670	12.5	900	4.6	2371	7.5	
Jul., 2011	677	2.6	2315	5.9	1798	8.6	5248	14.2	900	4.3	1550	4.9	
Aug., 2011	1268	5.1	3547	8.8	1495	7.2	3899	11.5	613	2.9	1652	5.3	
Sep., 2011	1559	6.6	3477	9.0	1658	8.2	6454	16.3	1183	5.6	3397	10.2	
Oct., 2011	2661	11.4	3811	10.7	3539	13.9	6035	14.4	2471	11.0	4263	12.8	

Nov., 2011	1986	9.4	2832	8.5	4128	15.5	7200	17.0	2402	11.7	5197	15.3
Dec., 2011	2035	9.1	3516	9.9	4272	14.9	7476	17.8	2489	11.4	4668	14.2
Jan., 2012	1644	7.2	3187	8.8	3274	12.4	6192	15.4	2031	9.3	4500	13.3
Feb., 2012	1730	7.7	3517	9.6	3275	13.4	5742	13.9	2985	13.3	5361	15.2
2011-12*	16665	6.6	3131	7.8	30752	11.6	6400	15.1	18456	7.9	3854	10.9

Month	Eastern Region				North-Eastern Region				All India			
	Energy		Peak		Energy		Peak		Energy		Peak	
	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(%)	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(%)	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(%)
1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Apr., 2009	408	5.5	1,303	10.1	92	13.1	190	13.0	7,615	11.2	13,603	12.3
May., 2009	209	2.9	797	6.5	110	14.7	227	14.5	5,994	8.8	12,887	11.9
Jun., 2009	335	4.5	1,170	9.3	99	12.8	240	14.8	7,382	10.6	14,791	13.2
Jul., 2009	300	4.0	1117	8.8	105	12.9	265	15.9	5,676	8.3	13,271	12.1
Aug., 2009	400	5.2	836	6.5	117	13.8	391	22.2	7,986	10.9	17,004	14.6
Sep., 2009	301	4.0	596	4.6	109	12.5	289	17.3	6,654	9.6	13,507	11.7
Oct., 2009	318	4.2	474	3.8	90	10.6	164	10.2	6,534	9.4	13,868	12.0
Nov., 2009	248	3.7	1158	9.3	65	8.6	214	13.2	5,594	8.9	13,938	12.7
Dec., 2009	277	4.0	1224	10.2	57	7.3	245	14.6	7,163	10.4	14,656	13.0

Written Answers to

[26 MAR. 2012]

Starred Questions 11

1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	12
Jan., 2010	404	5.6	953	7.8	53	6.9	170	10.6	7,540	10.7	14,067	12.5	Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
Feb., 2010	198	2.9	834	6.6	60	8.8	239	14.4	6,687	10.2	14,540	12.7	
Mar., 2010	512	6.3	945	7.1	79	10.8	207	13.2	9,123	11.9	15,157	12.7	
2009-10	3910	4.4	836	6.3	1036	11.1	315	17.9	83950	10.1	15157	12.7	
Apr., 2010	711	8.7	1516	11.4	109	15.8	219	13.9	10953	14.6	17027	14.3	
May., 2010	441	5.7	843	24.7	95	12.7	256	16.2	8553	11.5	14168	12.1	
Jun., 2010	369	4.7	755	28.1	90	11.3	269	15.6	6728	9.5	14557	12.5	
Jul., 2010	405	4.8	1140	23.2	81	9.0	280	16.0	6008	8.5	14253	12.5	
Aug., 2010	302	3.6	678	11.6	88	9.4	289	16.5	5159	7.3	12351	10.8	
Sep., 2010	257	3.1	682	24.2	94	10.1	335	18.2	3682	5.4	10150	8.7	
Oct., 2010	199	2.5	179	28.7	78	8.7	353	18.5	5005	6.8	10193	8.7	
Nov., 2010	170	2.3	389	23.8	47	5.9	238	13.2	4034	6.3	8471	7.5	
Dec., 2010	253	3.4	1070	15.0	46	5.7	147	8.8	5782	8.1	12564	10.7	Starred Questions
Jan., 2011	321	4.2	783	4.7	46	5.8	120	7.2	5957	7.9	12363	10.3	
Feb., 2011	277	3.9	1039	2.4	42	5.6	114	6.8	5287	7.7	12570	10.4	
Mar., 2011	327	4.0	748	15.4	53	6.5	115	6.9	6088	7.7	12031	9.8	
2010-11	4032	4.3	682	5.0	869	8.8	353	18.5	73236	8.5	12031	9.8	
Apr., 2011	399	5.0	1,222	14.4	77	9.3	181	10.3	6008	8.0	12766	10.4	

May., 2011	330	4.1	1121	3.3	100	11.2	178	10.3	5100	6.5	10879	8.9
Jun., 2011	308	3.9	736	5.6	91	9.7	194	11.0	3997	5.4	10332	8.5
Jul., 2011	312	3.6	890	6.0	87	8.6	260	13.5	3774	4.9	10263	8.2
Aug., 2011	309	3.6	532	-1.0	98	9.4	207	10.9	3783	5.0	9837	8.1
Sep., 2011	454	5.2	534	4.4	86	8.6	186	9.9	4940	6.6	14048	11.0
Oct., 2011	382	4.6	650	7.3	92	9.5	127	6.7	9145	11.3	14886	11.7
Nov., 2011	359	4.7	647	2.5	64	7.4	56	3.2	8939	11.6	15932	12.8
Dec., 2011	467	5.9	753	5.4	86	9.9	119	6.7	9349	11.5	16532	13.1
Jan., 2012	493	6.0	615	4.0	86	9.6	79	4.6	7528	9.4	14573	11.7
Feb., 2012	553	6.8	783	5.8	94	11.2	191	10.5	8637	11.1	15594	12.1
2011-12*	4366	4.8	534	3.7	961	9.5	138	7.2	71200	8.3	14447	11.2

*upto Feb, 2012

Written Answers to

[26 MAR. 2012]

Starred Questions

13

Mission mode programme for disposal of cases

†*164. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made in the mission mode programme for early disposal of cases;
- (b) whether there is any action plan for maximum use of Hindi and regional languages for success of Gram Nyayalayas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) Huge backlog of cases and high pendency in courts is one of the major problem affecting both the judicial administration and justice delivery in India. Several measures are taken by the Government in close cooperation with the State High Courts for expeditious disposal of cases. As a part of that Government of India undertook a pendency reduction drive from July 2011 to Dec 2011. The Chief Justices of the High Courts were requested to initiate in a campaign mode clearance of petty cases and long pending cases and utilization of 13th Finance Commission grant for pendency reduction. All the High Courts participated in the campaign and went on to set their own targets for reduction of pendency and pursued them with vigour. The High Courts adopted a variety of methods, which are summarised in Statement (*See below*). The result has been an improvement in disposal of cases and reduction in sizeable number of under trials.

(b) and (c) Generally, Hindi and regional languages are used in the proceedings of the lower courts in the States. Under Section 29 of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the proceedings before the Gram Nyayalayas and its judgement shall as far as practicable be in one of the official languages of the State other than the English languages.

Statement***Mission Mode Programme for reduction of pendency in courts*****Bombay**

- All cases pending for more than 10 years to be disposed of. Special courts appointed to tackle pendency of cases under section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act.
- Special Courts to be established for dealing with cases involving atrocities against women and persons belonging to SCs and STs.
- An amendment proposal to Section 258 of Cr. P.C. has been moved by the High Courts in order to reduce the pendency.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Calcutta

- Constituted a Special Committee for reduction/elimination of barriers and ensuring speedy trial of cases.
- All criminal cases numbering 9,29,193 as on 31.12.2010 which are compoundable in nature, instead of being decided by the regular court, would be sent to Lok Adalat for disposal under the provisions of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- Special measures to be taken for dealing with old cases for all Courts including High Court.
- Lok Adalats to be held on every working day at least for one hour either before or after courts hours on regular basis and on every non working Saturday and Sunday in every month for whole of the day.
- High Court of Calcutta has fixed at least 2 days in a week for disposal of old cases, giving priority hearing of old cases involving senior citizens, women, backward class people.

Delhi

- Delhi High Court has fixed the target of atleast 20% in reduction of pendency of cases as on 01.07.2011 by December, 2011.
- Amended Delhi High Court (original side) Rules, 1967 by notification dated 18.08.2009 and conferred additional powers on the Registrar. The said powers can be delegated to Joint Registrars/Dy. Registrars by the Court.
- Introduction of case Flow Management System in Delhi High Court.
- Chief Justice earmarked every 'Thursday' as an "Old Matters Day".
- Delhi High Court emphasized on petty and long pending cases (more than 5 years) in subordinate Courts, cases pertaining to senior citizens, minors, disabled and other marginalised groups and under trials (atleast 2/3rd of numbers released on bail/discharged).

Gujarat

- All pending civil suits and appeals upto the year 2005 to be disposed of.
- Under "operation justice - 2011 initiated by Gujarat High Court, Public Notices through news papers have been issued to draw attention of litigants and advocates to speed up the process in pending cases.

Himachal Pradesh

- Targets set for disposal of cases upto the year 2005 in High Court and upto the year 2008 for petty cases and upto 2005 in Subordinate Courts.

Karnataka

- Targets set for 3240 cases and 45863 cases which are more than 7 years old in the High Court and subordinate courts respectively. For petty cases the target set for 11728 cases in the subordinate courts.

Kerala

- Case flow management Rules framed for Subordinate Courts for reducing pendency.
- High court is also taking the initiative to incorporate a new rule as 97A in the rules of the High Court of Kerala providing for faster service of process, hearing on day to day basis, automatic termination of stay after the expiry of 2 months in cases seeking to challenge/stay/transfer the lower court proceedings.

Odisha

- Target has been fixed for disposal of cases upto the year 1995. For petty case a target has been fixed for disposal of atleast 2/3rd of pending cases by the end of December, 2011

Madhya Pradesh

- High Court of MP kept a constant vigil over the pendency of Subordinate Courts and issues directions from time to time.
 - Directed Subordinate Courts to decide cases pending for four years or more by 31st December, 2011
 - Fresh directions issued to all the subordinate courts to take up cases pending over five to fifteen years in a mission mode and decide maximum number of cases in a period of 6 month beginning from July 2011.
 - Specific directions issued with regards to cases related to women, senior citizens, untrials, juveniles, corruption and narcotic drugs.
- Periodical Mega Adalats are being held at High Court level at Main Seat and its two Benches, Indore and Gwalior to reduce pendency substantially.

Punjab and Haryana

- Additional District and Session Judges declared as Special courts under NDPS Act.

Madras

- High Court motivated Judicial Officers towards concentrating on long pending cases for 15 to 20 years through awarding triple norms (internal assessment) method.

Shortage of judges and pending cases

†*165. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts of judges at all levels of judiciary are lying vacant in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor and the manner in which these vacancies would be filled up and by when;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that a large number of cases are pending in various courts of the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) Government's action plan to dispose of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) and (b) There were 269 vacancies of Judges in the State High Courts as on 20.03.2012 and 3634 of Judges in the district and subordinate Courts as on 30.06.2011. High Court-wise and State-wise details are given in the Statements-I and II respectively. (*See below*)

(c) Under the existing procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and State High Courts, the Government processes appointments upon receipt of proposals from the Chief Justice of India for Supreme Court and High Court upon receipt of proposals from the respective Chief Justice of the High Court. The Government periodically reminds the Chief Justices of High Courts to send proposals for filling the vacancies in High Courts as per the timelines prescribed in the Memorandum showing the Procedure for Appointment and Transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts. Additionally, the Government had written to the Chief Justices of High Courts in April and June 2011 to fill the vacancies in the High Courts and subordinate courts in a campaign mode from 01st July 2011 onwards for six months. As a result of this, 85 vacancies of High Courts have been filled in the calendar year 2011 against 43 vacancies filled in the calendar year 2010.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the respective High Court and the State Government. Therefore, the responsibility for filling the vacancies also vests with them. The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 3.4.2006 in C.A. No. 1867 of 2006 (Arising out of SLP (C) No. 22523 of 2005) – in the matter of Malik Mazhar Sultan and Anr. Vs U.P. Public Service Commission and Ors. has directed all the States/UTs to strictly adhere to time schedule for ensuring timely filling of vacancies. The Supreme Court has also given instruction to all the State governments/UTs and High Courts to provide the schedule so that vacancies are filled timely every year. Since then, filling up of vacancies in subordinate courts is monitored by the Supreme Court on a quarterly basis.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) to (f) The data on institution, disposal and pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the information received from the Supreme Court, 59368 matters are pending in the Supreme Court as on 14.03.2012. Out of them, 17680 matters are less than one year old and are not in arrears.

As per the information published by the Supreme Court in the Court News (Vol. VI, issue No.1), 42,49,344 cases in High Courts and 2,77,51,181 cases in the subordinate court were pending as on 31.12.2010.

Huge backlog of cases and high pendency courts is one of the major problem affecting both the judicial administration and justice delivery in India. The Ministry of Law and Justice had held a National Consultation for strengthening the judiciary towards reducing the pendency and delays in October, 2009. The consultation considered and deliberated upon the Vision Document which was endorsed by a Resolution at the end of the Consultation. to realize the objectives set out in the Vision Document, a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has been set up with the objective of pursuing several strategic initiatives which will include (i) policy and Legislative changes (ii) re-engineering of procedures (iii) measures for human resource development (iv) leveraging of information and communication technology for better justice delivery. The Mission will pursue a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in the judicial administration.

Several other steps have also been taken by the Government to reduce the pendency which *inter-alia* include measures for strengthening the judicial system by reviewing the strength of the judges in High Courts, expeditious filling up of vacancies as per laid down procedure, setting up of part time/special courts, improving infrastructure in the courts and increasing use of ICT for court management as well as for providing citizen centric services. The Thirteenth Finance Commission has allocated a grant of Rs. 2500 crore to the States for morning/evening/shift courts. These courts will try petty cases so as to clear backlog of cases and relieve pressure on judicial time. These courts may either utilize the services of retired judicial officers or of regular judicial officers on payment of additional compensation. Rs. 681.66 crore have been released to the State Government for morning/evening/shift courts. So far, 4537 morning/evening/shift courts have been established.

Statement-I

Number of vacancies of Judges in State High Courts

Sl.No.	Name of the Court	Vacancy of Judges as on 20.03.2012
1	2	3
	A Supreme Court of India	6

1	2	3
B. High Court		
1.	Allahabad	85
2.	Andhra Pradesh	17
3.	Bombay	14
4.	Calcutta	21
5.	Chhattisgarh	06
6.	Delhi	12
7.	Guwahati	01
8.	Gujarat	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	07
11.	Jharkhand	08
12.	Karnataka	10
13.	Kerala	04
14.	Madhya Pradesh	09
15.	Madras	06
16.	Odisha	07
17.	Patna	07
18.	Punjab and Haryana	26
19.	Rajasthan	13
20.	Sikkim	01
21.	Uttarakhand	01
TOTAL		269

Statement-II*State-wise number of vacancies of judges in district and subordinate Courts*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Vacancies as on 30.06.2011
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	207
2.	Andhra Pradesh	114
3.	Maharashtra	194

1	2	3
4.	Goa	7
5.	Diu Daman and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
6.	West Bengal	146
7.	Chhattisgarh	21
8.	Delhi	153
9.	Gujarat	816
10.	Assam	94
11.	Meghalaya	30
12.	Tripura	29
13.	Manipur	7
14.	Nagaland	5
15.	Mizoram	34
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
17.	Himachal Pradesh	13
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	20
19.	Jharkhand	79
20.	Karnataka	155
21.	Kerala	36
22.	Lakshadweep	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	74
24.	Puducherry	7
25.	Madhya Pradesh	149
26.	Odisha	103
27.	Bihar	681
28.	Punjab	46
29.	Haryana	112
30.	Chandigarh	0
31.	Rajasthan	169
32.	Sikkim	4
33.	Uttarakhand	126
TOTAL		3634

Procurement and storage of foodgrains

*166. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the carry over and buffer stock of foodgrains from the previous year along with the quantum of foodgrains procured during the current year;

- (b) the targets set for procurement during the ensuing season;
- (c) whether Government proposes to streamline the storage system and add more capacity to ensure proper preservation of the foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the manner in which government proposes to utilize the surplus stock which cannot be preserved safely due to various constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As on 1.1.2012, 256.76 lakh tonnes of wheat and 297.18 lakh tonnes of rice were the carryover stocks in the central pool against the combined buffer and strategic reserve norm of 112 lakh tones and 138 lakh tonnes respectively. During Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2011-12, upto 20.03.2012, 280.41 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured for central pool. During Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2011-12, 283.35 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured for the central pool.

(b) As per the existing procurement policy, the Central Government extends price support for paddy, wheat and coarsegrains through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Governments/State agencies. Procurement is an open ended process and no specific targets are fixed for procurement. All the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale by farmers at specified procurement centres are bought by the procurement agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP). However, as informed by the Food Secretaries of different States in the review meeting for ensuing RMS 2012-13, procurement of wheat is estimated to be 318 lakh tonnes in RMS 2012-13. Similarly for the current KMS 2011-12, based on estimates given by State food secretaries, rice procurement is estimated to be 353.15 lakh tonnes against which 280.41 lakh tones of rice was procured upto 20-3-2012.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To increase the covered storage capacity for central pool stocks of foodgrains, the Government has launched the Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) scheme. A capacity of about 151 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations as per details given in Statement-I (*See below*). Out of this, tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of about 89 lakh tonnes as on 29.02.2012 by the private entrepreneurs. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporation are constructing 5.4 and 14.75 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. The Government has also finalized a plan for construction of additional storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States under the plan scheme. The details are given in Statement-II, (*See below*)

(e) Stocks available in the central pool are used for making allocation for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and

Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). During the year 2011-12, 292.91 lakh tonnes of wheat and 356.7 lakh tonnes of rice have been allocated for TPDS, OWS and OMSS. For the year 2012-13, and advance allocation of 499 lakh tonnes for TPDS and 27 lakh tonnes for OWS has already been made while another quantity of about 250 lakh tonnes is proposed to be allocated as additional allocation under TPDS during 2012-13. Government is taking all the required measures to safely store and preserve the foodgrains stocks available in the Central Pool. Details of the measure taken by Government to safely store and preserve foodgrains stocks are given in Statement-III

Statement-I

State-wise capacity allotted under PEG scheme as on 15.02.2012

Agency	Total capacity approved
Andhra Pradesh	451,000
Bihar	300,000
Chhattisgarh (DCP)	222,000
Gujarat	80,000
Haryana	3,880,000
Himachal Pradesh	142,550
Jammu and Kashmir	361,690
Jharkhand	175,000
Karnataka	416,500
Madhya Pradesh (DCP)	360,000
Kerala	15,000
Maharashtra	655,500
Odisha (DCP)	300,000
Punjab	5,125,000
Rajasthan	250,000
Tamil Nadu	345,000
Uttarakhand	25,000
Uttar Pradesh	1,860,000
West Bengal (DCP)	156,600
TOTAL	15,120,840

Statement-II*Total additional storage capacity to be created in North Eastern States*

Name of State	Capacity (in M.T.)
Assam	3,45,000
Manipur	45,000
Nagaland	15,000
Meghalaya	35,000
Sikkim	15,000
Arunachal Pradesh	20,280
Tripura	45,000
Mizoram	20,000
GRAND TOTAL	5,40,280

Statement-III*Steps taken to preserve the quality of procured foodgrains during storage*

Before the commencement of Rabi and Kharif Marketing Seasons, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India issues uniform specifications for procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool. These uniform specifications are circulated to F.C.I. and all State Govts./Agencies with instructions to ensure that foodgrains are procured strictly in accordance with the uniform specifications.

Foodgrains procured by F.C.I. and State Governments/Agencies are stored in covered godowns as well as in CAP (cover and plinth).

During storage, the following steps are taken for safe storage and preservations of foodgrains:-

COVERED GODOWNS

- (a) Godowns are constructed on scientific lines making it rodent proof by having proper height and damp proof by providing pucca floor.
- (b) Before the stocks are stored, the godown is properly cleaned and cobwebs etc., if any, are removed.
- (c) Floor and walls are treated with chemicals such as air charging with Malathion and DDVP (insecticide) to make them pest free.
- (d) Markings are provided for stacks and the dunnage material is used on which foodgrains bags are aganged as per the stack plan.
- (e) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative measures (fumigation) are carried out regularly for the control of insects/pests.
- (f) Effective rodent control measures are also undertaken.

Following checks/super checks are conducted in the godowns to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in storage.

- (a) Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistants for declaring categorization and classification.
- (b) Monthly inspection by Manager (QC) – 33% of stocks (1/3rd of stocks) in a month. Monthly inspection reports (MIR) of Manager (QC) are scrutinized at Zonal level. Suggestions made therein are to be implemented and monitored through action taken reports (ATR).
- (c) Quarterly inspection by AGM (QC).

The following inspection schedule is prescribed for AGM (Quality Control):-

- (a) 1/3rd of depots in a month so as to cover all the depots in the district in three months.
- (b) 5% of stocks are to be checked in a depot having capacity of more than 25000 MTs.
- (c) 10% of stocks in respect of depot having less than 25000 MTs.
- (d) Squad Inspection Reports (SIR) of AGM (QC) are scrutinized in Hqrs.

CAP (COVER AND PLINTH)

- (a) The site selected for CAP is above the adjoining ground and away from nallahs and drainage to prevent any flooding of CAP storage during rainy season.
- (b) CAP storage site is cleared of all plants/shrubs growth and disinfested with DDVP.
- (c) Anti-termite measures are taken in CAP/Open storage
- (d) Adequate dunnage is provided for all stacks in CAP/open storage, Wooden Crates are preferred. However, cement blocks, wooden rafters, causurina poles, granite blocks, according to local availability, have also been used successfully. The dunnage material is cleaned and disinfected either by fumigation or by treating with contact insecticides such as DDVP.
- (e) The top of the stacks is built to form a dome, in the shape of an inverted 'U' to facilitate easy flow of rain water and prevent accumulation of water on the top.
- (f) To protect the stocks from rain, sun, dew, birds, rodents etc. each stack is covered with a polythene cover especially made for this purpose. The polythene cover mounted on the stack is properly lashed by nylon ropes vertically to prevent damage to the covers due to high velocity winds, rains, dusts, storms etc.
- (g) Regular prophylactic and curative measures are carried out for the control of stored grain insect pests in CAP storage. Rodent control

measures are also taken by fumigating the rat burrows with alluminium phosphide or by poisoning the rodents with Zinc Phosphide.

- (h) Moisture is the major factor responsible for adversely affecting the quality of foodgrains and is controlled by regular aeration of stocks during clear weather days.
- (i) Technical Assistant concerned checks the stocks on fortnightly basis followed by Super checks by Senior Officers.
- (j) Wheat stock stored in CAP by the State Govts/Agencies is subjected to joint inspection on a regular basis by officers of FCI and the concerned State Govts' Agencies. 100% inspection of State Agencies stocks kept in CAP in Punjab and Haryana have been conducted.
- (k) Stocks are generally issued/moved on the principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO).

Revision of transportation charges

*167. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal for revision of transportation charges in respect of releasing Sugar Price Equalisation Fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether necessary compliance has been reported by Karnataka Government; and
- (d) by when, Government proposes to give clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals for revision of margins, including transportation charges for distribution of levy sugar in the States, have been received from 16 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The proposals for revision of the margins for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09 have been received from the Karnataka Government and are under process. In the meanwhile, the payments, on provisional basis, are being released to the State Government on the basis of pre-revised rates.

Strengthening of corporate governance standards

*168. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking steps to strengthen corporate governance standards in firms;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the majority of scams in private firms have taken place as a consequence of corporate governance failure; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY):

(a) to (e) The Government has taken steps to strengthen corporate governance standards in the country by way of including a number of policy measures in the Companies Bill, 2011 introduced in the Parliament on 14.12.2011. The more salient among them are code for Independent Directors, Corporate Social Responsibility, rotation of auditors, enhanced disclosure norms and e-Governance initiatives. These policy measures are based on global best practices as well as lessons learned from some of the scams in the private sector in the recent past. Government has also set up the Serious Fraud Investigation Office to investigate into serious frauds in which public interest is involved. Besides, Voluntary Guidelines on Corporate Governance have been issued in 2009 to provide a well defined framework of good corporate governance. To further firm up the framework a Committee has also been recently appointed to formulate a policy on corporate governance which will embrace elements not forming part of the legislation. Further, Ministry's e-Governance programme (MCA 21) ensures compliance and transparency which promote corporate governance.

Promotion of rainwater harvesting

*169. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the actions taken/are being taken by the Ministry to promote rainwater harvesting in buildings/institutions, etc. for which rainwater harvesting is mandatory under any rule of building new premises in any part of the country;
- (b) whether there is any mechanism or system to keep an eye on rainwater harvesting structures being actually made after such building has been constructed; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for ignoring such an important issue?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The following actions have been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources/Central Ground Water Board for promotion of rain water harvesting on buildings in the country:

- Ministry of Water Resources has circulated the 'Model Bill to Regulate and Control the Development of Ground Water' to the States/Union

Territories, which provides for making roof top rain water harvesting mandatory. So far 11 States/Union Territories namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted ground water legislation. Four States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura have stated that in view of the ground water development being quite low, it is not necessary to enact such legislation. The State of Sikkim is of the view that requirement of drinking water supply for the people is being done by exploiting various streams/rivers. Therefore, enactment of legislation to control the extraction of ground water in the State of Sikkim is not felt necessary. Rest of the States/Union Territories have taken initiatives for enactment of the Model Bill.

- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under Ministry of Water Resources has issued directions vide letter dated 08-Aug-2006 to Chief Secretaries in 12 States and Administrators in 2 Union Territories having Over-exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting.
- Directions have been issued by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) vide Public Notice dated 08-Oct-2009 to all the Residential Group Housing Societies/Institutions/Schools/Hotels/Industrial Establishments falling in the over-exploited and critical areas (except in the water logged areas) in the country to adopt Roof Top Rain Water harvesting systems in their premises
- Directions have been issued by CGWA to Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of all the States/Union Territories and Ministry of Urban Development vide letter dated 06 Sept. 2011 to take necessary action to adopt rain water harvesting/artificial recharge on all the Government buildings.
- Central Ground Water Board regularly undertakes IEC activities like mass awareness and training programmes, painting competitions, displaying models in exhibitions and fairs, printing of Meghdoot cards, display of hoardings at prominent public places etc.

(b) and (c) Water and Building Regulations are State subjects; steps for monitoring installation of rainwater harvesting system in buildings are undertaken by the State Governments. Building plans with provision for rain water harvesting system are approved by the concerned Municipal/State development authorities as per notifications of the respective State Governments. The State-wise details of mechanism to ensure that rainwater harvesting system is in place in every building are given in Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of existing mechanism in various States to ensure installation of rain water harvesting system in buildings

Sl.No.	State	Monitoring Mechanism in place
1.	Chandigarh	Occupancy certificate is given to owners of only those buildings, where rain water harvesting system has been installed.
2.	Gujarat	Completion/occupancy certificate is granted only after installation of rain water harvesting structure.
3.	Haryana	Instructions have been issued to all Administrators/ Estate offices of Haryana Urban Development Authority to ensure that no occupation certificate is issued unless implementation of roof top rain water harvesting is made.
4.	Himachal Pradesh	The Himachal Pradesh Ground Water Act' 2005 provides for construction of rain water harvesting structures by the Authority in the event of failure to comply with its directions and recovery of cost thereof along with penalty as may be prescribed.
5.	Karnataka	There is a system to monitor to ensure provision of rain water Harvesting structures in Bangalore City through Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage (Rain Water harvesting) Regulations, 2010.
6.	Kerala	Rain water harvesting has been made mandatory by incorporating suitable provisions in Rule 101 of Kerala Panchayath Building Rules and Rule 109A of Kerala Municipality Building Rules. As per these rules, concerned authorities shall approve plans and give completion certificates only if the building is in conformity with the provisions of the rules.
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Urban Local Bodies have been instructed to get a desposit from the person who is seeking building permission, for carrying out rainwater harvesting system in the building. After the construction is complete, an inspection is carried out to ensure that rain water harvesting system has been installed and the deposit is returned.
8.	Maharashtra	In Maharashtra, there is provision in the building bye laws, for the Authority to impose a levy of not

Sl.No.	State	Monitoring Mechanism in place
		exceeding Rs. 1000/- per annum for every 100 sq.m. of built area for the failure of owner to provide or to maintain Rain Water Harvesting structures as required under the byelaws.
9.	Punjab	Estate officers have been authorized to monitor to ensure that rain water harvesting system is in place.
10.	Rajasthan	Every owner of the building for which rainwater harvesting is compulsory, is required to obtain a completion certificate, without which building cannot be occupied. Any person, who violates any provision of rain water harvesting is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to seven days or with fine not less than Rs. twenty five thousand but which may extend to Rs. one lakh or with both.
11.	Tamil Nadu	The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws Ordinance, 2003, provide for issuing of notice by the Commissioner or any person authorized by him in this behalf to the owner or occupier of the building and cause rain water harvesting structure to be provided in such building and recover the cost of such provision along with the incidental expense thereof in the same manner as property tax. In Chennai, new water and sewer connections are provided only after the installation of rainwater harvesting systems. Further, the technical staff of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board are checking during every pre-monsoon period, whether the rain water harvesting structures are properly installed and maintained.
12.	Uttar Pradesh	Completion certificates are not issued until rainwater harvesting structures have been installed in the premises.
13.	Andhra Pradesh	The Govt. has issued orders directing all the Commissioners of Urban Local Bodies in the State to open a "Rain water Harvesting Cell" to motivate existing building owners to implement the scheme and take up area-wise interactive programme at regular intervals to educate the people on the importance of ground water recharging and rain water harvesting/ water conservation.

Sl.No.	State	Monitoring Mechanism in place
14.	Puducherry	While issuing building permits, owners are insisted for installation of rain water harvesting structures.
15.	Jharkhand	For Ranchi Regional Development Authority, monitoring is carried out through different Govt. agencies.

Safety of Mullaperiyar Dam

*170. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a proposal to reconstruct the Mullaperiyar dam;
- (b) if so, the status thereof; and
- (c) what steps have been taken to ensure safety at the Mullaperiyar dam, until such construction begins?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No proposal for reconstruction of Mulla-Periyar Dam has been received in Central Water Commission an attached office of Ministry of Water Resources for techno-economic appraisal.

(b) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) An Empowered Committee for Mullaperiyar Dam constituted on the directions of the Supreme Court, to look into issues raised before it, is examining the issue of safety of Mullaperiyar dam (including seismic safety) through expert agencies and the matter is subjudice.

Removal of sugar from PDS

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that sugar mill owners are putting pressures for removing sugar from the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether sugar mill owners are giving the actual prices of sugarcane to the farmers;
- (d) if so, how much money has been paid to the farmers by sugar mill owners in UP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, etc. during the last three seasons;
- (e) whether Government is planning to remove sugar from PDS; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 provides for payment of an 'agreed price' by the sugar mill to the farmers, which necessarily has to be equal or higher than Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) determined by the Central Government and can be fixed as mutually consented to between the farmers and the mills. State Governments of many sugar producing States are announcing State Advised Price (SAP), which is higher than FRP fixed by the Government of India. The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, also contains necessary provisions for timely payment of cane price to sugarcane farmers for sugarcane supplied by them to sugar mills, and the powers for enforcing the provisions of the said Order relating to payment of cane price dues are delegated and vested with the State Governments who have the necessary field formations. No complaints have been received regarding sugar mill owners not giving the actual price of sugarcane to the farmers. There have been arrears from time to time, however. A statement showing State-wise cane price payable and due for 2009-10 and earlier sugar seasons, 2010-11 sugar season and 2011-12 sugar season is given in Statement (*See below*).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement*State-wise cane price payable and due for 2009-10 and earlier Sugar seasons, 2010-11 Sugar season and 2011-12 Sugar season*

(Figure in lakh Rs.)

State/Zone	2009-10 and earlier sugar season balance cane price payable as on 29-02-2012	2010-11 sugar season		2011-12 sugar season	
		Total price payable for cane purchased	Balance cane price payable as on 29-02-2012	Total price payable for cane purchased as on 29-02-2012	Balance cane price payable as on 29-02-2012
Punjab	0.00	73384.87	86.52	83989.56	14353.90
Haryana	0.00	92952.46	0.00	85364.80	18028.45
Rajasthan	0.00	880.07	0.00	598.81	206.74
West Uttar Pradesh	39533.72	414563.52	233.86	429717.94	127616.00
Central Uttar Pradesh	45075.23	533753.30	428.71	568965.96	181681.45
East Uttar Pradesh	38552.97	346296.88	67.92	400110.39	120009.92
TOTAL Uttar Pradesh	123161.92	1294613.70	730.49	1398794.29	429307.37
Uttarakhand	629.73	65577.13	1797.03	74039.78	27289.02
Madhya Pradesh	1151.25	11437.61	205.19	9848.04	362.90
Chattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Gujarat	1340.80	212217.65	28.33	103686.81	33903.52
Saurashtra	0.00	7991.42	0.00	6053.30	1991.08
TOTAL Gujarat	1340.80	220209.07	28.33	109740.11	35894.60

South Maharashtra	0.96	529673.99	1824.33	324790.45	11147.96
North Maharashtra	1639.52	288002.73	108.84	187085.73	18534.71
Central Maharashtra	96.53	606712.78	1335.00	334627.69	16659.68
TOTAL Maharashtra	1737.01	1424389.50	3268.17	846503.87	46342.35
North Bihar	3207.52	83130.25	194.79	80086.24	28731.80
South Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL Bihar	3207.52	83130.25	194.79	80086.24	28731.80
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	3309.32	199575.55	0.00	182417.86	57980.50
Karnataka	5907.00	627513.00	0.00	487949.00	136421.00
Tamil Nadu	215.23	389808.49	1770.77	199710.31	42395.85
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Odisha	0.00	5695.63	0.00	3913.81	760.39
West Bengal	0.00	1387.09	0.00	1059.25	300.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1912.74
Puducherry	0.00	10564.06	339.58	4641.44	0.00
Goa	0.00	2427.27	0.00	1532.56	674.56
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ALL INDIA TOTAL	140659.78	4503545.75	8420.87	3570189.73	840962.17

Written Answers to

[26 MAR. 2012]

Starred Questions 33

Water leakage in Farakka Dam

†*172. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether thousands of cusecs of water has flown down into Bangladesh due to leakage in Farakka Dam;
- (b) whether Government has set up any inquiry in this matter;
- (c) by when, the inquiry report is likely to be received;
- (d) whether Government has found any nexus between officers and Government of Bangladesh; and
- (e) if so, the details of the action being taken against guilty persons found involved in the incident?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Farakka Barrage is a barrage meant for diversion of maximum 1130 cumec (40000 cusec) of water from the river Ganga to the Feeder canal at a Pond level of 72.00 feet. Excess water after meeting the requirement of feeder canal has to be released downstream in the river Ganga, which flows down into Bangladesh. Due to the failure of two under-sluice gates of Farakka Barrage on 29-06-2011 and 9-12-2011 additional water was discharged down-stream till the bays were plugged on 29-02-2012 and 12-03-2012.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) The enquiry report was recieved on 22nd March, 2012.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Revival of sick coal companies

*173. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has revived its sick coal companies during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise;
- (c) the amount allocated and spent, so far, for their revival during the Plan; and
- (d) the amount spent for the welfare of labourers during that period?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Out of 8 subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL), only two subsidiaries viz. Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have been incurring significant accounting as well as cash losses from the inception. ECL was

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

registered as sick company on 17.11.1999 and BCCL on 04.05.2001. Both the companies have been referred to Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and consequently their revival packages, as approved by the Government, are under implementation. Hence, ECL and BCCL are still under the purview of BIFR as per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(c) In case of ECL Capital outlay allocated is Rs. 2281.39 crore and Capital Expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 1196.17 crore. In case of BCCL, CIL Board has allocated Rs. 1350 Crore, which has been entirely spent on revival.

(d) The amount for the welfare of labourers from 2007-08 to 2011-12 (upto Dec.) in respect of ECL and BCCL is given below:

Year	Amount spent (Rs. in crores)	
	ECL	BCCL
2007-08	69.2728	263.30
2008-09	75.3841	309.04
2009-10	85.8615	349.14
2010-11	89.8938	351.19
2011-12 (upto Dec.)	60.4282	190.57

Sale of sugar in the open market

†*174. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government decides every month the quota of sugar to be released for sale in the open market for common consumers of the country;

(b) if so, the criterion fixed by Government to decide the monthly quota of sugar; and

(c) the quota of sugar released during October, 2011 to March, 2012; month-wise?

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

(b) The monthly non-levy sugar quota for internal consumption is decided based on various factors like anticipated demand, sugar stocks, price trends in the domestic and international markets, the festivals falling in the particular month etc.

(c) The quota of sugar released during October, 2011 to March, 2012, month-wise in the open market is as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Quantity in lac tons)	
Month	Total non-levy quota released for the month.
October, 2011	17.50
November, 2011	17.01
December, 2011	17.006
January, 2012	14.00
February, 2012	12.50
March, 2012	12.50

Affordable and easy justice to common man

*175. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to make affordable and easy justice available to common man in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has evolved any scheme in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) to (d) The Government has been taking several initiatives from time to time to improve the justice delivery system and for making it affordable and accessible to the common man. These initiatives *inter-alia* include measures for strengthening the judicial system, reviewing the strength of the judges from time to time and setting up of part time/special courts, undertaking special drives for speedier disposal of cases, improving infrastructure in the courts and increasing use of ICT for court management as well as for providing citizen centric services at all levels starting from Supreme Court/High Courts to the district and subordinate courts. Some of these initiatives are as under:-

- (i) Increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system has been the constant endeavor of the Government. For this, several steps have been taken both for making structural changes as well as for monitoring the performance of the courts in so far as their disposal are concerned. the disposal has been accelerated by undertaking a special drive from 1st July, 2011 to 31st December, 2011. At the same time, the Government has recently set up a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms which will be addressing the issues of delays and arrears in the judicial system as well enforcing better accountability at all levels

through a variety of strategic initiatives which will include setting and monitoring of performance standards for courts and judges, judicial accountability, enhancement of capacity through training at various levels etc.

- (ii) The 11th Finance Commission had recommended setting up of fast track courts for which a provision of Rs. 502.90 crores was made for 2000-05. This was extended later till 2010-11. As per the reports received, 1192 fast track courts were functional in the country as on 31.03.2011. Nearly 33 lakh cases were disposed of by the fast track courts over a period of 11 years of central assistance from 2000-01 to 2010-11.

The 13th Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs. 5000 crores for the states over a period of 5 years between 2010-2015. The amount is being provided as grant to the States for various initiatives such as (i) Increasing the number of court working hours using the existing infrastructure by holding morning/evening/shift courts; (ii) Enhancing support to Lok Adalats to reduce the pressure on regular courts; (iii) Providing additional funds to State Legal Services Authorities to enable them to enhance legal aid to the marginalized and empower them to access justice; (iv) Promoting the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to resolve part of the disputes outside the court system; (v) Enhancing capacity of judicial officers and public prosecutors through training programmes; (vi) Supporting creation or strengthening of a judicial academy in each State to facilitate such training; (vii) Creation of the post of Court Managers in every judicial district and High Court to assist the judiciary in their administrative functions and (viii) Maintenance of heritage court buildings.

An amount of Rs. 1353.62 crores has already been released to the States on this account.

- (iii) Under the central sector scheme for computerization of the District and Subordinate Courts (e-Courts project) in the country and for upgradation of the ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, a 9434 courts out of 14,229 courts have been computerized in the country as on 29.02.2012. The balance courts are targeted to be computerized by 31.03.2014.
- (iv) The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 has been enacted for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for providing access to justice to citizens at their doorstep. The Central Government is providing assistance to States towards non-recurring expenses for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas subject to a ceiling of Rs. 18.00 lakh per Gram Nyayalaya. 153 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far, out of which 151 Gram Nyayalayas have started functioning.

An amount of Rs. 25.39 crores has been released to the State Governments for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas during last three years.

- (v) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary is being implemented since 1993-94 under which central assistance for construction of court buildings and residential quarters for judicial officers is released to augment the resources of the State Governments. The expenditure on the scheme is shared *w.e.f.* 2011-12, by the Centre and the State Governments on 75:25 basis, except for States in North East Region, which is on 90:10 basis.

Rs 1812.01 crores have been released under this scheme to the States/UTs of which Rs. 566.65 crores are released during 2011-12.

- (vi) For legal empowerment of the marginalized people in India an externally aided project 'Access to Justice for Marginalized people in India' is being implemented, in the selected 07 States.
- (vi) Legal Services are being provided by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to the common man through a scheme of trained Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) selected from the community. The PLVs act as bridge between the legal services institution and the common man. In case of need the assistance of professional lawyers is also provided to weaker and marginalised sections of society.

Consumption and cost of power

*176. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are enough possibilities for immense growth with just 700 unit per capita consumption of power;
- (b) if so, the perspective planning for the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (c) the cost difference between generation of power by public sector as compared to private sector; and
- (d) whether with economies of scale tilting towards public sector, Government would launch cost cutting measures so as to bring the PSU per unit cost of generation equal or even lower than that of private sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Capacity addition programme is planned keeping in view the overall growth of the economy and the demand for power from various sectors. A Working Group on Power constituted by the Planning Commission to formulate the Twelfth Five Year Plan for the Power sector has submitted its report to the Planning Commission. As

per the report of Working Group on Power for the Twelfth Plan, capacity addition requirement during the Twelfth Plan is 75,785 MW on all India basis, based on the Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) capacity addition target of 62,374 MW during the Eleventh Plan.

(c) The cost of power generation varies from project to project irrespective of sectors, and depends upon the type of power plant, type of fuel used, its transportation cost and project's financial package etc. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to infer that cost of generation of power of private sector power plants is either lower/higher than that of the public sector power plants.

(d) The Tarriff Policy notified by the Central Government, *inter-alia*, provides that tariff of all new generation projects should be decided on the basis of competitive bidding, with some exemptions in hydro sector. Competition will lead to significant benefits to consumers through reduction in capital costs and improved efficiency of operations.

Procurement policy for MSMEs sector

*177. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized any procurement policy, making it compulsory for all Government Departments and Central PSUs to procure 20 per cent from micro, small and medium enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating its salient features;

(c) whether there is any penalty clause for not complying with the policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details indicating the salient features of the Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) are as under:

- (i) Public Procurement Policy shall apply to Micro and Small Enterprises registered with District Industries Centres or Khadi and Village Industries Commission or Khadi and Village Industries Board or Coir Board or National Small Industries Corporation or Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom or any other body specified by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- (ii) Every Central Ministry/Department/PSU shall set an annual goal for procurement from the MSE sector at the beginning of the year, with the objective of achieving an overall procurement goal of minimum 20 per cent of the total annual purchases of the products or services produced or rendered by MSEs from the latter in a period of three years.

- (iii) Out of 20% target of annual procurement from MSEs, a sub-target of 4% (*i.e.* 20% out of 20%) will be earmarked for procurement from MSEs owned by SC/ST entrepreneurs. However, in the event of failure of such MSEs to participate in the tender process or meet the tender requirements and the L1 price, the 4% sub-target for procurement earmarked for MSEs owned by SC/ST entrepreneurs will be met from other MSEs.
- (iv) At the end of 3 years, the overall procurement goal of minimum 20% will be made mandatory. Non-conforming Departments are required to provide reasons for the same to the Review Committee set up under the Policy.
- (v) The participating MSEs in a tender quoting price within the band of L1+15% may also be allowed to supply a portion of the requirement by bringing down their price to the L1 price, in a situation where L1 price is from someone other than an MSE. Such MSEs may be allowed to supply up to 20% of the total tendered value. In case of more than one such MSE, the supply will be shared equally.
- (vi) Every Central Government Ministry/Department/PSU will report the goals set with respect to procurement to be met from MSEs and the achievement made thereto in their respective Annual Reports.
- (vii) The Central Ministry/Department/Public Sector Undertaking will continue to procure 358 items from MSEs, which have been reserved for exclusive purchase from them.
- (viii) For enhancing the participation of SCs/STs in the Government procurement, the Central Government Ministry/Department/PSUs will take necessary steps including organizing special Vendor Development Programmes, Buyer-Seller Meets etc.
- (ix) Given their unique nature, defence armament imports will not be included in computing the 20% goal for M/o Defence. In addition, Defence Equipments like weapon systems, missiles, etc. will remain out of purview of such policy of reservation.
- (x) A Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (MSME), *inter alia*, to review the list of 358 items reserved for exclusive purchase from MSEs on a continuous basis and for monitoring and review of the Public Procurement Policy for MSEs. In addition, a 'Grievance Cell' would be set up in the Ministry of MSME for redressing the grievances of MSEs in Government procurement.

The policy will help to promote MSEs by improving their market access and competitiveness through increased participation by MSEs in Government purchases and encouraging linkages between MSEs and large enterprises.

(c) and (d) To ensure effective implementation of the Public Procurement Policy for MSEs, every Central Ministry/Department/PSU are to report goals set with respect to procurement to be met from MSEs and achievement made thereto in their respective Annual Reports and also upload the same on their official website so that MSEs may get advance information about requirement of procurement agencies.

Allocation of coal to Gujarat

*178. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) why Gujarat is allocated coal from the Eastern Coal Belts;
- (b) what is the criteria for allocation of coal from the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL);
- (c) what action has been taken by Government to allocate coal to the State from WCL; and
- (d) whether Government is considering to give fuel subsidy to the State to compensate additional financial implications on account of import of additional coal for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The power plants located in Gujarat are predominantly supplied coal from the coalfields of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) located in the State of Chhattisgarh, in Central and East Central India. A small quantity of coal is also supplied from the coalfields of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), located in the State of Maharashtra in Central India.

(b) and (c) The decision on source of allocation of coal is taken on the basis of long-term availability of coal in the source, potential for incremental production, transport logistics etc. Coal available at WCL, where there are no growth prospects is already linked to various power stations and other industries, so much so that even the power stations of Maharashtra are being supplied about 35% of coal from the State of Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

(d) No, Sir.

Poor quality of coal

†*179. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Kahalgaon unit of NTPC had made a complaint to Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) regarding nine bogies found full of soil instead of coal, supplied by ECL;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of persons arrested so far in this regard;
- (d) whether any such episode has come to Government's notice earlier also; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) One rake consisting of 59 wagons was loaded with coal at Bahula siding, Kenda Area, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) for Kahalgaon unit of NTPC. A complaint from NTPC was received by ECL that nine wagons in the rake contained earth/overburden. On receipt of the complaint from NTPC, a team of executives from ECL was sent to Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station on 13.12.2011. It was observed jointly that there was a thin layer of morum like materials spread over on the top of 3 wagons. The matter was discussed between Directors of both the companies and after taking joint samples from the said wagons, top layer of the wagons was removed and weighment was done. The total weight of earth/overburden (actually morum like materials) came to 1.7 tonnes.

(c) When the matter was investigated, it was apprehended that some miscreants might have spread a thin layer of morum like material on the top of the coal in the wagons, en-route from Bahula siding to Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station. ECL has no authority to check/control any such activities outside the siding limits.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply given to part (d) of the question.

Optimum use of irrigation facilities

*180. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that poor knowledge of irrigation and excessive use of water has led to salination of fields all over the country;
- (b) whether there is any system to caution water users that water should be used carefully and not excessively;
- (c) which is the body which educates the public on this aspect;
- (d) what steps Government is taking to ensure that water-logging and salination by irrigated water do not destroy arable land all over the country; and
- (e) the measures proposed to stop such wastage due to poor use of irrigation facilities?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Waterlogging and consequent salination result from excessive

irrigation and other reasons like flat topography, existence of hard pan at shallow depth, compulsion of development like constructions of road, railway and flood protection embankments leading to reduction or blockage of water-way, high intense rainfall with deficient drainage and seepage through unlined canals.

(b) and (c) Under Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD and WM) Programme, which is under implementation by the Ministry of Water Resources, water users are imparted training on scientific and efficient management of water, visit to important project sites and demonstrations of tested technology. The institutions involved in undertaking this activity are Water and Land Management Institutes (WALMIs), Indian Council and Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes and other reputed States and Central institutes.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) launched a Command Area Development (CAD) Programme in the year 1974-75. The main objective of the programme is to enhance utilization of irrigation potential created and improve agricultural productivity and production on a sustainable basis through intergrated and coordinated approach involving multidisciplinary team. Under the programme, financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to the state governments in the form of grant. The programme was restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD and WM) Programme *w.e.f.* 1st April 2004. Now, the scheme is being implemented as a State Sector Scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2008-09 to 2011-12). The important components under the CAD and WM Programme related to preventive and remedial measures of water logging include (i) construction of field drains, inter-mediate and linked drains for letting out surplus water due to over irrigation; (ii) Reclamation of waterlogged areas in irrigated commands through construction of surface and including bio-drainage and sub-surface drainage, included since 1st April, 1996; (iii) Software components such as training to farmers and field functionaries and officials, adaptive trials and demonstrations, seminars/conferences/workshops. Central assistance to States is being provided for the above three components under CAD and WM Programme. The financing pattern for components (i) and (ii) is 50:50 and for (iii) 75:25 between the Centre and State/farmers in the Eleventh Plan So far, 823 schemes of nine States have been approved for reclamation of 122.532 th ha waterlogged areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 19538.90 lakh. Out of this, an area of about 60.87 th ha has been reported to be reclaimed by these States till March, 2011.

The Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India is also implementing Farmers' Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) throughout the country on farmers' field with the help of Agricultural Universities, ICAR Research Institutes, ICRISAT and WALMIs etc. for conducting demonstrations. FPARP involves field demonstration of technologies developed by the institutes which will increase agriculture productivity and profitability or in other words will enhance yield and income per drop of water. As per information furnished by CWC, in the first phase

of the Programme started in Rabi season 2007-08, 4892 demonstrations were carried out and Rs. 21.59 crore were released by the Government of India. During Phase-II of the programme, total fund of Rs. 1431 lakh has been released to carryout 2921 demonstrations out of which 964 have been completed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Clearances to coal projects

1241. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many coal projects in the country were set to get clearances from various authorities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in clearing the coal projects, the coal production in the country has suffered a lot; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) At present, 180 forestry proposals of different subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) involving an area of 28484.49 Ha forest land are awaiting clearances at various levels. Out of 180 proposals, 131 proposals are awaiting approvals for Stage II. Further, 70 applications for environmental clearances are awaiting approvals at various levels.

(c) and (d) For CIL the initially projected production in the terminal year *i.e.* 2011-12 of the Eleventh Plan was 520 Mt. However, the production target was revised downwards to 486 Mt during the Mid-Term Review of Eleventh Plan mainly due to considerable delay in obtaining forestry clearances, tenancy land acquisition and associated Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R and R) issues as well as delay in obtaining environmental clearances in number of projects which were envisaged to contribute during the Eleventh Plan period.

For the Annual Plan 2011-12, CIL's production target was set at 447 Mt but because of further delay caused due to imposition of a moratorium on new and expansion projects in areas having Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index above 70 which included 7 coalfields of CIL.

Pilferage of coal

1242. SHRI BALVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of pilferage and theft of coal from Government owned mining areas have been registered;

(b) whether similar theft and pilferage have been noticed during the transportation and if so, whether the matter has been taken up with transportation authorities to improve securities;

(c) if so, how many cases have been registered during the last two years and the details of loss incurred during that period;

(d) what steps have been taken to handle such instances; and

(e) whether there is any plan to upgrade the infrastructure to check pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Theft/pilferage of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of theft/pilferage and illegal mining of coal. Coal companies are selling coal on "FOR" basis at railway sidings and road-side points and the choice of mode of transport as well responsibility for coal transportation is that of the purchaser. Pilferage/theft of coal enroute while being transported by consumers to their destinations is outside the control of the coal company.

First Information Reports (FIR) are lodged by the company/CISF officials whenever cases of theft come to their notice. 346 and 169 FIRs have been lodged during the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively by the subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.

(d) and (e) The following measures are taken to prevent pilferage/theft of coal by the coal companies:

- (i) Check Posts have been established at the vulnerable points.
- (ii) Wall fencing, lighting arrangements and deployment of armed guards round-the-clock has been done around the coal dumping yards.
- (iii) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including Over Burden dumps.
- (iv) Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.
- (v) Interaction and liaison with District Officials at regular intervals and holding meetings with District Collector and District Administration every month.
- (vi) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to check theft.
- (vii) Regular FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and CISF with local police stations against the theft of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being maintained by CISF.

- (viii) Global Positioning System (GPS) has introduced to track the coal transportation from mine to unloading place.
- (ix) Electronic weighbridge for weighment of coal has been introduced.
- (x) Management has been taking action for filling/dozing/scaling/blasting of the old/abandoned exposed coalfaces in passed manner.

Coal production

†1243. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the coal production is declining owing to monopoly of the Coal India Ltd.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is formulating any policy to augment the coal production; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All India coal production has increased from 430.832 million tonnes during 2006-07 to 532.694 million tonnes during 2010-11. The coal production by CIL has also increased from 360.91 million tonnes to 431.32 million tonnes during this period.

(c) and (d) In order to augment production of coal, Government has been taking a series of measures including steps to expedite Environment and Forestry clearances, pursue with Ministry of Railways for enhancing availability of rail rakes and approach State Government for necessary assistance in land acquisition and in problems relating to law and order. In addition, a number of steps have been taken by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries for augmenting coal production which include (i) increasing the efficiency of the equipments, regular monitoring, mechanization as programmed and strict supervision of the existing mines and ongoing projects (ii) Capacity addition from new and future projects (iii) Consistent efforts for resolving issues of environmental and forestry clearances, land acquisition and law and order problems.

Meeting of Group of Ministers

†1244. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the held-up projects relating to coal have been reconsidered in the meeting of Group of Ministers; and;
- (b) if so, the details of projects that have been given approval, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The issue of Forestry/Environmental clearance of coal projects came up for discussion in the 6th Meeting of Group of Ministers held on 01.03.2012, However, no approval was given to any project.

Irregularities in awarding coal contracts in Jharkhand

1245. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has raided Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) officials with regard to irregularities in award of coal contracts in Jharkhand;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government to bring transparency in award of contracts, in view of large scale corruption prevalent therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has raided 13 officers of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) with regard to irregularities in award of contracts of repairing of various equipments. The CBI has registered a regular case RC No. 6(A)/2012-D.

(c) The company has taken several steps to bring transparency in the process of tendering which include:

- (i) "e" tendering to finalize the contract in almost all the cases except for the procurement of spares.
- (ii) Around 90% of the tenders are covered through "Integrity Pact" monitored by Independent External Monitor (IEM).
- (iii) Pre-bid meeting with prospective bidders is conducted for all the purchase cases where estimated value is Rs. 5 crore and more.
- (iv) Payment to the vendors/contractors are made through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS).
- (v) Disposal of scrap materials is also done by e-auction.
- (vi) 10% of coal production is being offered by e-Auction.

Shortage of coal in power generation

1246. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been several instances of coal shortage for power generation in the country over the last six months;

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

- (c) the details of the reserve stocks of coal and lignite in the country;
- (d) whether Government is planning to increase the import of coal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The power stations in the country were carrying comfortable coal stocks till August 2011. However, heavy rains in the coalfields severely dislocated coal transportation and wagon loading, particularly in August and September 2011, so much so that despatch to power utilities from CIL sources which was having a growth of 5% during April-July 2011 over the same period of the previous year suffered a relative decline of about 1.1% during April-October, 2011. Coal despatches to power utilities were also affected due to frequent law and order problems, particularly in Jharkhand and Odisha affecting despatches in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). Despatch was also affected due to constraints of wagon availability in comparison to indents in certain coalfields.

Coal despatches have, however, improved from November 2011 onwards. During April 2011 to February 2012, total despatches to power utilities have been 281.395 Million Tonnes, indicating growth of 2.2% over the corresponding period of the previous year. The coal stocks with the power stations have also improved from 8.125 Million Tonnes, equivalent to 7 days requirement as on 31.10.2011 to 12.798 Million Tonnes, equivalent to 10 days requirement as on 15.03.2012.

(c) As on 31st January 2012, the pit-head stocks with coal companies was 57.209 Million Tonnes. Since lignite is prone to spontaneous combustion, normally only 7 days lignite production is kept each at the mines, bunker storage and at Thermal Power Station storage yards.

(d) Government does not import coal and the consumers themselves import coal, which is under Open General Licence (OGL), to meet their requirements.

(e) Does not arise, in view of the reply given to part (d) of the question.

Shortage of coal in power plants

1247. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited (CIL) was supposed to supply about 306 MTS of coal to various power plants in the country during 2011-12;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to shortage of lifting of coal, there had been acute shortage of coal in various power plants during that period; and

(d) if so, the measures adopted by the Ministry to meet the shortfall so that the power generation continues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The supply target of 327.54 Million Tonnes of coal and coal products was fixed in the Annual Action Plan for supply to power utilities from CIL sources for 2011-12.

(c) As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA)'s report, the coal stock with power utilities as on 20.03.2012 was 12.73 Million Tonnes equivalent to 10 days requirement. During April 2011-February 2012, against the *pro-rata* supply target of 296.462 Million Tonnes for Power Utilities from CIL sources, supply was 281.395 Million Tonnes (Provisional), with 95% materialization of target, which indicates growth of 2.2% over despatches of 275.236 Million Tonnes in the corresponding period of previous year.

(d) An inter-ministerial sub-group under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal meets regularly to take stock of the coal stock position at power plants and *inter-alia*, suggests measures for augmentation of coal supplies to the power plants having less than 7 days coal stock.

Coal requirements of power plants

1248. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has given directive to the Coal India Limited (CIL) that the company must meet at least 80 per cent of the coal requirements of power plants or get ready to pay a penalty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how CIL proposes to honour this directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government has decided after consultation with the concerned Ministries that Coal India Limited (CIL) will sign Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) with power plants that have entered into long term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Distribution Companies (DISCOMS) and have been commissioned/would get commissioned on or before 31st March, 2015. It has been estimated that about 477 million tonnes of coal will be required in the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan (2016-17) for meeting the requirement of linkages to power sector by CIL, if 100% Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are in place. The actual coal commitment would depend upon the percentage of PPAs signed.

(c) The estimated coal production by Coal India Limited by the end of terminal year of Twelfth Plan period (2016-17) is estimated at 615 Million Tonnes, which will be adequate to meet the demand of the said FSA holders. However, in case of any shortfall in fulfilling its commitments under the FSAs from its own production, CIL may arrange for supply of coal through imports or through arrangements for obtaining coal from State/Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) who have been allotted coal blocks and have started production of coal but have not commissioned their end use plants.

Capacity of coal blocks

1249. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is flooded with application for more coal mines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that existing capacity of coal blocks is not fully used by the companies; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The requests are received from time to time from various Governments and companies for allocation of coal blocks. However, the Government has not invited applications for allocation of coal blocks.

(c) and (d) So far 218 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 50 billion tonnes have been allocated to eligible public and private companies under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Out of that, 25 coal blocks have been de-allocated. Out of de-allocated coal blocks, two coal blocks were re-allocated to eligible companies under the said Act. Hence, the net allocated coal blocks are 195 with geological reserves of about 44.23 billion tonnes. Out of the 195 coal blocks, production has started in 29 blocks. The remaining coal blocks which have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project.

Coal supply to state power generation centres

†1250. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government provides coal to run power generation centres in States;
- (b) if so, the criteria thereof and the quantity of coal being provided to the States according to it, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that power generation has been affected due to improper coal supply to some States in the country; and
- (d) if so, the name of States registering such complaints and the step taken by Government with a view to redress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Coal is supplied by the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited to the power plants, commissioned in different States, which have been authorized long term coal linkage/Letter of Assurance.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) considers the applications for the grant of long term coal linkage/Letter of Assurance for the power projects located in various States based on the recommendations of Ministry of Power, coal availability, movement logistics and other relevant factors. The quantity of coal to be allotted to the power generation units is decided by the coal company, plant-wise and not State-wise on the basis of the norms fixed by the Ministry of Power, the generation capacity of the unit authorized linkage/Letter of Assurance and the grade of coal.

(c) and (d) Short term production constraints at a coal company, unloading constraints at power plants, movement constraints of Railways, transportation constraints of coal companies etc. are some of the major factors which affect coal supply to the power utilities of various States. Representations have been received, from time to time, from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, etc. seeking enhancement of coal quantity for the power plants located in their States. An inter-ministerial sub-group under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal meets regularly to take stock of the coal stock position at power plants and *inter-alia*, suggests measures for augmentation of coal supplies of the power plants having less coal stock, with a view to maintain the level of power generation, on the basis of overall contracted quantity for such plants, coal availability, movement logistics etc.

Illegal mining and theft of coal

1251. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that illegal mining and theft of coal is costing national economy heavily;
- (b) if so, the details of the action taken to put an end of this menace;
- (c) the number of cases of illegal mining and theft of coal detected during the last five years and how many persons were convicted in the matter;
- (d) whether coal companies have utterly failed in pursuing the FIRs and have left the matter of the mercy of prosecution authorities of the States; and
- (e) the measures taken to initiate disciplinary proceedings against such officials for dereliction of duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (e) Theft/pilferage and illegal mining of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of theft/pilferage and illegal mining of coal. Whenever cases of theft/pilferage and illegal mining of coal detected, First Information Reports (FIR) are lodged by the Company/CISF officials.

The steps taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining/theft/pilferage include:

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are dozed off and filled up with stone and debris whenever possible.
- (ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iii) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.
- (iv) Surprise raids/checks are conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities or the concerned State Government.
- (v) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place"..
- (vi) Dumping the over burden is done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.
- (vii) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing District authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (viii) Installation of check posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- (ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training to CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.
- (x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State Government.
- (xi) Committee/task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district and state level) at some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.

As per information received from CIL, the details of the FIRs lodged and conviction status in connection with theft/pilferage of coal in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited are given in the Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

The number of FIRs lodged in connection with illegal mining of coal in different subsidiaries of CIL during 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are given below

Year	Coal India Limited Subsidiary Companies								(Provisional)
	ECL	BCCL	CCL	NCL	WCL	SECL	MCL	NEC	Outcome (charge sheet issued/Trial Court/ Investigation, etc.)
2006-07	61	1	3	0	5	1	0	3	19
2007-08	19	6	15	0	3	0	0	0	33
2008-09	43	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	22
2009-10	68	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	23
2010-11	11	3	5	0	0	0	0	2	19

Note:-

ECL Eastern Coalfields Limited

BCCL Bharat Coking Coal Limited

CCL Central Coalfields Limited

NCL Northern Coalfields Limited

WCL Western Coalfields Limited

SECL South Eastern Coalfields Limited

MCL Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

NEC North Eastern Coalfields

Statement-II

The number of FIRs lodged in connection with illegal mining of coal in different subsidiaries of CIL during 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are given below:

Year	Coal India Limited Subsidiary Companies								(Provisional)
	ECL	BCCL	CCL	NCL	WCL	SECL	MCL	NEC	Outcome (Conviction/ Trial/ Investigation)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2006-07	334	50	8	0	13	6	16	28	125
2007-08	333	44	5	0	38	12	8	6	110

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2008-09	210	71	9	2	41	3	10	17	166
2009-10	194	53	8	1	42	6	25	18	268
2010-11	65	21	2	0	25	4	1	51	168

Production of coal

†1252. SHRI BALVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal produced in the country between December, 2011 and February, 2012;

(b) whether a decrease has been registered in coal production during the said period;

(c) if so, the volume of this decrease and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the thermal power plants have been supplied less coal during the said period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Production of coal between December, 2011 and February, 2012 is given below:-

Period	Production (in MT)
December, 2011	52.781
January, 2012	54.197
February, 2012	55.937

(b) The coal produced in the country has increased from 52.781 million tonnes on December, 2011 to 55.937 million tonnes in February, 2012.

(c) Does not arise in view of part (a) and (b).

(d) and (e) The coal supplies made by CIL and SCCL to power utilities have increased from 92.32 million tonnes during December, 2010 to February, 2011 to 99.35 Million tonnes during December, 2011 to February, 2012.

Sale of coal

1253. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the sale of coal in the market meant for captive plants;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) the action taken by Government against those responsible; and
- (d) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) In case of Takli Jena Bellora (South Part) coal block allocated to M/s Central Collieries Company Ltd. (a private company) for captive use, the sale of coal in open market was reported to the Government. The Government after following the due procedure has since declared the mining lease of the said block as void. No other incident of sale of coal from the allocated blocks for captive use has been reported to the Government.

(d) In the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, there is no provision of sale of coal from the coal blocks allotted for captive use. In case of violation, the Government takes appropriate action against the allottee company including de-allocation of the block.

Curbing illegal coal mining

1254. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that natural resources of the country are being plundered at the cost of national economy and destruction of environment and the business of illegal coal mining has been thriving for decades in various States with the connivance of police, mafias, middlemen and administrative officials;

(b) whether it is also a fact that officials responsible to curb illegal coal mining are either indifferent or too scared to stop the meance; and

(c) if so, the quantum of coal looted during the decade and the measures taken to check illegal coal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Law and Order is a State subject, hence primarily, it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining. Illegal mining of coal is carried out clandestinely and stealthily and as such it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen losses incurred on this account.

The steps taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining are:

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are dozed off and filled up with stone and debris whenever possible.
- (ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iii) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.

- (iv) Surprise raids/checks bring conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities or the concerned State Government.
- (v) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".
- (vi) Dumping the over burden is done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.
- (vii) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing District authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (viii) Installation of check posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- (ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training to CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.
- (x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State Government.
- (xi) Committee/task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district and state level) at some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.
- (xii) In order to check the menace of illegal mining of coal the Central Government has constituted a Committee consisting of Minister of State for Coal and others to look into the various aspects of illegal mining of coal.

Patch work in CIL

1255. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of patch work done through contractor in the Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last three years, subsidiary-wise;
- (b) whether the simultaneous reclamation was done;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal production

1256. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage for coal in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any target for 2011-12 for coal production; and
- (d) the details of achievement of target till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) As per Annual Plan 2011-12 of Ministry of Coal there is a gap of 137.03 million tonnes between the All India Coal Demand and domestic availability.

(c) As per Annual Plan 2011-12 of Ministry of coal the coal production target for 2011-12 has been fixed at 554 million tonnes.

(d) As against prorata target of 445.511 million tonnes for January 2012, actual achievement is 413.914 million tonnes.

Corruption in CIL

1257. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is beset with corruption and scandals; and
- (b) the details of steps the Ministry has taken so far to crack down on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Some complaints alleging irregularities/corruption have been received in Coal India Limited (CIL). These complaints are dealt in accordance with laid down rules/procedures.

(b) The steps taken to curb irregularities/corruption include:-

- i) Recommending punitive action against employees, who are found to have committed misconduct as defined in CDA Rules/certified standing orders or who have been convicted on criminal charges by a judicial trial.
- ii) Undertaking System Improvement studies and recommending system improvement measures for implementation including rationalization of existing manuals/service Rules of the company.
- iii) Reviewing and overseeing the implementation of Integrity pact and sensitizing the management for adopting the Standard Operating Procedure circulated by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- iv) Improving vigilance administration by leveraging technology.
- v) Curbing malpractices by increasing transparency through effective use of Website and bringing about accountability in the discharge of duties and in public dealings.
- vi) Identifying sensitive posts for effective compliance of directives of CVC on rotation/transfer of personnel working in sensitive posts.

- vii) Preparation of Agreed list as well as list of Officials with Doubtful Integrity (ODI).

Collapse of coal mines in West Bengal

1258. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Asansol-Barakar and surrounding colliery areas in West Bengal are subsiding day by day and coal mines often collapse in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would carry out any survey on the cause of subsiding and chalk out preventive measures to save the people and the land of the area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During pre nationalized period, due to unscientific mining and indiscriminate reduction of coal pillars with improper sand filling of the decoaled voids in UG mining, many of the areas caved in causing serious problem of subsidence. In total, 139 locations have been identified as unstable in the lease hold area of ECL. Later on High Powered Central Committee (HPCC) included two more locations on the recommendations of directorate-General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

(c) and (d) In December 1996, Government of India constituted a High Power Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) with members from Govt of Bihar, West Bengal, Planning Commission, DGMS, Ministry of Labour, Chairman CIL, CMDs of BCCL, ECL, CMPDIL etc, Subsequently Ministry of Coal suggested CMPDIL to study in depth problems of subsidence and fire in BCCL and ECL. The study was conducted by CMPDIL and subsequently the Master Plan was prepared which includes rehabilitation packages for affected people and steps for stabilizing the subsidences.

The approved Master Plan has provision for rehabilitation of all affected people in the leasehold of ECL with specific R and R package. The Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA), a State Government agency, has been identified as the implementing agency on behalf of the Government of West Bengal. Accordingly, ADDA has started the job of demographic survey, valuation of structures, preparation of photo identity cards, (PIC) etc.

(e) In view of above, does not arise.

NCL as symbol of development and growth

1259. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had visualized the industries as symbols of development and catalysts for growth and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) had made the vision a reality;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the comments of Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Yes, Madam. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) is engaged in generating power from lignite mined by them, which goes towards meeting partly the power requirement of some of the States.

(b) During the Eleventh Five Year plan period, year-wise lignite production and power generated by the NLC is as under:-

Year (Eleventh Plan)	Lignite Production (in Million Tonnes)	Power Generation (in Million units)
2007-08	21.586	17457
2008-09	21.307	15768
2009-10	22.338	17656
2010-11	23.144	17881
2011-12 (upto Feb. 2012)	22.065	16885

Besides, during the Eleventh Five Year plan period, NLC had completed two major lignite mines/Power Project *i.e.* 2x 125 MW Barsingsar Mine cum Power Project in Rajasthan and 2x 250 MW Mine-II Expansion Project, Linked to TPS-II Mine Expansion in Tamil Nadu.

(c) Neyveli Lignite Corporation is able to meet the target set for them and hence, has been conferred with a Navratna Company Status from 11.04.2011.

Coal production

1260. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to pool the resources to the extent of Rs. 35,000 crores which the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is planning to invest during the next five years to double its coal production;

(b) how many projects are going to be operationalized by CIL to double its coal production;

(c) the details of cash reserves with CIL.

(d) whether it is a fact that CIL is in consultation with US for acquiring latest technology for mining; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) As per the draft Report of the Working Group on Coal and Lignite set up for formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan, the indigenous availability of coal is projected to increase from 554 million tonnes in 2011-12 (BE) to 795 million tonnes in 2016-17 provided requisite land is available for coal mining and all other clearances are obtained in time. The contribution from CIL may increase from 440 million tonnes in 2011-12 (RE) to 615.00 million tonnes in 2016-17. The total plan outlay proposed for Ministry of Coal for Twelfth plan as per the draft Report of the Working Group is Rs. 74,824.02 crores. Besides this ad-hoc provision of Rs. 25,000 crores has been made for acquisition of coal assets abroad by CIL and Rs. 10,000 crore for development of coal blocks in Mozambique.

(b) At present 149 coal projects, with an ultimate capacity of 452.96 Mty. are under various stages of implementation. An output of 224.89 Mt. is envisaged from 92 projects during 2011-12. By the end of Twelfth Plan i.e. 2016-17 104 nos. of projects are envisaged to contribute to the tune of about 327.39 Mt. of coal.

Further, 29 coal projects, which are at present are under various stages of formulation and approval, are envisaged to contribute additional 81.49 Mt. by the end of Twelfth Plan.

(c) Fixed deposits lying with Banks as on 31.12.2011 is Rs. 54347.99 crores.

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal in CIL for deployment of latest technology for mining coal in collaboration with US.

Coal scam in North East

1261. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has busted a coal scam in the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that pilferage of subsidized coal allocated to Assam and Nagaland was incurring a huge loss to Government exchequer; and

(d) what effective steps Government is taking to plug the loopholes and bring the guilty to book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASH BAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Government is not aware of any coal scam in the North East. The State Government of Assam and Nagaland were supplied coal through their nominated agencies at notified price under Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA).

During an investigation, in a complaint of diversion of coal, it has been found that the coal meant for the State of Nagaland booked through rail was eventually diverted to destinations in the State of Punjab. So far as officials of North Eastern Coalfields are concerned, no procedural lapses could be detected from the documents verified.

(d) The steps taken to curb irregularities include:-

- i) Recommending punitive action against employees, who are found to have committed misconduct as defined in CDA Rules/certified standing orders or who have been convicted on criminal charges by a judicial trial.
- ii) Undertaking System Improvement studies and recommending system improvement measures for implementation including rationalization of existing manuals/service Rules of the company.
- iii) Reviewing and overseeing the implementation of Integrity Pact and sensitizing the management for adopting the Standard Operating Procedure circulated by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- iv) Improving vigilance administration by leveraging technology:
- v) Curbing malpractices by increasing transparency through effective use of Website and bringing about accountability in the discharge of duties and in public dealings.
- vi) Identifying sensitive posts for effective compliance of directives of CVC on rotation/transfer of personnel working in sensitive posts.
- vii) Preparation of Agreed list as well as list of Officials with Doubtful Integrity (ODI).

Strike by coal personnel in Telangana region

†1262. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that power generation capacity of 4,000 megawatt of NTPC was affected due to strike by coal personnel in Telangana region in October, 2011;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards a Statement made by CMD of NTPC according to which generation capacity can be increased by 10 to 15 per cent if coal is available in adequate quantity;

(c) whether NTPC requires 1,640 lac tonne of coal during 2011-12; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to make unabated supply of coal to NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) NTPC has reported that they have the total coal based

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

installed capacity of 4100 megawatt under operation in Andhra Pradesh and the power generation was partly affected due to less coal supply at their Ramagundam Power Plant.

(b) NTPC has reported that at the company level, due to less coal availability, generation loss was 3.71% of the capacity during April 2011 to February 2012.

(c) and (d) Coal supplies are regulated by Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs)/ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the plants of NTPC and concerned coal companies. NTPC has concluded Fuel Supply Agreements for 114.70 million tonnes of coal with the subsidiary companies of CIL in respect of plants commissioned as on 31.3.2009. In respect of plants commissioned after 1.4.2009, the plants are getting coal under the Short Term MoU as per allocation made by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). During April 2011 to February 2012, against 107.35 million tonnes of coal allotted under FSA/MoU to the plants of NTPC from Coal India Limited (CIL) sources, the actual supplies was 104.107 million tonnes, which is about 97% of the contracted quantity. An inter-ministerial sub-group under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal meets regularly to take stock of the coal stock position at power plants of the country, including NTPC plants and *inter-alia*, suggests measures for augmentation of coal supplies to the power plants having less than 7 days coal stock.

Illegal coal mining

†1263. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of incidents of illegal coal mining that has come to the light during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed in coal mafia's gang war during that period; and

(c) the action taken against those mafia by police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Illegal mining of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact number of incident, quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of illegal mining of coal. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value during the last three year, State-wise are as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Company	State	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
		Qty. recovered	App. Value	Qty. recovered	App. Value	Qty. recovered	App. Value
		(te)	(Rs. lakh)	(te)	(Rs. lakh)	(te)	(Rs. lakh)
Eastern Coalfields Limited	West Bengal	4203.00	42.030	5763.00	67.880	5650.00	113.000
	Jharkhand	2326.00	23.260	2398.00	28.42	1401.00	26.02
	TOTAL	6529.00	65.290	8161.00	96.300	7051.00	139.020
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	Jharkhand	1986.15	34.630	2127.18	35.932	1309.39	25.031
	West Bengal	64.81	1.290	4.00	0.080	10.97	0.219
	TOTAL	2050.96	35.920	2131.18	36.012	1320.36	25.250
Central Coalfields Ltd.	Jharkhand	93.00	0.855	30.00	0.300	15.00	0.150
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	UP/MP	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
Western Coalfields Ltd.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
	Madhya Pradesh	11.00	0.110	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
	TOTAL	11.00	0.110	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
SECL	MP/CG	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	Orissa	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
North-Eastern Coalfields	Assam	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
Coal India Limited	TOTAL	8683.96	102.175	10322.18	132.612	8386.36	164.420

Written Answers to

[26 MAR. 2012]

Unstarred Questions

63

(b) and (c) Law and order, being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/District administration to take necessary deterrent action against such illegal activities.

Fuel supply pact of CIL

1264. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) shall, before March 31, 2012 be signing 20 years' fuel supply pacts with power plants that have been commissioned or would be commissioned on or before March 31, 2015;

(b) whether an assessment has been made of the coal required for the above;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what has been the domestic production of CIL during the last three years; and

(e) whether there has been a drop in output and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) The Government has decided that Coal India Limited (CIL) will sign Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) with power plants that have entered into long term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMS) and have been commissioned/would get commissioned after 31.3.2009 but before 31.3.2015. Out of these plants, CIL will sign FSAs with the plants that have been commissioned upto 31.12.2011 by 31.3.2012. The FSAs shall be for full quantity of coal mentioned in the Letters of Assurance (LoAs) for a period of 20 years, to be reviewed after every five years, with trigger level of 80% for levy of disincentive and 90% for levy of incentive.

(b) and (c) It has been estimated that about 477 million tonnes of coal will be required in the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan (2016-17) for meeting the requirement of linkages to power utilities by CIL, if 100% Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are in place. The actual coal commitment would depend upon the percentage of PPAs signed.

(d) The raw coal production figures of CIL during the last three years are as below:-

Year	Raw coal production (in Million Tonnes)
2008-09	403.73
2009-10	431.26
2010-11	431.32

(e) The above figures indicate that there has been no drop in the raw coal production during the last three years.

Setting up of medical college and hospital in Talcher

†1265. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Government for providing land for setting up of medical college and hospital in Talcher, Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the proposed medical college and hospital would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) The land identified for setting up of the medical college includes forest land, which requires clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Government of Odisha. The construction of the college and other infrastructure can only be started after the clearances are obtained and possession of land is taken. Hence, the timelines for starting of the college cannot be given at this stage.

Permission for private mining of coal

1266. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seeking to introduce legislative changes allowing private mining of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also contemplating allocation of captive blocks for setting up washeries in the private sector and allowing them to sell their coal in the open market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the implication of this change on public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The Central Government decided to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow Indian companies both in the public and private sectors to mine coal in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining and to be engaged in exploration of coal in the country. Accordingly a Bill, namely, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.04.2000. Due to stiff resistance from the trade

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Unions, the Bill could not be processed further after the report of the Standing Committee.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answer given of part (c) of the question.

Identification of priority households

1267. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the methodology to be used to identify the priority households in the National Food Security Bill, 2010;

(b) whether Government has addressed the concerns about the proposed methodology.

(c) whether BPL data from the sources like Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India would be used; and

(d) the mechanism to ensure that all BPL families receive the specified amount of foodgrains every month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Bill, 2011, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2011, seeks to cover upto 75% of the rural population (with at least 46% belonging to the priority households) and upto 50% of the urban population (with at least 28% belonging to the priority households) for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The Bill provides that within the State-wise number of persons belonging to the priority households and general households, determined by the Central Government, identification of households shall be done by the State Governments or such other agency, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Central Government.

The Ministry of Rural Development is coordinating the on-going Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 which is a door to door census of rural and urban households in the country carried out by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to collect information on a number of socio-economic indicators to determine the eligibility and entitlements of rural households for different Central Government Programmes and Schemes. Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India is providing technical support. The methodology for identification of people under poverty line has not been arrived at.

(d) Under TPDS, foodgrains at subsidized prices are allocated for about 6.52 crore BPL households (including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana households) @ 35kg per household per month. Implementation of TPDS is joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. While allocation of foodgrains for above mentioned BPL households is made by Central Government,

its actual distribution to targeted beneficiaries is the responsibility of State Governments. However, Government of India has requested all States/Union Territories to take up end-to-end computerization of TPDS in a time-bound manner to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the TPDS. Government has regularly reviewed and has also issued instructions to State/Union Territories to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of information and communication technology (ICT) tools and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

Allocation to Kerala under BPL/APL Quota

1268. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would increase the allocation of rice, wheat, kerosene and sugar to Kerala under BPL and APL quota; and

(b) whether Government would reduce the price of rice allocated under APL quota to Rs. 8.90/kg. as requested by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government of India is making allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) @ 35 kg per family per month for 15.54 lakh accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in Kerala. Allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) is being made to 45.56 lakh Above Poverty Line (APL) families in Kerala @ 15 kg per family per month. The APL allocation to the State was increased from 10.5 kg to 15 kg per family in June 2011 at APL issue price of Rs. 8.30 per kg of rice and Rs. 6.10 per kg of wheat which are lower than Rs. 8.90/kg. This increase has been continued in 2012-13 also.

In addition, keeping in view the demand/request of the State Government, adhoc additional allocations have been made from time to time. A quantity of 3.72 lakh tons and 2.07 lakh tones of foodgrains have been made to different categories of beneficiaries of the State during 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. The above allocations include adhoc additional allocation of 1.80 lakh tons of rice and wheat to Kerala in January 2011 for APL families at the price of Rs. 8.45 per kg of wheat and Rs. 11.85 per kg of rice. The validity of the above allocations have already expired.

Further, as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, during 2011-12, a quantity of 3648 tons of rice and wheat for BPL families at BPL prices and 1420 tons of rice for AAY families at AAY prices was allocated for two poorest districts, namely Wayanad and Palakkad which were at prices lower than Rs. 8.90 per kg.

There is no proposal to increase the allocation of PDS kerosene and levy sugar to Kerala.

Food inflation due to low production

†1269. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the report of decline in production of certain crops in the country is bound to intensify food inflation;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the foodgrains which are estimated to register decline in availability and the percentage thereof against requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no such reports. Details of foodgrain, pulses and sugarcane production in the country during the last three years are given in Statement (*See below*).

Foodgrain and sugarcane production in the country has steadily increase in the country over last three years. However, there has been a marginal decline in the production of pulses.

- (c) There is no estimated decline in foodgrain production.

Statement*Production of important food crops during last three years*

(in million tonnes)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*
Rice	89.09	95.98	102.75
Wheat	80.68	80.8	88.31
TOTAL FOODGRAINS	218.11	244.78	250.42
Tur	2.46	2.86	2.72
Gram	7.48	8.22	7.66
Urad	1.23	1.76	1.73
TOTAL PULSES	14.66	18.24	17.28
Sugarcane	292.3	342.38	347.86

*As per second advance estimates

Source: DAC

Increase in storage capacity of foodgrains

1270. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that storage capacity of foodgrains needs to be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

increased to 62 million tonnes, from the existing 60 million tonnes to sustain and support implementation of the Food Security Bill;

(b) if so, by when this storage capacity would be created in order to avoid decomposition/rottening of foodgrains as it happened last year, when the Supreme Court had to intervene to suggest free distribution of such foodgrains; and

(c) whether any realistic financial estimate has been arrived at, keeping in view the constant and uncontrollable rise in foodgrain prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per provisions of National Food Security Bill and using Census population, the requirement of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Scheme (OWS) is estimated at 60.74 million tonnes. The shortage capacity, Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) available with the Food Corporation of India as on 01.03.2012 was about 33.5 million tonnes, both owned and hired. The storage capacity with state agencies for storage of Central stock of foodgrains as on 31-03-2011 was 29 million tonnes including both covered and CAP capacity. Thus, a total quantity of about 62.5 million tonnes of storage capacity was available for storage of Central stock of foodgrains. However due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce to storage under Cover and plinth (CAP), the Government formulated the Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the scheme, a capacity of about 151 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 States. As per the scheme guidelines, the time schedule for completion of godowns is one year, in case of non-railway siding godowns and two years for railway siding godowns. The Government has also finalised a plan for construction of an additional total storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States.

(c) The rentals to be paid for the godowns constructed under the scheme is decided through a transparent two-bid tendering process. Thus the rentals can vary from one location to the other.

Price rise in food items

†1271. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a rise in the prices of food items in the country due to inadequate logistic and storage capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has framed any policy to provide imported food items at reasonable prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Rise in the prices of food items are caused by several factors such as shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, adverse weather conditions, and improvement in income and living standards as well as changes in dietary habits.

(c) and (d) The steps taken by the Government, *inter alia*, to provide imported food items at reasonable prices are enclosed in Statement.

Statement

*Steps taken by the Government to provide imported food items
at reasonable prices*

1. Fiscal Measures

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero – for rice, wheat and onion, pulses, edible oils (crude) and to 7.5% for refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils.
- (ii) NDDB has been allowed to import 50000 tonnes of skimmed Milk Powder and Whole milk powder and 15000 MT of Butter, Butter Oil and Anhydrous Milk Fat at zero duty under Tariff Rate Quota.
- (iii) Permitted Sugar mills to import duty-free raw sugar under Open General Licence (O.G.L.). Later this facility was extended to private trade on job basis.
- (iv) Permitted STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED to import duty-free white/refined sugar initially with a cap of 1 million tonnes. Later duty-free import was also allowed by other Central/State Government Agencies and private trade without any cap on the quantity.

2. Administrative Measures

- (i) Removed levy obligation in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (ii) Extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 10/- kg for distribution of BPL families @ 1 kg per month up to 31-3-2012.
- (iii) Extended the Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 10/- kg for distribution of ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month up to 30-9-2012.

Improvement in functioning of PDS

1272. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had instructed the State Governments for implementation of revised citizen charter, in order to improve the functioning of PDS in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether some State Governments have shown hesitation to implement the citizen charter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Revised Model Citizen's Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was issued in July, 2007 for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments. It *inter-alia* contains information relating to TPDS such as authorities responsible for its effective implementation, rights of citizens to get information regarding their entitlements of foodgrains, quality and quantity of foodgrains supplied to the fair price shops, issuance of ration cards, operation of fair price shops, inspection/checking, etc.

So far, 32 State/UT Governments have reported adoption and implementation of the Revised Model Citizen's Charter. State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and Manipur are yet to report the adoption/implementation of the Revised Model Citizen's Charter. These States are being requested on regular basis to report the adoption/implementation of the Revised Model Citizen's Charter.

De-regulation of sugar sector

1273. SHRI D. RAJA:

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 Government has set up a high level committee to examine the possibility of de-regulation of the sugar sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the report is expected to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to Prime Minister has been constituted on 20-01-2012 to look into all issues connected with deregulation of sugar sector. No time limit has been fixed for the Committee to submit its reports.

Scientific storage for rice

1274. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of rice has suffered due to non-availability of scientific storage in godowns; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken by Government to overcome these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. Procurement of rice has not been affected due to lack of availability of storage space.

(b) In view of (a) above does not arise. However, to increase the covered storage capacity for central pool stocks of foodgrains, the Government has launched the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme. A capacity of about 151 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. Out of this, tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of about 89 lakh tonnes as on 29.02.2012 by the private entrepreneurs. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporation are constructing 5.4 and 14.75 lakh tonnes respectively under the Scheme, out of which a capacity of about 5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. The Government has also finalized a plan for construction of additional storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States under the plan scheme.

Access to PDS

1275. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains allocated under Public Distribution System have reached to only 40 per cent of the beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken by Government to ensure that 100 per cent beneficiaries are able to access PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission's Report on Performance Evaluation of TPDS submitted in March, 2005, about 42% of subsidised foodgrains reached the targeted Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries. It pointed out that implementation of the TPDS suffered due to targeting errors prevalence of ghost cards, unidentified households and siphoning off of foodgrains from the supply chain.

However, in the independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others, it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of Public Distribution system across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States, covering a total of 1227 BPL/Antyodaya Households. Based on the survey made, the researchers have also brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has also been pointed out the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone.

Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States/UTs for distribution to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS. During the year 2011-12, the percentage of offtake of these foodgrains allocated for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories was 100% and 96% respectively.

Further, in order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been notified on 31st August, 2001 which mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Strengthening and streamlining of the TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly requesting State/UT Governments for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY Families, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerisation of TPDS operations at various levels.

Damage of foodgrains in transporation

1276. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether reports have been received regarding the damage of foodgrains during the inter-State transportation by road and rail;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases reported and the quantum and value of foodgrains involved therein; and
- (c) the reasons for the delay in transportations along with the quantity of wheat and other foodgrains transported during the last three years, year-wise?

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

However, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has reported that during 2011-12, a meagre quantity of foodgrains accrued as damaged at various railheads during the inter-state transportation by road and rail in the following regions:

Gujarat: 6 Tons of rice (value Rs. 37350/-) accrued after salvaging of rain water affected bags at Railhead Siddhpur during June, 2011. The Handling and Transport (H and T) contractor has been found responsible and an amount of Rs. 3,75,815/- has been recovered from bills of contractor.

Uttar Pradesh: 15 Tons of wheat (Value Rs. 68625/-) was damaged during unloading of a rake received ex. Tapa (Punjab) due to rains at Railhead Naini, District Allahabad in the month of July, 2011. The CWC contractor was found negligent in handling and transportation of the stocks from Railhead to depot for which, an amount of Rs. 2,54,830/- has been recovered from CWC contractor.

Rajasthan: 11.31 Tons of wheat (value Rs. 51743/-) at Railhead Jalore was damaged as the stocks of wheat got affected due to rains during unloading of rakes in the month of July, 2011. The H and T contractor has been found responsible and an amount of Rs. 22750/- has been recovered from bills of contractor.

Bihar: Stocks of raw rice Grade A were water affected at Railhead, Saharsa due to rains and remained unlifted at Railhead for considerable time. On salvaging 330 bags of damaged rice have accrued at Railhead, Saharsa on 20.7.2011. Disciplinary action had already been initiated against FCI, Area Manager Saharsa.

Odisha: 6.0 Tons of wheat accrued as damaged at SWC Dumerpani ex-Karnal and 9.0 tons of wheat accrued as damaged at SWC Kantabanji ex-Malaut during 2011-12. Value of the damaged wheat is Rs. 82883/-. The reason is due to mission of wagon, for which claim of Rs. 79090/- at SWC Dumerpani and Rs. 205717/- at SWC Kantabanji have been lodged with Railways.

(c) FCI has reported that the reasons of delay in transportation has been due to blockage en-route and natural factors like Disaster, flood etc.

The movement of wheat/total foodgrains on all India basis of the last three years is as follows:

Commodity	(fig in lakh tons)					
	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Plan	Dispatch	Plan	Dispatch	Plan	Dispatch
Wheat	161.32	141.94	188.22	158.97	165.50	136.97
TOTAL	312.30	275.83	362.97	305.29	353.62	294.74
FOODGRAINS						

Target of Custom Milled Rice (CMR)

1277. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has not taken any steps to achieve target and to receive custom milled rice (CMR) from paddy procuring agencies although there is sufficient godowns and technical man power with FCI; and

(b) whether it is a fact that wheat has occupied most of the food storage depots of FCI in Odisha though there is less demand of wheat by consumers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has taken all possible steps to achieve targets and to accept the Custom Milled Rice from paddy procuring agencies by utilizing the existing manpower and available godown space.

(b) No, Sir. As on 19.3.2012, a storage capacity of 5,94,796 tonnes was available in Odisha against which 1,22,962 tonnes of wheat was available occupying only 20% of the available storage capacity. Average off take of wheat in Odisha is 39,750 tonnes per month and wheat available in Odisha is sufficient to cover only 3 months public distribution system and other allocation requirements.

Revision of wholesale and retail transportation charges of sugar

1278. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had approached the Central Government for revision of wholesale and retail transportation charges and for release of Rs. 1,27,59,095/- representing 10 per cent sugar deficit amount withheld by FCI in respect of sugar during the last several years;

(b) whether this request from the State Government has been considered by the Central Government; and

(c) if so, by when the State Government could expect to get a positive response in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The proposals for revision of the margins for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09 have been received from the Karnataka Government and are under process. In the meanwhile, the payments, on provisional basis, are being released to the State Government on the basis of pre-revised rates. The Food corporation of India (FCI) has intimated that Rs. 1,27,59,095/- representing 10 per cent sugar deficit amount withheld by them, has been paid by their Regional Office, Bangalore on 29.08.2011.

Availability of food stock and appropriate distribution

1279. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Food and Agriculture Ministers of the States and UTs on Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and for providing for storage facilities was held in New Delhi on February 8 and 9, 2012; and

(b) if so, what are the details of important decisions taken up at the Conference on adequate availability of food stocks, appropriate distribution as well as storage facility to be provided for foodgrains etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A two day Conference on Targeted Public Distribution System and Storage with Food and Agriculture Ministers and Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 8th and 9th February, 2012 at New Delhi.

Among the various issues discussed, in view of the likely increase in requirement of foodgrains in States for the purpose of ensuing Food Security Act, it was deliberated that all the States, particularly the emerging non-traditional procurement States, should step up their procurement activity.

As a measure to bring transparency in the functioning of PDS and reduce the incidences of leakages/diversion, black-marketing, etc. during distribution of PDS commodities, the Conference discussed regarding expeditious action to be taken by States towards Computerisation of PDS.

The Conference also reviewed the progress relating to creation of storage capacity and time-bound completion of ongoing projects with a view to enhance the storage capacity and avoid damage to stored foodgrains. Further, States were urged to scale up construction of intermediate storage facilities – both at district and Fair Price Shop level.

The proceedings and draft recommendations of the Conference are in the process of finalization.

Condition of godowns

1280. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some godowns owned by Government agencies are not in working condition despite the country is facing shortage of storage capacity and rotting of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibilities have been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A total capacity of 3.67 lakh tonnes is not in working condition with the FCI, which is about 1% of the total capacity available with FCI. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The storage capacities which are not in working condition are old and are thus not in use. Therefore no responsibility has been fixed in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of capacity not in working condition

Sl.No.	Name of Centre	Capacity (in MT)	Remarks
1.	Borivili/Mumbai (Shell type roof)	15,000	Capacity not in use due to collapse of roof structure which has outlived its life.
2.	Mayapuri/Delhi (Silos)	21,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1973-74 and are not in use.
3.	Khurja/Uttar Pradesh (Silos)	20,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1978-79 and are not in use.
4.	Chanderi (Kanpur)/ Uttar Pradesh (Silos)	72,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
5.	Borivili/Mumbai (Silos)	1,04,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
6.	Manmad/Mumbai (Silos)	84,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
7.	Gaya/Bihar (Silos)	32,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
8.	Kolkata Port (West Bengal)/Silos	19,000	The silos were constructed during the year 1962-63 and are not in use.
TOTAL		3,67,000	

Procurement of Samba rice

1281. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether FCI would procure Samba rice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the demands still pending with the Ministry, so far; and
- (e) by when the action would be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the existing procurement policy of Government, paddy procurement by Food Corporation of India/State Agencies is done on the basis of prescribed specification (FAQ) on Minimum Support Price (MSP). Paddy offered for procurement is classified as Grade 'A' or Common, based on length and breadth ratio and should conform to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications. There is no varietal difference for paddy procurement.

(d) There are no demands pending in the Ministry regarding procurement of Samba rice.

(e) In view of (d) above, does not arise.

Poor delivery under PDS

1282. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received complaints regarding corruption and diversion under PDS leading to poor delivery of services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the steps undertaken to modernize and computerize PDS to make its functioning more efficient and transparent;
- (c) whether Government intends to integrate the data of Unique ID project with PDS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of TPDS in certain regions/States in the country. As and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they have been sent to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. A State-wise Statement on complaints received in the last three years and the current year is given in Statement (*See* below).

All States/UTs have been requested to undertake end-to-end Computerization of Public Distribution System (PDS) on priority basis which includes Fair Price Shop (FPS) Automation, Computerisation of Supply-Chain, digitization of beneficiary database and setting up of transparency and grievance redressal mechanism and to prepare a time-bound Action Plan for end-to-end Computerization of PDS. Government has also regularly reviewed and has issued instructions to States/Union

Territories to strengthen functioning of TPDS by improving monitoring mechanism and vigilance, increased transparency in functioning of TPDS, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter and improving the efficiency of Fair Price Shop operations.

(c) and (d) Detailed guidelines have been issued to all State/UT Governments advising them to include PDS related Know Your Resident+ (KYR+) fields in the data collection exercise being undertaken by various UIDAI appointed Registrars across the country as part of the UID (Aadhaar) enrolment. State/UT Governments have also been requested to link the computerization of operations at FPS with Aadhaar registration with a view to help streamline the process of biometric collection as well as authentication of beneficiary at the time to commodity issuance at FPS.

Statement

Complaints on TPDS received in the Department from individuals, organisations and through media reports etc from 2009 to 2012 (upto January, 2012)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2009	2010	2011	2012
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	3	1	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	2	2	-
3.	Assam	6	1	1	-
4.	Bihar	16	13	6	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	5	1	-
6.	Delhi	29	37	16	4
7.	Goa	-	1	-	-
8.	Gujarat	4	3	2	-
9.	Haryana	5	24	7	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	4	-
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	3	-	1
12.	Jharkhand	6	5	3	1
13.	Karnataka	6	2	1	-
14.	Kerala	1	3	1	-
15.	Madhya Pradesh	9	13	9	1
16.	Maharashtra	12	5	8	2
17.	Manipur	-	-	1	-
18.	Meghalaya	-	-	1	-
19.	Nagaland	1	1	-	-

Sl.No.	State/UT	2009	2010	2011	2012
20.	Orissa	1	3	2	-
21.	Punjab	1	2	-	2
22.	Rajasthan	7	6	6	-
23.	Sikkim	3	2	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	6	2	3	-
25.	Uttarakhand	1	1	1	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	46	33	68	6
27.	West Bengal	4	2	-	2
28.	Chandigarh	-	2	-	-
29.	Puducherry	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		169	174	144	20

Lack of storage facility

†1283. 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 there is lack of safe storage facility in the country for keeping foodgrains procured in the Government sector;
- (b) if so, the Government's reaction in this regard;
- (c) the total quantity of foodgrains for which safe storage facility is available at present; and
- (d) the options contemplated for keeping the surplus foodgrains procured safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The storage capacity, Covered and Cover and Plinth (CAP) available with the Food Corporation of India as on 01.03.2012 was about 335 lakh MTs, both owned and hired. The storage capacity with state agencies for storage of Central stock of foodgrains as on 31.03.2011 was 290 lakh tonnes including both covered and CAP capacity. Thus, a total quantity of about 625 lakh tonnes of storage capacity was available for storage of Central stock of foodgrains against the Central stock of 544 lakh tonnes as on 1.03.2012. However due to the increased procurement of foodgrains and to reduce the storage under Cover and Plinth (CAP), the Government formulated the Private Entrepreneur Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of storage godowns

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the scheme, a capacity of about 151 lakh tonnes is to be created in 19 states. Out of this tenders have been finalized for creation of storage capacity of about 89 lakh tonnes as on 15-02-2012 by the private entrepreneurs. CWC and SWCs are constructing 5.4 and 14.75 lakh tonnes respectively, out of which a capacity of about 5 lakh tonnes has already been completed by CWC/SWCs. The Government has also finalised a plan for construction of an additional total storage capacity of 5.4 lakh tonnes in the North Eastern States. Further to keep any surplus foodgrains procured safe, and to meet any increased storage requirements, Executive Directors (Zones) and General Managers (Regions) of FCI have been given full powers for hiring of godowns for short term usage, if the capacity available with FCI is not sufficient to store the foodgrains.

Procurement of wheat and rice from commission agents

1284. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

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 the Central Government agencies for food procurement like FCI etc. are procuring wheat and rice from commission agents and not directly from farmers in various North Indian States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that these agents also play money lenders' role in the beginning of harvest season and thus exploit the farmers both ways;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government is actively considering to take steps against those unscrupulous commission agents and make purchases directly from the farmers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government agencies are procuring wheat and paddy directly from the farmers in various North Indian States. However, in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, as per the mandatory provisions of the respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Acts of these States, wheat and paddy is purchased through commission agents, at specified Procurement Centres.

(c) and (d) No such reports have been received by the Government. However, it is for the State Governments concerned to regulate money lending within the State.

(e) and (f) Purchases are made by Government Procurement agencies through commission agents in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Acts of these States.

Setting up of silos

1285. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to engage private sector to set up silos of a total capacity of 2 million tonnes to augment grain storage with Planning Commission's assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has sought global assistance to build the state-of-the-art silos and entered build-own-operate (BOO) model with private firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to create a storage capacity of two million tonne through construction of silos. This capacity will be part of the overall storage capacity requirements of Food Corporation of India (FCI). The silos will be constructed under the Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode for which FCI will be the nodal agency. At locations identified for construction of storage capacity by the FCI, if land is made available within three months by FCI, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), State Warehousing Corporation (SWC), State Government or Central Government/State Government Agency, the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) route may be followed. If land is not made available, the silos will be constructed under the PPP mode through FCI without VGF. The concession period will be for 20 years, which may be extended by 10 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

Decline in procurement of foodgrains

1286. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in procurement of foodgrains by Government agencies during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken to increase procurement and their safe storage;

(d) whether there is any linkage between procurement, allocation and off-take of foodgrains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Details of wheat and rice production and procurement during last three marketing season and increase/decrease over previous season are as follows:

Wheat Production and Procurement

(in lakh tonnes)

Crop Year	Production	Procurement		Increase/Decrease over previous Season
		Rabi Marketing	Procurement	
		Season		
2007-08	785.7	2008-09	226.82	-
2008-09	806.8	2009-10	253.81	11.9 (increase)
2009-10	808.0	2010-11	225.14	11.29 (decrease)
2010-11	868.74	2011-12	283.85	25.85 (increase)

Rice Production and Procurement

(in lakh tonnes)

Crop Year	Production	Procurement	Increase/Decrease over previous Season
2007-08	966.9	287.36	-
2008-09	991.8	341.04	18.6 (increase)
2009-10	890.9	320.34	6.06 (decrease)
2010-11	959.8	341.98	6.75 (increase)
2011-12	1027.44	280.41**	

**As on 20.3.2012

Rice procurement during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2009-10 registered a marginal decline as compared to procurement in KMS 2008-09 mainly because of overall decrease in rice production in the country due to deficient rain fall in some states. Wheat procurement during RMS 2010-11 also registered a decline as compared procurement in RMS 2009-10.

(c) Steps taken by Government to increase procurement and safe storage of foodgrains are given in Statement-I and II (*See below*).

(d) and (e) Procurement is an open ended process and no specific targets are fixed for procurement. As per the existing procurement policy, the Central Government extends price support for paddy, wheat and coarsegrains through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Governments/State agencies. All the

foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale by farmers at specified procurement centres are bought by the procurement agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the Central Pool. Out of the foodgrains so procured, allocations are made for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). If surplus foodgrains are available in the central pool, additional ad-hoc allocations are also made from time to time. Offtake of foodgrains is dependent upon the extent of utilisation of allotted quantities by State Governments under Public Distribution system and Other Welfare Schemes.

Statement-I

Steps taken to increase procurement of wheat and rice

1. Sufficient number of procurement centres are opened by FCI/State Government agencies in mutual consultation before onset of procurement season, keeping in view the procurement potential and geographical spread of the State concerned. Review is made from time to time on the need for additional procurement centres, if any, during the procurement season and required additional procurement centres are also opened.
2. Before the start of every marketing season, Department of Food and Public Distribution convenes a meeting of State food secretaries, Food Corporation of India and other stake holders to prepare a detailed action plan for making the agreements of procurement in the coming marketing season. Details of number of procurement centres to be opened and arrangements like purchase of packaging material and storage space are discussed in the meeting.
3. The Commission charges for procurement by cooperative societies and self help groups has been increased to 2.5% of Minimum Support Price (MSP) since 2009-10 to encourage procurement from small and marginal farmers especially in States where marketing infrastructure is not well developed. This measure will increase the reach of MSP to farmers particularly for small and marginal farmers.
4. State Governments are encouraged to adopt Decentralised Procurement (DCP) system of Procurement so as to maximise procurement and increase the reach of MSP operations. Under this system, State governments undertake procurement and distribution of food grains by themselves. Procured quantities in excess of State's requirement is taken in the Central Pool for distribution elsewhere, while shortfall is met from the Central Pool. The DCP system was introduced in the year 1997. Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Madhya Pradesh are DCP

States for paddy/Rice and Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal are DCP State for Wheat.

5. Instruction have been issued to FCI and states to open procurement centres at locations convenient to farmers where they could bring their produce for government procurement.
6. The MSP for wheat in RMS 2009-10 was fixed at Rs. 1080 per quintal, which resulted in a record procurement of 253.82 lakh tonnes in RMS 2009-10. The MSP of wheat was fixed at Rs. 1100 per quintal and the procurement of wheat in RMS 2010-11 was 225.14 lakh tonnes. In RMS 2011-12, the Government had announced the MSP of wheat as Rs. 1120 per quintal. In addition, a bonus of Rs. 50 was also approved, which resulted in procurement of 283.35 lakh tonnes of wheat, which is a record procurement. The MSP of wheat of RMS 2012-13 has been further enhanced to Rs. 1285 per quintal.
7. In KMS 2009-10, the MSP of Rs. 950 and Rs. 980 per quintal was fixed for Comon and Grade 'A' variety of paddy, respectively. In addition, the Government had also allowed a bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal on both varieties of paddy during KMS 2009-10. A total of 320.34 lakh tonnes of rice was procured during KMS 2009-10. For KMS 2010-11, MSP of Rs. 1000 and 1030 per quintal for Common and Grade 'A' variety of paddy was fixed. The procurement of rice in KMS 2010-11 is 341.80 lakh tonnes. The MSP of Paddy for common and Grade 'A' variety of Paddy was further enhanced to Rs. 1080 and Rs. 1110 per quintal respectively for KMS 2011-12. The estimated procurement of rice in KMS 2011-12 is 353 lakh tonnes.
8. The State Governments have been requested to issue instructions for recording correct market arrivals and ensuring imposition of at least 50% compulsory levy on rice millers.

Statement-II

Steps taken to preserve the quality of procured foodgrains during storage

Before the commencement of Rabi and Kharif Marketing Seasons, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India issue uniform specifications for procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool. These uniform specifications are circulated to F.C.I. and all State Governments/Agencies with instructions to ensure that foodgrains are procured strictly in accordance with the uniform specifications.

Foodgrains procured by F.C.I. and State Governments/Agencies are stored in covered godowns as well as in CAP (cover and plinth).

During storage, the following steps are taken for safe storage and preservations of foodgrains:-

- (a) Godowns are constructed on scientific lines making it rodent proof by having proper height and damp proof by providing pucca floor.
- (b) Before the stocks are stored, the godown is properly cleaned and cobwebs etc., if any, are removed.
- (c) Floor and walls are treated with chemicals such as air charging with Malathion and DDVP (insecticide) to make them pest free.
- (d) Markings are provided for stacks and the dunnage material is used on which foodgrains bags are arranged as per the stack plan.
- (e) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative measures (fumigation) are carried out regularly for the control of insects/pests.
- (f) Effective rodent control measures are also undertaken.

Following checks/super checks are conducted in the godowns to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in storage.

- (a) Fortnightly inspection of stocks on 100% basis by Technical Assistants for declaring categorization and classification.
- (b) Monthly inspection by Manager (QC) - 33% of stocks (1/3rd of stocks) in a month. Monthly inspection reports (MIR) of Manager (QC) are scrutinized at Zonal level. Suggestions made therein are to be implemented and monitored through Action Taken Reports (ATR)
- (c) Quarterly inspection by AGM (QC)

The following inspection schedule is prescribed for AGM (Quality Control):-

- (a) 1/3rd of depots in a month so as to cover all the depots in the District in three months.
- (b) 5% of stocks are to be checked in a depot having capacity of more than 25000 MTs.
- (c) 10% of stocks in respect of depot having less than 25000 MTs
- (d) Squad Inspection Reports (SIR) of AGM (QC) are scrutinized in Hqrs.,

Revamping of PDS

1287. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

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

- (a) whether Bill Gates article "Make the right choice" in the Hindustan Times dated 31st January, 2012 is an eye-opener;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has not taken any concrete measures to tackle an impending food crisis;

(c) whether it is also a fact that every day millions of Indians go to bed hungry and hundreds of children suffer from malnutrition even though the foodgrain production of the country exceeds the consumption; and

(d) if so, what appropriate action the Ministry is taking to revamp the Public Distribution System and to create enough silos to store surplus foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) For making the country self-reliant in production of foodgrains, various Crop Development Schemes and Programmes like National food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Maize and Oil palm (ISOPOM), Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton, Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals under Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY) are being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Corporation through State Governments.

As per Second Advance estimate (Directorate of Economics and Statistics) 2011-12, the overall foodgrains production in the country is estimated at 250.42 million tones, which is 5.64 million tones higher than the last year's record production of 244.78 million tones.

(c) and (d) For tackling the problem of hunger, starvation and malnutrition in the country and to ensure that people living below poverty line get adequate food grains, the Government has been providing food grains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through the State Governments/UT Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme and Village Grain Bank Scheme.

Strengthening and streamlining of the TPDS is continuous process. In consultation with the State/UT Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which, *inter alia* includes continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) list and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards along with strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. To improve functioning of TPDS, State/UTs have also been advised to ensure timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.

The Government has decided to create a storage capacity of two million tones through construction of silos, which will be constructed under the Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode for which food Corporation of India will be the nodal agency.

Storage of sugar

1288. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of sugar produced during the last year;
- (b) the quantum of sugar stacked in FCI godowns;
- (c) the quantum of sugar lying in the open because of paucity of godowns; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the sugar laying in the open?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Production of Sugar during last sugar season 2010-11 (October-September) was 243.50 lac tons (Provisional).

(b) A quantity of 0.261 lakh MTs of sugar was available with FCI as on 01.03.2012, out of which 0.08 lakh MTs of sugar was under transit.

(c) Sugar is not stored in the open storage.

(d) Does not arise.

Black marketing in TPDS

1289. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

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

(a) whether a Conference of Food Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of the States and UTs was held on 8th and 9th February, 2012 in Delhi on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Storage;

(b) the details of discussions held and the decision taken to check black marketing of PDS items and the steps taken to create more storing space to check damaging of foodgrains; and

(c) the quantum of foodgrains stored in the open by FCI and how much of it was damaged during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A two day Conference on Targeted Public Distribution System and Storage with Food and Agriculture Ministers and Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 8th and 9th February, 2012 at New Delhi.

The Conference discussed regarding expeditious action to be taken by States towards Computerisation of PDS as a mean to bring transparency in the functioning of PDS and reduce the incidences of leakages/diversion, black-marketing, etc. of PDS

commodities. After detailed deliberations, timelines for accomplishing specific milestones for Computerisation of PDS were recommended.

The Conference also reviewed the progress relating to creation of storage capacity and time-bound completion of ongoing projects with a view to enhance the storage capacity and avoid damage to stored foodgrains.

The proceeding and draft recommendations of the Conference are in the process of finalization

(c) The quantity of wheat stored in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage during last three years in Food Corporation of India (FCI) is given as below:

(Figures in LMTs)

Year	Wheat
As on 1-03-2010	9.23
As on 1-03-2011	9.47
As on 1-03-2012	12.54

The details of foodgrains accrued damaged in CAP during last three years are given in Statement.

Statement

Region-wise quantity of foodgrains damaged due to storing in CAP of FCI during last three years w.e.f. 2009-10 to 2011-12

(Fig. in MTs)

Sl.No.	Region	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (upto Jan.' 2011)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bihar	0	0	0
2.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
3.	Odisha	0	0	0
4.	West Bengal	0	0	0
5.	Assam	0	0	0
6.	NEP	0	0	0
7.	N and M	0	0	0
8.	Delhi	0	0	0
9.	Haryana	0	0	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Punjab	0	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	0	0	0
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
15.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0
16.	A.P.	0	0	0
17.	Kerala	0	0	0
18.	Karnataka	0	0	0
19.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
20.	Gujarat	671	137	195
21.	Maharashtra	45	21	1346
22.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0
23.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0
TOTAL		716	158	1541

Computerisation of ration system

1290. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) whether Government has started computerisation of ration system along with ration cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of funds allocated for this purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether three crore fake ration cards have been detected during computerisation;

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

(e) the details of other steps taken to weed out bogus ration cards and to streamline Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) All States/UTs have been requested to undertake *end-to-end* Computerization of Public Distribution System (PDS) on priority basis and to prepare a time-bound Action Plan for Computerization of PDS.

States/UTs like Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have reported that they have completed the digitisation of ration cards. Further, as per reports received, States/UTs such as Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim are in the process of digitization of beneficiary database.

A draft Scheme on *end-to-end* Computerization of Public Distribution System in all States/UTs for providing necessary infrastructure and financial support has been prepared which is to be taken up on cost-sharing basis with States/UTs. State-wise allocations are yet to be finalized.

(c) to (e) In terms of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments are to review the lists of BPL and AAY families every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State/UT Governments are to periodically carry out the same. Instructions have also been issued to all State/UT Governments to issue warning to the bogus card holders, through advertisements in the newspapers, to surrender the bogus cards. Deletion of bogus/ineligible ration cards is also to be undertaken by States/UTs subsequent to digitization of ration cards as part of Computerization of PDS. As a result of these measures, State/UT Governments have reported deletion of 221.64 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards in 26 States/UTs. State-wise details are given in Statement.

Statement

*Number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted by the State/UT Governments
with effect from July, 2006 onwards*

(Updated on 31-12-2011)		
Sl.No.	State/UT	Nos. of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted/eliminated (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.05
3.	Assam	0.56
4.	Bihar	1.60
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.62

1	2	3
6.	Delhi	16.32
7.	Gujarat	8.64
8.	Haryana	0.03
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02
10.	Jharkhand	0.65
11.	Karnataka	18.55
12.	Kerala	0.00 &&
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24.97
14.	Maharashtra	42.20
15.	Meghalaya	0.00 *
16.	Mizoram	0.02
17.	Odisha	2.50
18.	Rajasthan	0.03
19.	Sikkim	0.01
20.	Tamil Nadu	3.97
21.	Uttar Pradesh	8.72
22.	Uttarakhand	0.16
23.	West Bengal	59.67
		(individual cards)
24.	Chandigarh	0.08
25.	Lakshadweep	0.00 \$
26.	Puducherry	0.00**
	TOTAL	221.64

Actual figures && 114, * 341, \$ 300, ** 16

Restructuring of agri commodity retail chains

1291. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India Ltd. has decided to restructure agri commodity retail chains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of multi-commodity retail shops functioning in various States and how many retail shops are dysfunctional; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to modernise the operational shops and to bring dysfunctional shops to stream under restructured programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All kinds of produces of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture and services related thereto, are handled by NCCF on wholesale basis and NCCF does not have any retail outlets for these products.

(c) No such proposal is pending before the Government.

Godowns and cold storages in rural areas

1292. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has announced the financial assistance under Central scheme for construction of godowns and cold storages in rural areas in private capacity;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance to be provided by the Ministry and the details of criteria/eligibility for construction of godowns/cold storages in those areas;

(c) the rate at which private godowns would be hired by Government for storage; and

(d) the other actions Government would take to save grains from rotting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has launched 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' w.e.f. 01.04.2001 for creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet out various requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce, agricultural inputs etc., and prevention of distress sale by creating the facility of pledge loan and marketing credit. Under the revised scheme w.e.f. 26.06.2008, subsidy @ 25% is being given to all categories of farmers, Agriculture graduates, cooperatives and CWC/SWCs. All other categories of individuals companies and corporations are being given subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. In case of NE States/hilly areas and SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives and Women Farmers, subsidy shall be 33.33%. Further the scheme has been made more attractive by enhancement of maximum capacity to 30,000 MT with maximum ceiling on subsidy of Rs. 3 crores for other than North Eastern States and

for North Eastern States the maximum capacity is 25,000 MT with maximum ceiling on subsidy of Rs. 3.333 crores.

(c) For godowns hired from the private parties by food Corporation of India (FCI) for storage of food grains, General Manager (Regions) have powers to pay rentals upto Rs. 4.16 per quintal per month. ED (Zones) have power upto Rs. 5.21 per quintal per month and if higher rates are recieved the proposals are then finalized by the FCI, Headquarters.

(d) Various steps are taken by FCI to prevent damage to foodgrains. Prophylactic and curative measure are carried out reguarly for the control of insects/pests. Effective rodent control measures are also undertaken. Regular quality checks are conducted to ensure proper preservation of foodgrains in storage. Adquate dunnage is provided for the foodgrain stocks stored in CAP. The dunnage matertial is cleaned and disinfected. To protect the CAP stocks from rain, sun etc. each stack is covered with a polythene cover. The polythene covers are tied with nylon ropes. Wheat stocks stored in CAP by the State Government/Agencies are subjected to joint inspection on a regular basis by officers of FCI and the concerned State Government/Agencies. Stocks are generally issued on the principle of "First in First out" (FIFO).

Introduction of technologies in PDS

1293. SHRI A.A JINNAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced new technologies such as Global Positioning System (GPS), bar coded coupons of PDS foodgrains to prevent leakages of foodgrains under PDS;

(b) if so, whether this had been introduced on pilot basis in some States;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government would introduce GPS in other States to prevent leakages of foodgrains under PDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) In order to curb leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), a scheme regarding installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) sets on vehicles carrying TPDS commodities had been taken up in 2007-08 on pilot basis. State Government of Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu have implemented the scheme.

Subsequently, it has been decided to extend this scheme in all the States/ Union Territories (UTs) in the current financial year 2011-12 and proposals have been invited from States/UTs for sanctioning funds under the scheme.

No decision has been taken by the Government for introduction of bar coded coupons for PDS foodgrains. However, some States/UTs have reported issuance of

smart cards, food coupons, barcoded ration cards, etc. for the delivery of TPDS commodities to the beneficiaries, which will help in checking leakages/diversion of foodgrains. Bar-coding and biometric identification of beneficiaries are expected to ensure that food coupons are not misused and that food coupons are given to BPL families after due verification.

National Foodgrains Movement Scheme

1294. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has drafted or proposes to draft a National Foodgrains Movement Scheme along with the National Food Security Act;
- (b) if so, the details of the mechanism including the scheme developed for monitoring this entire system;
- (c) whether there is any policy for inter-State procurement of foodgrains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any study has been made to find out this possibility as a solution to the problem of procurement and storage; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Department of Food and Public Distribution is in the process of preparing a plan for movement of foodgrains in consultation with Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Railways. FCI and Railways have been asked to furnish relevant inputs for formation of such a Plan. Once these inputs are received, the Department will finalize the National Foodgrain Movement Plan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, as per the existing Procurement Policy, all the foodgrains conforming to prescribed specifications offered by farmers at specified Procurement centers are bought by FCI/State agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP). In order to increase the reach of MSP particularly to small and marginal farmers and to encourage consumption of locally procured grains and to save on transportation costs, the Government introduced the Decentralized Procurement (DCP) System in 1997. The list of DCP States for rice and wheat is given in Statement (*See below*). Under the DCP System, the procured quantity of foodgrains is first utilized for State's own Public Distribution scheme and Other Welfare Scheme requirements and surplus, if any, is handed over to Central Pool. Deficit is met from Central pool by bringing stocks from surplus States whether DCP or non-DCP.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) does not arise.

Statement*List of DCP States***Wheat**

Madhya Pradesh

Uttarakhand

Gujarat

Chhattisgarh

West Bengal

Rice

Chhattisgarh

Odisha

West Bengal

Tamil Nadu

Uttarakhand

Kerala

Karnataka

Madhya Pradesh

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Economic viability of Fair Price Shops (FPS)

1295. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the economic viability of Fair Price Shops (FPS) has been badly affected by the exclusion of APL population from PDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether only 23 per cent FPS are viable in terms of earning a return of 12 per cent on capital;
- (d) whether this has not encouraged instances to cheat by FPS owners; and
- (e) the steps taken to make FPS economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Government provides foodgrains to State/UT Government for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg. per family per month at highly subsidized prices. Allocation to Above Poverty Line (APL) families is made on the basis of availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and the past off-take.

Presently, the allocation of foodgrains for APL category ranges between 15 kg. and 35 kg. per family per month at subsidized prices.

The TPDS functions through a network of Fair Price Shops (FPS). The licences for the FPS are issued under the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, which also lay down the duties and responsibilities of FPS owner. Since 2001, State/UT Governments have been given the flexibility in the matter of fixing the margin for the Fair Price Shops (FPSs). The rates of commission to FPS owners are, therefore, to be determined by the respective States/UTs. In order to improve the viability of the fair price shops through increased turnover, Government has advised the State/UT Governments that FPS owners should be encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through these outlets.

Wheat procurement

1296. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether FCI projects a 3.5 per cent increase in wheat procurement at 262.62 lakh tonnes for 2010-11 ending September, 2011;
- (b) if so, the details worked out, so far; and
- (c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) for wheat procurement starts from 1st April of every year and terminates on 31st March. Details of wheat procured over last three RMSs are as follows:

(in lakh tonnes)	
Rabi Marketing Season	Wheat procurement
2009-10	253.82
2010-11	225.14
2011-12	283.35

Wheat procurement during RMS 2011-12 was 283.35 lakh tonnes, which is 25.85% more than wheat procure during RMS 2010-11.

As per estimate given by State Food Secretaries in the Rabi Marketing season Review Meeting, wheat procurement in RMS 2012-13 is estimated to be 318 lakh tonnes.

Low price of sugar

1297. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ex-mill price of sugar in the domestic market is prevailing below cost of production of sugar;

- (b) if so, whether sugar mills are making losses;
- (c) whether losses are not affecting payment of cane price to farmers;
- (d) the steps taken by Government this year to ensure that ex-mill sugar price remains above the cost of production;
- (e) the details of cane price payable, paid and arrears to farmers during the last three years and the current year as on 31st January, 15th February and 29th February; and
- (f) how Government proposes to get cane price arrears of farmers cleared especially when sugar mills are making losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The ex-mill price of sugar depends on a number of factors *viz.* domestic demand and supply, international prices of sugar, market sentiments, etc. As regards, cost of production of sugar, it varies from mill-to-mill depending upon the efficiency of its plant and machinery and technology used, size of the plant, facilities set up for production of ethanol and co-generation of power and management practices, etc. However, it is the endeavor of the Central Government to maintain the price of sugar in the open market, through the policy of regulated release mechanism, at reasonable level which enables sugar mills to pay remunerative cane price to sugarcane farmers and is also fair to consumers.

(e) Statements indicating the total cane price payable, paid and arrears to farmers during the current season 2011-12 (as on 31st January, 15th February and 28th/29th February respectively) and the last three years are given in Statement-I, II and III (*See below*)

(f) During the current sugar season 2011-12, the Central Government has allowed export of 20 lac tons of sugar in two tranches of 10 lac tons each to augment the liquidity of sugar mills so as to enable them to pay cane price in time. In 2010-11 sugar season, the Central Government had allowed export of 26.18 lac tons of sugar under various categories for the said purpose. Further, the Central Government under Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 has delegated powers to State Government/UT Administrations for enforcing the timely payment of cane price arrears.

Statement-I

*Total cane price payable, total price paid and arrears
during the last three years and the current year
as on 31st January (sugar season-wise)*

(Rs. in crores)

Season	Position as on	Total Price payable	Total Price paid	Arrears	% of arrears on price payable
2011-12	31.01.2012	25166.57	18618.17	6548.39	26.02
2010-11	31.01.2011	21098.73	16641.59	4457.13	21.13
2009-10	31.01.2010	18966.09	16430.14	2535.95	13.37
2008-09	31.01.2009	11921.38	9621.31	2300.07	19.29

Statement-II

*Total cane price payable, total price paid, arrears
during the last three years and the current year
as on 15th February (Sugar season-wise)*

(Rs. in crores)

Season	Position as on	Total Price payable	Total Price paid	Arrears	% of arrears on price payable
2011-12	15.02.2012	30688.15	22974.34	7713.81	25.14
2010-11	15.02.2011	25978.54	21116.57	4861.97	18.72
2009-10	15.02.2010	22879.50	20235.30	2644.20	11.56
2008-09	15.02.2009	13989.19	11955.41	2033.79	14.54

Statement-III

*Total cane price payable, total price paid, arrears
during the last three years and the current year
as on 28th/29th February (Sugar season-wise)*

(Rs. in crores)

Season	Position as on	Total Price payable	Total Price paid	Arrears	% of arrears on price payable
2011-12	29.02.2012	35,701.90	27,292.28	8,409.62	23.56
2010-11	28.02.2011	28,962.44	24,290.39	4,672.06	16.13
2009-10	28.02.2010	26,402.12	23,734.82	2,667.30	10.10
2008-09	28.02.2009	15,179.31	13,355.64	1,823.67	12.01

Procurement of wheat for central pool

1298. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is proposing to buy 24 mt of wheat for central pool in the rabi season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof worked out, so far;
- (c) the reasons for such buying; and
- (d) how Government would use such wheat in the market in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per the existing procurement policy, the Central Government extends price support for paddy, wheat and coarsegrains through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government/State agencies. All the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale by farmers at specified procurement centres are bought by the procurement agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP). Procurement is an open ended process and no specific targets are fixed for procurement. However, as informed by the Food Secretaries of different States in the review meeting for ensuing RMS 2012-13, procurement of wheat is estimated to be 318 lakh tonnes in RMS 2012-13.

(c) and (d) Stocks available in the central pool are used for making allocations for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and Open market Sale Scheme (OMSS). During the Year 2011-12, 292.91 lakh tonnes of wheat and 356.7 lakh tonnes of rice have been allocated for TPDS, OWS and OMSS. For the Year 2012-13, an advance allocation of 499 lakh tonnes for TPDS and 27 lakh tonnes for OWS has already been made.

Gearing up of PDS

1299. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of the essential commodities are on the rise;
- (b) whether Government has failed to gear up the public Distribution System to minimize the impact of unfavourable seasons; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by Government to check the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Prices of essential commodities have shown a mixed trend over the period of last one year. In respect of prices of wheat, atta, all the pulses except gram dal and onion, a declining trend

has been noted, while prices of edible oils, gram dal, sugar, milk, potato and tomato have shown an increasing trend during this period. However, prices of some of these items such as sugar and gram dal have shown a decline and milk prices have remained more or less stable during last three months.

(b) With a view to specifically target poor sections of society, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched in 1997. To control food inflation, the Government has from time to time made *ad hoc* additional allocation of foodgrains under TPDS. Alongwith allocations of rice and wheat for Other Welfare Schemes, such allocations were also made for festivals and for natural calamities reliefs to States/UTs. Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process which, *inter alia*, include improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies.

(c) Measures taken by the government to stabilize the prices of essential commodities are given in statement.

Statement

*Steps taken by the Government to contain price rise
in essential commodities:*

A. Short term Measures:

1. Fiscal Measure

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero – for rice, wheat and onion, pulses, edible oils (crude) and to 7.5% for refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils.
- (ii) NDDDB has been allowed to import 50000 tonnes of Skimmed Milk Powder and Whole Milk Powder and 15000 MT of Butter, Butter Oil and Anhydrous Milk Fat at Zero duty under Tariff Rate Quota.
- (iii) Permitted Sugar mills to import duty-free raw sugar under Open General Licence (O.G.L.). Later this facility was extended to private trade on job basis.
- (iv) Permitted STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED to import duty-free white/refined sugar initially with a cap of 1 million tonnes. Later duty-free import was also allowed by other Central/State Government Agencies and private trade without any cap on the quantity.

2. Administrative Measures

- (i) Removed levy obligation in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (ii) Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil)

and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum).

- (iii) Imposed ban on export of non-basmati rice and wheat for short period of time.
- (iv) Permitted export of edible oils in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kgs subject to a limit of 10,000 tonnes.
- (v) Prohibited export of milk powders (including skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, dairy whitener and infant milk food), Casein and Casein products.
- (vi) Effected no change in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils.
- (vii) Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, edible oilseeds, paddy and rice.
- (viii) Ban on export of onion was imposed for short period of time whenever required. Exports of Onion were calibrated through the mechanism of Minimum Export Prices (MEP) of onion.
- (ix) Maintained 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.
- (x) Suspension of futures trading in rice, urad and Tur by the Forward Market Commission continues.
- (xi) Proportion of sugar production requisitioned as levy sugar was decreased from 20 to 10% for 2011-12 sugar season.
- (xii) A quantity of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice has been approved for allocation to State/UT Governments for distribution to retail consumers for the period of October, 2011 to September, 2012 under OMSS. Similarly, allocation of 50,000 MT of wheat and 50,000 MT of rice were approved for cooperatives like NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar. Allocation of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat was approved for sale to bulk consumers/small private traders. Out of this approved quantity, 6.75 lakh tonnes of wheat and 6.785 lakh tonnes of rice have been allocated to States/UTs for distribution to retail consumers for the period of October, 2011 to March, 2012 under OMSS. Similarly, 9 lakh tonnes of wheat has been allocated for tender sale to bulk consumers through FCI and sale to small/private traders from FCI godowns under OMSS. 20,000 tonnes of rice has been allocated to NCCF for distribution to retail consumers of NCT of Delhi.
- (xiii) In order to encourage more lifting under OMSS retail and bulk schemes, it was decided to reduce prices under OMSS for both bulk sale and

retail sale. For the year 2011-12 (October 2011 to September 2012) price of wheat and rice for retail sale under OMSS scheme to State/UT Government were fixed uniformly at MSP for the previous year and no freight charges have been levied. Similarly, for sale of wheat through tender to bulk consumers, price was fixed at MSP in wheat procuring States, while in other States only 50% of freight charges have been levied.

- (xiv) An additional adhoc allocation of 123.68 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat have been made so far comprising following allocations:
 - (i) 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to BPL families in May, 2011 for distribution upto March, 2012.
 - (ii) 50 lakh tonnes to APL families in June, 2011 for distribution upto March 2012, thereby increasing the monthly APL allocation to 15 kg-35 kg per family per month.
 - (iii) 23.68 lakh tonnes of foodgrains allocated during July, 2011 to February, 2012 to 174 poorest/backward districts in 27 States (as per Supreme Court's orders).
- (xv) Extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs 10/- kg for distribution to BPL families @ 1 kg per month up to 31.03.2012.
- (xvi) Extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 15/- kg for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 litre per ration card per month up to 30.09.2012.

Allocations to Jammu and Kashmir

1300. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of rice, wheat and sugar allocated to Jammu and Kashmir under the Public Distribution System (PDS) under APL, BPL and AAY categories separately;
- (b) how much population is covered in the State under those categories;
- (c) whether Government intends to cover the whole population as enumerated in 2011 census under PDS and if so, by when; and
- (d) if not, by when Government intends to increase the allocations under PDS To Jammu and Kashmir and by how much quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The commodity-wise details are as under-

FOODGRAINS: Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), allocation of foodgrains is made on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued by the States/Union Territories (UTs) whichever is lower. Jammu and Kashmir is being made full allocation @ 35 kg. per family per month for all accepted number of 7.36 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 2.82 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and 10.66 lakh Above Poverty Line (APL) Families in the State.

The details of the monthly allocation of rice and wheat being made for the AAY, BPL and APL categories under TPDS (as for the month of March 2012) to Jammu and Kashmir are as under:

(in tons)				
Commodity	AAY	BPL	APL	Total
Rice	7,187	12,627	24,617	44,431
Wheat	1,762	4,181	12,693	18,636
GRAND TOTAL	8,949	16,808	37,310	63,067

Also, to enable the State Government to meet the requirement for additional BPL families in the State, Government of India has made an additional allocation of 56,440 tons of foodgrains each for the Years 2010-11 and 2011-12 for distribution to BPL families at BPL issue prices.

In addition to above, allocation of 9705 tons for BPL and 2052 tons for AAY families have also been made in 2011-12 for additional BPL families in poorest/backward districts of Jammu and Kashmir in pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and recommendations of the Wadhwa Committee.

Provision for revision of allocation of food grains annually based on the actual or estimated population, as the case may be, has been made in the draft National Food Security Bill.

SUGAR: Details of the allocation of levy sugar during sugar season (October-September) 2010-2011 and 2011-12 (upto January 2012) made to Jammu and Kashmir as per total projected population as on 01.03.2000 are as under:

(Quantity in MT)		
Sugar Season	2010-11	2011-12
Quantity	87833.6	28516.8

Government has not taken any decision to enhance the allocation of levy sugar as per population of 2011.

Food security to BPL category

1301. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assured food security to BPL category;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and
- (c) the views of the States involved in such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to meet the requirements of food security, particularly for the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, under which foodgrains at subsidised prices are allocated to 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, in the country @ 35kg per family per month. the Government is also implementing Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid Day Meal, Annapurna etc. to ensure food security of especially vulnerable groups.

Details of foodgrains allocations for BPL category (inculding AAY) under TPDS and under OWS during the last three years are as under:

	(in lakh tons)			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
TPDS	276.01	276.09	276.78	276.78
OWS	41.41	42.11	50.10	49.06

In addition, based on demands received from States/Union Territories (UTs) for higher allocation of foodgrains based on current population and the availability of stocks in the Central Pool, *ad hoc* additional allocation of foodgrains have been made during 2009-10 to 2011-12, as per details given below:

	(in lakh tons)	
Year	Total	
2009-10	36.08	
2010-11	80.66	
2011-12	73.69	

The Above includes allocation of 23.69 lakh tons of foodgrains made to BPL and AAY families to 174 poorest districts in 27 States in pursuance of the orders dated 14-05-2011 and 14-09-2011 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and on the recommendations of the High Powered committee headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa made during July, 2011 to February, 2012 as well as 1473 tons of foodgrains to 6 districts in 4 States for running community kitchen to provide cooked food in

places like city hospitals, bus stands and pockets inhabited by poor and vulnerable people in collaboration with Corporations and PSUs.

Upward trend in the prices of essential commodities

†1302. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the prices of the essential commodities have shown an upward trend as compared to last year;

(b) whether the price monitoring cell studies and analyses the trends of the prices of important commodities through various sources and the information so collected and the status report is presented before the committee of secretaries and the Cabinet Committee on Prices;

(c) whether, in spite of these measures adopted by Government, the prices of most of the essential commodities have not shown a declining trend; and

(d) if so, the measures adopted to control the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Prices of essential commodities have shown a mixed trend over the period of last one year. In respect of prices of wheat, atta, all the pulses except gram dal and onion, a declining trend has been noted, while prices of edible oils, gram dal, sugar, milk, potato and tomato have shown an increasing trend during this period. However, prices of some of these items such as sugar and gram dal have shown a decline and milk prices have remained more or less stable during last three months. The price monitoring cell studies and analyses trends of the prices of important commodities and the information so collected and the status report in this regard is presented before the committee of secretaries and the Cabinet Committee on Prices. Measures taken by the government to stabilise the prices of essential commodities are given in statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ No 1299 (part c)].

Establishment of new sugar mills in Gujarat

†1303. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any proposals from the Gujarat Government for establishing new sugar mills in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps being taken by the Central Government for establishment of new sugar mills in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Central Government has not received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat to set up new sugar mill in the State.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government with a view to encourage setting up of new sugar mills in the country has de-licensed the sugar industry. The Entrepreneurs are free to set up new sugar mills at their preferred locations subject to compliance of rules and regulations of the Central/State Governments.

Implementation of XBRL

1304. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formed a committee to develop the roadmap for future implementation of eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of terms of references of the said committee;

(d) whether Government has invited suggestions from various stakeholders; and

(e) if so, the details of suggestions/comments, so far, received by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has set up a committee in November 2011 comprising of XBRL experts and representatives from the corporate sector as well as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) with the following terms of references:

- i. Identification of class of companies and various reports to be filed in XBRL in Phase-wise manner.
- ii. Development of Taxonomies to be used by Corporates for their regulatory filings to government agencies.
- iii. Extensions in Taxonomies and XBRL Assurance framework.
- iv. Training, awareness and capacity building of stakeholders
- v. Framework for consumption and dissemination of XBRL data.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Information regarding setting up of the committee and its terms of reference has also been put on the Ministry's website: www.mca.gov.in for information of the general public, and for their suggestions and comments.

In response to this, a large number of suggestions have been received regarding;

- i. new accounting concepts (elements) in the taxonomy,
- ii. approach that may be adopted in development of applicable taxonomies,
- iii. approach that may be adopted for resolving technical issues like 'extensions' in taxonomies and rendering of XBRL documents,
- iv. phase wise coverage of new companies/filings in XBRL,
- v. framework for consumption and dissemination of XBRL data, etc.

These suggestions have been shared with the Committee for examination and possible incorporation in the roadmap for future implementation of XBRL by the Ministry.

Registration of companies

1305. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to make enrolment of all foreign companies, engaged in online business practice, with the Register of Companies mandatory in a bid to make such companies engaged in online and direct to home business practices accountable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether the need to have control over such organisations was felt in the wake of increasing instances of online business that cut across national boundaries; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Under the Companies Act, 1956, there is no specific provision for mandatory registration of foreign companies engaged in on-line business practices. However, keeping in view the present scenario which has been witnessing a large number business transactions through electronic mode, the Government has proposed to modify the definition of term 'foreign company' under the Companies Bill, 2011 to provide for effective regulation of such entities. Clause 2(42) of the Bill, defines the term 'foreign company' to mean any company or body corporate incorporated outside India which,-

- (a) has a place of business in India whether by itself or through an agent, physically or through electronic mode; and
- (b) Conducts any business activity in India in any other manner

Requirements in respect of various disclosures and other compliances to be made by foreign companies have been provided in Chapter 22 of the Companies Bill, 2011 (Clauses 379-393).

The Companies Bill, 2011 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14th December, 2011 and the same has been referred to the Hon'ble Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.

Regulation of foreign Chartered Accountant Firms

1306. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Chartered Accountant (CA) Firms are being regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India but the foreign CA firms practising in India are not regulated by any regulatory body;

(b) if so, how Government is exercising control on those foreign CA firms;

(c) whether it is also a fact that few Indian CAs involved in Satyam case were punished and debarred from practice, but not the foreign CA firms still practising in India;

(d) if so, whether those foreign CA firms would be debarred from practising in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The Indian Chartered Accountant (CA) firms are regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in terms of provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. Further, no CA firms, whether Indian or foreign, can operate in the area of audit/assurance services in India without being registered with the ICAI. It is, however, possible that several "Multinational Accounting Firms" may be operating in the country in the fields of audit/assurance services through Indian Audit firms/Members who are registered with the ICAI.

(c) and (e) Yes Sir, action has been initiated against the statutory Auditors of Satyam Computer Services Limited, namely Price Waterhouse, Bangalore and its members. The names of CA. Pulavarthi Siva Prasad, CA. Chintapatla Ravindernath and CA Srinivas Talluri have been removed from the Register of Members permanently and also a fine of Rs. 5 lac each on all of them has been imposed. The decision on awarding punishment to CA S. Gopalakrishnan, and CA V.S. Prabhakar Gupta is likely to be taken by the Disciplinary Committee of the ICAI at its next meeting.

Area under Coal India limited

1307. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) lays waste to large tracts running into

thousands of hectares flouting environment guidelines of the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) the total area covered by open mines as on 31st March, 2011, State-wise;

(c) the area reclaimed, State-wise;

(d) the names of Open Cast Projects (OCPs) closed between 1980 and 2000, State-wise;

(e) the area covered by these OCPs, State-wise; and

(f) the quantum of land reclaimed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Coal India Limited is not flouting the guidelines of the Environment Ministry and not wasting large tracts of land.

(b) and (c) the estimated details of total area covered by opencast mines as on March 2011 and the area reclaimed State wise are as under:

State	Total Area of Opencast Mines (excavated) as of March 2011 in HA	Total Area Reclaimed in HA
West Bengal	1345.79	1074.00
Jharkhand	8409.77	5170.92
Madhya Pradesh	4397.14	1708.38
Uttar Pradesh	1263.37	168.99
Chhattisgarh	4567.91	1693.59
Odisha	3458.03	1917.09
Maharastra	5170.00	532.13
Assam	119.62	19.80
	28731.63	12284.90

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Monsoon predictions

1308. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of dismal monsoon forecasts by certain foreign meteorological departments for 2012;

(b) whether the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is aware of the same;

(c) if so, the details of preparatory steps being taken and if not, by when IMD's monsoon projections are expected to be ready;

(d) the details of monsoon related projections of IMD during the last three years and the corresponding actual figures;

(e) what is the statistically acceptable margin of error between the projections and actual observation and whether such a difference lies between those figures; and

(f) if not, whether Government plans to change the methodology of monsoon forecasting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is aware of deficit monsoon seasonal rainfall forecast, for June-September, 2012, by certain foreign institutions/departments based on the simulations of dynamical models. As per the seasonal forecasts issued by the Frontier Research Institute, Japan in February 2012, India is expected to experience below normal rainfall during the coming monsoon season of 2012. However, forecasts from the United States National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) and United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMO) suggest above normal rainfall during the monsoon season of 2012. The present skill of these dynamical models predicting Indian monsoon seasonal rainfall is not yet reached satisfactory levels.

(d) Monsoon projections of IMD for the Last three years are given in Statement. (*See below*)

(e) the present level of operational acceptability of error margin is of 5% for the forecasts of all-India seasonal monsoon rainfall. The forecast verification of last 3-years suggests that only during 2009 the error margin was higher than 5% due to persistence of warmer sea surface temperature anomaly over equatorial Pacific Ocean (El Nino) beyond the expected duration as envisaged at the time (April 2009) of finalizing Monsoon-2009 seasonal rainfall forecast.

(f) Currently, IMD uses a suite of statistical models for prediction of seasonal monsoon rainfall over india. Such a mechanism is continued to be used due to non-availability of a suitable coupled ocean-atmospheric model with a proven performance of capturing the realistic monsoon rain fall variability over India.

We are examining the performance of coupled ocean-atmospheric models of NCEP, USA and UKMO for their suitability for seasonal monsson rainfall predictions.

Statement*Monsoon projections of IMD for 2009, 2010, 2011*

Region	period	Issued on	Forecast (% of LPA)	Actual (% of LPA)
All India	June to September	17 April, 2009 24 June, 2009	96 \pm 5 93 \pm 4	78
All India	June to September	23 April, 2010	98 \pm 5	102
All India	June to September	25 June, 2010	102 \pm 4	
All India	June to September	19 April, 2011	98 \pm 5	102
All India	June to September	21 June, 2011	95 \pm 4	

Freedom of press in Bihar

1309. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of Press of India has stated that there is violation of freedom of press in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has constituted a three-member panel to probe complaints of journalists in the State; and

(d) if so, by when the panel would submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) The Chairman, Press Council of India (PCI) during his recent visit to Patna, received complaints that journalists in Bihar find it difficult to discharge their journalistic duties due to fear of harassment and of losing their job as the authorities put pressure on the proprietors to do so.

(c) and (d) The Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with one of its objectives of preserving the freedom of press. The PCI has constituted a three-member Fact Finding Team from among the members of the Council, headed by Shri Rajeev Ranjan Nag, to

investigate the matter. The Team would submit its report to the Chairman, PCI after its visit to Patna and main District Headquarters between 1st to 4th April.

Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill

1310. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, to regulate broadcasting services like TV channels and FM Radio and by when it is likely to be implemented;

(b) whether Government proposes to issue any guideline for controlling broadcasting of content and frequency by FM radio at present;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when these guidelines are likely to be issued;

(d) whether Government has allayed the apprehensions expressed by various associations about uplinking and down linking norms; and

(e) if so, the details of the apprehensions and the steps taken by Government to allay their fears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) The Ministry had formulated a draft Broadcasting Service regulation Bill in 2007 for ensuring orderly growth of Broadcasting Services and the same was placed on the website of the Ministry inviting comments of stakeholders. However, there was stiff opposition from stakeholders on the proposed structure of the Broadcast Regulator as well as on the issue of regulation of content. A Task Force was subsequently constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 27th November, 2009 to hold wide ranging consultations with stakeholders to understand their perspective on the need, scope, jurisdiction, organizational structure, powers and functions of an independent Broadcast Regulator and the issue relating to regulation of content and furnish its recommendations to the Government. A number of diverging views emerged during its consultations. However, within the industry, the preponderant view is that self-regulation is the best way to regulate the media and no purpose would be served by introducing any other measures to regulate content. Meanwhile, the industry has set up a self regulatory mechanism for content regulation. As part of their self regulatory initiative, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has set up the Broadcasting Content Complaint Council (BCCC) to regulate the content on general entertainment channels. The News Broadcasters to consider the content related complaints of news channels. Advertisement Standard Council of India (ASCI) has also developed a Code of conduct for self regulation in advertising and they have

set up a Consumer Complaints Cell (CCC) to examine complaints relating to advertisements.

(b) and (c) So far as Private FM radio broadcasters are concerned, loggers have been installed by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) at each Common Transmission Infrastructure. Off air programmes broadcast by each private FM channel are stored in these loggers for 3 months. This stored programme is checked on monthly basis for any violation by BECIL.

(d) and (e) No such representations were received from Broadcasters/Associations in this regard. The uplinking and downlinking guidelines have been notified by the Ministry on the 5th of December 2011.

Unified licences for broadcasters and cable operators

1311. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether broadcasters and cable industry are upset with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's stand on unified licences saying that the move would open a backdoor for telecom companies and Broadband Wireless Associate licence holders to enter into broadcasting services by-passing the mandate of the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) TRAI had issued "Draft Guidelines for Unified Licensing Regime" on 16th January 2012 for consultation with the stakeholders. Subsequently, while framing the guidelines for migration, the draft guidelines for Unified and Class Licence and issues raised therein also underwent some modification. Therefore, TRAI released "draft guidelines for Unified Licence/Class Licence and Migration of Existing Licences" on 10th February 2012 for comments of the stakeholders, which consisted of the draft guidelines for Unified and Class Licence as well as draft guidelines for migration of existing Licences to the Unified licensing Regime. It included the following clause in the scope of Unified licence:

"The Licensee cannot provide broadcasting services, for which a separate licence/registration is required as per Cable TV Act 1995 and guidelines for DTH Licence issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting." (Clause 5.1 f).

In response to "Draft Guidelines for Unified Licensing Regime" issued on 16th January 2012, one stakeholder has commented that "this appears to be an attempt to give the telecom players a back door entry and access to expensive broadcast spectrum", while another stakeholder commented that "We do not believe that Content and Media (Channel Licenses and the licenses to uplink and downlink)

can in any manner be brought under unified licensing as these relate to content and media and subject to exclusive Regulatory Control by the Ministry of I and B.” However, after the issuance of “draft guidelines for Unified Licence/Class Licence and Migration of Existing Licences” on 10th February 2012 for consultation, no such comment from any stakeholder has been received by TRAI. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also not received any comment from any stakeholder.

Regulation of news-items and programmes

†1312. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any rules to regulate the content of news-items and programmes telecast by news channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a need to maintain freedom of press and control the misuse of this freedom simultaneously;
- (d) whether electronic media falls under the jurisdiction of Press Council of India;
- (e) whether telecasting/broadcasting of anti-social programmes based on the crimes like sensation, murder, rape do not tantamount to a soft of social pollution;
- (f) the details of measures taken by Government to regulate such programmes on news channels; and
- (g) if no measures have been taken, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a), (b) and (e) to (g) The telecast of programmes including news-based programmes on private satellite TV channels is regulated as per the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. While the Act does not provide for any pre-censorship of the programmes telecast on such TV channels, it prescribes that all programmes should be in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code, which contains a whole range of principles to be followed by these TV channels.

Further, as part of self-regulation of news TV channels, the News Broadcasters Association (NBA), which represents the private television news and current affairs broadcasters, has also formulated Code Of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards to self-regulate based on the principles of (i) Impartiality and objectivity in reporting, (ii) Ensuring neutrality, (iii) Reporting on crime and safeguards to ensure crime and violence are not glorified (iv) Depiction of violence or intimidation against women and children, (v) Sex and nudity, (vi) Privacy, etc. The Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

has been promoting self-regulation so that healthy content generation takes place at the level of news channels themselves.

Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private television channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. An Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also been set up to look into the specific complaints or suo motu take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes and appropriate action is taken as per the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, if any violation is established.

(c) The freedom of press is enshrined in the Constitution as Article 19(1)(a) guarantees right to freedom of speech and expression and freedom of press is a corollary of this fundamental right. However, there are reasonable restrictions to the right on certain grounds which are laid down under Art. 19(2) of the constitution. In pursuance of the policy to uphold the freedom of the press the Government does not interfere in its functioning. However, the Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body, has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with the twin objective to preserve the freedom of Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and also to inculcate the principles of self-regulation.

(d) The electronic media does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Press Council of India.

Recruitment in broadcasting services

1313. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have been recruited in broadcasting services as officers during the ten years by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) whether there are some problems owing to regularization of some employees due to conflict with the Indian Information Service rules/acts; and

(c) how many of them have been regularized during the last ten years, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) No recruitment in the broadcasting services has taken place during the last ten years through the Union Public Services Commission.

(b) No such problem has been reported to the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Review of Doordarshan programmes

†1314. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quality review of the programmes broadcast by Doordarshan Kendras/All India Radio had been made *vis-a-vis* private companies;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) the major shortcoming identified therein; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that review of the content and quality of Doordarshan/AIR programmes is a continuous process. Doordarshan and AIR do not compete with private channels as their primary mandate is public service broadcasting

However, the quality review of DD programmes is being made by Doordarshan Kendras through weekly feed-back studies conducted by TAM Media in urban areas and DART (Doordarshan Audience Research Television Ratings) survey by Audience Research Unit, DG: Doordarshan in rural areas. Outcome/assessment of programmes of DD1 and private channels reveals that out of 59 Top programmes, DDI got 25 programmes in urban areas as per TAM Media report and 35 programmes out of 50 in Rural areas as per DART survey report.

All India Radio has a wide network of Audience Research Units across the country, which periodically conducts audience surveys and regularly provides feedback about the programmes broadcast on different AIR stations/channels. Joint Programme Advisory Committees/ Programme Advisory Committees, constituted at various AIR Stations/Doordarshan Kendras, include distinguished personalities from various fields. The members give their suggestions for improvement in the quality of programme. Feedback received through their letters, E-mails, phone-calls and SMSes are also given due importance. All India Radio is also improving its network to enhance technical quality of programmes. AIR FM channels are generally more popular than private FM channels, as per Radio Audience Study by Audience Research Unit, All India Radio conducted during 2010-11.

- (c) No specific shortcomings have been observed.
- (d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Obscene advertisements

†1315. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that obscene advertisements are being served to audiences and readers by electronic media and print media:
- (b) the action taken thereon:
- (c) the number of persons punished for obscene advertisements:
- (d) whether it is also a fact that authorities are facing difficulties in controlling the obscene advertisements despite having laws against it in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) So far as electronic media (private satellite TV channels) is concerned, certain instances of telecast of obscene advertisements have come to the notice of the Government. Telecast of advertisements on private satellite TV channels is governed by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules promulgated thereunder, which do not provide for pre-censorship of such advertisements. However, all advertisements telecast on these TV channels are to be strictly as per the Advertising Code prescribed thereunder. The code adequately prescribes that indecent vulgar, suggestive repulsive or offensive themes or treatment shall be avoided in all advertisements. The Code also provides that no advertisement which violates the Code for self-regulation in advertising, as adopted by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), shall be carried in the cable service. The details of action taken in case of obscene advertisements in the recent past are given in the Annexure.

As regards Print Media, in pursuance of the policy to uphold the freedom of the press, the Government does not interfere with its functioning. However, the press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with the twin objectives to preserve the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and also to inculcate the principles of self-regulation. Accordingly, the Council has built 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which cover principles and ethics of journalism for adherence by the media. The Norm 17 on the subject "obscenity and vulgarity to be eschewed" prescribes that the newspaper/journalists shall not publish anything which is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public good taste. The complaints of content in print media, which are violative of "Norms of Journalistic conduct" are received and adjudicated by PCI under Section 14 of the Press Council

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Act, 1978. The Council can warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist as the case may be. The details of complaints of obscene content received by the PCI and the action taken thereon in the recent past is given in the Statement. (*See below*)

(c) to (e): So far electronic media is concerned, as per Section 16 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, whoever contravenes any of the provisions of the Act shall be punishable with the punishment prescribed thereunder. However, the data in case of invocation of this provision by various law implementing agencies all over the Country is not available on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Statement

*Details of complaints of obscene content received by the PCI
and the action taken there on the recent past*

Electric Media

Sl. No.	Name of Advertisement	Action taken
1.	Advertisement of Axe Effect deodorant	The matter was taken up with Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). ASCI issued direction to the advertisers to modify/withdraw the advertisement
2.	Advertisement of Set Wet deodorant	-do-
3.	Advertisement of Zatak deodorant	-do-
4.	Advertisement of Idea 3 G mobile phone	The matter was taken up with ASCI. However, ASCI did not uphold the complaint.
5.	Advertisement of Manforce Condom	-do-
6.	Advertisement of Liliput kid's wear	-do-
7.	Advertisement of Killer Deo	-do-
8.	Advertisements relating to:	
	(i) Fast Track	ASCI has not upheld the complaints in case of these advertisements. However it has recommended that these should be shown outside family viewing hours (11.00 p.m. - 6.00 a.m.) This particular recommendation of ASCI is under consideration of the Government
	(ii) Wild Stone Deo	
	(iii) Tata Docomo	
9.	'Advertisement of AXE SHOWER GEL'	Reply of ASCI is awaited.

Print media**Details of cases adjudicated by the Press Council of India.**

Sl. No.	Parties	Decided on	Action taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Complaint of Shri R.V. Sharada State President, Working Journalist union, M.P., against the Editor, Dainik Navbharat, Bhopal	July 30, 2010	Advise
2.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Bansal Advocate/President, Desh Kalyan Samiti, Moradabad, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran Kanpur, U.P.	July 30, 2010	Closed with observations
3.	Complaint of President, Pragatisheel Patrakar Association Agra, U.P. against the Editor, I- Next Kanpur, U.P.	July 30, 2010	Reprimanded
4.	Complaint of Shri Sukh Deo Singh, Sikar against the Editor Rajasthan Patrika, Jaipur, Rajasthan	July 30, 2010	Closed
5.	Complaint of Shri Edara Gopi Chnad, State General Secretary, Anti-obscenity Forum, Gantur, A.P. against the Editor, Andhra Jyothi, Andhra Pradesh	July 30, 2010	Guidelines Reiterated
6.	Complaint of Shri Edara Gopi Chand, State General Secretary Anti-Obscenity Forum, Guntur, A.P. against the Editor Eenadu A.P.	July 30, 2010	Guidelines Reiterated
7.	Complaint of Shri R.S. Saxena Retired Senior Commercial Officer Central Railways, Mumbai against the Editor, The Times of India, Mumbai.	October 29, 2010	Cautioned

1	2	3	4
8.	Complaint of Shri N.V.Ramakrishana, Kottayam, Kerala against the Editor, Fire Magazine, Kerala	October 29, 2010	Censured
9.	Complaint of Shri Sidheswar Acharyya, West Bengal against the Editor, Calcutta Times	October 29, 2010	Advise
10.	Complaint of Shri Sidheswar Acharyya, West Bengal against the Editor, Boier Desh Kolkatta	October 29, 2010	Advise
11.	Complaint of Shri Sidheswar Acharyya, West Bengal against the Editor, The Sunday Indian New Delhi	October 29, 2010	Advise

Issuance of advertisements

1316: MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is not issuing enough advertisement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that several departments are not releasing advertisements; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The advertisements are issued based on publicity requirement of various Ministries. The details of expenditure incurred on advertisements issued by various Ministries/ Departments, through DAVP, during the last three years and the current year (as on 22/3/2012) given in Statement.

Statement

Details of year-wise expenditure on advertisements issued through DAVP

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Print Advertisement	Visual Advertisement	Audio	Total
2008-09	276.39	190.00		466.39
2009-10	304.80	229.00		533.80
2010-11	356.64	216.00		572.64
2011-12 (as on 22.03.12)	335.52	131.65		467.17

Service rules for employees in Prasar Bharti

1317: SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) how much time was taken by the Prasar Bharati to frame Service Rules for its employees;
- (b) when the draft Service Rules were submitted to the Ministry for approval;
- (c) the total staff strength of All India Radio and Doordarshan and the number of stations and installations in 1985 and where they stand today; and
- (d) whether contract and casual staff is hired and fired to do the jobs of perennial nature, even production work in Prasar Bharati stations and Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Following the establishment of the Prasar Bharati on 23.11.1997, the Recruitment Regulations (RRs) for 122 categories of employees were notified in 2002. These RRs were kept in abeyance because of dissatisfaction of the employees concerned. The Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati (GOM) in their meeting on 16.04.2010 directed Prasar Bharati to take immediate steps to frame and notify RRs and Service Conditions for its employees. The Prasar Bharati drafted the RRs and forwarded to the Ministry on 18.04.2011 for approval. The RRs are at present under inter-Ministerial consultations.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the total staff strength of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan is 26322 and 21700 respectively. In 1985, 17 Doordarshan Kendras (Studio Centres) and 172 Transmitters were functioning in the country. At present, there are 67 Doordarshan Kendras (Studios Centres) and 1415 transmitters in Doordarshan Network. The number of AIR Stations and installations was 88 in 1985 and is 262 at present.

(d) Due to acute shortage of manpower on account of large number of vacancies in all disciplines in the Prasar Bharati, persons are being engaged on contract and casual basis.

Recruitment rules in Prasar Bharti

†1318. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the feeling of dissatisfaction that has crept among the employees and the officers of Prasar Bharati due to the delay in framing appropriate recruitment rules regarding this organization which was constituted in 1997;

(b) the steps contemplated by the Ministry for improving this situation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of posts lying vacant against the sanctioned strength of employees in the radio stations, Doordarshan Kendras and offices all over the country; and

(d) the number of new centres established by Prasar Bharati during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) No such information has been brought to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the total number of sanctioned posts in All India Radio (AIR) is 26322 and the total number of vacancies is 8469. However in Doordarshan the total number of sanctioned posts is 21700 and the total number of vacancies is 5753.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that during the last five years, AIR has added 46 new centres, whereas, Doordarshan has added 37 new centres.

Vacancies in the Ministry

†1319. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are several posts lying vacant in the Ministry, the Prasar Bharati the All India Radio and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the recruitment would be made for the said posts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the staff of Prasar Bharati are not allowed to form any union or association; and

(d) if not, the number of associations registered in the Prasar Bharati and the strength of these associations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) The vacancies in the cadres of Central Secretariat Service, Central Secretariat Stenographer Service, and Central Secretariat Clerical Service in the main Secretariat of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are 30. There are 8469 posts vacant in All India Radio (AIR) and 5753 posts vacant in Doordarshan (DD). The Details are given in Statement (*See below*)

A proposal for setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board for recruiting Prasar Bharati employees and a proposal for framing Recruitment Regulations in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

respect of Prasar Bharati employees are under inter-ministerial consultation. Prasar Bharati recruitment can commence after these are approved. The vacancies falling under promotional quota are filled up by holding DPCs periodically which is continuous process.

(c) and (d) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 has no specific provision for registration of union or association with the Prasar Bharati. The recognition of unions or associations of Government servants under deemed deputation to the Prasar Bharati are governed by the provisions of Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1993. As on date, there is no recognized union or association of such employees in Prasar Bharati under the said rules

Statement

*Details of group-wise vacancies in the main Secretariat
of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Prasar Bharti
(DG: AIR and DG: DDn)*

Group	Vacancies in the Main Secretariat of the Ministry	Vacancies in AIR	Vacancies in DD
A	4	1279	568
B	12	1323	809
C	14	3903	2937
D	-	1964	1439
TOTAL	30	8469	5753

Right to justice

1320. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working to enact a law to make the right to justice a fundamental right for Indian citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when this would be enforced; and

(e) the manner in which Government would make the legal aid programme more effective and efficient so that all sections of society could have better access to justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The Preamble to the Constitution of India provided justice-social, economic and political to Indian citizens regardless of their affiliation to caste, creed, religion or sex. The Supreme Court has also held that Social Justice his situation, no fresh law is required to make Right to Justice a fundamental right for citizens.

(e) The Government has taken various steps with the objective of improving justice delivery. This included the following:-

- (i) The Thirteenth Finance Commission has, *inter-alia*, recommended a substantial grant of Rs. 200 crore for utilization in the five years from 2010-2015 by State Legal Services Authorities to provide legal aid to the marginalized groups and to empower them so that they can access justice.
- (ii) The National Legal Services Authority has been setting up legal aid clinics in villages or for a cluster of villagers manned by trained Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs). These legal aid clinics are required to be set up under the provisions of the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011.
- (iii) Under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, the National Legal Services Authority has framed National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulation, 2010 to extend assistance of lawyers to those from the marginalized groups of the society. As per these regulations, panel of lawyers is maintained in all the Courts. Besides, retainer lawyers are selected out of the Panel Lawyers who are paid a monthly honorarium in addition to the fees for the cases handled by them. The number of retainer lawyers appointed are 20 in the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, 15 in High Court Legal Services Committee, 10 in the District Legal Services Authority and 5 in the Taluk Legal Services Committee.

Complaints on paid news

1321. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cases of paid news substantially increase during the elections in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of complaints regarding paid news received by the Election Commission of India and the Ministry during the recent Assembly elections of five States, State-wise; and
- (c) what action the Election Commission of India and Government have taken on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):
(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inter-country adoption

1322. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status of 153rd Law Commission Report in 1994 on Inter-country Adoption submitted on August 26, 1994 to the then Prime Minister; and
- (b) the action taken on this report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):
(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oath before giving evidence

1323. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that at present a witness has to take an oath on religious books before tendering evidence in the court of the Country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind such a practice;
- (c) whether Government proposes to do away with this practice and switch over to taking oath under the Constitution of India only; and
- (d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):
(a) and (b) The form in which a witness may make an oath or affirmation before any court for giving evidence has been provided in the oaths Act, 1969. Section 5 of the said Act provides that a witness, interpreter or juror may, instead of making an oath, make an affirmation. As per the form of oaths or affirmation as provided in the Schedule to the said oaths Act, a witness may either swear in the name of God or make solemn affirmation.

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

Paid news in Assembly elections

†1324. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission of India has leveled

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

allegation against several newspapers and broadcasting institution for publishing and broadcasting news by getting money during the recent Legislative Assembly elections in five States;

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

(c) the names of newspapers and broadcasting institutions against which above allegations have been levelled?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Implementation of 18th Law Commission's report

1325. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reports submitted by the 18th Law Commission under Justice A.R. Lakshmanan (2007-2009), which were accepted by Government;

(b) the reasons for the delay in implementation thereof; and

(c) whether Government is committed to timeline for the implementation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Reports submitted by the 18th Law Commission under Justice A.R. Lakshmanan are under consideration of the Government. As the subject matter of most of the Reports relates to the subjects mentioned in List III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, view of the State Government are necessary before any decision is taken in this regard.

(b) The Reports are under consideration of different Ministries/Departments. No definite time can be stated.

Working of National Legal Services Authority

1326. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases handled by the National Legal Services Authority and State Legal Services Authorities during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total budgetary allocations for the Authority; and

(c) how the counsels are recruited under this scheme and how they are compensated?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The National Legal Services Authority and State Legal Services Authorities do not adjudicate any case. They are instructed to provide Free Legal Services to the eligible persons under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and

conduct Lok Adalats for settlement of disputes (both pre-litigative and pending in courts) amicably. The details of the cases in which free Legal aid has been given and the cases settled in Lok Adalats (State-wise) during the last three calendar years viz. 2009, 2010 and 2011 are given in Statement (*See* below)

(b) During the financial year 2011-12, National Legal Services Authority has been allocated a sum of Rs.3.95 crores for meeting administrative expenses and Rs.45 crores under the budgetary allocation grant-in-aid for implementation of legal services programmes/schemes under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

(c) Procedure for selection of counsel of panel lawyers is provided under Regulation 8 of National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010. As per the said Regulation, applications from legal practitioners are scrutinized and selection of the panel lawyers are made by the Executive Chairman or Chairman of the legal services Institution in consultation with the Attorney General (for the Supreme Court), Advocate-General (for the High Court), District Attorney or Government pleader (for the District and Taluk level) and the respective presidents of the Bar Association, as the case may be. While preparing the panel of lawyers the competence, integrity, suitability and experience of such lawyers are taken into account. The panel lawyers are paid fees as prescribed by the State-Legal Services Authorities in their Regulation.

Statement

The details of beneficiaries and number of cases settled in Lok Adalats organised in the State/Union Territories during each of the last three calendar years viz 2009, 2010 and 2011

Sl.No.	Name of the State Legal Services Authority	Number of Beneficiaries			Number of cases settled in Lok Adalat		
		2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2659	3256	3745	125615	97109	95926
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	Not available	992	811	Not available
3.	Assam	16698	21936	2288	25767	42578	3864
4.	Bihar	3737	1258	694	78055	94664	61221
5.	Chhattisgarh	3807	7892	23168	7277	10118	6663
6.	Goa	469	592	581	236	321	181
7.	Gujarat	7084	7230	6243	545495	433350	365012

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Haryana	3731	28360	18055	67909	50762	50587
9.	Himachal Pradesh	564	796	887	2531	3062	9507
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	644	404	560	16254	15369	13474
11.	Jharkhand	1708	2373	1786	9405	9076	39631
12.	Karnataka	1081	910	960	119560	143210	213015
13.	Kerala	5451	7905	9398	26015	24415	25026
14.	Madhya Pradesh	69336	103932	84223	230056	821872	1407826
15.	Maharashtra	182521	260414	840005	101510	119958	457425
16.	Manipur	-	9	-	0	0	84
17.	Meghalaya	79	51	238	189	26	450
18.	Mizoram	2689	2751	719	113	54	49
19.	Nagaland	295	-	Not available	150	88	Not available
20.	Orissa	2769	3260	2936	132030	212148	237042
21.	Punjab	3766	3735	4288	28053	40663	68283
22.	Rajasthan	3767	4962	3454	75774	75179	256427
23.	Sikkim	415	567	503	383	409	677
24.	Tamil Nadu	120328	103667	133789	50811	39033	79714
25.	Tripura	1034	8439	615	4304	5199	7813
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5347	2032	2964	484416	471218	452316
27.	Uttarakhand	1112	296	269	13110	81575	44673
28.	West Bengal	4900	5311	6576	39955	34329	28473
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	73	13	Not available	13	0	Not available
30.	U.T. Chandigarh	489	347	565	2181	48972	32459
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	10	2	0	0	173
32.	Daman and Diu	-	-	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	10406	12814	15976	22131	145244	154314
34.	Lakshadweep	-	1	1	0	0	97
35.	Puducherry	4557	8146	12155	1426	5700	10092

State funding of elections

1327. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of State funding of elections is under consideration of Government, particularly in the context of a much voiced demand for electoral reforms; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers constituted by the Central Government is considering measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle ether corruption which *inter alia* include the introduction of State funding of elections. The Group of Ministers has discussed certain formulations which could be adopted to address this issue. A final decision in this regard is yet to be taken with the consensus of the political parties.

Vacancies in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies

1328. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies laying vacant as on date, State-wise and constituency-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to hold elections to fill up the vacancies before elections to the posts of President and Vice-President of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) The Election Commission of India has forwarded a statement of vacancies (as on 19.3.2012) in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies along with the schedule of elections where bye-elections have been announced. The Commission endeavors to fill up all the vacancies, where bye-elections can be held, within specified time prescribed under the law. A copy is given in the I, II, III and IV.

Statement-I***Schedule for Bye-elections***

Event	Date
Date of Press Note	17.02.2012 (Friday)
1. Issue of Notification	22.02.2012 (Wednesday)
2. Last Date of making Nominations	29.02.2012 (Wednesday)

Event	Date
3. Scrutiny of Nominations	01.03.2012 (Thursday)
4. Last date of withdrawal of Candidatures	03.03.2012 (Saturday)
5. Date of Poll	18.03.2012 Sunday)**
6. Counting of Votes	21.03.2012 (Wednesday)
7. Date before which election shall be completed	25.03.2012 (Sunday)
8. Hours of Poll	08.00 AM to 5.00 P.M.

***Date of poll in Kerala has been changed to 17.03.2012 (Saturday)

Statement II*Vacancies where bye-election are yet to be announced*

Sl. No	Name of State/UT	No. and Name of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituency	Date of Vacancy	Reason of Vacancy	Whether election petition pending or not	Date before which election is to be completed	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39-Nellore Parliamentary Constituency	28.02.2012	Resignation of Sh. Rajamohan Reddy	No. E.P. Pending	27.08.2012	
2.	Madhya Pradesh	183 - Maheswar (SC) Assembly Constituency	21.02.2012	Resignation of Dr. Vijaylaxmi sadho	No. (E.P. dismissed by Hon'ble Supreme Court) on 21.02.2012	20.08.2012	
3.	Tripura	20 - Nalchar(SC) Assembly Constituency	10.03.2012	Death of Sh.Sukumar Barman	No. E.P. pending	09.09.2012	
4.	Kerala	140 - Neyyattinkara Assembly Constituency	09.03.2012	Resignation of Sh. R. Selvaraj	No. E.P. pending	08.09.2012	

Statement III

Vacancies where bye-election cannot be held due to pendency of election petition/writ petitions

Sl. No	Name of State/UT	No. and Name of ssembly Constituency	Date of Vacancy	Reason of Vacancy	Whether election petition pending or not	Date before which election is to be completed	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Karnataka	117 - Sagar	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Gopal Krishna Belur	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
2.	Karnataka	77 - Karwar	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Ananda Vasantha Asnotikar	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
3.	Karnataka	08 - Arabhavi	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Balachandra Laxman Rao Jarkiholi	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
4.	Karnataka	32 - Indri	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Dr. Begali Sarvabhuma Sathagouda	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
5.	Karnataka	146 - K.F.G	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Y. Sampangi	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
6.	Karnataka	4 - Kagawada	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Bhromagouda Alagouda	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
7.	Karnataka	222 - Kollegal	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. G.N. Nanjundoswamy	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
8.	Karnataka	181 - Nelomongala	10.10.2012	Disqualified Sh. M.V. Nagaraj	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Karnataka	28 - Basavana- gabagewadi	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Bellubbi Sangappa Kollappo	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
10.	Karnataka	56 - Devadurga	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. K. Shivangouda Naik	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
11.	Karnataka	217 - Chamaraja	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. H.S. Shankaralinge Gowa	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
12.	Karnataka	61 - Kanakagiri	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Shivaraj Thangadagi	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
13.	Karnataka	100 -Hiriyur	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. D. Sudhakar	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
14.	Karnataka	101 -Hosedurga	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh.Outihatti D. Shekhar	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
15.	Karnataka	137 -Pavagada	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. Venkataramanappa	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	
16.	Karnataka	186 -Malavali	10.10.2010	Disqualified Sh. P.M. Narainaswamy	W.P. Pending	09.04.2011	

Statement IV

Vacancies where bye-elections have already been announced on 16.2.1021

Sl. No	Name of State/UT	No. and Name of Assembly Constituency	Name of the District	Date of Vacancy	Reason of Vacancy	Whether election petition pending or not	Date before which election is to be completed	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74-Mahabubnagar	Mahabubnagar	30.10.2011	Death of Shri N. Rajeshwar Reddy	No. E.P. pending	29.04.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012
2.	Andhra Pradesh	81 - Nagar kurnool	Mahabubnagar	12.11.2011	Resignation of Shri Nagam Janardhan Reddy	No. E.P. pending	11.05.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012
3.	Andhra Pradesh	235 - Kovur	Nellor	12.11.2011	Resignation of Shri Nallapa Reddy Prasanna Kumar Reddy	No. E.P. pending	11.05.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012
4.	Andhra Pradesh	99- Ghanpur (Station) (SC)	Warangal	28.11.2011	Resignation of Shri Thatikonda Rajaiah	No. E.P. pending	27.05.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012
5.	Andhra Pradesh	85 - Kollapur	Mehabubnagar	28.11.2011	Resignation of Shri Japally Krishan Rao	No. E.P. pending	27.05.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions 135

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Andhra Pradesh	07 - Adilabad	Adilabad	28.11.2011	Resignation of Shri Jogu Ramanna	No. E.P. pending	27.05.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012.
7.	Andhra Pradesh	16 - Kamareddy	Nizamabad	28.11.2011	Resignation of Shri Gampa Govardhan	No. E.P. pending	27.05.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012.
8.	Gujarat	84 - Mansa	Mehsana	15.11.2011	Death of Pro. Patel Mangaldas Madhavial	No. E.P. pending	14.05.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012.
9.	Kerala	85 - Piravom	Ernakulam	30.10.2011	Death of Shri T.M. Jacob	No. E.P. pending	29.04.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012.
10.	Tamil Nadu	219 - Sankaran Kovil (SC)	Tirunelveli	22.10.2011	Death of Shri C.Karuppawamy	No. E.P. pending	21.04.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012.
11.	Odisha	89-Athgarh	Cutack	09.12.2011	Election of Shri Ramesh Rout set aside by Supreme Court	No. E.P. pending	08.06.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012.
12.	Karnataka	15 - Udupi Chikamagalur	Udupi and Chikmagalur	30.12.2011	Resiganation of Shri D.V. Sadanadana Gowda	No. E.P. pending	29.06.2012	Election announced on 16.02.2012, date of poll is 18.03.2012.

Legal Aid Clinics

1329: SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the project of setting up of Legal Aid Clinics in various mandals, taluks and villages, as laid down in the National Action Plan 2009-10 and 2010-11 by the Ministry;

(b) the details of the efforts and initiatives taken as on date; and

(c) the total plan expenditure incurred and the details of budget sanctioned, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011 provide for the establishment of Legal Aid Clinics in all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending on the size of such villages, especially where the people face geographical, social and other barriers for access to the legal services institutions. These Regulations were sent to all the State Legal Services for establishment of Legal Aid Clinics. National Legal Services Authority in its Plan of Action 2011-12 has requested the State Legal Services Authorities for establishment of Legal Aid Clinics. Most of these clinics are in the stage of infancy and it will take some time to make them fully functional since it is a new concept brought in to the legal services, to be manned mainly by trained Para-Legal Volunteers to function on the lines of primary health centres in villages. A statement showing the status of setting up of Legal Aid Clinics, State-wise as on 31-12-2011 is given in Statement.

(c) National Legal Services Authority is provided grant-in-aid under section 14 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, for implementation of various schemes and programmes under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. No separate budget has been sanctioned for Legal Aid Clinics.

Statement

The status of setting up of Legal Aid Clinics by State Legal Services Authority in States/Union Territories

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | Till August, 2011, 267 Legal Aid Clinics were established for various villages and cluster of villages. From September to December, 2011, total 524 Legal aid clinics are established as reported by the State Authority. |
| 2. Arunachal Pradesh | Information not available. |
| 3. Assam | Legal Aid Clinic opened at Central Jail, Guwahati and Central Jail, Jorhat on 23rd and 24 th June, 2011 respectively. |

4. Bihar As per directions steps for setting up of Legal Aid Clinics and establishment of front offices have been taken by the DLSA of state of Bihar. So far 301 Legal Aid Clinics have been set up in different judgeship and 59 are functioning.
5. Chhattisgarh Work on progress to establish Legal Aid Clinics at village and Gram Panchayat level.
6. Goa This Authority has opened a legal Aid Clinic at Taluka level on 9.11.2011, and on 5th and 12th December, 2011 at Village Panchayat.—North Goa

Legal Aid Clinics are established in villages.—South Goa
7. Gujarat District Legal Services Authorities Vadodara, Rajkot Porbandar District has Legal Aid Clinic in villages or for a cluster of villages in the most economical manner. During the period Legal Aid Clinics were established in jail at Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Junagadh, Porbandar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot District.
8. Himachal Pradesh Matter has been taken up with the State Government by the State Authority.
9. Haryana So far 491 Legal Aid Clinics have been established for a cluster of 20 Gram Panchayats and out of 7641 persons who have approached to Clinics for their grievances, 7203 persons are benefited during the period from April, 2011 to December, 2011. In this regard the DLSA's have been asked to depute the Advocate from the panel of DLSA's and Para Legal Volunteers to assist the needy people by providing legal services.
10. Jammu and Kashmir About 27 legal aid clinics have been set up in various districts as well as at Tehsil level of State so far and setting up of other legal aid clinics are under process. Almost 2 to 7 Legal Aid Clinics have been established in every district in the State.
11. Jharkhand The Plan is under progress.
12. Karnataka Steps would be taken for setting up legal aid clinics at hobli level or for a cluster of villages by employing services of para legal volunteers trained by legal services institutions in the State.

13. Kerala A Legal Aid Clinics are established and functioning on regular basis attached to Residents Associations. Legal aid Clinics are inaugurate on 13th Sept, 22nd 28th Oct., and 11th 16th and 29th November, 2011 at Gram Panchayat, taluka and District level. Legal aid clinics have been established at Sub-Jail on 3.12.2011, 15.12.2011, 18.12.2011, 20.12.2011 at Gram Panchayat, Taluk level and District level.
14. Madhya Pradesh Directions have already been issued to all DLSA for opening Legal Aid Clinics in villages with cooperation of Panchayat and Social Justice Department.
15. Maharashtra Legal Aid Clinics have been established in few villages with the grant available at the disposal of the TLSCs. Proposal for the establishment of Legal Aid Clinics at every Gram Panchayat was forwarded to the State Government But the same is rejected by the Finance Department as the proposal is very expensive. A fresh proposal for the establishment of Legal Aid Clinics in the premises of Collector office of each District of the State is forwarded to the State Government but the same is also rejected by the Finance Department.
16. Manipur 2 Legal Aid Clinics established in 2 Law Colleges in 2010.
17. Meghalaya Steps for Legal Aid Clinic in villages for a cluster of villages in the economic manner are yet to be taken by MSLSA.
18. Mizoram Nil
19. Nagaland Being established in cluster of villages.
20. Orissa Steps are being taken to constitute 50 Legal Aid Clinics in different Law Colleges/Universities of the State for which Budget proposal has been submitted to NALSA. In this connection the Chairman, State Bar Council has been requested to expedite the matter.
21. Punjab 81 Legal Aid Clinics have been opened in the State and the State Authority plans to open at least 10 Legal Aid Clinics in each District. The State Authority is utilizing infrastructure of the Panchayat Bhawans/village schools for opening the Legal Aid Clinics.

22. Rajasthan As per direction of Nalsa, Legal Aid clinics is working at high court to taluka level and establishing of legal aid clinic at Gram Panchayat level is under process.
23. Sikkim Status:- Legal aid clinics are held periodically in the Block Administrative Centres covering various villages.
24. Tamil Nadu Legal Aid Clinics were opened in 170 Village Panchayats for providing assistance in legal and non-legal matters. Advocates are being deputed to assist the villagers and one (1) Legal Aid Clinic in Court Premises.
25. Tripura 2 Legal aid Clinics are opened at Jamjuri Panchayat, Udaipur and Central Jail Agartala.
26. Uttar Pradesh Steps to be taken to establish legal aid clinics at block level.
27. Uttarakhand Now the list of PLVs have been finalized and soon after imparting training to these volunteers the implementation of project of LAC as aimed by this Authority shall be concluded.
28. West Bengal Such Training programme is not conducted by this Authority as yet. However, steps in this regard are being taken.
29. Andaman Nicobar Islands Requested the Adhyaksha Zilla Parishad and Chairman, Port Blair Municipal Council for providing some furniture for Legal Aid Clinic for the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
30. U.T. Chandigarh In view of National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Scheme 2010, the authority has opened five legal aid clinics for a cluster of 20 gram panchayat with the help of district panchayat officer. Efforts are being made to open more such legal literacy Clinics.
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli DLSA inaugurated five Legal Aid Clinics on 12th 20th November, 24th December, and 15th and 22nd January, 2011.
32. Daman and Diu Two Legal Aid Clinics already established are rendering their services.
33. Delhi Clinics located in SSSK Centres continuing. The infrastructure of NGOs and funds of Govt. to NGOs are being utilized economically & optimally.

A Legal Aid Clinic has been set up in the National Commission for Minorities for providing free legal aid to poor minority members who approach the NCM and it has started functioning *w.e.f.* 3rd August, 2011. During November, 2011 LAC in Delhi University is being set up for providing free legal aid to the people who approach the clinic.

34. Lakshadweep

Nil

35. Puducherry

A) So far 36 Legal Aid Clinics established in villages of the U.T. of Puducherry. Legal Aid Clinics are being conducted through electronic medium in number of villages by putting up a resource center in association with PMSSS, Puducherry (NGO). Under this process beneficiaries in different villages are able to get into contact with the Member Secretary while he is in the control room. This e-legal aid scheme avoids unnecessary travel and expenditure for the officers as well as to the beneficiaries. Puducherry Legal Services Authority is a pioneer in E-legal aid in India.

Filling up of vacancies in mission mode

1330. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in each High Court in the Country occurred and how many were filled during the last five years;

(b) the details of plan to fill up 50 per cent vacancies in mission mode approach by December 2011; and

(c) whether any change is being contemplated in the procedure of appointment of mission mode approach to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) The Statement showing number of vacancies of Judges occurred as well as the appointments made in each State High Court for the calendar years from 2008 to 2011 and for the calendar year 2012 (01.01.2012 to 20.03.2012) is given in Statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) The existing procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is based on the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and Anr. Vs. Union of India and the Advisory Opinion dated October 28, 1998. This has been in

vogue though this has been largely debated in various fora and there have been demands to change the existing procedure. However, no decision has been made in regard to an alternative to the present system of selection and appointment of judges.

In April 2011 and June 2011, the Government of India suggested to Chief Justices of all High Courts and the State Governments to launch in a mission mode programme for reduction of pendency in Courts from 1st July, 2011. Under that, it was suggested *inter-alia* that at least 50% of the vacancies be filled up in subordinate courts by December, 2011.

As for vacancies in the High Courts. Chief Justices are requested from time to time to send their recommendation for appointments of judges who meet the professional standards and have impeccable integrity for both the existing as well as anticipated vacancies. It was conveyed in April 2011 and June 2011 that if this was also taken up in a campaign mode for six months by the High Courts, better results could be achieved. The State High Courts and State Governments have responded to it. Against 43 vacancies which were filled in 2010 in High Courts, 85 vacancies have been filled in 2011.

Statement

The number of vacancies of judges occurred as well as the appointments made in each State High Court for the calendar years from 2008 to 2011 and for calendar year 2012

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	No. of Vacancies occurred during 1.1.2008 to 31.12.2008	No. of Vacancies filled during 1.1.2008 to 31.12.2008	No. of Vacancies occurred during 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009	No. of Vacancies filled during 1.1.2009 to 31.12.2009	No. of Vacancies occurred during 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010	No. of Vacancies filled during 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010	No. of Vacancies occurred during 1.1.2011 to 31.12.2011	No. of Vacancies filled during 1.1.2011 to 31.12.2011	No. of Vacancies occurred during 1.1.2012 to 20.03.2012	No. of Vacancies filled during 1.1.2012 to 20.03.2012
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Allahabad	12	13	12	18	8		11	17	2	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4	3	1	4	1	5	7	2	-	-
3.	Bombay	6	12	4	9	6	1	7	7	1	5
4.	Calcutta	2	-	7	6	6	9	5	2	2	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1	6	1	-	2	2	-	-
6.	Delhi	3	10	4	7	1	2	5	3	1	-
7.	Guwahati	4	2	-	-	1	-	4	6	1	2
8.	Gujarat	1	-	2	-	4	-	4	10	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	3	6	1	1	-	2	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	144
11.	Jharkhand	1	2	1	2	2	-	3	2	-	1	Written Answers to Starred
12.	Karnataka	3	5	1	1	1	4	2	-	-	1	[RAJYA SABHA]
13.	Kerala	2	6	3	5	2	1	3	4	-	2	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5	3	7	3	5	8	4	3	-	-	
15.	Madras	1	3	4	14	4	3	2	4	-	1	
16.	Orissa	3	2	4	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	
17.	Patna	5	1	4	4	2	6	3	8	-	-	
18.	Punjab and Haryana	2	7	4	3	5	1	5	7	1	-	
19.	Rajasthan	5	3	3	1	9	2	1	5	-	-	
20.	Sikkim	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	
21.	Uttarakhand	2	2	-	1	2		1	2	-	-	
TOTAL		63	78	68	89	64	43	73	85	8	13	and Unstarred Questions

Increase in wealth of candidates contesting recent elections

1331. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the recent Assembly elections, some of the MLAs have increased their wealth by 126 times;
- (b) if so, how; and
- (c) what Government would do to find out the method of increase in their assets?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) In pursuance of the direction in the judgment dated 13th March, 2003 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition No. 490 of 2002 and connected petitions, candidates are required to give information regarding their criminal antecedents, assets, liabilities and educational qualification in the affidavits prescribed by the Election Commission. The information furnished by the candidates is disseminated by displaying copies thereof on the notice board of the Returning Officer, supplying copies to anyone seeking the same and hosting the same on the website of the Chief Electoral Officer of the State, which is easily accessible.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Holistic reforms in election process

1332. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is mulling to bring holistic reforms in the election process to save the nation from the clutches of money, muscle power, mafia, communalism, casteism criminalization and corruption;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there were reports of use of excessive and unaccounted money power in many constituencies during the recently held Assembly elections; and
- (c) what appropriate action the Ministry is taking to plug loopholes and bad practices being adopted by the political parties and the candidates so that further reforms could be initiated in the near future and cleanse the democratic system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (c) The Election Commission has made proposals for electoral reforms from time to time. The Commission's proposals include proposal to amend the Law to check criminalization of politics, check money power, political parties reforms, misuse of religion for electoral gain, etc. The Commission has also recommended to amend the

law to make the offence of bribery under Section 171(B)/171(E) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 a cognizable offence. With a view to carrying out comprehensive electoral reforms, a Core-Committee has been constituted on the 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of an Additional Solicitor General. The talking points of the Committee included (i) Crimilisation of Politics; (ii) Funding of Elections; (iii) Conduct and Better Management of Election; (iv) Regulation of Political Parties; (v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties; (vi) Review of Anti-Deflection Law. The Committee under the aegis of Legislative Department and in co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted seven regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Guwahati, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who *inter-alia* included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives of NGOs, eminent persons, civil servants (serving and retired), students etc. and view have been gathered. An all party Consultation is also under consideration. On the basis of the inputs received or as may be received in all these consultations, legislative process as may be considered necessary will be initiated by the Government in due course.

(b) Due to implementation of the comprehensive Election Expenditure Monitoring guidelines by the Commission through deployment of Expenditure Observers and Assistant Expenditure Observers with support from the Income Tax Directorate (Inv) wing and by the Nodal Officers of the State Police and large number of Flying Squads and static Surveillance Team, in recently held Assembly election of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa-2012, the following amount have reportedly been seized-

Uttar Pradesh:	Rs. 39.07 crore
Punjab:	Rs. 11.51 crore
Goa:	Rs. 0.60 crore
Manipur:	Rs. 1.08 crore
Uttarakhand:	Rs. 1.30 crore

Vacancies of Judges in High Courts

1333. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total sanctioned strength of Judges in each of the High Courts;
- (b) the number of vacant posts of Judges in each of the High Courts;
- (c) the reasons for not filling up the vacant posts; and
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure that each High Court has its full sanctioned strength of Judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):

(a) and (b) The Statement showing the sanctioned strength of Judges and vacancies of Judges in the State High Courts as on 20.03.2012 is given in statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The existing procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is based on the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and Anr. Vs Union of India and the Advisory Opinion dated October 28, 1998. This has been in vogue though this has been largely debated in various fora and there have been demands to change the existing procedure. However, no decision has been made in regard to an alternative to the present system of selection and appointment of judges.

Statement

Statement showing sanctioned strength of judges and vacancies of judges in the State High Courts as on 20-03-12

Sl.No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned strength as on 20.03.2012	Vacancy of Judges as on 20.03.2012
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad	160	85
2.	Andhra Pradesh	49	17
3.	Bombay	75	14
4.	Calcutta	58	21
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	06
6.	Delhi	48	12
7.	Gauhati	24	01
8.	Gujarat	42	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	07
11.	Jharkhand	20	08
12.	Karnataka	50	10
13.	Kerala	38	04
14.	Madhya Pradesh	43	09
15.	Madras	60	06
16.	Orissa	22	07

1	2	3	4
17.	Patna	43	07
18.	Punjab and Haryana	68	26
19	Rajasthan	40	13
20	Sikkim	3	01
21	Uttarakhand	9	01
TOTAL		895	269

Impact assessment of new laws

1334. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry to study for probable implication on our judiciary before making any laws and making various amendments in laws as it may be extremely helpful to bring more transparency in our judicial system;

(b) whether the Ministry has constituted any task force in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry has sought opinion from State Governments and High Courts on this subject; and

(d) what further action has been taken by the Ministry as this subject requires urgent attention and action?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The Government had set-up a Task Force for examining the feasibility of Judicial Impact Assessment in India as follow up action on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Salem Advocates Bar Association Vs. Union of India. The Task Force has presented its Report on 16.06.2008. The Report has been forwarded to State Governments/High Courts for views/comments. 18 State Governments, 3 union Territories and 13 High Courts have responded already. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms will deliberate on the comments received and decide on the practicality of its implementation.

Outcome of funds allocated for improving judicial system

1335. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete results of release of Rs. 1,000 crores out of Rs. 5,000 crores given by 13th Finance Commission for improvement on justice delivery system including operation of morning and evening courts, establishment of alternate

dispute resolution centres, lok Adalats, providing free legal aid and training of Judicial officers, etc.;

(b) whether Government proposes to fix a maximum duration by which civil and criminal cases in the subordinate and district courts are to be finally settled; and

(c) whether built-in delaying practices in the existing Acts would be curtailed, keeping in view the accepted international standards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The 13th Finance Commission has allocated a grant of Rs. 5000 crores for the states over a period of 5 years between 2010-2015 for various initiatives such as : (i) Increasing the number of court working hours using the existing infrastructure by holding morning/evening/shift courts; (ii) Enhancing support to Lok Adalats to reduce the pressure on regular courts; (iii) Providing additional funds to State Legal Services Authorities to enable them to enhance legal aid to the marginalized and empower them to access justice; (iv) Promoting the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to resolve part of the disputes outside the court system; (v) Enhancing capacity of judicial officers and public prosecutors through training programmes; (vi) Supporting creation or strengthening of a judicial academy in each State to facilitate such training; (vii) Creation of the post of Court Managers in every judicial district and High Courts to assist the judiciary in their administrative functions and (viii) Maintenance of heritage court buildings.

The result of the release of grants allocated as on 15.03.2012 under 13th Finance Commission, are given below:

Sl.No.	Initiatives	Outcome
1.	Lok Adalats	10.28 Lakh Cases disposed
2.	Morning/Evening/Shifts Courts	12.37 Lakhs cases disposed
3.	Legal Aid provided	In 3.76 Lakh cases
4.	Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centres	139 Centres established
5.	Number of Public Prosecutors trained	1195
6.	Number of Judicial Officer trained	3866
7.	Number Court Managers appointed	168

An amount of Rs. 1353.62 crores have been released to States under Thirteenth Financial Commission.

(b) and (c): No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Modernisation of judicial infrastructure

1336. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to modernize the infrastructure of judiciary in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Recognising the inadequacy of infrastructure facilities in the district and subordinate courts, the Government of India has been providing on a sharing basis (50:50) resources to the State Governments for construction of court complexes and residential quarters for the judicial officers under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The Scheme has been in operation since 1993-94.

Rs. 1245.36 crores have been released to the States/UTs under this scheme till 31.3.2011. The Government has since then increased its share from 50% to 75% for States other than North Eastern States from the year 2011-12 onwards. The Central share for North-Eastern states is 90%.

During the current financial year, Rs. 566.658 crore has been released as central assistance to States and UTs under the scheme.

Reservation in promotion

1337. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation in promotion is strictly followed and implemented in the Ministry, as per the provisions made in the Constitution through 77th amendment;

(b) if so, the details of promotion made during the last five years in all the categories;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the same would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) All the posts to which promotions are made in the Ministry fall under the Central Secretariat Service (CSS), Central Secretariat Stenographers Service (CSSS) and Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS) and promotions to these posts are made in accordance with the orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Problems of bell metal artisans

1338. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the local bell metal artists of bell metal cottage industry of Sarthebari, Hajo in Assam are facing it difficult to repay their bank loans.

(b) whether it is also a fact that those artists are facing life and death problem to continue as artists/labourers in the present circumstances of high price rise of the raw materials including the essential commodities;

(c) whether Government would take appropriate steps to wave the small loan amount to save the lives of those artists/labourers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the details of initiatives taken for the development of the industry in that state?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) As per the information received from State Government of Assam, there is no record of communications from Bell Metal artists of Sarthebari regarding difficulty faced by them in repayment of loans.

(b) The bell metal artists Sarthebari are facing difficulty because of high rise of the price of raw material.

(c) and (d) As per the State Government vide their communication dated 21st March 2012, there is no demand for waiver of the loans taken by the artists.

(e) The Ministry of MSME has taken initiatives for development of brass and bell metal cluster at Hajo and Sarthebari. Soft interventions (training, exposure visits, etc) have been undertaken for Brass and Bell Metal Cluster, Hajo. A Common Facility Centre at a cost of Rs. 151.74 lakh with Government of India assistance of Rs.100 lakh (Rs. 81.66 lakh released) has been approved for Brass and Bell Metal Cluster, Hajo. Diagnostic study has been conducted for Sarthebari cluster. The Government of Assam has taken steps for development of bell metal industries in Sarthebari. An amount of Rs. 157.34 lakh was released under State Priority scheme for Bell Metal industry Sarthebari by Government of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta for raw material assistance etc. A godwon has been constructed by Assam Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation at Sarthebari for benefit of artisans.

Growth of MSME sector

†1339. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that small and micro industries have the potential to stabilize the economy of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the growth of this sector has not been satisfactory during the last years and if so, the average annual growth rate in this sector during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) The micro and small enterprises (MSEs) have potential for employment generation and wide regional dispersal and thus contribute to stabilizing the country's economy.

(b) The Government has been facilitating the promotion and development of MSEs through implementation of various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructure development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial/skill development, etc. The major schemes include Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Performance and Credit Rating Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

(c) Traditionally, the MSE sector has maintained a higher rate of growth than the overall industrial sector. The data on comparative growth rates of production is available up to the year 2007-08 which shows that the MSE sector has registered higher growth rates of 12.6% and 13% against 11.9% and 8.7% in overall industrial sector in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Funds to Bihar

1340. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds/amounts given/spent in Bihar by the Ministry and its various organisation's during the last three years and the current year; so far;

(b) the purposes for which these amounts were given/spent; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase those funds?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises implements schemes for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country. Funds allocated and utilized under the major schemes of the Ministry during last three years and current years are given in statement (*See below*). State-wise allocations are not made as they are Central Schemes and driven by the demand from the industrial units/clusters/States.

(b) The schemes of the Ministry relate to facilitating credit flow to the MSME, technology upgradation, skill development, infrastructure development and marketing and such other activities.

(c) Allocations of funds under the various schemes of the Ministry are made keeping in view the demand from the industrial units/clusters/States.

Statement

Year-wise allocation and utilization under major schemes of Ministry of MSME

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Scheme	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
		Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	734.80	408.65	559.70	742.76^	836.00	905.41^	800.00	753.05
2.	Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)	136.01	136.01	122.00	122.00	198.75	200.00^^	4.90	1.00
3.	Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS)	118.59	108.88	163.25	150.36	234.35	249.81^^	344.30	144.53
4.	National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP)	33.64	7.13	27.62	14.66	44.29	22.29	40.50	13.74

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

153

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Cluster Development Programme (CDP)	23.00	11.74	15.93	13.12	20.46	17.54	44.00	15.13
6.	Marketing Assistance	12.60	12.77^^	10.00	10.00	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
7.	Performance Credit Rating	8.81	7.15	40.00	36.80	44.00	44.80^^	75.00	69.25

*As on 29.02.2012

^Includes amount carried over from the previous year

^^ Includes amount received on supplementary demand

^^^ Includes amount re-appropriated from the savings of other schemes

Reservation in Promotion

1341. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation in promotions is strictly followed and implemented in the Ministry, as per the provisions made in the Constitution through 77th Amendment.

(b) if so, the details of promotions made during the last five years in all the categories;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the same would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Group 'A' Posts in the Ministry are either part of Central Staffing Scheme filled up on deputation tenure basis or cadre posts of Central Secretariat Service (CSS). Similarly, Group 'B'/'C' Posts, except Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS), are cadre posts of Central Secretariat Service or Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS) or Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS). Promotions to/in CSS/CSSS/CSCS are made by Department of Personnel and Training who control these services duly considering the provisions of reservation in promotion.

Illegal mining

1342. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether to curb illegal mining, the country needs strong Indian Bureau of Mines with an effective monitoring mechanism at State level;

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

(c) how far these measures would stop illegal mining of iron ore in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The State Governments are the owners of the minerals. The nature and magnitude of the problem of illegal mining activity varies from State to State, and since the minerals rights and collection of revenue vests with the State Government, and police and law and order machinery is with the respective States, full powers have been conferred to the State Governments to frame their own rules for curbing illegal mining under section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. On a reference to the Attorney General of India, it is opined that the powers of Central Government to curb illegal mining are spelt out by a process of reasoning and not specifically, and therefore there is definitely a need for amending the Act or framing fresh rules in this behalf. The role of Indian

Bureau of Mines (IBM), at present, is in respect of ensuring systematic and scientific mining of major minerals (excluding fuel minerals).

However, considering the fact that several State Governments have not been able to improve their governance at State level, the IBM has constituted Special Task Force, which has so far conducted 454 inspections in states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat and has suspended 155 mines, and recommended termination in case of 8 mines.

Separately the Central Government has set up a committee in the Ministry to review and restructure the role of IBM. The Central Government has amended Rule 45 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 and made it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockist, exporters and end-users to register with IBM and report their transaction in minerals on monthly and annual basis for a proper end-to-end accounting of minerals. As on 19.3.2012, out of 9390 mining leases in the country, 7896 mining leases are registered online with the IBM. Simultaneously, integration of the system with existing databases of State Governments, and other related Ministries/Departments such as Railways, Ports, Customs and Directorate General of Foreign Trade has been initiated.

The Central Government has also introduced a draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011 (MMDR Bill) in the Lok Sabha on 12th Dec., 2011 which has been referred to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel. The draft MMDR Bill, 2011 provides for preventing illegal mining by the following measures:

- Minimum lease size increased to 10 hectares (for major minerals) and 5 hectares (for minor minerals) making it easier to detect and demarcate.
- Registration of person in mining or dealing with minerals to help track ore movement.
- Ineligibility for all leases on conviction for violation of lease conditions.

The draft MMDR Bill, 2011 also provides for penalties for illegal mining which include:

- Fine extending to 10 times the value of mineral mined 3 years imprisonment or both;
- Debarment for obtaining future concessions
- Cancellation of mineral concessions held by the convicted person

(c) The steps taken by Central Government would facilitate effectiveness in curbing illegal mining.

Iron ore mining proposals from Assam

1343. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of proposals have been received from the Assam

Government seeking approval for allocation of iron-ore mines during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details and status thereof including the number of such proposals pending with Government along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan for exploration and exploitation of iron ore available in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) During the last three years and the current year (till date), the Ministry of Mines had received only one proposal dated 1.4.2009 for grant of Prospecting Licence for iron ore over an area of 3.72 sq.km. in Chandardiga Hill, Dibrugarh in favour of M/s. Shyam Century Ferrous Ltd. The said proposal was examined and prior approval of the Central Government was conveyed to the State Government on 8.7.2009.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Field Season Programme (FSP) 2011-12, Geological Survey of India (GSI) is assisting the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Assam in iron ore investigation in Kamrup District, Assam. GSI's FSP 2012-13 will include an additional item for iron ore investigation in Goalpara District, Assam.

Economic interests of mineral producing States

1344. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mineral bearing States get a fair share of the value of the minerals extracted from the boundary of the States concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revenue earned by some of the mineral producing States like Jharkhand are considerably less than the national average;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to protect the economic interests of the mineral bearing States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per Section 9 of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), all mining lease holders are required to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed from the lease area. The entire royalty amount accrues to the concerned State Governments. The rates of royalty for minerals (other than coal, lignite, sand for stowing and minor minerals) are given in Second Schedule to the MMDR Act, which the Central Government may enhance once in a period of three years. The last revision of rates of royalty was

undertaken on 13.08.2009, due to which the royalty collections for various States has increased from Rs. 4469.75 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 7279.49 crore in 2010-11, and Rs.5828.84 crore was collected till December, 2011. Apart from this, the State Governments also collect dead rent. Further, the State Governments are empowered to levy and collect royalty on minor minerals at their level. State Governments have also been levying local cess and taxes on mining and minerals.

(c) and (d) Details on royalty for minerals (other than coal, lignite, sand for stowing and minor minerals) collected by the State Governments including Jharkhand, are given below:

State	Royalty		
	2009-10	2010-11	April 2011 to Dec. 2011(P)*
Andhra Pradesh	370.38	381.92	245.73
Assam	0.94	0.73	0.67
Bihar	-	-	0.46
Chhattisgarh	474.39	1196.55	757.90
Gujarat	192.90	193.89	258.74
Goa	285.91	959.12	352.05
Himachal Pradesh	47.98	-	43.62
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	1.03
Jharkhand	202.33	440.24	348.88
Karnataka	430.10	708.44	288.01
Kerala	8.81	9.42	2.85
Madhya Pradesh	351.45	324.55	142.72
Maharashtra	84.85	132.70	151.14
Meghalaya	7.26	13.09	6.72
Odisha	894.44	1598.05	2365.43
Rajasthan	987.45	1182.23	774.89
Tamil Nadu	130.56	138.56	87.02
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	0.20
Uttarakhand	-	-	0.64
West Bengal	-	-	0.14
TOTAL	4469.75	7279.49	5828.84

Details on dead rent collected, royalty collected for minor minerals or amount collected as local cess and taxes on mining and minerals by the State Governments are not maintained centrally.

(e) The Central Government constitutes a Study Group to review the rates of royalty and dead rent from time-to-time which also includes members of mineral rich states. This Group considers the economic interests of the mineral bearing States while fixing the rates of royalty and dead rent. The Ministry has constituted a Study Group on revision of rates of royalty and dead rent for major minerals (other than coal, Lignite and sand for stowing) on 13.9.2011 to review the rates of royalty and dead rent.

Illegal Mining in Jharkhand

1345. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of illegal mining including irregularities in bauxite/iron ore mining have been reported recently from various parts of the country including Jharkhand;

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

(c) the action taken by Government against the companies and officials found involved therein, State-wise; and

(d) the details of new initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by Government including use of satellite imagery to curb illegal mining in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The year-wise details of cases of illegal mining detected and action taken, till September 2011, as reported by the State Governments are as follow :

Details of State-wise Illegal Mining cases

Sl.	State	No. of cases detected					Action taken				
No.		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 upto Quarter ended September	Vehicle seized	FIR Lodged	Court Cases filed	Fine realized (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5385	9216	13478	11591	17882	9536	844	18	0	10767.58
2.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Chhatisgarh	2259	2352	1713	1078	2017	1133	3363	0	6689	1162.029
4.	Goa	313	13	159	9	13	0	459	0	0	18.628
5.	Gujarat	7435	6593	5492	5416	2184	2022	1282	226	20	10424.976
6.	Haryana	504	812	1209	1372	3446	1501	103	467	21	907.767
7.	Himachchal Pradesh	478	0	503	1114	1213	1289	0	700	1306	1684.55
8.	Jharkhand	631	82	225	15	411	594	90	225	30	39.763
9.	Karnataka	3027	5180	2997	1687	4949	3293	74782	874	600	7791.927
10.	Kerala	1595	2593	2695	1321	2028	676	0	0	0	884.461
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5050	4581	3895	3868	4245	2538	0	28	21247	2856.057
12.	Maharashtra	4919	3868	5828	8270	26563	20928	70101	13	1	7828.01
13.	Odisha	284	655	1059	758	420	150	1812	35	35	5643.31
14.	Punjab	218	26	50	73	754	126	0	30	0	340.746

15. Rajasthan	2359	2265	2178	4711	1833	508	145	1133	37	1091.456
16. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Tamil Nadu	2140	1263	1573	215	277	78	32849	1315	617	10496.812
18. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Uttarakhand	0	0	191	0	0	0	683	0	0	38.5
20. Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	4641	2773	0	0	0	1230.68
21. West Bengal	80	426	315	80	239	109	3829	1319	430	0
TOTAL	36677	39925	43560	41578	73115	47254	190342	6383	31033	63207.252

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

161

(d) The Central Government has taken the following steps to curb and check illegal mining in the country:

- (i) State Governments were asked to frame rules to control illegal mining as per Section 23 C of MMDR Act (so far 18 States have framed Rules).
- (ii) State Governments were requested to set up Task Forces at State and District level to control illegal mining since the year 2005 (so far 21 States have reported to have set up Task Forces).
- (iii) State Governments were advised to set up State Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (SCEC) to coordinate efforts to control illegal mining by including representatives of Railways, Customs and Port authorities (13 State Governments have set up such Committees).
- (iv) All State Governments advised to adopt an Action Plan with specific measures to detect and control illegal mining including, use of remote sensing, control on traffic, gather market intelligence, registration of end-users and setting up of special cells etc.
- (v) Ministry of Mines has so far held five meetings with the State Governments to specifically review the action taken by the State Governments on illegal mining on 3.8.2009, 27.11.2009, 22.2.2010, 16.4.2010 and 21.9.2010. This periodical review has been dovetailed in the meeting of Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee meetings.
- (vi) A Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee set up under Secretary (Mines) on 4.3.2009 has held seven meetings on 24.7.2009, 22.12.2009, 18.6.2010, 22.12.2010, 3.5.2011, 20.9.2011 and 16.1.2012 to consider all mining related issues, including matters relating to coordination of activities to combat illegal mining.
- (vii) Railways have instituted a mechanism to allow transportation of iron ore only against permits issued rake-wise and verified by State Government, apart from taking measures to fence and set up check post at the railway sidings.
- (viii) Customs Department has issued instructions to all its field units to share information on ore export with State Governments.
- (ix) Ministry of Shipping has issued a direction to all major Ports to streamline the verification procedures for movement of consignment by road and rail to Ports for exports.
- (x) Government has notified amendment in Rule 45 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, on 9.2.2011 making it mandatory for all

miners, traders, stockiest, exporter and end-users to register with Indian Bureau Mines (IBM) and report their transaction in minerals on monthly basis for a proper end-to-end accounting of minerals. As on 19.3.2012, out of 9390 mining leases in the country, 7896 mining leases have registered online with the IBM, and suitable action has been initiated action defaulters.

- (xi) IBM had constituted Special Task Forces for inspection of mines in endemic areas by taking the help of Satellite imageries. Special Task Force conducted inspections in a total of 454 mines in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat and suspended 155 mines under rule 13(2) of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 due to serious violations. Further, the Indian Bureau of Mines have recommended for termination of eight leases.

Potential of mining sector

1346. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state;

- (a) whether there is any proposal to unlock the potential of the Indian mining sector in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has prepared any detailed strategic plan for the sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the priorities identified in the said plan; and
- (e) by when the plan would be operational in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) The Strategy Paper for Ministry of Mines titled Unlocking the Potential of the Indian Minerals Sector has identified that the mining sector has the potential to contribute around Rs.945 to Rs.1,125 thousand crore to the GDP and create 13 to 15 million jobs through direct and indirect contribution by 2025. To achieve this, the Strategy Paper has identified six key priorities including enhancing resource and reserve base through exploration and international acquisition; reducing permit delays; putting in place core enablers (infrastructure, human capital, technology); ensuring sustainable mining and sustainable development around mining; creating an information, education and communication strategy; and undertaking measures to ensure implementation. The Government has already initiated action on the six key initiatives.

Illegal mining

1347. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that the illegal mining of Biraties to the extent of 30 crore tonnes to the tune of Rs.3 lakh crore in Garla Mandalam, Sheripuram, Pocharam, Khammam (Urban) mandals in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what action the Ministry has taken on illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Ministry of Mines is not in receipt of any complaint or reference pertaining to the illegal mining of Byrates in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

STF for illegal mining

1348. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has constituted a Special Task Force (STF) for enquiry of illegal mining in endemic areas:

(b) if so, what is the fact finding report of this STF;

(c) what action has been taken by the Ministry on this report as on date;

(d) in how many States, this STF is probing cases of illegal mining; and

(e) whether the Central Government is serious to stop illegal mining and to provide for severe punishment to culprits of such illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The Central Government through the Indian Bureau Mines (IBM) had constituted Special Task Forces for inspection of mines in endemic areas, which has conducted inspections in a total of 454 mines in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat and suspended 155 mines under rule 13(2) of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR) due to serious violations, and has further recommended to the State Governments for termination of 8 leases.

The Central Government has also set up Shri Justice M.B. Shah Inquiry Commission for illegal mining of iron ore and manganese vide gazette notification dated 22.11.2010. The Commission submitted its First Interim Report to the Ministry of Mines, which has been laid before the Lok Sabha on 20.12.2011 alongwith the Memorandum of the Action Taken. The Commission has so far visited States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Odisha. The Commission has recently submitted its first report on its findings in the State of Goa.

(e) Apart from the above, the Central Government has also taken the following steps to curb illegal mining:

- (i) State Governments were asked to frame rules to control illegal mining as per Section 23C of MMDR Act (so far 18 States have framed Rules).
- (ii) State Governments were requested to set up Task Forces at State and District level to control illegal mining since the year 2005 (so far 21 States have reported to have set up Task Forces).
- (iii) State Governments were advised to set up State Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (SCEC) to coordinate efforts to control illegal mining by including representatives of Railways, Customs and Port authorities (13 State Governments have set up such Committees).
- (iv) All State Governments advised to adopt an Action Plan with specific measures to detect and control illegal mining including, use of remote sensing, control on traffic, gather market intelligence, registration of end-users and setting up of special cells etc.
- (v) Ministry of Mines has so far held five meetings with the State Governments to specifically review the action taken by the State Governments on illegal mining on 3.8.2009, 27.11.2009, 22.2.2010, 16.4.2010 and 21.9.2010. This periodical review has been dovetailed in the meeting of Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee meetings.
- (vi) A Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee set up under Secretary (Mines) on 4.3.2009 has held seven meetings on 24.7.2009, 22.12.2009, 18.6.2010, 22.12.2010, 3.5.2011, 20.9.2011 and 16.1.2012 to consider all mining related issues, including matters relating to coordination of activities to combat illegal mining.
- (vii) Railways have instituted a mechanism to allow transportation of iron ore only against permits issued rake-wise and verified by State Government, apart from taking measures to fence and set up check post at the railway sidings.
- (viii) Customs Department has issued instructions to all its field units to share information on ore export with State Governments.
- (ix) Ministry of Shipping has issued a direction to all major Ports to streamline the verification procedures for movement of consignment by road and rail to Ports for exports.
- (x) Government has notified amendment in Rule 45 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, on 9.2.2011 making it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockiest, exporters and end-users to register with IBM

and report their transaction in minerals on monthly basis for a proper end-to-end accounting of minerals. As on 19.3.2012, out of 9390 mining leases in the country, 7896 mining leases have registered online with IBM, and suitable action has been initiated against defaulters. The IBM has suspended 1460 mines for non-compliance and initiated prosecution in 4 cases and recommended 21 cases to State Governments for termination. IBM has also requested the State Governments not to issue transit passes for movement of minerals to unregistered persons.

Loan facility to Delhi for minorities

1349. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of amount granted for the development of minorities by the Central Government to Delhi Government as a loan facility;
- (b) the details of loan granted especially to Muslims for their development by Delhi Government; and
- (c) how much amount has been unutilized by Delhi Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Central public sector company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, implements its loan schemes for the minority communities through the Delhi SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (DSCSTFDC), the State Channelising Agency (SCA) nominated by the Delhi Government. NMDFC has released an amount of Rs.363.20 lakhs to DSCSTFDC for term loans to 782 beneficiaries in Delhi from the year 2002-03 till 9th March 2012.

(b) Of the term loans of Rs.255.00 lakhs disbursed by DSCSTFDC to 593 beneficiaries, term loans amounting to Rs.246.50 lakhs have been disbursed to 473 Muslims beneficiaries.

(c) Since 2002-03, SCA of Delhi has utilized an amount of Rs.225.00 lakhs. Further, an amount of Rs.5.89 lakh is under utilization. The balance unspent amount of Rs.102.31 lakh has been refunded by SCA of Delhi to NMDFC.

Wakf Boards with the Central Government

1350. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Wakf Boards of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Dadra and Nagar Haveli are with the Central Government; and

b) if so, in what manner the provisions of Section 98 of the Wakf Act, 1995 are being implemented in respect of those Wakf Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per sub-section 7 of Section 14 of the Wakf Act, 1995, the Central Government is empowered to constitute the Wakf Board in respect of Union Territories (UTs) other than Delhi. The powers and functions of the State Government under the Wakf Act, 1995 were delegated by the Ministry of Home Affairs vide Notification dated 5.06.1997 to the Administrator (Lieutenant-Governor) of the UTs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Vide the orders of the Central Government of 29th July, 2003, the existing Punjab Waqf Board was dissolved on 1st August, 2003 and separate Wakf Boards for States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and UT of Chandigarh were constituted. Vide the same order the Central Government has been empowered to constitute the Wakf Board for the UT of Chandigarh.

(b) As per Section 98 of the Wakf Act, 1995, after the close of financial year, the State Governments are to lay Annual Report of State Wakf Boards before the State legislatures. However, the Wakf Act, 1995 does not have any specific provision for laying for Annual Reports of the UT Wakf Boards which do not have legislature.

Facilities to minority concentration districts

1351. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether minority concentration districts have been identified in the country for grant of various facilities pursuant to Sachar Committee Report;
- (b) what facilities were intended to offer to minorities in these districts; and
- (c) what is the feed back in each area of facility that was intended to be offered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Multi-sectorial Development Programme (MsDP) was launched in 2008-09 as a follow up action on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee. Under MsDP, ninety (90) districts in the country were identified as minority concentration districts (MCDs) on the basis of 2001 Census. A list of the MCDs identified is given in statement (*See below*). A baseline survey was undertaken through ICSSR to identify economic, educational and infrastructural gaps existing in these 90 MCDs. Accordingly, the MCD schemes were structured to fill up those development deficits in MCDs. Accordingly, projects taken up under MsDP relate to education, health, housing, sanitation, drinking water, skill development etc. for the welfare of minorities in the MCDs.

(c) The projects under MsDP are approved by an Empowered Committee at the Centre on the basis of the proposals received from the States/UTs. The Progress

of the Programme is being monitored and reviewed at various levels. Feedbacks received so far include demand for higher allocation for the programme, timely release of the funds by the State Governments to implementing agencies, sharper focus on the areas having substantial minority population, planning at sub district level, change of criteria for identification of minority areas etc. The feedbacks so received have been considered by the Working Group set up for preparation of the 12th Five Year Plan and recommendations of the Working Group have been submitted to the Planning Commission.

Statement

Minority concentration districts

Sl.No.	District	State
1.	Nicobar	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2.	East Kameng	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Lower Subansiri	– do –
4.	Changlang	– do –
5.	Tirap	– do –
6.	Tawang	– do –
7.	West Kameng	– do –
8.	Papum Pare	– do –
9.	North Cachar Hills	Assam
10.	Kokrajhar	– do –
11.	Dhubri	– do –
12.	Goalpara	– do –
13.	Bongaigaon	– do –
14.	Barpeta	– do –
15.	Darrang	– do –
16.	Marigaon	– do –
17.	Nagaon	– do –
18.	Cachar	– do –
19.	Karimganj	– do –
20.	Hailakandi	– do –
21.	Kamrup	– do –
22.	Araria	Bihar

Sl.No.	District	State
23.	Kishanganj	Bihar
24.	Purnia	– do –
25.	Katihar	– do –
26.	Sitamarhi	– do –
27.	Pashchim Champaran	– do –
28.	Darbhanga	– do –
29.	North East	Delhi
30.	Mewat	Haryana
31.	Sirsa	– do –
32.	Leh (Ladakh)	Jammu and Kashmir
33.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
34.	Gumla	– do –
35.	Sahibganj	– do –
36.	Pakaur	– do –
37.	Gulbarga	Karnataka
38.	Bidar	– do –
39.	Wayanad	Kerala
40.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
41.	Buldana	Maharashtra
42.	Washim	– do –
43.	Hingoli	– do –
44.	Parbhani	– do –
45.	Senapati	Manipur
46.	Tamenglong	– do –
47.	Churachandpur	– do –
48.	Ukhrul	– do –
49.	Chandel	– do –
50.	Thoubal	– do –
51.	West Garo Hills	Meghalaya
52.	Lawngtlai	Mizoram

Sl.No.	District	State
53.	Mamit	Mizoram
54.	North	Sikkim
55.	Gajapati	Odisha
56.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
57.	Saharanpur	– do –
58.	Muzaffarnagar	– do –
59.	Meerut	– do –
60.	Baghpat	– do –
61.	Ghaziabad	– do –
62.	Bulandshahar	– do –
63.	Budaun	– do –
64.	Barabanki	– do –
65.	Kheri	– do –
66.	Shahjahanpur	– do –
67.	Moradabad	– do –
68.	Rampur	– do –
69.	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	– do –
70.	Bareilly	– do –
71.	Pilibhit	– do –
72.	Bahraich	– do –
73.	Shrawasti	– do –
74.	Balrampur	– do –
75.	Siddharthnagar	– do –
76.	Bijnor	– do –
77.	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttaranchal
78.	Hardwar	– do –
79.	Uttar Dinajpur	West Bengal
80.	Dakshin Dinajpur	– do –
81.	Maldah	– do –
82.	Murshidabad	– do –

Sl.No.	District	State
83.	Birbhum	West Bengal
84.	Nadia	– do –
85.	South 24-Parganas	– do –
86.	Barddhaman	– do –
87.	Koch Bihar	– do –
88.	Haora	– do –
89.	North 24Parganas	– do –
90.	Kolkata	– do –

Recommendations of Sachar Committee

1352. SHRI PIYUSH GOEL: Will the MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recommendations of the Sachar Committee have been acknowledged by Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the main recommendations of the committee and the action taken by Government with respect to each of them; and
- (d) the details of recommendations on which no action has been taken alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sachar Committee Report was laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on 30/11/2006. The recommendations of Sachar Committee were considered and follow up actions were approved by the Government on 17.5.2007. Thereafter, a Statement on the follow up action on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee was laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 31.8.2007.

(c) On the basis of the Sachar Committee Report, a total of 76 recommendations were listed and out of them, 72 recommendations were approved by the Government for implementation by different Ministries/Departments. A note on the status of progress on implementation is given in statement (*See* below).

(d) Following three recommendations at (i), (ii) and (iii) were not accepted and one recommendation at (iv) was deferred by the Government:

- (i) Enumeration of castes/groups as a part of decennial census exercise.
- (ii) Creation of a new All India Cadre of officers, to manage the affairs of State Wakf Boards and Central Wakf Council

- (iii) Having an alternative admission criteria, to facilitate admissions to the most backward amongst all the SRCs in the regular Universities and autonomous colleges.
- (iv) Absorbing Arzals in the SC list or atleast in a separate Most Backward Category (MBCs) carved out of the OBCs.

However, regarding the recommendation at (i) above, the Ministry of Home Affairs is now taking action thereon. As regards recommendation (iv), the Government has now carved out a sub-quota of 4.5% for minorities, as defined under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, from within the 27% reservation for OBCs.

Statement

Status of implementation of the decisions taken by Government on the follow-up action on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee

The Government took following decisions on the recommendations of the Prime Minister's High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational status of the Muslim Community of India, pertaining to various Ministries/Departments:

1. Department of Financial Services:

- (i) All public sector banks have been directed to open more branches in districts having a substantial minority population. In 2007-08, 523 branches were opened in such districts while in 2008-09, 537 new branches were opened. In 2009-10, 743 new branches and in 2010-11, 814 new branches were opened. During 2011-12, 619 branches have been opened up to 31st December 2011. A total of 3236 branches have been opened since 2007-08.
- (ii) RBI revised its Master Circular on the 1st July, 2011 on priority sector lending (PSL) for improving credit facilities to minority communities. As on 31st December, 2011, Rs.1,54,789.90 crore, which is 14.83% of total PSL, were provided to minorities.
- (iii) To promote micro-finance among women, 6,03,087 accounts have been opened for minority women with Rs.6611.87 crore as micro-credit in 2011-12 upto September, 2011.
- (iv) All public sector banks are organizing awareness campaigns in blocks/districts/towns with substantial minority population. In 2011-12, 1658 awareness campaigns were organized in such areas upto September, 2011.
- (v) Lead banks have organized 618 entrepreneurial development programmes in blocks/districts/towns with substantial minority population upto September, 2011 and the number of beneficiaries is 9065.

2. Ministry of Human Resource Development:

A multi-pronged strategy to address the educational backwardness of the Muslim community, as brought out by the Sachar Committee, has been adopted, as given below:-

- (a) Under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, criteria of educationally backward blocks has been revised with effect from 1st April 2008 to cover blocks with less than 30% rural female literacy and in urban areas with less than national average of female literacy. Under the scheme, 450 KGBVs have been operationalized in minority concentration districts, so far. 70 KGBVs have been operationalized for minority concentration districts against the target of 107 during the year 2011-12 upto December, 2011.
- (b) Universalization of access to quality education at secondary stage called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been approved. The scheme envisages preference to minority concentration areas in opening of Government schools. State Governments have been advised to accord priority to setting up of new/upgraded schools in minority concentration areas while appraising proposals under this scheme. 158 New Secondary Schools have been approved in 2011-12 upto October, 2011.
- (c) One model college each would be set up in 374 educationally backward districts (EBDs) of the country. Of 374 EBDs, 67 are in identified minority concentration districts. During 2011-12, five model colleges have been sanctioned in MCDs, and funds of Rs.2.67 crores have been released upto 30th Sept., 2011.
- (d) Under the sub-mission on polytechnics, financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for setting up of polytechnics in un-served and under-served districts. 57 districts out of 90 minority concentration districts are eligible for consideration under the scheme. So far, 46 minority concentration districts have been covered for setting up of polytechnics, and an amount of Rs.222.66 crore have been released upto 30th Sept., 2011.
- (e) Preference is given by the University Grants Commission for provision of girls' hostels in universities and colleges in the areas where there is concentration of minorities especially Muslims. The UGC has sanctioned 284 Women's hostels and released Rs.201.55 crore till 30th Sept., 2011 during Eleventh Plan in Minority Concentration Districts/area.
- (f) The Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernisation Programme has been revised and bifurcated into two schemes. A Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasas (SPQEM) has been launched with an allocation of

Rs.325 crore for the Eleventh Five-year Plan. It contains attractive provisions for better teachers' salary, increased assistance for books, teaching aids and computers, and introduction of vocational subjects, etc. An amount of Rs.92.77 crore has been released upto 31st Dec., 2011 against budget provision of Rs.150 crore. The other scheme, which provides financial assistance for Infrastructure Development of Private aided/unaided Minority Institutes (IDMI), has been launched with an allocation of Rs.125 crore for the Eleventh Five-year Plan. During 2011-12, an amount of Rs.21.88 crore has been released against budget outlay of Rs.50.00 crore upto 31st Dec., 2011.

- (g) For subsequent access to higher education, the Certificates issued by the State Madarsa Boards, whose Certificates and qualifications have been granted equivalence by the corresponding State Boards, would be considered equivalent by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council of Board of School Education in India (COBSE) or/and by any other school examination board.
- (h) Academies for professional development of Urdu medium teachers have been set up at three Central Universities namely, Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi and Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. During 2011-12, 4718 Urdu Teachers have been trained under Refresher Courses/Workshops.
- (i) Under the revised scheme, financial assistance is given for appointment of Urdu teachers in a Government school in any locality where more than 25% of the population is from Urdu speaking community. The financial assistance would be based on the prevailing salary structure of Urdu teachers employed with schools of the State Government. Honorarium is also admissible to part-time Urdu teachers.
- (j) The States/UTs have been advised to undertake community based mobilization campaigns in areas having a substantial population of Muslims. Saakshar Bharat is being implemented in 372 districts out of 410 eligible districts where adult female literacy is 50% or below as per 2001 Census. Out of 88 Muslim dominated districts, 61 districts have been covered under Saakshar Bharat.
- (k) Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) are envisaged in the revised schemes. At present, JSSs are imparting vocational training in 33 out of the 88 Muslim dominated districts in the country.
- (l) The mid-day meal scheme has been extended to all areas in the country from the year 2008-09 and also covers upper primary schools. Blocks with a concentration of Muslim population are being covered under this scheme.

- (m) All State Governments/UT administrations have been advised to use existing school buildings and community buildings as study centres for school children.
- (n) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared text books for all classes in the light of the National Curriculum Framework-2005 (NCF). 14 States have revised their curriculums as per the NCF 2005 while 9 States are in the process of doing so. Ten States/UTs use textbooks of neighbouring States or NCERT textbooks.
- (o) Thirty five universities have started centres for studying social exclusion and inclusive policy for minorities and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Besides, 1280 Centres of Equal Opportunity (CEOs) have been established in 51 universities during 2009-10 and 1345 and 1367 such centres are proposed to be established during 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.

3. Ministry of Minority Affairs:

- (a) An expert group, constituted to study and recommend the structure and functions of an Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC), submitted its report on 13th March, 2008. The concept of diversity index has been subsumed in the EOC. The draft Bill for EOC is under consultation with other Ministries/Departments concerned.
- (b) The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2010 as passed by the Lok Sabha was referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha on 31st August, 2010. The Select Committee held its 22nd Meeting on 12.12.2011. The Report of the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2010 and the evidence tendered before the Select Committee were placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 2011.
- (c) The Government has accorded 'in-principle' approval for restructuring of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC). A consultancy firm has been appointed to work out the details for restructuring of NMDFC. The firm had submitted its draft reports which were examined in the Ministry. The Report and the views of the Consultancy Monitoring Committee are under consideration.
- (d) An Inter-ministerial Task Force constituted to devise an appropriate strategy and action plan for developing 338 identified towns having substantial minority population, has submitted its report on 8th November, 2007. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been advised to give priority in the implementation of their schemes in these 338 towns.
- (e) Three scholarship schemes for minority communities namely, pre-matric

scholarship from class-I to X, post-matric scholarship from class XI to Ph.D. and merit-cum-means scholarship for technical and professional courses at under graduate and post-graduate levels have been launched. Under these schemes, Rs.649.21 crore have been sanctioned for award of scholarships to 33.90 lakh students belonging to minority communities in 2011-12 upto 31st December, 2011. Further, a fellowship scheme called Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme for M.Phil and Ph.D. scholars has been under implementation. 756 fellowships and 3778 renewals have been sanctioned by University Grants Commission (UGC) and financial assistance for Rs.51.98 crore has been released upto 31st December, 2011.

- (f) The corpus of Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), which stood at Rs.100 crore, was doubled to Rs. 200 crore in December, 2006. The corpus was, however, increased during 11th Plan period to Rs. 700 crore. Under the scheme of MAEF, since 2007-08, 419 NGOs have been given grants-in-aid for infrastructure development of educational institutions and 48471 scholarships were awarded to meritorious girls in classes-XI and XII.
- (g) A revised Coaching and Allied scheme was launched in 2006-07. Against the target of 6000 candidates for 2011-12, financial assistance has been given to 90 students/candidates belonging to minority communities. Fund to the tune of Rs. 4.00 crore have released against the budget provision of Rs. 16 crore, upto 31st December, 2011.
- (h) A Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) was launched in 90 identified minority concentration districts in 2008-09. Plans of 90 minority concentration districts (fully in 68 and partly in 22 districts) in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Bihar, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have been approved and Rs. 2588.34 crore released to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations up to 31st December, 2011 since launching of the programme.

4. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation:

A National Data Bank, to compile data on the various socio-economic and basic amenities parameters for socio-religious communities, has been set up in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

5. Planning Commission:

- (a) An autonomous Assessment and Monitoring Authority (AMA), to analyse data collected for taking appropriate and corrective policy

decisions, was set up in the Planning Commission. Since the term of the AMA ended on 15th January, 2011, the Planning Commission has reconstituted the AMA and the newly reconstituted AMA has conducted few meetings.

- (b) A comprehensive institutional structure for fostering skill development has been set up in Planning Commission to address the skill development needs of the country including minorities. It includes National Council on Skill Development, National Skill Development Coordination Board and a National Skill Development Corporation.

6. Department of Personnel and Training:

- (a) Department of Personnel and Training has developed training modules for sensitization of government officials. These modules have been sent to the Central/State Training Institutes for training.
- (b) State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised by Department of Personnel and Training for posting of Muslim police personnel in Thanas and Muslim health personnel and teachers in Muslim concentration areas. Guidelines have also been issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare advising States/UTs for similar action.

7. Ministry of Home Affairs:

- (a) A High Level Committee, set up to review the Delimitation Act, has considered the concerns expressed in the Sachar Committee report regarding anomalies with respect to reserved constituencies under the delimitation schemes and submitted its report.
- (b) A Working Group in the National Advisory Council (NAC) drafted a Bill titled "Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011". The NAC sent the Bill to Ministry of Home Affairs on 25.07.2011. The draft Bill is under examination in Ministry of Home Affairs.

8. Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation:

For facilitating the flow of funds under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) and Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) to towns and cities, having a substantial concentration of minority population, necessary steps have been taken to ensure that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for such towns and cities include adequate provisions for minorities.

- (a) Under UIDSSMT, Rs.2672.34 crore has been sanctioned for 88 towns having a substantial minority population.
- (b) Under IHSDP, projects costing Rs.1897.69 crore are for 101 towns having a substantial minority population.
- (c) Under BSUP, Rs.7086.47 crore has been sanctioned for 17 towns.
- (d) Government of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Kerala have given exemption to Waqf Board properties from Rent Control Act, while Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have informed that no Waqf property exists in these States.

9. Ministry of Labour and Employment:

An Act has been passed by the Parliament for providing social security to workers in the un-organized sector, which, *inter-alia*, includes home based workers.

10. Ministry of Culture:

Meetings of circles of Archeological Survey of India have been held with State Waqf Boards to review the list of waqf properties which are under the Archeological Survey of India.

11. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:

Dissemination of information regarding health and family welfare schemes is being undertaken in regional languages in minority concentration areas.

12. Ministry of Panchayati Raj:

State Governments have been advised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Urban Development to improve representation of minorities in local bodies.

As per information furnished by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, States/UTs of Uttarakhand, Kerala, West Bengal and Lakshadweep have mentioned that provisions for ensuring representation of minorities in District and Panchayat level exist. The State Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa have informed that the matter is under consideration.

Ministry of Urban Development has informed that State Governments of Kerala, West Bengal and Haryana have implemented the guidelines.

13. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting:

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been regularly releasing features of various themes associated with minority welfare covering issues such as scholarship schemes, initiatives taken in pursuance of the Sachar Committee Report.

Achievements in JNNSM

1353. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any target for generation of solar power under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the achievements made during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the targets have been achieved; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. Targets have been fixed for First Phase of JNNSM (2010-13).

(b) Details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) The State-wise achievements made during the Phase-I of Mission are given in Statement II (*See* below).

(d) The targets of Phase-I of JNNSM are to be met by 2013.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I***Target for Phase-I***

Application Segment	Target for Phase I (2010-13)
Grid Solar Power	1000 MW
Roof top and distributed small grid connected plants	100 MW
Off-Grid Solar Applications	200 MW

Statement-II*Statewise achievements made during the phase-I of Mission***1. State-wise Cumulative Installation of SPV Systems (29.2.2012)**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Solar Photovoltaic Systems				Power Plants	
		Lanterns	Home Lights	Street Lights	Pumps	Stand alone	Grid connected
		Numbers				KWp	MW
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	6296	405	358	5	167	0.1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	38544	1998	4186	613	731.1	3.1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14433	10349	1071	18	17.1	0.025
4.	Assam	1211	5870	98	45	210	0
5.	Bihar	50117	6471	955	139	775.6	0
6.	Chandigarh	1675	275	898	12	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	3192	7233	1923	226	2500	4
8.	Delhi	4807	0	301	89	82	2.142
9.	Goa	1065	362	707	15	1.72	0
10.	Gujarat	31603	9231	2004	85	374.6	92.4

11.	Haryana	73116	49668	20074	469	676.05	2
12.	Himachal Pradesh	22970	16848	4072	6	1.5	0
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	43822	23083	5806	39	308.85	0
14.	Jharkhand	16374	7312	620	0	235.9	0
15.	Karnataka	7334	37348	2694	551	225.41	6
16.	Kerala	54367	32326	1735	810	47.7	0.025
17.	Lakshadweep	5289	0	1725	0	100	0.75
18.	Madhya Pradesh	9444	2917	6138	87	575	0.1
19.	Maharashtra	68683	3434	8420	239	905.7	18
20.	Manipur	4787	3865	928	40	28	0
21.	Meghalaya	24875	7840	1273	19	50.5	0
22.	Mizoram	8331	5395	431	37	109	0
23.	Nagaland	6317	868	271	3	72	0
24.	Odisha	9882	5156	5834	56	84.515	4
25.	Puducherry	1637	25	417	21	0	0.025
26.	Punjab	17495	8620	5354	1857	121	4.325
27.	Rajasthan	4716	91754	6852	283	3430.8	44.65
28.	Sikkim	5200	4640	242	0	17.73	0

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

181

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Tamil Nadu	16818	7536	6350	829	150	7.05
30.	Tripura	42360	26066	1199	151	25.57	0
31.	Uttar Pradesh	60188	147546	91727	575	2943.72	0.375
32.	Uttarakhand	64023	91307	8568	26	180.03	0.05
33.	West Bengal	17662	130901	8076	48	775	1.05
34.	Others	125797	24047	9150	0	528	0.81
	TOTAL	864430	770696	210457	7393	16451.095	190.977
		8644300	28515752	15573818	11828800	16451095	
						81013765	

182 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA]

and Unstarred Questions

2. Grid Solar PV Projects under Migration Scheme of Phase-I of JNNSM

Sl.No.	State	Project Developer	Commissioned (MW)
1.	Maharashtra	Clover Solar Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	2
2.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Limited, Mumbai	4
3.	Maharashtra	Videocon Industries Ltd., Mumbai	5
4.	Punjab	Azure Power (Punjab) Pvt. Ltd., Amritsar	2
5.	Rajasthan	AES Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon, Haryana	5
6.	Rajasthan	Aston Field Solar (Rajasthan) Pvt. Ltd.	5
7.	Rajasthan	Comet Power Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	5
8.	Rajasthan	Moser Bear Photo Voltaic Ltd., New Delhi	5
9.	Rajasthan	OPG Energy Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, Tamil Nadu	5
10.	Rajasthan	Refex Refrigerants Limited, Chennai	5
11.	Rajasthan	Swiss Park Vanijya Pvt. Ltd.	5
TOTAL			48 MW

3. Grid Solar Thermal Projects under Migration Scheme of Phase-I of JNNSM (projects scheduled to be commissioned by February, 2013)

Sl.No.	State	Project Developer	Commissioned(MW)
1.	Rajasthan	Acme Tele Power Limited, Gurgaon	2.5
		Commissioned (1 project)	2.5 MW

4. Commissioning Status of Solar PV Projects of Batch-I, Phase-I

State	Solar PV capacity actuallyCommissioned (MW)
Rajasthan	85
Andhra Pradesh	10
Orissa	5
TOTAL	100

5. Commissioning Status of RPSSGP Programme

Sl.No.	State	Solar PV capacity actually Commissioned (MW)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.75
2.	Chhattisgarh	4
3.	Haryana	7.8
4.	Maharashtra	5
5.	Odisha	8
6.	Punjab	6
7.	Rajasthan	11
8.	Tamil Nadu	5
9.	Uttarakhand	5
10.	Uttar Pradesh	7
11.	Jharkhand	4
TOTAL		72.55

Power plants at Satpura mountains

†1354. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up wind mills/solar energy and power plants on the hills of Satpura mountain situated in Jalgaon district and Shahada taluka of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal to set up a plant has been received from the State Government also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. Government has not set up any wind/solar power plant on the hills of Satpura Mountain.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) No, Sir. State Government has not submitted any proposal to set-up a plant.

(d) Not applicable.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Incentives for use of solar energy

1355. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has plans to incentivise the use of solar energy among rural households;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the progress made, so far;
- (c) whether subsidies have been given for setting up and operationalising solar power plants; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry provides a subsidy of 30% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.81/- per watt peak for procurement of solar lanterns, home lights and small capacity PV systems under the Off-grid Solar Applications Scheme of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission. During 2010-11 and 2011-12, Ministry sanctioned projects for distribution of 297538 solar lights and solar lanterns for households in the country. 197,086 solar lanterns and solar home lights were distributed/installed during 2010-11 and 2011-12 (upto 29.2.2012) in different parts of the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the Off-grid Solar Applications Scheme of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, the Ministry provides a subsidy of 30% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.81,000 per kWp with battery storage capacity and Rs.57,000 per kilowatt without battery storage for standalone solar photovoltaic power plants in General Category States. In Special Category States, subsidy of 90% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.2,43,000/- per kWp is available for Central and State Government departments and their organisations, State Nodal Agencies and local bodies for installation of standalone power plants. For others, in these states, the subsidy is limited to 30% of the project cost.

Promotion of tidal energy

†1356.SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has prepared any new comprehensive policy/plan to promote the development and growth of tidal energy in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has identified the potential areas with the possibility to harness tidal energy in all the States of the country;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has policy guidelines for Research, Development and Demonstration in the area of New and Renewable Energy including tidal energy. The policy has provision to provide financial support for resource assessment, research and development and demonstration projects.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) According to the study undertaken by Central Electricity Authority, New Delhi, there is an estimated potential of about 7000 MW in the Gulf of Cambay, 1200 MW in the Gulf of Kutch in the State of Gujarat and about 100 MW in the Gangetic Delta in the Sunderbans region of West Bengal.

(d) Does not arise.

Private sector in solar projects

†1357. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had entrusted the work of constructing some projects to private sector for generating solar energy in the country;

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

(c) the number of projects entrusted so far, to private sector for construction, and the final time schedule stipulated for completion of these projects; and

(d) whether these projects have been completed as per their schedules?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, launched by the Government in January 2010, grid solar power projects are set up by solar project developers on build, own and operate basis. These projects are selected through international competitive bidding.

(c) The projects for entire capacity for the target of 1100 MW under JNNSM Phase 1 have been allocated. The projects based on solar photovoltaic technology were allowed to be completed in a period of 12 months for batch I

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(January 2012) and in 13 months for batch II (February 2013). The projects based on solar thermal technology were allowed a period of 28 months (May 2013). An extra period of up to 6 months is allowed against encashment of bank guarantees and payment of liquidated damages as per JNNSM guidelines.

(d) It is reported that projects of aggregate capacity of 221 MW have been commissioned so far under JNNSM subject to verification of documents.

Targets under JNNSM

1358. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plans to install 20 million solar lights and 20 million square meters of solar thermal panels to generate 20,000 MWs by 2020, as part of its Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission;

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

(c) the number of solar lights installed in the country till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Government has plans to install 20 million solar lights by 2022. Government also has plans to install 20 million square meters of solar thermal collector area for water heating system by 2022. For generation of power, Government has separately planned for grid connected solar power projects totaling 20,000 MW and 2000 MW off-grid applications by 2022.

(b) The above targets are at national level. The details are given in Statement-I (*See below*)

(c) Number of solar lights installed in the country is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Target of JNNSM

Application Segment	Target for Phase I (2010-13)	Cumulative Target for Phase-II (2013-17)	Cumulative Target for Phase-III (2017-22)
Grid Solar power incl. roof top and distributed small grid connected plants	1100 MW	4,000 MW	20,000 MW
Off-Grid Solar Application	200 MW	1,000 MW	2,000 MW
Solar Collectors	7 million sq. Meters	15 million Sq. meters	20 million sq.meters

Statement-II*State-wise cumulative installation of solar lighting systems (29.2.2012)*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Lanterns	Home Lights Numbers	Street Lights
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	6296	405	358
2.	Andhra Pradesh	38544	1998	4186
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14433	10349	1071
4.	Assam	1211	5870	98
5.	Bihar	50117	6471	955
6.	Chandigarh	1675	275	898
7.	Chhattisgarh	3192	7233	1923
8.	Delhi	4807	0	301
9.	Goa	1065	362	707
10.	Gujarat	31603	9231	2004
11.	Haryana	73116	49668	20074
12.	Himachal Pradesh	22970	16848	4072
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	43822	23083	5806
14.	Jharkhand	16374	7312	620
15.	Karnataka	7334	37348	2694
16.	Kerala	54367	32326	1735
17.	Lakshadweep	5289	0	1725
18.	Madhya Pradesh	9444	2917	6138
19.	Maharashtra	68683	3434	8420
20.	Manipur	4787	3865	928
21.	Meghalaya	24875	7840	1273
22.	Mizoram	8331	5395	431
23.	Nagaland	6317	868	271
24.	Orissa	9882	5156	5834

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Puducherry	1637	25	417
26.	Punjab	17495	8620	5354
27.	Rajasthan	4716	91754	6852
28.	Sikkim	5200	4640	242
29.	Tamil Nadu	16818	7536	6350
30.	Tripura	42360	26066	1199
31.	Uttar Pradesh	60188	147546	91727
32.	Uttarakhand	64023	91307	8568
33.	West Bengal	17662	130901	8076
34.	Others	125797	24047	9150
	TOTAL	864430	770696	210457
		8644300	28515752	15573818

Development of solar energy sector

1359. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has expressed interest in developing solar energy sector in India; and

(b) if so, whether they have identified any areas for solar projects and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) US companies are participating in bidding for solar power projects. US agencies both Governmental and Non-Governmental are interacting with various agencies in India on solar energy.

Solar lighting systems under JNNSM

1360. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) in January, 2010 to deploy 20 million solar lighting systems in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, how many systems have already been installed till February, 2012 and where;

- (c) how much amount has been spent on this scheme;
- (d) the details of targets to complete the installation of 20 million solar lighting systems all over the country;
- (e) whether any special focus is being given in this scheme to backward districts of the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in Statement [Refer to Statement II appended to the Answer to USQ no. 1358 (part C)]

(c) A total fund of Rs.225.83 crore have been released during 2010-11 and 2011-12 (upto 29th February, 2012) for solar lanterns, solar home lights and solar street lights.

(d) Target to complete installation of 20 million solar lighting systems is by the year 2022. This is to be achieved with the involvement of State Nodal Agencies and channel partners. However, state-wise targets have not been fixed.

(e) and (f) Efforts are made to cover backward districts as much as possible and sanction cases on priority.

Irregularities in JNNSM

1361. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether irregularities have been reported in Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a single company, Lanco Infratech, in violation of Government norms, has allegedly been awarded 40 per cent of the contracts and has caused Rs.13,000/- crore scam in JNNSM;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of action taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) It has been alleged that some solar power developers have violated the guidelines of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) to get more projects than permissible.

- (e) The Ministry has constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee consisting

of representatives of Ministries of New and Renewable Energy, Power and Corporate Affairs to inquire into the allegations.

Bio-gas plants

†1362. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bio-gas plants set up during the last two years and the current year and the number of bio-gas plants working and lying closed separately in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to provide bio-gas stoves to people;

(c) whether the Central Government has offered incentives to private companies for promoting new and renewable energy in power sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) About 3.70 lakh biogas plants have been set up in various States and Union Territories during the last two years and the current year up to February 29, 2012. The State/UT-wise details are given in Statement(See below). As per the report received from the State, about 92% of 39,967 biogas plants installed are in working condition in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has supported efficient biogas stoves through research and development projects. Biogas stoves with BIS specifications are produced by about 10 manufacturers in the country. Beneficiaries have the choice to procure the stoves either from biogas programme implementing department/ agency or purchase directly from the approved manufacturers of biogas stoves.

(c) Yes, Sir. MNRE is encouraging private sector participation in setting up of renewable energy power projects through various financial and fiscal incentives.

(d) MNRE provides capital subsidy or generation based incentives depending upon category of the proposal. Besides, fiscal incentives such as excise and custom duty concessions, preferential tariff on sale of power and ten years tax holiday are eligible for setting up of renewable energy power projects. Renewable power obligation (RPO) and renewable energy certificates (RECs), clean development mechanism (CDM) are the other instruments for promotion of renewable energy power projects.

Statement

*State/UT- wise nos. of family type biogas plants installed under
National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP)
during 2009-10 to 2011-12 (up to february, 2012)*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Achievements		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13699	16275	11502
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	162	175	17
3.	Assam	10450	6732	5006
4.	Bihar	200	350	877
5.	Goa	31	18	45
6.	Gujarat	10556	6105	1728
7.	Haryana	1422	1386	1262
8.	Himachal Pradesh	245	445	234
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	155	114	54
10.	Karnataka	10323	14464	9420
11.	Kerala	4085	3941	2916
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15114	16742	9367
13.	Maharashtra	11235	21456	13181
14.	Manipur	-	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	825	1275	1136
16.	Mizoram	50	100	100
17.	Nagaland	605	1171	951
18.	Odisha	5296	6050	3347
19.	Punjab	7250	23700	11044
20.	Rajasthan	176	275	387
21.	Sikkim	555	358	348
22.	Tamil Nadu	1740	1493	810
23.	Tripura	47	89	117
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3252	4603	2907

1	2	3	5	6
25.	West Bengal	16748	17000	17012
26.	Delhi	-	1	-
27.	Puducherry	5	-	-
28.	Chattisgarh	3433	3832	3609
29.	Jharkhand	1030	913	280
30.	Uttarakhand	1225	2082	1631
31.	KVIC and Others	#	#	#
TOTAL		119914	151138	99288

Achievements of KVIC distributed amongst the States and included in respective columns.

Financing of renewable energy projects

1363. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any plans/schemes for financing renewable energy projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of projects financed during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether Government has made any review of these projects;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Renewable energy projects in the country are being financed by a large number of banks and Financial Institutions including Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a public sector undertaking under this Ministry.

(b) The financing plans/schemes of IREDA in different sectors, mainly Wind energy, Hydro power, Biopower and Solar energy, cover project/equipment financing as well as loan for manufacturing. Details of the financing norms and interest rates for different categories of borrowers/projects are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The number of projects financed by IREDA in different renewable energy sectors during the last 3 years and current year are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The progress of the projects financed by IREDA is reviewed by IREDA itself from time to time before disbursement of loan installments, till pendency of the loan.

Statement-I

IREDA's financing norms and interest rates for different categories of Borrowers/Projects (w.e.f. 16.08.2011)

Sl.No.	Borrower/Sector	Interest Range (p.a.)	
1.	Schedule A, 'AAA' Rated PSUs	11.00%	
2.	State Sector Borrowers	11.00% - 11.75%	
3.	Wind Energy, Co-generation and Hydro	11.75% - 12.50%	
4.	Solar PV and Energy Efficiency/Energy Conservation	12.25% - 13.00%	
5.	Solar Thermal and Biomass Power	12.50% - 13.25%	
6.	Sectors other than above	13.50%	
7.	Manufacturing (All Sectors)	Companies having existing units— 13.50%	Green Field — 13.75%

Notes: • Loan against Securitization of Future Cash Flow of Renewable Energy Projects.
• Repayment period up to 10 years depending on type of projects.
• Additional interest @ 1% over and above the applicable rate of interest is charged till the date of commissioning of the project for the entire grid connected projects except Wind Sector for which additional interest applicable is @ 0.5%. The interest rate for manufacturing loans would not attract the additional interest rate.

Statement-II

Details of the projects financed by IREDA during the last 3 years and 2011-12 (up to 23.3.12)

Year	Number of Projects financed
2008-09	47
2009-10	29
2010-11	34
2011-12 (up to 23.3.12)	55

Electricity from NCES for Gujarat

1364. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state the action taken by the Central Government on the representation from Gujarat Government on issue of purchasing electricity generated from non conventional energy sources (NCES) as, due to proactive policy of the State Government the State is leading and generating excess electricity from this resource?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): Gujarat has made a representation to make Distribution Companies entitled for REC for purchase of Renewable Energy more than RPO requirement. The regulations for REC have been framed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and the Ministry have already expressed its views to the CERC. The matter is to be considered by the CERC, which is the regulator for the power sector.

Fulfillment of government assurances

1365 SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by the Ministry for fulfillment of Government Assurances given to the Parliament within prescribed time-limit and expedite backlog pending Government Assurances as it has been observed that during the last few years various Ministries have shown very casual approach on this matter which is very serious for the parliamentary system; and

(b) what action has been taken by the Ministry with respective Ministries for fulfillment of Assurances given on answers of my various parliamentary questions as on date?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) This Ministry while forwarding extracts of each assurance informs the concerned Ministry that the assurance is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of assurance, and the time-limit has to be strictly observed. However, on the request of the Ministry/Deptt. With the approval of its Minister/Minister of state, the Committee on Government Assurances grants extension of time for fulfilling the assurance. The Committee pursues with the concerned Ministries all the assurances made in the House.

(b) This Ministry does not pursue individual assurances and only monitors pending assurances Ministry wise periodically. The concerned Ministries/Deptts. are reminded periodically to expedite fulfillment of the pending assurances on priority.

Lower Subansiri hydro-electric project

1366. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction on lower Subansiri hydroelectric power project has created serious impact in the minds of people of the downstream area and they are agitating for a long period;

(b) whether Government has taken any initiatives to resolve the issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would take initiative to make the power project more people friendly and transform it into a multipurpose dam project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) A number of representations/reports of agitations have been received from various organizations especially on the issues of safety and downstream impact due to the construction of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (2000 MW) in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d) A two-Member Technical Expert Committee (TEC) has been set up to study the Technical Reports of Expert Group constituted to study the downstream impact of Subansiri Lower Hydro-electric Project. Government of Assam is of the opinion that Report of this Committee would play an important role in resolving the issue. Simultaneously, a Joint Steering Committee has also been constituted by NHPC to study issues relating to flood control, bank erosion and sediment control and give recommendations for taking preventive measures in downstream area. The Committee comprises Members from Central Water Commission (CWC), Water Resources Department, Government of Assam, Brahmaputra Board, IIT Roorkee, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and NHPC Ltd. Government of Assam has also set up a Group of Ministers to analyze the impact of the project on the downstream areas. The Group of Ministers has taken up a dialogue with agitating public, experts, civil society, etc.

Implementation of open access system

1367. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Open Access System for the power sector has been finalized and implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the benefit of this system is likely to be affected by the lack of transmission capacity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to increase the capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To facilitate open access in inter-State transmission of power, the Central Commission has notified Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open access inter-State transmission) Regulations 2008 on 25.1.2008 and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium Term Access inter-State Transmission and related matters), Regulations, 2009 on 7.8.2009 effective from 1.1.2010.

A statement indicating the volume of transactions in inter-State transmission is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

At State level, implementation of Intra-State Open Access rests with the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. As per information available with Forum Of Regulators (FOR), detailed status of implementation of intra-State open access is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) By design, Short Term Open Access is allowed on the residual margins, if any, on the transmission system. Congestion is presently being faced in the import to Southern Grid, which is connected to the rest of the country through HVDC links. During Twelfth Plan period a number of inter-regional transmission links either associated with generation projects or as system strengthening schemes have been planned. This additional transmission capacity is expected to relieve most of the congestion being faced.

Statement-I

*Volume of transactions in inter-State transmission volume of
electricity transacted by trading licensees*

Period	Volume (BUs)*0
2005-06	14.19
2006-07	15.02
2007-08	20.96
2008-09	21.92
2009-10	26.72
2010-11	27.70

*The volume during 2009-10 and 2010-11 includes the volume transacted through Term Ahead Market (TAM) of Power Exchanges. This is for the reason that the procedure for transaction through trading licenses and TAM is similar.

*Volume of electricity transacted through power exchanges
(day ahead market)*

Period	Volume (BUs)	
	IEX	PXIL
2008-09	2.62	0.15
2009-10	6.17	0.92
2010-11	11.80	1.74

Statement-II

*Detailed status of implementation of intra-State open access
Status of open access regulations, phasing and charges 20.10.2011*

Sl. No.	SERC	Notification of OA Regulations	Determination of Surcharge	Open Access allowed to consumers with connected load of 1 MW and above	Determination of Wheeling Charges	Determination of Transmission Charges
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	APERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	AERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	BERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	CSERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	DERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	GERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	HERC	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	HPERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	J and KSERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
10.	JSERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	KERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	KSERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
13.	MPERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
14.	MERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	MsERC	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	NERC	No	No	No	No	No
17.	OERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	PSERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	RERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	TNERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	TERC	Yes		Yes	No	No
22.	UPERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	UERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Case to case basis	Yes
24.	WBERC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	JERC-M and M	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
26.	JERC-Uts	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
TOTAL		25	20	25	18	22

*SERC: State Electricity Regulatory Commission

#OA: Open Access.

Problems faced by power projects due to coal shortage

†1368. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether functional power projects face crisis in power generation due to shortage of coal;

(b) if so, the number of power projects where power generation has stopped or decreased during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the proposals of the States in this regard and the efforts made by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) Power Utilities have reported a generation loss of 8.7 Billion Unit (BUs) during the year 2011-12 (upto February, 2012) due to shortage of coal.

(b) Station-wise details of generation loss due to shortage of coal, as reported by the Power Utilities, during the last three years *i.e.* 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Following steps have been/are being taken by the Government to mitigate shortage of coal for the thermal power plants in the country:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Ministry of Coal/Coal India Ltd. Are being insisted upon to enhance production of domestic coal in the country.
- Power Utilities have been advised to import coal to the extent technically feasible to bridge the gap between requirement of coal and its availability from domestic sources.
- Coal supply position to thermal power stations is regularly reviewed in the Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power and Cabinet Secretariat with participation from the concerned Ministries, CEA, Coal India Limited, Railways and NTPC Limited.
- Reduction in e-auction by Coal India Limited from 10% to 7% of its production progressively till the end of Twelfth Plan, if required, to meet its commitment to power sector.

Statement

*Generation loss due to shortage of coal for the years
2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11*

Sl.No.	Name of the Power Utilities/TSPs	Generation Loss (MU) during		
		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
1	2	3	4	5
1.	APGENCO			
	Rayalseema	4.34		
	N. Tata Rao	3.1		
	Total (APGENCO)	7.44		
2.	CESC			
	Southern REPL	1.08		
	New Cossipore	13.00		
	Budge Budge			81.00
	Total (CESC)	14.08		81.00
3.	DVC			
	Mejia TPS	527.0	2635.22	1026.60
	Bokaro	44.42		
	Total (DVC)	571.42	2635.22	1026.60
4.	MPPGCL			
	Birsinghpur	805.00		634.00
	Satpura	388.68		471.00
	Total (MPPGCL)	1193.68		1105.00

1	2	3	4	5
5.	MAHAGENCO			
	Nasik	77.81	146.189	
	Parli	98.53	411.658	
	Paras	222.07	49.626	
	Bhusawal	54.45	155.462	
	Chandrapur	358.97	88.425	
	Khaperkheda	703.16	356.405	
	Koradi	119.22	12.768	
	Total (MAHAGENCO)	1634.21	1220.533	
6.	OPGCL			
	Ib Valley	15.75		
7.	WBPDCCL			
	Bakreshwar	520.00	299.197	76.20
	Bandel	151.00	74.732	72.70
	Kolaghat	675.00	722.348	136.90
	Sagardighi	617.00	415.219	348.70
	Santaldih	481.00	1.198	
	Total (WBPDCCL)	2444.00	1512.69	634.50
8.	TNEB			
	Tuticorin	77.65		
	Ennore	5.66	65.748	41.30
	Mettur	107.16	18.146	132.30
	North Chennai			3.30
	Total (TNEB)	190.47	83.894	176.9
9.	GSECL			
	Gandhinagar	7.84	5.044	105.70
	Wanakbori	0.00	1491.0	157.40
	Total (GSECL)	7.84	1496.044	263.10
10.	NTPC			
	Talcher STPS	1874.18	1094.0	872.50

1	2	3	4	5
	Talcher (OLD)		0.10	
	Farakka STPS	1283.55	2122.2	170.00
	Singrauli STPS	10.37	0.0	69.00
	Rihand STPS	140.9	0.0	5.00
	Kahalgaoan STPS	1194.12	3997.00	3749.20
	Vindhyachal TPS	215	0.40	229.90
	Sipat	84.6	142.50	
	Ramagundam STPS	42.47		
	Unchahar		0.30	
	Dadri		0.40	
	Korba		4.10	
	Simhdari		1.30	
	Total (NTPC)	4845.19	7362.30	5095.60
11.	Barauni (BSEB)		39.52	
12.	Duragapur (DPL)		136.6	
	GRAND TOTAL	10924.08	14486.81	8382.70

Status of Bellary Thermal Power Station

1369. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bellary Thermal Power Station Unit 2 (1x500 MW) awarded to M/s. BHEL has not made any satisfactory progress, so far;

(b) whether the project authority has been advised by Government to speed up the completion of the project; and

(c) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) Central Electricity Authority and Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. Have informed that synchronization of the Bellary Thermal Power Station Unit 2 (1x500 MW) with oil was achieved on 27.01.2012 and synchronization with coal is expected by end of March, 2012.

(b) Government have held meetings with all concerned stakeholders including BHEL for expediting completion of the project.

(c) The unit is expect to be commissioned by July, 2012.

Proposals from Rajasthan

1370. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposals from Rajasthan are pending with the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the decisions on the pending proposals of the State Government are likely to be taken by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) As per request received from Government of Rajasthan, Ministry of Power has recommended coal linkage for the following projects to Ministry of Coal:

1.	Suratgarh TPS St-V (U-7,8), Rajasthan Rajya Vidhyut Utpadan Nigam (RRVUNL)	2x660 MW
2.	Chhabra TPP EX. St-II (U-5,6), RRVUNL	2x660 MW
3.	Kalisindh TPP (U-1 and 2), RRVUNL	1x660 MW
4.	Banswara TPP, Banswara Thermal Power Company Ltd.	2x660 MW
5.	Kawai TPP, Adani Power Rajasthan Ltd.	2x660 MW
TOTAL		5,880 MW

(ii) Ministry of Power has also recommended to Ministry of Coal allocation of Kente Extension coal block to RRVUNL under Government dispensation route on 05.05.2010.

(iii) The Government of Rajasthan has submitted 30 supplementary Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for consideration and sanction under Phase-II of Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana (RGGVY) list as given in Statement (*See* below). These may be considered in next Phase of RGGVY depending upon continuation of scheme and availability of funds.

Statement*List of DPRs submitted by government of Rajasthan*

Sl.No.	Name of District
1.	Alwar
2.	Bundi
3.	Dausa
4.	Kota

Sl.No.	Name of District
5.	Dholpur
6.	Jaipur
7.	Karauli
8.	Tonk
9.	Sawai Madhopur
10.	Baran
11.	Jhalawar
12.	Bharatpur
13.	Rajsamand
14.	Dungargarh
15.	Jhunjhunu
16.	Sikar
17.	Ajmer
18.	Bhilwara
19.	Nagaur
20.	Sirohi
21.	Bikaner
22.	Jalore
23.	Churu
24.	Sri Ganga Nagar
25.	Hanumangarh
26.	Jaisalmer
27.	Ladnu
28.	Jodhpur
29.	Pali
30.	Barmer

Power of generation and allocation

1371. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power generated by power plants owned by CPSUs in the country during the last three years;

(b) the normal formula adopted by Government to share the power so generated with the States;

(c) whether the power request of Rajasthan was met as per the set norms during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) The gross electricity generation by power plants-owned by CPSUs in the country during the last three years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and current financial year 2011-12 (upto February, 2012) was as under:

Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (upto Feb 12*)
Generation (BUs)	304	324.3	346.1	332.0

*Provisional

(b) Power from Central Generating Stations to beneficiary States/Union Territories is allocated in accordance with formula for allocation of power which is being treated as guidelines from April, 2000. As per these guidelines, allocation of power is made to the States/UTs in two parts, namely firm allocation of 85% and 15% unallocated power for allocation by the Government for meeting the urgent/overall requirement. The firm allocation includes allocation of 12% free power to the affected States and 1% for local area development in case of Hydro Power Stations and 10% (not free) power to the home State in case of Thermal and Nuclear Power Stations. The balance 72%/75% power is distributed amongst the States/UTs of the region in accordance with the pattern of central plan assistance and energy consumption during the previous five years, both factors having equal weightage. Central plan assistance is determined in accordance with the Gadgil formula. In case of joint venture projects, the equity contributing state gets benefit in firm allocation in accordance with their equity contribution.

The aforementioned guidelines for allocation of power from Central Generating Stations are applicable to the generating stations for which PPAs have been signed upto 5th January, 2011. After 5th January, 2011, power is to be procured by the Distribution Companies/Utilities through tariff based competitive bidding.

(c) and (d) The 15% unallocated power in Central Generating Stations (CGSs),

available at the disposal of the Central Government, is made keeping in view the emergent and seasonal nature of the requirement, the relative power supply position, utilization of available power resources, operational and payment performance, etc. As most of the States and UTs in the country have been facing shortage of power, various States/UTs request for additional allocation of unallocated power of CGSs from time to time. The quantum of unallocated power being limited and it being fully allocated at any point of time, the enhancement in allocation of any State/UT necessitates equivalent reduction in the allocation of other States. For example, in the Northern Region, the demand for electricity in the hilly States like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand increases during the winter season and the availability of hydro power in these States also gets reduced. Requirement of power in Rajasthan is also more during the winter season for rabi crop. The allocation of Rajasthan and other aforementioned States is, therefore, enhanced during the winter season with reduction in the allocation of other States. Similarly, during the summer season, there is enhancement in allocation of (i) Punjab and Haryana in view of enhanced requirement of power of paddy crop and (ii) Delhi due to high demand, with reduction in allocation of hilly States. The unallocated power allocated to States/UTs, therefore, undergoes upward as well as downward revision. Usually, the cumulative demand preferred by the States/UTs is more than the unallocated power, additional allocation of unallocated power to the extent of their request is, therefore, not feasible many a times.

Effect of coal shortage on capacity addition target

1372. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether shortage of coal is going to adversely affect the capacity addition plan of power generation during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in view of the above, the target of capacity addition is being reduced from 76,000 MW to 57,000 MW during the Plan; and
- (c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to sustain capacity addition under the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) As per Report of Working Group on Power for formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan, submitted by Ministry of Power to Planning Commission, capacity addition requirement to meet stipulated demand during Twelfth Plan has been estimated to be about 76,000 MW, comprising 62,695 MW Coal Based Capacity. In the event of coal to the extent of the requirement of domestic coal linkage based capacity addition not being made available, the target for coal based generation capacity addition target for the Twelfth Plan may get affected.

Funds for power projects

1373. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated to power projects have been reduced;
- (b) if so, the details of funds allocated to power projects since 2009; and
- (c) what action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) and (b) The Budget Estimate of Plan Outlay in respect of Ministry of Power during the last three years since 2009-10 are as follows:

Year	Plan Outlay (Rs. crore)
2009-10 BE	53126.27
2010-11 BE	60751.42
2011-12 BE	66382.73

From the above, it is evident that Plan Outlay (BE) for Ministry of Power during the last three years has not reduced.

- (c) Does not arise.

Gas based Power Stations

1374. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the capacity of gas based generating stations in the country;
- (b) the requirement of gas to operate these stations at full load;
- (c) the quantum of indigenous natural gas available for power generation;
- (d) the quantum of long term contracted Re-Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) available for power generation;
- (e) how much gas based generating capacity is lying idle in the country on account of inadequate availability of gas on long term basis;
- (f) the steps Government is taking for utilization of idle capacity of such stations;
- (g) whether Government is considering to allocate more natural gas for power generation; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) As on 31st January 2012, installed capacity of gas based generating stations in the country is 17,742.85 MW.

(b) Out of 17,742.85 MW, 16,676.27 MW gas based generating capacity is monitored by Central Electricity Authority. The requirement of gas to operate these projects at 90% Plant Load Factor (PLF) is 81.44 Million Metric Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD).

(c) During the year 2011-12 (upto February, 2012) gas consumed by these plants is 57.03 MMSCMD.

(d) As per information provided by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP and NG) long term contracted Re-Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) supplied for power generation during the month of February, 2012 was 3.43 MMSCMD.

(e) None of the existing gas based power plant is lying idle due to non-availability of gas. However, plants are operating at lower PLF and the gas based power stations have reported a generation loss of 6244.5 Million Unit (MU) due to short supply of gas. Hazira Power Plant in Gujarat (351 MW) has been commissioned in February, 2012 but not achieved commercial operation.

(f) Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to augment gas supplies and bridge the gap between supply and demand for the domestic market. These cover:-

- (i) MOP and NG is taking necessary steps to augment production of natural gas from the gas fields/wells.
- (ii) MOP and NG is taking necessary steps to increase availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for Exploration and Production (E and P) activities in various sedimentary basins of the country under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- (iii) MOP and NG is encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).
- (iv) In order to explore and produce new sources of natural gas from coal bearing areas, Government has formulated a Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy providing attractive fiscal and contractual framework for exploration and production of CBM in the country.

(g) and (h) The additional allocation of gas is required for power plants. However, in view of reduced availability of gas in the country as informed by MOP and NG, it may not be possible to allocate additional gas to the power plants till domestic production is increased.

Power generation cost

1375. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the factors determining cost of electricity generation from various sources;
- (b) the weighted average cost of generation per unit of power on all India basis for power projects during the last three years, source-wise;
- (c) the present estimated per megawatt cost of power generation in the country, State-wise including Gujarat and source-wise;
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to reduce the cost of power generation including use of appropriate technologies; and
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) The cost of generation of electricity from various sources is determined by capital cost of the project, cost of capital, operation and maintenance charges, depreciation, fuel cost wherever applicable, cost of working capital, taxes and duties.

(b) The source-wise weighted average rate of sale of power from generating stations to Power Utilities, as per data available in CEA, is given below:

(Figures in Paise/kWh)

Source	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 *
Hydro	153.85	201.26	214.70
Thermal	202.80	242.49	252.98
Nuclear	227.82	231.18	223.50
All India	210.67	236.00	239.00

*Latest available

(c) Cost of generation from power plants depends on type of project such as hydro, thermal, or gas etc., location of the project (*i.e.* remoteness from the raw material for hydro project, distance from the fuel source etc.) type of technology (*i.e.* Super-Critical or Sub-critical), type and quantity of fuel (*i.e.* coal or gas or lignite), works involved (*i.e.* dam, water conductor system, under-ground or surface power house depending upon the topography and geology of the project for hydro project), construction period of the project and its life, operation and maintenance charges, cost of inventory of fuel and spares, financing cost of the project, etc.

The estimated per MW cost of thermal projects recently commissioned was of the order of Rs. 4 to 5.77 crore per MW. Further, the estimated capital cost of

hydro power projects concurred by CEA during the year 2011 was generally in the range of Rs. 6.10 crore per MW to Rs. 8.02 crore per MW. The capital cost of a last few commissioned nuclear units was in the range of Rs. 6.03 to 6.36 crore per MW.

(d) and (e) For reducing the cost of electricity generation, Government has taken following steps including use of improved technology:

- (i) Promoting use of more efficient super-critical technology in thermal power generation with a view to reduce the cost of fuel required per unit of generation.
- (ii) Encouraging captive coal mining for thermal power projects with the object of *inter-alia* lowering cost of fuel for coal-fired stations.
- (iii) Renovation and Modernization of ageing/not well performing thermal and hydro power stations for improving operational efficiency.
- (iv) Use of technical developments including greaseless turbine components, improved generator components, variable speed technologies, double-stage adjustable pump turbines, governor technology, state-of-art diagnostic and analytical methods, welding materials, high strength steel, improved F-class insulation, vacuum circuit breakers, micro-processor based numerical relays as well as site-specific developments to suit Indian conditions in hydro power stations.
- (v) Tariff Policy notified on 06.01.2006 mandates procurement of power by distribution licensees competitively except in cases of expansion of existing projects of where there is a State controlled/owned company as an identified developer. For Public Sector projects also, the tariff of all new generation projects is to be decided on the basis of competitive bidding after 5th January, 2011.
- (vi) Improved operational norms in the tariff regulations issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for the period 2009-14.
- (vii) Promotion of higher unit size/plant capacity to reduce capital cost on account of economy of scale.
- (viii) Initiative to set up Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) of 4000 MW capacity each through tariff-based International Competitive Bidding to reap benefits of economy of scale.
- (ix) Revised mega power project policy issued by Ministry of Power in December, 2009 under which payment of custom duty is exempted for power generating equipment of certain specified capacity of projects and excise duty is also exempted for certain categories of projects.

Competitive tariffs have been discovered through tariff based competitive

bidding for procurement of power. Improvement in operational norms specified by CERC have resulted in reduction of tariff. Introduction of super-critical technology in new thermal projects would result in saving of fuel, reduction in CO₂, NO_x, SO_s and particulate emissions, etc.

Power generation by NTPC

1376. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total power generated by NTPC during 2010-11 and 2011-12;
- (b) the total installed power generation capacity of NTPC;
- (c) whether it is a fact that NTPC can produce power more cost effectively;
- (d) what are the impediments that come in the way of making power generation more efficiently; and
- (e) the steps proposed to improve the efficiency of NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) Total power generated by NTPC (excluding its Joint Ventures) stations for the year 2010-11 was 2,20,536 Million Units (MUs). During the year 2011-12 (upto 29th February, 2012) the total power generation is 2,01,093 MUs.

(b) NTPC's total Installed capacity as on date is 36,014 MW (including Joint Ventures) and 32,150 MW (excluding Joint Venture).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As informed by NTPC, main impediment to produce power more cost effectively is less availability of domestic coal. NTPC is blending about 10% of imported coal to mitigate coal shortage.

(e) NTPC has chalked out a long-term technology roadmap to adopt more efficient supercritical technology in majority of its future installations.

States free from power cuts

1377. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the States which are free from power cuts during the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has any scheme to make India an electricity self-sufficient country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): The power cuts are imposed by the States on day to day basis depending upon the demand and availability of power. The information regarding power cuts imposed by the States is not available in CEA and Ministry of Power.

However, the information regarding notified power cuts on industries by various States is available with CEA, from which it is observed that the States free from notified power cuts/restrictions on Industries during the last five years (from April, 2007 to February, 2012) are Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Puducherry, Jharkhand and Odisha.

(b) and (c) Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy, encompassing generation, transmission, distribution, rural electrification as well as energy conservation and Demand Side Management to make the country self-sufficient in power. These includes acceleration in capacity addition during the Eleventh Plan and Twelfth Plan, progressive development of National grid to facilitate transfer of power from surplus to deficit areas, strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system through APDRP to reduce Aggregating Technical and Commercial (AT and C) losses, providing access of electricity to rural areas through Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), initiatives for Energy Conservation and Demand Side Management measures.

During the Eleventh Plan (till 9th March, 2012) a capacity addition of 51,302 MW has been achieved, which is approximately 2.4 times more than the capacity addition achieved during the Tenth Plan. Further, as per the report of Working Group on Power for Twelfth Plan, capacity addition requirement during Twelfth Plan is about 75,785 MW on all India basis, based on the Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) capacity addition target of 62,374 MW during Eleventh Plan.

Merger of Power PSUs

1378. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to merge NTPC and other PSU Power Corporations;

(b) the reasons for having many separate entities;

(c) the steps proposed to consider mergers amongst power companies and create more investment opportunities; and

(d) what other measures Government is taking to expand capacities of all PSU power companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. However, NTPC has sent a proposal to merge its own subsidiary NTPC Hydro Ltd. with the parent company.

(b) Thermal and Hydro Projects require different set of administrative and technical expertise. Different CPSEs in Power Sector have been set up considering the specific needs.

(c) There is no proposal to merge CPSE Power Corporations except at (a) above.

- (d) (i) Capacity addition is planned in Central, State and Private Sector to meet the target fixed by Planning Commission.
- (ii) Close monitoring of the projects is undertaken to ensure that power projects are completed at the earliest possible time.
- (iii) Ministry of Environment and Forests are also expedited for environment clearance of various Power Projects.
- (iv) Issue of Coal Linkage and Gas Allocation is taken up with Ministries of Coal and Petroleum and Natural Gas at highest level for early allocation.
- (v) Action is also taken to enhance domestic manufacturing capacity of balance of plants, which would help in early execution of the projects.
- (vi) Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme is undertaken by Govt. of India to bring down Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses.

Energy efficient buildings

1379. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Switzerland have decided to work jointly on a project aimed at improving energy efficiency of new buildings in the country;
- (b) whether the two countries have signed a MoU which would focus on cutting down energy consumption in new buildings in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (c) The MoU between Ministry of Power, Government of India and Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of the Swiss Confederation on a project on Energy Efficiency in Buildings was signed on 8th November, 2011. The specific objective of this project is to build capacities and knowledge of public/private sector stakeholders *e.g.* builders, architects, engineers, labs, institutions and others, in the area of building energy efficiency in India by utilizing Swiss and Indian experience and expertise. Overall, the project would contribute to increasing energy efficiency of new buildings.

Funding for private sector for transgenic crop development

1380. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funding from the Department of Biotechnology in any of its projects has been given to private sector corporations for supporting transgenic crop development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology has supported projects on transgenic crop development in private companies under its two schemes *viz.* Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) and Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP).

(b) The details are as follows:

Projects supported under SBIRI:

(Rs. in lakhs)							
Sl. No.	Name of the company and collaborator, if any	Title of the project	Date of (i) sanction, (ii) duration (iii) status (ongoing or completed)	Total cost	Company contribution	DBT contribution	
						Grant	Loan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bejo Sheetal Seeds Private Limited, Jalna	Genetically modified vegetable crops for insect pest and disease resistance. (In-house technology)	15.01.2007 3 years completed	210.39	116.40	50.00	43.99
2.	Bioseed Research India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (Shriram Bioseed Genetics India Ltd., Hyderabad and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi)	Development of drought tolerant genotypes of rice, corn and cotton through genetic engineering (Technology from ICGEB, New Delhi transferred to company)	29.08.2007 3 years completed	169.00	85.00	25.00 (Bioseed) 25.00 (ICGEB)	34.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bioseed Research India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (Shriram Bioseed Genetics India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi)	Development of transgenic salinity tolerant rice hybrids (Technology from ICGEB, New Delhi transferred to company)	29.08.2007 4 years completed	364.00	72.50	28.00 (ICGEB)	263.50 (Bioseed)
4.	Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Jalna <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)	Evaluation of transgenic cotton containing antisense AV2 gene for resistance to cotton leaf curl disease (Technology from IISc., Bangalore transferred to company)	29.01.2008 3 years completed	78.93	30.92	26.89 (Mahyco) 21.12 (IISc.)	-
5.	Rasi Seeds (P) Ltd., Tamil Nadu <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore)	Transgenic cassava production with genes conferring resistance to Indian cassava mosaic virus disease (Technology from TNAU, Coimbatore and	24.03.2008 3 years completed	125.00	27.00	10.00 (Rasi) 28.00 (TNAU)	60.00

		MKU, Madurai transferred to company)					
6.	Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd., Hyderabad <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi)	Stacking of candidate genes (validated in planta) addressing different moisture stress resistance strategies in maize (<i>Zea mays</i>) (Technology from ICGEB, New Delhi transferred to company)	12.09.2008 3 years On-going	190.00	70.00	45.00 (ICGEB)	75.00 (Nuziveedu)
7.	Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Jalna <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (IARI, New Delhi)	Development of dual resistance in tomato against virus infection and insect damage (Technology from IARI, New Delhi transferred to company)	01.12.2010 3 years On-going	191.19	93.45	7.00 (Bejo) 40.74 (IARI)	50.00
8.	Krishidhan Research Foundation Pvt. Ltd., Jalna <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)	Development of transgenic bhendi resistant to Yellow Vein Mosaic Virus (Technology from JNU, New Delhi transferred to company)	10.01.2012 3 years On-going	185.89	84.00	20.00 (KRFP) 45.89 (JNU)	36.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Global Transgenes Limited, Aurangabad	Generation, evaluation and regulatory appraisal of selected transgenic events for enhanced tolerance against lepidopteran insect pests in cotton, rice and brinjal (Technology to be developed in-house)	01.06.2011 3 years On-going	505.00	205.00	35.00	265.00
Projects supported under BIPP:							
1.	Avesthagen Limited, Bangalore	Development of Self- glucogenic Pearl Millet adapted for marginal lands	03.08.2010 2 Years (extended up to March, 2013) Ongoing Project	300.00	150.00	30.00	120.00
2.	Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited, Jalna	Stress tolerant rice	12.03.2010 2 Years Ongoing Project	697.84	521.84	35.20	140.80
3.	Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited, Maharashtra	Sucking Insect Pest tolerant rice and cotton	12.07.2010 3 Years Ongoing Project	622.11	452.11	85.00	85.00

218 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA]

and Unstarred Questions

4.	Metahelix Life Sciences Private Limited, Bangalore	A proposal for funding of deregulation trials of transgenic rice events expressing Metahelix synthetic Cry 1C, Cry 1Ac and Cry 1 Ab genes for tolerance to rice yellow stem borer, <i>Scirpophaga incertulas</i>	25.03.2010 3 Years Ongoing Project	280.65	140.32	70.17	70.16
5.	Metahelix Life Sciences Private Limited, Bangalore	Deregulation trials phase I of transgenic maize events expressing Metahelix Synthetic Cry1C, Cry1Ac and Cry 1Ab Genes for tolerance to stem and cob borers	28.09.2010 3 Years Ongoing Project	362.35	181.18	90.59	90.58
6.	JK Agri Genetics Ltd., Hyderabad	Development of Bt-rice with two cry genes	02.02.2011 4 Years Ongoing Project	611.40	305.70	107.00	198.70
7.	Advanta India Limited, Secunderabad	Multistacking genes to develop engineered rice with enhanced drought and multiple disease and pest resistance	07.07.2010 3 Years Ongoing Project	418.4.0	209.20	104.60	104.60

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

219

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Bejo Sheetal Seeds Private Limited, Jalna <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology New Delhi)	'Herbicide and Stress tolerant' transgenic Onion (Technology from ICGEB, New Delhi transferred to Company)	19.03.2010 4 Years Ongoing Project	238.59	100.52	20.11 (Bejo) 37.44 (ICGEB)	80.42
9.	Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Limited, Noida <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (UDSC, New Delhi)	To conduct confined field trials and biosafety studies on genetically engineered Brassica juncea (Male sterility and restorer lines as pollination control mechanism) for beterosis breeding and yield improvement (Technology from UDSC, New Delhi transferred to company)	01.10.2010 4 Years Ongoing Project	900.00	100.00	800.00 (UDSC)	
10.	Bioseed Research India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad <i>in collaboration with public institute</i> (ICGEB, New Delhi)	Development of rice hybrids with improved drought and salinity stress tolerance (Technology from ICGEB, New Delhi transferred to company)	31.03.2010 3 Years Ongoing project	350.00	100.00	100.00 (Bioseed) 150.00 (ICGEB)	80.00

220 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA]

and Unstarred Questions

Expenditure on Research and Development

1381. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of India's GDP spent on Research and Development during the last three years and the percentage of it contributed by Government in corresponding years;

(b) the corresponding figures for the BRICS countries, USA and Japan; and

(c) the desired level of investment in Research and Development according to various policy statements of Government and how Government plans to achieve it and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to the available official Statistics, India's Research and Development Expenditure figures as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during last three years are annexed. The Government contributed three-fourth of the total national R and D expenditure during this period. The corresponding figures for BRICS countries, USA and Japan are also given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) According to the recent PM's Address at 99th Indian Science Congress in January 2012, the Government aims at increasing the total R and D spending as percentage of GDP to 2% by the end of Twelfth plan period from the current level of about 0.9 per cent. The Government proposes to achieve the targeted goal during the Twelfth Plan period through various measures such as policy changes, increase in investment in R and D including by Industry and Strategic sectors, expansion of basic science infrastructure, aligning S and T to development needs like food and health care, evolving new models of public-private partnership in scientific research, encouraging international collaboration etc.

Statement

*R and D Expenditure as percentage of GDP for BRICS countries,
USA and Japan*

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009
Brazil ^a	0.99	1.07	1.08	NA
Russian Federation ^b	1.07	1.12	1.04	1.25
India ^c	0.87	0.88	0.90*	0.90*
China ^b	1.39	1.40	1.47	1.70
South Africa ^a	0.93	0.92	0.92	NA

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009
USA ^d	2.62	2.69	2.82	2.88
Japan ^a	3.40	3.44	3.44	3.33 ^d

Source: a. UNESCO Science Report, 2010

b. OECD, Main Science and Technology Indicators, 2011

c. Research and Development Statistics, 2009 DST (Gol)

d. NSF, Science and Engineering indicators 2012

Note: NA - Not Available; * - Estimated

Funds for Research and Development

1382. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government had decided to enhance the spending on Research and Development to a respectable level;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has, so far, been spending very less on R and D as compared to other developing nations; and

(c) whether due to global competitiveness it has become necessary to upgrade the R and D technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to enhance the spending on Research and Development (R and D) as percentage of GDP to 2% by the end of Twelfth plan period from the current level of about 0.9%.

(b) No, Sir. According to the UNESCO Science Report 2010, the expenditure on R and D as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in India is about 0.9 %. Public expenditure on R and D as percentage of GDP in most countries is in the range of 0.7 - 1.0 % which is similar to the public investment in India. However, the private investment on R and D as percentage of GDP in India is 0.23 % which has not kept pace with the developed countries including China where it is 1.05%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Science and Technology Centres

1383. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish more Science and Technology Centres in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the locations identified for this purpose; and

(d) by when these centres are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 9 Science and Technology Centres are under development at Raipur, Chhattisgarh; Jaipur and Jodhpur, Rajasthan; Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu; Pilikula, Karnataka; Pimpri-Chichwad, Maharashtra; Dehradun, Uttarakhand; Puducherry; and Jorhat, Assam. A proposal to set up a Science Centre in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh is under consideration.

(c) Rajahmundry is identified for setting up the science and technology centre in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Setting up of the centre will take 27 months.

National Water Policy

†1384. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the draft of National Water Policy which is recently made public, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) the parts of country where water shortage is being felt and the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that infrastructural facilities to utilize abundant water resources in eastern and north-eastern parts of country, are not very good; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to address the problem of acute shortage of water which would be faced by the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Salient Features of the Draft National Water Policy are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Water availability in India is dependent on the South-West and North-East monsoons with rainfall varying from over 10,000 mm in North East to less than 100 mm in North West parts.

(c) As per information available, the number of large dams and status of groundwater utilization in eastern and north eastern States are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) With a view to meet the growing demand for water, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments, which *inter-alia*, include creation of storages, restoration of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

water bodies, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge to groundwater, adoption of better management practices etc. The Government of India provides Central Assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes.

The Government of India has launched National Water Mission. The main objective of National Water Mission is “conservation of Water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management”.

Statement-I

Salient features of draft National Water Policy (2012)

1. Even while recognizing that the States have the right to frame suitable policies, laws and regulations on water, the draft NWP, 2012 lays emphasis on the need for a national water framework law, comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-State rivers and river valleys, public trust doctrine, amendment of the Indian Easements Act, 1882, etc.
2. Basic minimum quantity for essential health and hygiene and sustenance of ecology has been defined as pre-emptive need, which must be ensured. Water has been recognized as economic good, over and above pre-emptive need, for the first time, which would promote maximization of value of water and its conservation and efficient use.
3. The draft NWP, 2012 presents a holistic picture of ecological need of the river rather than restricting it to only minimum flow requirement. It states that the ecological needs of the river should be determined recognizing that river flows are characterized by low or no flows, small floods (freshets), large floods and flow variability and should accommodate development needs. A portion of river flows should be kept aside to meet ecological needs ensuring that the proportional low and high flow releases correspond in time closely to the natural flow regime.
4. The draft NWP, 2012 recognizes the need to adapt to climate change scenario in planning and implementation of water resources projects. Coping strategies for designing and management of water resources structures and review of acceptability criteria has been emphasized.
5. Need and approaches towards enhancing water availability have been stipulated. Direct use of rainfall and avoidance of inadvertent evapo-transpiration have been proposed as the new additional strategies for augmenting utilizable water resources.
6. Mapping of the aquifers to know the quantum and quality of ground

water resources (replenishable as well as non-replenishable) in the country has been proposed with provision of periodic updation.

7. Water use efficiency has been emphasized. A system to evolve benchmarks for water uses for different purposes, *i.e.*, water footprints, and water auditing should be developed to ensure efficient use of water. Project financing has been suggested as a tool to incentivize efficient and economic use of water.
8. Provision of setting up of Water Regulatory Authority and adequate water pricing to incentivize recycle and re-use has been specified.
9. Water Users Associations should be given statutory powers to collect and retain a portion of water charges, manage the volumetric quantum of water allotted to them and maintain the distribution system in their jurisdiction.
10. The draft NWP, 2012 proposes reversal of heavy under-pricing of electricity, which leads to wasteful use of both electricity and water.
11. The draft NWP, 2012 recognizes encroachment and diversion of water bodies and emphasizes the need for their restoration with community participation.
12. The draft NWP, 2012 proposes setting aside a suitable percentage of the costs of infrastructure development, which along with collected water charges, may be utilized for repair and maintenance. Contract for construction of projects should have inbuilt provision for longer periods of proper maintenance and handing over back the infrastructure in good condition.
13. *Pari-passu* planning and execution of all components of water resources projects have been proposed so that intended benefits start accruing immediately after completion and there is no gap between potential created and potential utilized.
14. All water resources projects, including hydro power projects, should be planned to the extent feasible as multi-purpose projects with provision of storage to derive maximum benefit from available topology and water resources.
15. Project affected families to be made partners in progress and given a share in the benefits comparable to project benefitted families, who may bear part of the cost of resettlement and rehabilitation through adequate pricing.

16. The draft NWP, 2012 lays emphasis on preparedness for flood/drought with coping up mechanisms as an option. Frequency based flood inundation maps should be prepared to evolve coping strategies.
17. There is a need to remove the large disparity between stipulations for water supply in urban areas and in rural areas to bring equality between rural and urban people.
18. The draft NWP, 2012 proposes a forum at the national level to deliberate upon issues relating to water and evolve consensus, co-operation and reconciliation amongst party States. A similar mechanism should be established within each State to amicably resolve differences in competing demands for water amongst different users of water, as also between different parts of the State.
19. The “Service Provider” role of the state should be gradually shifted to that of a regulator of services and facilitator for strengthening the institutions responsible for planning, implementation and management of water resources. The water related services should be transferred to community and/or private sector with appropriate “Public Private Partnership” model.
20. Appropriate institutional arrangements for each river basin should be developed to collect and collate all data on regular basis with regard to rainfall, river flows, area irrigated by crops and by source, utilizations for various uses by both surface and ground water and to publish water accounts on ten daily basis every year for each river basin with appropriate water budgets and water accounts based on the hydrologic balances.
21. The draft NWP, 2012 proposes negotiations about sharing and management of water of international rivers on bilateral basis in consultative association with riparian States keeping paramount the national interests.
22. All hydrological data other than those classified as secret on national security consideration should be in public domain. Setting up of a National Water Informatics Center has been proposed.
23. Continuing research and advancement in technology should be promoted to address the issues in water sector in a scientific manner. Innovations in water resources sector should be recognized and awarded. A center for research in water policy should also be established to evolve policy directives for changing scenario of water resources.

24. It is necessary to give adequate grants to the States to update technology, design practices, planning and management practices, preparation of annual water balances and accounts for the site and basin, preparation of hydrologic balances for water systems, and benchmarking and performance evaluation.

Statement-II

The number of large dams and status for ground water utilization in Eastern and North Eastern States

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Nos. of Large Dams Completed as on January 2009	Annual Replenishable Ground Water Resource in BCM	Annual Ground Water Draft in BCM
Eastern States/UTs				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0.33	0.01
2.	Bihar	24	29.19	10.77
3.	Jharkhand	49	5.58	1.09
4.	Odisha	157	23.09	3.85
5.	West Bengal	28	30.36	11.65
North Eastern States				
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2.56	0.00
7.	Assam	2	27.23	5.44
8.	Manipur	2	0.38	0.00
9.	Meghalaya	5	1.15	0.00
10.	Mizoram	0	0.04	0.00
11.	Nagaland	0	0.36	0.01
12.	Sikkim	2	0.08	0.01
13.	Tripura	1	2.19	0.17
ALL OVER INDIA		4711	433.02	230.62

Water level of Brahmaputra river

1385. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of sudden change of water level of

Brahmaputra river during the last ten years which either receded and almost dried up or rose upto several metres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of practices being adopted by Government to monitor water level of the Brahmaputra river, including other rivers which are originating from Tibet, during a year, particularly issues raised about water diversion and construction of dam on Brahmaputra river by China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir, the changes in the river water flow is a natural phenomenon dependent on various hydro-meteorological and climatological factors.

On River Siang, Central Water Commission (CWC) maintains two gauge and discharge (G and D) sites at Tuting and Passighat in Arunachal Pradesh. After confluence of river Siang with river Lohit and Dehang, the river Siang is known as Brahmaputra on which hydrological data on three more G and D sites including Panchratna site, are collected by CWC on daily basis.

CWC has observed that the Average Annual Discharge of Brahmaputra river at Panchratna site was highest at 621 BCM during 2004-05, then receded to 385 BCM in year 2006-07 and the average annual discharge during the last ten years is about 499 BCM. The lean season data also do not show any receding trend. These rise and fall in annual runoff are due to natural variation in the rainfall.

(c) CWC collect and analyze the hydrological data relating to all major rivers including Brahmaputra in the country. CWC maintain river water level and discharge data at Tuting in Upper Siang District near the border to Tibet Autonomous Region, China. Further, Government of India keeps a constant watch on all developments in the region having bearing on India's interest and takes necessary measures to protect them. In this regard, in October, 2011, Vice Minister of Chinese Ministry of Water Resources also stated that the Chinese Government has no plan to conduct any diversification project on Yarlung Zangbo/Brahmaputra River. Government has ascertained that construction activity on Brahmaputra river at Zangmu on the Chinese side is a Run of the River hydro electric project, which does not store water and will not adversely impact the downstream areas in India.

Environmental clearance to irrigation projects of Maharashtra

1386. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the irrigation projects submitted by Maharashtra Government for environmental clearance;

(b) the present status of these projects; and

(c) the reasons for delay in providing environmental clearance to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Presently two major irrigation namely projects Jigaon Irrigation Project and Upper Pravara Project of Maharashtra are under appraisal in Central Water Commission for which environmental clearance of Ministry of Environment and Forests has already been submitted by Government of Maharashtra.

(c) Question does not arise.

Interlinking of Rivers

1387. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court on 27 February, 2012 directed the Central Government to immediately constitute a committee to plan implementation of Project on “Interlinking of Rivers” and also expressed its concern on inordinate delay and huge cost escalation over this ambitious project of the NDA Government;

(b) if so, by when the Central and State Governments concerned are likely to constitute such a committee; and

(c) what was the original cost then estimated by NDA Government and what amount UPA Government is now expecting to be incurred including cost of land required to be acquired for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Supreme Court in its order dated 27.2.2012 has directed the Union of India and particularly Ministry of Water Resources to forth with constitute a committee to be called ‘Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers’.

The Supreme Court in the order mentioned that “time is a very material factor in the effective execution of the Interlinking of Rivers project. As pointed out in the Report by NCAER and by the Standing Committee, the delay has adversely affected the financial benefits that could have accrued to the concerned parties and the people at large and is in fact now putting a financial strain on all concerned”

(b) The Certified copy of the Supreme Court order dated 27.2.2012, received in the Ministry on 20.3.2012, is under examination for appropriate action.

(c) The initial cost of the Inter Linking projects assessed at prefeasibility stage was Rs. 5.60 Lakh crore at 2002 Price Level. The Cost of individual project including the cost of land required to be acquired for project can be finalised only after completion of Detailed Project Report.

Funds under AIBP

1388. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has requested to release funds under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) recently from various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) As per the Modified Guidelines of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) effective from December 2006, the grant component along with the State share must be released to the project authorities by the State Governments within 15 days of its release by the Government of India.

- (c) Normally, during the review meetings on monitoring for the projects under AIBP, the State Governments are requested to release the funds in time.

Per capita availability of water

1389. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the per capita availability of water has decreased in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has done any assessment of the causes for decreasing per capita availability of water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The per capita water availability in the country is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita availability of water in the country, taking into consideration the population of the country as per the 2001 census, was 1816 cubic meters which reduced to 1545 cubic meters as per the 2011 census. State-wise per capita water availability is not maintained.

- (c) and (d) The average annual availability of water remains fixed. Hence, the cause of decreasing per capita availability of water is increase in population.

- (e) Does not arise.

New National Water Policy

1390. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing a new National Water Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that it would be a step toward privatization of water supply or commodify water; and
- (d) what would be its impact on farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Water Resources has prepared the draft National Water Policy, 2012. The Salient Features of the draft National Water Policy, 2012 are given in Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to the answer to USQ No. 1384 (Part a)].

(c) No, Sir. The Draft National Water Policy, 2012, *inter-alia*, recommends that the water related services should be transferred to community and/or private sector with appropriate “Public Private Partnership” model. Establishment of Water Regulatory Authority in each State has also been recommended to fix and regulate water tariff system and charges; and also for regulating allocations, monitoring operations, reviewing performance and suggesting policy changes, etc., in an autonomous manner.

(d) Farmers’ interests are protected by Water Regulatory Authorities envisaged in the draft National Water Policy, 2012 and the recommendation to empower Water User’s Association.

Constitution of North-East Water Resource Authority

1391. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a consensus has been arrived at among the North Eastern States and the Central Government towards constituting North East Water Resource Authority as well as amendment in the National Hydro Power Policy, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Central Government and by when it would be finalized; and
- (c) if not, the details of steps taken by the Central Government to regulate inter-state rivers of North Eastern Region and to accelerate Development of the Brahmaputra river valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The consensus towards constitution of North

East Water Resources Authority (NEWRA) has not been arrived amongst North Eastern States due to reservations of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The Central Government has taken up with the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh and the draft Guidelines of NEWRA were again sent to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh in April, 2011 for their comments. During the recently held 6th High Powered Review Board Meeting of Brahmaputra Board in January, 2012 at Guwahati, the representative of the State Government was also requested to expedite the State Governments comments on NEWRA.

Further, as per the information available in Ministry of Water Resources, there is no proposal under consideration relating to above, for amendment in the National Hydro Power Policy, 2008.

(c) The amendment to Brahmaputra Board Act 1980 is under consideration of Ministry of Water Resources which envisages wider mandate for Brahmaputra Board as a Basin level Authority for Brahmaputra and Barak Basin.

Impact of climate change on water resources

1392. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission, the Central Ground Water Board, the Brahmaputra Board and the National Institute of Hydrology have commissioned studies to assess the impact of climate change on water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the progress made thereunder; and

(c) the follow up action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) One of the goals of National Water Mission is assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources. In pursuance thereof climate change cells have been set up in the Central Water Commission, the National Institute of Hydrology, the Central Ground Water Board and the Brahmaputra Board for initiating and coordinating climate change studies and other related issues.

Central Water Commission and National Institute of Hydrology have jointly prepared "Preliminary Consolidated Report on Effects of Climate Change on Water Resources". Central Water Commission, with technical assistance from Asian Development Bank, conducted studies for three distinct areas of concern from climate change point of view, viz, (a) alterations of winter snow pack dynamics from climate change; (b) basin/sub-basin where ground water is major water resource; and

(c) low-lying coastal areas where sea level rise will have impacts on surface and ground water.

A Statement indicating the studies, including research papers, related to the impact of climate change on water resources, completed and in progress, by National Institute of Hydrology is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Planning and development of water resources is carried out considering the findings of these studies.

Statement

List of Research Studies undertaken by National Institute of Hydrology

Sl.No.	Title of Studies	Status	Important Findings
1.	Impact assessment of climate change on the hydrological response of a snow and glacier melt runoff dominated Himalayan river (Spiti River).	Completed	Under a warmer climate scenario, snowmelt runoff and glacier melt runoff cause an earlier response of the total streamflow and a change in flow and a change in flow distribution. The seasonal analysis of total streamflow indicates that an air temperature produces an increase in the pre-monsoon season followed by an increase in the monsoon season.
2.	Hydrological sensitivity of a large Himalayan basin to the climate change (Sutlej Basin)	Completed	On the basin scale, reduction in melt from the lower part was counteracted by the increase from melt from upper part of the basin, resulting in a decrease in the magnitude of change in annual melt runoff. The impact of climate change was found to be more prominent on seasonal rather than annual water availability.
3.	Effect of climate change on runoff of a glacierized Himalayan basin. (Dokriani Glacier basin).	Completed	For the range of climatic scenarios considered, the changes in runoff are more sensitive to changes in

Sl.No.	Title of Studies	Status	Important Findings
			temperature, compared with rainfall, which is likely due to the major contribution of melt water in runoff.
4.	Effect of climatic variation on runoff regime of River Chenab.	Completed	The result shows that melt is much more sensitive to increase in temperature than to rainfall.
5.	Impact of warmer climate on melt and evaporation for the rainfed, snowfed and glacierfed basins in the Himalayan region.	Completed	The study suggests that out of three types of basin, snowfed basins are more sensitive in terms of reduction in water availability due to a compound effect of increase in evaporation and decrease in melt.
6.	Status report on climate change and its impact on water resources.	Completed	Increase in areal extent of vegetation cover as well as rainfall over the last century has increased the moisture in the atmosphere through enhanced evapotranspiration, which in turn has increased the relative humidity.
7.	Climatological variability during ablation season around Gangotri Glacier, (Himalayas).	Completed	The average daytime and night time winds were 12.3 and 3.1 km/h respectively. Mean seasonal evaporation was 570.3 mm, which is high in comparison to other areas at same elevation. Average relative humidity and daily sunshine duration were also high throughout the ablation season.

Sl.No.	Title of Studies	Status	Important Findings
8.	Basin-wise assessment of temperature variability and trends in the northwest and central India.	Completed	This analysis provides scenarios of temperature changes, which may be used for sensitivity analysis of water availability for different basins, and accordingly in planning and implementation of adaptation strategies.
9.	Changes in rainfall and relative humidity in different river basins in the northwest and central India.	Completed	Like rainfall, the majority of river basins have also shown an increasing trend in the relative humidity both on seasonal and annual scales. An increase in vegetation over and rainfall over the last century is expected to transport more moisture to the atmosphere, resulting in an increase in relative humidity. Western rivers have a higher rate of increase compared to other river basins within the study area. This study provides scenario of rainfall and relative humidity changes, which may be used for the sensitivity analysis of water availability for different basins. Planning and implementation of adaptation strategies can be therefore followed.
10.	Climate change and its impact on flow characteristics of River Beas upto Pandoh Dam in Indus Basin.	Completed	Climate processes are quite intricate which affect the hydrological components in diverse ways. Increase in temperature may increase the snow and glacier melt but this trend depends on the extent of

Sl.No.	Title of Studies	Status	Important Findings
			snow and glaciers in the catchment and may not last long.
11.	Climate change and its impact on flow characteristics of River Bhagirathi upto Tehri Dam in Ganga Basin	Completed	Increasing precipitation along with increasing temperature may increase the river flows during non-monsoon months, thus improving the performance of reservoirs in these months. The reservoirs are susceptible to changes in the inflow patterns and their performance may improve or diminish in accordance with the revised inflow patterns. In addition to the quantity of inflows, timing of inflow <i>vis-a-vis</i> demand is an important factor in assessing the performance of reservoirs. Further, large reservoirs may absorb temporal variations of inflows (thus absorbing the impact of climate change for same amount of inflows) but small reservoirs are quite susceptible to climate change impacts.
12.	Change estimation of selected Glaciers in the Western Himalayan region.	Completed	Across the Himalayan arc, glaciers exist in diverse climatological and hydrological regimes and their response to climate change and its impact on the water resources vary considerably. Glacier change is also influenced by its aspect and geomorphological characteristics. Understanding

Sl.No.	Title of Studies	Status	Important Findings
			and quantifying the impact of glacier degradation in various climatological regimes of the Himalayas would help us in developing a cohesive understanding of the impact of climate change on Himalayan glaciers. This could be achieved only by putting in place long term data generation mechanisms and comprehensive research strategies on Himalayan cryospheric system.
13.	Seasonal characterization of ablation, storage and drainage of melt runoff and simulation of streamflow for Gangotri.	Completed	The discharge showed increasing trend from May onward, reached to its highest value in July and then started reducing. The maximum and minimum daily mean discharge observed during study period was 8 to 239 m ³ /s. The mean monthly discharge observed for May, June, July, August, September and October was 28.7, 56.3, 110.9, 95.8, 34.8 and 12.7 m ³ /s, respectively. The distribution of observed runoff indicates maximum runoff in July (33.39%) followed by August (29.46%). These two months contribute about 63% to the total melt runoff. Almost similar trend of distribution of runoff is observed for all the years. The melt water yield during May, June, July, August, September and

Sl.No.	Title of Studies	Status	Important Findings
			October was 0.12, 0.26, 0.52, 0.46, 0.16 and 0.04 m respectively. The melt water yield over the melt season is about 1.56 m. The strong storage characteristics of the Gangotri Glacier are reflected by the comparable magnitude of runoff observed during daytime and night time.
14.	Long term monitoring of the Gangotri Glacier melt stream.	Under progress	
15.	Statistical Downscaling of the GCM for the Satluj Basin	Under Progress	

National Projects

1393. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many States are demanding for declaring some of the projects as national projects;
- (b) if so, the details of States which are demanding for giving some of their projects the status of national projects during the last ten years, State-wise;
- (c) what action the Ministry has taken on each of the above proposal, project-wise;
- (d) whether the Ministry would consider for giving two projects in a larger State the status of national projects;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a), (b) and (c) The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 7.2.2008 approved the scheme of national projects and also approved 14 projects as national projects. The list of 14 projects approved as national projects is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

After approval of 14 projects as National Projects, 13 project proposals from

different states have also been received for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects.

The status of the 13 proposals received from the State Governments for inclusion under the scheme of National Projects is given in Statement-II (*See* below)

(d), (e) and (f) No Sir, a new project is declared as national project after ascertaining its eligibility for assistance and availability of funds, clearance from Expenditure Finance Committee/Project Investment Board and on the recommendation thereupon of a High Powered Steering Committee and thereafter obtaining the approval of Union Cabinet.

Statement-I

List of projects declared as National Projects

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	(1) Irrigation (ha.) (2) Power (MW) (3) Storage (MAF)	State
1	2	3	4
1.	Teesta Barrage	(1) 9.23 lakh (2) 1000 MW (3) Barrage	West Bengal
2.	Shahpur Kandi	(1) 3.80 lakh (2) 300 MW (3) 0.016 MAF	Punjab
3.	Bursar	(1) 1 lakh (indirect) (2) 1230 MW (3) 1MAF	Jammu and Kashmir
4.	2nd Ravi Vyas Link	Harness water flowing across border of about 3 MAF	Punjab
5.	Ujh multipurpose project	(1) 0.32 lakh ha (2) 280 MW (3) 0.66 MAF	Jammu and Kashmir
6.	Gyspa project	(1) 0.50 lakh ha (2) 240 MW (3) 0.6 MAF	Himachal Pradesh

1	2	3	4
7.	Lakhvar Vyasi	(1) 0.49 lakh (2) 420 MW (3) 0.325 MAF	Uttranchal
8.	Kishau	(1) 0.97 Lakh (2) 600 MW (3) 1.04 MAF	Himachal Pradesh/ Uttranchal
9.	Renuka	(1) Drinking water (2) 40 MW (3) 0.44 MAF	Himachal Pradesh
10.	Noa-Dehang Dam Project	(1) 8000 ha. (2) 75 MW (3) 0.26 MAF	Arunanchal Pradesh
11.	Kulsi Dam Project	(1) 23,900 ha. (2) 29 MW (3) 0.28 MAF	Assam
12.	Upper Siang	Indirect 9500 MW 17.50 MAF Flood moderation	Arunanchal Pradesh
13.	Gosikhurd	(1) 2.50 lakh (2) 3 MW (3) 0.93 MAF	Maharashtra
14.	Ken Betwa	6.46 lakh 72 MW 2.25 MAF	Madhya Pradesh

Statement-II*A. The details of proposals received from the State Governments
for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects*

Sl.No.	State	Name of Project	Present status
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Saryu Nahar Project	The proposal is in the final stage of approval.

Sl.No.	State	Name of Project	Present status
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Restoration of capacity of Sharda Sahayak Canal	The proposal is in the final stage of approval.
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Polavaram (Indira Sagar) Project	Investment Clearance of Planning Commission for revised cost estimate is to be obtained by the State Government.
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Bargi Diversion Project	The proposal is under finalization.
5.	Andhra Pradesh	J. Chokkarao Lift Irrigation Scheme	Proposal in prescribed format has not been submitted by the State Government.
6.	Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal	Subernarekha Multipurpose Project	Proposal in prescribed format has not been submitted by the State Government.
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project	The proposal does not have investment clearance.
8.	Odisha	Rengali Irrigation Project	Investment Clearance of Planning Commission for revised cost estimate is to be obtained by the State Government.

B. The details of proposals received from the State Governments for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects & not found eligible

Sl. No.	State	Name of Project	Present status
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanhar Irrigation Project	The irrigation potential of the project is less than 2,00,000 hectare and hence not eligible to be considered as National Project. <i>The State Government has been informed.</i>
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Bansagar Canal Project	The irrigation potential of the project is less than 2,00,000 hectare and hence not eligible to be considered as National Project. <i>The State Government has been informed.</i>

SI. No.	State	Name of Project	Present status
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Baghain Project	The irrigation potential of the project is less than 2,00,000 hectare and hence not eligible to be considered as National Project. <i>The State Government has been informed.</i>
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Project Phase-11	The irrigation potential of the project is less than 2,00,000 hectare and hence not eligible to be considered as National Project. <i>The State Government has been informed.</i>
5.	Maharashtra	Bodwad Parisar Sinchan Yojana	The irrigation potential of the project is less than 2,00,000 hectare and hence not eligible to be considered as National Project. <i>The State Government has been informed.</i>

Sharing of cost of Sardar Sarovar Project

1394. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that payment of arrears towards sharing cost of Sardar Sarovar Project by the participating States *viz.*, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are not being paid by them to Gujarat regularly;

(b) whether Government proposes to take effective steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per the provisions of N.W.D.T. awards, Project cost of Sardar Sarovar Project is required to be shared among the four states *viz* Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Expenditure on the Project is incurred by Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) and statement showing details of outstanding dues from Party States are sent to the authorities of each State at the end of each month. Details of outstanding dues from party States on 31.12.11 as furnished by SSNNL are given below:

Name of the State	Amount (Rs. in crore)
(1) Madhya Pradesh	2849.42
(2) Maharashtra	1305.56
(3) Rajasthan	430.24
TOTAL	4585.22

(b) and (c) The status of payment and dues are regularly monitored and discussed from time to time in Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee (SSCAC) meetings Chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources and the States are advised to be regular in payment. The last Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee meeting has recently been held on 16 March 2012 at New Delhi.

River linking projects

1395. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the river interlinking projects in the peninsular component; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure consensus and cooperation of the concerned States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) had formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development as early as 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the Ministry of Irrigation in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. NWDA has already identified 14 links under Himalayan Component and 16 links under Peninsular Rivers Component. Out of these Feasibility Reports of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links under Himalayan Component (Indian Portion) have been completed.

Five Peninsular links, namely (i) Ken-Betwa, (ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, (iii) Damanganga-Pinjal, (iv) Par-Tapi-Narmada and (v) Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) have been identified as priority links for taking up their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). DPR of one priority link namely Ken-Betwa has been completed and was communicated to the party States. Modifications of the proposal and final

Detailed Project Report preparation have been taken up by NWDA in light of observations of the concerned States. The Ken-Betwa link project has been included in the scheme of National Projects.

Further, after receiving the concurrence of the concerned states, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of two more priority links namely Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for preparation of DPR of both these links was signed by the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra and the union Minister for Water Resources on 3.05.2010. The DPRs of these links are under progress. The status of links under Peninsular Component of NPP is given in Statement (*See* below)

(b) The Government has constituted a Consensus Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Departments of the concerned States for arriving at consensus regarding sharing of surplus waters and to discuss issues of preparation of Detailed Project Reports by NWDA. So far ten meetings of the consensus group have been held. The consensus building for eight more links under Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linkage system for taking up their DPRs with concerned states has been initiated.

The issues related with the inter-basin water transfer proposals under NPP are regularly discussed with the officials of State Governments at the meeting of the Governing Body (GB) and Society of NWDA. So far 57 meetings of GB and 26 meetings of Society have been held.

Statement

Status of water transfer links identified for preparation of feasibility reports (FR) by NWDA

Peninsular Rivers Development Component

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link | - FR completed |
| 2. Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link * | - FR completed (Taken up by the State as per their own proposals) |
| 3. Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Pulichintala) link | - FR completed |
| 4. Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link | - FR completed |
| 5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link | - FR completed |
| 6. Krishna (Srisailem)-Pennar link | - FR completed |

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7. Krishna (Almatti)-Pennar link | - FR completed |
| 8. Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery
(Grand Anicut) link | - FR completed |
| 9. Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link | - FR completed |
| 10. Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link* | - FR completed |
| 11. Damanganga-Pinjal link* | - FR completed and DPR
Started |
| 12. Par-Tapi-Narmada link* | - FR completed and DPR
Started |
| 13. Ken-Betwa link* | - DPR (Phase-I) Completed |
| 14. Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link | - FR completed |
| 15. Netravati-Hemavati Link | - PFR completed |
| 16. Bedti-Varda link | - FR work taken up |

* Priority links

PFR: Pre-Feasibility Report; FR: Feasibility Report; DPR: Detailed Project Report

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Set for the 23rd March 2012*

Production of milk in the country

*141. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State:

- (a) whether Government has projected the estimated quantum of milk required in the next few years across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Indian Dairy Association has urged Government to introduce better technology and policy support to increase the milk output; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and further steps proposed to increase the production of milk in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per assessment made by Planning Commission, the domestic demand for milk by 2021-22 is expected to be 172.20 million tonnes.

*The Sitting of Rajya Sabha on Friday, the 23rd March, 2012 was cancelled. Answers to Questions put down in the list for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Monday, the 26th March, 2012.

(c) Indian Dairy Association in its pre budget memorandum submitted to this Department has stated that to enhance milk production there is an imperative need of policy support from the Government on the following core areas:

- (i) Enhance milk production and milk animal productivity
- (ii) Clean and quality milk production, processing and packaging

(d) In addition to the steps taken by State Governments, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India is implementing the following schemes to enhance the production of milk in the country including clean and quality milk:

- (i) Intensive Dairy Development Programme
- (ii) Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production
- (iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- (iv) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
- (v) Livestock Health and Disease Control
- (vi) Fodder and Feed Development scheme

Government has also approved National Dairy Plan Phase-I with an outlay of Rs. 2,242 crore with the objective of increasing the productivity of milch animals and increasing production through a scientifically planned programme.

Besides the above schemes, Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing the following schemes for quality milk production, processing and packaging:

- (i) Scheme for Setting-up/Upgradation of Food Testing Laboratories
- (ii) Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries.
- (iii) Scheme for Infrastructure Development (cold chain, value addition and preservation infrastructure)
- (iv) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, R and D and Promotional Activities.

Reduction in sowing of crops in Andhra Pradesh

*142. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a significant reduction in the sowing of crops in some of the northern districts of Andhra Pradesh has come to the notice of Government during the current Rabi season; and

(b) if so, how Government is planning to come to the rescue of farmers in this region?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Erratic rainfall during South-West Monsoon and failure of North-

East Monsoon coupled with depletion of ground water level in light textured soil, resulted in decline in sowing of normal area during rabi 2011-12 season in the northern districts of Andhra Pradesh, leading to reduction in sowings/area coverage under paddy, pulses and groundnut crops. However, dry spell and drought like situation in some parts of the country including Andhra Pradesh did not have major impact on overall production of foodgrains in the country. As per Second Advance estimate (Directorate of Economics and Statistics) 2011-12, the overall foodgrains production in the country is estimated at 250.42 million tonnes, which is 5.64 million tonnes higher than the last year's record production of 244.78 million tonnes. The tables indicating the area sown during Rabi season in Northern Districts of Andhra Pradesh and the crop wise area coverage under paddy, pulses, groundnut and other crops are given respectively at Statements-I and II (*See below*).

Farmers of Northern Districts of Andhra Pradesh were advised to switch over to alternative crops like Maize and Pulses. Sufficient seeds stock was kept ready by the state administration in all Mandals on 50% subsidy. Maize crop was covered in place of Paddy and irrigated through wells/bore wells.

Wide publicity was given for increasing water use efficiency and conservation through Drip, Sprinkler irrigation systems. The Water carrying pipes have been supplied on subsidy under ISOPOM Maize-Oilseeds schemes.

Statement-I

The following are the area sown during rabi season in northern districts of Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	District	Season Normal (ha)	Area sown during Rabi 2010-11 (ha)	Area sown during Rabi 2011-12 (ha)	% area sown as against Normal	% of Reduction in area to Normal
1.	Srikakulam	112130	110624	88510	79	21
2.	Vizianagaram	72694	77623	51820	71	29
3.	Visakhapatnam	36827	39036	30772	84	16
Total		221651	227283	171102	77	23
Andhra Pradesh		4044077	4215442	3568419	88	12

Source: Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Statement-II

*Rice, Pulses, Groundnut and Other crops area sown during
Rabi 2011-12 in northern district of Andhra Pradesh*

(Area in hectares)

Sl. No.	District	Rice		Total Pulses		Groundnut		Other Crops		Total	
		Last year	This year	Last year	This year	Last year	This year	Last year	This year	Last year	This year
1.	Srikakulam	7098	1812	76496	68630	7806	6895	19224	11173	110624	88510
2.	Vizianagaram	7254	428	46742	35591	3132	2245	20495	13556	77623	51820
3.	Visakhapatnam	7262	1520	15417	17728	1118	758	15239	10766	39036	30772
	Andhra Pradesh	1829019	1131067	1141856	1235531	275554	239306	969013	962515	4215442	3568419

(Data is provisional)

Source: Commissionerate of Agriculture, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Effect of climate change

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

(a) whether farm mechanization is imperative when it comes to mitigating the effect of climate change by re-adjusting crop sowing schedules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the views of farmers, industries and Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the context of possible effects of climate change like delay in onset of monsoon, prolonged dry spell, irregular and unpredictable rainfall pattern, temperature variations resulting in shortening of available time for farm operations like sowing, harvesting, etc., farm mechanization has become imperative for ensuring timeliness of farm operations so as to prevent probable yield loss. Mechanization ensures timely completion of critical farm operations such as field preparation, sowing, irrigation, harvesting, threshing, etc.

Climate change is likely to cause lesser number of rainy days thus shortening available sowing times for paddy. To transplant paddy in short notice in the background of lesser availability of manual labour, farmers have to adopt mechanized transplanting that not only takes care of timeliness in farm operations but ensures higher productivity by employing mat type nursery and Systematic Rice Intensification (SRI) methods. Besides quickly adapting to readjusted paddy planting schedule, appropriate farm mechanization also helps in preferring early sowing of wheat by deploying mechanized harvesting of previous paddy crops and using zero till seed drills for planting wheat seeds. This mechanized package of practices not only saves time and cost in ploughing the land but also allows farmers to harvest wheat crops before possible early onset of summer thereby preventing any loss of yield due to climate change induced higher temperature. A greater degree of farm mechanization can also address the issues of scarcity of farm labour for labour intensive operations like tilling, sowing and harvesting.

(c) Farmers are aware of the intrinsic advantage of farm mechanization. Concerted efforts of State and Central Governments and greater awareness among farmers have seen accelerated adoption of mechanization in zero tilling, harvesting and rice transplantation. Combine Harvesters, Rice Transplanters and Zero Till Seed Drills are gradually becoming popular among farmers as these are helping them not only to save farming costs but also to adapt to varying crop sowing schedule.

Industries have also come forward with indigenous, low cost, tailor made designs of farm machineries and equipments. After liberalization and with development of prototypes of machines, manufacturing of agricultural machineries

and equipments has expanded in States like Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Tractor operated combine harvester, costing only 25-30 percent of the self propelled combine, has been a good innovation by domestic manufacturers and this machine can be owned individually by farmers. Custom Hiring Services for Rice Transplanters, Combine Harvesters, Laser Land Levellers, etc. are now becoming popular in many States especially in Southern States. State Government is hand holding cooperative societies and rural entrepreneurs to promote Custom Hiring services.

Domestic Pharmaceutical Companies

*144. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of local drug manufacturing units acquired by foreign companies since 2004, till date, along with the names and the details thereof;
- (b) the number of domestic pharmaceutical companies presently operating in the country; and
- (c) the number of domestic pharmaceutical companies that have received financial assistance from Government for Research and Development (R and D) purposes, since 2004 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has informed that since April, 2004 to December, 2011, there has been 141 instances of Foreign Direct Investment in various Indian drug manufacturing companies. The details of these are at Statement. (*See below*)

(b) There are about 10,563 domestic pharmaceutical companies operating in the country.

(c) Department of Science and Technology has informed that 15 pharmaceutical companies had received financial assistance as loans from Drugs and Pharmaceutical Research Programme (DPRP); from them for Research and development purpose since 2004, till date. Department of Biotechnology has informed that they mainly support private industry under two programmes, Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) and Biotech Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP). Out of these two programmes, 15 companies were supported financially since 27.12.2006 under SBIRI and 10 companies since 14.09.2009 under BIPP.

Statement

Company-wise FDI equity inflows from April 2004 to December 2011

Sector: Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Acquisition Route

Sl. No.	Name of Indian Company	Country	Name of Foreign Collaborator	Item of Manufacture	Amount of FDI Inflows (In Rs. Crore) (In US\$ Million)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Hospira Healthcare India Pvt. Ltd. (Ojas) Ph	Bahamas	Hospira Bahamas (Ireland) Corp	Manufacturer of pharmaceuticals	0.00	0.00
2.	RFCL Ltd.	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mauritius	Pharmaceutical	0.97	0.22
3.	RFCL Ltd.	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mauritius	Pharmaceutical	1.97	0.44
4 .	RFCL Ltd.	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mauritius	Pharmaceutical	3.94	0.89
5.	RFCL Ltd.	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mauritius	Pharmaceutical	5.91	1.33
6.	RFCL Ltd.	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mauritius	Pharmaceutical	9.85	2.22
7.	RFCL Ltd.	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mauritius	Pharmaceutical	171.45	38.64
8.	ARCH Pharmed Labs Ltd. (ARCH Commerz Ltd.)	Czech Republic	Thomas Azavedo	Manufacturing of pharmaceutical	0.50	0.11
9.	Unicity Health Pvt. Ltd.	Thailand	Unicity Marketing Thailand Co. Ltd.	Mfg. in pharmaceutical products	0.00	0.00

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

251

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Unicity Health Pvt. Ltd.	Singapore	Unicity Singapore PTE Ltd.	Mfg. in pharmaceutical products	0.01	0.00
11.	New Chemi Chemical	Japan	Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd.	Pesticides etc.	37.50	7.87
12.	Elova Biotech Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Venture Life Trust III LLC	Drug discovery	11.93	2.27
13.	Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.	Japan	Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd.	Manufacture of chemical substances used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals	6,818.66	1,401.42
14.	Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.	Japan	Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd.	Manufacture of chemical substances used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals	6,037.01	1,240.77
15.	Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.	Japan	Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd.	Manufacture of chemical substances used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals	3,409.22	700.69

252 *Written Answers to Starred* [RAJYA SABHA]

and Unstarred Questions

16.	Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.	Japan	Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd.	Manufacture of chemical substances used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals	3,539.14	722.28
17.	Indus Biotech Pvt. Ltd.	Singapore	Sadeesh Raghavan	Mfg. of medical drugs	0.25	0.06
18.	Evolva Biotech Pvt Ltd	Switzerland	Evolva SA	Drug discovery platform for molecules, services and proprietary drugs candidates	1.86	0.37
19.	Chemfield Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Japan	Asahi Kasei Chemicals Corp.	MFG of microcrystalline cellulose	7.15	1.36
20.	Evolvo Biotech Private Limited	Switzerland	Evolva SA	Drug discovery platform for small molecules services and propriety drug candidates	0.92	0.18
21.	Kerry Ingredients India Pvt. Ltd.	Netherlands	Kerry Group B V	MFG marketing, distribution, purchasing, selling, importing, exporting of pharmaceuticals and food	0.01	0.00
22.	Fermenta Biotech Ltd.	Mauritius	Evolence India Life Sciences Fund LLC	Mfg. of bulk drugs and enzymes	20.00	4.20

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

253

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Intas Pharmaceuticals Limited	Mauritius	Mozart Limited	Manufacture pharma products	53.00	11.13
24.	Capsugel Healthcare Limited	Belgium	Capsugel belgium	Manufacture of empty hard gelatin casuals	262.06	55.02
25.	CDYMAX (India) Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	Virgin Islands (Us)	Couplet Ltd.	Mfg. of pharmaceuticals	1.25	0.25
26.	Capsugel Healthcare Limited	Belgium	Capsugelbelgium BVBA	Manufacture of empty hard Gelatin casuals	7.29	1.53
27.	Hospira Healthcare India Pvt. Ltd. (Ojas Ph)	Singapore	Hospira Pte. Ltd.	Manufacturer of pharmaceuticals	0.01	0.00
28.	RFCL Ltd.	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mauritius	Pharmaceutical	11.82	2.66
29.	RFCL Ltd.	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mauritius	Pharmaceutical	3.94	0.89
30.	RFCL Limited	Caymen Islands	Avantor Performance Materials Cayman Ltd.	Pharmaceutical	0.00	0.00
31.	Hospira Healthcare India Pvt Ltd (Ojas Ph)	Singapore	Hospira Pte. Ltd.	Manufacturer of pharmaceuticals	0.00	0.00
32.	RFCL Limited	Malaysia	Avantor Performance Materials SDN BHD	Pharmaceutical	0.00	0.00

254 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA] and Unstarred Questions

33.	Xellia Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	Denmark	Xellia Pharmaceuticals Aps	Assess quality of pharmaceutical prouducts	0.01	0.00
34.	RFCL Limited	Netherlands	Avantor Performance Materials Holdings	Pharmaceutical	0.00	0.00
35.	RFCL Limited	Luxembourg	Avantor Performance Materials Holdings	Pharmaceutical	0.00	0.00
36.	RFCL Limited	Mauritius	Avantor Performance Materials Mounting	Pharmaceutical	0.00	0.00
37.	RFCL Limited	Netherlands	Avantor Performance Materials BV	Pharmaceutical	0.00	0.00
38.	Zenotech Laboratories Ltd.	Japan	Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd.	Pharmaceutical	78.24	17.24
39.	Fermenta Biotech Ltd.	Mauritius	Evolvece India Life Sciences Fund LLC	Manufacture of bulk drug	19.92	4.38
40.	Arch Pharmalabs Ltd.	Mauritius	GHIOF	Mfg of pharma bulk drugs	5.00	1.09
41.	Ceejay Halthcare Pvt. Ltd.	United Kingdom	Ashok Narasimhan	Mfg of drugs and pharma	0.01	000
42.	Ecolutions Carbon (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Hongkong	Ecolutions New Energy Investment Co. Ltd.	CDM advisory and CER/VER trading etc.	0.00	0.00
43.	Arch Pharmalabs Ltd.	Canada	Jose Azavedo	Mfg. of pharma bulk drugs	0.25	0.05
44.	Arch Pharmalabs	Singapore	Chandroo	Mfg. of pharma bulk	0.50	0.11

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

255

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
45.	Modi Omega Pharma (I) P. Ltd.	Netherlands	Omega Pharma Holding (Netherland) BV	Mfg. of drugs and medicines	1.58	0.34
46.	Themis Medicare Ltd	Hungary	Gedeon Richter Investment Management Ltd	Mfg of pharma drugs	4.07	0.92
47.	CDYMAS (India) Pharma Ltd.	Virgin Islands (Us)	Couplet Ltd.	Mfg of Pharmaceuticals	1.31	0.30
48.	Solvay Pharma India Ltd.	United Kingdom	Abbott Capital India Ltd.	Deal in pharmaceutical sector	308.51	65.87
49.	Envy Intl. Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A	Human Biosciences Inc.	Drugs, medicines and allied activities	0.03	0.01
50.	Bayer Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	Country Details	Nayer (South East Asia) Pte. Ltd.	Manufacturer of drugs	18.27	3.94
51.	Haw Par Elder (India) Ltd.	Singapore	Haw Par Healthcare	Manufacture and deal in all kinds of Quasi Drugs Medical Devices Health Food	1.46	0.30
52.	SCS Pharma Research and Development P. Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	MSD Laboratories LLC	Research and development of vaccines and related	0.01	0.00
53.	Biopharm Pvt. Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	NONG Investments Ltd.	Manufacturing human Insulin range of products	0.34	0.07

256 *Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA] and Unstarred Questions*

54.	Sapat and Co. (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Arinsky Global Ltd.	Mfg. of pharma and health products	0.07	0.01
55.	Arch Pharma Labs Ltd.	United Kingdom	Manjeet Singh Basi	Mfg. of pharmaceutical drugs	0.25	0.05
56.	Medicamen Biotech Ltd.	Denmark	Pharmadanica AS	Manufacturing and selling of pharmaceuticals formulations	1.17	0.24
57.	Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd.	Mauritius	Tara India Holdings Pte Ltd.	Water treatment	5.20	1.08
58.	Matrix Laboratories Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	MP Laboratories Mauritius Ltd.	Pharmaceuticals Manufacturer	37.72	7.78
59.	Shantha Biotechnics	France	Sanofi Pasteur Merieux	Mfg. of vaccines	0.023	0.05
60.	Shantha Biotechnics Ltd.	France	Sanofi Pasteur Merieux	Manufacturing of vaccine	86.64	18.54
61.	Research Support International	Germany	Evotec AG	Drug discovery and development services	11.17	2.40
62.	Shantha Biotechnics Ltd.	France	Sanofi Pasteur Merieux	Manufacturing of vaccines	0.12	0.03
63.	Matrix Laboratories Ltd.	Mauritius	MP Laboratories (Mauritius) Ltd.	Manufacturer of active pharmaceuticals ingredients	162.00	34.79
64.	Bharat Serums and Vaccines Ltd.	Mauritius	Caduceus asia Mauritius Ltd.	Mfg of pharma products	5.00	1.09

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions 257

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
65.	Soham India Pvt. Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Swati Shah	Mfg of pharmaceuticals	0.01	0.00
66.	Shantha Biotechnics Ltd.	France	Sanofi Pasteur	Mfg. of vaccines	0.35	0.08
67.	Getz Pharma Pvt Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Getz Pharma Intl. FZ-LLC	Pharmaceuticals	2.24	0.49
68.	Sutures (I) P. Ltd.	Mauritius	Evolvece (1) Life Sciences Funds LIC	Mfg. of Drugs medicines	3.00	0.66
69.	Organon India Ltd.	Netherlands	Organon Participations BV	Mfg. and Marketing of Human pharmaceuticals products	0.18	0.04
70.	Grandix Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Strides Arcolab Ltd.	Medicines	26.75	6.55
71.	Exeta Pharma Sci. P.	Country Details Awaited	Exeta Holding LIC	Pharmaceuticals	0.02	0.01
72.	Bharat IMN	Country Details Awaited	Nandita M. Mehta	Pharmaceuticals	0.41	0.10

258 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA]

and Unstarred Questions

73.	Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Mauritius	GPC Mauritius II LLC	Marketing and Mfg. of pharamaceuticals	21.07	5.35
74.	Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals	Country Details Awaited	Nandiat Mehta	Pharmaceuticals	0.21	0.05
75.	Danmed Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd.	Cyprus	Dragon Flies Power Trading Ltd.	Manufacturing of pharmaceuticals item	0.57	0.13
76.	Danmed Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd.	Cyprus	Dragon Flies Power Trading Ltd.	Manufacturing of pharmaceuticals item	2.28	0.53
77.	Danmed Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd.	Cyprus	Dragon Flies Power Trading Ltd.	Manufacturing of pharmaceuticals item	0.57	0.13
78.	Strides Arcolab Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Grandix Pharmaecuticals Ltd.	Medicines Antibiotics	27.02	6.31
79.	Sai Advantium Pharma Ltd.	Mauritius	Sequoia Capital India Investment III	Pharmaceuticals Contracts	0.50	0.12
80.	Neo Ecosystems and Software Pvt. Ltd.	Russia	Andrey Pigalev	Water purification	0.00	0.00
81.	Neo Ecosystems and Software Pvt. Ltd.	Russia	Anil Kumar	Water purification systems	0.00	0.00

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions 259

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
82.	Neo Ecosystems and Software Pvt. Ltd.	Russia	Dimitrykotenkov	Water purification systems	0.00	0.00
83.	Neo Ecosystems and Software Pvt. Ltd.	Russia	Sergey Kaminski	Water purification	0.00	0.00
84.	Reckitt Piramal Pvt. Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Chander Mohan Sethi	Pharmaceuticals	0.00	0.00
85.	Perlecan Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Dr. Reddy Laboratories Ltd.	Pharmaceuticals	0.00	0.00
86.	Global Pharmatech P. Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	T. Thomas	Mfr. of pharmaceutical products	4.95	1.17
87.	SDD Global	U.S.A	Smith Dorman and Dehn	Mfr. of pharmaceutical products	0.00	0.00
88.	Intermed Labs P. Ltd.	British Isles	Couplet Ltd.	Mfg. of pharmaceutical products	2.44	0.61
89.	Paras Pharmaceutical	Mauritius	Aureos South Asia Fund LLC	Manufacturing/marketing of pharmaceuticals and cosmetic products	22.35	5.67

260 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA] and Unstarred Questions

90.	Paras Pharmaceutical Ltd.	Mauritius	Actis Consumer India Ltd.	Manufacturing/marketing of pharmaceuticals and cosmetic products	27.00	6.85
91.	Vibrant Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.	Switzerland	Dr. Heinz Hammeru	Health care	0.01	0.00
92.	Gracure Pharmaceuticals	Country Details Awaited	Medicaments Exports	Mfg. Medicines	0.21	0.05
93.	Silico Protein Ltd.	Malaysia	Gnanasekarn, Raveendran Kandiah	Bio Tech Products	0.61	0.13
94.	Marksans Pharma Ltd.	Mauritius	HSBC Global Investment Funds (Mau.) Ltd.	Pharmaceuticals/Drugs	21.85	4.78
95.	Infar India Ltd.	Netherlands	Organon Participations B.V.	Mfg/Mktg pharmaceutical products	1.69	0.39
96.	Altana Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	Germany		Pharmaceuticals	0.01	0.00
97.	Prescientis India Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.		R&D in life science drug discovery etc.	2.28	0.50
98.	Biocon India Ltd.	U.S.A.		Bio-Pharmaceuticals	0.01	0.00
99.	Ivax India Pvt. Ltd.	Netherlands	Ivax Intl. Bv	R and D of pharmaceuticals	0.00	0.00

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions 261

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
100.	Grandix Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Virgin Island (US)	Zerox Limited	Manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceuticals	3.00	0.66
101.	Virbac Animal Health India Pvt. Ltd.	France	Virbac	All kinds of activities regarding animal health and veterinary medicine and dietetics.	0.01	0.00
102.	Alchymars ICM SM Pvt. Ltd.	United Kingdom	Genphar Pro Investments (GB) Ltd.	Bulk drugs and interm to Domesitc & Foreign Mkts.	0.76	0.17
103.	Ethypharm LL P. Ltd.	Mauritius	Ethypharm Asia Co. Ltd.	Mfg. medicinal for maulations	26.68	6.13
104.	Gracure Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Belgium	Ex Phar S.A. 2. Medicamen T Export	Mfg. and export of pharmaceutical Formulation	0.39	0.08
105.	Matrix Laboratories Ltd.	Mauritius	India Newbridge Investments Ltd.	Active pharmaceutical ingredients and its intermedia	105.00	22.83
106.	Euromed International P. Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Pharmacare FZE	Dealing in pharma product	0.01	0.00

107. Shreya Biotech P. Ltd.	Singapore	Scigen Ltd. N	Biotechnology	0.00	0.00
108. Paras Pahraceuticals Ltd.	Mauritius	Sequoia Capital Ind. Growth Inv. Hol. Maur.	Marketing of pharmaceuticals and cosmetic products	4.50	1.14
109. Torrent Pharmaceuticals	Mauritius	GPC Mauritius	Mkt. and Mfg. of pharmaceuticals	48.44	12.26
110. Global Pharmatech Pvt. Ltd.	United Kingdom	1. Asha Rawat 2. Gautam Rawat	Sterile Liquids	0.05	0.01
111. Regenotech Biopharm Pvt. Ltd.	Newzealand	Ashok Bhasin	Biotechnology	0.01	0.00
112. Aventis Pharma	Country Details Awaited	Senofi Aventis	Manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceuticals	0.39	0.09
113. Sterling Synergy Sys. Pvt. Ltd.	United Kingdom	Myogenic Bio-Tech Ltd.	Clinical trials	0.01	0.00
114. DSM Nutritional Products (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Netherlands	Roche Vitamins B.V.	Distribution of phamaceutical products	0.00	0.00
115. Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Harpline Ltd.	Pharma	19.41	4.76

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

263

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
116. Gracure Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	France	Exphe SA (36000 Shares)	Mfg. and export of pharmaceutical formulations	0.39	0.08	
117. Matrix Laboratories Ltd.	Mauritius	India New Bridge Investment Ltd.	Drugs and pharmaceuticals	436.44	94.88	
118. Organon (I) Ltd.	Netherlands	Organon Paricipation B.V.	Mfg. and Mktg. of human pharmaceutical products	0.17	0.04	
119. INTAS Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Mauritius	Mozart Ltd	Mfg./Distr./Mktg. of pharmaceutical Products.	52.99	11.94	
120. Paras Pharmaceutical Ltd.	Mauritius	Actis Consumer India Ltd.	Marketing of Pharmaceutical and cosmetic products	170.13	37.42	
121. Concord Biotech Ltd.	Canada	Ontario Inc.	Pharmaceuticals	0.76	0.16	
122. Malladi Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	Mauritius	LOF Mauritius LLC	Mfg./Sale of drugs	15.00	3.42	
123. Vascular Concept Pvt. Ltd.	British Isles	Vascular Concept Holdings Ltd.	Pharmaceumcals	0.47	0.11	
124. Hexal Pharma P. Ltd.	Germany	Salutas Pharma GMBH	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	0.01	0.00	

125. Sheptodent Healthcare India Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Specialites Septodent S.A.	Healthcare Remedies	1.00	0.23
126. Solvay Pharma India Ltd.	Netherlands	Solvay Pharmaceuticals B.V.	Pharmaceuticals	5.39	1.20
127. Biogenex Life Sciences P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Biogenex Inc.	Bio-Sciences	0.00	0.00
128. Codeexis Laboratories India Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Codex Laboratories Mauritius Pvt. Ltd.	Drugs pharmaceuticals	0.01	0.00
129. Jyothy Laboratories Ltd.	Mauritius	South Asia Regional	Manufacture of pharmaceuticals products	25.22	6.25
130. Malladi Drugs and Pharma Ltd.	Mauritius	Dynamic India Fund	Sale of Ephedrine and other drugs	5.52	1.29
131. Arch Pharma Lab Ltd.	Mauritius	Dynamic India Fund	Active pharmaceuticals ingredients	3.71	0.87
132. Enaltec Pharma P. Ltd.	Hongkong	I and C (Hongknog) Ltd.	Pharma	0.02	0.00
133. Enaltech Labs Pvt. Ltd.	Saudi Arabia	Scitech Limited	Manufacture of active pharma ingerdients	1.12	0.23
134. Shantha Biotechnic Ltd.	France	Sanofi Pasteir MER	Mfg of vaccines	152.95	34.37
135. Shantha Biotechnics Ltd.	Country Details Awaited	Shan H	Manufacture of Medicines	46.34	9.95

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

265

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
136.	Patheon Pharmaceuticals India Pvt. Ltd.	Cyprus	Patheon Hoding Cyprus Ltd.	Providing manufacturing services for Pharmaceutical Products	0.01	0.00
137.	Biomab Pharmaceuticals (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Singapore	Dinesh Jain (First Holder)	Manufacture and sale of Biopharmaceuticals Products	0.00	0.00
138.	Jubilant Biosys Ltd.	Singapore	Jubilant Biosys (Singapore) Ltd.	Drug Discovery Services	6.63	1.36
139.	Jubilant Chemsys Ltd .	Singapore	Jubilant Drug Development Pvt. Ltd.	Medical Chemisty Services	1.04	0.21
140.	Sindhu Pharmaceuticals P. Ltd	Country Details Awaited	Indus Pharmaceuticals Inc.	Manufcturing of Drugs and Medicines	0.01	0.00
141.	Biomab Pharmaceuticals (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Singapore	Biomab Pharmaceuticals (Singapore) PTE L	Manufacture and sale of Biopharmaceuticals Products	0.01	0.00
GRAND TOTAL					22,469.30	4,650.32

Dependence of agriculture on rains

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over two-thirds of the agricultural land is still dependent on rains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that developed countries depend very little on rains; and

(c) if so, the action Government has taken to provide infrastructural support in the recent past to get rid of the dependence on rains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per available estimates (2009-10), net irrigated area (63.25 million ha) is about 35% of total arable land (182.5 million ha).

(b) No. As per International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, barring few countries like Israel, Japan, Netherlands and New Zealand, rest of developed countries have lesser percentage of area under irrigation, compared to India. Percentage of irrigated area to that of arable and permanent crop area (APC) in developed countries ranges from 4% to 100%, whereas in India, the same is about 35%. However, since most developed countries have temperate climate and rainfall is more or less uniform and well distributed, these countries witness less droughts compared to India.

(c) Irrigation is one of six components for development of rural infrastructure under 'Bharat Nirman'. Creation of irrigation potential under Bharat Nirman is met through completion of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation (MMI) projects, Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) of MMI projects and surface and ground water Minor Irrigation (MI) projects. Emphasis is also accorded to Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies. During the period 2005-06 to 2010-11, about 10.7 million ha additional irrigation potential has been created thereby enhancing net irrigated area to about 63 million ha.

To ensure effective utilization of available surface and sub-surface water resources in agriculture, National Mission on Micro Irrigation was launched to minimize water requirement and for extending availability of water over longer durations. Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development are also implementing watershed development programmes under which water harvesting structures are taken up to provide live saving irrigation to crops. Besides, under all major development programmes of Ministry of Agriculture, viz., Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) etc., construction of farm ponds and other means of water harvesting are encouraged to provide protective irrigation to farm lands.

Delayed project

*146. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest report (September, 2011) on the status of the 566 infrastructure projects in the Central sector, the road and highways sector has topped the list of delayed projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the report of September, 2011, out of the 566 infrastructure projects (Rs. 150 crore and above) which are being monitored by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, there were 234 delayed projects. Out of these delayed projects, 90 belonged to road and highways sector. Sector-wise details of 234 delayed projects are placed at Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The details of delayed road sector and highways projects are placed at Statement-II (*See* below).

Statement-I*Sector-wise details of delayed projects*

Sl. No.	Sector	Total no of Projects	Delayed Projects
1	2	3	4
1.	Atomic Energy	4	3
2.	Civil Aviation	5	3
3.	Coal	48	17
4.	Fertilisers	6	3
5.	Mines	1	0
6.	Steel	12	1
7.	Petrochemicals	1	0
8.	Petroleum	71	30
9.	Power	83	45
10.	Railways	132	26
11.	Road Transport and Highways	132	90
12.	Shipping and Ports	26	12
13.	Telecommunications	40	2
14.	Urban Development	4	1
15.	Water Resources	1	1
TOTAL		566	234

Statement-II

*List Of Delayed Projects National Highways Authority Of India
(NHAI) as on 30-09-2011*

Sl. No.	Title	Doc Orginal	Doc Anticipated	Tor in Month
1.	Haveri-Harihar (GQ) Km. 340-Km. 284 (NH-4)	08/2004	12/2011	88
2.	Harihar-Chitradurga (GQ) Km. 284-Km. 207 (NH-4)	08/2004	12/2011	88
3.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (GQ) Km. 338-Km. 284 (NH-5)	04/2004	12/2011	92
4.	Agra-Shikohabad (GQ) Km. 199.66-Km. 250.50 (NH-2)	03/2005	12/2011	81
5.	Haldia Port (Port Connectivity) (NH-41)	03/2005	12/2011	81
6.	Garhmukteshwar-Muradabad (NHAI) Others Km. 93-149.25, NH-24	09/2007	12/2011	51
7.	Hapur-Garhmukteswar (Others) Km.58-93, NH-24	09/2007	12/2011	51
8.	Gagodhar-Garamore (PK-IV, NH 15) Km 245 to 281.3 and 308 to 254	11/2007	12/2011	49
9.	Ganga Bridge to Ramdevi Crossing Ph.II NH-25, Km.75-80.06	09/2008	06/2012	45
10.	Bijni to Assam/Wb Border Ph.II, Km.30.00 to 0.00, NH-31 C	06/2005	12/2011	78
11.	Vijayapur to Pathankot (J and K) NH-1A Km. 16.35 to Km.50.00	03/2008	12/2011	45
12.	Vijayapur to Pathankot (NS-35/J And K) NH-1A Km.50 to Km.80	03/2008	12/2011	45
13.	Pathankot- Bhogpur, Km.26-Km.70, NH-1A	05/2008	08/2012	51

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

269

Sl. No.	Title	Doc Original	Doc Anticipated	Tor in Month
14.	Kotwa to Dewapur (10 LMNHP), NH-28 Phase-II, Km.440 to Km.402	10/2008	03/2012	41
15.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-5), NH-28, Km.208.00 to Km.164.00	10/2008	12/2011	38
16.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-5), NH-25, Km.220.0 to Km. 170.0	03/2008	03/2012	48
17.	Aurang-Raipur, NH-6, Km.232 to Km.281	01/2009	10/2011	33
18.	Madurai-Arupkottai-Tuticorin, Km.138.8 to Km.264.5, NH-45 B	11/2010	10/2011	11
19.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-23), Km.126.450 to Km.140.700	02/2009	12/2011	34
20.	Maibang to Lunding (AS-25), Km.83.400 to Km. 111.000	04/2009	07/2013	51
21.	Maibang to Lunding (AS-26), Km.60.500 to Km.83.400, NH-54	11/2008	12/2013	61
22.	Maibang to Lunding (AS-24), Km.111.000 to Km.126.450	11/2008	07/2013	56
23.	Maibang to Lunding (AS-27), km.40.000 to Km.60.500	04/2009	12/2011	32
24.	Dakoba to Nagaon (NH-36)(NHAI)	06/2008	10/2011	40
25.	Bijni to Assam Wb Border (NH-31 C)(1)(NHAI)	06/2008	12/2011	42
26.	Kasia to Gorakhpur (NH-28)(NHAI)	12/2008	12/2011	36
27.	Up/Bihar Border to Kasia (NH-28)(NHAI)	12/2008	12/2011	36
28.	Bijni to Assam/Wb.Border (NH-31. (C)(2)(NHAI)	06/2008	12/2011	42

270 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA] and Unstarred Questions

29.	Forbesganj to Simrahi (NH-57) (NHAI)	09/2008	12/2011	39	<i>Written Answers to Starred</i>
30.	Kota bypass RJ-4, NH-76 (NHAI)	10/2008	11/2011	37	
31.	Lalitpur to Sagar, NH-26 (NHAI)	11/2008	12/2011	37	
32.	Lalitpur to Sagar Km 132 to Km 187, NH-26 (NHAI)	10/2008	11/2011	37	
33.	Sagar By Pass Km 187 to Km 211, NH-26 (NHAI)	10/2008	12/2011	38	<i>[26 MAR. 2012]</i>
34.	Sagar-Rajmarg Choraha Km 211 to Km 255, NH-26 (NHAI)	10/2008	03/2012	41	
35.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhnandon Km 297 to Km 351, NH-26 (NHAI)	10/2008	12/2011	38	
36.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhnandon.Km 351 to Km 405.7, NH-26 (NHAI)	10/2008	12/2011	38	
37.	Siliguri to Islampur (WB-7)	07/2008	12/2012	53	<i>and Unstarred Questions</i>
38.	Ringbunds to Jhajhanpur (BR-6)	06/2008	10/2011	40	
39.	Jhajharpur to Darbanga (BR-7)	09/2008	12/2011	39	
40.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-8)	06/2008	12/2011	42	
41.	Sitapur-Lucknow	06/2009	12/2011	30	
42.	Thrissur to Angamali (NH-47)	03/2009	10/2011	31	
43.	Guwhati to Nalbari (AS-4)	04/2008	03/2012	47	
44.	New Mangalore Port NH-17 And 48	06/2008	12/2011	42	

Sl. No.	Title	Doc Original	Doc Anticipated	Tor in Month
45.	Nagaon to Dharamtul (AS-2)	06/2008	12/2011	42
46.	Sonapur to Guwahti (AS-3)	03/2008	12/2011	45
47.	Assam/WB Border Gairkatta (WB-1)	11/2008	01/2011	38
48.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-5)	04/2008	03/2012	47
49.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-6)	06/2008	12/2011	42
50.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-7)	04/2008	12/2011	44
51.	Dharamtul to Sonapur, Km 205-183 (AS-20)	05/2008	12/2011	43
52.	Dharamtul to Sonapur (AS-19)	06/2008	12/2011	42
53.	Nagpur-Kondhali, NH-6 (NHAI)	12/2008	10/2011	34
54.	Thanjaur-Trichy, NH-67 (NHAI)	06/2009	12/2011	30
55.	Ganjam-Icchapurum, NH-5 (NHAI)	02/2004	12/2012	106
56.	Harangajo to Maibang Km 164.08-190.587 NH-54	09/2007	12/2013	75
57.	Harangajo to Maibang, NH-54	07/2009	12/2013	53
58.	Brahmputra Bridge NH No-31	04/2010	03/2012	23
59.	Chambal Bridge, NH-76 (RJ-5)	02/2010	07/2013	41

272 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA] and Unstarred Questions

60.	Gorakhpur Bypass, NH-28, Phase-II East-West Corridor	10/2009	12/2011	26
61.	Gwalior Bypass, NH-75, 3	10/2009	06/2012	32
62.	Gwalior-Jhansi, NH-75	12/2009	06/2012	30
63.	Kosi Bridge Including Approaches and Guide Bond and Afflux-Bond (BR-5)	03/2010	12/2011	21
64.	Lakhnaadon to MP/MH Border, Km 596.75-653.22 (NS-1/BOT/MP-2), NH-7	06/2010	10/2012	28
65.	Lakhnadon to MP/MH BOR DER (NS-1/BOT/MP-2), NH-7	09/2009	10/2012	37
66.	Jhansi to Lalitpur, NH-25, 26	09/2009	02/2012	29
67.	Jhansi to Lalitpur, NH-26	09/2009	11/2011	26
68.	Agra-Bypass (NS-1/UP-1), NH-2, 3	09/2007	06/2013	69
69.	Trichy - Dindigul NH-45	07/2010	10/2011	15
70.	Puduchery-Tindivanau NH-66	07/2010	10/2011	15
71.	Trichy -Korur NH-67	07/2010	05/2012	22
72.	Salem - U/Undrupet (Bot-1/TN-06) NH-68	01/2011-	12/2011	11
73.	Neelamangalar Junction on NH-4 Smith NH-48 to Devihalli	07/2010	12/2011	17
74.	NH Connectivity to Ictt Vallarpadaeu NH-SH	02/2010	05/2012	27
75.	Dholpur - Morena Section (Including Chambol Bridge) NH-3	09/2010	06/2012	21
76.	Pathankot Bhogpur NH-1A	05/2010	12/2011	19
77.	Balasore Bhadrak (Revived) Km 136.5-199.14 NH-5	02/2004	12/2011	94

Sl. No.	Title	Doc Original	Doc Anticipated	Tor in Month
78.	Zirakpur (Haryana)-Parwanoo(Himachal Pradesh)	08/2010	12/2011	16
79.	End of Durg Bypass-Chhatisgarh/Maharashtra Border	01/2011	10/2011	9
80.	Delhi/Haryana Border to Rohtak	05/2010	12/2011	19
81.	Six Lanning of Vadakkancherry Thrissuresection (km 240-270km)	08/2012	10/2013	14
82.	Chilkaluripet-Vijaywada 6 Lane (Km 355 to Km 434.15)	10/2011	08/2012	10
83.	Bijapur-Hungund Section	09/2010	03/2013	30
84.	Surat- Dahisar (Six Lane) Km 263 to Km 502	08/2011	12/2011	4
85.	Gurgaon-Kotputli Km 42.70 to 54.4 Km	10/2011	06/2012	8
86.	Four Lanning from MP/Maharashtra Border to Nagpur, Nagpur Bypass	06/2011	10/2012	16
87.	Panipat-Jalandhar 6 Lane(Km 96 to 387.1 Km)	11/2011	06/2012	7
88.	Amritsar-Pathankot	11/2012	06/2013	7
89.	Silchar-Udarband (Ph. II) HN-54, Km.309 to Km.275	09/2007	03/2012	54
90.	Deewapur to Up/Bihar Border (LMNHP-9)-NH-28, Km.402-360.915	10/2008	06/2012	44
TOTAL				40

Legends

DOC - Date of Commissioning

TOR - Time Overrun

274 Written Answers to Starred [RAJYA SABHA] and Unstarred Questions

Setting up of Sanskrit University and Sanskrit Commission

*147. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to declare the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan as a Central University by an Act of Parliament;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon;
- (c) if not, by when a decision would be taken in this regard;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to establish a Sanskrit Commission that would update, complement and continue the work of the first Sanskrit Commission of 1956;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) have constituted an Expert Committee to consider the Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies during 15th World Sanskrit Conference which includes declaration of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan as a full fledged Central Sanskrit University by an Act of Parliament and establishment of Sanskrit Commission. The Committee is required to furnish its recommendations within 3 months.

Irregularities in issuance of international long distance licence

*148. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether serious irregularities have been reported in issuance of International Long Distance (ILD) licence by DoT to a company promoted by a Hong Kong based entity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether CVC has found that in purchase of WLL CDMA integrated Fixed Wireless Terminals by BSNL, a purchase of Rs. 104 crore was made from a company by extending undue favour and by violating guidelines of BSNL;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether responsibility has been fixed in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Sir, International Long Distance

(ILD) license is issued only to the Indian companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has referred a case related to M/s. Data Access India Limited (DAIL), an ILD licensee, to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for investigation. The ILD license issued to M/s DAIL in 2002 was suspended in the year 2005 due to non-compliance of the terms and conditions of the license. CBI is investigating the matter.

(c) to (g) CVC has examined the case of purchase of WLL/CDMA integrated Fixed Wireless Terminals by BSNL and referred the matter to CBI for investigation. CBI is investigating the matter.

Insurance cover to victims of railway accidents

*149. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compensation paid to the victims of railway accidents varies from person to person and class to class;

(b) whether Railways are contemplating to provide insurance cover to passengers of all classes;

(c) whether Railways intend to include insurance amount in the price of tickets; and

(d) if so, be when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) No, Sir. Compensation paid by the Railways to the victims of train accidents does not vary from person to person and class to class. Compensation to the victims of railway accidents is paid by the Railways after the same is decided by the Railway Claims Tribunal in terms of Railway Accidents and Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Rules, 1990 defining the rates of compensation in case of death/injury in train accidents/untoward incidents.

(b) No, Sir. No insurance cover has been taken at present by the Railways. Payment of compensation to the victims of train accidents or untoward incidents is made from the Railway's resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Payment of compensation for death/injury in train accident is a statutory liability under Section 124 of the Railways Act, 1989 and accordingly is being paid by the Railways from their own resources.

Railway coach factory at Palakkad, Kerala

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

(a) whether Railways have finally decided to set up a Railway coach manufacturing plant at Palakkad in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and by when the construction is expected to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Subsequent to approval by the Government, the project of setting up of a Rail Coach manufacturing unit has been included in the Railway Budget 2012-13 for seeking Parliamentary approval. The factory, with an annual production capacity of 400 coaches, is proposed to be set up at an estimated cost of Rs. 550 crores (excluding cost of land) as a Joint Venture in which Ministry of Railways shall invest 26% of the equity. After necessary approvals, Ministry of Railways shall purchase 239 acres of land for the factory from Government of Kerala at a cost of Rs. 33.7 crores, for leasing it to the Joint Venture. Construction for the project shall start after selection of Joint Venture partner and award of contract.

Role of private sector in production of seeds

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

(a) whether Government has stressed on the role of private sector in production of seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction during the last three years; and

(c) the incentives given to private sector in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Besides public sector seed agencies like National Seeds Corporation (NSC), State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI), State Seeds Corporations (SSCs) etc., the private sector is also playing an important role in the production, supply and distribution of quality seeds in the country. Seed production of field crops like cereals, oilseeds, pulses etc. are mostly being undertaken by government owned seed companies, while the private sector seed companies are predominantly producing seeds of vegetable crops, cotton and field crops like maize, hybrid paddy, sunflower etc. With the infusion of new seed production technologies like Bt cotton, hybrid maize etc., private seed sector is playing a significant role in augmenting supply of these seeds. During the year 2011-12, the production of certified/quality seeds in the country has reached around 353.62 lakh quintals out of which about 51% is produced by Government agencies and balance 49% is being produced by private seed companies.

Steps taken by the Government to encourage and promote the role of seed

companies including private sector companies for production of quality seeds include the following :-

- (i) Under the existing policy relating to seeds, the best planting material available in the world is allowed for import by private/public companies subject to quarantine regulations.
- (ii) FDI is allowed upto 100% under the automatic route in the development and production of seeds and planting material subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) Seed Companies are exempted from payment of VAT on Seeds.
- (iv) Under Section 35 of IT Act, 200% of the expenditure on R&D is allowed as weighted deduction to the seed industries having R&D centres recognized by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- (v) Under the Central Sector Scheme of 'Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds', there is a provision of back ended subsidy to private companies for creation of seed infrastructure like seed processing and seed storage facilities.

(c) Under the Central Sector Scheme 'Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds' under implementation from the year 2005-06 onwards, a specific component related to private sector *i.e.* "Assistance for Boosting Seed Production in Private Sector" is being implemented. Under this component credit linked back ended capital subsidy is provided at the rate of 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakh per unit on seed infrastructure development *viz.* seed processing facilities as well as seed storage facilities to supplement the efforts of Government so that quality seed can be made available to farmers. Private sector companies, individual entrepreneurs, self help groups, seed cooperatives and partnership firms are eligible for such subsidy. National Seeds Corporation is the nodal agency for implementing this component. State wise details of proposals for Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2008 to 2011-2012 till 31.01.2012) are given in Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	No. of Proposals	Processing capacity (Qtls.)	Storage capacity (Qtls.)	Subsidy released/ Committed (in Rs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	1060000	308229	52177154
2.	Bihar	1	10000	5739	756826
3.	Gujarat	17	280000	188782	15872815
4.	Haryana	29	557500	166029	22255240
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
6.	Karnataka	11	250000	81936	11619007
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7	125000	64919	4893836
8.	Maharashtra	13	221500	112939	13437047
9.	Orissa	5	100000	37983	4927323
10.	Punjab	33	660500	273316	27309205
11.	Rajasthan	11	230000	62388	7249808
12.	Tamil Nadu	25	325000	155074	11476832
13.	Uttar Pradesh	49	835000	108227	43434954
14.	Uttaranchal	35	720500	153476	38449763
15.	West Bengal	13	310000	200819	17448696
16.	Delhi	1	30000	2851	712195
TOTAL:		292	5715000	1922707	272020701

Production cost of urea

*152. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of urea varies substantially among industrial units in the country including GSFC-GNFC and IFFCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the production cost in public, cooperative and the private sector units and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce production cost of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Production cost of Urea varies

substantially among the urea manufacturing units in the country depending upon the feedstock used (*i.e.* natural gas/naphtha etc.), vintage of the urea plant, location of the Urea plant, company specific efficiency parameters etc.

(b) Production Cost (inclusive of return on capital) of Urea produced in Public, Private and Co-operative sector units is given in Statement. (*See below*)

(c) Government has notified a policy for conversion of all non-gas based units functioning on Naphtha and FO/LSHS to gas based. Sriram Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited has since been converted to gas. Besides, three units of National Fertilizers Limited viz. Panipat, Bhatinda, Nangal and GNVFC which are FO/LSHS based are in advance stage of conversion.

Statement

Cost of Production of Urea Units for the Year 2010-11

Sl. No.	Name of fertilizer unit	Reassessed urea capacity	Public, Cooperative and Private	State	Annual 2010-11 (Cost of Production) Rs/MT
1	2	3	3 (a)	3(b)	4
Gas based units					
1.	BVFCL - Namrup-III	315000	CPSU	Assam	9462
2.	IFFCO - Aonla-I	864600	Cooperative	Uttar Pradesh	8690
3.	Indo-Gulf -Jagdishpur	864600	Private	Uttar Pradesh	9695
4.	Kribhco - Hazira	1729200	Cooperative	Gujarat	7818
5.	NFL - Vijaipur-I	864600	CPSU	Madhya Pradesh	8362
6.	RCF-Trombay-V	330000	CPSU	Maharashtra	11471
7.	NFCL-Kakinada-I	597300	Private	Andhra Pradesh	8426
8.	CFCL Gadepan-I	864600	Private	Rajasthan	9955
9.	TCL-Babralla	864600	Private	Uttar Pradesh	9392
10.	KSFL-Shahjahanpur	864600	Private	Uttar Pradesh	9098
11.	NFCL-Kakinada-II	597300	Private	Andhra Pradesh	9080
12.	IFFCO-Aonla-II	864600	Cooperative	Uttar Pradesh	8922
13.	NFL-Vijaipur-II	864600	CPSU	Madhya Pradesh	9157
14.	IFFCO-Phulpur-I	551100	Cooperative	Uttar Pradesh	13483
15.	SFC-Kota	379500	Private	Rajasthan	11858

1	2	3	3 (a)	3(b)	(4)
16.	IFFCO-Phulpur-II	864600	Cooperative	Uttar Pradesh	13579
17.	CFCL-Gadepan-II	864600	Private	Rajasthan	11767
18.	GSFC-Baroda	370590	State JV	Gujarat	10550
19.	IFFCO-Kalol	544500	Cooperative	Gujarat	10744
20.	RCF-Thal	1706760	CPSU	Maharashtra	8798
21.	BVFCL-Namrup-II	240000	CPSU	Assam	12645
	SUB TOTAL	16007250			9730
Naphtha/FO/LSHS					
1.	MCFL-Managalore	379500	Private	Karnataka	28391
2.	MFL-Madras	486750	CPSU	Tamil Nadu	33133
3.	SPIC-Tuticorin	620400	Private	Tamil Nadu	31737
4.	ZIL-Goa	399300	Private	Goa	29234
5.	GNVFC-Bharuch	636900	State JV	Gujarat	15848
6.	NFL-Nangal	478500	CPSU	Punjab	25156
7.	NFL-Bhatinda	511500	CPSU	Punjab	25257
8.	NFL-Panipat	511500	CPSU	Haryana	24692
	SUB TOTAL	4024350			26326
	TOTAL	20031600			13064

Note: 1. RCF-Trombay-V suspended urea production w.e.f. year 2004-05, resumed production in year 2009-10.

2. SPIC-Tuticorin suspended urea production w.e.f. year 2007-08. , resumed production in year 2010-11

Train accidents

*153. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents which occurred during January and February, 2012;

(b) the details of passengers died/injured during the said period, accident-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Brahmaputra Mail (14055 UP) collided with a goods train on 11 January near Karanpura to Station and a passenger train collided with a heavy vehicle on an unmanned crossing in Kamrup district of Assam;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of persons who died/were injured;

(e) whether compensation has been announced to the victims/kins of victims; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) Category-wise number of consequential train accidents *i.e.*, collisions, derailments, manned level crossing accidents, fire in train and miscellaneous accidents, which took place during January and February, 2012 is as under:-

Type of Accident	January to February, 2012*
Collision	2
Derailment	10
Manned Level Crossing Accident	2
Fire in Train	1
Miscellaneous	1
TOTAL	16

Note: The above figures do not include incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users.

*Figures are provisional.

(b) Number of persons who lost their lives and sustained injuries in the above consequential train accidents is as under:-

Type of Accident	January to February, 2012	
	Died	Injured
Collision	5	44
Derailment	0	12
Manned Level Crossing Accident	3	1
Fire in Train	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
TOTAL	8	57

(c) and (d) On 11.01.2012 at about 05.45 hrs, while the Train No. 14055 Up Dibrugarh-Delhi Brahmaputra Mail was being admitted in the loop line at Karanpurato Station of Barharwa-Sahibganj section of Malda Division of Eastern Railway, one Goods Train No. UP DC 13189 NRPA Goods which had arrived on the mainline and got disabled due to loco failure, rolled back from the main line and side collided with the incoming 14055 Up Brahmaputra Mail. As a result, one coach of Brahmaputra Mail

and one wagon and Brake Van of the Goods Train derailed blocking through communication. 5 passengers of Brahmaputra Mail lost their lives in this incident and 9 passengers suffered simple injuries. Statutory inquiry into this incident is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Northeast Frontier Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. As per the preliminary report of CRS, the accident was caused due to non securing of the disabled Goods Train considering the rising gradient prevailing at Karanpurato Station yard. Accordingly, the cause of the accident has been attributed to Failure of Railway Staff.

On 03.02.2012 at about 09.15 hrs., while the Train No. 55805 New Bongaigaon -Guwahati passenger was on run between Mirza and Azara Stations of Kamakhya - Goalpara Town Section of Rangiya Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, one Excavator cum Loader (JCB) road Vehicle dashed against the train engine at unmanned level crossing No. NN 267-C resulting into derailment of the train engine and its nine coaches, out of which five coaches capsized. 03 persons including two road users lost their lives in this accident, 5 persons suffered grievous injuries and 9 suffered simple injuries. Statutory inquiry into this incident is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Northeast Frontier Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. As per the preliminary report of CRS, the accident was caused due to gross negligence of the road vehicle driver, who did not stop at the stop board provided at Level Crossing Gate in the face of approaching train before crossing the railway track as required of him under section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Accordingly, the cause of the accident has been attributed to 'Failure of persons other than Railway Staff.

(e) and (f) An amount of Rs. 5 lakhs has been announced as ex-gratia to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs. 10,000/- to simple injured in the incident of side collision of Train No. 14055 Up Brahmaputra Mail on Malda Division of Eastern Railway on 11.01.2012. An amount of Rs. 15,000/- has been paid as ex-gratia to the next of kin of the deceased railway passenger and Rs. 5000/- to each grievously injured railway passenger and Rs. 500/- to each simple injured railway passenger in the unmanned level crossing incident on Rangiya Division of Northeast Frontier Railway on 03.02.2012. Compensation is additionally payable to the railway passengers of the above accidents on the basis of claims to be filed by them in the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) and decrees to be awarded by the Tribunal.

Fertilizer plants in West Bengal

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

- (a) the status of CBM based new fertilizer plant in West Bengal;
- (b) the status of revival of Durgapur and Haldia Fertilizer Plants of HFCL;
- (c) whether reports of shortage and black market of fertilizer in West Bengal are being look into by Government; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Matix Fertilizer and Chemicals Limited, Greenfield Fertilizer Project at Panagarh, West Bengal is based on CBM gas supply from Essar Oil Limited's Raniganj CBM block. The project is at an advance stage of implementation. MATIX has reported the progress of the project is over 60% and is expected to be completed in a year's time.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECoS), CCEA has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for revival of closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited (FCIL), with the stipulation that Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR) proceedings be expedited and thereafter, the matter including changes, if any required in bid parameters, be placed before the Committee for final decision. HFCL and FCIL have submitted the Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (DRS) to BIFR for approval. BIFR has appointed the State Bank of India as Operating Agency for examining the DRSs.

(c) and (d) During the year 2011-12 (April 2011 to February 2012), there was no major shortage of fertilizers. The cumulative requirement, availability and sale of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers during the above period in West Bengal was as under:-

	Figures in 000 MTs		
	Requirement	Availability	Sale
Urea	12.21	10.95	10.79
DAP	4.98	4.62	4.14
MOP	3.82	2.61	2.26
Complex	8.58	8.10	6.92

Farm marketing

*155. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any committee on 'Farm Marketing';

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide remunerative prices to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) In order, to expedite the pace of reforms in agricultural marketing, Ministry of Agriculture constituted an Empowered Committee of State Ministers, in-charge of Agriculture Marketing on 2nd March, 2010.

The terms of reference of the Committee include (i) persuading States/Union Territories to implement reforms in agricultural marketing through adoption of Model Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act and Rules; (ii) suggesting further reforms necessary to provide a barrier free national market for the benefit of farmers and consumers; and (iii) suggesting measures to effectively disseminate market information and to promote grading, standardization, packaging and quality certification of agricultural produce.

The Committee deliberated upon various issues related to market reforms and has submitted its First Report to the Government on 8th September, 2011 which has been forwarded to all States/UTs for necessary action.

(c) The Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 25 major agricultural commodities to provide remunerative prices to the farmers each year in both the Crop seasons after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). MSP is the minimum guaranteed price for the farmers offered by the Government for their produce in case the market prices fall below that level.

The Government also offers Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and agricultural commodities generally perishable in nature and not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS) to protect the growers of these commodities. The MIS is implemented upon request by the State Governments when the prices tend to fall below economic levels/cost of production in order to avoid distress sale.

In addition, the Government is also implementing various Schemes for creation of marketing infrastructure, storage and post-harvest management of crops, all of which help to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.

Railway projects in Maharashtra

*156. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to increase budgetary allocation under Railways for Maharashtra as sought by the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether action has been taken by Railways on the projects recommended by the State Government of Maharashtra;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the details of progress and funds allocated to each project, so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) to (c) Budgetary allocation for ongoing projects is done project-wise and railway-wise and not state-wise. Allotment of funds is done depending upon target fixed for the year, progress achieved in different projects and availability of resources.

(d) to (g) A reference was received from Chief Minister, Maharashtra in December, 2009 regarding 12 new lines, 2 gauge conversion and 4 doubling projects. Out of these, Miraj-Latur gauge conversion has already been completed and works are in progress on 8 more projects as per the availability of resources. Out of the remaining works, surveys have been completed for 4 proposals and surveys are in progress for 3 proposals. Status of all 8 sanctioned projects and outlay during 2011-12 alongwith details of surveys mentioned above as under:-

Ongoing Projects:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Outlay 2011-12 (Rs. In crore)	Status
1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Vaijnath	55.00	Work taken up in phases. On 52 km Narayandoh-Ashti and 15 km Ahmednagar-Narayandoh, work taken up.
2.	Baramati-Lonand	10.00	Lonand-Phalton (27 km) track linking completed and CRS inspection planned shortly.
3.	Udhna-Jalgaon with electrification	200.00	Earthwork, bridges, ballast and track linking taken up. 60 km targeted for 2011-12.
4.	Amravati-Narkher	427.17	Track linking completed, CRS inspection planned shortly.
5.	Panvel-Pen	31.87	Work in advance stage and targeted for completion in 2011-12.
6.	Pen-Roha	30.00	Work in advance stage and targeted for completion in 2011-12.
7.	Wardha-Nanded (via Yavatmal-Pusad)	40.00	Estimate for Wardha-Yavatmal sanctioned. Earthwork and bridges taken up. Consultancy contract for tunnels awarded.
8.	Wadsa-Desaiganj-Gadchiroli	1.00	Work sanctioned. Preliminary activities taken up.

Details of surveys:-

Sl.No.	Name of the work	Status
1.	Manikgarh to Nanded via Adilabad - 59 km missing link from Gadchandur to Adilabad	Survey taken up.
2.	Manmad-Indore via Malegaon-Dhule-Shirpur	Survey completed.
3.	Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur	Survey completed.
4.	Pune-Nasik	Survey completed.
5.	Jalna-Khamgaon-Shegaon and Malkapur-Chikli	Survey completed.
6.	Kalyan-Nasik-Ahmednagar	Survey taken up.
7.	Kolhapur-Kankavali	Survey taken up.

Enrolment of SC, ST and Muslim girls in KGBVs

*157. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether any part of Tamil Nadu has been identified as Educationally Backward Block;

(b) the reasons for poor percentage of SC, ST and Muslim girls getting enrolled in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs); and

(c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to improve enrolment rate among SC, ST and Muslim girls in KGBVs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) 44 blocks in Tamil Nadu have been identified as Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs).

(b) and (c) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) provides for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities in EBBs. In view of the targeted nature of the scheme a minimum of 75% seats are earmarked for girls from SC, ST, OBC and minority communities, and for the remaining 25% priority is accorded to girls from families below the poverty line. As on date 3600 KGBVs have been sanctioned across the country of which 3439 are operational and 3,35,227 girls are enrolled therein. 92% girls who are enrolled are from SC, ST, OBC and minority communities and 8% are from BPL category as per the following break-up: 32% of SC category, 23% of ST category, 29% of OBC category, 8% from minority communities, and 8% from BPL category.

3G roaming controversy

*158. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the face-off between private telecom operators and Government over 3G roaming controversy continues;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the dispute would be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Private companies having .Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Service (UAS) Licence in a particular service area but who have not been allocated 3G spectrum and whose. Licences have also not been amended for use of 3G spectrum, are providing 3G services, which is against the terms and conditions of license. Accordingly instructions have been issued on 23.12.2011 to such companies to stop 3G services immediately. These companies have filed petitions in Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and on 24.12.2011, TDSAT has ordered that Department of Telecommunications (DoT) may not take any coercive action for enforcing the impugned order dated 23.12.2011. The matter is sub judice.

Death due to roof top travel

†*159. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many passengers travel on the roof of local trains in Mumbai and therefore the number of passengers dying due to electrocution has increased;
- (b) if so, the details of such deaths in the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether railway administration has completely failed to prevent it and it has become careless towards passengers and has restricted its role only to the announcement on the stations and in local trains;
- (d) if not, the number of persons against whom action has been taken in this regard; and
- (e) the complete details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact, there is marginal reduction in the incidents of deaths while travelling on roof

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

top of, local trains in Mumbai area in 2011. The year-wise details of such deaths reported during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of persons died
2009	13
2010	19
2011	18

(c) No, Sir. Besides making announcements through Public Address System about the impending dangers and resultant penalties, the following steps are being taken by the Railways:

- Regular drives are being conducted against travelling on roof top, foot board in coordination with Government Railway Police and Local Police and the offenders are prosecuted under the provisions of law.
- Awareness programmes are also launched time to time jointly with Local Police, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Scouts, Lions Club etc. urging the passengers to desist from travelling on the roof top of trains.
- Signboards and posters have been placed on platforms to create awareness amongst the passengers.

(d) and (e) Travelling on roof top of trains is a punishable offence under the provisions of the Railways Act and the offenders are prosecuted. The offenders prosecuted during the last three years in Mumbai area are as under:

Year	No. of persons prosecuted
2009	5383
2010	3751
2011	6220

Norms for safety at unmanned crossing

†*160. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of railway network in kilometres in the country and the number of new railway lines, for which construction work is in progress;

(b) the number of manned and unmanned railway crossings in the whole railway network;

(c) the norms/guidelines prescribed for safety at unmanned crossings;

(d) whether these norms/guidelines are completely followed at unmanned crossings; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) As on 31.3.2011, the length of railway network (route kilometres) is 64,460 kilometres and 129 ongoing new lines projects are in various stages of execution.

(b) As on 31.3.2011, there are 17,839 manned and 14,896 unmanned level crossings on Indian Railways.

(c) Safety norms to be observed by road-users while negotiating level crossings, have been provided in Section 131 of Motor Vehicle Act, and Section 161 of the Railways Act 1989 which stipulate precautions and responsibility enjoined on road users before going across unmanned level crossings. However, as a measure of abundant caution, speed breakers, rumble strips, road sign boards, whistle boards, etc. are provided by railways for cautioning the road users at unmanned level crossings.

(d) Yes, Sir. All measures to caution the road users are taken by Railways.

(e) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Criteria of fixing MSP

†1086. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any institution is in place to fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) of agri-products in the country;

(b) if so, the method and the criteria adopted for the same by the said institution;

(c) whether the Central Government has any monitoring mechanism to see whether the farmers are getting the due support price for their products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and in consultation with the states and concerned Central Ministries/Departments. The CACP while formulating its recommendations on price policy considers, *inter-alia*, a number of important factors which include cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, international market price situation etc.

(c) to (e) The Government ensures MSP through procurement operations undertaken by the Central, State and cooperative agencies in the states. However, if the market offers higher price than MSP, the farmers are free to sell at that price. Moreover, instructions are issued from time to time to ensure MSP to farmers.

Farm land under irrigation

1087. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 9 per cent of farm land in the country is irrigated;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has attached significant importance to increasing farm lands under irrigation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there are targets that have been set;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per available estimates (2009-10), about 63 million ha (45%) of the net sown area of 140 million ha is irrigated. The details of net irrigated area is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (g) Government gives significant importance to develop irrigation potential through Major and Medium Irrigation (MMI) projects which has increased irrigation potential from about 9.7 million ha in 1951 (pre-Plan stage) to about 45.6 million ha by March 2010. Technical and financial assistance is provided to State Governments through various schemes/programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) and Repair Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies etc.

A target to create additional irrigation potential of 16 million ha (9 million ha through major and medium irrigation and 7 million ha through minor irrigation projects) was set for XI Plan. This target was reduced during mid-term appraisal to 5.0 million ha through major/medium and 4.5 million ha through minor irrigation respectively.

Statement*State-wise extent of net sown area and net irrigated area (2009-10)*

(in thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	States	Net Sown Area	Net irrigated area	Rainfed area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9991	4214	5777
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	212	56	156
3.	Assam	2811	197	2614
4.	Bihar	5332	3394	1938
5.	Chhattisgarh	4683	1323	3360
6.	Goa	132	29	103
7.	Gujarat	10302	4336	5966
8.	Haryana	3550	3069	481
9.	Himachal Pradesh	542	108	434
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	735	317	418
11.	Jharkhand	1250	102	1148
12.	Karnataka	10404	3390	7014
13.	Kerala	2079	386	1693
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14972	6892	8080
15.	Maharashtra	17401	3254	14147
16.	Manipur	233	52	181
17.	Meghalaya	283	62	221
18.	Mizoram	123	10	113
19.	Nagaland	361	73	288
20.	Orissa	5574	2180	3394
21.	Punjab	4158	4073	85
22.	Rajasthan	16974	5850	11124
23.	Sikkim	77	14	63
24.	Tamil Nadu	4892	2864	2028
25.	Tripura	280	58	222

Sl.No.	States	Net Sown Area	Net irrigated area	Rainfed area
26.	Uttarakhand	741	338	403
27.	Uttar Pradesh	16589	13457	3132
28.	West Bengal	5256	3112	2144
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	15	0	15
30.	Chandigarh	1	1	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20	4	16
32.	Daman and Diu	4	0	4
33.	Delhi	22	22	0
34.	Lakshadweep	3	1	2
35.	Puducherry	19	16	3
TOTAL		140021	63254	76767

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture

Passage of part IXB of the Constitution

1088. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passage of Part IXB of the Constitution, relating to the cooperatives will be leveraged to coordinate the economic activities of cooperatives with development and welfare tasks of Panchayats in order to ensure the holistic progress of rural India as envisioned by the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Part IXB of the Constitution (Ninety Seventh Amendment) Act 2011 *inter-alia* provides as under :

- (i) Incorporation, regulation and winding up of cooperative societies based on the principles of voluntary formation, democratic member control, member economic participation and autonomous functioning.
- (ii) Specifying the maximum number of directors of a co-operative society to be not exceeding twenty-one members.
- (iii) Providing for a fixed term of five years from the date of election in respect of the elected members of the board and its office bearers; and

an authority or body for the conduct of elections to a cooperative society.

- (iv) Providing for a maximum time limit of six months during which board of directors of a co-operative society could be kept under supersession or suspension.
- (v) Providing for independent professional audit.
- (vi) Providing for right of information to the members of the co-operative societies.
- (vii) Empowering the State Governments to obtain periodic reports of activities and accounts of co-operative societies.
- (viii) Providing for the reservation of one seat for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes and two seats for women on the board of every cooperative society, which have individuals as members from such categories.
- (ix) Providing for offences relating to co-operative societies and penalties in respect of such offences.

It is expected that these provisions will not only ensure autonomous and democratic functioning of cooperatives, but also ensure the accountability of the management to the members and other stakeholders. Therefore, the passage of Part IXB of the said Act relating to the co-operatives will encourage economic activities of cooperatives which in turn help progress of rural India.

Setting up of centre for cotton excellence in Gujarat

1089. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than one third of country's cotton is produced in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, Government's efforts to start good cotton practices in the country, particularly in Gujarat;
- (c) the vision of Government to increase cotton production in the country during next five years;
- (d) the technological, financial and institutional help from Government for cotton production; and
- (e) whether Government would approve setting up of a Centre for Cotton Excellence in Gujarat to boost cotton production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The cotton production in Gujarat was 104.00 lakh bales of 170 kg each, which is about 31.50% of total cotton production (330.00 lakh bales of 170 kg each) of the country during 2010-11.

(b) to (d) The Government is already implementing Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) under which technological, financial and institutional assistance is being provided for increasing cotton production in the country. Under Mini Mission-II of TMC which is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, assistance is being provided to the farmers on various inputs like seeds, agriculture implements, water-saving devices, bio-agents/bio-pesticides, integrated pest management, transfer of crop production and plant protection technologies through demonstrations, and training of farmers under farmers field schools, etc. to promote good cotton practices in the country including Gujarat State, which would further boost cotton productivity and production in the country. Under the XIth Plan an amount of Rs. 26.44 crore has been allocated under MM-I by DARE for research and Rs. 207.19 crore (Central share) released under MM-II by DAC for cotton development in the country including Gujarat.

(e) To boost cotton production in Gujarat, the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur and All India coordinated Cotton Improvement Project (AICCIP) of the ICAR are conducting basic, strategic, applied research and development in cotton through Navasari Agricultural University and Junagarh Agricultural University. Besides, Krishi Vigyan Kendras are disseminating the scientific cotton production technologies in the state.

Help to potato growers

1090. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that potato growers across the county were forced to sell potatoes at a loss or just dumped in the open after two bumper crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's plan to help farmers in such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) Country produces potato crop annually in two harvest seasons, Kharif and Rabi. Kharif produce is available in the market from August to October, which accounts for 15% to 20%. The rabi crop is harvested from mid-December to mid-April, which accounts for 80% to 85%. Only, the rabi potato is stored till November and is made available steadily for domestic as well

as export market. Generally, prices are minimum during January to March, because of more arrivals of rabi crop leading to fall in prices. During the current year (2011-2012) potato production in the country is expected to be around 436.45 lakh MT which is more as compared to last year. The prices of potato by and large are governed by the market forces of demand and supply. Model prices of potato in different producing market is presently ranging between Rs. 350 to 450 per quintal and in consuming market ranging between Rs. 450 to Rs. 1000 per quintal.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, upon receipt of proposals from State Governments implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, under which losses, if any, are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50 basis. During the current year, MIS proposal from Uttar Pradesh for procurement of 100,000 MT of potato @ Rs. 328 per qtl. was agreed to. No other State Government has approached for implementation of MIS for potato.

Further, Government of India provides assistance under Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) schemes for development of infrastructure for post harvest management including establishment of cold storages and setting up of terminal markets, wholesale markets and rural primary markets/apni mandies to ensure adequate supply of fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers. In addition, National Horticulture Board (NHB) provides assistance for establishment of cold storages for horticultural commodities including potato.

Suicides by farmers

1091. SHRI M.P.ACHUTHAN:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn into the incidents of farmers suicides in several States this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of farmers committed suicides, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these farmers were heavily burdened with loan and were not getting even the MSP for their produce and become totally unable to pay their loans;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken to provide relief to such farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) (a) and (b) Incidents of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons in 2011 have been reported in Andhra Pradesh (109) and Maharashtra (123) and in 2010-11 in Karnataka (77) by respective State Government.

(c) to (e) Reasons of suicide by farmers, as reported by State Governments, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal.

Steps taken by Government of India to address the problem and provide relief to farmers include following:

- (i) Implementation of Rehabilitation Package covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, under which an amount of Rs. 19910.70 crore has been released till June 30, 2011.
- (ii) Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, which benefitted about 3.69 crore farmers involving debt waiver relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.
- (iii) Increasing credit flow to agriculture sector to Rs. 468291.28 crore, as of March, 2011, Target of credit flow for 2011-12 has been raised to Rs. 475000 crore, against which achievement as of November 2011 is Rs. 294023 crore.
- (iv) Providing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in time bound manner to facilitate flow of credit to farmers and increase financial inclusion. Up to October 2011, 10.78 crore KCC have been issued.
- (v) Providing interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh, whereby effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time has come down to 4% per annum.
- (vi) This benefit of pre-harvest interest rate subvention is now available also to small and marginal farmers having KCC for further period of up to six months post-harvest on same rate as for crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouse.
- (vii) Announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative price and increase farmers' income. MSP of major agricultural commodities has been stepped up significantly e.g., during 2004-05 to 2011-12, range of increase in MSP is from 80% in case of Groundnut to 148% for pulses (Moong).

Moreover, in order to revitalize agriculture sector and improve conditions of farmers on sustainable basis, other measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through

implementation of various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, Watershed Management, Soil Health and Fertility Management etc.

Recommendation of National Commission on Farmers

†1092. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers had recommended to provide loan to farmers at the interest rate of 4 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has implemented the recommendation of the Commission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (e) The National Commission on Farmers in their Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers (RDNPF) has recommended that the interest rate should be as low as possible.

The Government is providing crop loans to farmers upto a principal amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh at 7% rate of interest since 2006-07. In the year 2009-10, Government provided an additional 1% interest subvention to those farmers who repaid their short term crop loans as per schedule. The additional subvention for timely repayment of crop loans was raised from 1% to 2% in 2010-11 and further to 3% in the year 2011-12. Thus the effective rate of interest for farmers who repay their crop loan as per payment schedule fixed by the banks becomes 4% per annum during 2011-12. Interest subvention scheme for providing short term crop loans to farmers at 7 per cent interest per annum alongwith additional subvention of 3 per cent available for prompt paying farmers has been continued for the year 2012-13.

Price-rise of pulses

†1093. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the retail prices of pulses are continuously increasing for last several months;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government to control the retail prices of pulses and the extent to which success is achieved therein;

(c) whether a heavy decline in the production of Kharif crop is expected in the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of Government's action plan to ensure supply as per the demand and to keep its prices under control; and

(e) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Retail prices of pulses are showing mixed trends with fluctuations from month to month in major metro cities during last one year. Details are given as Statement (*See* below)

Steps taken by the Government to control the retail prices of Pulses are given below:-

- (i) Reduced import duties to zero for Pulses.
- (ii) Banned export of pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses up to a maximum of 10,000 tonnes per annum)
- (iii) Imposed stock limits on pulses from time to time.
- (iv) Suspension of futures trading in urad and tur by the Forward Market Commission continues.
- (v) Extended the scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through State Governments/UTs with subsidy of Rs. 10Akg. for distribution to BPL Families @ 1 kg per month upto 31st March, 2012.

(c) to (e) As per the second advanced estimates (2011-12) of Kharif pulses production in 2011-12 is estimated at 6.39 million tonnes which is marginally less by 3.4 lakh tonnes from the target of 6.73 million tonnes, fixed for the Kharif crop.

In order to enhance the production and productivity of pulses in the country, National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses) is being implemented since 2007-08. Presently, NFSM-Pulse is under implementation in 468 districts of 16 States. Under the programme, assistance is being provided for seed production, seed distribution, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Weedicides, Improved farm implements, assistance for increased water use efficiency through distribution of sprinklers, pipeline for carrying water to the fields and pumpsets etc. Besides, training of farmers and extension workers is also organised for transfer of latest production technology.

In addition, to demonstrate the production and protection technology of pulses to the farmers on their fields through compact area approach, Accelerated Pulse Production Programme (A3P) is implemented in the country with 600 units (one unit of 1000 ha each) and 0.60 million ha area during 2010-11 and 400 units (one unit of 1000 ha each) 0.40 million ha area proposed for coverage under A3P during 2011-12.

Further a programme of Integrated Development of 60,000 pulses Villages in Rainfed Area is also being implemented in 11 major pulses growing States namely A.P, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, M.P., Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and U.P. in the country to provide the support for in situ moisture conservation, accelerated pulses production programme with inclusion of minikits and pests surveillance and market linked extension support through Small Farmers Agriculture Consortium (SFAC) for framework of Farmers Producer Groups (FPOs) and extending end to end support to the farmers for ensuring better economic return to the farmers.

Statement
Monthly Retail Price of Pulses for Major Centres

(in Rs. per kg.)

Centre Name	Jan. 2011	Feb. 2011	Mar. 2011	Apr. 2011	May. 2011	June. 2011	Jul. 2011	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2011	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Jan. 2012	Feb. 2012
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Arhar (Split)														
Mumbai	75	78	82	72	70	75	80	78	80	82	80	70	60	62
Delhi	70	75	75	72	65	68	72	75	75	72	75	70	68	65
Chennai	69	66	65	64	65	63	65	68	70	75	75	55	57	65
Kolkata	70	72	75	72	70	75	76	78	75	76	80	75	67	60
Masur (Split)														
Mumbai	58	60	56	52	50	52	52	54	56	60	56	52	48	46
Delhi	54	54	55	50	52	54	54	55	56	54	54	50	50	50
Chennai	55	45	43	43	42	40	41	40	45	42	43	48	43	44
Kolkata	58	60	56	56	56	60	56	52	50	50	50	50	52	56
Moong (Split)														
Mumbai	70	75	72	68	68	75	80	85	85	80	75	68	64	64

Written Answers to Starred

[26 MAR. 2012]

and Unstarred Questions

301

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Delhi	80	76	78	74	72	75	75	75	72	75	75	72	70	68
Chennai	75	75	70	72	72	76	80	84	80	75	72	70	65	63
Kolkata	85	85	80	80	80	82	82	82	85	90	87	75	92	90
Urad (Split)														
Mumbai	72	72	76	72	72	73	75	70	68	68	68	68	66	68
Delhi	82	78	80	76	75	78	78	72	72	75	75	72	70	68
Chennai	70	76	78	75	70	75	76	68	65	66	65	65	51	50
Kolkata	70	70	65	65	60	62	62	62	68	68	68	68	65	65
Gram (Split)														
Mumbai	42	44	45	44	43	42	44	45	46	58	54	54	54	55
Delhi	32	36	32	30	32	35	40	40	50	52	54	50	50	52
Chennai	41	39	35	35	37	41	46	46	50	52	51	46	47	46
Kolkata	40	40	42	42	42	42	42	45	55	52	52	55	52	52

Source:- Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Contribution of agriculture in GDP

†1094. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the decline in the growth rate of agricultural production would adversely affect the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product of the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the contribution of agriculture sector being assessed in the Gross Domestic Product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Due to structural changes in the economy, share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country is declining over the years. However, as a result of various initiatives taken by the Government to enhance production and productivity in the agriculture sector, the production of foodgrains has increased from 230.8 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 244.8 million tonnes in 2010-11. Further, as per the latest estimates, the foodgrains production has touched a record high at 250.4 million tonnes in 2011-12.

(b) The Government of India has launched several schemes to improve production and productivity of crops. Some of the major schemes are Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facility for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticultural Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc.

(c) As per the latest available estimates from Central Statistics Office (CSO) the share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in GDP of the country at 2004-05 prices was at 13.9% in 2011-12. The share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in GDP of the country declined from 16.8% in 2007-08 to 14.7% in 2009-10 and further to 14.5% in 2010-11.

Increase in non-performing assets in agriculture sector

†1095. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of loan provided by banks to agriculture sector from the year 2006-07 till date has been increased considerably;

(b) if so, the amount of loan received by agriculture sector from banks in April, 2006 of the financial year 2006-07 and in December, 2011;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the amount of non-performing assets has also increased due to the failure of making payment of loans during the said period; and

(d) if so, out of the total non-performing assets, the amount of non-performing assets from the agriculture sector during both the periods mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The agricultural credit provided by the banks has increased from Rs. 2,29,400 crore during the financial year 2006-07 (1st April, 2006 to 31st March, 2007) to Rs. 4,68,291 crore during the financial year 2010-11 (1st April, 2010 to 31st March, 2011). The credit flow during the year 2011-12 (1st April, 2011 to 31st December, 2011) is Rs. 3,40,716 crore.

(c) and (d) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of scheduled commercial banks in respect of advances to agriculture sector has increased from Rs. 6,718 crore as on April, 2006 to Rs. 23,390 crore as on December, 2011. As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), NPAs of Cooperative Banks has decreased from Rs. 33,166.95 crore as on 31st March, 2007 to Rs. 31,248.14 crore as on 31st March, 2010 and NPAs of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) has decreased from Rs. 1,603.61 crore during the year 2007-08 to Rs. 1,461.02 crore during the year 2010-11.

Growth rate of agriculture sector

†1096. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of agriculture sector in the country is expected to decline in the year 2011-12 as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the decline expected in the growth rate of agricultural production as per the indications received till date; and

(c) the likely reasons of this decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) As per the advance estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 7th February, 2012, Agriculture and Allied Sector is estimated to grow at 2.5% in 2011-12 at 2004-05 prices. Earlier released quick estimates have stated that in 2010-11 the growth rate was 7.0 per cent. The decline in the growth rate in 2011-12 is due to high base effect. However, as a result of various initiatives taken by the Government to enhance production and productivity in the agriculture sector, the production of foodgrains has increased

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

from 230.8 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 244.8 million tonnes in 2010-11. Further, as per the latest estimates, the foodgrains production has touched a record high at 250.4 million tonnes in 2011-12.

Illegal fishing by foreign vessels

1097. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of illegal fishing by foreign vessels in the E.E.Z. under the Letter of Permits (LoP) Scheme;

(b) the steps Government has taken to prevent the LoP Scheme from being misused; and

(c) the number of illegal foreign vessels caught in Indian territory under this scheme during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) The Government issues Letter of Permit (LoP) to eligible Indian entrepreneurs allowing them to fish in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries considers proposals of Indian entrepreneurs for grant of Letter of Permit in accordance with the prescribed norms and guidelines and advises the Government on implementation of any other aspects of Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy as and when referred to it. Besides, the Government has constituted specific Expert Groups/Committees to revalidate potential of fishery resources, to review deep sea guidelines and to streamline existing procedures for issuing the Letter of Permit (LoP). No vessel that has been issued LoP has been apprehended by Coast Guard for illegal fishing.

Plan for proper share in profit for farmers

†1098. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of the country are becoming labourers due to increase in cost of production and decrease in profit throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is making any plan for agriculture and farmers so that they can get proper share in the profit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The number of such farmers who have become labourers due to increase in cost of production and decrease in profit

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is not available. However, as per National Sample Survey's Report on Employment and Unemployment (Report No. 537), the estimated number of persons per 1000 persons having their income as self employed in agriculture has reduced from 398 in 2004-05 to 355 in 2009-10 and total rural labour including agriculture labour has increased from 346 in 2004-05 to 387 in 2009-10.

(c) and (d) Profit margins measured in terms of returns on per hectare cost of cultivation depends on a number of factors which *inter-alia* includes efficiency in use of inputs, weather conditions, availability of credit, yield levels, etc.

The effect of rising input cost of cultivation is balanced by way of assuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) that help the farmers to receive adequate return on their investment. Several Central Government agencies and State level bodies through their procurement operations in a market help the farmers sell their produce at MSP especially when market prices rule below MSP for those commodities.

In order to make agriculture a profitable venture, Government of India has launched several schemes to increase investments in agriculture sector, for accelerating agricultural growth and to raise farm incomes, such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Missions (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of oilseeds Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc. In addition, Government has substantially improved the availability of farm credit; implemented a rehabilitation package for areas with higher agrarian stress; a massive programme of debt waiver; introduced better crop insurance schemes. The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 approved by Government also aims to improve economic viability of farming.

Proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh for drought relief

1099. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry for providing Rs. 1500 crores as financial assistance for drought;

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

(c) the action the Ministry has taken on the above proposal so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh sent the revised Memorandum seeking Central financial assistance of Rs. 3006.41 crores from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for 876 mandals covering 22 districts due to drought of 2011-12 for taking up the relief measures in the wake of drought.

(c) Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the drought affected areas in Andhra Pradesh and the proposal for giving the Central financial assistance is under consideration of the Government of India.

Dairy development in Madhya Pradesh

†1100. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allocated for dairy development under National Agricultural Development Programme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the amount allocated for Madhya Pradesh out of this; and
- (c) by when National Dairy Programme is expected to begin in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The allocation of funds for National Agriculture Development Programme during Twelfth Five Year Plan has not been finalized.

(c) The implementation of National Dairy Plan (NDP-I) will commence after Government of Madhya Pradesh concurs to the key policy/regulatory measures for the successful implementation of NDP-I and the sub project plans of End implementing Agencies (EIAs) in Madhya Pradesh are approved.

Amount proposed to dairy development

†1101. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount proposed to be spent on dairy development activities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) what percentage it is of the expenditure on agriculture development activities and the amount prescribed for it, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there has been constant decrease in the number of animals;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures Government is going to take for encouraging animal husbandry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) An amount of Rs. 594.67 crore has been allocated for the Dairy Development schemes viz. Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP), Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Production (SIQ-CMP), Assistance to Cooperative (A to C), Dairy Entrepreneurship Development (DEDS) scheme and National Dairy Plan (NDP) during 11th Plan.

The scheme wise Xlth plan allocation and expected expenditure is as under:

Name of scheme	(Rs. in crore)	
	11th Plan outlay	Eleventh Plan outlay (revised)
IDDP and CMP	225.00	282.00
Assistance to Cooperative	50.0	50.00
DVCF	300.00	250
NDP	100.00	(2011-12) 12.67
TOTAL	675	594.67

(b) As the schemes are demand driven, hence no amount is prescribed state-wise for allocation of funds for dairy development.

(c) and (d) As per Livestock Census, number of Livestock in the country is not constantly decreasing which is evident from the information given below.

Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2010

All India	Livestock Population (in Million)
1987	445.29
1992	470.86
1997	485.39
2003	485.00
2007\$	529.70

\$ Provisional

(e) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing the following schemes for encouraging animal husbandry.

- Intensive Dairy Development Programme
- National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
- Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- National Dairy Plan Phase I
- Livestock Health and Disease Control
- Fodder and Feed Development scheme

Rehabilitation package for suicideprone areas

1102. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rehabilitation package for suicide-prone areas/districts has been put in place;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has put in place a mechanism to check, if suicides, as a result of this package have lessened; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to launch similar packages in the rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) In 2006, Government of India approved Rehabilitation Package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 identified districts in Andhra Pradesh (16), Karnataka (6), Kerala (3) and Maharashtra (6). Rehabilitation Package included both immediate and medium-term measures to be implemented over a period of 3 years and aimed at 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, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. For alleviating hardship faced by debt stressed families of farmers, provision of ex-gratia assistance from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund @ Rs. 50 lakh per district was also made in Rehabilitation Package. Time limit for implementation of non-credit components of package was extended by 2 years *i.e.* up to 30.09.2011. Implementation period of the package has ended on 30.09.2011. An amount of Rs. 19910.70 crore has been released under this package till 30.06.2011.

Government also approved package for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-System and package for Mitigation of Agrarian Distress in Idukki district in Kerala, which are under various stages of implementation.

Progress of implementation of Rehabilitation Package is monitored regularly. Number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons, as reported by State Governments, has declined since implementation of Rehabilitation Package.

(d) Since approval and implementation of Rehabilitation Package, Government of India has taken several comprehensive measures aimed at revitalizing agriculture sector, which, *inter-alia*, include launching of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation etc., which will lead to increased investment, productivity and production in agriculture and allied sectors and benefit farmers. There is no plan to launch similar packages in rest of the country.

Suicides by farmers in Vidarbha

1103. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who committed suicides in Vidarbha region since 2005;

(b) the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the number of suicides?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in identified districts in Vidarbha region, which are included in Rehabilitation Package, since 2005, as reported by Government of Maharashtra, is 276 (2005), 565 (2006), 350 (2007), 340 (2008), 273 (2009), 275 (2010) and 209 (2011).

(c) Steps taken by Government of India to prevent suicide by farmers, improve their condition on sustainable basis and revitalize agriculture sector include following:

- (i) Implementation of Rehabilitation Package covering 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, under which an amount of Rs. 19910.70 crore has been released till June 30, 2011.
- (ii) Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, which benefitted about 3.69 crore farmers, involving debt waiver/relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.
- (iii) Increasing credit flow to agriculture sector to Rs. 468291.28 crore, as of March, 2011. Target of credit flow for 2011-12 has been raised to Rs. 475000 crore, against which achievement as of November 2011 is Rs. 294023 crore.
- (iv) Providing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in time bound manner to facilitate flow of credit to farmers and increase financial inclusion. Up to October 2011, 10.78 crore KCC have been issued.
- (v) Providing interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh, whereby effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time has come down to 4% per annum.
- (vi) This benefit of pre-harvest interest rate subvention is now available also to small and marginal farmers having KCC for further period of up to six months post-harvest on same rate as for crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouse.
- (vii) Announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified

agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative price and increase farmers' income. MSP of major agricultural commodities has been stepped up significantly e.g., during 2004-05 to 2011-12, range of increase in MSP is from 80% in case of Groundnut to 148% for pulses (Moong).

Other measures taken by Government, *inter-alia*, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through implementation of various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, Watershed Management Soil Health and Fertility management etc.

Reintroduction of cotton seeds under ECA

1104. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has brought cotton seeds under Essential Commodity Act and wants to deregulate cotton seeds prices;
- (b) whether this will only help private seeds companies to take undue advantage of the situation;
- (c) whether Government is willing to make rules to regulate prices of cotton;
- (d) whether reintroduction of cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act is not against policies of reforms, liberalization, market led economy and WTO obligations; and
- (e) whether Union Government would consider to empower States to regulate the BT cotton prices in case it is not regulating the prices of BT cotton seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Cotton seed has been re-introduced in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by notifications issued by Department of Consumer Affairs on 22.12.2009, 18.06.2010 and 22.12.2010 to protect the interest of cotton producing farmers by regulating the production, supply, distribution and quality of cotton seeds. Though this inclusion strengthens the cotton seed quality regulation and acts as a deterrent against sale of spurious cotton seeds, it does not provide for any price regulation of cotton seeds. Moreover, there is also no provision for regulating the price of seeds including cotton seeds under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Although seed is an essential commodity in terms of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, the same is for the purpose of quality regulation and not for the purpose of regulating the price of seeds.

(b) No, Sir. The inclusion of cotton seed as an essential commodity under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 not only helps in ensuring production, supply and distribution of quality seeds to the cotton farmers but also strengthens the cotton seed quality regulation by acting as a deterrent against sale of any spurious/sub-standard seeds,

(c) At present, there is no proposal with the Government to make rules to regulate the prices of seeds including cotton seeds.

(d) The re-introduction of cotton seeds under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 only regulates production, supply, distribution and quality of cotton seeds and does not regulate the prices of cotton seeds and hence, is not against the policies of reforms, liberalization, market led economy and WTO obligations.

(e) No, Sir. It is not desirable to regulate the price of Bt. cotton seeds as a competitive and vibrant seeds industry would be able to serve the interest of the farmers by ensuring timely availability of quality seeds at reasonable prices.

Deep-sea fishers in EEZ

1105. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set targets for deep-sea fisheries production and operation of deep-sea trawlers and fishing boats for the Twelfth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that the target has been revised downwards recently;

(c) if so, the reasons for downward revision of such targets;

(d) how does Government proposes to expand the capacity of deep-sea fisheries in the EEZ and other areas; and

(e) the steps proposed to create a good atmosphere for expansion of deep-sea fisheries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The government periodically assesses the potential of deep sea fishery through constitution of an Expert Committee. As per the Expert Committee for revalidation of potential fishery resources in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that was constituted in 2009, the potential yield, which was previously estimated at 3.92 million tonnes in 2000 has now been revalidated to 4.41 million tonnes. The fleet plan for EEZ is based on this assessment of fishery resources. Besides, the Government through Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee and specific Expert Groups/Committees reviews the deep sea guidelines and policies to provide enabling environment for the growth of deep sea fisheries.

Green revolution in rainfed agriculture States

1106. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vagaries of nature, especially unseasonal floods and dry spell, remains a bane for agriculture in State like Assam in the NE Region which is more rainfed than irrigated:

(b) if so, the details of steps taken for a possible green revolution in such States; and

(c) the details of steps taken against the stagnation of productivity and gradual shrinkage of agriculture land due to erosion and conversion of land into Industrial and residential use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) Vagaries of nature like frequent floods and dry spell is one of the major constraints of agriculture in Assam and other North Eastern States which are predominantly rainfed. For increasing the production and productivity of various crops, the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and the programme of Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI) are being implemented in Assam. Besides, several crop development programmes such as Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Development Programme for Pulses and Oilseeds, Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) etc. are also being implemented in many States of the region under Macro Management of Agriculture. Apart from Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), a separate sub-scheme of RKVY namely Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion (INSIMP) is also being implemented in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

For the development of watershed, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in Catchment of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA) are being implemented with a view to maintain balance in various types of land uses as part of such developed land are put to cultivation. To develop horticultural crops, Scheme on Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalyan States (HMNEH) is also being implemented.

For mitigating and adaptation under flood conditions, many flood tolerant varieties of rice such as Plaban, Jalashri, Jalkuanwri are recommended. Besides, district level crop contingency plan has been developed to implement alternate crop and cropping systems in the event of extreme climatic events like floods, prolong dry spells, drought etc.

Suicides by farmers in West Bengal

1107. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers have committed suicide since October, 2011 in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to give any special package to the State, keeping in view the large number of suicides;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Government of West Bengal has informed that information is in process of compilation.

(c) to (e) There is no plan to give any special package to the State. Government has taken various measures to revitalize agriculture sector and to improve conditions of farmers in the country on sustainable basis, which include following:

- (i) Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, which benefitted about 3.69 crore farmers, involving debt waiver/relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.
- (ii) Increasing credit flow to agriculture sector to Rs. 468291.28 crore, as of March, 2011. Target of credit flow for 2011-12 has been raised to Rs. 475000 crore, against which achievement as of November 2011 is Rs. 294023 crore.
- (iii) Providing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in time bound manner to facilitate flow of credit to farmers and increase financial inclusion. Up to October 2011, 10.78 crore KCC have been issued.
- (iv) Providing interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh, whereby effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time has come down to 4% per annum.
- (v) This benefit of pre-harvest interest rate subvention is now available also to small and marginal farmers having KCC for further period of up to six months post-harvest on same rate as for crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouse.
- (vi) Announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative price and

increase farmers' income. MSP of major agricultural commodities has been stepped up significantly e.g., during 2004-05 to 2011-12, range of increase in MSP is from 80% in case of Groundnut to 148% for pulses (Moong).

Other measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through implementation of various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission. National Mission on Micro-Irrigation. Watershed Management, Soil Health and Fertility management etc.

Research and development in agriculture sector

1108. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) proposes to re-orient its research and development in agriculture and bridge critical gaps during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (d) whether there is also a need to revise the course curriculum of agricultural education to make it more relevant and farmers friendly; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed by Government for such revision; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) ICAR makes regular and continued efforts to reorient and evolve its R and D activities in the context of emerging challenges and needs of agriculture. New tools of science such as marker assisted selection, gene prospecting and allele mining, gene knock down technology, bioremediation, nanotechnology, alongwith validation of research results in farmers' fields and scaling up models through agri-incubators and programmes have been incorporated in the R and D process.

(d) to (f) The course curriculum of different courses are being revised at regular intervals to make the programmes updated and relevant to farmers' needs. The steps taken include revision of Under Graduate course through IV Deans' Committee in 2007; Post-Graduate courses in 2009; establishment of Experiential Learning Units and Niche Areas of Excellence in different Universities to provide for hands-on training, skilled entrepreneurship development among students in different areas of agriculture.

Utilization of funds by ARIAS

1109. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of amount received by the Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Service Society (ARIAS) from the Central Government and International funding agencies like Asian Development Bank, World Bank etc. since its inception;

(b) the project-wise total outlay, allocation made, amount released, utilization and achievement made by the ARIAS with the funds received including district-wise details till date; and

(c) the details of proposals received and proposals sanctioned to the voluntary organizations under Social Management Unit of ARIAS including utilization and achievement made on each proposal by the voluntary organizations for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Service Society (ARIAS) receives fund from Government of Assam for implementation of Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP, Based on expenditure incurred ARIAS Society submits claim for reimbursement to the World Bank. Details of funds received by ARIAS since inception is given at Statement-I. (See below).

(b) Outlay, allocation, release and utilization under AACP is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Outlay	Allocation	Amount Released	Utilization
858.16	774.54	704.00	630.42

District Wise achievements of some major activities under AACP is given at Statement-II (See below).

(c) Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) are engaged to facilitate community/beneficiary participation at district level depending upon intensity of activities in a particular district as per procedure laid down by World Bank. NGO's get remuneration on the basis of performance evaluation report along with the quarterly activity report. Amount sanctioned and released to NGO's during last three years are:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount Sanctioned	Released
2009-10	26.61	26.61
2010-11	47.83	21.36
2011-12	11.99	2.87

Statement-I*Amount received by Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Service Society (ARIAS)*

(Rs in crore)

Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Total
Fund Received through Govt. of Assam	20.42	90.04	90.29	170.81	174.41	228.57	-	-	774.54
Reimbursement received from World Bank	-	2.89	9.34	63.43	133.76	159.10	88.55	68.16	525.23

Statement-II*District-wise achievements of some major activities under AACP*

Name of District	Repair and Reno. of Forest Roads (Km)	Improvement of Forest Productivity (ha)	Fisheries (No of beneficiaries)	Watershed Drainage (ha)	Flow of Irrigation (ha)	No. of Shallow Tube Wells	No. of Low Lift Pump	No. of Power Tillers	No. of Tractor	Rural Road (Km)	Livestock (No. of Calf born)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Baksa			29			1023	38	9	15		2343

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	318
Barpeta			21			4842	473	40	61	120	60395	<i>The Budget</i>
Bongigaon			23	194		5200	397	11	28		7089	
Cachar			36	1296			1147	45	10	13	16173	
Chirang			58			1787	34	16	29		1498	
Darrang			100	786		3048	270	42	60		23576	
Dhemaji			77			436	788	12	27		190	
Dhubri			78	1445	150	9381	1304	82	81	146	3517	[RAJYA SABHA]
Dibargarh			8	165		965	282	56	31	42	11096	
Goalpara			39	130	100	8700	297	92	64	168	1720	
Golaghat			44			497	788	40	22	-	12826	
Hailakandi			45	520		10	1021	58	5	68	12509	
Jorhat			55	724		546	325	80	82	220	20452	
Kamrup	36	1558	118	224		5924	1169	61	96	6	68211	(General), 2012-13
Karimganj	16	685	39	286			1060	93	10	95	8556	
Kokrajhar	14	641	66	367		1478	375	8	40	78	1682	
Lakhimpur	13	475	103	370		1049	309	10	88		3235	

Morigaon			57	100	1957	118	33	31	162	18926
Nagaon	55	1565	117	1122	6275	422	124	73		36184
Nalbari			34	546	2197	101	21	40	189	34106
Sivsagar			6	1069	424	327	64	14	21	24226
Sonitpur			30	458	2196	326	11	41	188	43671
Trinsukia			72	705	880	462	27	52	5	10961
Udalguri			44	1984	639	100	43	23	24	
K.Anglong					546	365	6	8		3477
N.C. Hills										426

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 319

Implementation of National Bamboo Mission

1110. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of implementation of the National Bamboo Mission in the country with special reference to the North Eastern region; and

(b) the achievements made on targets set for its implementation in Assam during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period indicating the location-wise Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Government agencies entrusted execution of the mission's programme along with specific work assigned to them and amount sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Bamboo Mission in the country, including the North East Region, since 2006-07 with the objectives as given in the Statement-I. (*See below*)

(b) The Physical targets and its achievements in respect of Assam State during the 11th Five Year Plan is given in Statement-II (*See below*). Financial Assistance of Rs. 353.00 lakhs has also been provided to the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Guwahati, an NGO, for providing technical support and training etc. to stakeholders in the NE Region, including Assam.

Statement-I***Main objectives of National Bamboo Mission:***

1. Promote the growth of the bamboo sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategy;
2. Increase the coverage of area under bamboo in potential areas, with suitable species to enhance yields;
3. Promote marketing of bamboo and bamboo-based handicrafts;
4. Establish convergence and synergy among stakeholders for the development of bamboo;
5. Promote, develop and disseminate technologies through a seamless blend of traditional wisdom and modern scientific knowledge.
6. Generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youths.

Statement-II*Physical Targets and Achievements under National Bamboo Mission in Assam during 11th Five Year Plan*

Sl.No.	Components	Phy.Tar.	Phy.Ach.
1.	Nurseries (nos.)	38	6
2.	Tissue culture in public sector	1	1
3.	Plantation in forest area (in ha)	15026	6871
4.	Improvement of existing stock (in ha.)	10361	5351
5.	Training of farmers within state (in nos.)	4599	2498
6.	Training of farmers outside state (in nos.)	2162	1130
7.	Training of field functionaries (in nos.)	1007	700
8.	Workshop/Seminars National level (in nos.)	2	2
9.	Workshop/Seminars State Level (in nos.)	6	2
10.	Workshop/Seminars District Level (in nos.)	106	69
11.	Post Harvest Storage and Treatment Facilities (in nos.)	4	3
12.	Participation in Domestic Trade Fairs (in nos.)	6	2
13.	Innovative Intervention (in nos.)		
	(i) Construction of Bamboo Museum at Guwahati and Naogaon (balance amount)	2	2
	(ii) Training on design and distribution of tool kits to bamboo artisans.	200	200
	(iii) Bamboo Handicrafts Production Centre	3	3
14.	Bamboo Wholesale and Retails Markets	10	3
15.	Bamboo Bazaars (in nos.)	9	3
16.	Retail Outlets (Showroom)	3	1

Agricultural Research and Development

1111. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's lack of progress in agricultural Research and Development has resulted in low agricultural productivity, thereby creating an imbalance in the demand and production of food items in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this lack of progress in agricultural R and D; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to improve agricultural productivity by investments in agricultural R and D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken several steps to improve agricultural productivity through proper prioritization of research and validating its results in farmers' fields, and scaling up of models through the system of agri-incubators. Specific research interventions pertain to location-specific crop varieties to suit climatic vagaries, packages of practices for enhanced input use efficiencies, control measures for pests and diseases including integrated pest management measures, intercropping and integrated farming system across different agro-ecological regions in the country.

National Horticulture Mission

1112. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Horticulture Mission is under operation in the country;
- (b) if so, this progress achieved under the Mission, so far; and
- (c) how far the Mission has benefited the fruits producers of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is in operation in eighteen States including Maharashtra and three Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Puducherry from 2005-06. The remaining States are covered under the Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States.

- During 2005-12 (20.3.2012), above States have been provided Rs. 6278.90 crore for development of horticulture.
- During 2005-12 (Upto February, 2012), 2289 new nurseries were setup.
- Additional area of about 21.15 lakh hectares was brought under new gardens of various horticulture crops.
- 3.86 lakh hectares of old and senile orchards rejuvenated.
- 1.39 lakh hectares area brought under organic farming.
- 20,134 hectares area covered under protected cultivation (green house/shade net house cultivation, mulching etc).

- Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was adopted in an area of 9.46 lakh hectares.
- 386 JNM/IPM infrastructure like disease forecasting units, bio control labs, plant health clinics and leaf/tissue analysis labs established.
- 23889 community tanks were created for providing critical irrigation to horticulture crops.
- 7675 post harvest management units have been set up *viz* pack houses, cold storage/CA/MA storage units, pre-cooling units, ripening chambers, refrigerated vans, mobile/primary processing units.
- 387 market infrastructure *viz* whole sale markets, rural markets and infrastructure for collection, sorting grading and packing have been created.
- Production of horticulture crops increased from 182.82 million MT to 240.43 million MT during the corresponding period.
- Substantial increase in its exports has helped the country to earn foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 14,000 crore.

(c) During 2005 to 2012 (January 2012), an amount of 895.03 crore has been released for implementation of NHM programme in the State of Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, the Mission has benefitted fruit growers to large extent, which include:

- An area of 4.85 lakh ha brought under horticulture crops, out of which an area of 1.95 lakh ha has been covered under fruits.
- 0.94 lakh ha area of old and senile orchards has been rejuvenated.
- Fruits growers also benefitted from the other activities taken up under NHM *viz* creation of new nurseries, tissue culture labs, creation of community tanks, adoption of integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, infrastructure created for post harvest management and marketing.

Unrecognised sector in milk production

1113. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that around 80 per cent of milk produced in the country is still handled by unorganized sector;
- (b) if so, how the quality of milk produced and supplied by the unorganized sector is ensured; and
- (c) the steps taken to bring milk producers from the unorganized sector to cooperative and organized sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) As per Project Implementation Plan of National Dairy Plan prepared by National Dairy Development Board, about 30 percent of the milk sold is handled by the organised sector and the remaining 70 percent by the unorganized sector.

(b) The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations, 2011 are being implemented by the respective Food Safety Commissioner in the states. The quality of milk produced and supplied by the food business operator is governed as per specifications laid down in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

(c) This Department is implementing Centrally Sponsored scheme namely, 'Intensive Dairy Development Programme' through State Milk Federations/District Milk Unions under which 29,373 village level dairy cooperative societies have been organized covering 19.41 lakh milk producers under the organized sector till 31.12.2011.

In addition, a new Central Sector Scheme namely, "National Dairy Plan Phase I" has been approved by Government of India which envisages covering additional 23,800 villages by existing dairy cooperatives and also promoting Producer Companies in areas where cooperatives are not present or have low coverage and procurement. This initiative is expected to add about 12 lakh milk producers pouring milk to the organised sector.

Suicides by farm labourers in West Bengal

1114. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several suicide cases occurred in West Bengal involving farm labourers, small traders and others in recent months:

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Government of West Bengal has informed that information regarding suicides by farmers is in process of compilation.

(b) Government has taken various measures to revitalize agriculture sector and to improve conditions of farmers in the country on sustainable basis, which include following:

- (i) Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme. 2008, which benefitted about 3.69 crore farmers, involving debt waiver/relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.
- (ii) Increasing credit flow to agriculture sector to Rs. 468291.28 crore, as of

March, 2011. Target of credit flow for 2011-12 has been raised to Rs. 475000 crore, against which achievement as of November 2011 is Rs. 294023 crore.

- (iii) Providing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in time bound manner to facilitate flow of credit to farmers and increase financial inclusion. Up to October 2011, 10.78 crore KCC have been issued.
- (iv) Providing interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh, whereby effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time has come down to 4% per annum.
- (v) This benefit of pre-harvest interest rate subvention is now available also to small and marginal farmers having KCC for further period of up to six months post-harvest on same rate as for crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouse.
- (vi) Announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative price and increase farmers' income. MSP of major agricultural commodities has been stepped up significantly *e.g.*, during 2004-05 to 2011-12, range of increase in MSP is from 80% in case of Groundnut to 148% for pulses (Moong).

Other measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through implementation of various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, Watershed Management, Soil Health and Fertility management etc.

Advantage of subsidy on fertilizers

1115. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether motive of giving subsidy on fertilizers is to promote the production of foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not achieving the targeted quantity of foodgrains as compared to other developed countries;
- (c) whether it is a fact that agricultural sector is not getting the advantage of subsidy as compared to the fertilizer producing companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (d) Agriculture production is attributed not only to fertilizers but also depends on various other factors like rainfall, seeds, pesticides, irrigation, climate etc. Subsidy on fertilizer being provided by Government

of India is to ensure availability of fertilizers at a reasonable price to farmers and also to encourage balanced and optimum use of fertilizers to increase agricultural productivity. Details of fertilizer consumption, subsidy paid and foodgrains production for the last two years are as under:

Year	Consumption (in lakh tons)	Subsidy (Rs. in crores)	Production of Food grains (mt)
2009-2010	524.76	64,032	218.11
2010-2011	565.02	65,837	244.78

MSP for paddy, cotton etc.

1116. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has received recommendations from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding fixation of Minimum Support Price for Paddy, Cotton, Sugarcane, Redgram and other major crops;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) holds consultations with all stake holders including State Governments for finalizing the recommendations on Minimum Support Prices (MSPs). The Government fixes MSP for the agricultural produce on the recommendation of the CACP and in consultation with the States, including Andhra Pradesh, and concerned Central Ministries/Departments.

Allocation of funds by Bihar

1117. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds/amounts given/spent in Bihar by the Ministry and its various organizations during last three years and the current year, so far;

(b) the purposes for which these amounts were given/spent; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase these funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) Funds are provided to the State Governments under various schemes being implemented by the Ministry for development of agricultural and allied activities like agriculture, horticulture, agricultural extension, providing quality seeds, agricultural implements, animal husbandry, dairy development, fisheries and agricultural research. The details of funds provided to Bihar during last three years and current year are given in Statement (*See below*). Funds are provided to the States on the basis of their performance.

<p style="text-align: center;">Statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Details of releases and expenditure during last three years and current year.</i></p>								
Name of the State : Bihar								(Rs. in crore)
Schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Release	Exp.	Release	Exp.	Release	Exp.	Release	Exp. (29.2.12)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Macro Management Scheme	45.93	45.15	38.15	42.80	33.05	34.71	32.63	13.83
National Horticulture Mission	31.22	27.87	24.35	22.20	0.00	25.72	10.00	28.80
Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms	22.56	16.69	12.47	17.76	9.73	31.04	45.21	39.88
Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)	8.00	12.19	8.60	6.78	7.99	7.23	4.18	4.43
National Mission on Micro Irrigation	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.24	0.00	8.16	0.00	19.04
Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	148.54	148.54	110.79	110.79	415.10	415.10	506.82	203.48
National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	81.05	42.82	44.14	89.98	51.56	65.70	74.87	57.24
National Bamboo Mission	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.08	1.05	0.00	0.00
National Project on Management of Soil, Health and Fertility\$	0.00		9.05		3.43		0.00	

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 327

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries								
Animal Husbandary Schemes	9.55	8.11	5.12	4.37	11.99	6.24	26.35	0.23
Dairy Development Schemes	2.68	1.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fisheries Schemes	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.93	3.04	0.68	3.16
Statistics Schemes	10.10	7.52	0.24	2.45	2.53	1.47	0.57	0.48
Schemes of Department of Agricultural Research and Education								
ICAR Institutions at Patna and Muzzafarpur (Exp. upto Jan., 12)	0.00	0.00	7.25	7.00	8.33	8.29	8.75	5.56
TOTAL	359.69	310.71	260.16	304.37	547.72	607.75	710.06	376.13

328 *The Budget*

[RAJYA SABHA]

(General), 2012-13

Dairy/Poultry Venture Fund Scheme

1118 . SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds earmarked for Dairy/Poultry Venture Fund Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the details of target fixed/achieved during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has received any complaints for misuse of funds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Dairy and Poultry Venture Capital Fund Scheme (DPVCF) for providing central assistance in the form of Interest Free Loan (IFL) to the beneficiaries was in operation from 2005-06 to 2008-09. This scheme was bifurcated into Dairy Venture Capital Fund Scheme (DVCF) and Poultry Venture Capital Fund Scheme (PVCF) in 2009-10,

DVCF was closed on 31st August 2010 and a modified scheme namely Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) with central assistance in the form of capital subsidy is under implementation since 1st September, 2010.

PVCF with central assistance in the form of Interest Free Loan was closed on 31st March 2011 and PVCF with central assistance in the form of capital subsidy is under implementation since 1st April 2011.

State-wise funds are not earmarked under these schemes.

The details of funds earmarked under these schemes for last 3 years are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)			
Scheme	2008-09 Funds earmarked	2009-10 Funds earmarked	2010-11 Funds earmarked
Dairy and Poultry Venture Capital Fund (D and PVCF)	3500*		
Dairy Venture Capital Fund (DVCF)	-	2000	1200
Dairy Entrepreneurship Development (DEDS)	-	-	2040
Poultry Venture Capital Fund (PVCF)	-	1600	2569

*Combined budget allocation for Dairy and Poultry Venture Capital Fund.

(b) Year-wise targets are not fixed for these schemes since it is demand driven. The details of achievements under these schemes during last three years are given below:

I. Dairy Venture Capital Fund (DVCF) and Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS):

(Rs in lakh)

Scheme	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	No. of	Amount	No. of	Amount	No. of	Amount
	Dairy Units sanctioned	disbursed*	Dairy Units sanctioned	disbursed*	Dairy Units sanctioned	disbursed*
Dairy Venture Capital Fund (DVCF)**	4805	3970.73	4719	4815.77	2816	2747.68
Dairy Entrepreneurship Development (DEDS)#	-	-	-	-	1978	969.18

II. Poultry Venture Capital Fund (PVCF):

(Rs in lakh)

Scheme	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	No. of	Amount	No. of	Amount	No. of	Amount
	Poultry Units sanctioned	disbursed*	Poultry Units sanctioned	disbursed*	Poultry Units sanctioned	disbursed*
Poultry Venture Capital Fund (PVCF)	56	415.63	76	903.96	342	2856.99

* Amount disbursed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

** Interest Free Loan

Capital subsidy

(c) This Department has not received any complaints for misuse of funds.

(d) Does not arise.

Conservation of threatened breed of small ruminants etc.

1119 SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay earmarked for conservation of threatened breed of

small Ruminants, Pigs, Pack Animals, Equine and Yak during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

- (b) the details of funds allocated during the above period, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any target to achieve the desired objectives; and
- (d) if so, the results/targets achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) 11th Plan Outlay for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Small Ruminants, Pigs, Pack Animals, Equine and Yak during the 11th Five Year Plan was Rs. 16.00 crore which was enhanced to Rs. 45.00 crore during 2008-09 and the scheme renamed “Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Livestock”. Details of funds released during the 11th Five Year Plan to various States are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Year-wise Targets and Achievements under the scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I*Name of the Scheme : Conservation of threatened livestock breeds released during Eleventh Plan*

Sl. No.	State	Species	Breed	Release in year 2007-08	Release in year 2008-09	Release in year 2009-10	Release in year 2010-11	Release in year 2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Assam	Pig	Doom				28.50	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pig	Doom	0.00	0.00	10.00		
		Pony	Bhutia	0.00	0.00	20.00		
		Yak	Yak	0.00	0.00	20.00		
3.	Gujarat	Horse	Kathiawadi	36.81	0.00	36.81		
		Goat	Surti	0.00	32.25	0.00		
		Camel	Kachchhi	0.00	68.00	0.00	32.25	40.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Pony	Spiti	0.00	0.00	20.00		
		Yak	Yak	0.00	0.00	20.00		
		Goat	Chegu			30.00		20.00
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	Horse	Zanskari	0.00	6.00	0.00		
		Yak	Yak			20.00	50.00	35.00
6.	Kerala	Pig	Angamaty	0.00	9.20	0.00		
		Goat	Attapaddy	0.00	27.25	20.75		

7.	Maharashtra	Goat	Sangamneri	32.00	0.00	0.00	25.50	
		Goat	Berari	0.00	0.00	34.95		
		Sheep	Madgyal	0.00	0.00	10.00		
8.	Manipur	Pony	Manipuri	0.00	0.00	0		
9.	Mizoram	Mithun	Mithun	0.00	0.00	20.00		
		Pig	Zovawk	0.00	0.00	10.00		
10.	Punjab	Goat	Beetal	30.00	30.00	0.00		
11.	Sikkim	Goat	Banpala			18.25		28.00
		Yak	Hazi	0.00	20.00	0.00		
12.	West Bengal	Pig	Ghoongroo	0.00	0.00	10.00		
		Fowl	Haringhata Black			35.00		35.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	Sheep	Neelgiri					36.50
GRAND TOTAL				98.81	194.95	355.76	136.25	194.50

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 333

Statement-II*(Details of target and achievement under conservation of threatened breed during XIth Plan)*

Activities under	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
conservation of	2007-08	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09	2009-10	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11	2011-12	2011-12
threatened breeds										
1. No. of breeder's/ farmer's Association/ Cooperative/NGOs assisted	2	7	2	2	2	2	4	3	4	4
2. No. of animals under different threatened breeds selected and maintained in the respective breeding tract	750	1368	550	500	550	500	500	250	500	950

Condition of farmers

1120. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether socio-economic condition of farmers, who constitute 2/3rd population of the country is very miserable;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain their real condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a large percentage of farmers are not able to even feed their families properly;

(e) the observations of Dr. Swaminathan in this regard; and

(f) whether 40 per cent farmers want to quit farming; 26 per cent consider agriculture unprofitable and 8 per cent say it is downright risky?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (f) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted the Situation Assessment Survey, a comprehensive socio-economic study of the Indian farmers covering, *inter alia*, educational level, level of living, farming practices, possession of productive assets, awareness and access to modern technology, resource availability, indebtedness during January-December 2003 in the rural areas. Highlights of the results of the survey at all-India level are as follows:-

- An estimated 27% of farmers did not like farming because it was not profitable. In all, 40% felt that, given a choice, they would like to take up some other career.
- The average Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) for farmer households was Rs. 502.83 (less by 9.3%) compared to Rs. 554.15 for all rural households.
- Out of 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted.
- More than 50% of indebted farmer households had taken loan for the purpose of capital or current expenditure in farm business. The most important source of loan in terms of percentage of outstanding loan amount was banks (36%), followed by moneylenders (26%).

The National Commission on Farmers constituted under Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has acknowledged that disproportionate pressure of population on agriculture has resulted in low per capita income in farm sector and disparity between per capita income in farm sector and non-farm sector. Moreover, several constraints such as preponderance of small and marginal holdings, imperfect market

conditions and lack of backward and forward linkages affect income levels of farmers adversely.

Methodology for fixing MSP

1121. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether methodology for recommending Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agricultural commodities by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has been modified in the light of recommendations of an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the methodology/criteria for MSP recommended by Prof. Swaminathan;

(d) how the above two methodologies differ; and

(e) which is more farmer friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Committee to Examine Methodological Issues in Fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP), under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh, Government has accepted to include, *inter-alia*, the premium paid by farmers for crop insurance, marketing and transport charges as additional items of cost to estimate the cost of production. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) while recommending MSP considers a number of important factors which include, *inter alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

(c) to (e) The Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh was constituted to Examine Methodological Issues in Fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP). The terms of reference of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan covered not only determining the norms for fixing the MSP for agricultural commodities but also the whole gamut of Indian Agriculture. These include, *inter alia*, a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country; propose methods of enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems of the country; suggest comprehensive policy reforms designed to enhance investment in agri-research, substantially increase flow of rural credit to farmers etc.

NCF had recommended that the MSP should be at least 50 percent more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation, however, has not been accepted by the Government because MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) based on objective criteria and considering

variety of relevant factors. Hence, prescribing an increase of at least 50 percent on cost may distort market. A mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counterproductive in some cases.

Suicides by farmers in Odisha

†1122. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that honourable Minister of Agriculture while responding to a Starred Question in Rajya Sabha on 5th March, 2010 had said “Farmers in Odisha are committing suicides but it surprises why State Government is not ready to admit it”;

(b) if so, whether Central Government held any discussions/dialogue with State Government on this serious issues during past two years and whether any effective steps have been taken to check the suicide by farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) In reply to Starred Question No. 126 on March 05, 2010, it was mentioned, *inter-alia*, that number of alleged suicides by farmers in Odisha due to crop loss, debt burden etc., which was reported in media, was not confirmed by Government of Odisha.

(b) and (c) Central Government advises State Government from time to time on various occasions to take necessary action under various on-going schemes in agriculture and allied sectors to mitigate agrarian distress and address problems of farmers in State.

In order to revitalize agriculture sector, improve condition of farmers on sustainable basis and prevent suicides among them, steps taken by Government, *inter-alia*, include significant increase in public investment in agriculture sector through implementation of various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, Watershed Management, Soil Health and Fertility management etc. Other steps taken in this regard include following:

- (i) Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, which benefitted about 3.69 crore farmers, involving debt waiver/relief of Rs. 65,318.33 crore, as per provisional figures.
- (ii) Increasing credit flow to agriculture sector to Rs. 468291.28 crore, as of March, 2011. Target of credit flow for 2011-12 has been raised to Rs. 475000 crore, against which achievement as of November 2011 is Rs. 294023 crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iii) Providing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all eligible and willing farmers in time bound manner to facilitate flow of credit to farmers and increase financial inclusion. Up to October 2011, 10.78 crore KCC have been issued.
- (iv) Providing interest rate subvention for timely repayment of crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh, whereby effective rate of interest for such farmers who repay their crop loan on time has come down to 4% per annum.
- (v) This benefit of pre-harvest interest rate subvention is now available also to small and marginal farmers having KCC for further period of up to six months post-harvest on same rate as for crop loan against negotiable warehouse receipt for keeping their produce in warehouse.
- (vi) Announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative price and increase farmers' income. MSP of major agricultural commodities has been stepped up significantly *e.g.*, during 2004-05 to 2011-12, range of increase in MSP is from 80% in case of Groundnut to 148% for pulses (Moong).

Floriculture industry in Tamil Nadu

1123. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether floriculture industry in Hosur of Tamil Nadu is affected due to lack of infrastructure facilities;
- (b) whether small flower growers are forced to sell their produce to middlemen at throw away price as the region did not have any common cold storage facility; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to set up a common cold storage facility in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) since the year 2005-06 for the holistic development of horticulture in the country under which assistance is being extended for taking up cultivation of horticultural crops including flowers along with creation of supporting infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing. Cold storage facilities are available at the State run Ulaver Sandhaiya (Farmers' market) at Hosur for use by the farmers. Moreover, Tanflora, a Public Private Partnership firm of a State public sector under taking Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation, has also set up world class cold storage facilities at Amudhagundapalli, which is only a few kilometers from Hosur.

New technology and agricultural practices for wheat cultivation

1124. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether world's second largest wheat producer, India, is heading towards harvesting a record 85.47 mt. of produce in 2011-12 crop year and aims to achieve 95 mt. of wheat production by 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to adopt new technologies and agricultural practices followed by other wheat growing countries which have developed better farm practices in wheat cultivation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is fact that India is the second largest producer of wheat in the world and has estimated record harvest of 86.87 million tonnes (mt) during 2010-11 and a record production of 88.31 mt. during 2011-12 as per 2nd advance estimates of DES. It aims to achieve higher production and productivity of wheat in the years to come to meet the growing demand of foodgrains.

(c) and (d) India has strong wheat research and development network to develop technologies suitable for different Agro ecological regions of the country. The technologies developed by Wheat Research Network are being promoted through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes like National Food Security Mission, Macro Management in Agriculture, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and other State Sector Programmes. Country has developed collaborations with international organizations under CGIAR system such as CIMMYT Mexico, ICARDA, Syria and ACIAR Australia. The technology developed by these organizations and tested in Indian conditions are adopted subject to their suitability to Indian condition. For example, some of the high yielding genotypes developed in CIMMYT, Mexico were found suitable in Indian condition and hence released for cultivation in the country as varieties.

Reservation in the Ministry

1125. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total sanctioned staff strength in the Ministry – group-wise *i.e.* Group A to Group D;

(b) out of the total strength, the number of jobs earmarked for SC/ST category as per Government of India's reservation policy; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for the staff strength not being in accordance with the reservation policy of the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Details of total sanctioned staff strength in the Ministry of Agriculture Group-wise, Group-A to Group-D is given below:

Group-A	346
Group-B	585
Group-C	535
Group-D	All staff members under Group-D category has since been merged with the Group C category

(b) The number of jobs, earmarked for SC/ST category as per Government of India's reservation policy and filled by this Ministry are given below:-

	SC	ST
Group-A	05	02
Group-B	28	14
Group-C	71	35

(c) The staff strength is sanctioned as per the volume of work allotted to the Ministry. While recruiting the staff as per sanctioned strength, the reservation policy of the Government of India is followed.

Programme on GM Food and Plant Bio-Technology

†1126. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sponsor of recently held programme on the topic "GM Food and Plant Bio-Technology" by Indian Council of Agricultural Research was Dow Chemicals company, which is an accused in the Bhopal Gas tragedy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Monsanto company which is disputed in the case of Bt. Cotton, is also a part of the list of sponsorship; and

(c) if so, the reasons of including both these controversial companies in Indian events?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MANAHT): (a) The "International Conference on Plant Biotechnology for Food Security" held during 21-24 February, 2012 was organized

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by a registered society “The Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology (SPBB)”]; that is about 20 years old. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, amongst other Government Departments, supported the Conference financially, but did not organize the programme. M/s. Dow Agro Sciences was one of the sponsors of the Conference. The total sponsorship money received by the Conference was Rs. 1.30 crores, of which M/s. Dow Agro Sciences contributed only Rs. 2.00 Lakh. Thus, it was a small sponsor of the event.

(b) M/s. Monsanto India was also one of the sponsors of this Conference.

(c) The preparations for the Conference were begun by the Society in 2011 and the letters asking for financial support were sent out in the month of September, 2011. M/s. Dow Agro Sciences has been in India for a very long time, both before and after the Bhopal tragedy. The organizers are not aware of any Government directions prohibiting sponsorship/relationship with any Dow Company. However, in view of the questions raised over this sponsorship by M/s. Dow Agro Sciences, the Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology has refunded Rs. 2.00 lakh given by M/s. Dow Agro Sciences.

Problems faced by chilli farmers in Andhra Pradesh

1127. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced by chilli farmers in Andhra Pradesh, particularly Warrangal, in the light of drastic fall in the market price; and

(b) if so, how Government is planning to address the grievances of chilli farmers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) There has been no report about any abnormal fall in market price of red chillies in Andhra Pradesh. Moreover, in order to protect the growers of perishable commodities like red chillies from making distress sale of their produce, in the event of fall in prices below the economic level, the Government is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), which can be availed by the State Government.

MSP for crops

1128. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced MSP for each crop including paddy to suit the present conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) the demands pending with Ministry regarding MSP on each crop from each State; and

(d) by when, action will be taken on MSP demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (d) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops, including paddy, on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and in consultation with the concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments.

Based on the recommendations of the CACP's Price Policy Reports for Kharif crops, Rabi Crops, Sugarcane, Copra and Jute for 2011-12 Season, the Government has already announced Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)/Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for Sugarcane. A statement indicating the MSPs announced since 2007-08 is at Statement.

Statement
Minimum Support Prices

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	Variety	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Kharif Crops						
Paddy	Common	645 \$\$~	850\$	950\$	1000	1080
	Grade A	675 \$\$~	880\$	980\$	1030	1110
Jowar	Hybrid	600	840	840	880	980
	Maldandi	620	860	860	900	1000
Bajra		600	840	840	880	980
Maize		620	840	840	880	980
Ragi		600	915	915	965	1050
Arhar (Tur)		1550^^	2000	2300	3000&	3200&
Moong		1700^^	2520	2760	3170&	3500&
Urad		1700^^	2520	2520	2900&	3300&
Cotton	Medium	1800	2500	2500	2500	2800
	Staple					

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 343

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	344 The Budget
	Long Staple	2030	3000	3000	3000	3300	[RAJYA SABHA]
Groundnut in shell		1550	2100	2100	2300	2700	
Sunflower seed		1510	2215	2215	2350	2800	
Soyabean	Black	910	1350	1350	1400	1650	
	Yellow	1050	1390	1390	1440	1690	
Sesamum		1580	2750	2850	2900	3400	
Nigerseed		1240	2405	2405	2450	2900	
Rabi Crops							
Wheat		1000	1080	1100	1120\$	1285	
Barley		650	680	750	780	980	
Gram		1600	1730	1760	2100	2800	(General), 2012-13
Masur (Lentil)		1700	1870	1870	2250	2800	
Rapeseed/Mustard		1800	1830	1830	1850	2500	
Safflower		1650	1650	1680	1800	2500	
Toria		1735	1735	1735	1780	2425	
Other Crops							
Copra	Milling	3620	3660	4450	4450	4525	

	Ball	3870	3910	4700	4700	4775
De-Husked Coconut		-	988	1200	1200	1200
Jute		1055	1250	1375	1575	1675
Sugarcane		81.18*	81.18*	129.84#	139.12#	145.00#

Note : \$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal was payable over the Minimum Support Price.

\$\$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal was payable over the Minimum Support Price.

~ MSP of Rs. 850 per quintal and Rs. 880 per quintal for paddy common and Grade A varieties respectively was payable from 12.06.2008.

^^ A bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal was payable over and above the Minimum Support Price

& Additional incentive of Rs. 500 per quintal is payable in respect of kharif pulses sold to procurement agencies during the harvest/arrival period of two months.

* Statutory Minimum Price (SMP)

Fan & Remunerative Price (FRP).

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 345

Collection of funds under ACTN policy

1129. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATISINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

(a) how much fund collected from Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat under Additional Cost due to Non-recognized input State Taxation by fertilizers units and funds re-distributed to PSUs/Co-operative fertilizer units of Gujarat States, unit-wise, as on date;

(b) why Ministry is not considering other options to sort out the issue of backlog amount before implementing ACTN policy rather than approaching to State Governments in this regard as till date State Governments levied this tax;

(c) whether Ministry has approached Finance Ministry in this regard; and

(d) the response from Ministry of Finance on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As on date, Rs. 190.44 crores has been collected under ACTN policy in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. Redistribution of funds to PSUs/Cooperative fertilizers units of Gujarat State is under process.

(b) to (d) The issue of settlement of backlog amount is under consideration in consultation with State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. Views of State Government is still awaited. Based on the views of State Government, Department of Fertilizers will consult Ministry of Finance.

Expansion of chemical fertilizer production industry

†1130. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that no considerable progress has been achieved in the expansion of chemical fertilizer production industry of the country for the 13 years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof along with the quantity of chemical fertilizers produced in the country during the year 2000-2001 and 2011-12 respectively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has considerably increased the subsidy to the industry during the said period; and

(d) if so, the quantum of this increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The production of Urea has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

increased from 196.5 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT) in Financial Year (FY) 2000-01 to 218.8 LMT in FY 2011-12 (projected). India is completely dependent on import for Potassic fertilizers and upto 90% dependent on import for Phosphatic fertilizers. The production of combined P&K fertilizers has increased from 123 LMT in FY 2000-01 to 159 LMT in FY 2011-12(projected).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The total fertilizers subsidy outgo in the year 2000-2001 and 2011-12 is as under:

(Figures in Rs. crore)		
Fertilizers	2000-2001	2011-12(BE)
Urea	9480.98	23883.00
Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers	4319.00	29706.87

Availability of Urea

†1131. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

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

(a) whether urea has the largest share in the total consumption of fertilizers in the country;

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

(c) whether urea is not supplied as per the demand in different States, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, the reasons along with the details thereof;

(e) if not, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government is going to further increase the ever increasing prices of urea; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. urea has a largest share of total consumption of fertilizer in the country. The State-wise cumulative consumption of urea during the year 2011-12 (April' 11 to February' 12) is at Statement-I (See below)

(c) to (e) State-wise cumulative requirement (demand), availability (supply) and sales (consumption) of urea including Madhya Pradesh during the year 2011-12 (April' 11 to February' 12) is at Statement-II (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) and (g) The maximum retail price (MRP) of Urea is notified by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. MRP urea (46% N) was Rs. 4830/MT with effect from 28.2.2002 and with effect from 1.4.2010, MRP of urea is Rs. 5310/MT (exclusive of CST, State Tax and other local taxes as applicable).

Statement-I

Cumulative consumption of fertilisers during the year 2011-12

(April, 11 to February, 12)

(Figures in lakh metric tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	UREA	DAP	MOP	COMPLEX
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27.44	9.10	3.05	20.67
2.	Karnataka	13.51	7.88	3.10	14.16
3.	Kerala	1.39	0.39	1.29	1.81
4.	Tamil Nadu	9.96	3.44	3.53	6.51
5.	Gujarat	19.85	5.73	1.46	5.68
6.	Madhya Pradesh	17.19	8.94	0.64	4.29
7.	Chhattisgarh	5.52	2.23	0.60	1.81
8.	Maharashtra	23.20	10.60	3.20	17.08
9.	Rajasthan	16.30	6.68	0.23	1.29
10.	Haryana	18.17	7.32	0.40	0.63
11.	Punjab	25.53	9.12	0.65	1.11
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0.58	0.00	0.07	0.31
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.83	0.53	0.06	0.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	53.52	14.58	1.37	10.39
15.	Uttarakhand	2.35	0.32	0.04	0.42
16.	Bihar	16.64	3.98	0.94	3.27
17.	Jharkhand	2.06	0.60	0.02	0.43
18.	Orissa	4.59	1.46	0.68	2.77
19.	West Bengal	10.79	4.14	2.26	6.92
20.	Assam	2.31	0.26	0.67	0.04
	ALL INDIA	271.72	97.30	24.24	99.59

Statement-II

Cumulative requirement, availability and consumption of fertilisers during the year 2011-12 (April, 11 to February, 12)

(Figures in lakh metric tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	Urea			DAP			MOP			Complex		
		Require-ment	Availa-bility	Consum-ption	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Consum-ption	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Consum-ption	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Consum-ption
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28.75	27.91	27.44	11.80	10.21	9.10	6.20	3.75	3.05	21.20	23.00	20.67
2.	Karnataka	13.63	13.82	13.51	8.49	8.86	7.88	5.30	3.34	3.10	12.19	15.62	14.16
3.	Kerala	1.82	1.40	1.39	0.45	0.42	0.39	1.75	1.42	1.29	2.47	2.04	1.81
4.	Tamil Nadu	10.71	10.04	9.96	4.11	3.59	3.44	4.99	3.72	3.53	6.25	7.58	6.51
5.	Gujarat	21.40	20.00	19.85	8.55	6.43	5.73	2.17	1.62	1.46	4.94	6.72	5.68
6.	Madhya Pradesh	17.41	17.50	17.19	10.93	9.98	8.94	1.65	0.88	0.64	4.05	4.88	4.29
7.	Chhattisgarh	6.18	5.64	5.52	2.87	2.48	2.23	1.14	0.68	0.60	1.52	2.06	1.81
8.	Maharashtra	25.75	23.55	23.20	16.4	11.60	10.6	5.90	3.74	3.20	17.34	19.17	17.08
9.	Rajasthan	15.65	16.44	16.30	7.15	6.92	6.68	0.48	0.25	0.23	1.67	1.42	1.29
10.	Haryana	19.25	18.31	18.17	7.12	7.60	7.32	0.70	0.42	0.40	0.80	0.69	0.63
11.	Punjab	25.00	25.77	25.53	10.05	9.51	9.12	1.01	0.70	0.65	0.98	1.22	1.11
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0.64	0.58	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.53	0.31	0.31
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.42	0.84	0.83	0.83	0.58	0.53	0.34	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 349

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	Uttar Pradesh	56.00	54.26	53.52	19.45	17.11	14.58	3.90	1.50	1.37	11.05	12.35	10.39
15.	Uttarakhand	2.20	2.38	2.35	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.10	0.04	0.04	0.68	0.50	0.42
16.	Bihar	19.50	16.8	16.64	4.95	4.47	3.98	2.40	1.21	0.94	3.73	3.83	3.27
17.	Jharkhand	2.54	2.10	2.06	1.25	0.69	0.60	0.34	0.04	0.02	1.03	0.47	0.43
18.	Orissa	5.85	4.86	4.59	2.52	1.71	1.46	1.91	0.84	0.68	3.03	3.21	2.77
19.	West Bengal	12.21	10.95	10.79	4.98	4.62	4.14	3.82	2.61	2.26	8.58	8.10	6.92
20.	Assam	2.79	2.33	2.31	0.55	0.37	0.26	1.30	0.74	0.67	0.25	0.07	0.04
	ALL INDIA	288.68	275.49	271.72	122.77	107.48	97.30	45.44	27.63	24.24	102.27	113.23	99.59

350 *The Budget*

[RAJYA SABHA]

(General), 2012-13

Supply of natural gas to fertilizer companies

1132. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dispute between the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Petroleum and Natural Gas on supply of cheaper domestic natural gas to non-urea producing fertilizer companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has proposed a separate mechanism to recover differential arising out as a consequence of natural gas in the case of non-urea fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) and (d) Empowered Group of Minister (EGoM) has directed the proposal to suspend the supply of KG-D6 gas to P and K plants (Deepak, GSFC and RCF) including the proposal to restrict future supply only to Urea fertilizer plants be kept in abeyance till 24-05-2012, during which time, the Department of Fertilizers will finalize the guidelines for recovery of differential price of Ammonia produced from indigenous gas with reference to imported Ammonia or any other benchmark, and thereafter the matter will be placed before the EGoM.

Allotment of fertilizers to Himachal Pradesh

†1133. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government fixes the rates of fertilizers, their allocation and transportation rates;

(b) if so, whether Central Government did not fix the revised rates until December 2011 despite frequent request of Government of Himachal Pradesh and now the prices have been increased by 25-30 per cent as a result of which farmers and gardeners are facing hardship; and

(c) the target of fertilizer quota fixed for Himachal Pradesh in Twelfth and Thirteenth Five year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Department of Fertilizers is implementing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic (P and K) fertilizers *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010 under which the Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

announces per Kg subsidy on nutrients namely nitrogen 'N', Phosphate 'P', Potash 'K' and Sulphur 'S' on annual basis. These rates are announced after taking into account all relevant factors including the expected international prices of P and K fertilizers, prevailing exchange rate, current domestic prices of P and K fertilizers, inventory level etc. The approved rates for the year 2011-12 and 2012-13 are as under:

Nutrients	NBS rates (in Rs. per Kg)	
	2011-12	2012-13
N	27.153	24.000
P	32.338	21.804
K	26.756	24.000
S	1.677	1.677

Under the NBS policy, Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) of P and K fertilizers have been left open and fertilizer manufactures/marketers/importers are allowed to fix their MRPs. Urea is provided to the farmers at statutory MRP of Rs. 5310/- per MT.

The Government fully reimburses the primary freight from plant/port to rake point as per actual of Railway Receipt (RR). In respect of Himachal Pradesh, Department of Fertilizers reimburse actual primary freight from the plant to Chandigarh rake point on the basis of RR. Further transportation from Chandigarh rake point to various destinations in Himachal Pradesh is reimbursed at the rate of Rs. 4.13 per kilo meter per tonne (provisional). Department of Fertilizers, in consultation with fertilizer companies, makes supply plan for movement of fertilizers to different States on month to month basis based on the requirement of States.

(c) The requirement of fertilizers in a particular State is assessed by Department of Agriculture and Co-operation (DAC) in consultation with the concerned State Agriculture Departments for every cropping season, on year to year basis. Department of Fertilizers ensures availability of fertilizers to all the States including Himachal Pradesh as per the requirement of the State as assessed by DAC.

Escalation of prices of medicines

1134. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small and Medium Enterprises Pharma Industries Confederation has approached Government to work out a solution to reduce the escalating prices of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government?

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

(b) SME Pharma Industry Confederation (India) have suggested that any company who is willing to print the MRP on labels shall give an undertaking and be registered on the website. The company will be entitled to use of a LOGO which the Government will simultaneously advertise in Electronic media so that Consumers will ask the Doctors/Retailers/Quacks for medicines with that logo and not be at their mercy anymore. Since medicines with logo have sufficient margin, none of the stakeholder will be averse to it. Only unnecessary profiteering will come to an end. If any company using the logo violates the MRP on website shall be liable to criminal prosecution to which it shall agree when seeking use of logo at the time of Registration.

(c) Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) has been circulated among the concerned Ministries/Stakeholders. The draft Policy was also available for comments of any other interested person on the Department's website www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in till 30.11.2011. The views/inputs received on the draft NPPP-2011 are being examined and will be placed before the Group of Ministers.

Cost overrun of various infrastructure projects

1135. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various infrastructure projects that have overrun the planned cost at National Institute of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali, Punjab till date;

(b) whether any detailed examination has been made for the reasons of such over-runs and the responsibility has been fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali reported increase in cost of infrastructure projects due to increase in scope of work, payment of Project Management Consultancy fees, and price escalation as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)						
Sl. No.	Scheme	Original approved cost	Revised Cost	Additional Requirement of funds sought by NIPER, Mohali	Additional Requirement of funds approved by IFD	Reasons for cost increase
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Teaching Programme	300.00	611.21	311.21	311.21	(i) In view of increase of number of students from 463 in 2007 to 826 in 2011, 4 additional lecture halls and additional DG set is proposed to be constructed/purchased
2.	Boys Hostel	500.00	693.00	193.00	107.00	(i) Increase due to PMC-62 lakhs (ii) Increase due to provision of lift and fire fighting system-47 lakhs (iii) Increase due to price escalation-83 lakhs
3.	Swimming Pool and Health Centre	182.00	199.29	17.29	17.29	Increase due to PMC-17.29 lakhs
4.	Shopping Centre	5.00	5.82	0.82	0.82	(i) Increase due to PMC-0.52 lakhs (ii) Increase due to filling of low lying area-0.30 lakhs.

5.	Community Centre	45.00	67.88	22.88	11.00	(i) Increase due to PMC-6 lakhs (ii) Increase due to additional guest rooms – 5 lakhs (iii) Increase due to price escalation -11.88 lakhs.
6.	Provision of additional Bridge and Gate	286.00	325.08	39.08	28.90	(i) Increase due to PMC- 28.90 lakhs (ii) Increase due to price escalation-10.18 lakhs
TOTAL		1318.00	1902.0	584.28	476.22	

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 355

On account of increase in costs due to escalation in prices, NIPER was asked to submit revised proposal.

Technical posts lying vacant

1136: SHRI JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various technical posts that are lying vacant in the Department of Pharmaceuticals of the Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of issues requiring technical expertise on pharmaceutical have been shelved/delayed;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to create more senior technical posts to help pharmaceuticals industry to meet the challenges of Chinese threat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHRIKANT JENA): (a) The following technical posts are lying vacant in the Department of Pharmaceuticals of the Ministry.

Sl.No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned strength	In-position	Vacancy
1.	Additional Industrial Advisor	1	0	1
2.	Deputy Industrial Advisor	3	1	2
3.	Assistant Industrial Advisor	1	0	1

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (b) and (c), does not arise.

Investment in Fertilizer sector

1137. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government proposes to attract fresh investments in the Fertilizer sector in the country to meet the growing demand of agriculture sector;

(b) the quantum of fertilizer being procured annually from joint ventures and the extent it is cheaper than the joint market imports;

(c) the views of Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) regarding the new investment Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government had notified on 4th September 2008, a new investment policy for urea sector to attract the much required investment in this sector. The policy has resulted in increase of indigenous urea production by approximately two million tonnes through revamp of existing plants. No new investments under Expansion, Revival and Greenfield plants were

materialized. Government is considering amendments to the existing New Investment Policy of 2008 in order to attract new investments by Public/Private sector in Greenfield/Expansion/Revamp urea projects. The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to review the fertilizer policy, in its meeting held on 24th February 2012, considered the proposal of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member Planning Commission, suggestions of Department of Fertilizers and issue raised by the industry. GoM decided that the proposal for New Investment Policy - 2012 in urea sector suggested by the Committee under Mrs. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member Planning Commission, as modified by the Department of Fertilizers, be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) subject to certain stipulations. The proposal is under consideration of Department of Fertilizers.

(b) Department of Fertilizers is procuring Urea from Oman Indian Fertilizer Co (OMIFCO) SUR, OMAN under the Long Term Urea Offtake Agreement (UOTA). The quantity procured during the year 2010-11 was 20.64 LMT. The Weighted Average price for urea procured from OMIFCO during the year 2010-11 was US\$ 166.78 PMT C and F as against the weighted average price of US \$ 327.38 PMT C and F for the urea procured from other sources”.

(c) The Fertilizers Association of India (FAI) has welcomed the New Investment Policy and requested for some changes. The primary demand of FAI was regarding providing floor and ceiling of urea for gas price above USD 14/MMBTU.

Control over life-saving drugs

†1138. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring life-saving drugs under Government's control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the matter of bringing life-saving drugs under Government's control had been sent to the Group of Ministers; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations of the said Group of Ministers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court in its interim order dated 10.3.2003 in SLP(C) No. 3668/2003 directed the Government, inter alia, to “consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control and further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003”. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 (NLEM 2003). Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it had been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

proposed in the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 which is at present before the Group of Ministers for a decision, that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the NLEM 2003 (subject to certain conditions and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. GoM had not given its recommendation.

Subsequent to this, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) has been circulated among the concerned Ministries/Stakeholders. The draft Policy was also available for comments of any other interested person on the Department's website www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in by 30.11.2011. The views from all the concerned stakeholders which have been received are being examined for being submitted to the Group of Ministers.

Adulteration and black marketing of fertilizers

1139. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the mechanism for checking adulteration/black marketing of fertilizers and dealing with the offenders;
- (b) the criteria of analyzing the fertilizer samples; and
- (c) how many samples were analyzed in various States during last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATF IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Fertilizers have been declared as essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, (EGA) 1955. In order to ensure adequate availability of good quality of fertilizers at reasonable price to the farmers, the Government of India has promulgated the Fertilizer (Control) Order, (FCO) 1985 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act. FCO empowers the Government to regulate the price; distribution and quality of fertilizers. Under clause 19 of FCO sale/manufacture of such fertilizers which are not of prescribed standard is strictly prohibited. Under clause 8 of FCO, it is mandatory to obtain an Authorization Letter from the notified Authority for sale of fertilizers.

No case of large scale manufacture/sale of adulterated and spurious fertilizers has been brought to the notice of the Government of India.

The State Governments are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the sale of non-standard fertilizers. Violation of provisions of FCO can invite penal action, including prosecution of offenders. The offender who is convicted can be awarded a sentence upto seven years' imprisonment under ECA, besides

cancellation of Authorization Certificate. There are 74 fertilizer testing laboratories including four laboratories of the Government of India at Faridabad, Kalyani, Mumbai and Chennai with an annual analyzing capacity of 1.32 lakh samples. A total of 1,21,868 number of samples were analyzed in various States during 2010-11. The State Governments have been sensitized from time to time on the issue of sales, manufacture, distribution and quality of fertilizers conforming to FCO standards.

Abolition of subsidy on chemical fertilizers

†1140. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to abolish subsidy on all chemical fertilizers:

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy to be saved; and

(c) the measures being adopted by Government to compensate farmers for the burden incurred due to this saving?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir. The Government is not considering to abolish subsidy on chemical fertilizers. The Government is providing subsidy on 25 grades of Phosphatic and Potassic (P and K) fertilizers under Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) policy and Urea under New Pricing Scheme (NPS) Stage-III. The NBS rates approved by the Government for the year 2011-12 and 2012-13 are as under:

Nutrients	NBS rates (in Rs. per Kg)	
	2011-12	2012-13
N	27.153	24.000
P	32.338	21.804
K	26.756	24.000
S	1.677	1.677

(b) The expected total subsidy on P and K fertilizers on the projected requirement of P and K fertilizers calculated on the basis of rates approved for the year 2012-13 shall be Rs. 40664 crore approximately. The subsidy on this quantity of fertilizers at the NBS rates of 2011-12 would be Rs. 52936 crore. However, the actual saving in subsidy on P and K fertilizers will depend on the total consumption of P and K fertilizers in the country.

(c) At the approved rates of NBS for the year 2012-13, the MRP of P and K fertilizers is not likely to increase. Any favourable movement in international prices of P and K fertilizers and the exchange rate of Indian Rupees will result in decrease in MRP of these fertilizers. Therefore, farmers will not be affected adversely.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Radiation levels of mobile phones

1141. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is making it a must for mobile manufacturers to display the level of radiation emitted by different brands of handsets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that research has shown that radio frequency radiation gets transmitted not just through physical contact with handsets, but also through towers and base stations; and

(d) the steps the Ministry is taking keeping the health of consumers in mind to subject companies to a few strict rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instruction has been issued vide O. M. No. 18-10/2008-IP dated 25th January 2012 accepting the recommendations made by Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by this department to examine the effect of Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiations from mobile phones. All the indigenous manufacturers have been instructed to display Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) value on the mobile handsets on or before 1st September 2012. A copy of the instruction is given in Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The telecom towers (Base Transceiver Stations) are also source of radio frequency radiation emissions. EMF exposure radiation norms to be followed by Unified Access Service Licensees/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service licensees from Base Transceiver Stations have been prescribed by amending licence conditions vide letter No. 842-998/2008-AS-IV/13 dated 4th November 2008 which has been further amended vide letter No. 800-15/2010-VAS(pt) dated 30.12.2011.

Statement

No. 18-10/2008-IP

Government of India

Ministry of Communications and IT

Department of Telecommunications

Investment Promotion

1209, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashok Road,

New Delhi - 110001.

Dated January 25, 2012

Office Memorandum

Subject: Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) value for Mobile Phones

You are aware that Government had adopted International Commission on

Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for mobile phones according to which the specific observations rates value for mobile phones was 2 Watts per Kg averaged over 10 gram tissue.

2. Further, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted by the Department of Telecommunications consisting of officers from the Department, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Health, Department of Biotechnology and Ministry of Environment and Forests to examine the effect of EMF Radiation from mobile phones and base stations. The Committee had given some recommendations on EMF radiations from mobile phones, which were under consideration of this Department.

3. I am directed to convey that as a precautionary measure, this Department has accepted the following recommendations regarding mobile phones:

- (i) SAR level for mobile handset shall be limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg, averaged over a mass of 1 gram of human tissue.
- (ii) SAR level shall be displayed on the handset.
- (iii) All Cell-phone handsets sold in the market in India shall comply with relevant BIS standards and shall be with hand free devices.
- (iv) SAR value information of the mobile handsets shall be available on the manufacturer's website and in, the handset's manual. The information on SAR values shall be made available to the consumer at the point of sale.
- (v) Mobile handset manufactured and sold in India or imported from other countries shall be checked for compliance of SAR limit.
- (vi) The manufacturers in India shall provide self declaration of SAR value of the handset. In respect of imported handset from other countries, manufacturers apart from self declaration of SAR shall specify the SAR information in their documents for verification by the appropriate authority. Suitable amendments in the Indian Telegraph Rule under Indian Telegraph Act 1985 shall be enacted for strict compliance.
- (vii) Manufacturer's mobile handset booklet shall contain the following safety precautions:
 - (a) Use a wireless hands-free-system (headphone, headset) with a low power Bluetooth emitter.
 - (b) Make sure the cell phone has a low SAR,
 - (c) Keep your calls-short or send a text message (SMS) instead. This advice applies especially to children/adolescents and pregnant women.
 - (d) Use cell-phone when the signal quality is good.
 - (e) People having active medical implants should preferably keep the cell phone at least 15 cm away from the implant,

(viii) List of SAR value of different mobile phones shall be uploaded on DOT/TEC website.

4. Keeping in view the above, I am directed to instruct you to make necessary changes in the design, software and packaging for compliance to above instructions on or before 1st September, 2012. All the manufacturers, indigenous as well as imported will provide a self declaration in respect of SAR value of 1.6 Watt per kg averaged over 1 gram tissue based on certificate from internationally accredited lab or accredited by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC), India directly to TEC with a copy to this Department for necessary action. Such self declared SAR limits shall be subjected to TEC audit as and when required.

(Rajesh Kumar Pathak)

Deputy Director General (IP)

Tel: +91 11 23717542

www.dot.gov.in

To

1. All the Indigenous Mobile Manufacturers
2. The National President, Indian Cellular Association, New Delhi.
3. Director General, TEMA, New Delhi.

Copy to:

- (i) Sr. DDG, TEC, Khurshidlal Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (ii) Sr. DDG (BW) for information please.
- (iii) DIR (IT) for posting on DoT website and also creating a link with TEC SAR value page.

Unsolicited international missed calls

1142. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian mobile users are being bombarded with massive number of spurious international missed calls originating from Pakistan, Czechoslovakia, Middle East, African countries and also from India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Ministry is taking to caution its customers not to respond to unsolicited international missed calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Sir, it has come to the notice through complaints and newspaper reports that consumers are

getting missed calls from international telephone numbers prompting consumers to respond to such calls and that on calling back these numbers they were charged substantially. The reasons for such missed calls are to induce consumers to call back on the international missed call numbers, which are in many cases premium numbers for which very high charges apply.

To address the problem of missed calls coming from international locations prompting mobile customers to respond, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued instructions to all the Access Service/providers to warn the customers about such calls and to take other effective measures for addressing the problem. Access Service/providers have advised their customers through SMS for not responding to unknown missed calls with international numbers/prefixes.

Issuance of international long distance licences

1143. SHRI M.P. A CHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irregularities in issuance of International Long Distance, (ILD) licenses by the Telecom Department to a company promoted by a Hong Kong based entity involving officials of MTNL, BSNL and Department of Telecommunications has been detected and CBI has been asked to investigate the case; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, International Long Distance (ILD) license is issued only to the Indian companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has referred a case related to M/s. Data Access India Limited (DAIL), an ILD licensee, to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for investigation. The ILD license issued to M/s DAIL in 2002 was suspended in the year 2005 due to non-compliance of the terms and conditions of the license. CBI is investigating the matter.

Irregularities in deployment of wimax services for BSNL

1144. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has raided nine places across the country in connection with irregularities in grant of Leased Service Area (LSA) contract for deployment of WiMax services for BSNL;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether responsibility has been fixed for manipulation of norms to award tenders to private firms;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the estimated loss to public exchequer due to this irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, CBI has raided nine places across the country in connection with irregularities in grant of Leased Service Area (LSA) contract for deployment of WiMax services for BSNL. The details are as follows:

- (i) Residential premises of Shri Kuldeep Goyal, the then CMD BSNL at Indrapuram Ghaziabad.
- (ii) Residential premises of Shri Rakesh Kumar Agarwal, Director (CM), BSNL at New Delhi.
- (iii) Residence premises of Shri Pradeep Nagpal, at New Delhi.
- (iv) Residence premises of Shri Anil Kumar (Bhardwaj) the then Dy. GM (NWP-WiMAX) at Faridabad, Haryana.
- (v) Residential premises of Shri Shanmugasundaram Manoharan Director M/s. Ampoules Auto Pvt. Ltd. At Chennai-600026
- (vi) Office premises of M/s Starnet Communications Pvt. Ltd., at Gurgaon.
- (vii) Office premises of M/s Wellcom Communications Pvt. Ltd at Chennai.
- (viii) Premises of M/s S K Thakur and Associates, CA at Howrah.
- (ix) Premises of M/s S K Thakur and Associates, CA, at Kolkata.
- (c) and (d) The case is at initial stage of investigation.
- (e) The FIR in the matter alleges that a loss to the tune of Rs. 535.50 Crores was caused to BSNL as a result thereof.

Cancellation of licences of telecom companies

†1145. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court had ordered to cancel 122 licences of different telecom companies within four months against the allegations of corruption which took place due to financial irregularities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is also a fact that Government has expressed its inability to cancel these licences within four months;

(c) if so, the facts thereof along with the reasons for Government's inability to do so; and

(d) whether corrupt elements will remain active for a long time due to this inability on the part of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. In Writ Petition (Civil) No. 423 of 2010 in the matter of Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) and Ors. Vs. Union of India (UoI) and Ors. And Writ Petition (Civil) No. 10 of 2011 in the matter of Dr. Subramanian Swamy Vs Union of India (UoI) and Ors., Supreme Court Order mentions, among other things, that "The licences granted to the private respondents on or after 10.1.2008 pursuant to two press releases issued on 10.1.2008 and subsequent allocation of spectrum to the licensees are declared illegal and are quashed. The above direction shall become operative after four months."

Certain important observations of Supreme Court are:

- (i) There is a fundamental flaw in the first-come-first served policy inasmuch as it involves an element of pure chance or accident.
- (ii) While transferring or alienating the natural resources, the State is duty bound to adopt the method of auction by giving wide publicity so that all eligible persons can participate in the process.
- (iii) The exercise undertaken by the officers of the DoT between September, 2007 and March 2008, under the leadership of the then Minister of C and IT was wholly arbitrary, capricious and contrary to public interest apart from being violative of the doctrine of equality.

(b) to (d) Government has not expressed its inability to cancel the licences within any stipulated period. However, Government has filed an Interlocutory Application (IA) in the Supreme Court on 1st March, 2012 seeking clarifications from the Hon'ble Court in order to implement its order dated 02.02.2012, placing on record the proposed auction schedule which may take at least 400 days and indicating that there will be a time gap between cessation of licences as per Supreme Court order and completion of auction.

Auction of fourth generation spectrum

†1146. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI;
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to auction the spectrum for fourth generation in mobile services by the end of the current year;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government has estimated to earn Rs. 52,000 to 78,000 crore through this auction;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (d) whether Government is satisfied with the system of 2G and 3G spectrum use, before taking this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The Government has issued guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) services dated 1st August, 2008 and its amendments dated 11th September, 2008. Various bands such as, 700 MHz, 2.3 GHz, 2.5 GHz and 3.3 - 3.6 GHz have been identified for auction and allotment of spectrum for BWA services (e.g. 4G/LTE).

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued consultation paper on IMT-Advanced Mobile Wireless Broadband Services. The Government will take decision after the receipt of TRAI recommendation.

- (d) Allotment of Spectrum for 2G and 3G services are made as per provision of Unified Access Service Licence (UASL) and subjected to availability.

Reallocation of 2G spectrum and licences

1147. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has cancelled 122 2G licences;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of the consumers;
- (d) whether the process of reallocation of spectrum has started; and
- (e) if so, the status of the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its judgement dated 02.02.2012 in Writ Petition

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Civil) No. 423 of 2010 with Writ Petition (Civil) No. 10 of 2011, has quashed all the 122 Unified Access Services (UAS) licences granted in the year 2008. As per the above said judgment, the above direction of the Court shall become operative after four months.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), who discharges the function of ensuring quality of service under the TRAI Act, 1997, has issued instructions to all licensees, whose licenses have been ordered to be quashed by the Supreme Court, to ensure Quality of Service during the period of four months, as per license conditions.

(d) and (e) As per the directions of the Supreme Court in the above said judgement, the Government, on 03.02.2012, has sought the recommendations of the TRAI and subsequently TRAI, on 07.03.2012, has issued consultation paper on 'Auction of Spectrum'.

Poor network of telephones and mobiles in Chhattisgarh

†1148. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone and mobile phone subscribers in Chhattisgarh are facing several problems such as bad network, poor sound quality, etc. and as per the information available it is because of engagement of common staff in both mobile and landline phone services and the number of mobile towers is much less than their standard figure;

(b) if so, the efforts made, so far, to solve the problem; and

(c) if not, the plan proposed for future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. some problems regarding quality of Service are faced by the telephone and mobile phone subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in chhattisgarh. However, the quality of service of wireline and mobile network of BSNL is generally satisfactory. Specialized or common teams are deputed by BSNL to maintain telephone and mobile services at different levels with the objective to maximize operational efficiency. Base Transceiver Stations (BTSSs) have been deployed by BSNL based on existing demand, commercial/technical viabilities and other factors such as terrain, security etc.

Specific absorption rate for mobile handsets

1149. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has notified the new regulations regarding compliance of Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) for mobile handsets;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it would also monitor the compliance of handsets manufactured and sold in India or imported and will ensure that no handset of SAR value above the prescribed standard adopted in the country should be manufactured or sold in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Department of Telecommunications as a precautionary measure, has vide Office Memorandum No. 18-10/2008-IP dated 25th January, 2012 accepted among others the following recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Committee on the effect of EMF(Electro Magnetic Field) radiations from mobile phones:

- (i) SAR (Specific Absorption Rate) level for mobile handset shall be limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg., averaged over a mass of 1 gram of human tissue.
- (ii) SAR level shall be displayed on the handset.
- (iii) All Cell-phone handsets sold in the market in India shall comply with relevant BIS (Bureau of Indian Standard) standards and shall be with hand free devices.
- (iv) SAR value information of the mobile handsets shall be available on the manufacturer's website and in the handset's manual. The information on SAR values shall be made available to the consumer at the point of sale.
- (v) Mobile handset manufactured and sold in India or imported from other countries shall be checked for compliance of SAR limit.
- (vi) The manufacturers in India shall provide self declaration of SAR value of the handset. In respect of imported handset from other countries, manufacturers apart from self declaration of SAR shall specify the SAR information in their documents for verification by appropriate authority. Suitable amendments in the Indian Telegraph Rule under Indian Telegraph Act 1885 shall be enacted for strict compliance.

All the indigenous manufacturers have been instructed to make necessary changes in the design, software and packaging for compliance of above instructions on or before 1st September, 2012. All the manufacturers, indigenous as well as imported shall have to provide a self declaration to TEC in respect of SAR values 1.6 watt per kg averaged over 1 gram tissue based on certificate from internationally accredited lab or any lab accredited by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC), India, with a copy to this Department for necessary action. Such self declared SAR limits shall be subjected to TEC audit as and when required.

Subsidy to rural mobile phone customers

1150. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested to Government that all rural customers who take up a mobile connection be given a one-time subsidy of Rs.250 from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USFO); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of Government on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the Department received a suggestion of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission regarding telecom tariff reduction for small consumers. It was suggested by the Planning Commission that the Government may use the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund to give a transparent subsidy of 20% on all mobile bills of less than Rs. 300 per month in rural areas. In addition, a one-time subsidy of Rs. 250 could also be given at the time of new connection in rural areas. The proposal of the planning Commission has been examined by Department of Telecommunications (DoT). DoT is not in favour of the proposal at this stage.

Obligation of private telecom operators to connect rural areas

1151. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of private operators in Indian telecom sector under various categories and the details of their respective entry years;

(b) the percentage of market share of these private operators compared to BSNL and MTNL in urban and rural segments;

(c) whether these operators had given any commitment to Government to provide services in rural areas at the time of taking licences;

(d) how many of these operators have fulfilled the obligation to connect rural villages; and

(e) how many rural villages have been provided telephone connectivity by each of the private operators, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Communication security pact with other countries

1152. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government seeks communication security pact with US and other countries;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and
- (c) the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, Government does not have Communication Security Pact with US or other Countries. However, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) enters into international cyber security cooperation arrangements with organization engaged in similar activities, in the form of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance its operational readiness. At present such MOUs have been entered into with:

- (i) Computer Emergency Response Team, US,
- (ii) Japanese Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre,
- (iii) National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), South Korea,
- (iv) Computer Emergency Response Team, Mauritius,
- (v) Computer Emergency Response Team, Kazakhstan.

Beside the above, Government of Finland and Government of India have also a MOU on co-operation in the area of Cyber Security.

(c) The objectives of co-operation arrangement between the parties include the following areas relating to Cyber Security:

- (i) Establish a broader framework for future dialogue
- (ii) Exchange of information on Cyber attacks and mutual response to Cyber Security incidents.
- (iii) Cyber Security Technology co-operation
- (iv) Exchange of information on prevalent Cyber Security Policies and best practices.
- (v) Human Resource Exchange.

Demands of BSNL association

1153. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Joint Action Committee of BSNL Association/Unions of Executives and Non-Executives presented a charter of demands before the Management for discussion and settlements, to improve the financial viability of the company and to provide better services to the customers;

(b) if so, the demands made by the JAC along with the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to accommodate the demands of the JAC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) associations/unions had given a notice for strike in support of their demands contained in the charter. The demands contained in the charter were mainly related to staff issues of BSNL. However, the details and action taken by BSNL/government on the demands which were related to financial viability of the company and providing better services to the customer are as follows:

Sl. No.	Demand	Action Taken by BSNL/Department of Telecommunications
1.	Immediate procurement and supply of equipment and implementation of important business projects.	BSNL has already taken suitable steps for the procurement of equipment and Important business projects.
2.	Compensation for loss making rural services and quantification of Access Deficit Charges (ADC) through appropriate mechanism.	BSNL has sought continuation of support towards rural wireline connections on phasing out of Access Deficit Charge (ADC). The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has made interim recommendation of Rs. 600 crores as support.

3G services in the country

†1154. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BSNL has started its 3G services in all States/licence service areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including Uttarakhand. division-wise;
- (c) whether the services which have been started are working satisfactory;
- (d) if not, the action taken/being taken by Government in this regard; and
- (e) the time by when 3G services are likely to be started in every district of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has started its 3G services in all the States/licence service areas of the country where it is operating.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The circle wise details of number of cities where BSNL has launched 3G services in the country including Uttarakhand are given in Statement. (*See below*) BSNL has launched its 3G services in all the 13 Districts of Uttarakhand Telecom circle.

(c) and (d) The 3G services launched by BSNL are running, in general, satisfactorily. Though Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has not specified any Quality (QoS) of service norms particularly for 3G Mobile Services. BSNL is, in general, meeting the QoS benchmarks prescribed by TRAI for mobile services.

(e) Almost every district headquarter of BSNL's network operation area is already covered with 3G services except 2 districts in Punjab Circle, 8 districts in North East-I circle, 5 districts in Jammu and Kashmir Circle, 2 districts in Assam Circle, 1 district in Karnataka circle, 1 district in Andaman and Nicobar circle and 2 districts in Uttar Pradesh (West) circle, which BSNL intends to cover progressively based on techno-commercial considerations.

Statement

*Circle-wise details where 3G services have been
launched in BSNL's Network as on 13-02-2012*

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No of 3G cities
1.	Haryana	23
2.	Himachal Pradesh	26
3.	Punjab	23
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	21
5.	Jharkhand	29
6.	Rajasthan	47
7.	Uttarakhand	24
8.	UP (East)	62
9.	UP (West)	22
10.	Bihar	49
11.	Kolkata Telecom District	01
12.	Madhya Pradesh	61
13.	Odisha	53
14.	West Bengal	74
15.	North -Eastern -I	12

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No of 3G cities
16.	North Eastern- II	11
17.	Assam	36
18.	Andaman and Nicobar	04
19.	Chennai Telecom District	14
20.	Andhra Pradesh	29
21.	Kerala	21
22.	Karnataka	32
23.	Tamilnadu	38
24.	Chhattisgarh	22
25.	Maharashtra	56
26.	Gujarat	65
TOTAL 3G CITIES		855

Cases registered under cyber crimes

1155. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of cases registered under cyber crimes and for breach of IT Act between 2007 and 2010;
- (b) The total number of persons arrested under IT Act during 2007-2010;
- (c) The number of cyber crimes reported in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011; and
- (d) The steps taken by the Ministry to curb the menace of growing incidence of cyber crimes in mega cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) As per the cyber crime data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 217, 288, 420 and 966 Cyber Crime cases were registered under Information Technology Act, 2000 during 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively. A total of 328, 176, 276 and 356 cases were registered under Cyber Crime related Sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) during 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively.

(b) A total of 154, 178, 288 and 799 persons were arrested under Information Technology Act 2000 during 2007-2010. A total number of 429, 195, 263 and 294 persons were arrested under Cyber Crime related Sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) during 2007-2010.

(c) The number of Cyber Crimes reported in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangaluru for the years 2009 and 2010 are given in the following table.

Sl. No.	Cities	Cases Registered	
		2009	2010
1.	Delhi City	5	41
2.	Mumbai	4	8
3.	Chennai	2	10
4.	Bangaluru	97	40

The number of Cyber Crimes reported from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangaluru for the year 2011 is not available with National Crime Records Bureau.

(d) In order to address the growing threat of Cyber Crimes in the country, Government has evolved an integrated approach with a series of the following legal, technical and administrative steps to ensure that necessary systems are in place to address the threat effectively.

- (i) The Information technology Act, 2000 as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 has been enforced on 27.10.2009. The Act provides legal framework to address various types of cyber crimes and prescribes punishment also for such crimes.
- (ii) A major programme has been initiated on development of cyber forensics specifically cyber forensic tools, setting up of infrastructure for investigation and training of the users, particularly police and judicial officers in use of this tool to collect and analyse the digital evidence and present them in Court.
- (iii) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) are involved in providing basic and advanced training of Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analysing and presenting digital evidence.
- (iv) Cyber forensic training lab has been set up at Training Academy of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to impart basic and advanced training in Cyber Forensics and Investigation of Cyber Crimes to Police Officers associated with CBI. In addition, Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir.
- (v) In collaboration with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM. Cyber Forensic Labs have been set up at Mumbai, Bangaluru, Pune and

Kolkata. DSCI has organized 112 training programmes on Cyber Crime Investigation and awareness and a total of 3680 Police officials, judiciary and Public prosecutors have been trained through these programmes. National Law School of India University, Bangalore has also been conducting training on Cyber Law and Cyber Forensics through Judicial officers.

- (vi) Government has formulated a set of investigation manuals with procedures for Search, Seizure analysis and presentation of digital evidence in courts. The manuals have been circulated to Law Enforcement Agencies in all States. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts, advisories and guidelines regarding cyber security threats and measures to be taken to prevent cyber incidents and enhance security of Information Technology systems.

Linking of all villages with broadband

1156. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fixed any time-frame for linking of all villages of the country with broadband including in the State of Gujarat during 2012-13 annual plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the targets achieved in this regard, so far, Statewise;
- (c) the names of broadband service providers in Western-Central regions other than BSNL;
- (d) whether the broadband services are functioning properly in the country including in Gujarat; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Government has not fixed any time-frame for linking of all villages of the country with broadband including the State of Gujarat during 2012-13 Annual Plan period.

However, to increase broadband penetration in rural and remote areas, Government has approved the scheme for creation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) on 25th October 2011, for providing Broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh village Panchayats. The objective of this scheme is to extend the existing optical fiber network to Panchayats by utilizing the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF). The project is proposed to be completed in 2 years.

In addition, USOF has launched a Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme to increase broadband penetration in rural and remote areas. Under this scheme BSNL will provide 8,88,832 wire-line Broadband connections to individual users and Government Institutions over a period of 5-years in this scheme. As on February 2012, a total of 3,54,595 broadband connections have been provided. The telecom circle wise detail is at Statement-I (*See below*).

Further, Govt. under Bharat Nirman-II has a target of covering 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayat in 2012. State wise broadband coverage of village Panchayats is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) The name of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), including Broadband as on 29.02.2012, excluding BSNL in different service areas of the country are given in Statements-III and IV respectively (*See below*) as Category 'A' ISP licensees with service area "All India" and list of Category "B"/"C" ISP licensees with service area as whole/ part of the states of M.P., Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) TRAI has been monitoring quality of service through quarterly performance monitoring reports provided by broadband service providers against the quality of service benchmark notified by TRAI through regulation on Quality of Service of Broadband Service Regulations 2006 dated 6th October 2006.

As per the Performance Monitoring Report (PMR) for the quarter ending December 2011, the service providers are generally meeting the benchmarks for most of the quality of service parameters. Non-Compliance with quality of service benchmarks is mostly observed in respect of the parameters Service Provisioning/ Activation Time, Fault Repair/Restoration time and Billing performance. In the case of Gujarat service area, the service providers are generally meeting the benchmarks. However, M/s You Broadband has not met the benchmark for Service Provisioning/ Activation Time and Fault Repair/Restoration time, while M/s. Bharti Airtel Ltd. and M/s. Hathway have not met the benchmark for Percentage of billing complaints resolved within 4 weeks and Percentage of faults repaired within next working day respectively.

Wherever deficiencies in achieving the quality of service benchmarks have been noticed, the matter has been taken up with the service providers for remedial action. TRAI has been pursuing with the service providers for improving the quality of service.

For ensuring Quality of Service, apart from continuous monitoring of the performance of service providers against the benchmarks, TRAI has also engaged independent agencies to audit and assess the Quality of Service performed by service providers.

Statement-I

*Broadband connections provided by BSNL under USOF plans
up to February, 2012.*

S. No.	Telecom Circle	Total USOF Connections
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	325
2.	Andhra Pradesh	48,707
3.	Assam	1,750
4.	Bihar	3,024
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,669
6.	Chennai Telecom Dist	5,418
7.	Gujarat	21,480
8.	Haryana	11,395
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7,379
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,291
11.	Jharkhand	1,647
12.	Karnataka	23,377
13.	Kerala	78,532
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4,231
15.	Maharashtra	28,387
16.	North East-I	835
17.	North East-II	365
18.	Orissa	6,165
19.	Punjab	40,098
20.	Rajasthan	16,410
21.	Tamilnadu	25,602
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	7,730
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	4,135
24.	Uttaranchal	1,707
25.	West Bengal	12,936
	TOTAL	3,54,595

Statement-II

State of broadband coverage of village panchayats under Bharat Nirmal-II Upto 31-12-2011

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Total number of VPs	Number of Panchayats with Broadband connectivity as on 31.03.2009	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		Cumulative Achievement
				Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	67	Not Available	56	56	5	0	6	0	56
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21862		10917	10917	2413	1701	8532	1416	14034
3.	Assam	3943		693	693	629	312	2621	1057	2062
4.	Bihar	8460		1744	1744	2352	2472	4364	3572	7788
5.	Chhattisgarh	9837		2150	2150	1451	0	6236	0	2150
6.	Gujarat (including Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu)	14439		7014	7014	1500	585	5925	0	7599
7.	Haryana	6234		3758	3758	2000	1484	476	409	5651
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3241		1351	1351	653	309	1237	202	1862
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4146		885	885	1189	0	2072	423	1308
10.	Jharkhand	4559		30	30	1585	2507	2944	1923	4460

378 The Budget

[RAJYA SABHA]

(General), 2012-13

11. Karnataka	5657	Not Available	2460	2460	1500	970	1697	349	3779	The Budget
12. Kerala	999		989	989	10	8	0	0	997	[26 MAR. 2012] (General), 2012-13 379
13. Lakshadweep	10		5	5	5	0	0	0	5	
14. Madhya Pradesh	23022		2711	2711	7103	1446	13208	14	4171	
15. Maharashtra (including Goa)	28078		9366	9366	6272	928	12440	0	10294	
16. Tripura	1040		29	29	1000	825	11	118	1190	
17. Mizoram**	768		100	100	234	75	434	118	1190	
18. Meghalaya**	1463		0	0	200	43	1263	118	1190	
19. Arunachal Pradesh	1756		70	70	500	266	1186	32	1410	
20. Manipur	3011		60	60	100	266	2851	32	1410	
21. Nagaland**	1110		982	982	128	266	0	32	1410	
22. Orissa	6233		1379	1379	1400	711	3454	282	2372	
23. Punjab	12809		9642	9642	1500	751	1667	707	11100	
24. Chandigarh	17		16	16	1	0	0	0	16	
25. Rajasthan	9200		2424	2424	2081	522	4695	0	2946	
26. Tamil Nadu	12617		7450	7450	1492	320	3675	1538	9308	
27. Pondicherry	98		98	98	0	0	0	0	98	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28.	Uttar Pradesh	52125		10069	10069	14079	14358	27977	18576	43003
29.	Uttarakhand	7546		1356	1356	1000	645	5190	473	2474
30.	West Bengal	3354		1295	1295	776	292	1283	888	2475
31.	Sikkim	163		66	66	34	0	63	0	66
TOTAL		247864		79165	79165	53191	31530	115508	31979	142674

380 *The Budget*

[RAJYA SABHA]

(General), 2012-13

Statement-III*List of Category “A” ISPs with service area “All India”*

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Category	Service Area
1.	Reliance Communications Infrastructure Ltd.	A	All India
2.	M/s. SIFY Technologies Limited	A	All India
3.	Indusind Media and Communications Limited	A	All India
4.	Wipro Ltd.	A	All India
5.	Wire and Wireless (India) Limited [Earlier M/s. Siti Cable Network Limited]	A	All India
6.	GTL Ltd.	A	All India
7.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	A	All India
8.	VSNL Internet Services Ltd	A	All India
9.	Software Technology Parks of India	A	All India
10.	ERNET	A	All India
11.	Tata Communications Limited	A	All India
12.	Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd.	A	All India
13.	RPG Infotech Ltd.	A	All India
14.	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	A	All India
15.	Shivlink Services Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
16.	Pacific Internet India Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
17.	Hathway Cable and Datacom. Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
18.	Tata Internet Services Ltd.	A	All India
19.	SwiftMail Communications Ltd.	A	All India
20.	HCL Comnet Systems and Services Ltd.	A	All India
21.	Spectra ISP Networks Private Limited [Earlier M/s Punj Lloyd Limited] (Old name Spectra Net Ltd.)	A	All India
22.	Comsat Max Ltd.	A	All India
23.	L&T Finance Ltd.	A	All India
24.	Astro Network India Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Category	Service Area
25.	Trak Online Net (India) Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
26.	Hughes Communications India Limited	A	All India
27.	Information Technologies(India) Ltd.	A	All India
28.	Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
29.	HCL Infinet Ltd.	A	All India
30.	Data Infosys Ltd.	A	All India
31.	Reliance Wimax Limited	A	All India
32.	Primenet Global Ltd.	A	All India
33.	Data Access (India) Ltd.	A	All India
34.	Karuturi Telecom Private Limited	A	All India
35.	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Ltd.	A	All India
36.	The Tata Power Company Ltd.	A	All India
37.	Reliance Engineering Associates Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
38.	Millennium Telecom. Ltd.	A	All India
39.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	A	All India
40.	Netcracker Ltd.	A	All India
41.	World Phone Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
42.	Essel Shyam Communications Ltd.	A	All India
43.	Reach Network India Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
44.	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	A	All India
45.	Gujarat Info Petro Limited	A	All India
46.	Bharti Aquanet Ltd.	A	All India
47.	n-Logue Communications Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
48.	Railtel Corporation of India Ltd.	A	All India
49.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	A	All India
50.	M/s. BT Global Communications India Private Limited	A	All India
51.	BG Broadband India Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Category	Service Area
52.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	A	All India
53.	Global One (India) Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
54.	National Stock exchange of India Ltd.	A	All India
55.	VSNL Broadband Ltd. (Earlier Tata Power Broadband Company Ltd.)	A	All India
56.	Nelco Ltd.	A	All India
57.	Tulip Telecom Limited	A	All India
58.	DCT Networks Private Limited	A	All India
59.	Softeng Computers Private Ltd.	A	All India
60.	IOL Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	A	All India
61.	S Tel Private Limited (Earlier M/s. S Tel Limited)	A	All India
62.	Infotel Broadband Services Private Limited	A	All India
63.	Netmagic Solutions Private Limited	A	All India
64.	Noida Software Technology Park Limited	A	All India
65.	Ortel Communications Limited	A	All India
66.	Cordia L T Communications Private Limited	A	All India
67.	Exatt Technologies Private Limited	A	All India
68.	IKF Technologies Limited	A	All India
69.	Opto Network Private Limited	A	All India
70.	AT&T Global Network Services India Private Limited	A	All India
71.	Broadband Pacenet (India) Private Limited	A	All India
72.	DEN Networks Limited	A	All India
73.	Limras Eronet Broadband Service Private Limited	A	All India
74.	Viva Communications Private Limited (Earlier Mylai Karpagambal Information Systems Private Limited)	A	All India
75.	S&A Internet Services Private Limited	A	All India

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Category	Service Area
76.	Financial Technologies Communications Limited	A	All India
77.	RI Networks Private Limited	A	All India
78.	Tatanet Services Limited	A	All India
79.	D-Vois Broadband Private Limited	A	All India
80.	Devas Multimedia Private Limited	A	All India
81.	Softcell Technologies Limited	A	All India
82.	Citycom Networks Private Limited	A	All India
83.	Tikona Digital Networks Private Limited	A	All India
84.	Etisalat DB Telecom Private Limited (Earlier Swan Telecom Private Limited)	A	All India
85.	Zylog Systems (India) Limited	A	All India
86.	S V Teletech Private Limited	A	All India
87.	Atria Convergence Technologies Private Limited	A	All India
88.	Verizon Communications India Private Limited	A	AH India
89.	O-Zone Networks Private Limited	A	All India
90.	M/s. SingTel Global (India) Private Limited	A	All India
91.	M/s. Equant Network Services India Private Limited	A	All India
92.	Pipetel Communications Private Limited	A	All India
93.	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Limited	A	All India
94.	SGR Eduventures Private Limited (earlier M/s. Smart IT-Concepts (Nagpur) Private Limited)	A	All India
95.	Idea Cellular Limited	A	All India
96.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	A	All India
97.	Microsense Private Limited	A	All India
98.	Five Network Solution (India) Limited	A	All India
99.	Sisam Technologies Private Limited	A	All India
100.	Metamax Communications Limited	A	All India

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Category	Service Area
101.	Augere Wireless Broadband India Private Limited	A	All India
102.	Telstra Telecommunications Private Limited	A	All India
103.	Smart IT-Concepts (NGP) Private Limited	A	All India
104.	Airmesh Communications Limited	A	All India
105.	Pioneer eLabs Limited	A	All India

Statement-IV

List of Category “B/C” ISPs with Service area as whole/part of the states of M.P., Gujarat Rajasthan and Maharashtra

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Category	Service area	State
1.	Narmada Cyberzone Pvt. Ltd.	C	Bharuch	Gujarat
2.	Blazenet Pvt. Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
3.	Growth Compusoft Exports Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
4.	E-com Opportunities Pvt. Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
5.	Sanchar Telenetwork Pvt. Ltd	C	Bhavnagar	Gujarat
6.	Rising Sun Infonet P. Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
7.	Chandra Net Pvt. Ltd	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
8.	Swastik Netvision Telecom	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
9.	ICENET.Net Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
10.	Fascel Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
11.	Vallabh Vidyanagar Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.	C	Kheda	Gujarat
12.	Space Online Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
13.	BG Broadband India Pvt. Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
14.	Chiman Trade Link P. Ltd.	C	Nadiad	Gujarat
15.	Skydot Communications Pvt. Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
16.	EMTICI Engineering Ltd.	C	Nadiad	Gujarat
17.	Kinjaru Appliances (P) Ltd.	C	Rajkot	Gujarat
18.	Digital 2 Virtual ISP Pvt. Ltd.	B	Gujarat	Gujarat

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Category	Service area	State
19.	Speed Online.Net Pvt. Ltd.	C	Rajkot	Gujarat
20.	World Gate Networks Pvt. Ltd	C	Surat	Gujarat
21.	Gujarat Telelink Private Limited	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
22.	Ishan Netsol Private Limited	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
23.	Capture Network Systems Private Limited	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
24.	My Own Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	C	Surat	Gujarat
25.	Kaizen Infonet Private Limited	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
26.	R.K. Cable Net Private Limited	B	Gujarat	Gujarat
27.	GIGA Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
28.	Anar Fin Engineers Pvt Ltd	C	Surat	Gujarat
29.	Spidernet Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
30.	Kaizen Infonet Pvt Ltd	C	Surat	Gujarat
31.	Silicon Mountains (India) Ltd.	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
32.	Compulink (India) Pvt. Ltd.	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
33.	Sujan Engineering Pvt. Ltd.	C	Vadodara	Gujarat
34.	United Telecoms Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
35.	Pan India Network Infravest Private Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
36.	M/s UCN Cable Network Private Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
37.	Microscan Computers Private Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
38.	Quest Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	C	Valsad	Gujarat
39.	Khetan Cable Network Pvt. Ltd.	C	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
40.	Syscon Infoway Private Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
41.	Rajesh Patel Net Services Pvt. Ltd.	C	Indore	Madhya Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Category	Service area	State
42.	ESDS Internet- Services Private Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
43.	Vikram Teleinfra Private Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
44.	Intermedia Cable Communication Private Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
45.	Digital Network Associates Private Limited	B	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
46.	MTNL	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
47.	Broadlane Networks Pvt. Ltd.	C	Dombivli	Maharashtra
48.	Compulink (India) Pvt. Ltd.	C	Goa	Maharashtra
49.	Trikon Electronics Pvt. Ltd	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
50.	Immersoft Technologies Pvt. Ltd	C	Goa	Maharashtra
51.	Web Surf Pvt. Ltd.	C	Kalyan	Maharashtra
52.	Cyber Setu India Pvt. Ltd.	C	Kalyan	Maharashtra
53.	Vasai Cable Pvt. Ltd.	C	Kalyan	Maharashtra
54.	Rolta India Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
55.	Ankhnet Information Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
56.	M/s. Orange Infocom Private Limited (Earlier M/s. Digital Nagpur Online Private Limited)	C	Nagpur	Maharashtra
57.	Value Healthcare Ltd	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
58.	Scroll Net Services (India) Pvt. Ltd.	C	Nagpur	Maharashtra
59.	Compucom (I) Pvt. Ltd	C	Jaipur	Rajasthan
60.	BG Broadband India Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
61.	Infomagic Services Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
62.	Bhaskar Multi Net Pvt. Ltd.	C	Jaipur	Rajasthan
63.	Aksh Broadband Ltd.	C	Jaipur	Rajasthan
64.	India Online Network Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
65.	Usha Netcoms Pvt. Ltd.	C	Jaipur	Rajasthan
66.	Seven Star Dot Com Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
67.	Bohra Pratisthan Pvt. Ltd.	C	Udaipur	Rajasthan

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Category	Service area	State
68.	Multinet (Udiapur) Pvt. Ltd.	C	Udaipur	Rajasthan
69.	Hathway Bhawani Cabeltel and Datacom Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
70.	Godrej Infotech Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
71.	Broadband Pacenet (India) Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
72.	Rajesh Multichannel Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
73.	Honesty Net Solutions (India) P. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
74.	Broadllyne Infoservices Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
75.	M/s. Pan India Network Infravest Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
76.	Tata Power Broadband Company Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
77.	Virtela India Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
78.	F/X Wireless Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
79.	ICAN Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
80.	Syscon Infoway Pvt. Ltd.	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
81.	Novanet Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
82.	Urban Communications Infrastructure Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
83.	Syntel Telecom Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
84.	Microscan Computers Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
85.	Smartlink Broadband Services Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
86.	Wan And Lan Internet Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
87.	Shree Omkar Infocom Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
88.	Phonic Net Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
89.	JPR Digital Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
90.	Home Systems Private Limited	B	Mumbai	Maharashtra
91.	Weikfield Mnemonix Infonetworks Pvt. Ltd.	B	Pune	Maharashtra

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Category	Service area	State
92.	Vertec Communications Ltd.	B	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
93.	Shyam Internet Services Ltd.	B	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
94.	Uclix Computers Pvt Ltd	B	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
95.	Kappa Internet Services Private Limited	B	Rajasthan	Rajasthan

STPIs in the country

1157. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Software Technology Parks of India (STPIs) functioning in the country;

(b) The number of these in Odisha;

(c) Whether there is any plan to establish more STPIs in Odisha, if so, their locations; and

(d) The details on the export of software from India to other countries through the STPIs in the last three years along with separate statement from the STPIs in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up 52 centers across the country including three STPI centers in the State of Odisha, which are located at Bhubaneswar, Rourkela and Berhampur.

(c) STPI had received a proposal from the State Government of Odisha for setting up STPI centre at Balasore.

As per the current policy for setting up a new STPI Centre, the State Government has to provide 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq. ft. of built up space and Grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI. The proposal can be processed only after the State Govt. gives confirmation about its contribution.

(d) The details of export of software by STP units in the last three years from India and the state of Odisha are given below:-

(Values in Rs. Crores)

Financial Year	Total Exports by STP Units	Exports by STP Units from the State of Odisha
2008-09	207358.00	1162.00
2009-10	205505.00	1116.53
2010-11	215264.00	1253.29

Impact of cancellation of licences on call rates

1158. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cancelled the mobile licences awarded previously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that call rates may increase due to heavy increase in licence fees; and

(d) if so, the steps Government would take to safeguard the interests of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its judgement dated 02.02.2012 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 423 of 2010 with Writ Petition (Civil) No. 10 of 2011, has quashed all the 122 Unified Access Services (UAS) licences granted in the year 2008. As per the above said judgement, the above direction of the Court shall become operative after four months. Details of above said 122 UAS licences alongwith the name of the company and name of the service areas is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) In this regard, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), who has been assigned the function of notifying the rates at which telecommunication services within India and outside India shall be provided under the TRAI Act, 1997, has stated that "call rates are determined by the service providers based on several factors including input costs, market conditions and other commercial considerations. Licence fee paid being one of such input costs, if there is heavy increase in licence fee the same may also get reflected in the pricing for services."

Statement

List of 122 Unified Access Services (UAS) licences issued in 2008 which have been quashed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Sl. No.	Name of Licensee Company	Service Area	Effective Date of Licence
1	2	3	4
1.	Allianz Infratech (P) Ltd.	Bihar	31-Jul-2008
2.	Allianz Infratech (P) Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	31-Jul-2008
3.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
4.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	25-Jan-2008

1	2	3	4
5.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Gujarat	25-Jan-2008
6.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Haryana	25-Jan-2008
7.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Karnataka	25-Jan-2008
8.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Kerala	25-Jan-2008
9.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Maharashtra	25-Jan-2008
10.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	25-Jan-2008
11.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Punjab	25-Jan-2008
12.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Rajasthan	25-Jan-2008
13.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai Service Area)	25-Jan-2008
14.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	25-Jan-2008
15.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	25-Jan-2008
16.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Assam	25-Jan-2008
17.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir	25-Jan-2008
18.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Karnataka	25-Jan-2008
19.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Kolkata	25-Jan-2008
20.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	North East	25-Jan-2008
21.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Orissa	25-Jan-2008
22.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Punjab	25-Jan-2008
23.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai Service Area)	25-Jan-2008
24.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	West Bengal	25-Jan-2008
25.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
26.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Assam	25-Jan-2008
27.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Bihar	25-Jan-2008
28.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Delhi	25-Jan-2008
29.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	25~Jan-2008
30.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Haryana	25-Jan-2008
31.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
32.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir	25-Jan-2008

1	2	3	4
33.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Karnataka	25-Jan-2008
34.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Kerala	25-Jan-2008
35.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Kolkata	25-Jan-2008
36.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
37.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Maharashtra	25-Jan-2008
38.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	North East	25-Jan-2008
39.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Orissa	25-Jan-2008
40.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Punjab	25-Jan-2008
41.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Rajasthan	25-Jan-2008
42.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai Service Area)	25-Jan-2008
43.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	25-Jan-2008
44.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	25-Jan-2008
45.	Loop Telecom Ltd.	West Bengal	25-Jan-2008
46.	S Tel Pvt. Ltd.	Assam	25-Jan-2008
47.	S Tel Pvt. Ltd.	Bihar	25-Jan-2008
48.	S Tel Pvt. Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
49.	S Tel Pvt. Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir	25-Jan-2008
50.	S Tel Pvt. Ltd.	North East	25-Jan-2008
51.	S Tel Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa	25-Jan-2008
52.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
53.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Assam	25-Jan-2008
54.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Bihar	25-Jan-2008
55.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Delhi	25-Jan-2008
56.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Gujarat	25-Jan-2008
57.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Haryana	25-Jan-2008
58.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
59.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir	25-Jan-2008
60.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Karnataka	25-Jan-2008

1	2	3	4
61.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Kerala	25-Jan-2008
62.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Kolkata	25-Jan-2008
63.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
64.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Maharashtra	25-Jan-2008
65.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Mumbai	25-Jan-2008
66.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	North East	25-Jan-2008
67.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Orissa	25-Jan-2008
68.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Punjab	25-Jan-2008
69.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai Service Area)	25-Jan-2008
70.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	25-Jan-2008
71.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	25-Jan-2008
72.	Sistema Shyam TeleServices Ltd.	West Bengal	25-Jan-2008
73.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
74.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Delhi	25-Jan-2008
75.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Haryana	25-Jan-2008
76.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Maharashtra	25-Jan-2008
77.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Assam	25-Jan-2008
78.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir	25-Jan-2008
79.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	North East	25-Jan-2008
80.	Unitech Wireless (Delhi) Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	25-Jan-2008
81.	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	Assam	25-Jan-2008
82.	Unitech. Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	Bihar	25-Jan-2008
83.	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	North East	25-Jan-2008
84.	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa	25-Jan-2008
85.	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	25-Jan-2008
86.	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.	West Bengal	25-Jan-2008
87.	Unitech Wireless (Kolkata) Pvt. Ltd.	Kolkata	25-Jan-2008
88.	Unitech Wireless (Mumbai) Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai	25-Jan-2008
89.	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	Haryana	25-Jan-2008

1	2	3	4
90.	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
91.	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir	25-Jan-2008
92.	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	Punjab	25-Jan-2008
93.	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	Rajasthan	25-Jan-2008
94.	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	25-Jan-2008
95.	Unitech Wireless (South) Pvt. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
96.	Unitech Wireless (South) Pvt. Ltd.	Karnataka	25-Jan-2008
97.	Unitech Wireless (South) Pvt. Ltd.	Kerala	25-Jan-2008
98.	Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Pvt. Ltd.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai Service Area)	25-Jan-2008
99.	Unitech Wireless (West) Pvt. Ltd.	Gujarat	25-Jan-2008
100.	Unitech Wireless (West) Pvt. Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
101.	Unitech Wireless (West) Pvt. Ltd.	Maharashtra	25-Jan-2008
102.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
103.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Assam	25-Jan-2008
104.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Bihar	25-Jan-2008
105.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Delhi	25-Jan-2008
106.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Gujarat	25-Jan-2008
107.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Haryana	25-Jan-2008
108.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
109.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir	25-Jan-2008
110.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Karnataka	25-Jan-2008
111.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Kerala	25-Jan-2008
112.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Kolkata	25-Jan-2008
113.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	25-Jan-2008
114.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Maharashtra	25-Jan-2008
115.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Mumbai	25-Jan-2008
116.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	North East	25-Jan-2008
117.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Orissa	25-Jan-2008
118.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Rajasthan	25-Jan-2008

1	2	3	4
119. Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Tamilnadu (including Chennai Service Area)	25-Jan-2008	
120. Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	25-Jan-2008	
121. Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	25-Jan-2008	
122. Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.	West Bengal	25-Jan-2008	

US threat to stop outsourcing from India

1159. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that IT industry of the country is very much concerned over the US threat to stop outsourcing from India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per National association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), IT industry of India remains concerned on the US threat to stop outsourcing. The following issues have adversely impacted outsourcing from India:

- (i) Steep Hike in Visa fees under (Public Law) PL 111-230 (August 2010);
- (ii) Extension of applicability of PL 111-230 under the James Zadroga Act (Dec. 2010);
- (iii) Ohio State's executive order banning offshore outsourcing (August 2010);
- (iv) US Government decision to centralize Blanket L visa at Chennai Consulate (Nov. 2011);
- (v) Sharp jump in Visa rejection rates.

(c) As per the Department of Commerce (DOC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the issues have been raised regularly at every possible forum/meeting with US side. Concerns of Indian IT industry were also raised by NASSCOM and DOC in the INDIA-US ICT Working Group Meeting held in December, 2011 at New Delhi.

Electronic development fund

1160. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to create an Electronic Development

Fund in order to promote manufacturing of electronic and telecom products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is part of the National Policy of Electronics 2011 released by Government;

(d) whether the policy also proposes setting up of over 200 electronic manufacturing clusters across the country and aims to achieve a turnover of 400 billion Dollars in this sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) Under the Draft National Policy on Electronics, it has been proposed to create an Electronic Development Fund to promote Innovation and IP and R and D, commercialization of products, etc. in the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), nanoelectronics and IT sectors by providing appropriate funding/incentives to Industry/Academic/R and D institutions.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Draft National Policy on Electronics proposes to provide incentives for setting up of over 200 Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) with world class logistics and infrastructure and easy to do business facilities. The support is intended to facilitate setting up Greenfield EMCs and upgradation of Brownfield EMCs.

Irregularities in awarding Wi-Max contract

†1161. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious irregularities are coming to fore in awarding the contract of Wi-Max services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that BSNL was capable of launching Wi-Max services and despite this the contract of the services was awarded favouring some private companies committing irregularities in the process of award of the contract, leading to loss of crores of rupees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) CBI has registered a Case RC AC 12012 A003 on 23.2.2012 in the matter of award of Franchisee for Wi-MAX roll out in Licence Service Areas (LSAs) of BSNL in the year 2009-10. The case is at initial stage of investigation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Reservation in promotion in the Ministry

1162. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation in promotion is strictly followed and implemented in the Ministry as per the provisions made in the Constitution through 77th Amendment;

(b) if so, the details of promotion made for the last five years in all categories;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the tentative time by when the same will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Agreement between 3G service providers in a circle

1163. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies providing 3G services in the country;

(b) the details of each of the company providing 3G services, circle-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that a company which does not have spectrum in a particular circle is permitted to provide 3G services;

(d) whether the 3G spectrum guidelines permit a company to enter into an agreement, in a circle where it does not have 3G spectrum, with other company which has 3G spectrum licence for that circle, for roaming or other purposes; and

(e) if so, the details of the companies which have entered into such agreements and whether such agreements are valid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) A list containing service area wise details of companies who are providing 3G services in the country is given in Statement (*See* below). In the Annexure, names of such companies have also been included who were not allocated 3G spectrum and whose Licenses were also not amended for use of 3G spectrum. These companies are providing 3G services in some circles in contravention of the terms and conditions of the license. Instructions have been issued on 23.12.2011 to such companies for stopping 3G services immediately. These companies have filed petitions in Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and on 24.12.2011, TDSAT has ordered that Department of Telecommunications (DoT) may not take any coercive action for enforcing the impugned order dated 23. 12.2011. The matter is subjudice.

(c) Company not having 3G spectrum in a particular service area is not permitted to provide 3G services in that service area.

(d) Intra service area roaming facility is permitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Service (UAS) Licence.

(e) As per information available with the department Vodafone, Bharti Airtel, Idea, Tata Teleservices and Aircel have signed the intra service area roaming agreements. Some of the provisions contained in the agreements are against the license terms and conditions.

Statement

List of access services licences providing 3G services as on 21.03.12

Sl.No.	Name of Licensee Company	Service Area
1.	Aircel Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Vodafone South Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
6.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Assam
7.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Assam
8.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Assam
9.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Assam
10.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Assam
11.	Vodafone Spacetel Ltd.	Assam
12.	Aditya Birla Telecom Ltd.	Bihar
13.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Bihar
14.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Bihar
15.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Bihar
16.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Bihar
17.	Vodafone Spacetel Ltd.	Bihar
18.	Aircel Cellular Limited	Chennai
19.	Vodafone South Ltd.	Chennai
20.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Delhi
21.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Delhi

Sl.No.	Name of Licensee Company	Service Area
22.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	Delhi
23.	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Delhi
24.	Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd.	Delhi
25.	Aircel Ltd.	Gujarat
26.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Gujarat
27.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Gujarat
28.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Gujarat
29.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Gujarat
30.	Vodafone West Ltd.	Gujarat
31.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Haryana
32.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Haryana
33.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Haryana
34.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Haryana
35.	Vodafone Digilink Ltd.	Haryana
36.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
37.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Himachal Pradesh
38.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
39.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
40.	Vodafone Spacetel Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
41.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir
42.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Jammu and Kashmir
43.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir
44.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir
45.	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir
46.	Vodafone Spacetel Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir
47.	Aircel Ltd.	Karnataka
48.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Karnataka
49.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Karnataka
50.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Karnataka
51.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Karnataka

Sl. No.	Name of Licensee Company	Service Area
52.	Vodafone South Ltd.	Karnataka
53.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Kerala
54.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Kerala
55.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Kerala
56.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Kerala
57.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Kerala
58.	Vodafone Cellular Ltd.	Kerala
59.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd,	Kolkata
60.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Kolkata
61.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Kolkata
62.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Kolkata
63.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Kolkata
64.	Vodafone East Ltd.	Kolkata
65.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
66.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Madhya Pradesh
67.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
68.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
69.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
70.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
71.	Vodafone Spacetel Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
72.	Aircel Ltd.	Maharashtra
73.	Bharat Sanchar, Nigam Ltd.	Maharashtra
74.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Maharashtra
75.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Maharashtra
76.	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra
77.	Vodafone Cellular Ltd.	Maharashtra
78.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Mumbai
79.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Mumbai
80.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	Mumbai

Sl. No.	Name of Licensee Company	Service Area
81.	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Mumbai
82.	Vodafone India Ltd.	Mumbai
83.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	North East
84.	Bharti Hexacom Ltd.	North East
85.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	North East
86.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	North East
87.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	North East
88.	Vodafone Spacetel Ltd.	North East
89.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Orissa
90.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Orissa
91.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Orissa
92.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Punjab
93.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Punjab
94.	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Punjab
95.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Punjab
96.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Rajasthan
97.	Bharti Hexacom Ltd.	Rajasthan
98.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Rajasthan
99.	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Rajasthan
100.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Rajasthan
101.	Vodafone Digilink Ltd.	Rajasthan
102.	Vodafone Cellular Ltd.	Area)
103.	Aircel Ltd.	Area)
104.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Area)
105.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Area)
106.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Area)
107.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)
108.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Uttar Pradesh (East)
109.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)
110.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)

Sl. No.	Name of Licensee Company	Service Area
111.	Vodafone Digilink Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)
112.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
113.	Bharti Airtel Limited	Uttar Pradesh (West)
114.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
115.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
116.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
117.	Vodafone South Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
118.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	West Bengal
119.	Bharti Airtel Limited	West Bengal
120.	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	West Bengal
121.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	West Bengal
122.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	West Bengal
123.	Vodafone South Ltd.	West Bengal

Note 1. As per information received from companies M/s. Aditya Birla Telecom Limited has amalgamated with M/s. Idea Cellular Limited as per order of Hon'ble High Court(s). The license is yet to be transferred in the name of transferee company.

Note 2. As intimated by companies, M/s. Spice Communications Ltd. has amalgamated with M/s. Idea Cellular Ltd. as per orders of Hon'ble High court(s) of Gujarat and Delhi. The amalgamation is yet to be taken on records in DoT. The matter is subjudice.

Financial assistance for food processing units in Kerala

1164. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any request from the Government of Kerala seeking financial assistance for food processing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures the Ministry has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grants-in-aid to the implementing

agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas, or @ 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North-Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. The implementing agencies include Central/State Government organizations/PSUs/NGOs/Cooperative societies and private sector units and individuals. Under the scheme, no proposals are received through State Government directly in the Ministry.

(c) Under the scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/ Establishment of Food Processing Industries the financial assistance provided to the entrepreneurs/ agencies in the State of Kerala during 11th Plan period is as under:

Name of of the State	(Rs in lakhs)									
	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12(as on 31.12.2011)	
	Appr- oved	Amount released	Appr- oved	Amount released	Appr- oved	Amount released	Appr- oved	Amount released	Appr- oved	Amount released
Kerala	47	876.8	32	545.37	33	567.53	19	411.72	50	875.055

New schools in Jharkhand

1165. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPEMNT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned funds for establishment of new schools during the financial year 2011-12 in the country, particularly in Jharkhand;

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

(c) the time by when the said schools are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Central Government has sanctioned funds for establishment of New Schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Model School Scheme and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) Scheme in the financial year 2011-12.

(b) Under SSA, 13733 primary schools and 2809 Upper Primary schools have been sanctioned in 2011-12, including 42 Primary Schools and 32 Upper Primary Schools in Jharkhand. During 2011-12 (till 5.3.2012) an amount of Rs. 19,763.90 crore has been released to the States/UTs out of which Rs. 579.03 crore has been released to the State of Jharkhand for implementation of combined RTE-SSA Programme.

Under RMSA an amount of Rs. 2244.6162 crore has been sanctioned including an amount of Rs. 172.6164 crore to Jharkhand for 297 Schools during 2011-12. State-wise details are at Statement-I (*See below*).

Under Model Schools Scheme, an amount of Rs. 912.08 crore has been sanctioned including an amount of Rs. 46.43 crore to Jharkhand for opening 40 schools. State-wise details are at Statement-II (*See below*).

Ministry of Tribal Affairs have sanctioned 14 Schools to 5 State Governments including two schools in Jharkhand during 2011-12. An amount of Rs. 3640.3 Lakhs has been sanctioned including Rs. 500.00 Lakhs to Jharkhand. State-wise details are at Statement-III (*See below*).

(c) Under RMSA 2553 schools and 168 schools under Model School Scheme have become functional. Rest of the schools are likely to start by the next academic year.

Statement-I*Under SSA new schools approved and financial allocation in the year 2011-12*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Schools sanctioned			Financial Allocation		
		School with 2 section	School with 1 section	Total Sanction School	School with 2 section	School with 1 section	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29	73	102	1685.48	3420.78	5106.26
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	15	22	406.84	702.90	1109.74
4.	Assam	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Bihar	169	0	169	9822.28	0.00	9822.28
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	633	0	633	36789.96	0.00	36789.96
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Daman and Diu	0	1	1	0.00	46.86	46.86
10.	Delhi	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 405

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	406
11.	Goa	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	<i>The Budget</i>
12.	Gujurat	243	13	256	14123.16	609.18	14732.34	
13.	Haryana	5	0	5	290.60	0.00	290.60	
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	22	22	0.00	1030.92	1030.92	
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	147	132	279	8543.64	6185.52	14729.16	
16.	Jharkhand	297	0	297	17261.64	0.00	17261.64	
17.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	[RAJYA SABHA]
18.	Kerala	15	1	16	871.80	46.86	918.66	
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
20.	Madhya Pradesh	603	0	603	35046.36	0.00	35046.36	
21.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
22.	Manipur	4	45	49	232.48	2108.70	2341.18	
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
24.	Mizoram	22	4	26	1278.64	187.44	1466.08	(General), 2012-13
25.	Nagaland	11	34	45	639.32	1593.24	2232.56	
26.	Orissa	9	0	9	523.08	0.00	523.08	

27.	Puducherry	0	2	2	0.00	93.72	93.72
28.	Punjab	69	4	73	4010.28	187.44	4197.72
29.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Tamil Nadu	709	1	710	41207.08	46.86	41253.94
32.	Tripura	15	26	41	871.80	1218.36	2090.16
33.	Uttar Pradesh	449	0	449	26095.88	0.00	26095.88
34.	Uttarakhand	35	112	147	2034.20	5248.32	7282.52
35.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		3471	485	3956	201734.52	22727.10	224461.62

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 407

Statement-II

Under Model School Scheme (State sector) new schools approved and financial allocation in the Year 2011-12

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	School Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Tamil Nadu	26	10.44
2.	Madhya Pradesh	168	195.01
3.	Rajasthan	43	49.92
4.	Assam	24	40.07
5.	Andhra Pradesh	355	412.09
6.	Jharkhand	40	46.43
7.	Orissa	111	128.85
8.	Maharashtra	43	29.27
TOTAL		810	912.08

Statement-III

Under Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) Scheme new schools approved and financial allocation in the year 2011-12

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State	School Sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	Chhattisgarh	1	400.30
2.	Gujarat	7	840.00
3.	Jharkhand	2	500.00
4.	Odisha	3	1800.00
5.	Rajasthan	1	100.00
TOTAL		12	3640.30

Use of LPG for cooking mid-day-meals

1166. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

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

(a) whether at most of the centres of Mid-Day-Meal, fuel wood is used as main fuel for cooking;

(b) whether Government proposes to assist State Governments in using LPG at all the centres;

(c) whether Government is considering to provide separate funds to purchase LPG chulhas/stoves of appropriate size and also meet 75 per cent expenditure on regular LPG use; and

(d) whether Government proposes to assist State Governments in meeting the Security Deposits for LPG cylinders and regulators or alternatively ask Ministry, of Petroleum and Natural Gas to instruct oil companies not to charge this deposit from Mid-Day-Meal centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One time Central assistance @ Rs. 5000/- per school is provided for provisioning of cooking devices (Stove, Chulha, etc.), Containers for storage of foodgrains and other ingredients and utensils for cooking and serving. In addition LPG cylinders for cooking in schools are also provided at domestic rates under Mid Day Meal Scheme. Using these funds, 22% of the schools in the country are currently using LPG.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Examination system for class XII board exams

1167. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is mulling a proposal to revolutionise the examination system for Class XII board exams;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has consulted all stakeholders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Setting up of Model Schools at block level

1168. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

SHRI K.P. RAMALINGAM:

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

(a) the details of measures taken by Government to provide quality education at block level for the benefit of rural populace;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up model schools at block level under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The centrally sponsored Model School Scheme to set up 6,000 senior secondary model schools at block level at the rate of one school per block, as benchmark of excellence, was launched in November 2008. Out of these, 3,500 schools are to be set up in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) in Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) template through State/UT Governments and the remaining 2,500 schools are to be set up under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in blocks which are not educationally backward. Presently, only the component for setting up of 3,500 model schools under State/UT Governments is operational. The PPP component will be operational from the 12th Five Year Plan.

Shutting down of business management colleges

†1169. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 3,900 colleges offering the course of business management were established in the country during the past years which had the arrangement of teaching 3.5 lakh students;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is also a fact that decision has been taken to shut down 65 of such colleges, as of now;

(c) if so, the fact thereof and the number of these colleges along with the States they are situated in; and

(d) the reasons for the shutting down of these colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are 3644 Management Institutions approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in the country.

(b) to (d) Some Management institutions have submitted applications to All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for closure of programme due to various reasons including poor admission in these institutes. The State-wise number of such institutes is as follows:

(i) Andhra Pradesh - 36 (ii) Chattisgarh - 5 (iii) Gujarat-7 (iv) Haryana-7 (v) Himachal Pradesh-1 (vi) Karnataka -6 (vii) Madhya Pradesh-8 (viii) Maharashtra - 14 (ix) Punjab-4 (x) Rajasthan - 25 (xi) Tamil Nadu-2 (xii) Uttar Pradesh-18 (xiii) Uttarakhand -1.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Proposal for new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Assam

1170. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Assam to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has received the following proposals for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas from State Government of Assam:-

Sl. No.	Name of Location
1.	Tamuipur, Distt. Baksa
2.	Udalguri, Distt. Udalguri
3.	NF Railway, Rangiya, Distt. Rangiya
4.	PTC Dergaon, Distt. Golaghat
5.	Rangapara, Distt. Sonitpur
6.	North Lakhimpur, Distt. Lakhimpur
7.	Kajalgaon, Distt. Chirang

Out of these Kendriya Vidyalayas have already been opened during 2010-11 at Tamuipur, Distt, Baksa, Udalguri, Distt. Udalguri and NF Railway, Rangiya, Distt, Rangiya.

- (c) Does not arise.

Redressal of issues related to mid-day-meal scheme

1171. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

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

- (a) whether Government has established Grievance Redressal Cells, Review Committees, telephone helplines, call centres and complaint boxes for redressing issues related to the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether such Grievance Redressal Cells, Review Committees, telephone helplines, call centres and complaint boxes are functional in different States/UTs;
- (d) if so, how many grievances have been recorded during last three years; and
- (e) the action being taken thereon by Government along with the details

thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) In June, 2010, guiding principles for setting up Grievance Redressal Mechanisms (GRMs) for registering complaints through toll free number/dedicated telephone number or through letters were issued to all States/UTs. 27 States/UTs have established GRMs and they are redressing grievances on these guiding principles. Data on such complaints/grievances received and redressed through GRMs is maintained by the states. However, any complaints of malpractices in the implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme that come to the notice of the Central Government are referred to the concerned States/UTs for investigation and appropriate remedial action. During the year 2011, 34 complaints of various irregularities such as poor quality of food (9), corruption (9) and irregularities (16) had been received by this Ministry, which had been referred to the States/UTs for necessary action. They have taken action on 29/34 of these complaints, which includes transferring the concerned Principal of School, recovering amount from the Gram Pradhan, suspending and initiating disciplinary proceedings against defaulting persons.

Requirement of faculty for IITs

1172. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) all over the country need 2,500 faculty members to catch up with the standard student-teacher ratio of 10:1;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to address the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per the prescribed student-teacher ratio of 10:1, approximately 1600 teaching positions are presently vacant in the 15 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country. Arising of vacancies and filling up thereof is a continuous process and the IITs have been taking various initiatives to attract outstanding candidates for faculty positions. Some of these measures include year-round open advertisements, holding of selection committee meetings through video conferencing, invitation to alumni, scientists and faculty to reach out to potential candidates, advertisements in international journals, outstanding young faculty awards, etc. The faculty are encouraged to undertake consultancy and are given start-up financial support upto

Rs. 5.00 lakhs to take up research, besides professional development allowance. Recently, the Government has decided to allow the faculty, working under the Central Government or Central Autonomous Bodies, to join the newly set up Central Educational Institutions on long term deputation basis for a period of ten years.

Autonomy for colleges

1173. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) how many colleges have been granted autonomy in the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan period;
- (b) the details of colleges that have been granted autonomy; and
- (c) how much funds have been allotted for these autonomous colleges in the financial years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that during Tenth Five Year Plan period, 135 Colleges have been granted autonomy and during Eleventh Five Year Plan period, 149 Colleges have been granted autonomy.

(c) Funds of Rs. 1720.81 lakhs in 2007-08, Rs. 2886.49 lakhs in 2008-09, Rs. 4824.12 lakhs in 2009-10 and Rs. 1718.72 lakhs in 2010-11 have been allotted for these autonomous colleges.

Demand of donations by private schools for admissions

1174. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many private schools have been found asking for donations for admissions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is taking any action against those found guilty;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Education is a concurrent subject. It is for the State/UT Government to take appropriate action in accordance with the prevalent Rules under the Education Act, if any such complaints comes to their notice.

Reimbursement of amount paid for revised pay scales for teachers

1175. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Rajasthan Government had implemented all recommendations of the Ministry regarding payment of revised pay scales for university and college teachers including PTIs and librarians in the State, which put an additional financial burden of more than Rs. 499 crores;

(b) whether out of Rs. 499 crores more than Rs. 399 crores are required to be reimbursed by the Central Government;

(c) if so, by when this amount would be reimbursed by Central Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A scheme for revision of pay of teachers and equivalent cadres in all the Central Universities and Colleges thereunder and the Institutions Deemed to be Universities whose maintenance expenditure is met by the UGC has been notified on 31.12.2008 by the Central Government. Details of the scheme may be seen at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/notices/scpteachers.pdf>. This scheme is essentially for teachers in Central Educational Institutions, but could be extended to Universities, Colleges and other higher educational institutions coming under the purview of the State Government if the State Government adopted and implemented the Scheme as a composite scheme including adoption of the enhanced age of superannuation to 65 years. Government of India has offered to State Governments to claim 80% reimbursement of UGC pay scale arrears if they adopt the scheme as a package including enhancement of age of superannuation.

The Government of Rajasthan has requested reimbursement of financial assistance of Rs. 399.50 crores *i.e* 80% of the total expenditure of Rs. 499.38 crore in this regard. However, the Government of Rajasthan has not adopted the enhanced age of superannuation to 65 years due to which, the 80% of expenditure has not been reimbursed by the Central Government.

Para-legal education as a component of vocational education

1176. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the current status on the proposal to make para-legal education a component of vocational education;

(b) the details of modalities worked out in this regard;

(c) whether Government has discussed the matter with the State

Governments for proper implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it had constituted an Expert Committee on restructuring legal education. The Expert Committee submitted its report in January 2012. The UGC has further reported that the Commission has, in its 483rd meeting held on 13th February, 2012 considered the scheme of vocational certificate course (1 year) and vocational diploma course (two years) in paralegal education and approved it in principle. Central Government is in continuous dialogue with State Governments on proper implementation of National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework.

Extension of mid-day meal programme upto secondary level

1177. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various studies conducted by Government/NGOs have shown that food is an incentive for many parents to send their wards to schools;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to expand the Mid-Day-Meal programme to the Secondary level in a bid to retain students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Independent evaluation studies on the Mid-Day Meal Scheme conducted by different agencies in various parts of the country have affirmed the positive intervention in universalization of primary education by increasing enrolment and attendance, however, the enrolment of students in schools also depends on several interventions of the Government in the field of education, health and nutrition and also on economic development, demographic changes, expansion of the private sector in elementary education etc.

(b) and (c) The Working Group on Elementary Education and Literacy for the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) has recommended inclusion of MDM Scheme to children studying in class IX and X. The total fund requirement for the same during the 12th Five Year Plan is estimated to be Rs. 21,523 crore.

The Twelfth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalized.

Setting up of model schools

1178. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether proposals have been received from various States/UTs for setting up of model schools in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of proposals cleared along with the funding pattern for setting up of these schools;
- (d) the progress made, so far, in setting up of these schools since inception along with the locations identified for setting up 2500 model schools under Public-Private-Partnership mode; and
- (e) the funds released and utilized by the States/UTs since inception under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since inception of the Model School Scheme, proposals to set up model schools in 2,425 educationally backward blocks have been received from 24 States/UTs.

(c) Till 20.03.2012, model schools in 1,942 blocks in 22 States have been approved and funds have been released for setting up of 1,562 model schools in 20 States. For setting up of these schools, the sharing pattern between Central Government and State/UT Governments in respect of non-recurring and recurring costs is 75:25 (90:10 for special category States and for upgraded Ashram schools in all States) during the 11th Five Year Plan.

(d) and (e) The school buildings are under different stages of construction except in Punjab, where construction of all the 21 schools approved, has been completed. Out of Rs. 1,750.03 crore released to the State Govts., an amount of Rs. 149.90 crore has been reported to be utilized by the State Governments. 2,500 Model Schools under Public-Private Partnership mode are proposed to be set up in headquarters of the blocks which are not educationally backward.

Monitoring of technical/vocational institutions

†1179. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of technical/vocational institutions in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of new public/private technical, vocational and management institutions which have been approved by AICTE during each of last three years,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State-wise and additional seats approved for different subjects all over the country, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any agency to monitor working of these institutions apart from ensuring admission procedure, quality of faculty and infrastructure as per guidelines;

(d) if so, details thereof and if not reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to make technical /vocational education more relevant and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The number of Technical/ Professional Institutions functioning in the country, State-wise is at Statement (*See below*).

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (d) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed various norms and standards to regulate the technical institutions in the country for maintaining quality in these Institutions. The approvals for establishing new institutions and for granting extension, new courses additional intake etc. are granted based on suitability for the application in terms of prescribed norms for infrastructure facilities and faculty etc. These norms and standards are uniformly applicable to all the colleges. The admissions to the professional colleges under various categories are being done through Competent Authority of the State Government, notified for admission. The different State Governments have respective reservation policy and AICTE has no role to play in State counseling conducted for the admission.

(e) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched, the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) for the Polytechnics and Engineering Colleges. The NVEQF will address the issues regarding the development of skills through Vocational Education.

Statement

Technical/Vocational Institutions functioning in the country

Sl.No.	State	Engineering College Total Nos.	Polytechnic Institute Total	PGDM Institutes Total	MBA Institutes Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1881	333	31	978

1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Arunachal Pradesh		3	3	0	1
4. Assam		30	13	2	6
5. Bihar		61	22	2	16
6. Chandigarh		12	6	0	0
7. Chattisgarh		113	42	5	26
8. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		3	1	0	1
9. Daman and Diu		1	1	0	0
10. Delhi		79	42	8	21
11. Goa		16	10	0	0
12. Gujarat		415	125	11	128
13. Haryana		476	222	13	164
14. Himachal Pradesh		76	37	0	16
15. Jammu and Kashmir		40	17	1	13
16. Jharkhand		45	27	6	7
17. Karnataka		666	276	15	207
18. Kerala		297	73	7	65
19. Madhya Pradesh		535	113	14	213
20. Maharashtra		1455	659	57	414
21. Manipur		3	1	0	0
22. Meghalaya		5	3	0	0
23. Mizoram		1		0	0
24. Orissa		282	131	18	84
25. Puducherry		27	9	0	6
26. Punjab		389	175	4	155
27. Rajasthan		512	279	14	144
28. Sikkim		4	2	0	1
29. Tamil Nadu		1301	498	7	400
30. Tripura		2	2	0	0
31. Uttar Pradesh		1033	425	84	473
32. Uttarakhand		156	74	4	49
33. West Bengal		219	95	5	56
GRAND TOTAL		10139	3716	308	3644

Single entrance test for engineering admissions

1180. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several States are opposing single entrance test for engineering admissions;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The proposal to hold a Common National Examination with weightage to State Board results normalized on the basis of percentile formula for admission to engineering institutions was endorsed 'in principal' by the State Ministers in State Education Ministers' Conference held on 22nd February, 2012. It is upto the States to adopt the same pattern of admission with appropriate weightages for State Board marks and National Examination for admission to the engineering institutions affiliated to state universities or continue with their prevalent system as they may deem fit. Certain States like the states of Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Puducherry and West Bengal, however, have sought more time to study the proposal.

Support of CPSEs for Saakshar Bharat programme

1181. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Literacy Mission Authority has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Power Finance Corporation Ltd.;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the salient features of the MoU;
- (d) the names of the other Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) which have agreed to support Saakshar Bharat programme, so far; and
- (e) the extent to which the Saakshar Bharat programme has been benefited in various States from the support of various CPSEs during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) and Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 18.01.2012 to facilitate and strengthen Adult Education in the country which *inter alia* provides for cooperation in the following areas:

- (i) Educational and Research activities in Adult Education.
- (ii) Joint Environment building and mobilisation campaign for literacy and adult education programme.

- (iii) Promoting and strengthening vocational training/skill development activities.
- (iv) Construction of Building for Adult Education Centres (AECs) on Government owned land.
- (v) Upgradation of AECs into model AECs by providing ICT infrastructure viz. Projector, TVs, Computers and Solar Energy Backup equipment etc.
- (vi) Sponsoring Seminars and other Exchange Programmes.
- (vii) Sponsoring of multi-tier awards for literacy educators, literacy managers, neo-literates and other stake-holders.
- (viii) Any other field mutually agreed by the parties to this MoU.

Under this MoU, PFC has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 6.60 crore during this financial year 2011-12.

(d) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) and Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) are the other Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) which have agreed to support Saakshar Bharat programme so far.

(e) Twenty model AECs have been established in Karnataka during 2010-11 with the support of CONCOR. The State Literacy Mission Authority, Karnataka has reported that the Gram Panchayats have voluntarily come forward to own these model AECs. A marked difference in the number of people visiting the model AECs has been noticed. Besides, a greater visibility and recognition to Saakshar Bharat programme at Gram Panchayat level has also been felt.

Dearth of qualified faculty

1182. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies for primary school teachers are yet to be filled in various States;

(b) what is Government's view with regard to the frequent complaints by academicians about the dearth of qualified faculty in the professional colleges, specially related with Engineering, Physics and other disciplines of Science; and

(c) the steps being taken to train enough number of qualified teachers for higher educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) 19.14 lakh posts of teachers have been sanctioned since inception of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, against which 12.24 lakh teachers have been recruited till 31st March, 2011.

(b) and (c) Several steps have been taken to meet the shortage of faculty. Age of retirement of faculty has been extended upto 65 years in central educational

institutions with a further provision of re-employment upto 70 years. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has allowed recruitment of teachers with B.Tech qualification as pro-term Lecturer for a limited period of three years with the condition that they would secure masters qualification within the same period. The AICTE has also permitted second shift in the existing institutions and intake (number of seats) in Masters Programmes has been increased, so that faculty shortages could be minimized. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a scheme called Operation Faculty Recharge for augmenting the research and teaching resources of universities to tackle the shortage of faculty in university System, and also reappointment of faculty beyond the age of superannuation.

New dress code for students of Kendriya Vidyalayas

†1183. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a new designer dress is being implemented after changing the dress of the students of Kendriya Vidyalayas;
- (b) if so, the details of the payment made to the designer company;
- (c) whether Government is taking this step under the pressure of market forces;
- (d) whether Government has assessed the extent of burden it would cause on guardians;
- (e) if so, the expenditure likely to be increased by this;
- (f) whether Government plans to distribute it free of cost to girl students; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has accorded the approval for redesign of the school Uniform. Accordingly, KVS has assigned a project to the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi, Ministry of Textile, Government of India for redesigning of school uniform. The project cost is rupees 18,41,176/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Forty One Thousand One Hundred Seventy Six only).

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) NIFT has been asked to keep in view various issues including cost factor while designing the school uniform,
- (f) No, Sir.
- (g) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Modified assured career progression for teachers
of Kendriya Vidyalayas**

†1184. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the Central Government employees have already got the benefit to be given under the Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) as per the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission;
- (b) the details of the number of employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, who have been benefited by this;
- (c) the details of the reasons why this benefit is not being extended to teachers and principals, the main pillars of the schools; and
- (d) whether State Governments have provided the benefit of MACP to their employees including teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme for the Central Government civilian employees has been introduced vide Department of Personnel and Training O.M. No. 35034/3/2008-Estt. (D) dated 19th May, 2009 as amended from time to time.

(b) The scheme has already been implemented in respect of non-teaching staff of KVS. The number of such employees is around 11665 approximately all over India.

(c) The extension of Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) to the employees is subject to the conditions that—

- (i) The earlier ACP Scheme was also implemented/adopted by the said Autonomous/Statutory Body.
- (ii) The proposal to adopt MACP Scheme has been approved by the Governing Body/Board of Directors.
- (iii) The Administrative Ministry/Financial Adviser of the Ministry has concurred with the proposal.
- (iv) The financial implications of adoption of MACP Scheme have been taken into account by the Organisation/Body and the additional financial implication can be met by it within the existing Budget Grants.

The teaching staff of KVS, including Principals had not accepted the earlier ACP Scheme introduced in the year 1999. As such the extension of this scheme now to the teaching staff requires approval of the competent authority.

(d) The MACPS is directly applicable only to Central Government Civilian employees as per the recommendation of the 6th Central Pay Commission.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Affiliation of schools by CBSE

1185. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the reasons for not making affiliation process of schools to CBSE easier when State Governments are issuing NOCs to schools for affiliation with CBSE after careful verification of infrastructure facilities and qualified teaching staff of concerned schools and in spite of that CBSE is again sending inspection teams to verify the same which might lead to corruption and delaying of the affiliation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): The process of granting affiliation is applicant friendly and transparent such as applications for affiliation being invited and processed online. The status of application for affiliation is uploaded on the website of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) www.cbse.nic.in and accessible to applicant. Inspections are held in accordance with affiliation Bye-Laws to ensure terms and condition of Affiliation Bye-Laws before granting affiliation to a school.

Bifurcation of overloaded universities in Maharashtra

1186. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is overload of colleges on Universities in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the number of colleges under each University in the State;
- (c) whether Government will bifurcate the overloaded Universities; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it has not fixed any norm to decide on the affiliation “overload” on universities. While UGC has framed Regulations on conditions to be followed while granting affiliation, it has not fixed any limit on number of colleges, which can be affiliated to a university. Universities are autonomous entities which fix their own norms for affiliating colleges through Statutes framed under their respective Acts.

(b) There are one Central university, 19 state universities and 21 deemed to be universities in state of Maharashtra. The list of affiliating universities as furnished by UGC alongwith number of affiliated institutions is furnished in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) While it is desirable to create more universities to reduce the affiliation load on existing universities, all the universities except one i.e. Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Viswavidhyalaya (MGAHV), are state universities and

therefore state government alone is competent to take decision on bifurcation of universities. The Central University of MGAHV is a non-affiliating university.

Statement

List of Affiliated Universities

Sl.No.	Name of Affiliating University	No. of Colleges
1.	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University	411
2.	Mumbai University	711
3.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	351
4.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University	1
5.	Dr. Panjabrao Desmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth	32
6.	Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth	17
7.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth	40
8.	Marathwada Agricultural University	40
9.	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University	800
10.	North Maharashtra University	217
11.	University of Pune	811
12.	Smt. Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University	217
13.	Shivaji University	219
14.	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University	370
15.	Maharashtra University of Health Sciences	302
16.	Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University	10
17.	Solapur University	123

Shortage of teachers in schools

1187. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Delhi High Court has taken note of severe shortage of teachers in the schools of National Capital recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that similar shortage of teachers exists in rest of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; State-wise and UT-wise; and

(e) the action Government proposes to take to solve the serious problem of shortage of teachers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allocation of funds for Bal Bhavans

1188. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the annual allocation being awarded by Government for the functioning of National Bal Bhavan;

(b) the number of Bal Bhavans functioning in the country with the help of Central Government;

(c) the quantum of grant and aid received by the Bal Bhavan, Kollam for the last three years; and

(d) whether any proposal from Bal Bhavan, Kollam for grant under any scheme is pending with the National Bal Bhavan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The annual allocation for National Bal Bhavan for 2011-12 is Rs. 14.00 Crores for Plan and Rs. 6.65 Crores for Non-Plan activities.

(b) The National Bal Bhavan is providing recurring and non-recurring financial assistance to 156 affiliated Bal Bhavans and 23 Bal Kendras.

(c) and (d) The Jawahar Bal Bhavan, Kollam was granted financial assistance of Rs. 10.00 Lakh during the financial year, 2008-09 for non-recurring activities. A proposal for release of grant-in-aid of Rs. 35.00 Lakh was received from Jawahar Bal Bhavan, Kollam during 2011-12. However, as per the scheme, Jawahar Bal Bhavan, Kollam is not eligible for grant-in-aid for financial year, 2011-12.

Quality of education in higher educational institutions

1189. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of education in the Indian Institutes of Higher Education is much below the International standards; and

(b) if so, the steps which have been/are being taken by Government to get rid of the deficiencies responsible for substandard education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Certain agencies publish list of universities or educational institutions ranked globally according to their own

criteria. These international ranking systems use different values, indices and parameters which are neither universally accepted nor recognised and are therefore contestable due to the subjective processes adopted by them. Some of these parameters are not relevant for Indian higher educational institutions and therefore these rankings cannot constitute the basis for benchmarking of Indian institutions. Different institutions can be placed at different positions on quality continuum, While Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are recognised the world over as high quality institutions, some others may not fare so well on quality parameters.

(b) Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation is proposed in the XII Plan aiming at improvement of quality of higher educational institutions. Quality of higher education in the country is also planned to be further improved through various legislative initiatives which include making the accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various schemes for improving quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence, Colleges with Potential for Excellence, Special Assistance Programme, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences, Fellowship Programmes for Research students as well as orientation and refresher programmes for newly appointed and in-service teachers through its Academic Staff Colleges. The UGC has also taken up various measures for educational reforms, including introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula and credit transfer. Improved pay package for teachers in universities and colleges has been announced by the Central Government in order to attract and retain talented persons in the teaching profession. It has also been decided to make National Eligibility Test (NET)/State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) compulsory for appointment as teachers at entry level in the universities and colleges, except for those who have obtained Ph.D. degree from universities following the norms prescribed by the UGC in its regulations regarding registration, course work and evaluation process.

Aakash-2 tablets for college students

1190. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to distribute Aakash-2 tablets among college students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any criteria has been set by Government for distribution of the tablets and its beneficiaries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) So far, under National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, a project was sanctioned to IIT Rajasthan for achieving following deliverables after acquiring the LCADs for teacher empowerment:

- (i) Acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and
- (ii) Hardware and software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices.

A Low Cost Access-cum-Computing Device (LCAD) named Aakash has been launched on 5th October, 2011. In the first phase of 1,00,000 tablets were targeted to the students in Higher technical education institutions so as to further ascertain technical feedback on its operation and usability.

(c) and (d) Since these tablets were for the purpose of testing, no criteria for distribution of tablet to students were laid down. Once the production capacities are built up, criteria for distribution of the tablets and its beneficiaries would get developed.

Autonomy for universities

1191. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Universities that have been granted autonomy;
- (b) the number of Universities that have applied for autonomy;
- (c) whether Government is monitoring their activities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Universities are autonomous bodies established by the respective legislations under an Act of Parliament or the State Legislature and are governed by their respective Acts, Statutes and Ordinances. Government does not interfere in the functioning of the Universities. Universities enjoy complete autonomy in respect of their governance, administrative and academic activities, subject to regulations issued by University Grants Commission (UGC), for maintaining and coordinating standards of higher education. There is no programme or scheme under which autonomy is granted to a University.

Tie-up of Delhi University with DRDO

1192. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Delhi University has tied up with Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) for setting up a Centre of Excellence in Delhi

University by the year 2015 and has invited proposals for funding innovative projects in its colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the idea is to identify core research areas of mutual interest and work towards establishing a Centre of Excellence through funding from DRDO within three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, the University has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). One of the objectives of the MoU is to initiate the process to identify core technology research areas of mutual interest and to establish a centre of excellence at the University, preferably within a period of three years, through appropriate funding from the DRDO. Though inviting proposals from the colleges for funding of innovative projects is not a part of the MoU, the University has invited proposals from its colleges in this regard through its newly initiated Cluster Innovation Centre. A Monitoring and Assessment Committee has also been constituted to work on the objectives defined in the MoU.

Monitoring of functioning of private universities

1193. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set up regulatory body to oversee and monitor the functioning of private universities in view of huge problems faced by the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that despite paying huge amount as fees, students are not provided with basic amenities like safe drinking water, proper food and emergency medical services in private universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Private Universities are regulated by University Grants Commission [UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities)] Regulations, 2003. These Regulations are available on www.ugc.ac.in.

(c) Out of the total 109 Private Universities, the UGC has inspected 52 Universities with the help of Expert Committees which include representatives of the Statutory Council(s) concerned. The UGC Expert Committees have found certain

deficiencies in 19 out of 52 Private Universities. The UGC has already sent the observations of the UGC Expert Committees to these Private Universities for compliance and rectification of deficiencies.

Children benefited by MDMS

1194. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools along with the number of children benefited by the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether enrolment in schools has increased after introduction of this scheme;

(c) if so, the details of such an increase during the said period, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the existing funding pattern between the States and the Centre;

(e) whether Government has got any monitoring mechanism to find out the health of the students who are being benefited by this scheme; and

(f) 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) Information is at Statement (*See below*):

(b) and (c) The enrolment of students in schools depends on several interventions of the Government in the field of education, health and nutrition and also on economic development, demographic changes, expansion of the private sector in elementary education etc.

(d) The cost of foodgrains, transport assistance, monitoring, management and evaluation and kitchen devices is borne in full by the Central Government. The cost of cooking, payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers, and construction of kitchen-cum-stores is shared between the Central Government and the North Eastern Region States on 90:10 basis and other States/UTs on 75:25 basis.

(e) and (f) In convergence with School Health Programme of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, half-yearly health check-up of the students is being carried out. In addition, Iron Folic Acid, Vitamin-A and Deworming Tablets are also distributed to the children. This is reviewed during the Programme Approval Board meetings with the States.

Statement*Number of institutions and children covered under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme during 2008-09 to 2010-11 and 2nd quarter of 2011-12*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
		Institutions covered	Number of Children benefited	Institutions covered	Number of Children benefited	Institutions covered	Number of Children benefited	Institutions covered	Number of Children benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78021	6342088	78716	6107962	79355	6304239	79355	5937091
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5026	181349	4431	174379	4431	269002	4358	268974
3.	Assam	48251	2764934	54175	4132618	54912	4515884	63192	4650092
4.	Bihar	78485	11059009	92209	11241336	71772	9877617	71772	9204598
5.	Chhattisgarh	47175	3388316	47349	3027221	47694	3861048	47729	3868950
6.	Goa	1117	73691	1545	163208	1564	156716	1559	155407
7.	Gujarat	60194	3935214	57784	3820600	33609	3877695	60834	4077133
8.	Haryana	17353	1873000	14703	1993615	15434	2005680	15783	2114515
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15176	810234	13459	741014	15104	715750	15096	657610
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	25355	1169082	21504	1011868	22416	840044	22613	738695
11.	Jharkhand	50497	3880569	52138	4031582	40698	3231921	40864	3294091

12.	Karnataka	55328	5683056	55104	5502935	56384	5216970	56632	5314957
13.	Kerala	17387	3087558	17387	2902204	17387	2781617	17387	2676076
14.	Madhya Pradesh	109980	8869953	112439	9003584	114038	8655943	114102	8058896
15.	Maharashtra	125511	10933868	122018	12187761	120352	10634199	120960	10605330
16.	Manipur	3408	227691	3042	225718	2966	230135	2893	208616
17.	Meghalaya	10074	399975	10074	471738	10074	459778	10074	485474
18.	Mizoram	2312	152969	2412	150569	2496	151718	2506	168898
19.	Nagaland	2188	214893	2223	221368	2751	271144	2261	260800
20.	Orissa	85323	6150492	78925	5525792	66773	5227152	86177	4291329
21.	Punjab	21516	1923323	22648	1855841	22486	1753660	22035	1873200
22.	Rajasthan	101732	8071477	80670	5982376	80670	5781398	79845	5699437
23.	Sikkim	1243	102237	873	89432	879	94855	878	92921
24.	Tamil Nadu	47122	5022030	42632	5026843	42435	4274715	37802	3992373
25.	Tripura	5006	401954	5629	468621	6510	435093	6510	444351
26.	Uttarakhand	17484	975111	17816	850551	17927	801909	17978	841534
27.	Uttar Pradesh	145082	13442006	152501	12713580	153527	11314277	157879	11946485

The Budget

[26 MAR. 2012]

(General), 2012-13 431

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
28.	West Bengal	76959	9262285	79579	9216678	82867	9503404	84050	13390861
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	478	47207	343	36900	345	32449	345	29921
30.	Chandigarh	400	74898	311	61311	311	58182	116	55701
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	359	30853	360	35261	282	34569	454	34688
32.	Daman and Diu	136	15308	127	15227	96	15298	97	15520
33.	Delhi	3546	1187021	3005	1318353	3518	1150332	3496	1240226
34.	Lakshadweep	53	10798	54	10192	54	9035	41	9608
35.	Puducherry	461	93650	383	91298	457	88138	467	87405
TOTAL		1259738	111858099	1248568	110409536	1192574	104631566	1248140	106791763

432 The Budget

[RAJYA SABHA]

(General), 2012-13

Requirement of teachers in schools

1195. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of primary and secondary Government schools and the number of teachers in such schools, State-wise;
- (b) whether there is a shortage of teachers in Government schools in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the number of teachers required for smooth implementation of the RTE Act;
- (e) the present student-teacher ratio in the country; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to improve this ratio and also to meet the shortage of teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) As per District Information System for Education (DISE), 2010-11, which collects data annually for elementary level of education, the State-wise details of Government schools and teachers at elementary level are at Statement-I (*See* below). The State-wise details of Government secondary schools and teachers, as per Statistics of School Education 2009-10 (provisional), are at Statement-II (*See* below). The information on teachers is in respect of all categories of secondary schools including Government secondary schools.

Pursuant to the enforcement of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, the additional requirement of teachers in elementary education was estimated at 5.08 lakh. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) a total of 12,82,419 teachers were sanctioned from 2001-02 to 2009-10 to cover both urban and rural areas, against which 10.30 lakh teachers were appointed as on 31.03.2010. After the RTE Act became operative an additional 6,82,788 teacher posts have been sanctioned under SSA in the years 2010-11 and 2011-12. The cumulative progress in recruitment is 12,26,441 teachers.

As per DISE 2010-11 the overall Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at the primary level 32:1, and at the upper primary it is 29:1. The RTE Act stipulates that the prescribed PTR shall be maintained in respect of every school. States have, therefore, been advised to rationalize the deployment of teachers and expedite the recruitment of teachers against posts sanctioned under SSA as well as existing State sector vacancies to address the problem of teacher shortage.

At the secondary stage the scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) provides *inter-alia* for appointment of additional teachers in

existing Government Secondary schools to improve the PTR. Under RMSA, 52,352 additional teachers have been sanctioned for existing secondary schools run by State Governments and local bodies.

Statement-I

Details of number of Government schools and teachers at elementary level as per DISE 2010

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of Government Schools	Number of Teachers	Pupil Teacher Ratio
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	324	4426	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	79358	345078	18
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4100	14701	18
4.	Assam	44371	166862	25
5.	Bihar	67926	335183	58
6.	Chandigarh	114	2812	28
7.	Chhattisgarh	46394	155007	24
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	273	1137	43
9.	Daman and Diu	86	494	30
10.	Delhi	2772	40342	40
11.	Goa	1055	3121	17
12.	Gujarat	33552	198146	30
13.	Haryana	14955	77375	27
14.	Himachal Pradesh	15126	48257	15
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	22180	96809	12
16.	Jharkhand	40505	134590	41
17.	Karnataka	46550	194268	24
18.	Kerala	4950	53230	20
19.	Lakshwadweep	46	701	14
20.	Madhya Pradesh	112014	266044	40
21.	Maharashtra	68972	288890	26

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Manipur	2402	14066	13
23.	Meghalaya	7596	22352	15
24.	Mizoram	2335	11909	13
25.	Nagaland	2101	11923	16
26.	Orissa	57179	191144	29
27.	Puducherry	440	5434	13
28.	Punjab	20235	103588	20
29.	Rajasthan	77531	269444	26
30.	Sikkim	895	7989	13
31.	Tamil Nadu	36122	150820	28
32.	Tripura	4217	29768	19
33.	Uttar Pradesh	151465	491300	40
34.	Uttarakhand	17344	45513	21
35.	West Bengal	79119	414724	32
	ALL STATES	1064604	4197447	31

Statement-II

Details of number of Government secondary schools and teachers as per statistics of school education 2009-10 (provisional)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of Government Secondary Schools	Teachers in Government, aided and private secondary schools
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10386	187709
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	125	2734
3.	Assam	2539	61012
4.	Bihar	2249	25593
5.	Chhattisgarh	1289	12206
6.	Goa	81	3218
7.	Gujarat	519	42829

1	2	3	4
8.	Haryana	1618	36947
9.	Himachal Pradesh	845	8841
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1196	25370
11.	Jharkhand	973	9178
12.	Karnataka	4504	109503
13.	Kerala	1031	97141
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3514	46948
15.	Maharashtra	2098	282957
16.	Manipur	194	8750
17.	Meghalaya	8	4837
18.	Mizoram	203	3853
19.	Nagaland	119	6628
20.	Odisha	3957	64967
21.	Punjab	1651	27180
22.	Rajasthan	6241	86832
23.	Sikkim	108	1512
24.	Tamil Nadu	2170	30301
25.	Tripura	420	8952
26.	Uttar Pradesh	233	76917
27.	Uttarakhand	800	19122
28.	West Bengal	21	727
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	41	1029
30.	Chandigarh	43	1998
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16	360
32.	Daman and Diu	14	261
33.	Delhi	209	10613
34.	Lakshadweep	3	205
35.	Puducherry	68	3119
TOTAL		49486	1310349

Implementation of Right to Education

1196. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether implementation of the Right to Education is hampered by the continuing practice of child labour in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how does Government work in collaboration with NGOs to identify and rehabilitate children between ages from 6 to 14 years; and
- (d) the steps which have already been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. Section 8 of the RTE Act places an obligation on the appropriate Government to ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education for all children in that age group. Further, section 4 of the RTE Act provides that children who are hitherto un-enrolled or dropped out shall be admitted in age appropriate class and shall have the right to receive special training in order to be par with others, and to complete their elementary education even beyond 14 years of age.

(c) and (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the main vehicle for implementation of the RTE Act, The norms under SSA have been revised to align with that of the RTE Act. The revised Implementation Framework for SSA provides that NGOs would be involved in community mobilisation and awareness building of the RTE Act and in imparting special training for un-enrolled children and out-of-school children and mainstream them to regular schools.

Assistance to States for implementation of RTE Act

1197. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the budget allocated by the Centre for implementation of the Right to Education Act, State-wise;
- (b) the amount that has been released, so far, State-wise;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken, so far, to meet the demand of States for 100 per cent assistance in implementation of the RTE Act along with the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Right of Children

to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 became operative on 1st April 2010, and the Framework of Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been revised to conform with the provisions of the RTE Act. The central budget allocations for implementation of the RTE-SSA programme are Rs. 19,838 crore for 2010-11, Rs. 21,000 for 2011-12 and Rs. 25,555 crore for 2012-13. A statement of releases of the Central share for the period 2010-11 and 2011-12 is attached at Statement (*See below*).

The fund sharing pattern for SSA was originally approved in the sliding scale for the implementation of the SSA programme, such that the respective shares of the Central and State Governments would be in the 50:50 ratio in the terminal year (2011-12) of the 11th Plan. However, given the enhanced requirement of funds by States for the implementation of the revised RTE-SSA programme, the fund sharing pattern between the Centre and States was revised to 65:35 ratio for a duration of five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15. The fund sharing pattern in respect of the States in the North East Region however, continues in the 90:10 ratio between the Central and State Governments. Further the 13th Finance Commission has earmarked Rs. 24,068 crore to States for elementary education and this amount is also available to States for implementation of the RTE-SSA programme as per conditionalities fixed by the Ministry of Finance.

Statement

*Grants released to States/UTs during 2010-11 and 2011-12
under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Sl.No.	States/UTs (other than NER)	Amount released (central share) during 2010-11	Amount released (central share) during 2011-12 (as on 05.3.2012)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81000.00	183551.72
2.	Bihar	204789.63	165908.20
3.	Chhattisgarh	87863.00	58940.22
4.	Goa	671.27	1079.14
5.	Gujarat	44065.01	74350.79
6.	Haryana	32786.11	40461.41
7.	Himachal Pradesh	13786.66	14192.78

1	2	3	4
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	40348.79	30070.50
9.	Jharkhand	89562.26	57903.46
10.	Karnataka	66903.00	62788.35
11.	Kerala	19660.73	17021.85
12.	Madhya Pradesh	176783.00	190427.12
13.	Maharashtra	85537.00	117962.58
14.	Orissa	73177.85	92719.98
15.	Punjab	39612.74	48112.44
16.	Rajasthan	146182.29	139838.43
17.	Tamil Nadu	69068.57	66937.15
18.	Uttar Pradesh	310462.88	245268.64
19.	Uttarakhand	25793.94	20092.49
20.	West Bengal	174703.17	167952.74
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	357.78	907.36
22.	Chandigarh	2155.89	1311.21
23.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	413.78	564.35
24.	Daman and Diu	162.99	230.06
25.	Delhi	3552.71	2135.08
26.	Lakshadweep	127.39	127.86
27.	Puducherry	485.38	557.62
TOTAL Non NER		1790013.82	1801413.53
States/UTs (NER States)		Amount released (central share) during 2010-11	Amount released (central share) during 2011-12 (as on 05.3.2012)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	20401.77	8880.10
2.	Assam	76854.35	106921.15
3.	Manipur	13253.77	2940.55
4.	Meghalaya	18540.90	14410.60

1	2	3	4
5.	Mizoram	10115.31	9314.05
6.	Nagaland	8636.83	4798.33
7.	Sikkim	4469.19	3022.84
8.	Tripura	17121.48	17309.23
	TOTAL NER	169393.60	167596.85
	GRAND TOTAL	1959407.42	1969010.38

Delivery of Aakash tablets

1198. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the targeted number of Aakash tablets that have been fixed for delivery;
- (b) the number of Aakash tablets delivered, so far;
- (c) whether test reports from IIT, Jodhpur have raised certain issues with regard to the quality of the tablet; and
- (d) if so, the corrective steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUAMN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, a project was sanctioned to IIT Rajasthan for achieving the following deliverables after acquiring the LCADs for teacher empowerment:

- (i) Acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and
- (ii) Hardware and software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices.

In the first phase 1,00,000 tablets were targeted to the students in Higher technical education institutions so as to further ascertain technical feedback on its operation and usability. A total of 366 LCADs (not including devices retained at IIT Rajasthan for testing etc.) were distributed during the launch ceremony held on 5th October, 2011 to students from various institutions located in different States/UTs.

(c) and (d) A scan of the individual student feedback forms received from IIT Rajasthan showed that areas where improvement are required are (a) heating of the device, (b) need for longer battery life, (c) need for capacitive instead of resistive touch screen etc. The matter has been taken up with the vendor and he agreed to make changes including upgrading the processor from 366 MHz Arm 11 based processor to a 700 MHz Arm Cortex A8 processor, improving the firmware and

replacing the battery of 2100 mAH with a battery of 3200 mAH capacity with no enhancement in cost.

Education of differently-abled students in schools

1199. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of schools funded by the Central Government, State-wise;

(b) the total number of differently-abled students in these schools; and

(c) whether all such schools have barrier-free access and educational aids to augment learning process for differently-abled students and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is running Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNVs) and Central Tibetan Schools (CTS). The State-wise list of these schools is as in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) As on date 1324 differently-abled students are studying in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and there are no such students in Central Tibetan Schools. The information in respect of Kendriya Vidyalayas is being collected.

(c) All the new buildings of these schools are being provided with requisite facilities of barrier free access such as ramps with side railing and easy access to toilets for orthopedically handicapped students. The old buildings are being upgraded to make these compatible for barrier free access to differently-abled students.

Statement

State-wise list of Schools

Sl.No.	State	NVS	KVS	CTSA
1.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	2	02	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	53	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	14	03
4.	Assam	27	54	-
5.	Bihar	39	45	-
6.	Chandigarh	1	05	-
7.	Chhattisgarh	17	27	01
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1	01	-
9.	Daman and Diu	2	01	-

Sl.No.	State	NVS	KVS	CTSA
10.	Delhi	2	43	-
11.	Goa	2	05	-
12.	Gujarat	23	44	-
13.	Haryana	20	28	-
14.	Himachal Pradesh	12	22	08
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	17	37	-
16.	Jharkhand	24	32	-
17.	Karnataka	28	39	07
18.	Kerala	14	35	-
19.	Lakshadweep	1	01	-
20.	Madhya Pradesh	50	91	-
21.	Maharashtra	33	56	01
22.	Manipur	9	07	-
23.	Meghalaya	8	07	-
24.	Mizoram	7	04	-
25.	Nagaland	11	05	-
26.	Orissa	31	53	01
27.	Puducherry	4	04	-
28.	Punjab	21	48	-
29.	Rajasthan	33	64	-
30.	Sikkim	4	02	01
31.	Tamil Nadu	-	40	-
32.	Tripura	4	09	-
33.	UP	68	105	-
34.	Uttarakhand	13	43	03
35.	West Bengal	18	58	03
TOTAL		586	1084	28

Review of Performance of IIMs

1200. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to allow the premier Indian Business Schools and IIMs to showcase their academic quality to attract foreign students;

(b) whether Government has also decided to review the performance of IIMs every year in an attempt to streamline their functioning; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes Sir. In respect of the IIMs, it has been decided to hold road-shows across the world for admission of foreign students in IIMs.

(b) and (c) IIMs have been suggested for external peer review of their performance once in three years.

Single engineering entrance examination

†1201. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to conduct engineering entrance examination in the entire country, simultaneously and uniformly;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to streamline the non-uniform system of Engineering entrance examination throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to hold a Common National Examination with weightage to State Board results normalized on the basis of percentile formula for admission to engineering institutions. The States may decide to adopt the same pattern of admission with appropriate weightages for State Board marks and National Examination for admission to the engineering institutions affiliated to state universities or continue with their prevalent system as they may deem fit. For admission to Central Educational Institutions, the common test is proposed to be operationalized by 2013.

Banning of mobile phones in schools and colleges

1202. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given any instruction to States to implement ban on mobile phones in schools and colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the implementation status thereof; and

(d) if not, by when such ban would be imposed in consultation with States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Education, being a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution, and the majority of schools and colleges being under the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is for the respective state Governments to take appropriate decision in the matter. However, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued a circular on restriction in the use of Mobile Phones in schools on 29.07.2009.

Supreme Court direction on providing toilets in schools

1203. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court extended its 31st December, 2011 Order to March 31st, 2012 for States and Union Territories to provide separate permanent toilets for boys and girls in all schools across the country and reiterated that it was an essential part of Right to Education (RTE);

(b) if so, the number of schools, which have complied with the above requirement as ordered by the Supreme Court, State-wise, district-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the details of schools which are yet to comply with the requirement, State-wise and District-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court in writ petition (Civil) No. 631 of 2004 in the matter of Environmental and Consumer Protection Foundation vs. Delhi Administration and Others, has directed, in its order dated 13th January, 2012 to all States and Union Territories to ensure that permanent toilet facilities are made available in all schools on or before 31st March, 2012 and if it is not possible to construct permanent toilets, than at least temporary toilet facilities be made available in the schools on or before 28th February, 2012 and an Affidavit to that effect be filed by Chief Secretaries on or before 28th February, 2012.

(b) and (c) A State-wise statement on the number of schools having toilet facilities as per District Information System for Education (DISK) 2010-11 is at Statement (*See* below). All new schools constructed under SSA have provision for toilets. SSA also provides for toilets in existing schools in urban areas. In the case of existing schools in rural areas, toilets are provided in convergence with the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The requirement of these facilities are worked out by the States/UTs based on need at school/village/block and district level, and reflected in their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP and B). The States/UTs have been requested to work out their requirements of toilet facilities and include the same in their AWP and B for 2012-13, in accordance with SSA norms.

Statement*The number of schools having toilet facilities, as per DISE 2010-11*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total Schools	Schools with toilet facility	Schools without toilet facility
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	406	339	67
2.	Andhra Pradesh	103830	84162	19668
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4440	2167	2273
4.	Assam	53859	36891	16968
5.	Bihar	68327	44792	23535
6.	Chandigarh	182	178	4
7.	Chhattisgarh	51338	30679	20659
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	297	208	89
9.	Daman and Diu	110	108	2
10.	Delhi	5021	5019	2
11.	Goa	1491	1347	144
12.	Gujarat	40743	39967	776
13.	Haryana	18126	17529	597
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17439	14612	2827
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	27094	13224	13870
16.	Jharkhand	43232	31769	11463
17.	Karnataka	59456	56393	3063
18.	Kerala	12901	12249	652
19.	Lakshadweep	46	40	6
20.	Madhya Pradesh	135815	103211	32604
21.	Maharashtra	97225	90370	6855
22.	Manipur	3760	2265	1495
23.	Meghalaya	12377	6618	5759
24.	Mizoram	2892	2600	292
25.	Nagaland	2825	2567	258

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Orissa	64239	51394	12845
27.	Puducherry	709	698	11
28.	Punjab	23435	23391	44
29.	Rajasthan	103726	96518	7208
30.	Sikkim	1201	1195	6
31.	Tamil Nadu	55029	52204	2825
32.	Tripura	4386	3519	867
33.	Uttar Pradesh	201042	180572	20470
34.	Uttarakhand	22369	20370	1999
35.	West Bengal	87839	79584	8255
TOTAL		1327207	1108749	218458

Opening of chemical engineering university for women in Delhi

1204. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open a women-exclusive chemical engineering university in Delhi, the first of its kind in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up such universities in each State Capital including Ranchi in Jharkhand; and

(d) 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) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to open a women exclusive Chemical Engineering University in Delhi and each state capital including Ranchi in Jharkhand.

Recommendations of Kakodkar Committee

1205. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level committee headed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar has opined that the electricity needed for running train operations would take a serious turn if more new trains are added into the system;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has also recommended for immediate renewal of rail tracks and other related system for safe and smooth train operations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of steps taken by Railways on those recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Action is taken on the accepted recommendations of such committee's reports.

Setting up of Industrial units in West Bengal

1206. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 272 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th August, 2011 and state:

- (a) whether contracts have been awarded for proposed units in Dankuni, Kanchrapara-Halisahar, Kharagpur, Anara (Adra), Tindharia;
- (b) the scheduled date of commissioning of Joint Venture Captive power plant at Adra;
- (c) whether any of the 16 units would commence production in 2012;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the tentative date of commencement of production in the 16 units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Work at Dankuni for manufacture of components and sub assemblies for High Horse Power diesel locos is in process. Contract for shifting of 25 KV Traction Sub Station has been awarded for the work of Electric loco assembly and ancillary unit of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works at Dankuni. Contracts have been awarded for site development in Kanchrapara-Halisahar and Anara (Adra).

- (b) Indian Railways is planning to set up one thermal power plant of 1320 MW (2x660 MW) capacity at Adra in joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The first unit of this plant is likely to be commissioned after 49 months from the date of investment approval of the project and the second unit at an interval of 6 months thereafter.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)(i) Work of manufacture of underframes for High Horse Power diesel locos is in process at Dankuni since February, 2012.

(i) The work for setting up of cold storage and temperature controlled perishable cargo centres under Kisan Vision project at Singur has been completed.

(ii) Automobile and Ancillary Hub at Sbalimar has been operationised.

(e) The tentative details of commencement of production in the 16 units are as under:

Sl. No.	Project	Tentative date of commencement
1	2	3
1.	Manufacture of components and sub assemblies for High Horse Power locos at Dankuni.	Work of Manufacturing of underframes is in process since February, 2012. Block machining to start by March, 2013
2.	Electric loco assembly and ancillary unit of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works at Dankuni.	The assembly, testing and commissioning work of electric locomotives is expected to commence after 18 months from the date of award of the contract for work of construction of main shed.
3.	Noapara Rake Rehabilitation facility	March, 2013
4.	Coach manufacturing factory in the Kanchrapara - Halisahar Railway Complex.	Within three years from award of the contract.
5.	Setting up of cold storage and temperature controlled perishable cargo centres under Kisan Vision project at Singur.	Work completed.
6.	Development of Automobile and Ancillary Hub at Shalimar.	First hub at Shalimar operationalised.
7.	Centre of Excellence for wagon prototyping at Kharagpur workshop.	June, 2014
8.	Wagon manufacturing factory at Burdwan (Kulti).	End of 2012-13

1	2	3
9.	2×660 Mega Watt Railways' captive, coal based thermal power plant at Adra, District Purulia, in joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation	The first unit of the plant is likely to be commissioned after 49 months from the date of investment approval of the project and the second unit at an interval of 6 months thereafter.
10.	Coach Mid Life Rehabilitation workshop at Anara (Adra).	June, 2015
11.	Facilities with transfer of technology for manufacture of Composite Brake Blocks at Tindharia.	End of 2014-15
12.	Rail axle manufacturing factory at New Jalpaiguri.	End of 2014-15
13.	Fiat Bogie frame and refrigerated container factory at Budge Budge.	End of 2012-13
14.	Electronic signal production unit at New Coochbehar.	June, 2013
15.	Wagon component factory for manufacture of high capacity bogies, couplers and draft gear at Jellingham.	March, 2014
16.	Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) manufacturing factory at Haldia.	January, 2013

Corruption in booking of tickets

1207. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is rampant corruption in the booking of train tickets by touts in collusion with booking clerks by booking tickets in fake names under Tatkal Scheme;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check corruption in ticket booking;

(c) the number of touts arrested by railway police during each of the last three years in Delhi and how many of them were convicted and sent to jail by the court; and

(d) the measures taken to simplify the ticket booking system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. However, some cases of booking of train tickets by touts in fake names do come to notice.

(b) The steps taken by the Railways to check corruption in ticket booking of train tickets by touts are given below:

- Tatkal Scheme has been revamped from 21.11.2011 to prevent its misuse by touts by reducing its advance reservation period from two days to one day; allowing only four passengers per PNR; and mandatory carrying of identity proof during the journey by one of the passengers on each Tatkal ticket.
- Regular preventive checks are conducted by the Commercial, Vigilance and Security Departments at the reservation offices, major stations and in trains. Touts so apprehended are taken up under the provisions of law.
- Touting activities/black-marketing of tickets occur due to a gap between the demand and supply. To bridge this gap, the composition of the existing train is augmented and special trains are run to cater to peak demand.
- Surveillance/monitoring of reservation offices is done by Senior Officers. Instructions have been issued to install Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) equipments at major Passengers Reservation System (PRS) centres to keep a watch on the activities of reservation counters.
- In trains, carrying of one of the prescribed Identity proofs by passengers travelling in AC Classes (except 3-Economy Class) has been made mandatory with effect from 15-02-2012.
- Campaigns are also launched through media to educate the public to desist from purchasing tickets from unauthorized persons.

(c) The number of touts arrested, convicted and sent to jail by the court during the last three years in Delhi are as under:

Year	No. of touts arrested	No. of touts convicted	No. of touts sent to jail
2008-09	98	67	nil
2009-10	126	76	1
2010-11	118	70	nil

(d) Indian Railways have taken various measures to simplify the ticket booking system from time to time. The facilities of e-ticketing, i-tickets and booking of rail

tickets through mobile phones have been provided. Further, additional computerized Passengers Reservation System (PRS) counters are operated, especially during peak rush periods/festival seasons at various locations.

Recommendations of Committee on Railway Safety

1208. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Kakodkar Committee on Railway Safety has submitted its report to Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has recommended a fresh levy on train passengers as railway safety cess;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Committee has recommended that the grim financial condition and poor infrastructure and resources are affecting the safety of railway passengers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of remedial measures proposed to augment financial conditions and safety of Railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of High Level Safety Review Committee has submitted his Report to Ministry of Railways on 17.02.2012.

(b) The Report has made recommendations regarding Organisational structure, Signalling, Tracks and Bridges, modernization of Rolling stock, fire prevention in trains, road and level crossings and funding issues.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Dr. Anil Kakodkar Committee has recommended levy of Safety Cess on Passengers to the tune of Rs. 5000 crores per year for five years.

(e) to (g) Action is taken on the accepted recommendations of such Committee's reports.

New railway line between Bijapur and Pandharpur

†1209. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of huge crowd of devotees from Karnataka, Andhra

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to the Pandharpur shrine situated in the Sholapur district of Maharashtra, a need to lay a new railway line between Bijapur and Pandharpur is being felt by Railways;

- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Railways would approve this line; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) This proposal is not under consideration at present due to huge throwforward of on-going projects.

PPP for development of infrastructure in backward areas

1210. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the projects offered to private sector under public-private-partnership (PPP) for development of infrastructure in the backward areas of the country;
- (b) the response of the private sector so far in the matter; and
- (c) the steps Railways propose to take to make the partnership effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No project has yet been bid out to private sector under public-private-partnership (PPP) for development of infrastructure in the backward areas. Most of the funding for such works has traditionally come from Government.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Ministry of Finance, Government of India has formulated guidelines to develop, bid out and approve PPP projects in a transparent and effective, manner. These are also applicable to Railway's PPP projects.

Installing train protection and warning system

†1211. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are giving emphasis on installing and implementing the train protection and warning system on a large scale so as to prevent train accidents in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether considerable improvement has taken place due to the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After gaining experience from two Pilot projects of Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) commissioned on suburban section of Southern Railway, *i.e.* between Chennai Central and Gummidipundi (50 Route Kms) and Delhi-Agra section (200 Route Kms) of North and Northern Central Railways, works have been sanctioned on 3300 Route Kms on 8 Railways *i.e.* Central, Eastern, Northern, North Central, Southern, South Central, South Eastern and Western Railways covering Automatic Block Signalling Sections of Indian Railways.

(c) On the trains fitted with TPWS equipments, accidents due to cases of 'Signal Passing At Danger' (SPAD) have been prevented by automatic application of brakes by the system.

Status of medical colleges

1212. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 3371 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd September, 2011 and state the present status of 18 Medical Colleges which were to be established and attached to the existing Railway Hospitals, hospital-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): Initially 5 Medical Colleges *viz.* Kharagpur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Chennai and Secunderabad are being taken up in Phase-I. Bids for appointment of Consultant for Kharagpur were invited and the tender has been discharged on technical grounds and retendering for the same is being processed. For the remaining four Medical Colleges, Zones are processing for appointment of a Consultant.

Medical Colleges at remaining locations *viz.* Ahmedabad, Bilaspur, Barasat, Bhubaneswar, Mysore, Dibrugarh, Jodhpur, B.R. Singh Hospital, Garden Reach, Nagpur, Bhopal, Jammu and Trivandrum shall be taken up subsequently.

Cleanliness at platforms and in trains

†1213. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have taken note of the increasing filthiness in railway toilets and coaches along with the increasing number of rats and cockroaches;

(b) whether the work of cleaning the platform and trains has been given to private companies or contractors, if so, whether there has been any improvement in cleanliness; and

(c) if not, the effective action Railways propose to take in respect of cleanliness of toilets etc. in trains and at platforms and the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Indian Railways take various steps to improve the cleanliness of toilets at stations as well as in the coaches. The steps taken include mechanised cleaning. Inspections by various officials at the railway stations to monitor cleanliness and take remedial measures are conducted regularly. Besides, intensive cleaning of coaches is done during the maintenance. In addition, enroute cleaning of coaches at select stations and on board cleaning on important trains is also done. To control menace of cockroaches and rats, all the coaches are given pest and rodent control treatment through professional agencies and regular inspections are carried out at different levels. Improvement in the standard of cleanliness on Indian Railways is a continuous process.

(b) and (c) At some stations, Indian Railways have outsourced cleanliness related activities like mechanized cleaning, rag picking, garbage disposal, one time cleaning etc. on contract basis to improve the cleanliness standards at railway stations. Public toilets at major railway stations have been brought under the 'Pay and Use' scheme with the participation of the private sector. Some coach cleaning activities like mechanised cleaning of coaches in the coaching depots, On Board House Keeping Services (OBHS) in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto and important Mail/Express trains, limited mechanised cleaning attention to identified trains during their scheduled stoppage enroute at "Clean Train Stations (CTS)" and comprehensive pest and rodent control treatment in coaching depots have been outsourced to professional agencies. These measures have helped Indian Railways in ensuring cleanliness at railway stations and maintenance of toilets along with cleanliness in coaches.

Recruitment of physically handicapped in railways

1214. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies in Railways and by when Railways would fill up all vacancies in all areas including railway safety;

(b) whether Railways are filling up the physically handicapped quota in recruitment;

(c) whether it is a fact that physically handicapped candidates are not getting appointment in East Coast Railway; and

(d) the total number of physically handicapped persons working in Railways, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The number of vacancies of staff in Zonal Railways as on 01.04.2011 is 221734 (revised). Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Notifications for filling up of about 1,90,000 posts have already been issued.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As per available figures, 6422 Physically Handicapped Persons were working in Railways, as on 01.01.2011

Accidents at unmanned railway crossings

1215. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossings in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of accidents occurred at unmanned railway crossings since May, 2009 till date;

(c) the details of human casualties due to accidents at unmanned railway crossings since May, 2009; and

(d) the measures adopted by Railways to prevent accidents at unmanned railway crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The Railways do not maintain level crossing data State-wise. However, Zone-wise data is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) There have been 159 accidents at unmanned level crossings from May 2009 to February 2012,

(c) 464 number of persons lost their life and 375 number of persons sustained injuries from May 2009 to February 2012.

(d) Railways have decided to eliminate the unmanned level crossings by (i) construction of Road Under Bridge (RUB)/subway in lieu of level crossing (ii) by construction of diversion road for merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway or RUB or Road Over Bridge (ROB) (iii) by closing unmanned level crossings having NIL Train Vehicle Unit where roads are non-existent on either side. Railways have also decided to progressively man such unmanned level crossings, which cannot be eliminated by any other means.

Statement

Railway-wise manned and unmanned level crossings (as on 01.04.2011)

Sl.No.	Zones	Number of Manned Level Crossings	Number of Unmanned Level Crossings	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Central Railway	902	290	1192
2.	Eastern Railway	942	350	1292

1	2	3	4	5
3.	East Central Railway	1026	799	1825
4.	East Coast Railway	535	658	1193
5.	Northern Railway	2657	1510	4167
6.	North Central Railway	1035	484	1519
7.	North Eastern Railway	1137	1420	2557
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway	849	1083	1932
9.	North Western Railway	1350	1295	2645
10.	Southern Railway	1781	1122	2903
11.	South Central Railway	1256	1032	2288
12.	South Eastern Railway	489	934	1423
13.	South East Central Railway	522	579	1101
14.	South Western Railway	681	637	1318
15.	Western Railway	1829	2478	4307
16.	West Central Railway	848	225	1073
TOTAL		17839	14896	32735

Establishment of Wagon re-construction Workshop at Garkha, Bihar

1216. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have sanctioned for establishment of Wagon Re-construction Workshop at Garkha in Bihar;

(b) if so, the status of this project;

(c) the amount of budget for this project and the amount already allocated till February, 2012; and

(d) the completion schedule of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tender for final location survey is being floated.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 57.32 crores and an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs has been allocated till March, 2012.

(d) The completion schedule of the project is 3 years after award of contract.

Representation from Jharkhand regarding frequency of trains

1217. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received any representation from Jharkhand regarding frequency of Rajdhani Express, Hatia-LTT Superfast Express and Hatia-Yasvantpur Express to be run daily; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) A large number of representations are received at various levels of Railway administration for increase in frequency of existing trains including Rajdhani/superfast express trains and action as found feasible and justified is taken. Increase in frequency of existing trains is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc. However, increase in frequency of 12453/12454 New Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani Express from 1 to 2 days has been announced in Railway Budget 2012-13.

Railway bridge across Godavari

1218. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have a proposal to build one more railway bridge across Godavari to create more railways network along coastal Andhra;

(b) Whether this new bridge would be linked to shorter route with Kazipet;

(c) the full details of the proposed route for the new railway bridge;

(d) the other steps proposed by Railways to improve railway traffic in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) whether by-passes are also being considered to speed up some trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINGH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) To improve rail traffic, 18 new lines and 10 doubling projects falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh are in various stages of execution. Two new lines (Bhadrachalam-Kovur-151 Km) and Akkanapet-Medak (17.20 Km) have been proposed in the Railway Budget for the year 2012-13. Further, the proposal for constructing a third line between Kazipet and Vijaywada (219.64 Km) with electrification have also been proposed in the Railway Budget for the year 2012-13.

(e) No, Sir.

Land acquisition work for Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri railway line

1219. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the land acquisition work for the Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri railway line has been discontinued;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Railways propose to resume the process; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the construction work on the said project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Construction in plain terrain *i.e.* on the first 3 km of the project has already been taken up after acquisition of the required land. Before initiating construction activity on hilly portion of the project, geological/geo-technical investigations have been taken up to ensure survivability of the alignment.

Model railway stations in Himachal Pradesh

1220. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for declaring a railway station as a model railway station;
- (b) the number of stations in Himachal Pradesh presently fulfilling these criteria;
- (c) whether some railway stations have not been declared model railway stations in Himachal Pradesh despite fulfilling these criteria; and
- (d) the names of railway stations in Himachal Pradesh declared as model railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The 'Model Station' scheme was in vogue between June, 1999 and November, 2008. Initially, one station per Division of Indian Railways was selected under the scheme. In the year 2006, the criteria was revised to include all 'A' and 'B' category stations, on the basis of the annual passenger earnings, under the scheme.

(b) to (d) Shimla railway station located in Himachal Pradesh was identified for development under the Model Station Scheme. The 'Model Station' scheme has been discontinued after November, 2008. Thereafter, scheme of Adarsh station has been introduced. Jwalaji railway station located in Himachal Pradesh has been selected for development under the 'Adarsh Station' scheme.

ROBs in Pune district

1221. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals of land transfer and other permissions regarding ROBs are pending in Pune district;
- (b) the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for delay and the status of all such proposals; and
- (d) the time-frame for final clearance in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. No such proposals are pending.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

PPP model in railway works

1222. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an expert group for modernization of Railways headed by Shri Pitroda has recently given several recommendations to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the expert group and reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether Government would implement PPP models in various railway works to modernize it; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee has made 113 specific recommendations pertaining to modernization of tracks and bridges, signaling systems, rolling stock, stations and terminals, PPP initiatives, utilization of land and airspace, construction of Dedicated Freight Corridors, High-speed Passenger Corridors, expeditious implementation of 'priority' projects, harnessing Information and Communication Technology, indigenous development and safety. It has also recommended mobilization of resources for the aforesaid purposes along with Human Resource Development to increase specialization and some organizational changes.

(c) and (d) PPP projects in various chosen areas such as stations and terminals, high speed rail corridors, elevated rail corridor, private freight terminals, leasing of wagons, loco and coach manufacturing units, captive power generation, renewable energy projects (solar, wind etc.) etc. will be attempted and would be taken up for implementation, if response of private partner is favourable.

Inadequate train facilities in Saurashtra region of Gujarat

1223. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Saurashtra region of Gujarat is having very low/inadequate train facilities and representations have been made to Railways for starting of new trains;

(b) whether Railways have received representations from various people organizations/rail users and associations for starting new trains from Rajkot/Bhavnagar region of Saurashtra; and

(c) if so, by when the demand of people of Saurashtra is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Trains over Indian Railways are not introduced on state-wise basis.

Representations from. Hon'ble Members of Parliament/Ministers/organizations/associations/different levels of state government, including that of Saurashtra region of Gujarat etc. are received at various levels of railway administration. These are examined and action as found feasible and justified, is taken.

Maintenance of tracks and coaches

1224. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are continuously facing the acute problem of railway track corrosion;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the railway employees after refuse to carry out maintenance of tracks and coaches;

(d) if so, whether Railways plan to implement Kakodkar Committee Report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir, Corrosion of rails has been a perennial problem for Indian Railways.

(b) The general corrosion in the rail happens due to aggressive environmental conditions and it takes place mostly in the coastal areas due to salinity, in the tunnels, cuttings and yards due to dampness, and in sidings where corrosive goods are handled. Corrosion of rails and fittings also takes place due to toilet droppings from passenger trains.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) All those recommendations which are accepted, are implemented by Railways.

Dedicated railway zone for NE region

1225. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a dedicated railway zone exclusively for the NE Region;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the new initiatives for the development of Railways in NE Region alongwith the budget provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Railway Zone named Northeast Frontier Railway with headquarters at Guwahati is already functioning and taking care of the whole North East region. The present arrangement is working satisfactorily.

(d) Various initiatives for the development of Railways in the North East region have been taken. These include the following:

(i) Several development works at an anticipated cost of Rs. 31916.46 crores, under different plan heads, for North East region falling in the jurisdiction of Northeast Frontier Railway, are in various stages of progress. These include 18 new line, 5 Gauge Conversion and 2 Doubling works, of which 9 new line and 2 Gauge Conversion projects are "National Projects". For the year 2012-13, four new surveys and one doubling work have been proposed.

(ii) In addition, for 2012-13, one Railway Electrification Survey has been proposed for Northeast Frontier Railway.

(iii) In the year 2011-12, three new Traffic Facility Works (costing Rs. 37.84 crores) have been sanctioned for Northeast Frontier Railway. Five new Traffic Facility Works (costing Rs. 30.03 Crores) have been proposed for Northeast Frontier Railway in the Railway Budget 2012-13.

(iv) During the year 2011-12 ten new trains have been introduced, extension/increase in frequency of two trains has been carried out and 38 special trains have been run. For the year 2012-13, the Railway Budget proposes introduction of 6 new trains, extension of one train and increase in frequency of 4 trains.

- (v) For development of ticketing system in reserved segment, 84 Passenger Reservation System (PRS) covering important railway stations, major district headquarters of railhead and non-railhead locations and all State capitals of North East Region have been opened so far. Besides, 38 UTS-cum-PRS for simultaneous issue of reserved and un-reserved tickets at important stations and 176 Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) have also been opened at “A”, “B”, “D” and “E” category stations. 75 stations in the Northeast Frontier Railway have been identified for development under the Adarsh Station scheme.
- (vi) The Plan Outlay for Northeast Frontier Railway for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 3270 crores against the revised estimates of Rs. 3002 crores for the year 2011-12.

Accidents due to trespassing railway tracks

1226. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Anil Kakodkar led Safety Committee report has stated that 15,000 people are killed on railway tracks every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether accidents due to trespassing fall under the purview of train accidents; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Railways to prevent trespassing on railway tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information collected from Zonal Railways 12972 and 14670 persons died on Railway tracks over Indian Railways during the year 2010 and 2011 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The following steps are being taken to prevent trespassing in Railway premises including Railway track:-

- Regular announcements are made through PA system at important Railway stations urging the passengers to use foot over bridges and to avoid crossing of Railway tracks.
- Various passenger awareness programmes are being organized to create awareness amongst general public about the fatalities of crossing railway tracks.
- Trespassing on Railway premises including the Railway track is a punishable offence in terms of section 147 the Railway Act. Regular

drives are conducted against trespassing on Railway premises as well as Railway tracks. If any person enters upon or into any part of a railway without lawful authority, or having lawfully entered upon or into such part misuses such property or refuses to leave, he is prosecuted under the provision of the Railways Act. As many as 161192 persons were prosecuted during the year 2011 over Indian Railways.

Recommendations of Kokodkar Committee

1227. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Anil Kakodkar Committee appointed to review railway safety has submitted its report; and
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and Railways' reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of High Level Safety Review Committee has submitted its Report to Ministry of Railways on 17.02.2012.

(b) The Report has made recommendations regarding Organisational structure, Signalling, Tracks and Bridges, modernization of Rolling stock, fire prevention in trains, road and level crossings and funding issues.

Action is taken on the accepted recommendations of such Committee's reports.

Introduction of local train system in Bengaluru

1228. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have received any proposal to improve connectivity in Bengaluru through introduction of a local train system within city limits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Railways on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c). No, Sir. No such proposal has been received by Railways. However, State Government has engaged RITES for analyzing comprehensive requirement of commuter transport system in Bengaluru area. This has been done in view of recent development of commissioning of the Bengaluru Metro and changes in demographic conditions in Bengaluru.

Gauge conversion projects in Gujarat

1229. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the present status of ongoing gauge conversion projects in Gujarat including Rajkot-Mehsana-Delhi section;

- (b) the details of the funds allocated/spent thereon, so far;
- (c) whether these projects are facing time and cost overrun;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Railways in this regard; and
- (e) the time-frame set for their completion particularly for Rajkot-Mehsana-Delhi section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (e) Rajot-Mehsana-Delhi section is already an existing broad gauge section. At present, there are 7 ongoing gauge conversion projects falling partly/fully in Gujarat. The project-wise details, their present status and funds allocated/spent thereon so far is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2011	Outlay proposed in the current Budget 2012-13	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej (62.36 km)	250.93	13	All track linking and yards completed. The section has been opened for goods traffic on 30.11.2011.
2.	Ankeleshwar-Rajpipla (62.89 km)	160.71	10	Work is in advanced stage and likely to be completed by March, 2012.
3.	Ahemdabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur (299.20 km)	0.49	35	Work is in different stages of progress.
4.	Bhuj-Naliya (101.35 km) with extension to Vayor (24.65 km)	0.13	50	Preliminary activities like preparation of plan, estimate, etc. have been completed. Land acquisition proceeding for new line from Naliya to Vayor is being taken up.
5.	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjaliya to Jetalsar	507.24	15	Rajkot-Veraval, Veraval-Somnath and Wansjaliya-Jetalsar

1	2	3	4	5
	with new material modification for Shahpur-Saradiya (46 km) and new line from Veraval to Somnath (281 km) and Somnath-Kodinar (36.91 km) Total 363.54 kms.=321.61 km gauge conversion+ 41.93km new line.)			completed and commissioned. Part estimate for Shahpur-Saradiya and Somnath-Kodinar has been sanctioned and works taken up.
6.	Bhildi-Viramgam with new Material modification for Mehsana- Taranga Hill (57.4 km.) gauge conversion (162 km+ 51.03 new line = Total 213.03 km) with new line from Patan-Bhildi	141.20	40	Viramgam-Mehsana and Mehsana-Patan completed and commissioned for passenger traffic. Earth work, bridges work and track works taken up in Patan-Bhildi section where land has been acquired
7.	Miyagaon-Karjan-Dhaboi-Shamlya (96.46 km)	0.0	20	Preliminary activities like preparation of plans, estimates, etc. have been taken up.

Due to large number of ongoing railway projects and limited availability of resources, it has not been possible to allocate adequate funds to all the projects. Funds are allocated keeping in view the relative priority of the projects and commensurate with the progress. Further, there are delays due to non-availability of land, delay in forestry clearances, adverse law and order conditions, agitations resulting in stoppages of work/movement of construction materials, litigation, etc. Railway is making efforts to generate funds through other than gross budgetary support such as cost sharing by State Government and beneficiaries, implementation of projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) or as National Projects. Regular meetings are held with State Government /Central Government to expedite the issue of project implementation. The projects are progressing as per the availability of resources.

Ongoing projects in Odisha

1230. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ongoing railway line projects in Odisha;
- (b) the details on the status of each project, their estimated cost and expenditure incurred, so far;
- (c) whether any survey has been made for new railway lines in Odisha;
- (d) if so, names of the proposed railway lines and details of feasibility study;
- (e) whether Railways are considering constructing some of these lines;
- (f) if so, the names thereof;
- (g) whether Railways have any proposal for construction of a train terminal at Berhampur railway station in Odisha; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The details of ongoing railway projects falling fully/partly in Odisha State are as under:

Sl. No.	Project	Latest anticipated cost (Rs. in cr.)	Anticipated expenditure till March 2012 (Rs. in cr.)
1	2	3	4
New lines			
1.	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 km)	818.29	242.22
2.	Daitari-Banspani (155 km)	1326.63	1024.94
3.	Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 km)	1299.99	452.24
4.	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 km)	470.21	206.14
5.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 km)	224.00	190.90
6.	Talcher-Bimlagarh (154 km)	810.78	110.00
7.	Digha-Jaleshwar(41 km)	352.95	150.10
Doublings			
1.	Jharsuguda-Rengali (25.6 km)	213.13	159.53
2.	Khurda- Barang 3rd line (35 km)	221.00	210.50
3.	Cuttack-Barang (12 km)	200.00	175.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Sambalpur-Talcher (174.11 km)	679.27	66.00
5.	Delang- Puri (28.7 km)	170.00	35.00
6.	Sambalpur-Titlagarh (1 82 km)	950.84	99.74
7.	Raipur-Titlagarh (203 km)	852.98	62.51
8.	Banspani-Daitari-Tomka- Jakhapur (180km)	942.45	70.88
9.	Rajatgarh-Barang (20 km)	275.50	25.00
10.	Champa-Jharsuguda (165 km)	1013.61	58.04
11.	Champajharan-Bimlagarh (21 km)	177.38	5.13
12.	Brundamal-Jharsuguda	81.66	10.00
13.	Bimlagarh-Dumitra (18.3 km)	130.69	104.70
14.	Banspani-Jaroli (9 km)	90.90	66.39

(c) to (f) The following surveys for new rail lines falling partly/fully in Odisha State have been taken up:-

Sl. No.	Name of survey	Status
1.	Extension of Naupada-Gunupur line	Survey in progress.
2.	Junagarh-Ambaguda	Survey in progress.
3.	Khurda Road-Rajatgarh	Survey in progress.
4.	Dantewara-Malkangiri	Survey in progress.
5.	Sambhalpur-Berhampur	Survey in progress.
6.	Junagarh-Jeypore-Bhadarchalam	Survey in progress.
7.	Talcher-Phulbani-Lanjigarh	Survey in progress.
8.	Bolangir-Naupada	Survey in progress.
9.	Kantabanji-Amapani-Jeypore	Survey in progress.
10.	Jeypore-Malkangiri	Survey in progress.
11.	Jeypore-Navrangpur	Survey in progress.
12.	Paradip port-Dhamra port.	Survey in progress.
13.	Pholbani-Berhampur	Survey in progress.
14.	Puri-Konark	Survey in progress.
15.	Rajamundri-Raipur,	Survey in progress.

Sl. No.	Name of survey	Status
16.	Belda-Baripada	Survey in progress.
17.	Banspani-Barbil	Survey in progress.
18.	Jagdalpur-Dantewara	Survey in progress.

Following surveys have been completed:-

Sl. No.	Project	Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Status
1.	Rayagada- Gopalpur	1392	Project proposal sent to
2.	Raigarh-Mand Colliery to Bhupdeopur	344	Planning Commission for appraisal and 'in principle'
3.	Raipur-Jharsuguda	2161	approval.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Loan sought by Railways

1231. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal of the Railways for a temporary loan of about Rs. 9100 crore has been turned down by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have again approached the Government for the said loan with more justifications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response received by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Finance was requested to grant a loan of Rs. 2, 100 crore to cover the negative balances under Development Fund and Capital Fund as on 31.3.2011. Ministry of Finance did not agree to this and advised Railways to meet the liability by raising the resources suitably.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to a fresh request of the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Finance granted a loan of Rs. 3,000 crore in 2011-12. The loan is repayable in two years in two equal installments.

Corporation for development of railway stations

1232. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have set up a corporation for development of railway stations to world class standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have handed over the development work to the said corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) It has been proposed to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the participation of Ircon International Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways and Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), a statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways with the primary objective of modernizing the railway stations by entrusting some of these to the SPV. The process of incorporating the Special Purpose Vehicle under Companies Act 1956 has been undertaken.

Providing stoppage of trains

†1233. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is under consideration to provide stops of any inter-city/express trains etc. at Hindol Road, Meramandali, Jarpada and Bamur stations of East Coast Railway;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is being considered to extend the Puri-Angul fast passenger train upto Redhakhhol station; and

(d) if so, by when this would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is not feasible, at present, to provide stoppages of Inter-city/express trains at Hindol Road. Meramandali, Jarpada and Bamur stations for want of commercial justification and in view of operational constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Equipment to maintain speed of trains during fog

†1234. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have come up with an equipment to ensure that the trains don't slow down because of fog; and

(b) if so, by when these equipments would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a Global Positioning

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

System (GPS) based Fog safe device has been developed which displays name of approaching signs and other critical landmarks in advance even during poor visibility condition. It is expected to help reduce stress on Loco Pilots while running trains in foggy weather. This device is not a safety system but an aid to loco pilot to reduce stress during running of trains in foggy weather. Its proliferation on a large scale is still subject to confirmatory trials and development of reliable sources.

Theft of railway parcels and goods

†1235. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that incidents related to theft of railway parcels and goods from goods trains are taking place frequently;

(b) the year-wise details of the loss incurred by Railways due to the theft of goods during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways so far for preventing theft of goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The incidents related to theft of Railway parcels and goods from goods trains reported over Indian Railways during the last three years are as under:-

Year	No. of cases reported	Value of property stolen (in Rs. crores)
2009	1083	17.19
2010	1159	16.00
2011	943	18.19

(c) Following steps are being taken by the Railways to prevent theft of goods:-

- (i) Goods trains carrying valuable commodities are being escorted by Railway Protection Force in vulnerable and affected sections.
- (ii) Armed pickets are provided at black spots to prevent criminal interference with the goods trains.
- (iii) Criminals apprehended are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act.
- (iv) Crime Intelligence is gathered on the activities of the criminals involved in theft of Railway property and raids are being conducted at the dens of receivers of stolen Railway properties with the help of Local Police.
- (v) Close coordination is being maintained with Local Police and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government Railway Police to prevent/detect the cases of theft/pilferage of Railway property.

Deaths occurring on railway tracks

1236. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of deaths occurred on railway tracks in the country during the last three years, including in the train accidents;
- (b) how many of them were in Gujarat and Jharkhand;
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by Railways to prevent deaths on tracks;
- (d) the number of unmanned and manned railway level crossings in the country;
- (e) the number of such crossings in Jharkhand and Gujarat; and
- (f) whether there is any special plan to upgrade railway crossings, unmanned/manned level crossing gates, with a view to increase safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The number of deaths reported on Railway tracks including the train accidents in Gujarat and Jharkhand and over Indian Railways during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Over Indian Railways	In Gujarat	In Jharkhand
2009	13123	1095	233
2010	13378	1084	238
2011	14973	1121	199

- (c) Following steps are being taken to prevent deaths on Railway tracks :-
 - Regular announcements are made through Public Address system at important Railway stations urging the passengers to use foot over bridges and to avoid crossing of Railway tracks.
 - Various passenger awareness programmes are being organised to create awareness amongst general public about the fatalities of crossing Railway tracks.
 - Unauthorised trespassing on Railway premises including the Railway track is a punishable offence in terms of section 147 of the Railways Act. Regular drives are conducted against unauthorised trespassing on Railway premises as well as Railway tracks. As many as 161192 persons were prosecuted under section 147 of the Railways Act during the year 2011 over Indian Railways.

(d) and (e) The number of manned and unmanned level crossings over Indian Railways and in the states of Jharkhand and Gujarat are as under:-

	Over Indian Railways	In Jharkhand	In Gujarat
Manned level crossings	17839	404	1523
Unmanned level crossings	14896	367	2376

(f) Railways have their own year-wise schedule plan for manning/elimination of level crossing with a view to increase safety. Unmanned level crossings are eliminated by (i) construction of Rail Under Bridge/subway in lieu of level crossing (ii) by construction of diversion road for merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway or Rail Under Bridge or Rail Over Bridge (iii) by closing unmanned level crossings having NIL Train Vehicle Unit where roads are non-existent on either side. Railways have also decided to progressively man such unmanned level crossings, which cannot be eliminated by any other means.

Proposals from various State Governments

1237. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by Railways from various State Governments, especially from Rajasthan, for laying of new railway lines/upgradation of existing stations as “model stations”, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by Railways till-date particularly with regard to proposals pertaining to new railway lines promised during last Railway Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rake facility at Mota Liliya in Gujarat

1238. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Railways to set up rake facility at Mota Liliya of Amreli district of Gujarat, as on date;

(b) by when this facility would be provided;

(c) the current progress of survey report for conversion of broad-gauge railway line at Amreli; and

(d) by when Amreli would be connected with broad-gauge railway link with other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Liliya Mota station falls on the

Surenderanagar-Pipavav section of Western Railway which is under the operational jurisdiction of Pipavav Railway Corporation Limited (PRCL). The feasibility of setting up a rake handling facility for goods at Liliya Mota has been examined and approved by the Board of Directors of PRCL.

(b) The work will be completed in the financial year 2012-13.

(c) The Survey for broad gauge rail line at Amreli has been completed in December, 2011. The report is under examination and vetting in the Zonal Railway.

(d) It is not possible at present to give any definite date as it depends on the outcome of examination of the feasibility report.

Findings of Committee constituted after Kalka Mail accident

†1239. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the remedial measures suggested to Railways in the report of the high-powered Committee constituted following the Kalka Mail accident;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Committee has found the poor financial condition of Railways and has suggested Railways to take steps to improve the same immediately; and

(c) whether the Committee has found the steel being used for railway tracks of sub-standard quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The Report has made recommendations regarding Organisational structure, Signalling, Tracks and Bridges, modernization of Rolling stock, fire prevention in trains, road and level crossings and funding issues.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. High Level Safety Review Committee has not reported that steel used in railway tracks is of substandard quality.

Permission for railway crossing in Gujarat

1240. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several proposals for permission of railway crossings for various water supply projects affecting water supply to large number of villages in Gujarat are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when such proposals are likely to be cleared?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

12.00 Noon

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Railways receive requests from various organisations/agencies/individuals for crossings of railway tracks for various purposes. Such proposals are examined and permission is granted if the proposal is complete, feasible, does not affect safety of trains, and after the party has deposited the required fees and met with all the procedural requirements. Presently, about 137 proposals for permission of railway crossings for various water supply projects falling in the state of Gujarat are under consideration. Clearance of such proposals is dependent upon the compliance of the procedural requirements by sponsoring parties. No target can, therefore, be set by railways for granting approval to the proposals.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 516 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 2012 regarding “Airing of illegal channels”.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- (i) **Report and account (2010-11) of KVIC, Mumbai and related papers.**
- (ii) **Outcome budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA) Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Virbhadra Singh, lay on the Table—

- (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
 - (a) Annual Report of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Statements by Government accepting the above Reports.
 - (d) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6404/15/12]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6403/15/12]

**Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of
New and Renewable Energy**

THE MINISTER OF THE NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6313/15/12]

**Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of
Minority Affairs**

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6411/15/12]

- i. **Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- ii. **Outcome budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I lay on the table—

- (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Pubiic Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-
 - (a) G.S.R. 812 (E)/Ess.Com/Sugarcane, dated the 15th November, 2011, notifying the Factory-wise Fair and Remunerative Price of Sugarcane, for the sugar season 2009-10.
 - (b) G.S.R. 836 (E), dated the 25th November, 2011, imposing levy obligation @ 10% on sugar produced during 2011-12 sugar season on every domestic producer of sugar.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 5859/15/12]

- (c) G.S.R. 859 (E)/Ess.Com/Sugarcane, dated the 5 December, 2011, notifying the Factory-wise Fair and Remunerative Price of Sugarcane, for the sugar season 2007-08.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6328/15/12]

- (d) G.S.R. 886 (E)/Ess.Com/Sugar, dated the 16th December, 2011, finalizing levy price notified, for sugar season 1996-97 to 2000-01 sugar season.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6327/15/12]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Consumer Affairs in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6325/15/12]

- (b) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Food and Public Distribution in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6326/15/12]

Notification of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Notification No. N-10/1/2011-PPC, dated the 24th November, 2011, amending the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) (Procedure and Conduct of Business) Regulation, 2000, along with delay statement.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6202/15/12]

Notifications of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS: (SHRI VINCENT PALA): Sir, I, on behalf of Shri R.P.N. Singh, lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, under Section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949:—

- (1) G.S.R. 8(E), dated the 11th January, 2012, publishing the Chartered Accountants procedures of meetings of Quality Review Board and

terms and conditions of service and allowances of Chairperson and members of the Board (Amendment) Rules, 2012.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6423/15/12]

- (2) S.O. 190 (E), dated the 30th January, 2012, appointing the 1st Day of February, 2012 as the date on which the provision of the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Act, 2011 shall come into force.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6425/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, under Section 40 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959:—

- (1) G.S.R. 69 (E), dated the 6th February, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 1693 (E), dated the 3rd October, 2007, to substitute certain entries in the original. Notification.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6422/15/12]

- (2) S.O. 191 (E), dated the 30th January, 2012, appointing the 1st day of February, 2012 as the date on which provision of the Act shall come into force.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6425/15/12]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, under Section 40 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980:—

- (1) G.S.R. 68(E), dated the 6th February, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 490 (E), dated the 13th July, 2007, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6424/15/12]

- (2) S.O. 192(E), dated the 30th January, 2012, appointing the 1st day of February, 2012 as the date on which the provision of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2011 shall come into force.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6425/15/12]

IV. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Notification No. G.S.R. 854 (E), dated the 1st December, 2011, publishing the Competition Commission of India (Salary, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Amendment Rules, 2011, under sub-section (3) of Section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6420/15/12]

V. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Notification F. No. 3-1/Amend/Comb.Reg1/2012/CD/CCI, dated the 23rd February, 2012, publishing the Competition Commission of India (Procedure in regard to the transaction of business relating to combinations) Amendment Regulations, 2012, under sub-section (3) of Section 64 of the Competition Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6421/15/12]

VI. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6427/15/12]

- I. Report and Accounts (2009-10) of the National Commission and Minorities and related papers.**
- II. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of APSIDC Ltd., Hyderabad and related papers.**
- III. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of Maulana Azad Education Foundation New Delhi and related papers.**

SHRI VINCENT PALA: Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 13 of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992:—

- (a) Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi, for the year 2009-10.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Commission.
- (c) Action Taken Memorandum on the Recommendations contained in the above Report of the Commission.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6428/15/12]

II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) Thirty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6430/15/12]

III A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Foundation.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6266/15/12]

**Reports and Accounts (2010-11) of various corporations
and institutes and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) Twenty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited (IVCOL), Gurgaon, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6390/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2010-11, 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 (i)(a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6387/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute for Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Dehi, for the year 2010-11 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 (ii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6386/15/12]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, for the year 2010-11, 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 (iii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6389/15/12]

- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NBMG), Kalyani, West Bengal, for the year 2010-11, 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 (iv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6388/15/12]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Regional 'Centre for Biotechnology (RGB), Gurgaon, for the year 2010-11, 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. 6385/15/12]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar, for the year 2010-11, 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. 6383/15/12]

- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Gurgaon, for the year 2010-11, 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 (vii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6382/15/12]

- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune, for the year 2010-11, 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 (viii)(a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6384/15/12]

- (ix) (a) Annual Report of the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Statement by Government accepting the Reports mentioned at (ix) (a) and (b) above.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ix) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6381/15/12]

- (x) (a) Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine (InStem), Bangalore, for the year 2010-11, 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 (x)(a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6380A/15/12]

Notification of the Ministry of Power

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): Sir, I lay on the Table—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Power Notification No.

JERC-11/2010, dated the 11th January, 2012, publishing corrigendum to Notification No. JERC-11/2010, dated the 19th May, 2010 (Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2010).

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6508/15/12]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Power Notification No. L-1/44/2010-CERC, dated the 25th November, 2011, publishing the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2011, under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003, along with delay statement.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6507/15/12]

Notification of the Ministry of Minority Affairs

SHRI VINCENT PALA: Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 12 of the Wakf Act, 1995, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs Notification No. G.S.R. 240(E), dated the 22nd March, 2012, publishing the Central Wakf Council (Amendment) Rules, 2012, amending the Central Wakf Council Rules, 1998.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6333/15/12]

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Fourteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twelfth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2011-2012)' of the Ministry of Defence.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

Status of implementation of Recommendation contained in the twelfth report of Department-related Parliament Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

GOVERNMENT BILL**The Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2012**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Zero Hour. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION**Demand for urgent need to improve service conditions of
Central Parliamentary Forces Personnel**

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड): उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का और सदन के माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि आज एक नेशनल डेली के मुखपत्र पर एक खबर छपी है कि 46 हजार जवान, जो पैरामिलिट्री फोर्सिज में काम करते हैं, उन्होंने पिछले पांच वर्षों में या तो वी.आर.एस. ले लिया या वे नौकरी छोड़ कर चले गये। उसका मुख्य कारण है कि हमारे देश के पैरामिलिट्री फोर्सिज के जो जवान हैं, जैसे, सी.आर.पी.एफ. हो, बॉर्डर सिक्योरिटी फोर्स हो, सशस्त्र सीमा बल हो, इंडो-तिब्बत बॉर्डर पुलिस हो, सेंट्रल इंडस्ट्रियल सिक्योरिटी फोर्स हो और असम रायफल्स हो,...। ये लोग इतनी स्ट्रेस सिचुएशन में काम कर रहे हैं, इनका डि-स्ट्रेसिंग प्रोग्राम भी नहीं होता। इनकी सर्विस कंडीशन्स इतनी पुअर हैं, उन पर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया। सर, सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि यहां पर कांस्टेबल की जॉब कंडीशन इतनी बुरी है कि एक कांस्टेबल को 18 से 20 साल लग जाते हैं हैड कांस्टेबल बनने में और एक असिस्टेंट कमांडेंट को 15 से 16 साल लग जाते हैं कि वह नेक्स्ट रैंक पर प्रमोट होकर सेकंड-इन-कमान हो। इसके अलावा 30 साल लग जाते हैं एक जवान को कमांडेंट बनने में। किसी तरह के नार्म्स के अनुसार प्रमोशन की ऐसी परम्परा किसी भी फोर्स में नहीं है। वे आतंकवादियों से लड़ते हैं, उनकी हत्याएं हो रही हैं, वे मारे जा रहे हैं, उनको छुट्टी नहीं मिलती है, परिवार से मिलने का मौका नहीं मिलता है, अपने आपको de-stress नहीं कर रहे हैं, ऑलवेज बुलेट प्रूफ जेकेट पहन कर ऐसी-ऐसी जगह में देश की रक्षा करने के लिए और देश के नागरिकों की रक्षा करने के लिए वे वचनबद्ध होकर लगे रहते हैं, अन्ततः उनको मृत्यु का सामना करना पड़ता है। उनके पास नए असले भी नहीं हैं, नई बुलेट प्रूफ जेकेट भी नहीं हैं। न उनके पास हथियार हैं लड़ने को, न तन ढकने के लिए बुलेट प्रूफ जेकेट है। ऐसे हालात में वे मारे जा रहे हैं और सुसाइड की संख्या भी बढ़ती जा रही है।

महोदय, वी.आर.एस. की संख्या पिछले 5 वर्षों में बी.एस.एफ. में 22,260 हुई, सी.आर.पी.एफ. में 11,392 हुई, असम राइफल्स में 5,600, सी.आई.एस.एफ. 3,600 और आई.टी.बी.पी. में 1,600 और एस.एस.बी. 1,400 हुई है। इस प्रकार 45,981 लोग वी.आर.एस. ले चुके हैं।

[श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया]

मेरा कहना है कि इनको de-stress करने के लिए सबसे पहले इनके पारिवारिक संबंधों पर ध्यान रखते हुए कोई विचार करना चाहिए कि जो आदमी राष्ट्र की सुरक्षा के लिए और राष्ट्र के नागरिकों की सुरक्षा के लिए और विशेष अधिकारों की आहुति देने के लिए तैयार रहता है तो उसको भी हर तरह की सुविधा देना और उसकी सुरक्षा करना देश का, राष्ट्र का फर्ज बनता है। महोदय, इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार तुरन्त इस पर कर्वाई करे। धन्यवाद।

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री विनय कटियार (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री तरुण विजय (उत्तराखंड): महोदय, मैं भी एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): महोदय, मैं भी इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. चंदन मित्रा (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री म. रामा जोयिस (कर्णाटक): महोदय, मैं भी एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

Intrusion into Indian airspace by Chinese helicopter

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, चीन के शरारतपूर्ण कदमों की खबरें आए दिन हमको मिलती रहती हैं, जिससे हर देशवासी के मन में एक आक्रोश पैदा हो रहा है। ताजा घटनाक्रम हिमाचल प्रदेश का है।

महोदय, सीमा से 7 किलोमीटर अन्दर तक भारत-तिब्बत सीमा के निकट कौंके क्षेत्र में चीन के हेलीकोप्टर 16 मार्च, 2012 को घुसपैठ कर लगभग 15 मिनट तक भारतीय क्षेत्र में घूमते रहे और घूमने के बाद वापिस लौट गए। भारतीय एजेंसियों द्वारा इस पर कोई संतोषजनक कार्रवाई नहीं की गई। चीन की यह कोई नई चाल हो सकती है, इसलिए ऐसी घटनाओं को हमें गंभीरता से लेना चाहिए। दुलमुल रवैये से चीन की इस तरह की शरारतें बढ़ती जा रही हैं। कभी अरुणाचल प्रदेश तो कभी हिमाचल प्रदेश में उसके जो इस तरह के काम हैं, किसी भी हालत में बर्दाश्त के योग्य नहीं हैं। चार माह में भारतीय वायु सीमा के उल्लंघन का चीन का यह दूसरा मामला है। वह बार-बार हिन्दुस्तान की वायु सीमा का उल्लंघन करता है और हम बार-बार उसे अपनी शिकायतें दर्ज कराकर अपनी खानापूति कर लेते हैं।

महोदय, ऐसा, इस प्रकार से कब तक चलेगा और ऐसी खानापूति हम कब तक इस तरह से करते रहेंगे? क्यों नहीं भारत सरकार द्वारा ठोस कदम उठाया जाता, जिससे चीन इस तरीके की अपनी शरारतपूर्ण हरकतों को बंद करने पर विवश हो जाए? मेरी मांग यह है कि भारत सरकार चीन की भारत विरोधी घटनाओं को ध्यान में रखकर, इस ताजा घटनाक्रम को देखते हुए, अविलम्ब अपनी रणनीति को और मजबूत करे, ताकि चीन की शरारतीपूर्ण कदमों पर हम अंकुश लगा सकें।

श्री तरुण विजय (उत्तराखंड): महोदय, मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री अनिल माधव दवे (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

**Suicide by tribal student in Andhra Pradesh
for creation of Telangana State**

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभापति महोदय, एक बहुत दुखद घटना है लेकिन आक्रोश की घटना है। सर, एक एम.बी.ए. के आदिवासी छात्र ने तेलंगाना की मांग के लिए दो दिन पहले आत्म-हत्या की और अभी खबर आयी है कि वारंगल में एक ऑटो रिक्शा चालक ने भी "सुसाइड नोट" लिखकर तेलंगाना राज्य निर्माण के लिए केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से की जा रही देरी का निषेध करते हुए सुसाइड किया है और अभी आधा घंटे पहले उस की मौत हो गयी है।

सर, यह कब तक चलेगा? इस इश्यू पर 609 आत्म-हत्याएं हो गयी हैं और यह क्यों हो रही हैं? इस की वजह यह है कि चुनाव के द्वारा, आंदोलन के द्वारा, लोकतांत्रिक तरीके से तेलंगाना की मांग का समर्थन, तेलंगाना की जनता बार-बार कर रही है। पिछले सप्ताह उपचुनाव के नतीजे आए और सभी उपचुनावों में कांग्रेस हार गयी। वहां की जनता ने तेलंगाना की भावना का समर्थन करने वाली भारतीय जनता पार्टी और तेलंगाना राष्ट्रीय समिति को ही इन चुनावों में पसंद किया है। तो यह लगातार चर्चा चल रही है और उस के पहले भरपूर आंदोलन हुआ, लेकिन उस आंदोलन की भी सरकार ने परवाह नहीं की। सर, अगर इस तरह की असंवेदनशील सरकार होगी तो उस से जनता में हताशा पैदा होती है और वह सोचती है कि लाकतांत्रिक तरीके के प्रयासों से भी न्याय नहीं मिल रहा है। इसलिए लोग आत्म-दाह कर रहे हैं। यह नहीं होना चाहिए। हम तो तेलंगाना जाकर और आज भी यहां से भी कहते हैं कि आत्म-हत्या इस समस्या का हल नहीं है, लेकिन लोगों के आक्रोश को सरकार क्यों नहीं सुन रही है? चिदम्बरम जी, कैसे भूल गए कि उन्होंने 9 दिसम्बर, 2009 को यहां घोषणा की थी कि **the process of formation of separate State of Telangana has begun**. वह **begin** हो गयी, तो समाप्त क्यों नहीं हो रही है? तेलंगाना स्टेट क्यों नहीं **form** हो रही है? सर, यह 50 साल पुराना आंदोलन है जिस में 300 से ज्यादा लोग गोली के शिकार हो चुके हैं और 600 से ज्यादा लोगों ने आत्म-हत्या की है। आप ने इस विषय में श्रीकृष्ण कमेटी बनायी। क्या वह **time kill** करने के लिए थी? अटल जी ने प्रधान मंत्री रहते हुए तीन राज्यों का निर्माण किया। उस समय विपक्षी दल के मुख्य मंत्री श्री दिग्विजय सिंह जी थे, लालू प्रसाद जी थे, उन्होंने सब को साथ लेकर तीन राज्यों का निर्माण कर दिखाया। अब आप की पार्टी का ही विरोध है और आप नहीं संभाल सकते हैं। आप अगर यह नहीं कर सकोगे, बहाना बनाओगे, तो लोग और कितना इंतजार करेंगे?

सर, अब लोग इंतजार नहीं करेंगे। वहां के लोगों को तेलंगाना राज्य चाहिए और उस के निर्माण के लिए सरकार को **political will** चाहिए। अगर **political will** है तो आप इसी सेशन में बिल लाइए। सर, एन.डी.ए. ने पहले ही घोषणा की है, श्री आडवाणी जी व हमारे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष और एन.डी.ए. के संयोजक श्री शरद यादव जी ने भी घोषणा की है कि आप बिल लाइए, हम समर्थन करेंगे, तेलंगाना राज्य का निर्माण करेंगे और यही इस समस्या का उपाय है। जय तेलंगाना।

श्री तरुण विजय (उत्तराखंड): सर, मैं श्री जावडेकर जी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

डा. चंदन मित्रा (मध्य प्रदेश): सर, मैं भी श्री जावडेकर जी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री अनिल माधव दवे (मध्य प्रदेश): मैं श्री जावडेकर जी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती समृति जुबिन ईरानी (गुजरात): मैं श्री जावडेकर जी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): मैं भी श्री जावडेकर जी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. Keshava Rao to associate on the same subject. (*Interruptions*)

**Suicide and self-immolation attempts by people in Andhra Pradesh
for creation of separate state of Telangana**

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, while it is some kind of an aberration or a rational approach to him, it is a vibration to me. It is I who is dying for it. It is not one or two that he is talking about. It is about the 700 people who died there. Give me an instance in history, where 700 people died for one cause in one year. But neither this House nor that House nor the State Assembly nor the Chief Minister shed their tears for us. What is happening? Do you want more people to die for this cause? Do you want 1000 people to die for this? If you want three crore people to die for this, we are prepared for it; I am prepared for it. I am leading that Movement from the front. If you want three crore people to die for it, they will die. What is all that they are asking for? We are asking for only one thing. You please implement what you said.

I know, for the first time, the Government of India's States' Reorganisation Commission recommended Telangana State, but you did not give. You gave all States what the SRCs said, but not Telangana. All right; forget about it. I was the PCC President. We put it in our Manifesto that we would give Telangana. But we did not give. Then the President of India told this House – I am a party to that – that the Government would give Telangana; but nothing happened. A Committee was appointed under Pranabji to talk to all allies friends. He talked to all friends and, overwhelmingly, everybody agreed to it. But nothing happened. Then, the Chief Minister promises in the Assembly that this time, he will give Telangana after talking to the Leaders of the Opposition. The meeting of the Leaders of the Opposition was held. They all agreed for Telangana. That letter was brought here. The Union Home Minister virtually announced Telangana here. But nothing happened. (*Interruptions*) What is this? Do you think they are not human beings? Only because we want Telangana State, you do not want to hear us at all. Kill us; that will solve the problem for you. All that you want is 'peace'. In the meeting, the Prime Minister said, "Let the peace". And on your request, we withdrew the strike. Can you show me any other example in the country, post-

independent India where entire Assembly resigns, where entire Members of Parliament of the region resign, where all Ministers resign? If the democratic voice cannot be heard, what is the use of a Parliament? If the democratic voice cannot be heard, what is the use of democracy? (*Time-bell rings*) You are not heard to it. ...(*Interruptions*).. I know that in these three days they can't do. ...(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot decide that. ...(*Interruptions*)...Please conclude. ...(*Interruptions*)..

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Only one sentence. ...(*Interruptions*)... With all said and done – Mr. Ahluwalia is here – He is well informed, I assert that the Congress Party under Madam Sonia Gandji will give it. She brought the issue to national agenda after 50 years. ...(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your mike is off. ...(*Interruptions*)..

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Mr. Narasimaha Rao could not do it. ...(*Interruptions*)..Nehruji did not speak about it. ...(*Interruptions*).. Rajivji did not talk about it. ...(*Interruptions*).. Lal Bahahadur Shastri did not talk about it. ...(*Interruptions*).. Only Soniaji has promised. ...(*Interruptions*)... She should give it. ...(*Interruptions*).. I still believe that she would uphold this promise and a new State of Telengana would come up under her leadership.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: . We all associate ourselves. ...(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Odisha): We all associate ourselves. ...(*interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, all of you are associated. ...(*Interruptions*).. Now Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Concern over food adulteration in the Country

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, after milk, the food safety Standards Authority of India (FSSA) has found that contamination is, in fact, quite common among other food items across the country. A comparative analysis of food adulteration rates over the past three years has shown a steady increase. In 2008, 94,000 samples were examined of which over 8,300 were found to be adulterated, that is, 8.79%; in 2009, 1.13 lakh samples were examined, of which 11.14% were found adulterated. In 2010, 1.17 lakh samples were examined of which over 14,000 samples, that is, 12.65% were found adulterated.

Analysis of food samples has shown adulteration rates as high as 40% in Chhattisgarh, 34% in Uttarakhand, 29% in Uttar Pradesh, 23% in Rajasthan and

[Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania]

20% in West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh. Besides, nearly 17% of the food samples tested in Bihar and Chandigarh, 16% in Nagaland, 15% in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, 14% in Haryana, 12% in Tamil Nadu, 10% in Maharashtra, 4% in Delhi and 5% in Karnataka, were found adulterated.

In view of above worrying scenario of ever increasing food adulteration in the Country, which is a grave health hazard, I would urge the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to take urgent preventive and punitive measures. Thank you.

Concern over black money hoarded abroad

SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA (Gujarat): Sir, individuals and Institutions are engaged in generating surpluses from legal or illegal activities, which do not get accounted for, in the formal economy. These funds form a part of Black Money or the parallel economy.

Strong parallel economy has been created due to high level of corruption and weak hold of regulatory mechanism in our country. Estimated Black Money was only Rs. 600 crores in 1953-54 which increased to Rs. 700 crores in 1961-62, Rs. 1400 crores in 1969 and Rs. 60000 Crores in 1991-92, before the financial reforms were implemented.

Bribes, kickbacks on contracts, trade misinvoicing, cash transfers and smuggling on a large scale are the root causes of corruption and generation of Black Money, which is hoarded abroad, after liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, on a huge scale. The Prime Minister assured the Parliament to bring back black money hoarded abroad but nothing has been done to bring back the same which is estimated to the tune of Rs. 24.70 lakh crores as revealed by the reliable sources, by way of legislative framework, setting up of institutions dealing with illicit funds and imparting skills to manpower for effective action.

India has 83 Double Tax Avoidance Agreements and 20 limited Tax Agreements but the DIAA do not have clauses on tax information. India needs to sign tax information agreements with tax haven countries where black-money is hoarded by Indians.

Future flows of illicit capital flight should be stopped and Indian money that is already abroad should be brought back to fund the needs of our country in social, educational and health sectors and also for poverty alleviation. 30% of our Gross Domestic product hoarded abroad in Black Money should be brought back from tax heavens of the world. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Saman Pathak. He is not here.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir I want to make a submission.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; you can't get up and speak like this.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I have given a notice for raising a Zero Hour issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That has not come to me. Shri Shreegopal Vyas. He is not here. Shri Ambeth Rajan. He is also not here. Shri Y. S. Chowdary. *(interruptions)*

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, it is not fair, *(interruptions)* Sir, it is not fair. This is an important issue. It is about the national integrity and sovereignty of the country. You are not allowing me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, there is illegal infiltration of Bangladeshis into Assam through the porous Indo-Bangla border. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, he has given notice. *(Interruptions)* Special Mention is a privilege of the....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is it? Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Chowdary, you go ahead.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY (Andhra Pradesh): How can I go ahead, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? What are you doing? When a notice is being given and if it is not here, you have to raise it. What is admitted comes here. *(Interruptions)* I can't do anything. *(Interruptions)*

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, यह गंभीर मामला है, इनको बोलने दीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...यह गंभीर विषय है, आप इसकी विशेष अनुमति दे दीजिए।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, you allowed them to raise the issue about Telengana. Why not Assam? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: By shouting you are not going to get any relief. Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* There is no notice. There is no notice, *(interruptions)* Mr. Ahluwaliaji, please sit down. I have not allowed anybody.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, this is not fair. This is injustice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baishya, please don't go on. Please sit down. Please, one minute. I have not allowed anybody. *(Interruptions)*. Ahluwaliaji....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): This is not the first time an issue is raised. It is an important issue to be raised for Assam, and for the national integration also. It is not simply Assam. If he wants to raise it, you can permit it. This is not the first time. In the past also, there were so many conventions. They are only two Members. What is wrong in it? By this time, he could have raised that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ahluwaliaji, he can raise it tomorrow. He can give a notice. Mr. Ahluwaliaji...(Interruptions)...

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, इतनी देर में तो वे अपनी बात बोल देते।

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्या परम्परा डाल रहे हैं? This is wrong. प्लीज, यह परम्परा ठीक नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALJA: Sir, there is a precedent.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; Mr Ahluwalia, first please listen to me. (Interruption) He can raise it tomorrow. देखिए, अगर आप इस तरह से करेंगे, तो हम हाउस कैसे चलाएंगे?... (व्यवधान)... Please sit down आप क्या बता रहे हैं?... (व्यवधान)... What is it that you are showing? (Interruption)

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there is no Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where is the Cabinet Minister? He is there. Mr. Jaiswal is here. He is a Cabinet Minister. If you are not aware of it that he is a Cabinet Minister, then, what can I do? (Interruptions) Mr. Ahluwalia, please sit down. I am on my legs.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Sir, he is wearing a black coat. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, please sit down.

कोयला मंत्री (श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल): लोहे को लोहा ही काटता है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): कोयले को भी कोयला काटता है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ahluwaliaji, please. First of all, I ascertained from the Secretariat. There was no notice. This House is following certain rules and conventions and functioning with the cooperation of all the Members. We are regulating the Zero Hour. As far as my information goes, there was no notice... (Interruptions)..

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I had given a notice ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, listen to me. ..(Interruptions)... You are not allowing me to complete. ...(Interruptions)... I am saying, as far as my information goes, there is no notice ...(Interruptions)...I had completed the Zero Hour. I have completed even three Special Mentions. Now, you are getting up and asking for Zero Hour! ...(Interruptions)...I request you to kindly don't do like this...(Interruptions). ..You give notice tomorrow, we will consider it. ...(Interruptions)... You give notice tomorrow, we will consider it...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Odisha): Sir, I have a point to make.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, let us go to the next Special Mention ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the television channels outside are flashing that the Government has ordered for a CBI enquiry into the allegations by the Army Chief. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That subject is different *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: No, Sir. The clarification is coming on television. The Government needs to clarify this on the Floor of the House *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, the hon. Minister is saying about the CBI enquiry outside the House *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I request the hon. Members not to disturb the Ministers when the House is going on *...(Interruptions)...* Please; the Minister should be attentive to the issue raised, because they are raising objection *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री श्रीप्रकाश जायसवाल: सर, आपका जो निर्देश होगा, उसका पालन होगा। *...(व्यवधान)...*

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, let the Government come before the House and explain the whole issue *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, please call the hon. Defence Minister to the House *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has not informed the House *...(Interruptions)...* He is telling about the CBI enquiry outside Parliament *...(Interruptions)...* What is this? *...(Interruptions)...* Why is he not announcing the same in the House? *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव (आंध्र प्रदेश): टी.वी. चैनल जो बोलते हैं *...(व्यवधान)...* जो अहलुवालिया जी कह रहे हैं *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, how can I take cognizance of whatever has been said on television channel? *...(interruptions)...* The House is going on. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has to come before the House and explain to the House the whole issue *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA (Odisha): Sir, the Defence Minister should come before the House and explain the position *...(interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Who has to come and say that? *...(Interruptions)...* Now, Mr. Chowdary *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, the hon. Minister should come before the House *...(interruptions)...*

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Government is taking the House for a ride *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Who is taking the House for a ride? ...*(Interruptions)*...What is this? You go on talking whatever you want ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, the Question Hour was suspended on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Question Hour was suspended because of this...*(interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, how can the hon. Minister announce about the CBI enquiry on television when the House is in Session? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, why the decision of the Government taken outside? ...*(interruptions)*...The issue was raised in both the Houses in the morning...*(Interruptions)*...The question is: why the announcement of the decision of the Government was not made in the House?. ...*(Interruptions)*...Both the Houses were adjourned in the morning... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Sir, direct the hon. Minister to come before the House and explain the whole thing...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, first, bring the House in order ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: जो भी पेपर में आएगा, क्या उसका जवाब ये लोग पूछेंगे?...*(व्यवधान)*...जो भी पेपर में आएगा, क्या उसका जवाब देना है?...*(व्यवधान)*..

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, is this the dignity of this House? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, we have to examine whether any such statement has been made...*(Interruptions)*...I cannot react to everything. I will have to find out whether any such statement has been made...*(Interruptions)*..

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Let the hon.. Minister say so whether he has made such a statement...*(Interruptions)*...Let the hon. Defence Minister say so...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is for the Government to respond. What can I do?...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Sir, you call the hon. Minister to the House...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: It was announced on television ...*(Interruptions)*... He should announce it on the Floor of the House, not before media...*(Interruptions)*...It is a matter of privilege of the House...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: When the Session is on and when the House is running, It should have been announced on the Floor of the

House...(Interruptions)...The Question Hour could not continue in both the Houses...(Interruptions)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: it is not the Zero Hour...(Interruptions)... Zero Hour is over...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the Question Hour could not function in both the Houses. We demanded from the Government. Now, we come to know from television channels that the hon. Defence Minister announced for a CBI enquiry. The hon. Minister should have been announced this in the House...(Interruptions)... How can they announce before media? They should announce it in the House ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you please enquire and inform the House. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, you call the Minister...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have directed the Minister...(Interruptions)... Mr. Ahluwalia, I have directed the Minister to ascertain the whole issue and inform the House...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, let the House be adjourned for ten minutes. ...(interruptions)...Let the hon. Minister come before the House and explain it. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, let the House be adjourned for ten minutes...(Interruptions)...What is wrong in it?...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, let the House be adjourned for ten minutes ?... (Interruptions)..

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Sir, you first call the Minister. ...(Interruptions)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Special Mentions be over ...(Interruptions)...Let the Special Mentions be laid...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, it is a serious issue. Let the House be adjourned for ten minutes...(Interruptions)...Let the Government come before the House with information...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2 p.m.

The House then adjourned at thirty minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House re-assembled at two of the clock.

Mr. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the hon. Members that the following message, dated 22nd March, 2012, has been received from the President:

“I have received the expression of Thanks by the Members of the Rajya Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 12th March, 2012.”

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the General Budget

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2012-13

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the General Budget and the Finance Bill, presented by the hon. Finance Minister in the Lok Sabha, has really dampened the economic sentiment in the country. Our Economy was passing through a phase where the sentiment in relation to the economy needed a boost. This Budget has ended up doing exactly the opposite. Sir, when I look at the Economy of our country and our broad approach to policy, we had a thought which influenced most of our economic decisions, which was the pre-1991 thought. Indeed, 1991 was a defining moment and post 1991—whether it was the Congress Government led by Shri Narasimha Rao, or the United Front Government which was the NDA Government – the entire approach has changed. Even though different Governments were in power, there were a lot in common with regard to the policy direction and that is how this Economy was seen as more positive. The Budget, Sir, is not merely an accounting document; it must also indicate a policy direction. It is my regret, Sir, that this Budget for 2012-13, unfortunately, is a Budget which is prepared with a pre-1991 mindset. Sir, when we broke off from the pre-1991 mindset – and, I have called 1991 a defining moment – the then Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, our present Prime Minister, made a speech which is regarded as a landmark speech while presenting a Budget. In para 106 of that speech, in 1991, Dr. Singh said – and I am quoting that paragraph: “Recent years have witnessed an excessive reliance on indirect taxes for additional resource mobilisation. This escalates costs, fuels, inflation and is regressive in its impact. Therefore, I have not relied on indirect taxes as a major source of resource mobilisation. Indeed, the overall impact of my proposals for customs and excise levies is revenue negative in so far as the Central Government is concerned.” Sir, the pre-1991 approach of higher taxes, a more sluggish economy, less than modest growth rates, reduced the economic activity and you balanced the expenditure with those higher taxes

was what the speech negated. And consistently, we have seen a rationalisation coming through the next two decades. A large part of that rationalisation was that you need an economy which is extremely efficient, which is extremely competitive, where you do not raise the taxes but you increase the width and volume of economic activities. That increase of width and volume of economic activity widens the tax base, and with a more competitive tax structure and a more enabling environment which is created for the economy, the Finance Minister will be able to collect a lot more and balance his Budget.” The approach I saw in the last few years has gradually changed, and the approach which has culminated in this Budget is, ‘let us tax people wherever we can tax them.’ It is this retrograde approach which, for the first time, in the post-91 era, is now making a comeback.

Let us see the kind of life in the present taxation structures that anyone of us is living in. People may be having higher income groups or lower income groups; that includes the *aam aadmi*. You have decided – and every society decides – to tax people who earn. So, you tax people for what they earn. You have now decided to tax people for what they spend. If you see anyone of our lives, you raise the excise duties. So, the manufacturing cost goes up. The Chinese products are going to be competitively far cheaper. Therefore, leave alone the international market, even in your domestic market, the principle is going to be that consumers are going to buy what they get cheaper. You make your products costlier. So, you tax what I earn, you tax what is manufactured, and you tax what I spend. Then, there will be various kinds of Central and State taxes, whether it is VAT or whether it is any other form of taxation. If any component of the goods or machinery is coming from outside, it will be taxed. Understandably, it has to be taxed. If it is coming from outside the city or the State, there will be entry taxes and octrois. You have now decided to tax all forms of services. There is a negative list, and that’s going to create a huge inflationary impact. All of us need services of various kinds. So, there is tax on every service that we undertake except those 17 negative list items. Sir, I am a morning walker. I may get of the Lodhi Garden soon. Mr. Dua is laughing, so is he. We have a *sulabh sochalya* there. From the 1st of April, we will have to pay taxes every time we go in. That is the width of taxes that you have imposed now because that is not on your ‘exempted list’. If you see every activity of life other than the ‘exempted list’, there is a tax—for the water I consume, for the electricity I consume, for the road I drive on, for the house I live in, for the property I buy, and on the savings I accumulate. So, we have now created a system in India, where every possible activity that I undertake, the taxman has decided to put a tax on it, making us one of the highest tax societies once again. So, that entire rationalization, which we thought was coming post-1991 because of the kind of

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

difficulties we are in, now seems to be given a go-by, if you take a piece of paper or the back of an envelope and start calculating – the Finance Minister with the infrastructure available in the Revenue Department will know better – you will find that it is not merely the 30 per cent odd taxes or the 2 per cent educational cess that you have to pay. But for an earning person, the entire tax burden, taken directly or indirectly, could be anything between 50-60 per cent of what he earns, and for the *aam aadmi*, who may not be earning enough to pay income tax, this entire burden of the new-age taxes, which you are imposing, will also be on him because he also hires services; he also uses the roads; he also aspires to build a house; he also intends to buy a vehicle; he also needs service of various forms. Why is it, Sir, that we have reached here?

Sir, when the UPA-I was formed – and I have said this earlier in this House – there was a criticism or a comment that we used to make, that the world's largest democracy cannot have two power centres. Now, at that time, you thought that it was a political criticism. I must say that you may have had ideological differences with the Left in UPA-I, but, at least, within your own alliance, we could see some kind of a coordination between the two power centres. Normally, in a democracy, the Prime Minister is the natural leader of the country, he is accountable, and he must have the last word. Then, you had a parallel structure formed, which started advising the Government. This structure was outside the Government. They decided to formulate various programmes and schemes. Some of them may be good, some of them may not be so good. But they all had a bill that somebody had to foot. Today, you have a situation where we are not so sure whether the two power centres are ideologically on the same pitch. Now, there are some very experienced people in the Government, who have ushered in a change in the post-91 era, and there may be an alternative power centre which feels that to get votes one must go back to the pre-91 thought. Now, this is the situation which we are passing through. The result of this is that in the area of economic policy and planning, it is the Finance Minister and the North Block, who have the onerous responsibility of balancing the Budget. So, he has to tax us. And it is his responsibility to see that the Budget eventually gets balanced. When he has to see that the Budget gets balanced, who decides the entire expenditure? Where it is to be spent is decided somewhere else. And, therefore, for all the schemes and the ideas which are formulated outside the Government, which the Government is to adopt, we now find a situation that one office is deciding where to tax while another institution is deciding on how to spend. That is the reason that our economy is moving in a direction which, to say the least, is becoming worrisome.

Sir, we must introspect the problem that we face today. A refrain that the hon. Finance Minister regularly makes is – there is a large public opinion in support of that view and I too share that view – that we may have larger political differences, but support is needed for the sake of the country; management of the economy is ‘cooperative federalism’. That is a phrase which he uses, and he needs support from various sections of the society, including the Opposition, it cannot be managed, particularly, in a divided polity. Why is it that we have reached a stage where the kind of support which is required for economic policy is not found? The ideas are known; the roadmap is known; there may be differences on fewer issues, but there could be larger areas of agreement on many issues. I think it is for the Government to seriously introspect why it is failing to develop that consensus which is otherwise necessary. And, a lot of it stems from the approach of the Government itself, which is a political approach. I have said this earlier. You can see every section of this House. The Left supported the Government for four-and-a-half years, in UPA-I. And suddenly, one day, they decided that because they had managed somebody else, they didn’t need them. The Left felt let down and they lost the trust with them. Now, there are two groups here. I don’t wish to say anything derogatory about anyone, but how did you manage the support of two principal parties from Uttar Pradesh, the BSP and the SP? For five years or eight years you have cases hanging over their national leaders, and yet, they were able to get the support of these two UP parties. The elections in Uttar Pradesh have shown that family charismas are fading and are not able to get them the votes. Therefore, they need the CBI to help them to get the political support from UP as far as these two parties are concerned. Will you ever be able to build a political consensus on economic issues? Look at your allies ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Sir, unnecessarily dragging CBI into it and saying that political leaders are being threatened is not right. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, look at your allies. They are standing by you through thick and thin. Your ally from Tamil Nadu says, “A decision is jointly taken between a Minister of the DMK and a Minister of the Congress.” One is in jail and the other is in power. What did you do? Let us just analyse this. Why are you so unsure as to how your ally from West Bengal will react? The hard truth is that in the matter of the Railway Budget you stole the affection of a vulnerable Minister belonging to the Trinamool Congress. He makes a statement in an interview that the Prime Minister and the Government would have stood by me and not the Trinamool Congress. Probably, you wanted to split it. And, therefore, they are now considering, ‘is this a kind of an alliance that we are in?’

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

It issues, which you can sort out through consensus, are to be handled by manoeuvre, how will consensus on economic policy be possible? Chief Ministers of Opposition States are complaining that Governors are not agreeing to give assent, for months and years, to legislations, *Lokayuktas* are being appointed bypassing elected Chief Ministers; CBI is being misused against those States. In matters of governmental schemes or even infrastructural projects, they have a sense of discrimination. In one of the Finance Minister's favourite programmes, the Goods and Services Tax, a lot of us may see merit in it. But, I can tell you that your inability to develop a larger consensus is more relatable to the political approach of this Government than to any other factor. Sir, economic policy consensus is intrinsically linked to the political environment. It is a hard fact and the Government should realize that. There are areas in politics where we will disagree. But if politics is gentlemanly, despite those disagreements, for the cause of this country, we can come together and we do come together in several areas. But if politics is of revenge, if politics is of teaching a lesson and if politics is of manoeuvre, then your ability to build that consensus will never be there. And, I think, it is this hard reality that the Government must realize. Sir, having said this, let me come to some of the hard facts of the economy as far as this Budget is concerned. Does this Budget honestly reflect the true situation of the economy? The Finance Minister has said that this year the fiscal deficit is an alarming 5.9 per cent and, I think, this 5.9 per cent has been written really to make it optically more acceptable, because anything beyond 6 per cent would have created a further alarm. It is like those old Bata shoes which always used to be sold at some price 95 paise, so that they don't graduate into a higher cost. If some non-provisions and some higher subsidies are taken into account, I have my fears that this may increase. But I hope that my fears are not correct. Let us come to what is projected for the next year. For next year, it is projected that we will have a fiscal deficit of 5.1 per cent. The most alarming figure in any Budget now is the fiscal deficit.

So, 5.9 per cent will become 5.1 per cent. Now, what is this premised on? Now, look at the tax revenues in the 'Budget at a Glance' document. I have seen the tax revenues in this Budget, the corporate tax, the tax on income, wealth tax, customs, Union excise duties, service tax and the tax on the Union Territories. So, you have anticipated an increase. I have actually made a total of how much increase is going to take place. You anticipate that the increase is going to be Rs. 1.73 lakh crores. Now, I don't know if the economy is going to grow at 12 per cent next year that our revenues are going to increase by this large figure.

But, let us, for a moment, leave aside this 'anticipated increase'. Your Budget Speech, at page 5, para 22, when it refers to the Food Security Act, says that all expenses required will be provided for. So, next year, hopefully, if the Food Security Act is passed, the entire burden of that will be provided for. Now, when you provide for that, how do you anticipate the expenditure? Will it increase? Will it go down? Last year, Sir, regarding the total amount spent on subsidies – I take food subsidy, petrol subsidy and fertilizer subsidy – you anticipated the amount to be Rs. 1,43,000 crores approximately. You spent Rs. 2,16,000 crores. So, it is almost Rs. 70,000 crores more. Next year, you hope, once the Food Security Act is implemented, this figure will come down by Rs. 26,000 crores to Rs. 1,90,000 crores. So, how does this figure come down is something which I fail to understand. I went into the details of your Expenditure Budget. When I looked at the fertilizer subsidy at page 30 of the Expenditure Budget, even though the international prices are going to go up, you feel that from Rs. 68,225 crores, it will come down to Rs. 61,000 crores. Regarding food subsidy, there is the increase in price, the MSP and the addition because of the Food Security Act. Instead of factoring all that, you feel that all this will be provided for from Rs. 72,000 crores. If it is Rs. 75,000 crores, everything will be taken care of. And, in case of oil, compensation to the oil companies, last year, was anticipated to be Rs. 20,000 crores. You paid Rs. 65,000 crores. Next year, despite anticipation that oil prices are going to go up from its present \$125 level, as a surprise, you think that instead of Rs. 65,000 crores, this year, Rs. 40,000 crores will be enough. So, you show an increase in taxation. You show that the subsidies will all come down. And, the net effect of all this is going to be that this 5.9 per cent will become 5.1 per cent. And, hopefully, when the figures are made next year, you will find that this itself is a figure which proves to be inaccurate. How are you funding all these deficits? I think, probably, it is through short-term loans, RBI and market. Your cash management bill, last year, was expected to be Rs. 20,000 crores. You spent Rs. 93,000 crores. Again, it is going to be Rs. 95,000 crores from the RBI. Ways and Means Advances from Markets – which was anticipated at Rs. One Lakh Four Thousand crores is going to be Rs. Seven lakh crores, which you will raise from the market. This, Sir, is the alarming situation as far as public finances are concerned. You have endeavoured to meet this by raising taxes. Now, let us see what the effect of all this is going to be. Excise Duty across the board goes up by two per cent. The coverage of service tax goes up. The rate of service tax, which was 14 per cent and brought down to 8 per cent, and, which gradually rose from eight per cent to ten per cent, now is back to 12 per cent. There is a tinkering of various items. The entire industry of goldsmiths and jewellers are on the streets in a strike because their entire manufacture and exports is going to come to a standstill.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

What has to be the approach, Sir, of the hon. Finance Minister? His approach has to be, how do I make my economy, my companies more competitive; how do I make them more profitable; how do I make them more efficient, less sluggish; and, how do I create an environment in which people want to invest in India.

Last year, the FDI had declined. This year, it has marginally increased and this increase is not because the actual investment for industry and projects is coming in but it is there because there have been some large managements which have also changed. And, therefore, when managements of existing companies or oil blocks changes, then, of course, a lot of funds do come into the country, which are not helping us to create additional employment because the industries were already there.

Last year, you had a very high inflation, and, this Budget can also prop up inflation once again. You have what the media and the public debates now refer to as 'policy paralysis'. You have an infrastructural slowdown, and, I will show you the data of where we stand as far as infrastructure is concerned. You have high interest rates. The cost of capital has gone up, and, therefore, borrowings have become costly. This affects not only the industry; this affects the 'aadmi'. So, what happens to this great desire of taking a small loan and buying a vehicle or buying a house? The entire housing or the real-estate sector, which is one of the largest employers, suffers. Your EMIs have gone up. They are not very sure of political stability. You have high taxation, and, also the major retrospective taxation. Now, the increase of all this is that you have the enthusiasm with regard to the Indian economy. Sir, from 1991 till today or till few, one or two, years ago, whenever anyone, whether in the Government or in the Opposition, went out, showed the big picture of the Indian economy as one of the most attractive investment destinations. Today, forget about people wanting to come in, there is a reverse flight of capital going out. All our industrialists who are making acquisitions is not because they have become so big and they think that they can buy over companies in the rest of the world, it is because they feel that India is no longer the best place as far as doing business is concerned. And, therefore, there is a reverse flight of capital, which is going on. It is this environment, which had to be corrected, and, I regret, Sir, this Budget has failed to correct this environment.

I mentioned about the infrastructure. I was going through the figures. On 'highways', how many times has this House been told, "You may have started the project when NDA was in power, we are going to build 20-kilometers a day." Let

us take the figures. In 2010-11, as against the target of 2500 kilometers, it was 1,780 kilometers, and, when divided by 365, you get less than five kilometers a day. This year, figures are not known, but the target is even likely to be lesser. The number of contracts awarded is so meagre that this will be having an impact on the projects in the next year. Regarding your airports, in between, you had a spurt in airports construction and suddenly again you have a dip. Regarding your sea ports, one additional birth has been planned in the whole year. So, where the economy is expanding and there is clogging at the sea ports, you require to use the largest peninsula in the world as having some of the best infrastructure, you have one additional birth being planned. Regarding power, I am glad Shinde *ji* is here, we have improved, we need to improve. But if this kind of a situation with regard to the coal blocks remains, the enthusiasm of even the Power Minister will go down. The manner in which the coal blocks have been allotted, the inadequacy of coal which a large number of new projects are facing, people who are on the verge of abandoning those projects, where do we stand with regard to those projects? And while I am here on this, Sir, I think, at some stage, when time permits, the Government should agree – the Supreme Court has pronounced one view on how natural resources are to be distributed or allotted – we need a thorough debate in this House. From 2G to coal blocks, we need to consider as to how the country must have a policy with regard to distribution of natural resources so that we have a transparent policy. We have natural resources available at least to the actual users at a price which is pre-determined, whether by market or by indexation. I think, we need a thorough debate which has so far not taken place as far as this House is concerned.

We recently saw the poverty figures, Sir, and there was this great achievement that the poverty figures between 2004-05 and the poverty figures between 2009-10, that is five years, have come down by 7.3 per cent. The Planning Commission seems to have given a nod to accepting the formulation of the Tendulkar Committee. Then, reports have appeared that this is on basis of changing the goal post, that Rs. 32, which was once considered curiously enough to take a man out of poverty, has now become Rs. 28. And, now, it appears, Sir, that while calculating this figure of 7.3 per cent – I am sure, the Finance Minister will get into this question – the schemes such as the Mid Day Meal scheme which are external aids to remove poverty have been taken into consideration in order to determine the decline. So, these are the people who still don't have enough to feed themselves, they are still poor, but because of schemes like this, external aids like this, if they have enough to feed them, then I am not so sure whether that is a correct calculation, I will stand corrected if my impression is inaccurate.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

Agriculture, Sir, faces various challenges. The cultivable land area is declining. The population is increasing. Fortunately, we had a very good harvest this year, but then input costs have gone up hugely. Power cost has gone up; fertilizer cost has gone up; seeds cost has gone up. Today, you, have various kinds of problems. When you had a shortage, you had a problem of a shortage. I was looking at the comments made in the Economic Survey. If we see from page 181 onwards, it deals with 'agriculture'. At page 184, it speaks in terms of changing eating habits of people. Therefore, when we determine the MSPs, we have to take that into consideration so that the farmer is incentivised to move in alternate direction because of changing eating habits of people.

Then, it speaks in terms of both availability and cost of power. It gives month wise details of procurement at page 197. And because we had a very good harvest, we have the problem of plenty now. Almost in various periods, we have had one and a half to two times or even more the amount of buffer stock required and, therefore, you have the problem of rotting grains, because enough storage facilities have not been built up. These are all areas which are matters of serious concern. You now have a proposal in the Budget where the amount meant for crop insurance has actually come down.

Sir, schemes like MGNREGA, however useful and sacrosanct they are, I think, also require to be revisited from time to time. This year you have reduced the allocation from Rs. 40,000 crore to Rs. 33,000 crore. It is down by Rs. 7,000 crore. It is an employment-giving scheme. It is meant to be a livelihood scheme. But it is not necessary that a livelihood scheme should never be an asset-creating scheme. There is no contradiction between the two. We somehow seem to be moving on a premise that because it is a livelihood scheme, it need not be an asset-creating scheme. You cannot indefinitely have a scheme where you dig pits and fill them up and say that you have created jobs. Who prevents us from continuing with MGNREGA and linking it with various kinds of infrastructural activities? One area is water bodies where something is being done. We can have the same labour with probably a higher payment, with some better training so that we are creating asset in the process also. There is no contradiction between an asset creation and a livelihood scheme. So far, what appears is that we have kept it as a livelihood scheme and we are finding that the utility is restricted. There is a lot of leakage which takes place. For instance, there was one report – and I believe it was a correct-report – from April-December 2011 which says that the average rate of employment in the MGNREGA and payment was, 32 days. Therefore, the utility of the scheme will also decline and deplete. Let us be

progressive and think in terms of advancing it as a livelihood scheme, but link it with some activity where the leakage is less and where some element of infrastructure creation takes place.

Sir, I have said this in this House earlier, and I am saying it again. The Finance Minister in his Budget speech at page 7 has spoken in terms of providing tax certainty. He says this in the context of advance pricing agreements. Now, tax certainty is essential for any taxation planning. When investors come in, they must know how much tax they are going to pay if they earn money. When a domestic investor takes up a project, he must know for what period he has a rebate and for what period he has to pay. Finance Minister after Finance Minister have resorted to this concept of retrospective planning. You are not the first one, and you will not be the last one. But I think at some stage we must consider it. In this modern age of tax planning, is it fair to impose taxes retrospectively or change legislation retrospectively? Assessments have been closed. People have planned their business and their personal income accordingly. Therefore, from the point of view of an investment environment, both domestically and internationally, this is an issue which is not sending the correct signal.

Sir, now I come to the issue of service tax. The Finance Minister has formulated a principle that all services are going to be taxed this time except those which are on the negative list. I have three points to make in this regard. Please don't look at the Budget only as a revenue-raising exercise. It's an economic policy document which has to further the Indian economy and, therefore, if you impose excessive tax burdens, and as I said, you are taxing every activity 365 days 24×7 – from what I earn to what I spend to what I eat to what I wear to where I live and to where I drive – twelve per cent is excessive. You have brought in all services. Therefore, the Finance Minister should seriously reconsider it. This will have an inflationary burden.

Now, I come to the second point. There is no provision in the Constitution with regard to service tax. Therefore, it obviously comes in the residuary entry which is your power, the power of the Central Government. The services which are otherwise within the domain of the States are now being taxed by the Centre for service tax. The States have no power to levy service tax, but the Centre has because, of List-I Entry 97, your residuary entry. Now, when you are taxing the services of the States, are you going to compensate the States accordingly?

Sir, now, I come to my third point, a lesser point but something, at least, which defies my intellect. I have gone through this negative list. As a student of law, Sir, in taxation, I have learnt that even illegal activities can be taxed. If somebody earns money through smuggling, he will still have to pay income-tax.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

But, illegal activities are normally not to be granted exemptions. So, in your list of 17, you have curiously exempted from service tax betting, gambling and lottery. Lottery is lawful but the other two, I think, really need to be discouraged. They need not be incentivised by providing them on the negative list and say that betting and gambling will also be exempted as far as taxes are concerned.

Sir, with regard to the rights of the States, I have one or two brief submissions. You enacted a Constitutional amendment, giving Right to Education. The States are asking: Who's going to fund it? Your initial proposal was that 75 per cent will come from the Centre and 25 per cent will be given by the State. The States were finding it difficult, in your Expenditure Budget, at page 202, I find that earlier it was 75:25. Then, it came down and now, it is going to become 50:50. The States are already starved of funds and the moment it becomes 50:50, they are going to find it extremely difficult as to how to fund this. So, we'll have a Constitutional amendment which gives the Fundamental Right to Education, at least, primary education. A Fundamental Right is one which can always be enforced. But, when somebody asks for enforcement, we will say that we don't have the funds. Therefore, when we think in terms of popular slogans, we must chew as much as we can swallow. Therefore, when you thought in terms of granting this as a Fundamental Right, which was an enforceable right, you should have ways and means and the funds in order to implement and enforce that right. So, if the share of the States is going to go down, you will now have a serious difficulty.

Sir, the oil prices will face some other increase as the crude oil cess goes off from Rs. 2500 per metric tonne to Rs. 4500 per metric tonne, in this Budget, you have anticipated, and this will create a problem with your fiscal deficit. In the earlier years, you got an advantage because of the 3G auctions. This year, 122 licences have been cancelled by the Supreme Court. So, you have some surplus 2G spectrum. You also have to charge people for what they got in excess of 6.4 megahertz. Now, you have anticipated that some Rs. 58,217 crore will come from this auction. At that time, 2G had a great value but once 3G is already in the market and 4G is about to come, I am, at least, keeping my fingers crossed as to whether you will be able to raise the kind of moneys you have anticipated. I hope and pray that you are able to raise them. But I am not so sure now with 3G spectrum already in the market and 4G likely to come whether the old 2G which will come from these 122 licenses will fetch you the same kind of value.

Sir, it is the last point amongst the key points I have to make. You have amended the Customs Act. In the Customs Act you have amended Section 104.

There was a time when this country faced with great smuggling and violation of customs duty and, therefore, there was a need to conserve foreign exchange. We had laws. We have Preventive Detention. We used to put people in jai. Suddenly today the business environment has changed. But still we need to be vigilant. I do not know who has suggested and the reason for it is that Section 104 is being amended. Custom offences beyond three years made non-bailable. All right, even in non-bail able offences a person will go and ask for bail. We were earlier told as young students of law about bail, not jail. The kind of environment in the media and the courts which have been the principle seems to have been reversed. We have to seriously consider as to what kind of a society we want to make even with regard to offenders. Now you have brought in a provision, please see in the Finance Bill. The provision which you have brought with regard to Section 104, says when a person applies for bail, no Judge will give him bail. The Judge will issue a notice to the Public Prosecutor. Either the Public Prosecutor has to give his consent or the Public Prosecutor has to say I am convinced that this man is innocent, not guilty. Otherwise, there will be no bail. Sir, this provision existed in POTA and TADA and that is why they said in POTA and TADA there was no bail. When your Government repealed POTA and TADA, Mr Chidambaram brought back amendments to the Unlawful Activities Act. One of the areas where we said, at least, for terrorists keep this provision. You said, "No. We are a very liberal Government. We want easy bail provision for terrorists. We will only have a normal bail for terrorists." Now, suddenly you have slipped into the budget, in the Customs Act, the bail provisions of POTA and TADA. These will apply...(Interruptions)...Let us please move in a proper direction. There might be a dispute of value addition. There might be a genuine case of evasion. But then the proportionality of the offences and the manner in which the law deals with him there must be some nexus between the two. You have brought in a disproportionate provision. You don't need a hammer to kill a fly, and, therefore, a provision, of this kind which you said should not even apply to terrorists, you are saying now in custom offences these provisions will apply. Slowly once you do it in customs offences, in every economic offence, it will start applying. I can tell you there is no better advice you can give to the Indian business than this, don't invest in India because if you do, these are going to be the consequences. Please seriously reconsider this. Every law has to be reasonable. People who violate customs law must be dealt with. But they must be dealt with proportionately. They cannot be dealt with a law which was considered even harsh for terrorists by your Government. Therefore, please reconsider these factors.

In the end my appeal to the hon. Finance Minister is this. I can sympathize

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

with the situation on two counts. He is planning the national economy in a difficult environment. Somebody else decides the expenditure and he has to collect the taxes. There is a politica environment which is not very conducive to build up a consensus. These are challenges before him. But, at least, make this budget economy business friendly. Today, nobody in the world, not one man has got the right signal from this budget. So, please reconsider some of your provisions so that we can really help the economy in moving faster thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR (Nominated): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to initiate the defence of the Budget for 2012-13. Sir, there are two qualifications before I defend and support the Budget.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Kerala): There was a mistake, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with apologies to my friend, Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar, I take the floor to say that I am one of those whom the hon. Leader of the Opposition has failed to see who is entirely content with the Budget. So, the idea that he can somehow speak on behalf of humanity is an excessive pretension on his part. While he may be unhappy, it is his duty to be unhappy, it is my duty to attempt to put the Budget in perspective. When I seek to put this Budget in perspective, I would, first of all, like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister on the adroitness with which he has conceived this Budget. It is adroit because unlike the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition, the first and foremost job of a Budget is to deal with household accounts. Policy questions come subsequently. The important thing is that, notwithstanding the extraordinarily difficult international and domestic economic situation to which the hon. Leader of the Opposition has, from time to time, alluded, we do, in fact, have before us a Budget in which a great deal of balance has been effected between the receipt side and the expenditure side, and in doing so, the hon. Finance Minister has dashed the hopes of the Opposition. For the Opposition was hoping that there would be plenty of controversial policy decisions to be made in the course of this Budget. I think, wisely, the hon. Finance Minister has eschewed these. But he has made it abundantly clear that whereas you can balance the household accounts only at the sanctioned parliamentary intervals, you can make or undertake policy initiatives at any time during the course of the year. So, we have an extremely pragmatic Budget in

addition to an adroit Budget. The hon. Finance Minister has weaved a kind of mosaic of economic imperatives with political realities, and as one headline has put it, “he has balanced reality with hope”. Therefore, there are no dramatic policy announcements in this Budget and that is not to be derided because, I think, the hon. Leader of the Opposition was absolutely right when he suggested that in an era of cooperative federalism it is necessary to secure that ineluctable measure of consensus within the ruling coalition, and generally in public opinion, for us to be able to take these policy decisions. The policy decisions can come at any time in the 365 days between the 1st of April and the 31st of March next year. In these circumstances, I think, it is the duty of our Government, and the duty which it appears to be fulfilling, of first creating an informed understanding among the public at large as to what steps need to be taken to what the Prime Minister described as biting the bullet and, where necessary, securing the necessary parliamentary majority. That is the prudent way to go, and because it is the prudent way to go, the general opinion, in the market and among economic commentators, simply does not reflect the kind of opinion that was being expressed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I have, with me, a selection of phrases which I picked up, more or less, at random, from the pink newspapers. In sharp contrast to the hon. Leader of the Opposition’s characterization of this Budget, there are informed commentators and the business community who say that Pranab’s Budget is “closer to reality”. They describe it as “a credible Budget rooted in reality”. They say that they are “very positive about the signals”. They point out that the “Tax-to- GDP ratio is likely to be the highest ratio” in a very, very long time. They maintain that the “Budget’s core numbers are attainable”. He has been complimented on a commendable job in “paving a steady course”. This Budget has been described as “a pragmatic and bold approach to drive the economy back on track from a difficult position”. So, I am not sure as to on whose behalf the hon. Leader of the Opposition is speaking when he uses the kind of derogatory terms with which we have heard him describe this Budget. All these are expressions taken from a section of the Press which is generally far kinder to him than they are to me. Therefore, before he rushes in, where angels fear to tread, I suggest that he, actually, checks on whether the sentiment in the economy has been adversely affected or whether sensible men of substantial means are, actually, considering this Budget to be one that is on course. That is why, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is no storm about this Budget, but a quite informed reception which is a tribute to the experience, the wisdom and the political sagacity of the author of this Budget. He has done what has to be done. He has done what can be done.

Sir, a rather gloomy picture was attempted to be painted by the hon. Leader

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

3.00 P.M.

of the Opposition about the performance of our economy. The first and usual standard adopted is the Gross Domestic Product. Now, with respect to the Gross Domestic Product, I would like to remind my friend, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that we have succeeded in weathering the global economic downturn, one of the worst downturns of the global economy, since the Great Depression of the 1930s. We weathered this better than any large non-oil economies of the world, and, in my opinion, better, in one crucial aspect, than even China. I will come to the China point in a minute. Here, I want to stress that the spurt in the GDP growth that took place in the last year of the NDA Government, that was 2003-04, was largely a consequence of the tailwind of the Greenspan strategy that provided for unsustainable banking practices which so led to an increase in global liquidity as to lead to the financial crisis of the year 2007-08. That is how we went into the biggest global mess after the bubble at the start of the century.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) in the Chair]

Irresponsible increases in global liquidity not backed by the creation of real wealth led to an unsustainable boom in personal consumption and household expenditure, especially, housing, and this led, inevitably, to the global collapse of 2007-08. At that stage, let me confess, personally, I feared that we too were going to sink. But, amazingly, the UPA has survived the global economic downturn, unlike, I would like to remind this House.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): The country has survived, not the UPA!

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes, we have survived the downturn...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: You said "the UPA" !

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Well, 'India', I said, has survived. As far as I know, India is a country. I said India under the UPA! I said, India under the UPA has survived the global downturn. And I want to stress before this House that this is in such sharp contrast to what happened in the India of 1997, the Government then being amply supported by my friends who are interrupting me here. At that time, under the combined assault of the Gowda and the Gujral Governments, the high hopes of the "miracle" Budget of 1997, with screaming headlines of how the then Finance Minister had taken on the world, were dashed on the rocks of the East Asian crisis. This time that hasn't happened. And the East Asian crisis was nothing compared to the global crisis that we have gone through. And the extent to which we have succeeded is, I think, demonstrated by

the fact that, notwithstanding the current decline in GDP growth rates, India still remains, at 6.9 per cent, the second fastest, large, non-oil economy in the whole” world. Our rate of growth – this rate of growth which he was portraying as being, a disaster for the nation – is about six times higher than the-growth rate in the Euro-Zone, it is about three and a half times higher than the growth rate in the United States of America. It is much higher than most of Africa and most of Latin America, and it is higher than all the non-oil large economies of Asia, save one, China.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: But they have also declined.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I will come to that in a minute. But, at the moment, they are still higher than us. (*Interruptions*) They are still higher than us. That is the point I am trying to make.

Our CAGR, which I think is a more reasonable measure to take than merely the annual average rate of growth, our Compound Annual Growth Rate, over the past four years, that is, four years since the crisis, has averaged 7.7 per cent, compared to our BRICS partners. Brazil has had a CAGR of only 3.6 per cent, Russia is down to 1.9 per cent, but India is up at 7.7 per cent. And, notwithstanding this, there are tears falling from the eyes of the our Leader of the Opposition as if he were a crocodile in the guise of a Leader of the Opposition, I do not understand, how we cannot be proud of a performance where the rest of the world is lagging behind and India is growing at the rate of 7.7 per cent on the CAGR and at over eight per cent in terms of annual average rates of growth. Only China, on the CAGR, has been in the last four years higher than India, at plus nine per cent. (*Interruptions*)

DR. CHANDAN MITRA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, is he speaking on our Budget or China’s Budget? (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Please. Let him conclude. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I will come to that, Prof. Kurien. Why are you pointing it out again and again? It is a critical point that I wish to make. I do not think it is fair for you to interrupt me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): But, Sir, he is also getting irritated with his own Members. (*Interruptions*) That is the whole problem with him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I didn’t yield. But since Mr. Rudy’s habit is to be rude, may I yield and let him speak, so that I can hear what he has to say. Get up and say what you want to!

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I was saying that you are getting so irritated, and it is not only with this side that you were getting irritated but even with your own colleagues that you are fighting.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Oh! Very witty, very witty. Thank you very much. I really find that a very funny remark. (*Interruptions*) Sir, if we could take the discussion back from trivialities to on-track...

And, this is the point I would wish to make to my side of the benches as much as I would to my opponents, that China's debt-GDP ratio has now reached 155 per cent, and looks set to cross 200 per cent before the end of the decade, amounting to a national debt of 22 trillion dollars! Sir, the figures are so staggering that I feel obliged to repeat them. Unlike China, whose debt-GDP ratio has now reached 155 per cent and is likely to cross 200 per cent before the end of the decade, amounting to about 22 trillion dollars worth of debt, India is experiencing real growth and not debt-fuelled growth. That is why, I think, the point that is sought to be made, somewhat prematurely on my side, is valid. There is much more genuine strength to the Indian performance than there is even to the Chinese. But, even with this non-debt-fuelled growth that we have here in India, we have succeeded in having a CAGR, Compound Annual Rate of Growth, that is second only to China and an annual average rate of growth which is also second only to China. How can any rational person deny that this is a major national achievement? Equally, Sir, I have a suspicion as to why they wish to deny this. When the NDA left office, in May 2004, the debt-GDP ratio in India was 85 per cent. We brought it down to 63 per cent. While the Chinese are going up to 155 and 200 per cent, we have succeeded in bringing it down to a mere 63 per cent and it is going down further.

Our nation is no longer sinking in ever-increasing debt. That is what has enabled the Finance Minister to take the bold step of increasing the external commercial borrowing limits even for high-risk sectors like aviation and power. We are in control of our finances. We can, therefore, take risks, and take risks in the confidence that even if something were to go wrong, we have the resilience to be able to recover. Unlike China, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, our economy is in no danger of a hard landing. This is owing to our prudential borrowing and linking GDP growth rates with real savings and real investment rates in the economy, not with debt-funded illusions.

I believe, Sir, this achievement on the debt-GDP ratio front, which the hon. Leader of the Opposition, of course, failed to mention, is far more important than the temporary slippage in the fisc. Our growth, not being a debt-fuelled finance bubble, gives us the opportunity of continuing with the sensible course of

reducing the ratio of debt to GDP and thus keeping the future brighter for us than even for the Chinese. Yes, indeed, there has been a slip in the Chinese rate of growth and, maybe, that is the kind of correction they would require to be able to bring their economy back into balance. But, that is for the Chinese to think about. What I wish to emphasise is that...

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, we are discussing the Budget of India. He is giving figures about China! How is it relevant? Sir, I seek your protection. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: If the Editor of The Pioneer cannot find it relevant, I cannot help it. The fact of the matter is that it is totally relevant. I am trying to say that the one economy in the world which is growing faster than ours is only apparently growing faster than ours and that, in substance, our performance is just about the best in the world, and since his leader, the Leader of the Opposition, was decrying the performance of our economy, I thought I should give both of them an elementary lesson in elementary economics. That instead of spending all their time obsessing with what is happening to the GDP, they look at other parameters of the real economy, including the debt to GDP ratio, where Pranabda's performance has been simply outstanding, and which could have deserved the congratulations of the Leader of the Opposition had he and his companions just behind him succeeded in understanding the link between the debt ratio and what is happening to the GDP. But, Sir, I go further, I am not only talking of the debt to GDP ratio. I also wish to draw the attention of the House, and to those, on the Opposition Benches, who care to listen, to what is happening to the ratio between interest payments and our budgetary revenues. When the NDA was last in office – one hopes that is the last time they will ever be in office – the ratio between interest payments and budgetary revenues was of the order of 43 per cent, *i.e.*, nearly half of whatever they were earning into their Budget, they were spending in taxes. Pranabda has reduced it to below one-third. The latest figures indicate that our interest payments to budget revenues ratio is down to 31 per cent; 12 per cent less than happened in their time. Now, that is the resilience of the economy. On the one hand, debt to the GDP; on the other hand, interest payments to budgetary receipts. So long as debt financed capital expenditure does not run away with our economy, as it is likely to do with some of the friends whom my friend, the Leader of the Opposition was earnestly arguing in favour of, and instead rural demand remains buoyant with schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, we will be able to hold down interest payments even as budgetary revenues boom. Our tax receipts, I do not know why the hon. Leader of the Opposition did not mention

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

it, have gone up from a little over Rs. 6 lakh crore, in the last financial year, to an estimated Rs. 7.71 lakh crore this year. So, it is not as if our tax receipts are not buoyant; it is not as if we don't have other sources of revenue for the Budget; we have them. But, prudentially, even notwithstanding our knowing that our total budgetary receipts are going to rise, we have been prudent about borrowings, and by this is meant that even though our borrowings have gone up, a figure that the hon. Leader of the Opposition- gave, the fact of the matter is that the ratio between borrowings and receipts, which means, the ratio between interest payments and budgetary receipts, has, in fact, been going down, from just under half to below one-third. That is a major achievement. And why? It is because there is an integral link between low interest payments and increased social sector and anti-poverty spending. Now, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I am entirely in favour of increased social sector and anti-poverty spending. But we can do that only if we have budgetary headroom. That Budgetary headroom comes from the relationship between interest payments and budgetary receipts, if your interest payments are too high compared to your budgetary receipts, then you are left with no headroom. But if, as in the case of the hon. Finance Minister, there has been such a decrease in the ratio of interest payments to budgetary receipts, the amount of Budgetary receipts available for social sector and anti-poverty spending just goes up. That is how we have been able to maintain, and even increase, the spending which is necessary for our people, even if it is not much liked by our corporate sector. I believe that Budgets are for the people, I believe that economic sentiments should be measured in the huts and the bastis of our people, not merely by looking at Nariman Point or Dalal Street. There is relief that notwithstanding our economic difficulties, we are keeping this up, we have subsidies, we have social sector spending and we have major new programmes in mind such as the Food Security Act. Please remember that for the growth of our economy, the most untapped resource is rural demand, it is rural demand which we should be looking at. The more spending power is pumped into the rural economy, the higher is likely to be the incremental demand in the economy as a whole. Why? It is simply because pent-up demand is much higher in rural India, in the deprived rural economy, than among the wealthier first line beneficiaries of corporate handouts. That is why their saving rates are much higher. If you are going to pump up rural demand, then if you pump up rural incomes, automatically you're pumping up, and perhaps, even augmenting rural demand. That is excellent for an economy where the GDP growth rate has slipped from where it is used to be to where it is now. Again, the Finance Minister has shown great intelligence, great foresight and enormous empathy for the lot of our

people when he says, “Whatever may be the problems that we face, as far as reasonable, sensible subsidies are concerned, I will maintain them. Whatever is required for the social sector and for anti-poverty programmes, I will do what I can do about them.” The promise that he has made that food security will be attended to.

I now turn, Sir, to a subject that ought to be dear to the hearts of many of our former and present corporate lawyers, that is, the relationship between subsidies in our economy and stimulus to the corporate sector. I beg this House, I really do, to please not look at subsidies as money wasted and instead to regard revenues forgone as stimulus. I know that these are merely words but they are words that are used in a manner which is denigratory to the poor and laudatory to the rich. Nobody objects to fiscal stimulus. But there are many wealthy sections of our society who object to subsidies and who object to assistance being rendered to the poor of our country. I would like to stress here, Sir, that whatever are our pretensions to being an economic super power, the overwhelming reality of India today is that not only are we a poor country, we are a desperately poor country and any Budget should be really designed to deal with the woes of the desperately poor. Here the relationship between the amount of money that is given for stimulus should be taken into account in comparison with the amounts of money that are being given by way of subsidies and by way of social sector and anti-poverty programmes. It is subsidies which widen rural demand. If you did not have fuel subsidies and you do not have food subsidies, then all our rural demand will be absorbed in paying for fuel costs and food costs, and this would then make it difficult for producers in the industrial economy of consumer goods and consumer durables to find their markets. You ask anybody who is involved in the corporate sector, and some of those present here in the House have long been involved in the corporate sector in precisely these spheres, as to where we are getting the maximum incremental demand for consumer goods and fast moving consumer goods, it is in the rural economy. So, if you benefit the rural economy by saying that people will not have to spend their entire income on food and fuel, but will have more and more left over in their pockets to purchase consumer goods and consumer durables, then that is to the benefit of the economy. So, instead of looking at subsidies as simply a drain on the economy, we must also consider the upside of what is called the drainpipe, it goes to the poor, then emerges as an upward rising spiral in respect of demand for consumer goods and consumer durables. There is one very well known company – I do not want to take the name – which has gone into the rural markets under what is called the Chaupal scheme. They began by purchasing agricultural products directly from the farmers. They ended up using the same

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Chaupal to sell their consumer goods and consumer durables to the point where the hon. Chief Minister of Bihar asked me in some amazement one day ये बेचने आए हैं या खरीदने आए हैं? because it has got confused. There is, in fact, a link between buying and selling. We need to have more money in the rural economy in order to have more demand in the rural economy, and more demand in the rural economy will be a benefit to the urban economy or the industrialised economy, I, therefore, greatly welcome the hon. Finance Minister making a commitment in this Budget to fully funding the upcoming food security scheme. I don't know, he doesn't know and the Leader of the Opposition doesn't know when the Food Security Bill will become a Food Security Act and, therefore, it was prudent on the part of the Finance Minister to recognise that in these troubled times of cooperative federalism it does take a while to arrive at a consensus on such landmark legislation, and instead of making provision that will simply go waste if the Food Security Bill doesn't get first enacted and then gazetted to immediately start making those provisions would be needlessly denying other sectors of the economy. But, what we do have from the Finance Minister is a commitment that, as and when, we have Food Security Act in place, as soon as it is gazetted, whatever funds are required for running it, will be, shall be provided. Now, if you add the Food Security Bill's provisions to the present provisions of MGNREGA, and I agree here with the Leader of the Opposition, undertake massive reforms in MGNREGA which requires these massive reforms, we will finally see rural India clambering on to the high trajectory of GDP growth. Today GDP growth at eight per cent is experienced only somewhere between Nariman Point and Malabar Hill. The people of India are nowhere near that trajectory. But if we do what the Finance Minister is attempting to do and what the Government, as a whole, is attempting to do, then and then only will we be able to drag up the rural economy to the point where it not only benefits from high growth but also contributes to high growth. Sir, it is morally incumbent on us to see that no one goes hungry. But, in this case, sound morality also makes for sound economic sense. There are two big advantages to ensuring food security. There are many, many advantages, but let me only focus on two, one in the short run and one in the long run. In the short run, food security would release funds for rural consumption of other wage goods and consumer goods. It is very, very important to recognise that when we talk of subsidies, we are not only talking about wasting money, but we are also talking of converting money that would not otherwise go into rural demand, converting itself into rural demand. But, perhaps, the more important consequence is the long term consequence. Sir, in the long run, the only way in which we can secure our demographic dividend – given that

we are one of the youngest countries in the world, and likely to remain so for much longer than other countries, which are currently enjoying the demographic dividend – the only way of ensuring that the democratic dividend does not become a demographic disaster would be to ensure that the brains of half of our children do not wither on account of malnutrition. If half of our children do not get the minimum necessary nutrition till the age of two, till the age of five, whatever you may do later, it may fill their bellies, but it is not going to replace the damaged mind. And, equally, a well-fed population, besides doubling our brain power by taking it up from 50 per cent malnourished children to zero per cent malnourished children, would also ensure a workforce that can take on hard and disciplined physical labour. Our workforce is simply not healthy enough to perform like the workforces in the developed countries, because they never got enough to eat and are not getting enough to eat now. Our kids may be conquering California, but we can conquer the world if all our children get enough to eat so as to not to have a situation that we have in India today of about 47 per cent of our children being from severely to moderately under-nourished till they reach the age of 5. So, if we do not feed our children, the demographic dividend could metamorphize into a demographic disaster. Now, this is what the Food Security Bill attempts to address. Instead of recognizing the seriousness of the endeavour, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is trying to make a political point that expenditure is decided somewhere outside the Government and income is decided somewhere within the Government. I beg to differ with him. Every single democratic Government has to listen to the democratic party which propels some of its members into the Government. I do not think it would be true of the BJP to say that they don't listen to what the BJP has to say as a party. This is true of the Trinamool Congress, it is true of the DMK, it is true of the Communists and it is true of everybody. There is nothing strange about a political party setting the broad direction. But, the idea that the Cabinet decisions are taken in the National Advisory Council is an absurd parody and one that deserves to be rejected. It is the job of the party to give suggestions to the Government. It is the job of the Government to workout the figures relating to these suggestions. And, if the figures do not add up, it will go back to the party and say. This is not possible as you have suggested it, but, with these modifications, it might work.' And, then, finally, get the okay of the party to make it into a Government decision. Why should this be sneered at? And, yet, it was being sneered at but a minute ago as if the practice of the Congress Party was at complete variance to the practice either of his own party or any of the other parties represented in this House. We are taking, in the Congress Party, our responsibilities seriously as a party that advises the Government and the Government is equally, not blindly, accepting

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

whatever comes out of the MAC. It cogitates, it reflects, it points out its doubts and it seeks clarification. As a result of this dialogue between the party and the Government, we eventually come up with a solution that is pragmatic, acceptable all around and puts us in a position to talk about this with our coalition partners, with the public in general as also, from time to time, with the Opposition. Now, that is the sensible way to go forward.

And on the Food Security Act, I think, instead of playing politics of this low kind, we ought to be seeing informed contributions coming from the Opposition Benches. I understand that such contributions are coming in the Standing Committee that is dealing with the Food Security Bill. I earnestly hope, with the co-operation of everybody concerned, the Food Security Bill would be returned to Parliament sooner than later. There will be a process of putting it into practice and Inshallah by the next Budget – 2013-14 – the hon. Finance Minister will be able to give us an accurate figure of what it takes to feed our people. In no family in this House or in the country or in the world is the first charge not the food charge; you first feed people and then you look to other requirements. But, in our country, we have not been looking to feeding our people. Now, we are going to be feeding our people. And, I earnestly hope that we will get the co-operation of all sections of this House to see that it happens sooner than later and the later must at the latest be the next financial year, but, perhaps, we be lucky and start doing it in this financial year. Besides subsidies, we also need to understand the crucial role of Centrally-sponsored schemes (CSS). There should be no difficulty in containing subsidies to under 2 per cent, if we start utilizing the Adhar scheme for income and consumption support. But beyond income and consumption support, there are a wide number of Centrally-sponsored schemes, the financing of which amounts to nearly two lakh crores of rupees, which we have to get revamped. A complete revamping of the Centrally-sponsored schemes is essential to ensure last mile delivery to the intended beneficiary. Sir, for twenty years now, our Constitution has provided for Panchayati Raj as the principal instrument for grass-roots governance. As my friend, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, would recognize in his former capacity as Minister for Rural Development, which then included Panchayati Raj, I am sure, he would agree with me that without such inclusive governance there can be no inclusive growth. And, tragically these institutions of local self-government have either been sidelined or totally ignored in most of the CSS guidelines. Let us take two glaring examples of this – primary education and primary health. The recently released Paisa Report-I have to declare here that it is prepared by my daughter, but I had nothing to do with it – has irrefutably shown that only six per cent of Sarva

Shiksha Abhiyan funds reaches the students themselves. Just six per cent reaches the students for the things, like, scholarships, uniforms, textbooks, etc! And, the school management committees receive no more than five per cent of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan funding, which is why the main job done by the school management committees is repeatedly whitewashing their buildings because there is no money to do anything more significant. There is virtually no involvement of the panchayats in any State, other than Kerala. And, what is the result? The result is excellent education in Kerala and an educational wasteland in many other parts of our country. The Annual Survey of the Education Report says that most class VI children cannot read a class II textbook. And, a study conducted by the World Bank, in the rural areas of one very big State – I am not going to name that State because there will be a rumpus here, but you can easily guess which is the one I mean – found that class IX children were, by and large, unable to read a class II textbook. So, as a result of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan we have school buildings, we have toilets for girl children, we have rising enrolment, we have falling dropout rates, but we have very little learning because the local communities have virtually no control over the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's functions, finances and functionaries.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): You say that class nine students are not able to read class two textbooks. Does that standard prevail all over India?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: This is the finding of a World Bank Study. I will give you the details a little later. But none of the studies is for the country as a whole. They take some blocks of States. If I start mentioning the States in this House, there will be endless rumpus. So, I will give it to you quietly and silently and you and I can chat over it; you take the coffee, I will take the tea.

The second example, which I wish to place before this House, is that of rural health. I welcome the proposal to substantially enhance the National Rural Health Mission's spending and introduce a similar scheme in urban areas. But, here again, health gains on the ground would crucially depend on governance issues, being addressed at the ground level for the people to actually access health services to which they are entitled. Our shameful performance in infant mortality and maternal mortality rates and the prevention of water-borne diseases is largely a consequence of the non-involvement of Panchayats, Nagarpalikas and Gram Sabhas in NRHM and its urban counterpart. It is also a national disgrace that health spending in the economy is of the order of six per cent, while public health spending by Government has been less than two per cent. No wonder, at the first health-related crisis, vulnerable families topple that into the poverty trap. The same situation is replicated in almost every-one of our Centrally-sponsored

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Schemes. I repeat, the expenditure now on these CSSs is nearly Rs.2 lakh crore. Our people are just not getting the bang they deserve for the buck. In consequence, while successive Finance Ministers, from Dr. Manmohan Singh to Shri Pranab Mukherjee, have raised, at least, in nominal terms, social sector and anti-poverty funding by nearly 25 times between the mid 90s, and now UN on the Human Development Index, we remain stuck 17 years later at the same position in which we found ourselves in 1994. that is, position 134. Like Alice in Wonderland, we keep running faster only to remain at the same place. I would, therefore, request the whole House *..(interruptions)* And may I, specifically, request the Leader of the Opposition to temporarily terminate his discussion with his friend to his left and just listen to this, because this is an appeal I am making as much to you as to all other Members of this House? I would, therefore, request the whole House to support my request to the hon. Finance Minister that he should set up a study group or a committee or a commission along the lines of the Balvantray Mehta Study Group of 1957 or the Ashoka Mehta Committee of 1978 to see how inclusive governance at the grass-roots can translate into inclusive growth. Sir, at present, GDP growth is averaging over eight per cent per annum, but poverty alleviation is not more than 0.8 per cent per annum, I have obtained this shocking set of figures from the first page of the Approach Document to the Twelfth Plan, which the National Development Council, with all the Chief Ministers present, has endorsed. We are faced with a situation, where GDP is growing at more than eight per cent and poverty alleviation is taking place at the rate of only 0.8 per cent. We have recently heard from the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, that it may have gone up to about 1.4 per cent. But, clearly, as long as there is such a big gap between the rates of poverty alleviation in a country where, at least, a third and, possibly, up to four-fifths of our people are poor and the rates of growth at the top are so high that we are leading ourselves to a really difficult position. Sir, in the debate on the Motion of Thanks, our ally, Shri D. Bandyopadhyay of the Trinamool Congress and our erstwhile supporter, Comrade Sitaram Yechury, both starkly spelt out the consequences of such widening disparities. These growing inequalities of income and wealth are seriously destabilising our democracy and could disrupt our development, as is already happening in a third of our districts which are either partially or wholly infected with Left-Wing extremism. While the present model of growth inevitably leads to a worsening Gini Co-efficient for income and wealth, the adverse effects of this can and should be contained as well as countered by the method envisaged by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, which was assured access for the poor to public goods and services being provided under worth Rs. 2,00,000/- crore

of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. 'This can be done - said Shri Rajiv Gandhi - by entrusting last mile delivery to the Constitutionally constituted local institutions of self-Government, that is, the Panchayats and their Gram Sabhas and the Municipalities and their Ward Committees.' I, therefore, urge the Finance Minister to focus on a Balvantray Ashoka Mehta-type of committee under his Ministry to demonstrate how participative grassroots governance can assist him in containing subsidies to under two per cent and getting a much bigger ban out of the two lakh crore bucks that he is allotting to social sector and anti-poverty spending.

Sir, I have taken a fair amount of time but I work just like another five minutes to mention a source of very deep concern and that is what is happening on agriculture.

Sir, according to the Economic Survey, the share of agriculture in GDP has declined from about one-third when Dr. Manmohan Singh presented his path-breaking budget to about twelve per cent now. While the economy has been growing at around 8 per cent, the current agricultural growth rate of 2.7 per cent is almost the same as the long-term 60-year agricultural growth rate, and this is really disturbing because 58 per cent of our population is employed in the agriculture and there is virtually no shifting of agricultural labour into manufacturing and other sectors. Moreover, Sir, the share of agriculture and allied activities in total gross capital formation is a mere 7.2 per cent. Thus, nearly 60 per cent of our people are living on just 12-13 per cent of our GDP and 93 per cent of investment in our economy is going into sectors other than agriculture. I plead for increased public investment in agriculture to make up for the lag in recent decades. And we also need agricultural reforms of the kind advocated by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan's National Commission on Farmers, particularly attention to dry land farming to increase productivity and production of what we call coarse cereals and Dr. Swaminathan calls nutritious cereals as well as oilseeds and pulses. This will also reduce income inequalities and fuel rural demand for manufactured growth, a win-win situation, which will advantage everyone.

My final comment, Sir, is that there is plenty of money, plenty of money to meet our requirements for subsidies as well as for social sector and anti-poverty programmes, for I particularly wish to draw the Leader of the Opposition to this because he was wondering where these fantastical numbers have come from. Well, the fact of the matter is, the tax revenue receipts are scheduled in the coming year to be of the order of 7.71 lakh crore rupees but the taxes that are being foregone, i.e., the tax revenues that are being foregone, are estimated this year at about 4.28 lakh crore after having reached 5.25 lakh crore last year. Over the last four years, the revenues on taxes foregone, or, rather the revenues

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

foregone on taxes that are being reduced or abolished, is of the order of 20 lakh crore rupees. Sir, the fact of the matter is that this kind of stimulus may have been required at one time. But when the Economic Times itself – and they are even more than the Leader of the Opposition, the voice of one segment of our economy – says that “Many of the tax incentives and exemptions have outlived their purpose and most benefits go to large companies that don’t deserve them” don’t think I have an additional word to add. If the Finance Minister experiences any difficulty in living up to the subsidies promise that he has given or living up to his promise on food security or living up to the maintenance in increase of expenditure on social sector and anti-poverty programmes, all he has to do is to claw back from principally the corporate sector, the tax revenues that are being foregone so as to induce a better balance between the revenues that are being foregone and the expenditure we have to make on subsidies. At the moment, subsidies constitute only about 40 per cent of the revenues that are being foregone. So, if you induce a better balance between the two, then, the few thousand crore rupees or the few tens of thousand crore rupees that Mr. Jaitley is looking for, can easily be found. And, I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister, who will have the opportunity to come back to this House several times during the course of the coming year, not only in the Budget Estimates but the Revised Estimates too, will then make these required adjustments. All that is because there is tremendous resilience in our economy.

So, Sir, please, don’t be drowned in crocodile tears. All that we have heard from the Leader of the Opposition is a parody of the real situation. The real situation in India is that we have a very well-functioning economy, but a somewhat dysfunctional polity. All we need to do is to accept your principle of cooperative federalism to get back to a functional form of coalition politics. The *dharma* is better placed in your hands than in the hands of the various ten-headed *Ravanas* and, therefore, I have total faith in your capacity to be able not only to balance the books but take important initiatives, and not only taking important policy initiatives, but to bring our economy to the point where the whole world sits up and says that there is no country doing as well as India is, not only in terms of increasing GDP, but also in terms of distributing the benefits of growth better to its people, and all of this in an ethos of total freedom, total democracy. Let us never forget that we are the first country in history, and almost the first country in the world, to have decided to become a full-fledged democracy before we even started on development. This Indian model of ‘development through democracy’ will face setbacks from time to time, but if we get downhearted because of speeches of the kind that were made by the Leader of the

Opposition, then, there is no hope. So long as there is that blending of hope with reality which characterized your speech, Mr. Finance Minister, India can go forward. I have far greater faith in you than I have in Mr. Jaitley.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir. I don't have much time at my disposal to explain all my points in detail, so I would make just a quick mention.

At the outset, I must acknowledge that I have got very much emboldened by the speech made by my friend, Mr. Aiyar, who spoke from that side of the House. He built up a theoretical structure on the need for a demand-driven model, a model of development being pushed by enhancement in the purchasing power and developed living and, in that kind of a theoretical structure, subsidy is no more an obscene language. Unfortunately, the economic commentators, after the Budget has been presented, have complimented this Budget as a very, very forward-looking Budget on various television channels, saying that it is forward-looking because it has pruned the subsidy. That is a very obscene word in the new theorization of economic development that is going to stay. So, they say, the Finance Minister has taken the right decision of pruning the subsidy, setting a target to bring it down to 1.75 per cent within the next three years. Subsidy means subsidy being given to 90 per cent of the population. Subsidy means food subsidy. Subsidy means subsidy on fuel and transport. Subsidy means subsidy on fertilizers through which our agriculturists get a lease of life. So, unfortunately, the whole theme of the Budget is to target the subsidy, prune the subsidy being given to people, to make fiscal consolidation sound and not to compromise with the macro-economic fundamentals. That is what the theorization on which the whole Budget is structured. Definitely, my party doesn't subscribe to that view. At the outset, we would like to say that if there is anything to be reversed in this Budget, it should be this whole approach towards subsidy because, after all, growth is created by the mass of the people. A bunch of currency notes cannot produce goods and services which contribute to our GDP. Even in a very economic downturn situation, which is picking up, our GDP's growth is at a respectable figure of 6.9 per cent. But goods and services are not produced by currency notes of corporates. This GDP is produced by the mass of the people who are working in fields and factories; who are working in transport, in stations and in mandis. They are creating this GDP. And for them, the food subsidy is there; for them, the fuel subsidy is there and for them the fertilizer subsidy is there. If you make them a villain and claim yourself to give a very forward and progressive Budget, sorry, we can't subscribe that view. The hon. Finance

[Shri Tapan Kumar Sen]

Minister has structured his argument on the premise that the present level of subsidy is compromising the macro-economic fundamentals and is standing in the way of fiscal consolidation, and that subsidy has to be pruned. An ideal figure is now kept at 2 per cent and the target is to achieve 1.75 per cent. What about your target of pruning the subsidy which you give to corporates? You don't call it 'subsidy'; you call it 'incentive'; you call it 'stimulus'. But these are all practically subsidies. You are making an illegitimate gain flow to them. What is that about? Your revenue foregone, as my friend Aiyar has told, is Rs. 5.23 lakh crore. Out of the revenue that is foregone, the direct tax revenue is around Rs. 1 lakh crore. And that is not enough. Year after year, the tax is being raised but not collected. That comes to Rs. 2.49 lakh crore. These are figures as per the Receipt Budget. Out of Rs. 2.49 lakh crore, around Rs. 61,000 crore is under no dispute; it is undisputed. You are just not collecting it. You are giving a subsidy, unsolicited subsidy. I don't know in lieu of what. Sorry, don't like to make any insinuation on anybody. This is the system. This is the neo-liberal paradigm where you are theorizing for 1 per cent and making them illegitimately gain and developing a theory of pruning the subsidy of the mass of the people. Yet you make speeches that you want to have a demand-driven growth. How? By what magic? By reducing the purchasing power of the people, by making the people pay more for their food bill, by making the migrant worker's travel costlier because you are pruning the fuel subsidy or by making them purchase grains at a higher costs because workers who earn anything in lieu of labour are not below the poverty line. So ridiculous and so cruel is your poverty line definition where even a beast cannot survive. Suppose there is a pet dog in a middle-class house. To maintain that pet dog, the amount of money required is more than what you are putting, that is, Rs. 28 per day. The Government is joking with the people. They have no respect for humanity. This is their real face. This thing has to change. So, I will put a straightforward question to the hon. Finance Minister. He is not here. I think, my points are being noted. If he has a target of 1.75 per cent of subsidy on food, fuel and fertilizer, what is his target of Rs. 3.5 lakh crore subsidies that he is giving to corporates and big business houses in the form of direct corporate tax foregone plus in the form of tax raised but not collected? Each figure is from his own statement. It is not produced by the CPI(M) here. It comes to 4 per cent of GDP. What is his target about this 4 per cent? Please, spell out first, and then, talk big about inclusive growth. The Prime Minister made a statement in an interview on the day the Budget was to be presented that the main slogan of the Budget was a growth, a faster growth, equitable growth and more equitable growth. I am quoting verbatim of what he stated, which was

released by the Press information Bureau. They will be making people pay more for their food. They will be making them pay more for their transport. They will be making them pay more just to travel and earn their livelihood, and by the end of the day, they are making them eat less, keeping them hungry and then, they will tell that it is an inclusive growth. The GDP is growing. There is no doubt about it, but the entire gains of growing GDP are being expropriated, are being looted by those who are not even two or three per cent people, whom the Government is subsidising to the tune of 4 per cent of GDP illegitimately and unlawfully. Will this regime change? The Government owes an answer to the House. Only then, the Government can talk about inclusive growth and the growth oriented towards *aam admi*. But, these two cannot go together.

Now, I come to my second point. The Government is talking about providing food security. I am really educated by the submission made by my friend, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, on the need for a food subsidy. If his stomach is full, he can work more, he can produce more and give more-productivity. He can spend on other goods. It will boost the entire productivity of the economy, not the economy of speculators, whom they are trying to pump. What are they giving to the poor people? There is a marginal increase in food subsidy bringing it to Rs. 75,000 crores. If we take into account the inflation, the Government's allocation on food subsidy has actually declined in real terms. It is only three per cent rise. And, if the Government takes its speeches on food security seriously, which are being delivered by right from their political leaders to the Ministerial leaders on the TV channels, with this money, they cannot maintain the existing Public Distribution System. How can they talk about food security? Are the people foods? On Rs. 75,000 crores, only Rs. 3,000 crores extra have been allocated from the last year and they want to have a wider food security, wider coverage. How can they have that? There was a calculation made by our people, our country's people. There are many studies. If you have to give 35 kilogram foodgrains per month to 24 crore households, you need around Rs. 1,10,000 crores a year. If it is Rs. 5 crore here and there, I don't mind. But, the Government needs Rs. 1,10,000 crores, that is, Rs. 36,000 crores more than what you have allocated. And, you don't collect your due taxes, legitimate taxes of Rs. 2,49,000 crores year after year. The Government just don't collect Rs. 61,000 crore indisputed direct corporate tax arrears. There is no dispute; it is just a bonanza. Also, the Government is awarding them the 'Businessman of the Year' awards and the 'Entrepreneur of the Year' awards on the television. These awards are given by no less than a person like the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister. This is the culture. Please bring about a change. A full food security is possible. Our country can afford it. Howsoever the financial situation may be, our country can very

[Shri Tapan Kumar Sen]

4.00 P.M.

much afford the universal food security bill, food security for all. We can afford it. Please bring that, otherwise, don't talk about 'inclusive growth'. That was my second point. You might not tell, "we are for one percent, you 99 per cent, go to hell". The entire world is boiling on the issue of one per cent vs. ninety nine per cent. You take a position to one percent, we do not mind, but do not deceive us by talking about Inclusive growth". Please do not deceive us. We are not theoretician. You cannot build up, Sir, a brilliant theoretical structure of an economic policy. You talk about 'inclusive growth'. Sixty-five per cent of our population lives in rural economy. The contribution of agriculture to the GDP is not more than 30 per cent. Am I correct, Mr. Aiyar?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is 13 per cent.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: So, 13 per cent GDP has to manage the survival of 65 per cent of our population. Sir, 13 per cent of income is feeding 65 per cent of our population. But what do you say here? Does your agricultural allocation reflect that sense of responsibility? From that ground, you are earning only 13 per cent, and, it is not agriculture here alone. It is a world-wide phenomenon. Terms of trade are militating very inimically against the agriculture throughout the world. That is the pattern of development, which is taking place.

Consistently, since the UPA-2 has come to power, year after year, the allocation on agriculture is declining as a percentage of GDP and also as a percentage of total Budgetary expenditure. Same is the character of your allocation on rural development. Please check the figures. If am wrong, I stand to be corrected. As I could read the Budget, consistently, since the UPA-2 has come to power, or, rather one year before their regime started, the allocation to agriculture and rural development is declining in both terms. It may increase in absolute terms. It may increase on this count or that count. But if you take it in totality, it is declining in terms of GDP and it is declining in terms of total Budgetary expenditure, and, that defines your priority. Your '*aam aadmi*' slogan is only in your speeches, not in action. The whole Budget is grossly biased against the rural economy, and, cornered, favoured, in terms of urban economy, that too, a pocket of the urban households; not the all, and, that is reflected in everything. GDP is growing. Again, I compliment. Yes, it is a big strength. But why? How could India survive the global downturn? It is because you tried, but you could not privatize the financial institutions. It is because you tried hard to privatize and de-regulate the insurance sector but you could not do so. It was stopped not only by this Parliament, but also by the working people throughout the country,

who were on the streets. They struck work. They threatened that all banks and financial institutions would get paralyzed once you did that. You could not do that. They have given a big service to the nation, and, so, the country could survive. That is why, India could weather the global downturn. You should, at least, give a left-handed compliment to us, the working class of the country and the trade-unions of the country. I do not mind. No Left, No Right. I am telling about the entire trade unions of the country, Left, Right, Centre, from BMS, to Left trade unions, to INTUC led by Mr. Sanjeeva Reddy, who is also a Member of this House. All together, we just did not allow you to sell our financial sector to private hands. So, the country could weather the global downturn. But please take a lesson now. What have you given in this Budget on the financial sector? You are deregulating. The Banking Regulation Amendment Bill is aimed at deregulating the financial sector and privatizing it. The Insurance Amendment Bill is aimed at deregulating the public sector insurance institution which funds heavily our country's planned development, it is aimed at deregulating that and privatizing that. You need investment; you need a lot of investment for country's growth. Why are you pushing the funds? What is your focus? Please see to it. You are promoting speculation. You have reduced the Security Transactions tax by 25 per cent. . You have given additional incentive, tax exemption, for stock market investment. What is the import of it? You want to take away common people's money from the savings bank deposit to the stock market to gamble. It is not without a reason. I compliment the LOP's pointer. Who are exempt? The gamblers and the bettors are exempt from that punishment. Yes, the whole neo-liberal paradigm is driven by finance capital which is basically speculation-driven. You are in that trap. So, when the country needs investment in the productive economy, you give incentive, tax exemption, to speculate in the stock market. The money in the commercial bank deposits will be attracted away towards stock market, and the retail investors are destined to lose but you are to gain, some interested pockets are to gain. For make them gain, you are allowing this. You are allowing speculation in foodgrains precisely for that reason. They cannot generate a single employment. And, what is your performance on employment generation? During 2005-10, that is, Eleventh Five Year Plan, average GDP growth is 8.2 per cent, but the rate of employment generation has dipped from 2.17 per cent in the previous five years, that is, from 2000 to 2005, to 0.8 per cent. Thereafter you claim तीर मार दिया। ये डेवलपमेंट की बात कर रहे हैं। यह मेरी फिगर नहीं है। It is the figure of NSSO. बड़ा तीर मार दिया।

This is the thing which ought to be replied by the Government. You must reply in which direction you are taking the country and who are gaining from the GDP growth? Again, it is your own figure. In his tax reform proposal, the Finance

[Shri Tapan Kumar Sen]

Minister, while complimenting the businessmen, policy-makers, various players as the ones who are participating in the making of the economy, missed the workers who really produced the wealth in the factories, in the ports, in the docks, in the banks, in the financial sectors. He forgot to mention 46 crore workers who created your GDP. Bunch of currency notes don't produce GDP. Bunch of currency notes may play gamble in the stock market – your pocket is full, but my pocket is empty. They can play that game. That is precisely the economy you are promoting through your neo-liberal paradigm. That is why you forgot to mention about workers in your statement. And, what is their future? Despite consistent increase in per labour productivity over the last three decades, their share in the net value added which was 30 per cent in the 80s, which dipped to 20 per cent in 1990s, is now 9.2 per cent in 2010 as per the Annual Survey of Industries. That is only for manufacturing sector. Look at the share of profit, during the same period, of those who are given tax-breaks and from whom you don't collect their due taxes. You may call them sons-in-law of the country or the Government, वे आपके दामाद लगते हैं। What is special about them? The share of profit in the net value addition has gone up from less than 20 per cent in the 80s to more than 30 per cent in the 90s, and in 2010, it is 60 per cent, is this the legitimate earning? Some smart entrepreneurs gained something. Can it happen? I am not an economist. When I see it, I understand it. Even a secondary school student of economics would tell you that this is just not possible unless your governance promotes such * loot on the workers' wages. You don't keep regular workers. You want contract workers. You have a law of the land not to permit contract workers in any regular work, but they are there in various departments of the Government. I don't know how many of them are there in this Parliament House under your nose. Such illegitimacy and unlawfulness you are promoting every day. Your GDP does not mean anything to the people of the country if that continues. And you will not be able to sustain that. Please correct yourself. The trade unions of the entire country protested this kind of * loot promoted by the Government on workers through a countrywide general strike on 28th February. You don't have time for them. You are always surrounded by all business houses, captains of industries. Nor could the Prime Minister find time to call the trade unions and talk to them. Who creates your GDP? It is not the currency notes owned by the business houses.

What is the allocation for the Ministry of Labour? It is Rs. 4,333.68 crore. In non-plan, it is Rs. 1,900 crore, despite the fact that the whole Ministry is

*Expunged as order by the Chair.

understaffed. The CGITs are not having enough judges to address the grievances of labour. There are various tribunals, conciliation offices. But they don't have manpower. Once a dispute comes, it remains pending for a long time and ultimately the labour loses his faith in normal grievance redressal machinery and it either beats somebody or kills somebody.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Tapanji, you have got another comrade from your party who will speak on it.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, I will conclude within five minutes. That is the pattern. For pension and social security in unorganised sector, you kept Rs. 990 crore. Are you joking? For 46 crore? Even the RSBY is extended to them. What do you think about them? For the Employees' Pension Scheme, again a pittance, although the Parliamentary Standing Committee unanimously recommended four per cent contribution to the Employees' Pension Scheme. You did not bother about them. You have to correct it. Every allocation on people's fate has gone haywire and brought to light the extreme bias against the people. An anti-subsidy regime means an anti-people regime. Please correct your incentives to the corporates and increase the subsidy. That is the need of the hour. Unless people are fed properly, you cannot sustain your growth. Please correct it. On that count, again, the Government has discovered cash transfer in lieu of subsidy. I don't know why. As far as basic welfare programmes of any country in the world are concerned, you see if they depend on cash transfer. Cash transfer is a supplementary method, not the main welfare mechanism. You are depending upon UIDAI project which was rejected by the Parliamentary Standing Committee and many countries, who had gone in for that kind of a project, are now going back. That is the pattern.

Now, I come to your tax regime. You have increased the burden of indirect taxes to the extent of Rs. 45,940 crore. You have reduced the burden of direct taxes by Rs. 4500 crore. I don't mind that. It may be required in a certain margin. But, how could you increase the burden of indirect taxes? And actual calculation is not Rs. 45,940 crore but it is Rs. 73,000 crore. That is the real burden. This Budget is imposing burden on the people. At the same time, you are reducing subsidy and you are reducing allocation as a percentage of GDP to agriculture and rural development. What do you want the people of the country to do? That is the pattern everywhere, where people are involved. Then, regarding indirect taxes, you have included goldsmiths for tax. Goldsmith sector is a sector where there is no factory production, it is only decentralised production process by small producers. They are feeling endangered that they will lose their jobs. In the whole of India, they are on the streets. Please look into that. The main producers,

[Shri Tapan Kumar Sen]

the main goldsmiths, in small numbers, are working in small sectors. Kindly do something so that their jobs and their livelihood is protected.

You have reduced the interest rates on EPF from nine per cent to 8.25 per cent whereas you have increased the interest rate on GPF to 8.6 per cent. You have increased the interest rate on special deposit scheme where the PF money is deposited to 8.6 per cent. You have no hesitation in reducing the interest rate on EPF to 8.25 per cent. It has never happened in the last five decades of the independent India. The EPF interest rate has always been above the GPF interest rate. How could you allow that anomaly to come in? The Finance Minister, before the passage of the Budget, must come out with a clear explanation as to how you could indulge in that anomaly. Just play with the lives of the workers, play with the lives of the common people! So, with these few words, I again reiterate the basic issue that the situation demands a shift in the paradigm which you are following. The system has engineered a reverse transfer from 90 per cent to 10 per cent by reducing subsidy and allowing tax defaults, reducing subsidy for the 90 per cent and allow tax default for the 10 per cent. A reverse transfer has been engineered. By reducing regular workers and by promoting casual work force, you have engineered a reverse transfer process from millions to a handful. A handful will not save the country. They are the generators of black-money. Those whom you are allowing a tax default are the generators of black-money in the economy. It is they who are sending money abroad, getting it recycled through Mauritius route as Foreign Direct Investment to Indian soil. All your Commerce Ministry data exposes that. What are you going to do to contain that black-money? There is a need for reversal of the entire policy paradigm, from patronising the black-money generators to supporting the millions of people who create your GDP, who generate revenue for your exchequer and who also produce profits for the employers. Unless that is done, you cannot take people for granted. It will happen once, but, second time, it will be gone. People are committing suicides. Please take note of it. Even in my State, 42 farmers committed suicides. Total number of national suicides is 2,50,000. Why is it happening? Have you enquired? You are talking about Minimum Support Price. That money is not going to two-thirds of the farmers because they are out of the institutional credit. Money is going to rice mill owners. Money is going to different agencies. MSP is not reaching farmers. You have to correct it. You have to change your approach on patronizing 10 per cent instead of 90 per cent. Unless you change your approach, you cannot change this distortion. Please change this. The situation demands a correction of this distortion. The Budget needs reorientation. I hope the Government will

consider this. They cannot take people for granted. With these few words, I conclude my observation on the budget.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Thank you very much. Shri Kishore Kumar Mohanty. Not present. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy. You have got another colleague also to speak. Try to manage the time.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Thank you. As a fresher in this august House, I am learning every moment from the eloquent speeches delivered by the hon. Members of this House on the General Budget, 2012-13; and the Finance Bill. Naturally there is appreciation and criticism which one must enjoy. But if we go deep into the economic situation within our country and even around the globe, I think the hon. Finance Minister has no other option left but to resort to the balancing act for which he is widely acclaimed. We know that the hon. Finance Minister has scored so many centuries in his more than four decades of political life. It is true that we cannot expect him to score a century of centuries as Sachin Tendulkar has done in cricket. Yet, when we look at the budget from a distance place like West Bengal, a very unpleasant question creeps in my mind. Are we really living within Indian federation? Why I am putting this question to myself because as back as 4th August, 2004, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure had issued an Office Memorandum categorizing West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab as debt-stressed States. Now eight years have passed. In the meantime, many more States might have been included in the list. But I am wondering there is no whisper about the steps being taken by the Government of India to bail out these debt-stressed States. Really, it is surprising to me. The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has since intimated to the Government of India that due to fiscal mismanagement by the previous Government which ruled West Bengal for more than three decades, more than Rs. 2 lakh crores of debt the present 10 month old Government, is carrying over. The Government of West Bengal's total revenue earning per year is only Rs. 20,000 crores or so; and the Government of West Bengal has to pay on account of interest Rs. 22,000 crore per year. This is a unique situation which no other State in the country is confronted with. That is why our hon. Chief Minister has, time and again, appealed to the Government to consider a moratorium in the form of a grant for three years on the interest amount and also restructuring of the loan amount. But I am sorry to submit that no positive response has come from the Government of India as yet. West Bengal is reeling under unprecedented economic crises. The Government is in the process of reconstructing West Bengal, which was ruined by the 30 years long misrule of a particular Government. Every sector was ruined, be it health or education or industry or roads or transport. Nothing is there. Everything is ruined. The Chief Minister is in the process of reconstructing West

[Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy]

Bengal. In the words of my Communist friends, there is a situation like *perestroika*. We are having a situation like *perestroika*. But from where will the money come? From where will the money flow? It will not come through the river Ganga or Bhagirathi or Yamuna. It must come from the Central Government.

Sir, to add salt to our injuries, due to the non-receipt of compensation for the reduction of Central sales tax from four per cent to two per cent, West Bengal is losing Rs. 1,200 crores per year. Apart from that, the private airlines have been allowed to import aviation fuel from international market. It has affected every State, particularly, West Bengal. It has resulted in a loss of Rs. 250 crores per year.

Sir, like all other States, we have to take care of the additional burden on account of the flagship programmes like MNREGA which the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out while initiating this discussion. How can we carry on these flagship programmes unless the ratio, which is now 65 : 35 or 50 : 50, is revisited and reconsidered? Unless it is made 80 : 20, debt-stricken States like West Bengal can't run the flagship programmes. Ultimately, the blame will be on the State Government that the State Government is doing nothing. The Central Government will make a political clamour. They will claim, "We have formulated the schemes, but your Government is not doing anything". We are not interested in any blame game. We are just explaining the reality that the Central Government must have a pragmatic view of the situation.

Sir, the increase in the customs duty of gold, platinum and silver, which has been mentioned by many hon. Members, has created a havoc in the gems and jewellery industry. Millions of gold smith and artisans, majority of whom are from West Bengal, are adversely affected. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider whether some relief can be granted to this sectors so that the ordinary artisans who are earning their bread can get some relief.

Sir, we can't move around with a begging bowl. It is a logical demand that we are making. In recent months, the European Union has come forward to bail out the unprecedented economic situation which was prevailing in Greece. We don't have any European Union, but we have the Union Government and we will have to approach the Union Government only for adequate financial assistance.

Sir, the ten-month old elected Government has restored peace and tranquillity in the hill areas of Darjeeling and the Maoist-infested areas of Jungalmahal. Unless adequate financial assistance is received from the Centre, there can't be any *mangal* in the jungle. ज्यादा दिनों तक जंगल में मंगल नहीं हो

सकता, सारी कार्यवाही थम जाएगी, क्योंकि ठोस कदम उठाने के लिए हमें और पैसा चाहिए। वे कहाँ से मिलेंगे? We are trying to mobilise internal resources. The day before yesterday the Budget was placed in our State Assembly. In spite of the economic constraints, we are trying to mobilise internal resources. yet we require more assistance from the Centre. We are as good citizens of India as others. We have come across a series of maladies in our national life, in the life of Bengali race as a whole. Right from 1911, when the capital was shifted from Kolkata to Delhi, an abrupt void was created and the flight of capital also started. We withstood that. In 1943, due to manmade famine, more than 7 million people died on the streets of Kolkata and other areas. We took it as an act of God. We did not blame anybody and we did not revolt. In 1947, due to partition of India, Bengal suffered like anything. Millions of Bengalis were uprooted, and they were termed as evacuees for no fault of theirs. We did not revolt. We accepted the political misfortune so far as Bengal is concerned. Now, all that we want is to owe our allegiance to the Indian Consitution, and its unique character, that is, the federal character, one of the pressing characters; we salute this federal character. But when I look at the budget, I find that no respect has been given to the federal character of the Constitution. In many sectors, the Centre seems to have allocated funds unilaterally, without having proper consultation with the States, without taking into consideration the views of the States. That is why we are demanding more autonomy for the States. Even the fiscal power is to be revisited; the fiscal policy is to be re-oriented. This 65-35 ratio should go, and 50-50 ratio should be there. We should have an equal share of the total revenue earned by the Government of India from different States of the country.

While concluding, I appeal to the Government of India; for God's sake, Kindly do not create an economic blockade towards West Bengal, but help strengthen the endeavours of Mamataji, who has devoted herself for the reconstruction of West Bengal, to rise like a Phoenix. Overnight, this situation of West Bengal cannot be changed; All of us should appreciate this fact. But for the help from the Government of India, West Bengal cannot reach the roadmap of reconstruction, and again, to say in the language of the Communist, Perestroika. Perestroika cannot be achieved unless the Government of India comes forward with a helping hand, with an affectionate hand, with a kind heart. Thank you.

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY (Nominated): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I don't have any political agenda. So, I would like to make some genral observations regarding the Budget. I have been interacting with the hon. Finance Minister over several decades on the issues related to the preparation of the Budget. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister - people are still studying the

[Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly]

Budget very carefully - because it is one of the most challenging years since 1991 that he had to present the National Budget, and I would like he has done a remarkable job. I compliment him for that achievement. However, there are certain challenging issues that India is going to face this year. One of the issue that we should not allow to hang over us like a shadow is the State of the global economy. The global economy does have an impact on India. But, as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has pointed out, "The Indian opportunity continues to be as large as ever", and I would say, even larger, into the future. If we are not careful we may become victims of our self fulfilling prophecy that India is facing insurmountable economic difficulties. If we get into that psychology if we get the country to get into that State of mind, I think, we may do an irreparable damage to our Country. Therefore, I request the hon. Finance Minister and I request all my colleagues who are present as well as those who are not present in this house, that please do not lose your confidence and optimism of the India growth story for the next several years. In the economic Journey of a nation, there will be ups and there will be downs. It is our job, as citizens and as leaders, to manage the ups and down effectively.

There are certain challenges that the hon. Finance Minister has mentioned in his introduction. I personally believe that the *Aam Aadmi* issue must not be confused with the malady of subsidies. We have to distinguish between the subsidies that are required for the genuinely needy and the subsidies which go to people who can well afford to get out of the habit of subsidies. I don't think that clarity has yet emerged in our own thinking or in our political process regarding the difference between essential subsidies and historical subsidies.

Sir, I want to cite an example of what recently had happened in Greece. There was a story in the newspapers that a family was interviewed on Soup Line in Athens. A father, mother and two children were reduced to depending on charity for their survival. And, only one year ago, the father had a job, they had a house, the children were going to school and they had a car. Due to economic crisis they had lost every thing. So, the fortunes of countries which are not vigilant about living within own resources can be hugely challenging and suddenly change dramatically overnight. I am a bit surprised that in the recent debate on the Rail Budget, there have been extremes in the views expressed during the debate, where not only do there seemed to be a desire to throw away the baby with the bathwater but also to throw away the bath tub itself ! Good ideas were going to be abandoned for political ends. So, let us get some sanity back. People who travel by upper classes can afford to pay. People who drive

expensive cars do not need subsidized diesel. I keep on saying this, because I am pained that in the name of subsidy we are denigrating the term and we are really overshadowing the poor people who deserve it the most. The energy prices will go up, whether we like it or not. Coal supply to power plants is already facing shortfall. Nuclear energy is being opposed blindly. What I request the hon. Finance Minister to specially pay attention to the huge energy crisis. Sir, industry will grow, agriculture will grow because there is a momentum in the domestic economy. But I think access to credit is going to be one of the biggest challenges of the new financial year, and I particularly wish your kind attention to this priority.

Finally, I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Finance Minister that the civil Aviation industry is under severe stress. I do not know the answer to the challenges they are facing. The civil aviation companies may fail, because that is the nature of competition. But the civil aviation industry in India cannot be permitted to fail, because if you allow the civil aviation industry in India to become weak, it is going to touch the heartland of our economic growth trajectory, by indirectly affecting virtually all economic activities.

One more fear that I heard in the corporate world express which I wish to share with the hon. Finance Minister is, there is a growing fear – they cannot put their finger on the issue – that the tax collection and the tax collection management system might become more punitive...historically been. Therefore, there is a growing fear amongst the business people about new powers which might be usurped by the tax-collecting authorities; and, which might become a very coercive instrument in their hand, detracting people from running day-to-day business. I do not know whether this fear is true or not, I am just sharing with you what I have heard. And, I believe, it is my duty to share this serious issue with you.

An additional point is, I think, the need of the hour is leadership, the Finance Ministry and the Government of India have to rise and reinforce the confidence of both, domestic and foreign investors because the visible growth of India, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar has already mentioned it, is just the tip of the growth; the iceberg has still to emerge. That larger growth is, principally, going to be driven by people who are not yet in the active consuming class. They are becoming the new consumers. They are generating surplus incomes. We must continue to support this domestic consumption growth and also grow our foreign trade, but, principally, the domestic growth will be the driver in good times and had by managing our financial affairs and credit availability with wisdom and foresight.

[Dr. Ashok S. Ganguly]

I would like to appeal to all our leaders not to hide political agendas behind the *aam aadmi* slogan and hijack the India growth story by converting small pains with an unbearable pain. Let there be pain, hon. Finance Minister, but let them not add up to unbearable pain. We have a very positive story going for India. I think, our story is an untold story while the Chinese story is an oversold story. I am not interested in China, I am interested in India. I am hugely excited about India, as I was fifty year ago. And, nothing, in the last fifty years, has persuaded me to change my mind. I, therefore, commend that we are extremely fortunate to have Shri Parnab Mukherjee as the guardian of our financial affairs in this country. I commend him to inspire this nation to surge forth with confidence, the confidence that is derived from his management of the balance sheet of this nation, which, I hope, will grow from strength to strength.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam) : Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for having given me this opportunity to commend my observations on this Budget.

This Budget did not indicate fiscal consolidation and mention reforms to remove structural supply side bottleneck. Of course, the Budget has tried to provide a roadmap to bring fiscal deficit back on track. The fiscal deficit still remains a prime concern. The 2011-12 fiscal deficit, at 5.9 per cent of the GDP, is, perhaps, higher than anticipated. The fiscal deficit for the financial year 2012, at 5.1 per cent of the GDP, seems like a difficult target unless the growth picks up strongly. The Budget has increased service tax and even the railway service is also included under the new parameters of service tax. We must term it as anti-Aam Admi. Again, an increase by two per cent in the excise duty will create more difficulties for our local industries in competing with the products coming from abroad. Sir, this is a Budget with high taxes and inflationary effect. It will only make the Indian economy sluggish and do nothing for growth. There is gross neglect of expenditure on the Defence services and also of capital expenditure on Defence. The Armed Forces have been demanding for modernisation of more than 13 lakh strong Armed Forces for a long time. Sir, they had hoped that the Defence Budget would be around three per cent of the GDP, but in the 2012-13 Budget, India Defence expenditure is around 1.9 per cent. The Budget is completely silent on economic reforms. Disinvestment, with a target of Rs. 40,000 crores this year, has been a dismal failure.

Sir, it was expected that there would be more reforms and more innovative schemes for inclusive growth, but these three years have been disappointing for

us, as the overall growth slipped from nine per cent to six per cent. China is, still, growing at the rate of nine per cent; Argentina is growing at the rate of more than nine per cent and Columbia, Indonesia and Malaysia are growing at the rate of six per cent.

Sir, now, I come to the North-Eastern region. We are the worst sufferer of regional imbalances. During the last few years, some decisions have been taken by the Government of India for the economic development of this region. They have established the NEC. They have also established the DoNER Ministry only for the development of the North-Eastern region. But, most surprisingly, the second Administrative Reforms Commission, headed by Shri M.Veerappa Moily, recommended abolition of the DONER Ministry and had also suggested that the responsibility to strengthen the regional infrastructure and sectoral use of the non-lapsable pool to which the Central Ministries contribute 10 per cent of their Budget, should be restored to the respective Ministries and the Home Ministry acts as a nodal unit, which means the DoNER itself is no answer to the regional needs. It is just a palliative to please Assam, which first mooted the concept in the 1970s. It is said that apart from compromising the efficacy of the NEC, the DoNER does not have any important role to play in the regional development.

Sir, the growth rate of Assam is not encouraging. The growth rate of Assam during the Eleventh Plan was envisaged at six per cent as against the national growth target of 8.5 per cent. Though the envisaged growth rate of Assam was, more or less, realized in the Seventh Plan, but the difference in per capita income has been increasing on a year-to-year basis. It is also to be noted that in the first decade of planing, the per capita income of Assam was once higher than the all India per capita income, after which the trend was reversed and a continuous lag, which continued since the beginning of the second decade of planing, has increased the distance of per capita success of Assam more and more. What it amounts to foretell is that even if Assam is achieving a 10 per cent growth rate of GSDP, it will take the State some 15 years to catch up with the national per capital level, provided that the growth difference in population remains the same and that there is no change in the country's GDP growth rate from the level of 8.5 per cent per annum.

Sir, in my region, we want a special proposal to generate economic activities, more particularly, in areas considered to be vulnerable to foreign surveillance and help in national integration. Sir, for development of tourism, the Government should take necessary steps to relax restriction pertaining to Restricted Area Permit/Protected Area Permit and allocation of more funds to the NE Region.

[Shri Kumar Deepak Das]

Sir, the British did organize tea, oil, coal and plywood in Assam through it kept all major economic activities connected thereto, including storage, sales, marketing, banking, forwarding, etc., outside the North-Eastern region, using the State of Assam as a major production base, resulting in the banking and distributive arrangements also being located outside the North-Eastern region thereby refusing participation by the local aspirants. Such, at any rate, was the type and pattern of imperialist economy.

The cumulative effect of the imperialist pattern of the economy, holding away overall economic activities of the State, coupled with the lack of opportunities at home for learning and knowledge in modern production system, money supply, finance and credit systems, marketing pattern and the mode thereof, distributive arrangement, etc., kept the youth of Assam disassociated. Thus, the youth of Assam over the century and over the generations were kept disassociated from all the above and thus sought to be kept disenthralled.

Sir, the base of the imperialist pattern of the economy not only continued till the British left, but has also remained in force till today even after sixty years of Independence with all adverse effects, crippling the life of the community of the region. That is why we again want to request our hon. Finance Minister to give some protection to the NE region while distributing funds for the development of the North-Eastern States and also consider giving special package to generate economic activities, more particularly, in areas considered vulnerable.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech and I once again thank you for the opportunity given to me.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL (Maharashtra): Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to present my views on the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

At the outset, I am a disappointed man, Sir, we have an illustrious Finance Minister, very experienced. The first Budget he presented was in 1981 when he became the Finance Minister for the first time, and, since then, we have always looked up to him as a beacon of light to take this economic out of the morass that it finds itself in. Unfortunately, that is not to be. Despair is spreading, Sir, all over India. Corporate India does not believe that this Government understands what are the evils afflicting the economy. The middle class is completely shocked and shamed by all the scams that we see with continuous frequency emerging one after the other. Sir, the poor *aam aadmi*, about whom other Members talked about so passionately from the Treasury Benches, doesn't trust the administration of the welfare schemes, tom-tommed by this Government, which, though may be launched

in the name of one particular family over the years, but which are hijacked by administrative failures and corruption of very large magnitude as evidenced by statements of their own senior leader as far back as 20 years ago or may be 25 years ago when he said, '85 per cent of Government's expenditure is frittered away in corruption and maladministration'.

Sir, this Government needs to address bigger issues of good governance. They need to address the big issues of good debureaucratisation rather than just focus on tinkering with FDI in retail because, unfortunately, for this Government, reform is equal to FDI and they go no further.

I think it is time the Government realizes that there are far more things to reforms in our country. People want Government to get out of their lives. People want Government not to interfere, not to tax every aspect of their lives, not to have a license quota raj for everything that they engage in. They are looking for freedom from high taxes. They are looking for freedom from bureaucratic controls over their lives.

Sir, I just wish to touch upon one or two points, since I am on the point of reforms, before I go further. This Government has often alleged that it is the Opposition that is responsible for the paralysis in policy reforms that this country is urgently asking for. I would like to contest that, Sir.

We talk of the GST. The Government talks of reforms in the indirect tax structure by the introduction of GST. But what have they done? They have an Empowered Committee of Finance Ministers working for the last four years. In the last four years, the Government has not been able to bring even the Chief Ministers of their own States on the same page as the Central Government in terms of implementing the GST.

On this account, Sir, let me raise a few points about the GST. We do not dispute the advantages of having a Central tax, which eliminates a lot of duplication in the system. It eliminates the cascading effect of taxes. It eliminates the export of taxes. Probably, getting a GST in place would also give the States a share in the service tax collected, which by the way, Sir, a promise made by this Government when service tax was first introduced in India, that the revenue would be shared with the States. But, till date, we have not seen that revenue being shared. However, despite all of these advantages, why are we frittering away the benefits of GST? We are frittering it away because the Government has still not been able to come to modalities of how to implement that tax. They still do not have a common form, which can be filed by an assessee, finalized by the GST committee. The Central Government wants to usurp all the powers. The States are not willing to let go their powers. As of now, about two lakh assessee reports

[Shri Piyush Goyal]

to the Central Government in excise whereas 50-60 lakh assessee are under the jurisdiction of the States. So, now a new formula has come, which I don't think the people outside, who claim that they want GST, are aware. This formula is that the Genral Sales Tax would comprise two sections – one, a Central GST and the other, a State GST. I don't understand what would be the benefit of such a GST that they are proposing. And then there is no clarity at all on how the money has to be paid, who the dealer would report to, and so on. And, I am given to understand that every dealer will have two assessments, one, from a Central authority and another from a State authority. And then, they don't have a dispute resolution mechanism in place. As yet, we don't know how a dispute under the Empowered Committee will be resolved, because the Centre wants a veto power, while implementing GST or dispute resolution, which, obviously, the States are not willing to give.

Sir, they have not yet even determined the rate at which GST would be taxed. Still, there is a talk of two rates but we don't know what those two rates are going to be. We don't know what the floor rate will be. We don't know what the band would be in which the GST would be implemented in various States. We don't know how the money is going to be forwarded to the States in terms of compensation. The Central Government is still not compensating States for the loss of the CST, which was reduced from four per cent to two per cent, with the promise and sovereign assurance that they would be compensated for the loss. To date, except for the first two years, from the third year onwards, a very small compensation has been made. This year, there is no plan for compensation, and the logic being given is that 'when we announced VAT or CST reduction, we had said that we would compensate for two or three years'. But Sir, they had also said that GST would be implemented in three years. They have not completed one part of the bargain. They have not implemented GST, but they have stopped compensating the States. How do they expect States to trust such a Government? And, obviously, there is resistance because the fiscal autonomy of the States is under threat under such a GST regime that is proposed by this Government.

Therefore, Sir, the GST is not a burden on my head. It is a burden on the Centre's head, to resolve these issues, sit down with the people concerned and the concerned States and find solutions. Sir, we have a great law called the 'Direct Tax Code' which has been proposed by this Government. I am a part of the Standing Committee and we have recently put forth our recommendations and Report. Sir, the recommendations have come out after detailed examination of the DTC. But the Government chose to take selective parts of the DTC, for example,

5.00 P.M.

the General Anti-Avoidance Rules, and implement them in the Budget itself in the original form rather than considering the recommendations of the Standing Committee. Sir, these are draconian provisions. In the normal course, we would welcome them since they are a tool to fight black money. But, Sir, we all know, and I think, many people in this House must have experienced their constituents complaining about the misuse of the tax laws in our country. People come with a gun on their head and say, 'Look, you deposit additional tax before 31st March, otherwise I will penalize you; I will trouble you because we have to meet our fiscal targets set by the Finance Ministry.' Sir, assesseees are also told, 'You deposit money before 31st March and we will refund it to you in April. But if you don't deposit it and if I don't meet my targets, then I may not get a good posting, then I may not get a good CR and I may be penalized.' Is that how tax administration in our country works? In what situation, with a provision like GAAR, what will happen to the assessee? They will be under continuous pressure with no safeguards brought into the law. I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to please consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee before finalizing the Budget provisions and bring those recommendations into the GAAR provisions, as they have been proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

Sir, the disinvestment process has been a big casualty of this Government. The NDA Government had initiated a process of strategic sales through auction in a most transparent manner. I don't know how some Members of the Treasury Benches had called it 'sweet-heart deals' I don't understand how can an auction, where the whole world was invited to participate, be a 'sweet-heart deals'. But ever since this Government has come, no loss-making PSU has been disinvested; no loss-making PSU has been turned around and there is no improvement in efficiency of these PSUs. All that we have seen is the sporadic sale of some shares of PSUs which have not even met the disinvested targets of the last three years. what is the solution? I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to look at that big pool of assets in the Government's hands. Today, just the listed PSUs have a market cap of Rs. 14 lakh crore. The rest of the PSUs, with all the assets put together would not be less than another Rs. 20 lakh crore. So, he has an asset base of approximately Rs. 30 lakh crore. It is already on record that Government can disinvest up to 51 per cent. Why don't you take that forward faster? Why don't you take the process forward to raise revenue from alternate mechanism, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition said, through auction or transparent method? The assets of the country, can be better utilized or exploited

[Shri Piyush Goyal]

in the hands of the private sector, can be utilized through Public-Private Partnerships. I would urge the Government to look at disinvestment in a more holistic fashion and take this process forward.

Sir, one other suggestion that I want to make is that the Government should move to the accrual system of accounting. It will take care of the earlier problems that I mentioned of tax officials troubling the assesseees during the end of the year just to meet fiscal targets. It is high time the Government also started accounting for its assets, expenses and incomes on an accrual basis, which is an internationally accepted, correct method to account for Government revenues.

Sir, my dear friend, hon. Mani Shankar Aiyar, very selectively chose one statistic and, unfortunately for him, he chose a statistic on which this Government, or unfortunately India as a whole, has been a complete disaster. He chose a statistic of debt-to-GDP ratio in order to highlight how India is a great story with 63 per cent debt-to-GDP ratio, and a completely amusing and amazing statistic of China having 155 per cent debt-to-GDP ratio. I wonder from where he got those statistics. I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to please apprise his esteemed colleague on what the real facts are. But, in any case, I will highlight the real facts. The fact of life is that whereas India had a debt-to-GDP ratio of 66.2 per cent in 2011, China had a debt-to-GDP ratio of only 16.5 per cent in 2011. Sir, since you are busy, I will repeat. India is at 66.2 per cent. China is at 16.5 per cent. I wish the Treasury Benches had some more economically-savvy people to give, at least, the correct facts on the Table. Then, unfortunately, he chose a country like China which, on almost every parameter, has beaten India, whether you look at per capita income, whether you look at GDP growth, whether you look at Forex reserves, whether you look at FDI, and I can continue to name so many more fields. China has beaten India hollow and we have to put our act in order, we have to start acting fast. If the dream to make India a super power has to be achieved, I would urge the finance minister to please take these large deficits, that he is proposing in his Budget, more seriously and not fritter away the resources of this country on large subsidies, which have been wasted and not implemented properly.

In the same light, Sir, regarding the foreign exchange reserves, what is the current account situation in this country today? Last year, the current account deficit was over 3.4 or 3.5 per cent. Sir, even in 1947-48, when the country gained independence, the current account deficit was not such an alarming figure. It was, probably, less than 2.5 per cent. And, look at the foreign exchange reserves. Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar went about harping on NDA Government's performance. So,

I did a little calculation. When the NDA Government came to power in 1998, they had Forex reserves of \$ 29 billion. When they demitted office in March, 2004, Forex reserves were \$ 113 billion. It shows a growth of 289 per cent over a period of six years an increase of about 48 per cent every year. This Government came to power in 2004 with a reserve of \$ 113 billion. Today, as on 16th March, 2012, The forex reserves are \$ 294.821 billion, that is, a growth about 161 per cent in the last eight years of mismanagement of the economy. That shows growth of only 20 per cent a year in our Forex reserves. I have gone through the Economy Survey. On every page, I can do a statistical analysis to show how the economy was far better handled by the NDA Government, *vis-a-vis*, the UPA Government. Take the case of inflation. I beg to correct myself. The first Budget, that Pranabda presented, was for the year 1982-83. I stand corrected. Sir, in the fifth para, page 1 of that Budget Speech of 1982-83, hon. Finance Minister had said, "The fight against inflation has been a high priority of the Government. Any slackening of effort on this front would have undermined the very basis of our development. Inflation hurts all sections of the community. But, it hurts the weaker and poorer sections the most. Inflation also hurts the development process, as investment costs get distorted and financing becomes an increasingly severe problem". So, we were assured that this would be the *mantra* of the hon. Finance Minister when he presented the last two Budgets that I have seen. Unfortunately, Sir, on the front of inflation, this Government has failed miserably. If you see the statistics, when the NDA Government came to power in 1998, they were handed over a headline inflation, which during 1991-96, again, the Congress' previous regime, had reached 9.3 per cent per annum. It was the NDA, which, through sheer fiscal prudence, brought it down to 4.9 per cent per annum. From 9.3 per cent per annum in six, seven years that we were in power, it was brought down to 4.9 per cent per annum.

We almost reduced the WPI inflation to half. Unfortunately, for the country, the UPA came back to power. In the last seven years, upto 2011, the headline inflation was at an average of 6.2 per cent, again, inched up year on year. Of course, the last year has been even worse. We have seen double-digit inflation all through the year, except in the last two months, but that also was more because of the base level effect. If the base is higher in the previous year, it shows that the inflation has come down.

Similarly, coming to food inflation, Sir, during the NDA regime, food inflation was at an average of 3.5 per cent but in the seven years of this Government, it has been in double-digit at an average of 10 per cent, if you take only the last five years, it is 12 per cent per annum. So, in terms of statistics,

[Shri Piyush Goyal]

we can keep going on till the cows come home, and, there will be enough statistics to show as to how this Government has mismanaged the economy.

Sir, I come to one figure which Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar spoke about, and, I was again very amused to see how selectively statistics can be used for distorting the correct picture, From the Finance Minister's Budget, he spoke about the interest outgo versus revenue receipts. So, I sat down, took out a calculator and gathered the old information. Look at what I have found, Sir. This Government was in office till 1996. They left behind an interest to revenue receipts ratio of 47 per cent, and, when the NDA came to power in 1998, we were handed over an interest to revenue receipts ratio of 49 per cent. So, it was 47 per cent during the original Congress rule, and, 49 per cent when the NDA came to power. Again, by the time, we left office in 2004, with sheer fiscal prudence, we had brought it down to 41 per cent in the Budget Estimates of 2004-05, which were actually achieved. And, as my hon. Leader also mentioned, it was not like the present Government which gives figures which are never to be achieved. Our figures used to be achieved. We brought it down to 41 per cent, which is a reduction of 16 per cent. But, there again, in the last six, seven years of UPA rule, as per the 2011-12 Revised Estimates, they have been able to bring it down to 36 per cent, and, a fall from 41 per cent to 36 per cent amounts to only 12 per cent reduction. So, despite having a much better fiscal position than what we had, they have not been able to reduce it as much as we had reduced the ratio. I wish Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar would check his statistics better, maybe, he can consult somebody like me, I will help him to run through statistics and give more factual statistics rather than giving distorted figures, which do not mean anything. The most amusing thing, I repeat, is the China's 155 per cent Debt-to-GDP ratio. That is the best of them all, Sir.

One very interesting figure came to my notice when I was going through the Budget in detail. Sir, since they like to blame the NDA Government for everything, I thought, I will to highlight some of the achievements of the NDA, which are far more important than the so-called blames. Sir, when the NDA Government left office in 2004, as per the actual figures for 2003-04 in the last year when we were in power, our non-plan expenditure on the revenue side was Rs. 2,83,000 crore, and, on capital account, it was Rs. 65,000 crore whereas in the current Budget of 2012-13, they have increased the revenue account to Rs.8,65,000 crore, and, capital account to Rs. 1,04,000 crore. So, Sir, in the seven years that they have been here, or eight years now, they are increasing the Revenue Account by 200 per cent whereas the Capital Account expenditure is increasing

only by 50 per cent. And the same goes with the Plan expenditure. The Revenue Account expenditure from 2004 to 2012 has increased from Rs. 78,000 crore to Rs. 4,20,000 crores, which is an increase of 450 per cent on the Revenue Account, and on the Capital Account, the increase has been from Rs. 43,000 crore to 100,000 crore, which is only 150 per cent. What does that show you? It shows you clearly a Government which is focused on vote bank politics. They are throwing away the money of this nation, creating large fiscal deficits only on the Revenue Account, costing the nation and the future generations of this country huge problems as we go into the future, and that, by no stretch of imagination, is prudent fiscal management. I think, a good Government would have spent more money on creating assets of this country, spending on the Capital Account rather than wasting money on the Revenue Account. And further, I just want to highlight one small thing. The hon. Finance Minister had projected GDP to grow by 14 per cent in the last year's Budget and again 14 per cent in this year's Budget. Now, he did achieve 14 per cent in the last year's Budget, but not by genuine growth. The nominal growth is 14 per cent and the real growth, as he himself has acknowledged, is 6.9 per cent which I personally contest because that figure is based on the first three quarters and the last quarter is worse than the previous one. I think, 6.9 per cent will be left at about 6.5 per cent by the time we get the actual figures. Having said that, we still achieved GDP growth of 14 per cent. So, how did you do that? The rest was inflation. Now, in the current year, we are told that it will again be 14 per cent. I am just calculating that if the real growth in GDP is going to be 7.6 per cent this year, at 14 per cent nominal growth, that means, it is already budgeting for 7 per cent inflation. Whatever may be the final figures, today we are already budgeting a 7 per cent inflation in this. Final figures, I suspect, would again be a double digit inflation with the pressure of large indirect taxes and the lower growth be compensated by inflation. Yes, you will again have 14 per cent nominal growth in GDP, but through means of inflation.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Goyal, your party has ten speakers. So, please try to conclude it now.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Yes, Sir. In terms of subsidies, the hon. Finance Minister has under-provided so grossly that I am amazed that even a common reader – Sir, I gave a speech in March last year on last year's Budget and I raised exactly the same point – of the Budget could glance at it and tell you subsidies were under-provided, revenues were over-provided. It does not need rocket science to understand that, Sir. But again, this year it is the same ploy – show low subsidy, show higher revenue growth, fool the public because after all, public does not bother about the Revised Estimates of the last year. वह तो हो गया। वह

[Shri Piyush Goyal]

पीछे की बात है, अब आगे देखो। So, you tell them आगे तो बहुत अच्छा होने वाला है। The future is rosy, forget the past. In 2013, when we come back to debate again, and I hope my party gives me a chance to speak then, we will again see a picture, an actual picture, when you will have all these figures going wrong and nothing to write home about.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I think, you can conclude now. You are searching for points.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: No, no, I have got so many of them all over the place.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): A number of speakers are there from your party.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, Service Tax is one area I want to highlight to the hon. Finance Minister when I talk about this Budget being less than honest in its figures, and I hope I will get some answers. I have sought protection from the Chair on many an occasion. This is my seventh or eighth intervention in the House in the last one and a half year, but to date I have got no response to any of the points I have raised. But then that is another story. I hope the parliamentary procedures bring in some mechanism that we get a response to our comments. Sir, they have shown Service Tax to grow from Rs. 95,000 crore to about Rs. 1,24,000 crore, an increase of only Rs. 29,000 crore. The projection being made is not a very big burden on the *aam aadmi*. Sir, I contest that figure. And I will tell you why.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is on record saying that there will be a GDP growth of 14 per cent, and we all know that services are growing faster. It compensates for the lower agriculture and manufacturing growth. Last year, service tax grew from Rs. 71,000 to Rs. 95,000 crore. This is 34 per cent growth without any increase in rates. This year and last year also, the GDP was slated to grow at 14 per cent. So, by that same logic, this year also, in the normal course, without increasing the tax rate and without increasing the scope of services to be taxed, there should be a 35 per cent growth in service tax. However, to be more conservative, I have taken 30 per cent as the normal growth. Hence it will be Rs. 95,000 crore + Rs. 28,000 crore, which is 30 per cent, as the normal growth in service tax. Now, they have also expanded the scope of service tax, everything on earth except 17 items. I have assumed that this will add another 25 per cent. So, another Rs. 32,000 crore can be added by the expanded scope. The total becomes Rs. 1,55,000 crore. Then there is a 20 per cent rate increase, from 10-12 per cent, which is another Rs. 31,000 crore. So, the effective tax, service tax alone,

I suspect, Sir, could be Rs. 1,86,000 crore and by the time the year ends, you will see an additional burden on the common man. As my hon. Leader said, the Prime Minister is on record in 1991 to state that indirect taxes are an inefficient way of taxing the people; it is a burden on the common man; and it should not be resorted to. But what we are seeing is a burden of Rs. 91,000 crore on the common man which in addition to a customs increase of Rs. 33,000 crore and an excise increase of Rs. 44,000 crore is a phenomenal burden on the common man.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J.KURIEN): please conclude.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Just one more thing. They are talking of excise increase of 30 per cent in the current year. Out of that, 20 per cent is due to the rate increase. They are saying that only ten per cent will be the real growth of excise collected. They are already acknowledging that production and manufacturing in India are dead. There is no hope for domestic Indian manufacturers. But on the customs side, without any increase in rate, there is an increase of 22 per cent. Are we going to see increasing, an overarching dependence on imports in the years to come causing the Indian economy to be shattered and the foreign economies to gain at our expense from the large domestic market in India?

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Goyalji, please conclude.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: However, Sir, as we can see, today, we are in a situation where the Indian Government has to take pro-active steps to ameliorate the problems of the poor, effectively give them relief from the high doses of taxation, do something for good healthcare, and provide them quality education. I was amazed to see Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar quoting statistics that a ninth standard boy cannot read a second standard textbook. I don't know whether he was speaking from our benches or from their benches. I think it is an insult to the Government of the day if that is the status of their highly tom-tommed Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. If the NRHM loot is going to continue in this country, when is healthcare really going to reach the common man? What is there in this Budget for tourism? What is there in this Budget for infrastructure? And all that they can do is retrospective amendments in laws due to which SEZ story has been killed, foreign investment will be killed, and we will have a situation where India will, once again, go back to the old days of backwardness and lose the momentum that we have achieved in the last few years. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I am here to commend the Budget presented by Pranabha. One can say this is the best in the circumstances that we are in. Hon. Finance Minister has not indulged in any extra activism in view of the fact – we must admit it – that we are a coalition Government. We have

[Shri Shantaram Naik]

to take everybody into confidence, everybody on board, understand their sentiments and feelings. Therefore, in the circumstances that we are in, this is the best Budget that the hon. Finance Minister could present.

Now, Sir, we are a coalition Government. I have always been saying – I have said it in the past also – that we should have a separate chapter in the Constitution of this country for running coalition Governments because this is a new concept which is going to stay. Therefore, the Constitution has to say as to what is the responsibility of each ally of a Government. That is essential. I am not casting aspersions. But, it is essential that the Constitution tells us as to what should be done in a particular circumstances. That is one thing.

Mr. Jaitely has charged the Government that we are using CBI for the purpose of getting votes. I don't think that CBI can garner votes for any political party. If that is possible, as a humble Congressman and as a humble servant of my party, I would say that let us go ahead with it if it could be done. Show me how it can be done. I would advise my Party to go ahead with it. This is only rhetoric that the hon. Leader of Opposition has said it. In fact, I would give an example. In my State of Goa, there was a CBI inquiry against the present Chief Minister for indulging in certain activities in international Film Festival. The inquiry went on for four years, and ultimately, some documents could not be produced and he was exonerated, Did we do anything? If Mr. Jaitely was correct, could we not have done something when we were a full-fledged Government and he was the leader of Opposition? I am just giving an example of my State about which I know. therefore, let Mr. Jaitely not indulge in it.

I would like to refer to the Direct Tax Code Bill. The Finance Minister has said that there are difficulties in bringing forward this legislation at this stage because of the Report of the Standing Committee. I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that as soon as possible, let this legislation be enacted by Parliament. People of this country and those who are stakeholders are waiting for this Bill, including the Bill on goods and services. I hope these two legislation will do a great service to the people of this country. Sir, if our Budgetary allocations are to materialise and give the fruits of their investments then, we have to look after 2-3 things. One is the quality of the projects. It is very essential. Quality of the projects that we undertake needs to be good. In fact, there should be a legislation for this. Today, I don't know whether there is any legislation which regulates quality. If there is a legislation regulate quality, that will be good so that we ensure the quality. Secondly, we should avoid delay. If we avoid delay, we get more funds automatically. If a project costing Rs. 50 crore is completed

in time, it means, we get Rs. 50 crore extra because if it had been delayed, it would have cost Rs. 100 crore. Therefore, it is actually doubling the allotment of a given project. Therefore, avoiding delay is very essential and avoiding corrupt practices as regards projects is also very essential. This is the common phenomenon which goes on everywhere. The Government should try to do this and when the hon. Finance Minister replies, let there be a commitment on this – a commitment that we should have quality in the projects and a commitment that projects will be completed in time. And, therefore, as far as corruption is concerned, it will be minimised. On this aspect of corruption, I would like to make a point, a fundamental point. An impression is going on in the country that the Lokpal Bill is a law on corruption. I would like to humbly state that Lokpal does not contain any substantive law on corruption. It is an authority which sought to be created under the Lokpal. This is a law on corruption. The law on corruption was enforced in the country 20 years back. It is called the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1998. It was enacted during the regime of Rajiv Gandhi. It was Rajiv Gandhi who took the initiative and got it enacted in 1998. This is the law which was enforced. This is the law which will be executed by the proposed Lokpal and Lok Ayuktas in the States. The Lokpal doesn't contain any substantive law. Therefore, let everybody recognise the role of late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi in enacting this legislation which has stood the test of time. No doubt it can be improved upon.

Another aspect is, we took the first step against corruption, if I may say so, in 1991 when we enacted the free economy that was the first step to abolish the licence raj. That was the first step against corruption and then subsequent laws also. The hon. Minister is also introducing another exhaustive Bill on preventing benami transactions. there are several other legislation too. Therefore, it is for us to say that laws have been enacted against corruption.

I welcome that you have made a good commitment in the Budget that you will come forward with a white paper on black money. In fact, this will be a good reply to the Opposition who do not understand the steps being taken by the hon. Finance Minister in the last several months on black money. several procedural things and questions are involved, international conventions are there and international laws are there. Without understanding that, they have been constantly blaming the Government, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister for not doing anything.

(MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

The white paper on black money will do a good to the society.

I have said in the past also that as far as Central schemes are concerned

[Shri Shantaram Naik]

– in the morning also this issue came up – we should prune them and reduce them. We should introduce only those Central schemes which we can fund 100 per cent. Why I am saying is this. We cannot presume that States will have certain amount of funds for funding these schemes. Today what we do is we presume that they will contribute 25 per cent, they say that they do not have money. For example, the right to Education Act. We have given them the burden of 50 per cent. They say that cannot share this burden. So far as Central legislation are concerned, Central schemes are concerned, let us introduce only those Central legislation or schemes which we can finance 100 per cent. I would urge upon the Finance Minister to enact a stringent law against those who hijack the Central schemes. There is a tendency to hijack the Central schemes. They give their own names. They do not let the people know that this money is coming from the UPA-II Government. They hide this aspect and they say that it is their money and they are distributing it. Therefore, something has to be done to curb this tendency, if possible, by legislation.

As far as my Goa State is concerned, I would like to make two or three points. We have asked for special provisions under article 371. In this scenario, perhaps, nobody is in a mood to amend article 371. See our plight. Our plight is that Goa is a small State. Here people from Israel, from Russia and our own building mafia from other States are coming with load of money for buying villages after villages. It is only through amendment of article 371 that will give power to the State Legislature to enact a law to protect the land transactions. This is the immediate thing we are asking. We are not asking for anything. Unless article 371 is amended, the States Legislature cannot get the right to control the land transactions. We made an attempt. We amended the land Registration Act. But the President of India refuses to sign it because it goes against the Constitution. Therefore, the amendment of this article is very essential.

Secondly, right now we are part of the AGMU Cadre, as far as All India Services are concerned. We are a small State. Somebody may ask: Why do you require a separate cadre? Since we don't have a separate cadre, officers from AGMU Cadre are posted there. They go there for two years just like going for a picnic. They are not committed to any project; they are not committed to the State; they are not committed to the Government. Therefore, although Goa is a small State, it is our right to have a separate cadre for us. It is very essential. Because of lack of a separate cadre, our projects are not completed in time. This is one of the factors. We don't have a separate cadre and, therefore, it seems to be like that.

As far as special category is concerned, I agree with you on this point, Sir. You have said last time in Goa that there is a list of 11 or 12 States and there is no proposal to add more to it. We can understand that. But, if needed, on some occasion you give us some extra package and that will solve our problem. So, on the question of special category, I don't insist. But as far as special provisions under article 371 and a separate cadre are concerned, I would like to request you to consider them.

Thirdly, there is the problem of seamen. I learnt that last year the Ministry of shipping had asked for some funds for giving pension to the seamen. Today, they are hardly getting Rs.500. They undertake long voyages leaving their families behind. When they come thereafter, neither the ship-owners look after them, nor the State Government looks after them, nor the Central Government look after them. There are three stakeholders, namely, shipping companies, the Central Government and the State Government. All the three can combine and give them some pension which will help them to reasonably maintain their family. Please consider this because there are many people, many seamen, on the coastal lines of Goa, Kerala, etc., who require this.

Fourthly, as far as the MPLADS Funds are concerned, I have said in the past that we require an independent legislation on the implementation of the MPLADS. Crores of rupees are spent on an executive order. The guidelines are changed every two months. Some letter comes saying, "We have changed the guideline". After another two months, comes another guideline. This creates confusion in the minds of the Members. Therefore, let there be a good legislation. In that legislation, I would suggest one thing that a small percentage – I would say even one percentage is sufficient – should be allowed to be given by an MP in cast to the needy in times of drought or floods or other calamities. Suppose I know that there is some drought. I go to the house of a villager. There is a poor lady who needs some help. What is the use of my MPLADS fund which is in crores? If I can give her at that particular moment a cheque of Rs. 5,000, I can do some justice to her. Therefore, I wouldn't say a major amount, just one per cent of the MPLADS fund should be allowed to be given to the needy to help him in times of disaster. So, that amendment should be made in the existing guidelines. Sometimes, we give community halls to associations, etc. But it has to build a building. Then you have to obtain land documents. This takes itself two years. If space is available in a ready-made building, that should be allowed to be considered under the MPLADS. The auditing can be done, the price can be ascertained and a committee can be appointed to assess the value of that particular construction.

[Shri Shantaram Naik]

Similar is the case with Self-Help Groups. There are hundreds of Self-Help Groups. They are not registered under the society Registration Act. If they are registered under the society Registration Act, after three year of registration, we can give them space to work. I can give them a small office, an establishment or a workplace. I am advising several groups to register themselves under the societies Registration Act. Other ask as to why they should register themselves . Right nor, they have to just come together, go to a Government office saying, "We are going to do papads or pickles or any other business". and they get the money. But, Sir, if they are registered under the society Registration Act. they can get a lot of other facilities under the Government. Therefore, these small reforms, which are required, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to incorporate them in the Budget. And I would, specially, refer to the seamen's problems.

Sir, I commend his efforts in bringing a Budget of, one can say, a very balanced type, and in the circumstances that we are in, this is the Budget. Thank you.

DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, while presenting the Union Budget for 2012-13, the hon. Finance Minister quoted from Shakespeare's Hamlet to say, "I must be cruel only to be kind." There is a justification for his cruelty being done by way of hiking excise duties and service taxes by two per cent, from ten per cent to twelve per cent, and in reducing the subsidy to two per cent of GDP. These hikes in duties and taxes and reduction of subsidies would further increase inflation and will, eventually, hurt mostly the poor and the common people. But, as suggested by the hon. Finance Minister, the other part of kindness of his Budget proposals, that is, the good-in-long-term is yet to be assessed as to when and how to come. In fact, the painful reforms effected during the early 90s of the last century by the then Congress (I) Government have hardly brought any long-term good to the suffering India. The continuing economic policy has rather time and again proved to be anti-poor and pro-rich. By and large, people are, therefore, apprehensive as to where the current Budget of 2012-13 would lead the country, to accrue benefits in some unknown future! The Budget, therefore, appears to be disappointed and without any vision. It is argued that allowing subsidy continuously on growing number of industrial and agricultural products is harmful for the economy of the country. But when the purchasing power of the larger section of our population has not reached the stage when they can afford to buy even the minimum quantity of essential commodities, then, how can we drastically cut the subsidies, as proposed in the current Budget, to as low as two per cent of the GDP in 2012-13 and 1.7 per cent

of the GDP by the next three years? Is it not the responsibility of a welfare State aiming to achieve inclusive growth to raise the standard of living along with the purchasing power of the toiling masses, a vast majority of *Aam Aadmi*? If the Government fails, then, why should the poor be posed to further distress? Why should we find an escape route to strengthen the economy by cutting subsidies instead of concentrating on other means of nation building? Cutting subsidy in the present stage only adds to the sufferings of the common people.

As the Budget proposals indicate, diesel is also going to be deregulated, but it is not known when. The roadmap is identified. Fuel and fertiliser price-hikes are also on cards. Diesel, Kerosene, LPG prices are very likely to go up soon, particularly, when subsidy cut decision has already been taken. This hike will have a cascading effect on multiple areas, from transport sector to the overall price structure, down to the households at grassroot level. Agricultural productivity will also be adversely affected. Keeping in view the growing trend of farmers suicides, which have also recently escalated in West Bengal, it is welcome that the Budget target in respect of agricultural credit has been raised by Rs.1,00,000 crores of rupees to Rs. 5,75,000 crore in 2012-13. But it is essential that the credit reaches the poor farmers at the lower level.

The Budget Estimates show many weaknesses of the economy. Fiscal deficit is now targeted to be restricted at Rs. 5,13,590 crores, which is 5.1 per cent of the GDP in 2012-13. It was 5.9 per cent in 2011-12. Net market borrowing required to finance the deficit is estimated to be Rs. 4.79 lakh crores in 2012-13. The GDP is estimated to grow at 6.9 per cent in 2011-12 after having grown at 8.4 per cent in the preceding two years. This is not an encouraging state of affairs of the present economy of India.

Of course, the hon. Finance Minister has hinted that the GDP growth in 2012-13 is expected to be 7.6 per cent, plus-minus 0.25 per cent. But the question remains: how much benefit of this growth is percolated to the *aam admi*?

It exemption limit has only been marginally raised but the hon. Finance Minister hopes to net, through his proposals, relating to custom and excise duties, a revenue gain of Rs. 27,280 crores for the full year. The Budget proposals on direct taxes are estimated to result in a revenue loss of Rs. 4500 crores for this year. Indirect Taxes are estimated to result in a revenue gain of Rs. 45,940 crores leaving a net gain of Rs. 41,440 crores in the Budget. Proposals on Service Tax are expected to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 18660 crores.

Interestingly, corporate tax rates remain unchanged. Moreover, certain measures to allow corporate to access lower cost funds and to promote higher level of investments in several sectors have been proposed. Tax on Indian

[Dr. Barun Mukherjee]

companies repatriating dividends from foreign subsidiaries has been halved. The Government is guided by the neo-liberal concept that concessions to the corporates and the rich have been incentives for growth and subsidies for the poor as a burden on the economy and a blockade to progress.

The Government has proposed to continue its disinvestment policy. For 2012-13, it has targeted an amount of Rs. 30,000 crores to be raised through the sale of equities of PSUs. The earlier target was Rs. 40,000 crores; out of which, Rs. 14,000 crores was raised in 2011-12. This policy disinvestment of profit-making PSUs for a short-term gain will, ultimately, prove to be harmful to the economy of the country.

Finally, the overall economy of the country is in bad shape. There is a significant slowdown in growth with only 2.5 per cent growth in agriculture, 3.9 per cent in industry, and 9.4 per cent in services. In such a dismal situation, the Government is directionless in its approach to meet challenges of inclusive growth.

Sir, I thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

The House then adjourned at fifty-one minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 27th March, 2012.