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10 Chaitra, 1934 (Saka)

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RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 30 March, 2012/10th Chaitra, 1934 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ranking and Standard of Indian Universities

*241. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Universities in the country along with the details thereof, statewise;
- (b) where we stand in worldwide rankings; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to improve the ranking to meet world standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There are 43 Central Universities, 265 State Public Universities, 80 State Private Universities and 129 Deemed to be Universities in the country. The number of Universities in the country along with the details thereof State-wise is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) While certain institutions or agencies publish list of universities or educational institutions ranked according to their own criteria, there is no single international agency for the global ranking of universities. Some of the better known global systems of rankings are the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) system, the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the Global MBA Rankings of Financial Times London etc. As per the QS system for the year 2011, the overall highest ranked institution in India is Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi at serial 218. As per the Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2011, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay in India is the highest ranked institution at serial 317, while the Academic Ranking of World Universities has ranked Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore at serial 321. However, as per the 2011 QS Engineering

and Technology Rankings, IIT Bombay is at serial 43, IIT Delhi at serial 50, IIT Kanpur at serial 59 and IIT Madras at serial 60 in Computer Science and Information Technology. In the same ranking system in Civil and Structural Engineering, IIT Bombay is ranked at serial 30, IIT Kanpur at serial 38 and IIT Delhi at serial 43. As per the results of the annual QS Global Business School Report, 2012, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad has been ranked second in the Asia Pacific region, next to INSEAD (Institute Européen d' Administration des Affaires), Singapore, while IIM, Bangalore, Indian School of Business, IIM Calcutta and SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai have all figured in the top 20 institutes. As per the Financial Times London Global Business Schools rankings, IIM Ahmedabad is at serial 11 and Indian School of Business at serial 13.

These different international ranking systems use different values, indices and parameters to rank higher educational institutions. These criteria are neither universally accepted nor recognised and are therefore open to criticism about the subjective processes of their evaluation. 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.

(c) Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. The Government is continuously striving to improve the quality of higher education in the country by legislative initiatives. The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority For Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, which aims to make accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutions in order to ensure independent quality assurance mechanism, has been introduced in Parliament on 3rd May, 2010.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it implements various schemes for improving quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), Special Assistance Programme (SAP), Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology (ASIST), 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 Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). Improved pay package for teachers in universities and colleges has been implemented 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 UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree), Regulations 2009. The UGC has also issued comprehensive regulation, for maintenance of minimum standards of teaching and learning in all colleges and universities on 30th June, 2010.

Statement - I

The number of universities in the country alongwith state-wise details thereof

State	Central Universities	State Universities	Private Universities	Deemed to be Universities	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	3	30	—	7	40
Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	1	2
Assam	2	4	1	—	7
Bihar	1	13	—	2	16
Chhattisgarh	1	10	3	—	14
Goa	—	1	—	—	1
Gujarat	1	17	9	2	29
Haryana	1	8	4	5	18
Himachal Pradesh	1	3	9	—	13
Jammu and Kashmir	2	6	—	—	8
Jharkhand	1	6	1	2	10
Karnataka	1	18	1	15	35
Kerala	1	8	—	2	11
Madhya Pradesh	2	15	1	3	21
Maharashtra	1	19	—	21	41
Manipur	2	—	—	—	2
Meghalaya	1	—	6	—	7
Mizoram	1	—	1	—	2
Nagaland	1	—	2	—	3
Orissa	1	12	1	2	16
Punjab	1	7	2	2	12

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan	1	14	16	8	39
Sikkim	1	—	4	—	5
Tamil Nadu	2	23	—	29	54
Tripura	1	—	1	—	2
Uttar Pradesh	4	21	13	10	48
Uttaranchal	1	5	5	4	15
West Bengal	1	19	—	1	21
NCT of Delhi	5	5	—	11	21
Puducherry	1	—	—	1	2
UT Admn. of Chandigarh	—	1	—	1	2
TOTAL	43	265	80	129	517

* Five institutions have been established under state legislation (Two in Andhra Pradesh and one each in Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 241. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't bring any banners here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सभापति जी, लेकिन क्या करें ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आप क्या कह रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सभापति जी, तेलंगाना पर सरकार ने ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am afraid, I cannot recognize you. You are committing a serious offence. You should know the rules of the House. You cannot speak from here. You have no right to speak. Please go back, and please put away that banner. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 241, please let it be replied.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सभापति जी, भारत देश विश्व गुरु रहा, क्योंकि भारत में जो एजुकेशन थी, उसके कारण यहाँ पर नालंदा और तक्षशिला जैसी यूनिवर्सिटीज हुआ करती थीं। चाणक्य, जो राजनीति का धुरा है, वह भी तक्षशिला यूनिवर्सिटी का विद्यार्थी था। आज मैंने वेबसाइट से एक लिस्ट निकाली है, उसमें पहली जो 200 यूनिवर्सिटीज हैं, उनमें पहली 100 यूनिवर्सिटीज में भारत का कहीं नाम नहीं है। आपने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें भी डिफरेंट एजेंसीज, जो इसका सर्वे करती हैं, उनके मुताबिक हम कहीं 218 नंबर पर हैं, कहीं 317 नंबर पर हैं। मेरा प्रश्न है कि भारत को विश्व के साथ कम्पीट कराने के लिए भारतीय यूनिवर्सिटीज उस स्तर की बनें, इस संबंध में हमारे क्या प्रयास हो रहे हैं? मैंने यह जो क्वेश्चन किया है, मैं उसकी वजह भी बता देता हूँ, मैंने एक ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सभापति जी, सवाल इससे connected है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a supplementary question. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सभापति जी, मैंने यह सवाल क्यों पूछा, उसकी intention यह थी कि यू.के. में हजारों भारतीय बच्चे, उन यूनिवर्सिटीज में गए, जो यूनिवर्सिटीज बंद पड़ी थीं। जो ओवर ब्रिजेस हैं, बच्चे उनके नीचे रहकर अपना गुजारा कर रहे हैं। क्या भारत ऐसी एजुकेशन नहीं दे सकता है, जिससे कि हम विश्व से कम्पीट कर सकें?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, I am sure the august House would agree with me that the education system of any country should be responsive to the needs, requirements and challenges of the country, primarily and initially. But let me also apprise the House that in the methodology that has been adopted by various organizations for ranking universities across the globe, there is a large amount of disparity in that. In the definition of quality, the criteria and also the indicators that are adopted by these organizations to evaluate universities and then rank them accordingly, there is a wide disparity. For example, take the University of Hong Kong. According to QS, it is ranked about 242. But according to the Times Ranking, it is around 234. According to the World Ranking of Universities, it is at 22. So, this is just one example that I am quoting. This is only to emphasise that the methodology that is adopted by these various organizations is very, very different and there is no globally-accepted parameter which is accepted by all countries across the world that they would follow as ranking parameter.

श्री सभापति : सैकिण्ड सप्लिमेंट्री।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सभापति जी, मेरे पहले प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया गया है। मैंने यह पूछा था और जो मेरा पहले क्वेश्चन भी था कि आप भारत को विश्व स्तर की यूनिवर्सिटी बनाने के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : The steps taken by the UGC and the various nodal bodies under the Ministry of Human Resource Development are already outlined in the answer that I have laid on the Table of the House. But let me also emphasise here to the august House that our children, wherever they go after attaining degrees and education within our own country, are most respected and they are doing very well across the world. I don't think that we can undermine that aspect of our education.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सर, माननीया मंत्री जी बहुत innovative और मेहनती हैं। किसी भी चीज को आँकने के लिए कोई बिजनेसमैन यह देखता है कि मेरी कितनी सेल हुईं और कोई इंस्टीट्यूशन यह देखती है कि मेरा रिजल्ट कैसा रहा। मैं माननीया मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत में विदेशों से कितने बच्चे पढ़ने आते हैं और भारत के कितने बच्चे बाहर पढ़ने जाते हैं? इससे भी हमारी comparison होगी। भारत के बच्चे विदेशों में न जाएँ, इसके लिए क्या प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, we have education exchange programmes with various countries, with which the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, actually signs MoUs. With all the countries, with which we have

signed MoUs, we have an exchange of students that happens. Students from our country identify areas of interest and they go there to acquire knowledge. Similarly, we have students from across the world, who come to India, identify the institutes where they would want to acquire knowledge, and also look at areas that they are interested in. So, we have education exchange programmes with very many countries across the globe, and I can always send the numbers across to my colleagues.

Regarding the number of students that are going abroad, Sir, the Association of Indian Universities puts it somewhere around one lakh plus students who go every year outside our country.

Now, regarding what we are doing to ensure that our students stay within the country and acquire knowledge, Sir, accessibility is definitely an area that we need to look at. To improve accessibility, I am sure, the august House is aware that we have looked at an exponential expansion of higher education in terms of establishing institutes across the country. The number of IITs, IIMs and so on has been increased. Similarly, there are efforts also to ensure that there is inclusivity. We have identified 374 educationally-backward blocks where the literacy levels are not very high and the gross enrolment ratio into higher education is lesser than the national average. In each one of these 374 educationally-backward blocks, we are now looking at establishing higher education institutions to ensure that accessibility is definitely provided to the children of our country. So, let me, once again, emphasise that accessibility, equity and quality are the cornerstones of our education system and are also part of our national policy on education, and we haven't lost sight of all the three.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, the decentralisation of better education is the call of the hour, and the Government has to do this continuous process. Earlier, the then hon. Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, had announced a world-class university in Guwahati. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the status of that university.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, regarding establishing world-class universities, I would submit that 14 States have been identified where world-class universities will be established. Whatever commitment has been given by the Government of India, we stand by it. Definitely, the world-class universities will be established. Right now, the matter of world-class university is with the Law Ministry. Once the Law Ministry vets it and sends it back, we will definitely present it to the House and seek the co-operation of all my colleagues in helping us to pass the Bill.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : धन्यवाद समापति जी। मैं माननीया मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि यूनिवर्सिटीज़ खोलने के क्या criteria हैं? जैसे मशरूम की growth हो रही है, वैसे यूनिवर्सिटीज़ भी आ रही हैं। हिमाचल प्रदेश, जो एक छोटा-सा स्टेट है, वहाँ 15-20 यूनिवर्सिटीज़ allow कर दी गई हैं और उनको लाइसेंस दे दिया गया है। उनके

क्या criteria हैं और यह उनको किस तरह से दिया जाता है? मैं माननीया मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या यूनिवर्सिटीज़ और कॉलेजेज़ में कोई फर्क है?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, I am sure the august House is aware that we have two streams of universities—the Central universities that are established through a Central law and the State Universities that are established through State legislations and State laws. As far as the Central universities are concerned, we would actually look at the preparedness of the State and we would also look at the State giving us land to establish a Central university. So, that has largely been the criteria. As far as the State universities are concerned, it is left to the State Governments, where we don't intervene. But, however, it has been our belief that we need to establish Central university in every State that does not have a Central University.

And when the hon. Prime Minister did announce sixteen universities to be established in various States across the country, the basic criteria that was kept in mind was to ensure that there was a Central University given to such State that did not have an existing Central University. That is to ensure that accessibility to quality education is definitely given to the children of that particular State.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, a nation is built in its schools and colleges, not by the acrimony of Members in Parliament. Therefore, we should attract the best talent in the field of education. In fact, even today, we are not able to get the best talent in teaching. In addition to that, there is a lack of encouragement for research, especially, continuous research for teachers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question?

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : Did you learn your acrimony in schools and colleges?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, Mr. Yechury.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Leave it, please. Don't take it that seriously.

Sir, my question is this. The Government has to pay more attention to attracting the best talent in the teaching community. Today, the best talent is going elsewhere. But we need the best talent in the teaching community. Also, today, encouragement given to research is insufficient and inadequate. I would like to know what the Government proposes to do to attract the best talent in the teaching profession and what it proposes to do to encourage research by teachers.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, it is a known fact that, as of now, across the country, there is a shortage in the teaching faculty to the extent of anywhere between 35 to 40 per cent. It has been our endeavour to ensure that we attract the best brains into the profession of teaching. I am sure my hon. colleagues are aware of the fact that, after the announcement of the Sixty Pay Commission, compensations to the teaching

faculty have increased greatly. This, we feel, would actually bring in a lot more good brains and talent who would be interested in teaching itself.

Sir, as far as research is concerned, we are seized of the fact that we need to step up our allocation for research. But let me emphasise here, that, around anywhere between 0.8 per cent of the GDP, is the contribution towards research. But out of 0.8 per cent, 80 per cent is public funding. So, there is a lot more that needs to come from the private sector itself.

However, Sir, India's contribution to the world share of scientific production has definitely increased from 2.1 per cent in 1999 to around 2.3 per cent in 2004. The contribution of Indian research investments made in the world has growth from 1.66 per cent to around 2.2 per cent between 2002 and 2007. So, we are definitely increasing our contributions towards research and I don't think it is very grim from what we see.

हाइब्रिड बी.टी. कॉटन बीजों से कम उत्पादन होना

*242. श्री राम जेठमलानी : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विदेशी कंपनियों से संबद्ध स्वदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा बेचे गए हाइब्रिड बी.टी. कॉटन बीजों से देश के अनेक भागों में उक्त कंपनियों की अपेक्षाओं के अनुरूप उत्पादन नहीं हो पाया है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी तथ्य क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में 'बेयर क्राप साईंस' की भारतीय इकाई को दंडित भी किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और उक्त बीजों के प्रयोक्ताओं को इससे कितना नुकसान हुआ है?

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

विवरण

(क) और (ख) राज्य सरकार द्वारा दी गई रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, महाराष्ट्र के धुले जिले तथा मध्य प्रदेश के खारगौन जिले में बेयर बायो साईंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा उत्पादन तथा विपणन किए गए संकर "सरपास 1037" बीजी II में पैदावार क्षति के संबंध में किसानों ने शिकायत की है।

(ग) और (घ) महाराष्ट्र में जांच पड़ताल के बाद यह पाया गया था कि किसानों को 44,77,672 रु. के बराबर नुकसान झेलना पड़ा है तथा सक्षम प्राधिकारी द्वारा बेयर बायो साईंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड को प्रभावित किसानों को क्षतिपूर्ति के रूप में इतनी ही राशि के भुगतान के निर्देश दिए गए। कंपनी के द्वारा मामले को चुनौती दी गई तथा अब यह मामला मुंबई उच्च न्यायालय में विचाराधीन है।

मध्य प्रदेश के मामले में किसानों ने खारगौन के जिला उपभोक्ता फोरम में 520 मामले दर्ज कराए थे तथा फोरम द्वारा 15,500 रु. प्रति पैकेट बीटी कपास बीच के राहत आदेश जारी कर किसानों के पक्ष में 331 मामलो का निपटान किया जा चुका है। बेयर बायो साईंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने आदेश के खिलाफ राज्य उपभोक्ता फोरम में अपील की है।

Low production by hybrid Bt. cotton seeds

†*242. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hybrid Bt. cotton seeds sold by the indigenous companies, associated with foreign entities, have not been able to produce as per the companies' expectations in many parts of the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether Indian unit of Bayer Crop Science has been punished in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the loss borne by the users of said seeds?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) As reported by State Government, farmers have complained in Dhule district of Maharashtra and Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh regarding yield losses in hybrid “Surpass 1037” BG II produced and marketed by Bayer Bio Science Private Limited.

(c) and (d) After investigation in Maharashtra, it was found that farmers suffered losses estimated to the tune of Rs. 44,77,672/- and the competent authority directed Bayer Bio Science Private Limited to pay the compensation of like amount to the affected farmers. The matter has been challenged by the company and is now subjudice before Mumbai High Court.

In case of Madhya Pradesh, farmers had filed 520 cases in District Consumer Forum, Khargone and 331 cases have been settled by the Forum in favour of the farmers by ordering a relief of Rs. 15,500/- per packet of Bt. cotton seed. Bayer Bio Science Private Limited has gone in appeal against the order in the State Consumer Forum.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question 242. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : I beg your indulgence, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. This is not an open discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. This is not an open discussion.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : Sir, I know I am doing something improper. I seek your indulgence for doing something improper because today elections are taking place to our House in the State of Jharkhand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not the subject on the agenda. This is Question Hour.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : No, no. There is a ‘Breaking News’ coming about large-scale horse-trading there, Sir. We just want to express our concern. Our colleagues who come to this House should not come tainted with such allegations and this concern should be expressed by the House.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : दो करोड़ रुपया पकड़ा गया कल ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह अपमान है सदन का ...*(व्यवधान)*... दो करोड़ रुपया कैंडिडेट के पास पकड़ा गया ...*(व्यवधान)*... इन्कम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट ने पकड़ा ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down now. Question 242.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister does not give any indication of the very serious situation that has arisen.

First of all, Sir, there has been widespread insolvency. The loss estimated is about Rs. 20,000 crores. Farmers are committing suicide as a result of this.

I want to ask, Sir, whether there is any mechanism with the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with our meteorological units to warn the farmers about the future weather conditions so that they should avoid these prolific losses that have taken place as a result of bad investment. Have you any system by which you consult the meteorological stations and inform our farmers as to what the state of rainfall is going to be.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, there is a regular practice to provide information about the weather conditions in the regional languages practically in all the States so that farmers can understand as to what will be the overall situation in the next 24 to 48 hours. A lot of farmers are regularly paying attention to this particular announcement through All-India Radio and television, both.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Has the Ministry any larger scheme for trying to see that this kind of a crop is shifted to regions which have a bountiful rainfall rather than these areas where the rainfall is probably known to be very, very scarce?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : There are two cases. First is about Maharashtra and the second is about Madhya Pradesh. The name of the district where this type of problem was seen, and, certain farmers have been affected, is Dhule. It is not a District, where there is sufficient rain, and, the average rain in that particular region is limited. The name of the Tehsil is Shirpur, and, in Shirpur, generally, the rainfall is between 15 to 20 inches, not beyond that. In that particular period, there was excessive rain, and, that is why, the crop was affected. That type of information we have got.

Secondly, in Madhya Pradesh, Khargone is also not a District where people see heavy rain regularly. In that particular period, there was a heavy rain and the crop was affected. But if we see the total area under the Bt. cotton in this entire Dhule, Khargone and nearby District, the crop was not affected. It was affected in the limited area.

PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think, it is not a matter limited to a particular company mentioned in the question, it is fairly widespread. Small farmers, with inadequate capacities for taking risks, are going in for costly seeds. Sir, a Committee, which I chaired, on Agricultural Biotechnology, recommended to the Minister in the year 2004 that all companies should give an insurance policy along with the seed so that we do not have to go to the court again and again. I would like to request the hon. Minister to inform us whether any steps are being taken to find a structural solution to this problem in the form of companies being required to provide insurance policies.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, in fact, that suggestion is not accepted. It is not practical. Sir, it was told to all the companies that they have to give details about the methodology, which farmers have to adopt, and, secondly, the States have made certain provisions for compensation. For example, take the case of Maharashtra, where the Investigation Committee set up by the Government, has come to a conclusion, and, ultimately, they have passed orders that such and such compensation has to be paid to the affected

farmers. It is alright that the particular company has gone in appeal to the High Court and the matter is *sub judice* but the Government has taken a decision, and, the Government has tried to protect the farmers' interests.

Similarly, Sir, there is a provision in the State of Madhya Pradesh also, the State Government has taken appropriate action through an agency. There also, a decision was taken by that agency that a particular amount should be paid to the affected farmers. So, our suggestion to all these nine States where this crop is grown is that they should make a provision that if something goes wrong, and, the farmers suffer, the company has to pay compensation.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, कपास के किसानों को जो नुकसान और हानि हो रही है, उसके संदर्भ में यह प्रश्न उठाया गया है। यह नुकसान न केवल कंपनियों के द्वारा खराब बीज दिए जाने के कारण और मौसम के अचानक बदलने के कारण हो रहा है, बल्कि इसका एक बहुत बड़ा कारण और भी है। कृषि संबंधी जो हमारी संयुक्त संसदीय समिति है, मैं उसका सदस्य हूँ, हाल ही में यह समिति महाराष्ट्र के कुछ जिलों का दौरा करने गई। वहां नागपुर, यवतमाल, अकोला और अमरावती के किसानों से हमारी मुलाकात हुई, जहां बड़ी मात्रा में किसान बीटी कॉटन पैदा करते हैं। श्रीमन्, जो हमें जानकारी मिली, मैं उसको एक मिनट में बता कर अपना प्रश्न पूछ लूंगा। जानकारी यह है कि सारे किसानों का कहना था कि जब हम बीटी कॉटन नहीं उगाते थे, तब हमें बाजार में कपास की कीमत प्रति गांठ, कॉटन की गांठ बाद में बनाई जाती है, करीब-करीब सात हजार रुपए मिल जाती थी, लेकिन अब बीटी कॉटन उगाने के बाद, जब कि खर्च कम नहीं हुए हैं, बल्कि खर्च बढ़ गए हैं, बीटी कॉटन का बीज महंगा हो गया है, जिसको वे बचा नहीं सकते हैं, इसलिए हर बार उनको बीज खरीदना पड़ता है, इन सबके बावजूद भी बीटी कॉटन की फसल की प्रति गांठ की कीमत 7 हजार रुपए से घट कर 3000, 3100 या 3200 रुपए हो गई है। किसानों को होने वाले इस नुकसान के कारण उनके कर्जों की समस्या फिर बड़े रूप में खड़ी होने वाली है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब कपास के उत्पादन की कीमत बढ़ी है, तब कपास की जो फसल है, उसकी वाजिब और सही कीमत किसानों को मिल सके, इसके लिए क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं? क्या सरकारी खरीद के माध्यम से उनको वाजिब कीमत, कम से कम सात हजार रुपए प्रति गांठ देने का कोई प्रयास किया जाएगा?

श्री शरद पवार : सर, यह कीमत स्पेशल कमेटी में तय होती है। Agriculture commodities की कीमत तय करने के लिए जो स्पेशल कमेटी है, वह इसके डिप्टेल में जाकर, राज्य सरकार की सलाह लेकर, यूनिवर्सिटी की सलाह लेकर कोई एक recommendation पर पहुंचती है और वह जो कीमत सजेस्ट करती है, वह गांठ के हिसाब से नहीं होती है, बल्कि क्विंटल के हिसाब से होती है। क्विंटल के हिसाब से कीमत सजेस्ट होने के बाद भारत सरकार इसको स्वीकार करती है या नहीं करती है। स्वीकार करने के बाद, आज की नीति यह है कि अगर कीमत तीन हजार रुपए प्रति क्विंटल तय हो गई और बाजार में इसकी कीमत तीन हजार रुपए से ऊपर जा रही है, तो सरकार इसमें कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं करती है। मार्केट इसको तय करती है कि ऊपर कीमत कहां तक जानी चाहिए। जैसे, पिछले साल इसकी कीमत 6 हजार, 7 हजार, 8 हजार रुपए तक भी गई थी, तब सरकार को खरीदने की कोई जरूरत नहीं आई थी और प्राइवेट सैक्टर्स ने ही उसको खरीदा। अगर मार्केट में इसकी कीमत मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस, यानी तीन हजार रुपए प्रति क्विंटल से नीचे जाती है, तब Cotton Corporation of India को हम सूचना देते हैं कि आप मार्केट में उतरें और खरीद शुरू करें। तब Cotton Corporation of India मार्केट में उतर कर वहां कपास खरीदने का काम करती है ताकि किसानों को नुकसान न हो।

आज जो कीमत दी गई है, उस कीमत और मार्केट की कीमत में आज भी अंतर है। कुछ जगहों से, जहां कोई logistic समस्या है, शिकायतें आती हैं। ऐसी बात नहीं है कि बिल्कुल शिकायत नहीं आती है, मगर by

and large CACP ने कीमत सजेस्ट की और भरत सरकार ने जो कीमत स्वीकार की है, चूंकि उसके ऊपर कुछ low position मार्केट है, इसलिए Cotton Corporation of India के ज्यादा खरीदने की परिस्थिति अभी नहीं आई है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि बीटी कॉटन के लिए किसी ने compulsion नहीं किया है। Ultimately, the farmer decides which seed he is supposed to buy. हमारे production के जो प्रोग्राम्स होते हैं, उनमें हम किसी से यह कभी नहीं कहते हैं कि आप यह बीज खरीदिए या इस कंपनी का बीज खरीदिए, मगर हम यह भी नजरअंदाज़ नहीं कर सकते हैं कि वर्ष 2002-03 में देश में 29 हजार हेक्टेयर में बीटी कॉटन की खेती हुई थी।

वर्ष 2011-12 में 111 लाख हेक्टेयर में बीटी-कॉटन की खेती की गयी और अब इस देश का 92 परसेंट कपास बीटी-कॉटन है। यह decision किसान लेता है कि उसमें उसका फायदा होगा या नुकसान होगा। यह किसान सोचता है और इस तरह से वह यहाँ तक पहुँचा है। वर्ष 2002-03 में इसका जो total production था, उसमें भी इस variety को लेने के बाद बहुत वृद्धि हुई है। इसके साथ-साथ, इस बारे में शिकायतें भी आती हैं। कभी-कभी जब seed के बारे में शिकायतें आती हैं, तो वहाँ सरकार की जिम्मेदारी होती है और हम Agriculture Department and State Governments की मदद लेकर वहाँ जाँच करते हैं और जहाँ compensation देने की परिस्थिति पैदा होती है, तो वहाँ भी हम किसानों के interests को safeguard करने पर ध्यान देते हैं।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : नहीं, नहीं। आपका सवाल हो गया। No supplementaries on supplementaries ...(व्यवधान)... नहीं, नहीं प्लीज़। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर, मैंने जो मूल प्रश्न किया था, उसका जवाब नहीं आया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आपको बहुत detailed जवाब मिला है।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर, मेरा मूल प्रश्न यह था कि किसानों को वाजिब कीमत उपलब्ध हो सके, क्या सरकार इसके लिए कोई कार्रवाई कर रही है या वह कोई नीति अथवा कोई योजना बना रही है? सर, उसका जवाब तो आया ही नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : मंत्री जी ने आपको mechanism के बारे में जवाब दिया है।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : जहाँ तक इसका क्षेत्र बढ़ने की बात है, तो वह इस कारण है कि आज किसान बीटी-कॉटन बोने के लिए मजबूर हैं, क्योंकि देसी seed खत्म हो चुका है, अब वे क्या करें? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप प्लीज़ बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : वे बीटी-कॉटन उगाने के लिए मजबूर हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the next supplementary be asked. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIM. VENKAI AH NAIDU : Sir, is there any method or system with the Research Department of the Agriculture Ministry to decide about the fertility or productivity of the various cotton seeds and render proper advice to the farmers? The Minister has also agreed that frequent complaints are coming up about fertility and loss of yield. That being

the case, has the Government or the CSIR or any other organisation taken up this responsibility of deciding about the fertility or yield capacity of the seed and then render proper advice to the farmers because most of the farmers are not that much educated?

Secondly, whenever farmers go to the consumer courts, the company goes to higher courts. But, the farmers cannot go to higher courts. Will the Government give them a helping hand to take up appeals and fight cases in higher courts?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, as per the Seed Act and some other Act, there is a provision and there is a machinery under which Seed Inspectors are appointed by the various State Governments whose job is to assess the seed. There are about 40-41 companies which are producing these types of cotton seeds in the entire India. So, the Seed Inspectors are there. Firstly, it has to be certified; it has to be cleared by the certification agency. After getting clearance from the certification agency, it comes in the market. Still the Seed Inspector goes to the market, tries to get a random sample and tries to assess that. If something goes wrong there, we immediately take action. So, there is a machinery. Ultimately, what I was trying to tell is, if something goes wrong totally, one has to see the production. In 2004-05, the total number of bales which were produced in this country was 165 lakh bales and in 2011-12, from 164 lakh bales, we have gone to 340 lakh bales. So, we have reached up to here. This is a clear-cut indication that there is a high production, the farmer is getting better yield and that is the reason why, he is going there. Now, a question is raised: Are there any other varieties available? In fact, recently, I have taken a meeting of the experts in cotton and given direction to them that they should concentrate to provide alternatives available in the country. There are some good indigenous varieties which are resistant to certain diseases also. We have to see how we will be able to enhance the production and productivity. So, we have to see that. Suppose, tomorrow, something goes wrong in Bt cotton seed, what is available in the country?

All the cotton growers have to face a serious situation. In such a situation there has to be alternative route. There has to be alternative seed. That is why a clear mandate has been to all research organizations that they should work in that direction. We have seen some promising seeds.

Construction of mobile towers in Goa

*243. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile towers constructed by BSNL in the State of Goa, till date;
- (b) the number of towers, if any, whose operations/functioning have been discontinued;

- (c) the number of towers under construction;
- (d) the details of towers BSNL proposes to construct; and
- (e) the impediments, if any, experienced by BSNL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is having 205 number of 2G and 149 number of 3G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs), as on 29.02.2012, operational in the State of Goa.

(b) and (e) The number of BTSs whose operations/functioning have been discontinued by BSNL is nil. However, 30 nos. of BTS towers could not be constructed as the No Objection Certificate was not received from the concerned Village Panchayat mainly due to public opinion about health hazards from mobile radiation.

(c) Nil.

(d) BSNL augments its Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) based mobile network on techno-commercial considerations.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : This appears to be Goa specific question but national environmental...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, it is a Goa specific question.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : It appears to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, it is not appearing.

In reality it is a Goa specific question.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : National environmental issues are also involved. Today, mobile has become our doctor, our computer, our bank, our post office, our railway office and our airport. To that extent, it is going on. But environmental reports with respect to towers which are raised everywhere in Goa are objected to. They say it causes cancer. Birds and animals are affected. It is harmful to the pregnant women and children. Even the DNA of the human being is affected by the towers. What is the real situation? If, today mobiles are not there, if they get reduced, it will practically paralyze communication. So, what is the real situation with regard to environmental hazards?

SHRI MILIND DEORA : Sir, the issue here is specific to Goa. But it is somewhat of a national issue. The thing is that in India today with 75 per cent of tele-density figures, 72 per cent of that is wireless which is mobile telephony and about 3 per cent of that is wire

line. So, the country has chosen wireless technology as the preferred choice of communication. But in terms of radiation, I would like to inform the House and the Member in particular that the WHO itself has, as recently as 2006-2010, conducted many studies. In 2010 the WHO has stated that a large number of studies have been conducted over the last two decades to assess whether mobile phone radiation from towers pose a potential risk. To date no adverse health effects have been established. So, the point I am making is the jury is out in terms of the ill effects of this. But there is one global independent body which is an independent body, called ICNIRP, the full form of the acronym is, International Convention for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, that sets the standards for how much radiation is permissible, what is the permissible limits from BTSs. I would like to inform the House about a chronology of events that have taken place in India. As recently as 2008, the Government was not adhering to any guidelines relating to the radiation from BTSs. In 2008, when we saw this wireless boom in the country, the Indian Government, the DoT has adopted ICNIRP standards for BTSs mobile towers. In 2010 an enforcement cell was set up which goes out and monitors the radiation coming from the towers to build capacity and to go out and enforce these. It is only recently that we formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee which had members from the DoT, Health Ministry, ICMR, Environment and Forests, Biotechnology, Telecom Engineering Centre and Wireless and Planning Centre to look at this and at holistic level. Then the Committee suggested to the Government that we move away from ICNIRP; and increase or reduce the limits by one tenth. So, today ICNIRP is effectively adopted by 70 per cent of the world in terms of permissible limits for radiation from towers. We moved to a regime which is 10 times more stringent than ICNIRP and that is followed by about 10-20 per cent of the world. The Government has taken many steps to prevent any effect from radiation from mobile towers and also to build a capacity. Our Ministry's goal is to increase the tele-density. But in the absence of conclusive research, we prefer to observe caution.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : In simplistic terms how are you going to create awareness amongst those people who are, time and again, object to any tower coming, at least, in my State? Will you come to Goa with your team and explain to the people what the position is?

SHRI MILIND DEORA : As Recently as October last year, I was in Goa. I, along with the BSNL staff, had met the hon. Member. Goa is a peculiar State where there is a lot of resistance from local bodies. In fact, the question pertains to towers not being allowed and being given NoCs by panchayats in Goa. I have 17 cases of BSNL alone in different parts of Goa where local bodies have opposed this. I think, the issue is that there is a public perception problem with regard to radiation. I would like to make it clear to the entire House and to the country that setting standards for radiation limits from towers and enforcing that is only the domain of DoT and the TERM Cell. There is no reason for State Governments or municipalities or panchayats to take this into their own hands.

In terms of radiation we are following the best practices around the world. We have

the best capacity to enforce that. Where we would like the State Governments, the municipalities and the panchayats to get involved is, perhaps, when they look at the structural safety of the buildings or when they look at setback areas. So, to spread awareness we, in DoT, are calling a meeting some time soon, where we will have the State Governments represented, to try and give them some uniformity in terms of guidelines.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as Goa is concerned, the Minister has confirmed that there is a peculiar environment and that there is resistance. There are two reasons, visible and invisible. The invisible reason is that due to these towers the sparrows and honeybees are vanished. The honeybees miss the route and the sparrows miss the route. They are totally on the verge of extinction. So, what are you going to do about it? This technology is going to create ecological imbalance which is not visible to human beings.

The second part of my question is that these tower-owners are using subsidised diesel to run their towers. The subsidised diesel is meant for farmers, not for these tower-owners or mobile operators. So, what are you going to do about this?

SHRI MILIND DEORA : Sir, it is a good question. As I have said, when we moved from ICNIRP standards to new standards, we had this inter-Ministerial Group where we had the members from the Ministry of Environment and Forests also present. So, we looked at this from an ecological issue and from a communication objective, and that is how we have decided to move to a much more stringent standard.

As far as this issue of subsidised diesel is concerned, it is a fact that close to 8,500 litres of diesel are being used per tower per year in the country. It is a serious issue for our country. Therefore, in the new Telecom Policy that we hope to finalise very soon we have tried to move towards a green telecom and we are looking at other ways like using solar panels or, may be, allowing carbon credit so that the companies can offset their carbon credits. We are also very concerned about the subsidised diesel being used by private companies or public sector companies for commercial purposes.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : What about the birds? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Vasanthi Stanley.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether we have formulated any national environmental standard for telecommunications regarding erection of telephone towers and other things.

SHRI MILIND DEORA : Sir, as I have already suggested, that would be done based on the report which was presented. In the inter-Ministerial Group we had the Ministry of Environment and Forests also represented.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Sir, my question is a follow-up to what Shri S.S. Ahluwalia has just asked. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, while he is talking about the kind of a very stern standards of radiation, the question of electronic emissions is the main problem with regard to avian species, that is, birds like sparrows and others. There are reports that in the State of Jharkhand hundreds and thousands of crows have fallen from these towers and died. As it is, we have lost the vultures. Now, if the crow population is further threatened as a result of this, ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA : ... this serious problem of scavenging birds is going to be a major issue. Further, I don't think that there has been any serious study on the environmental side-effects of this. You are talking about radiation effects and the health hazards for human bodies.

But what about the effect on birds, bees and other creatures, which is going to have a very, very serious impact on our ecological balance? On the question of diesel, for instance, the Government does not seem to have at all promoted solar panels which can substitute diesel in many of these towers, especially in the cities where so many diesel gensets are causing a serious pollution problem.

SHRI MILIND DEORA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact, I would like to tell the hon. Member that as recently as last Tuesday, the Ministry convened a roundtable where we had members of various stake holders present; we had industry present; we had members of the scientific community; we, in fact, had the Head of ICNIRP, which, as I said, is the body that 70 per cent of the world is adhering to, also present. We discussed various aspects; definitely the human risk aspect, the ecological aspect, the effect on birds and other species. I can say that, as of now, internationally also there is no conclusive research to suggest that any species is being harmed by this. But all that we can do is, we can adhere to the best of standards. We have even moved away for ICNIRP, which is the global norm, to a more stringent standard. But we are monitoring this very closely. I can say that personally I am very passionate about this because I come from Mumbai. In Mumbai also there is a public opinion like it is there in Goa about the ill-effects of mobile towers on humans, on other species. We are monitoring this very closely and as and when there is any research that moves towards some kind of conclusivity, we will adopt that and move to those standards.

Price control of drugs

*244. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is reviewing the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, '95), to control the prices of drugs;

(b) if so, by when it would be applied as the prices of drugs are being increased to many times;

(c) whether it is a fact that high prices of drugs prevent the poor patients from combating ailments; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to ensure availability of medicines to the poor at reasonable prices?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) 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 & Family Welfare through National List of Essential Medicines-2011. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) was 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.

(c) As per the Wholesale Price Indices released by the Economic Adviser's office of the Ministry of Industry, Government of India, following position emerges:

Wholesale Price Index (Base year 2004-05)

Year	All Commodities	% age increase	Drugs & Medicines	% age increase
2007-2008	116.63	4.74	108.11	5.41
2008-2009	126.02	8.05	111.41	3.05
2009-2010	130.80	3.80	112.72	1.17
2010-2011	143.32	9.56	115.40	2.38
2011-2012 (Jan, 2011-Jan, 2012)	157.70	6.55	121.30	3.94

Source: Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

It may be observed that the increase in prices of drugs and medicines has been generally lower than that for All Commodities during the years 2007-08 to 2011-2012 (January).

(d) In view of the reply to (c) above, does not arise. However, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' with the objective of making available medicines at affordable prices of all. Under the campaign less priced quality unbranded generic medicines are made available through Jan Aushadhi Stores. Till date 117 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in different States/UTs in the country.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है, वह संतोषजनक नहीं है। हम सब लोग एहसास कर रहे हैं कि दवाओं की कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई है, जिसकी वजह से आम गरीब तबके के लोग बहुत सी दवाओं को नहीं ले पाते हैं। सरकारी स्तर पर भी पर्याप्त उपाय नहीं किए गए हैं, जिससे मैं समझता हूँ कि बहुत से लोग दवा के अभाव में अपना जीवन त्याग देते हैं।

महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने आम वस्तुओं की तुलना में दवा की कीमतों में कम वृद्धि हुई है, इसकी एक तालिका दी है। दवा एक ऐसी चीज़ है, जिसके बगैर आदमी एक मिनट भी नहीं रह सकता और जीवन त्याग देता है, हमारे यहां गरीबों की संख्या धीरे-धीरे बढ़ रही है और मैं मंत्री जी से उम्मीद कर रहा था कि वे सकारात्मक जवाब देंगे, लेकिन शायद वे नहीं दे पाए। मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि जबसे दवाओं का नियंत्रण सरकार के स्तर से हटा है, तब से लगातार दवाओं के मूल्य में वृद्धि हो रही है। आप देखिए कि 1970 से लेकर...

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : सर, मैं मूल प्रश्न पर आ रहा हूँ। 1970 में यह सरकार के पूरे नियंत्रण में था। उसके बाद मुझे जो जानकारी है, अब धीरे-धीरे घटते-घटते मात्र 78 परसेंट दवाएं ही सरकार के नियंत्रण में हैं, जबकि बाहर कई ऐसे देश हैं जहां पूरे तौर पर 90 परसेंट, 95 परसेंट मूल्य नियंत्रण सरकार का है। इससे वहां के लोगों को राहत है और सरकार वहां गरीबों के प्रति अपनी सकारात्मक भूमिका निभा रही है।

महोदय, मैंने पूछा था कि गरीबों के लिए दवाएं उपलब्ध हों, इसके लिए आपने क्या व्यवस्था की है, तो इन्होंने जवाब दिया है कि पूरे देश में 117 औषधि केंद्र हमने खोल रखे हैं। अब 1 अरब 20 करोड़ की आबादी में 117 औषधि केंद्र गरीबों के लिए कितने सार्थक होंगे, यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ? आज दवाओं की कालाबाजारी भी हो रही है और जो गरीब हैं, वे नकली दवाओं का सेवन कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : आपने सवाल पूछ लिया है, अब जवाब सुन लीजिए।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि गरीबों के लिए विभिन्न राज्यों में जो दवा के केन्द्र आपने खोले हैं, क्या निकट भविष्य में आप उनकी संख्या को बढ़ाएंगे? इसके अलावा आप गरीबों को किस रूप से नकली दवाओं से बचाने का काम करेंगे, कृपया यह बताने का कष्ट करें?

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने दो-तीन मुद्दे उठाए हैं। जहां तक प्राइस का सवाल है, जो essential medicines हैं, उनमें 74 बल्क ड्रग्स को रखा गया है। जो 74 मेडिसिन्स प्राइस कंट्रोल में हैं, उसका जो फॉर्मूलेशन है, उसे भी एनपीपीए तय करती है कि उनका एमआरपी क्या होगा। इन्हें शेड्यूल्ड ड्रग्स कहते हैं। जो नॉन-शेड्यूल्ड ड्रग्स हैं, उनके मार्केट प्राइस में अगर एक साल में 10 परसेंट से ज्यादा वृद्धि हो रही है, तो उसकी मॉनिटरिंग भी एनपीपीए करती है। महोदय, जो आंकड़े मैंने दिए हैं, अगर उन्हें आप देखें तो पाएंगे कि जो होल सेल प्राइस इन्डेक्स है, इसमें कुछ मेडिसिन्स का प्राइस इन्क्रीज हुआ है और कुछ मेडिसिन्स का प्राइस डिक्लीज भी हुआ है। कुछ बल्क ड्रग्स के प्राइसेज इंटरनेशनली भी बढ़े हैं और यहां पर भी बढ़ रहे हैं, एक परसेंट से तीन परसेंट तक प्राइस बढ़े हैं, बहुत सारी मेडिसिन्स के प्राइस घटे भी हैं। Essential medicines को प्राइस कंट्रोल के ऐम्बिट में लाने के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जब डायरेक्शंस दीं, उसके बाद डिपार्टमेंट ने अपनी एक पॉलिसी अनाउंस की। उसके तहत स्टेक होल्डर्स की तरफ से रिकमेंडेशंस भी आयीं। उसके बाद हम लोगों ने ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स की कमेटी बनायी जिसको स्वयं एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर चयर कर रहे हैं। बहुत जल्दी जो नयी पॉलिसी बनेगी, मुझे लगता है कि जो essential medicines की लिस्ट NLEM में हेल्थ मिनिस्टर ने दी है, जिसमें 348 ड्रग्स हैं, उनमें बहुत सारी जो जरूरी मेडिसिन्स हैं, वे प्राइस कंट्रोल में आ जाएंगी। इसके अतिरिक्त जन औषधि के संबंध में जो सवाल माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है, उसके बारे में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि 117 जन औषधि विक्री केन्द्र खोले गए हैं। जन औषधि एक generic मेडिसिन है। इसके केम्पेन के लिए जब तक डॉक्टर्स कोऑपरेट नहीं करेंगे, तब तक generic drugs को पापुलराइज करना मुश्किल है। इसलिए यह कोशिश है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा जन औषधि केन्द्र खोले जाएं। हमने प्लानिंग कमीशन से अप्रूवल लिया है देश के

हर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में generic drugs का कम से कम एक केन्द्र खुल जाए, ताकि लोगों को इसकी efficacy पता चले। Generic drugs और ब्रांडेड generic drugs में कोई फर्क नहीं है। जैसे बिस्लेरी की बोतल से अगर हम बिस्लेरी का कवर निकाल दें तो भी अंदर का पानी सेम ही रहता है। लोगों के ध्यान में यह बात नहीं आती है और डॉक्टरों जो prescription दे रहे हैं, उसी को लोग लेते हैं। यह अवेरयनेस लोगों में लाना जरूरी है। आपके माध्यम से मैं सदन को निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि generic drugs के बारे में लोगों को अधिक से अधिक पता चले, ताकि इसका फायदा लोगों को मिले।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि प्रारूप एनपीपीपी-2011 पर सभी संबंधित पक्षों से प्राप्त हुए विचारों/इनपुट्स की जांच की जा रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनपुट्स की जांच कब तक की जाएगी और generic drugs के बारे में लोगों को समझ में आ जाए, उसके लिए आप क्या कारगर कदम उठाएंगे, ताकि जो केन्द्र आप खोलें, उनका लाभ आम लोगों को मिल सके?

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : सभापति महोदय, जैसा मैंने बताया कि एनएलईएम की 348 ड्रग्स की लिस्ट है। इसकी मेडिसिन्स की जो मार्किट है, जो मेडिसिन्स बाजार में हैं, अगर केबिनेट और ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स उस पॉलिसी को अप्रूव करें, तो मुझे लगता है कि उनमें से कम से कम 60 परसेंट मेडिसिन्स एनपीपीपी के कंट्रोल में जा जाएंगी और उनका प्राइस कंट्रोल रहेगा, एमआरपी पर कंट्रोल रहेगा। It is up to the Cabinet and the Group of Ministers to decide on that, and we will be taking a view on that very soon. आपका जो दूसरा प्रश्न जन औषधि स्टोर्स खोलने के संबंध में है, मेरा यह निवेदन है कि अगर आप लोग कोशिश करें कि हर कॉस्टीट्युएन्सी में अस्पताल में इन स्टोर्स को खोलने के लिए स्थान मिल जाए तो हम वहां पर जरूर जन औषधि केन्द्र खोलेंगे।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, as I could understand it from the Minister's reply and whatever figures he has given therein, the Wholesale Price Index does not reflect the ground reality. I think the matter—to bring all the essential medicines under price-control—started getting examined during the UPA-I regime. In an era which believes in the philosophy of deregulation, you are delaying the process. It started in the UPA-I regime; a GoM was constituted to examine this and bring all the essential medicines under price-control. At that time, Ram Vilasji was the Minister. Now, three years have passed and still, everyday, people's blood is being sucked because, just by changing some component of the essential medicines, they increase the prices. So, first, let us know whether it is the priority of the Government to bring the list of essential medicines under price-control. You have listed the medicines. But you have not given the number. There is some list of 345 or something. At least, bring the essential list under the price control. Please do not waste time. And kindly give us a time-frame for that.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member that the new policy is under the consideration of the Government. The List of Essential Medicines was finalised by the Health Ministry and it was notified in 2011. I am sure that these medicines will be brought under price-control. The next GoM is meeting very soon and I hope we will be taking very proactive action so that the NLEM can be brought under price-control.

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सर, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। मैं जब मंत्री था, तो मैंने मंत्री की हैसियत से रिसर्च करवाई थी। सर, cetirizine एक एक टेबलेट है, इसका cost of production मुश्किल से 30 पैसे है और यह

मार्केट में 37 रुपये में बिकती है। 30 पैसे की चीज 37 रुपये में बिकती है! हम चाह कर भी इसकी थोड़ी बहुत कीमत कम नहीं करवा पाए। दोनों माननीय सदस्यों ने जो प्रश्न किया है, इसमें दो तरह की दवाइयां हैं, इनमें एक शैड्यूल्ड हैं और दूसरी नॉन-शैड्यूल्ड हैं। जो शैड्यूल्ड दवाइयां हैं, उनका दाम सरकार तय करती है और जो नॉन-शैड्यूल्ड दवाइयां हैं, उनका दाम कम्पनियां तय करती हैं। शैड्यूल्ड दवाइयों के संबंध में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का निश्चित आदेश था, आज से नहीं काफी दिन पहले से, **that all essential drugs and medicines should be kept under the schedule.** उसके बाद श्री शरद पवार जी की अध्यक्षता में GoM बनी और मैं समझता हूँ कि इसको तीन-चार साल हो गए हैं। जो ड्रग्स इंडस्ट्री की लॉबी है, यह बहुत बड़ी लॉबी है और वह नहीं चाहती है कि दवाइयों को under control लाया जाए। वह हमेशा धमकी देती है...।

श्री सभापति : आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री रामविलास पासवान : इससे दवाई बंद हो जायेगी। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इसके लिए कोई टाइम फ्रेम निश्चित किया गया है? इस सरकार के तीन साल पूरे हो चुके हैं, यूपीए-1 का समय भी पूरा हो गया, क्या आप कोई टाइम फ्रेम देंगे कि एक महीने, दो महीने, तीन महीने के अंदर में GoM फैसला कर लेगी और सरकार उसके ऊपर निर्णय ले लेगी?

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : सर, यह सच है कि डिले हुआ है। इस डिले का मुख्य कारण था कि जो National List of Essential Medicine थी वह हमें अभी 2011 में प्राप्त हुई है। GoM की 4 तारीख को मीटिंग है। मुझे लगता है कि आपका जो कंसर्न है, इस पर जल्द से जल्द फैसला हो जाएगा। जो National List of Essential Medicine की है, अगर इसका प्राइस कंट्रोल हो जाए और एमआरपी तय हो जाए, तो इसका फायदा लोगों को होगा और उनको मेडिसिन ठीक प्रकार से मिलने लगेगी।

श्री सभापति : श्री विजय कुमार रूपाणी।

श्री विजय कुमार रूपाणी : सभापति महोदय, मैं एड्स के बारे में प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिन लोगों को एड्स का रोग है, उनके लिए सिर्फ दवाई ही जीने का एक सहारा है। अगर वे दवाई नहीं लेंगे, तो उनका resistance कम हो जाएगी और वे मर जाएंगे। वे लोग इस बारे में सभी सांसदों से भी मिलते हैं, उनकी दवाइयां बहुत costly हैं। तो मेरा यह कहना है कि उनको गवर्नमेंट की ओर से या तो दवाइयां कम दाम में मिलें या फ्री मिलें, क्योंकि विदेशों से भी एड्स के लिए काफी फंड आता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस बारे में क्या कर रही है और क्या करने वाली है?

श्री श्रीकांत जेना : सर, actually हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री ही इसका जवाब दे सकेगी क्योंकि, the availability of essential medicines on AIDS, cancer and other drugs is the domain of the Health Ministry. As far as the price front is concerned, recently, on one cancer drug, a decision has been taken by the Patents Authority. It is a good signal; any monopoly on the basis of patent should not be allowed because the price is so high. So, naturally, the Indian authority has taken a stand on this issue.

Deaths at unmanned level crossings

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

(a) whether a large number of people die every year on railway tracks while crossing unmanned level crossings or living on encroached railway land adjacent to railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the number of people who have been killed during the last three years;

(c) whether Railways are taking steps to man all the unmanned level crossings in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely time-frame by when the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The details of number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users during the last three years *i.e.* 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and the current year (from April, 2011 to 15th March, 2012) and the number of persons killed therein, is given below:

Year	No. of Incidents	No. of persons killed in these incidents
2008-09	62	129
2009-10	65	170
2010-11	48	130
2011-12 (upto 15th March, 2012)	52	185

The data pertaining to death of persons living on piece of encroached railway land adjacent to the railway track while crossing railway tracks is not maintained.

(c) Railways have decided to progressively man vulnerable unmanned level crossings based on rail-road traffic volume, visibility conditions at unmanned level crossings, which cannot be eliminated by any other means. Railways has also decided to eliminate unmanned level crossings by (i) construction of Road 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 Road Under Bridge or Road Over Bridge (iii) by closing unmanned level crossings having NIL Train Vehicle Unit where roads are non-existent on either side. Aforesaid works shall be completed in due course of time/subject to financial resources and cooperation of State Government, particularly, consents of closure of level crossing and undertaking to maintain road and drainage in future.

(d) During 2011-12 (upto 1st March, 2012), 726 unmanned level crossings have been manned and 404 have been eliminated. During the next three years *i.e.*

2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, 4656 unmanned level crossings are planned for manning and 3349 level crossings are planned to be eliminated.

(e) Aforesaid works shall be completed in due course of time, subject to financial resources and cooperation of State Governments, particularly, consent of closure of level crossing and undertaking to maintain road and drainage in future.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The questioner of Question No. 245 is not present, let the answer be given.

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि 2008-09 से लेकर 2011-12 तक अनमैन्ड क्रॉसिंग्स पर 614 लोगों की मौत हो गई। क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि प्रत्येक मरने वाले आदमी के परिवार को कितना मुआवजा दिया गया? इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहूँगा कि आज वर्तमान में कितने ऐसे समपार हैं, जिन पर अभी तक आदमी नियुक्त नहीं हुए हैं और उनकी कुल कितनी संख्या है?

श्री भरतसिंह सोलंकी : सभापति महोदय, जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है कि अनमैन्ड रेलवे क्रॉसिंग्स पर casualty होती हैं, एक्सिडेंट्स होते हैं, तो मैं बताना चाहूँगा कि इस बारे में रेलवे की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं है कि उनको कोई मुआवजा दिया जाए। हालांकि कुछ जगहों पर मुआवजा दिया गया है, जैसे लखनऊ में एक एक्सिडेंट 1 नवम्बर, 2009 में हुआ था, राजकोट में 19 नवम्बर, 2009 को एक्सिडेंट हुआ, इज्जत नगर में 9 मार्च, 2010 को एक्सिडेंट हुआ, 8 अगस्त, 2010 को त्रिवेन्द्रम में हुआ, 9 अक्टूबर, 2010 को कटिहार में हुआ था। ऐसे कुछ हादसों में **Minister of Railways** ने एनाउंस किया था, जिसकी वजह से उनको *ex-gratia* की कुछ मदद मिली थी। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है कि कितने अनमैन्ड रेलवे क्रॉसिंग्स हैं, तो मैं माननीय सदस्य को जानकारी देना चाहूँगा कि 14,896 अनमैन्ड रेलवे क्रॉसिंग्स हैं।

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : सभापति महोदय, जैसा कि बताया गया है कि 614 लोग मारे गए हैं और मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं कि मुआवजा देने की जिम्मेदारी रेलवे की नहीं है। मुझे यह समझ में नहीं आता कि इतने लोगों की मृत्यु होने के बाद भी वे ऐसा क्यों कह रहे हैं?

श्री सभापति : आप जल्दी से जवाब दे दीजिए।

श्री भरतसिंह सोलंकी : सभापति महोदय, **under section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**, के अनुसार जब भी अनमैन्ड रेलवे क्रॉसिंग्स के पास कोई व्हीकल आता है, तो उस चालक को उस व्हीकल से उतर कर रेलवे क्रॉसिंग के पास जाकर अपने दाएं और बाएं देखना पड़ता है कि वहां से कोई ट्रेन पास हो रही है या नहीं, उसके बाद ही वह क्रॉस कर सकता है। इसलिए इसमें रेलवे की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं बनती है।

श्री किशोर कुमार मोहन्ती : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि बिलासपुर डिविज़न के बिलपहाड़ एरिया के नेशनल हाईवे के ऊपर चौकीदार होते हुए भी हर दिन, हर महीने कोई न कोई एक्सिडेंट होता रहता है, जिसमें जान और माल का काफी नुकसान होता है। क्या आप वहां शीघ्र ही ओवर ब्रिज बनाने का दायित्व लेंगे?

श्री भरतसिंह सोलंकी : सभापति महोदय, स्टेट या लोकल बॉडी ही ओवर ब्रिज बनाने के लिए **proposal** देती है, तो उसके बाद कॉस्ट शेयरिंग पर उसका निर्णय किया जाता है और उसके बाद **ROB, RUB** बनाया जाता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Inclusion of more districts of Odisha under National Horticulture Mission**

*246. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Odisha has requested the Ministry for inclusion of the remaining six districts under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and allocation of Rs. 120 crore for all the thirty districts of the State; and

(b) if so, whether he would consider enhancing the allocation accordingly and including the remaining six districts under NHM?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Odisha has requested for including all the 30 districts of the State under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and have submitted their Annual Action Plan for the year 2012-13 with an outlay of Rs. 120.15 crore.

Inclusion of districts under NHM under the guidelines is based on the potential for development of horticulture of the district to avoid thin distribution of available resources and poor deployment of manpower to provide extension support thereby defeating the objective of NHM to provide holistic growth of horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies in consonance with comparative advantage of each State/region and its diverse agro-climatic features. When NHM started in 2005-06, 16 districts were covered in Odisha. Later on, at the request of State Government, three districts were added in 2006-07 and five districts in 2007-08. However, subsequent requests to increase the number of districts were not accepted. For last two years, no additional districts have been taken under NHM except for Bundelkhand Package. Allocation to States are also limited by the overall Plan allocation for NHM. However, keeping in view comparatively better performances by Odisha, whereas there is an increase of about 12% for NHM budget at the Union level for 2012-13, the State Government has been advised to recast the Annual Action Plan 2012-13 for Rs. 80.00 crore, which is approximately 30% more than previous year's allocation.

Sub-urban Railway station status to Kishangarh

†*247. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kishangarh is about twenty kilometres away from Ajmer and lies at Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer route;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether keeping in view the importance of Kishangarh, Railways would accord it the status of sub-urban station of Ajmer Sharif; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY) : (a) No, Sir. Kishangarh is about 28 kilometres from Ajmer Station on Delhi-Ajmer-Jaipur route.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Railways notifies certain sections as 'suburban sections'. Individual stations are not notified as suburban. A station may however fall on a section declared as Suburban.

Dues payable by Private Telecom Operators

*248. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private telecom service providers are receiving any money from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF);

(b) if so, the quantum of money received by each service provider; and

(c) the dues payable by each of the private telecom operators to Government by way of licence fees, taxes, duties and other levies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Private telecom service providers are being given subsidy from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to provide telecom services in rural and remote areas. The amount disbursed to private service providers from USOF since its inception and upto 29.02.2012 is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The licence fee and spectrum usage charge dues outstanding from Private Service Providers who have received subsidy from USOF are given in Statement-II.

Statement I

Details of subsidy amount disbursed to Private Telecom Service providers from USOF up to 29-02-2012

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Service Provider	Subsidy disbursed from USOF (Rupees in Crore)
1	2	3
I.	BAL (Bharti Airtel Limited)	0.44
2.	DWL (Dishnet Wireless Limited)	4.55

1	2	3
3.	GTL (GTL Infrastructure Limited)	24.71
4.	HFCL (Himachal Futuristic Communication Limited)	0.16
5.	KEC (KEC International Limited)	23.42
6.	QTIL (Quippo Telecom Infrastructure Limited)	1.20
7.	RCIL (Reliance Communications Infrastructure Limited)	16.22
8.	RCL (Reliance Communications Limited)	0.11
9.	RIL (Reliance Infocomm Limited)	752.52
10.	RTL (Reliance Telecommunication Limited)	0.35
11.	SSTL (Sistema Shyam Teleservice Limited)	0.55
12.	TTSL (Tata Teleservices Limited)	723.43
13.	TERI (The Energy Resource of India)	0.43
14.	TTML {Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited}	315.62
15.	VECL (Vodafone Essar Cellular Limited)	4.31
16.	VESL (Vodafone Essar South Limited)	11.52
GRAND TOTAL		1879.54

Statement II

Dues payable by Private Service Providers towards Licence Fee and Spectrum Charges

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Service Provider	Licence Fee outstanding upto 3rd quarter of 2011-12 (Rupees in Crore)	Amount of outstanding spectrum charges upto FY 2007-08 (including interest thereof upto 20.02.2012) (Rupees in Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	BAL (Bharti Airtel Limited)	17.67	135.07
2.	DWL (Dishnet Wireless Limited)	18.91	1.64

1	2	3	4
3.	GTL (GTL Infrastructure Limited)	-	N/A
4.	HFCL (Himachal Futuristic Communication Limited)	-	8.99
5.	KEC (KEC International Limited)	-	N/A
6.	QTIL (Quippo Telecom Infrastructure Limited)	-	N/A
7.	RCIL (Reliance Communications Infrastructure Limited)	-	N/A
8.	RCL (Reliance Communications Limited)	51.12	181.02
9.	RIL (Reliance Infocomm Limited)	-	
10.	RTL (Reliance Telecommunication Limited)	0.50	1.28
11.	SSTL (Sistema Shyam Teleservice Limited)	-	3.77
12.	TTSL (Tata Teleservices Limited)	-	86.20
13.	TERI (The Energy Resource of India)	-	N/A
14.	TTML [Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited]	-	76.71
15.	VECL (Vodafone Essar Cellular Limited)	-	Nil
16.	VESL (Vodafone Essar South Limited)	-	Nil

Effect of rise in temperature on crop yield

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

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that crop yields will drop by 20 to 40 per cent due to the rise in temperature by 2025 in some parts of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to set right the situation in future in consultation with State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) There are a number of reports by several organizations and authors about the possible impacts of climate change in general, and rise in temperature in particular, on global agriculture. Publications such as those by Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (2007) and Universal Ecological Fund (2011) indicate such impacts on some crops in different regions of the world.

According to these reports, there will be 14% deficit in global wheat production, 11% in rice and 9% in maize by 2020. They also claim that there will be reduction of up to 50% in rainfed crops in some African countries during 2000-2020 period. Indian studies conducted under ICAR Network Project on Climate Change (NPCC), however, indicate that climate change may reduce yield of timely sown irrigated wheat by about 6% in 2020. When late and very late sown wheat is taken into consideration, the projected impact could reduce the yield by 18%, if no adaptation measures are followed. Similarly, this study projects 4-6% reduction in yield of rice and up to 18% in respect of irrigated *kharif maize*, and 2.5% in rainfed sorghum by the year 2020.

(c) As part of the National Action Plan for Climate Change, the Mission Document on National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) has been formulated jointly by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Department of Agricultural Research & Education, in active consultation of stakeholders including State Governments, and approved in principle by Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change. Earlier, a scheme 'National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)' with an outlay of Rs. 350 crores for the period 2010-12 was launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The components of the scheme include: (i) strategic research on natural resources, major food crops, livestock, marine and freshwater fisheries for adaptation and mitigation; (ii) demonstration of available climate resilient practices on farmers' field in 100 most vulnerable districts of the country; (iii) strengthen research infrastructure and capacity building for climate change research; and (iv) sponsored research.

National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level

*250. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that 22 States have utilized less than 65 per cent of funds in 2011-12 under the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Provisional expenditure figures as on 31st December, 2011 in respect of the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan indicate that expenditure in Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand ranges between 65% to 100%. However, expenditure under NPEGEL in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal is lower than 65% as on 31st December, 2011.

Shortage of Kendriya Vidyalayas

*251. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is acute shortage of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in the country against the remarkable increase in the number of students; and

(b) if so, how many Kendriya Vidyalayas are going to start in the near future, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) were started to cater to the educational needs of transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Paramilitary forces. New KVs are opened when there is a concentration of at least 500 employees of the Defence services/Government of India/Government Undertaking individually or jointly (250 in the case of Special Focus Districts) or when there is minimum potential enrolment of children of specified categories which may be 200 or an average of 30 per class, whichever is more. As on date around 11 lakh students are enrolled in 1084 KVs across the country. KVs are substantially meeting the needs of transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Paramilitary forces.

(b) Opening of new KVs will be subject to necessary approvals and availability of funds during the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Rajiv Gandhi Chairs in Universities

*252. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of 'Rajiv Gandhi Chairs' in Universities working well in all the centres and is expected to be extended to all Universities; and

(b) if so, whether the Professors working in the Rajiv Gandhi Chairs are entitled to seniority in the University according to their service as Professors?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it had decided to establish ten "Rajiv Gandhi Chairs" in ten selected Universities in the country, on ten selected themes. These ten universities included three Central Universities and seven State Universities. The details of grants released to each University are given in Statement (*See below*). UGC regularly reviews the functioning of these Chairs. UGC has reported that it has further decided to set up "Rajiv Gandhi Chairs" in ten more Universities in the country.

(b) Seniority of Professors is determined as per Statutes and Ordinances of the concerned universities.

Statement

Regarding Rajiv Gandhi chairs in Universities

Name of University	Themes	Grants released till 31.3.2011 (Rs. in lakh)
Allahabad University	1. Nuclear disarmament and Peace Studies 2. Secularism and Nation Building 3. Social Justice	60.00
Delhi University	1. Impact of Technology in society (Management of Innovation)	20.00
North Eastern Hill University	1. Tribal Development 2. Women's Empowerment 3. Eco Systems and Sustainable Development	40.00
Punjab University	1. Impact of Panchyati Raj Systems and local governance 2. Impact of Technology on society 3. Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Studies	20.00
Mumbai University	1. Impact of Panchyati Raj Systems and local governance 2. Impact of Technology and society 3. Secularism and Nation Building	40.00
Calcutta University	1. Eco Systems and Sustainable Development	20.00
Madras University	1. Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Studies 2. Impact of Panchyati Raj Systems and local governance 3. Women's Empowerment	20.00
Cochin University of Science and Technology	1. Eco Systems and Sustainable Development	62.68
Barkatullah University	1. Tribal Development 2. Impact of Technology on society	80.00
Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology	1. Livelihood and food security 2. Women's Empowerment 3. Eco Systems and Sustainable Development	80.00

Development plan on local trains in Mumbai

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

(a) whether the proposed development plan on local trains in Mumbai for safe travel of people is under consideration of Railways for the last four years;

(b) if so, whether it is aiming at substantially eliminating the existing problems of lakhs of daily passengers; and

(c) whether a single-point co-ordinated task force, comprising result-oriented empowered and dedicated railway officials for sorting out the constraints, has been set up for working out the modalities for approval and implementation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal as "Proposed Development Plan on Local Trains in Mumbai for safe travel of people" under consideration of Railways. However, there are many suburban traffic projects for Mumbai which are under different stages of execution and consideration of Railways. Due to the suburban projects implemented so far in Mumbai, 422 additional suburban services could be introduced. For 1048 such services, rake length has been increased from 9 car formation to 12 car formation.

(c) Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation, comprising of dedicated officers and staff both from Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and Government of Maharashtra, has been formed for execution and implementation of important suburban projects in Mumbai.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan

†*254. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Kendriya Vidyalayas and their location in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) whether Central Government proposes to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas in the State;

(c) if so, the names of the places and the number thereof;

(d) whether Central Government has reserved some seats in Kendriya Vidyalayas for admission of the wards of employees of the State Government;

(e) if so, the number of seats so reserved; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) if not, whether Government proposes to reserve some percentage of seats therein?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Presently there are 64 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in the State of Rajasthan. The details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Proposals for opening four new KVs have been received. Setting up of a new Kendriya Vidyalaya is subject to availability of funds and other resources.

(d) to (f) 05 seats in each section of class I and 10 seats in all other classes put together are reserved every year for the children of the State Government employees in all such schools where the State Government is the sponsoring agency.

Statement

List indicating the names of Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in the State of Rajasthan (As on 27.03.2012)

Sl. No.	Name of KV and location	Sector	Year of opening
1	2	3	4
1	AJMER NO. I (CRPF)	CIVIL	1985-86
2	AJMER NO. II (CRPF)	CIVIL	1986-87
3	ALWAR	CIVIL	1965-66
4	ANOOPGARH (BSF)	CIVIL	1986-87
5	BANSWARA	CIVIL	1987-88
6	BARAN	CIVIL	1996-97
7	BEAWAR, AJMER	CIVIL	1993-94
8	BHARATPUR	CIVIL	1973-74
9	BHILWARA	CIVIL	1994-95
10	CHURU	CIVIL	1989-90
11	DABLA (BSF)	CIVIL	1996-97
12	DEOLI (CISF)	CIVIL	1984-85
13	GANGAPUR CITY	CIVIL	2003-04
14	JAIPUR NO. I (BAJAJ NAGAR)	CIVIL	1964-65

1	2	3	4
15	JAIPUR NO. III (MREC)	CIVIL	1982-83
16	JAIPUR NO. V (MANSAROVER)	CIVIL	1994-95
17	JAIPUR NO. VI (PRATAP NAGAR) (SECTOR III)	CIVIL	1997-98
18	JHALAWAR	CIVIL	1995-96
19	JHUNJHUNU	CIVIL	1986-87
20	JODHPUR (BSF)	CIVIL	1971-72
21	KARAULI	CIVIL	2004-05
22	KOTA NO. II	CIVIL	1994-95
23	MOUNTABU (CRPF)	CIVIL	1979-80
24	PHULERA	CIVIL	1991-92
25	POKHRAN (BSF)	CIVIL	2003-04
26	SAWAI MADHOPUR	CIVIL	1996-97
27	SIKAR	CIVIL	1996-97
28	UDAIPUR NO. I (PRATAP NAGAR)	CIVIL	1965-66
29	DUNGAR PUR	CIVIL	2006-07
30	CHITTORGARH	CIVIL	2007-08
31	BSF RAMGARH, DISTT. JAISALMER	CIVIL	2010-11
32	BSF CAMPUS RAISINGH NAGAR	CIVIL	2010-11
33	KHETRI NAGAR, DISTT. JHUNJHUNU	CIVIL	2010-11
34	DEOGARH, DISTT. RAJSAMAND	CIVIL	2010-11
35	BSF KHAJUWALA, DISTT. BIKANER	CIVIL	2010-11
36	INDERPURA, DISTT. JHUNJHUNU	CIVIL	2011-12
37	TONK, DISTT. TONK	CIVIL	2011-12
38	BANAR	DEFENCE	1987-88
39	BIKANER NO. I (SAGAR ROAD)	DEFENCE	1964-65
40	BIKANER NO. II (JAISALMER ROAD)	DEFENCE	1983-84
41	BIKANER NO. III NAL (AFS)	DEFENCE	1984-85

1	2	3	4
42	ITARANA	DEFENCE	1985-86
43	JAIPUR NO. II (CANTT.)	DEFENCE	1979-80
44	JAIPUR NO. IV (KHATIPURA)	DEFENCE	1986-87
45	JAISALMER (AFS)	DEFENCE	1981-82
46	JALIPA CANTT.	DEFENCE	1981-82
47	JODHPUR NO. I (AFS)	DEFENCE	1964-65
48	JODHPUR NO. I (ARMY)	DEFENCE	1977-78
49	JODHPUR NO. II (AFS)	DEFENCE	1983-84
50	JODHPUR NO. II (ARMY)	DEFENCE	1987-88
51	KOTA NO. I	DEFENCE	1965-66
52	LALGARH JATTAN	DEFENCE	1985-86
53	NASIRABAD	DEFENCE	1971-72
54	SHRI GANGA NAGAR CANTT.	DEFENCE	1980-81
55	SURATGARH NO. I (AFS)	DEFENCE	1981-82
56	SURATGARH NO. II (AFS)	DEFENCE	1997-98
57	SURATGARH NO. II (CANTT.)	DEFENCE	1986-87
58	UDAIPUR NO. II	DEFENCE	1982-83
59	UTTARLAI	DEFENCE	1982-83
60	ANTA (AGPP)	PROJECT	1988-89
61	AVIKANAGAR (SWRI)	PROJECT	1986-87
62	SURATGARH STPS	PROJECT	2003-04
63	ZAWARMINES	PROJECT	1975-76
64	CHHABRA THERMAL POWER PROJECT	PROJECT	2011-12

Introduction of Express Trains

*255. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways would consider introduction of Superfast Express train from Visakhapatnam to Allahabad; Express train from Keonjhar to Howrah; Janshatabdi Express between Bhubaneswar and Rourkela *via* Sambalpur; Intercity

Express between Puri and Tatanagar *via* Keonjhar; and Bhubaneswar and Manmad (Shirdi) Express train, in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY) : There is no such proposal to introduce new trains between Visakhapatnam and Allahabad, Jajpur Keonjhar Road and Howrah, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela *via* Sambalpur, Puri and Tatanagar *via* Jajpur Keonjhar Road and Bhubaneswar and Manmad (Shirdi).

Extension of 18417/18418 Bhubaneswar-Jharsuguda Rajya Rani Express, (3 days a week), upto Rourkela has been announced in Railway Budget 2012-13.

Introduction of new train services including Superfast, Jan-Shatabdi, Inter-city and Express trains is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources and competing demands.

Increase in prices of fertilizers

*256. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the steep increase in the prices of essential fertilizers regularly used by farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any action plan to help the farmers by checking the spiralling prices of essential fertilizers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has any plan to offer subsidy to farmers for purchasing fertilizers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for P&K fertilizers *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010. Under the NBS policy, a fixed subsidy on decontrolled P&K fertilizers is announced annually for each nutrient namely nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potash (K) and sulphur (S) on per kg basis, which is converted into subsidy per tonne depending upon the nutrient content in each grade of the fertilizers. The MRP (Maximum Retail Price) of P&K fertilizers is open and is allowed to be fixed by manufactures/importers at reasonable level, based on demand-supply dynamics.

The country is completely dependent on imports for Potassic Fertilizers and dependence to the extent of 90% in Phosphatic fertilizers. Any rise/fall in the

international prices of these fertilizers and their raw materials has direct bearing on the domestic retail prices. The prices of these fertilizers have registered a sharp increase in the international market and resultantly, fertilizer companies also increased their MRP in order to realize the increased cost of inputs. The depreciation of Indian Rupee against US\$ in the year 2011-12 has further added to this increase. However, the prices of P&K fertilizers have stabilized *w.e.f.* December, 2011. In spite of increase in prices, the farmers are paying only around 50% of the delivered cost of the P&K fertilizers and the rest of the cost is being borne by the Government of India in the form of subsidy. Further, Urea is made available to the farmers at fixed MRP of Rs. 5310 per Metric Tonne, which is much below its actual cost. The details of MRP of fertilizers during the current year are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Government has formulated the following action plant to help the farmers by checking the spiralling prices of essential fertilizers:

- (i) The Nutrient Based Subsidy for the year 2011-12 has been increased as compared to that of the year 2010-11 keeping in view the international price trends of DAP, Urea, MOP and Sulphur.
- (ii) The Government also provides freight subsidy on fertilizers covered under the subsidy scheme.
- (iii) The Government announced 5% countervailing duty on all imported goods which was rolled back to 1% in case of fertilizers to reduce its impact on prices of fertilizers in the country.
- (iv) As per the NBS scheme, the market price of subsidized P&K fertilizers are open and fertilizer companies are allowed to fix MRPs at reasonable level. The fertilizer companies are regularly reporting the MRPs of fertilizers fixed by them through web based "Fertilizer Monitoring System".

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A Task Force on direct subsidy in respect of Kerosene, LPG & Fertilizers has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to examine and recommend a solution for transfer of subsidy directly to the consumers. The Task Force has given its Interim Report. In respect of fertilizers, the Task Force has recommended a three stage approach with respect to payment of subsidy directly to farmers. Phase-I is to capture the information on availability of fertilizers at the farm gate level, wherein the availability at the retailer level will be captured. In Phase-II, which will be implemented after the Phase-I stabilizes, the subsidy is expected to be transferred to the last point sale and in Phase-III, the subsidy is expected to be transferred directly to the intended beneficiary based on AADHAR Numbers.

Statement

The details of MRP of fertilizers during the current year

#	Finished Goods	MRP (in Rs. Per MT) for the period 2011-12											
		April 2011	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 2012	Feb.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1	DAP: 18-46-0-0	10750	12500	12500	12630	14354	18200	18300	18377	20297	20122.5	20100	
2	MAP: 11-52-0-0						18200	18200	18200	20000	20000	20000	
3	TSP: 0-46-0-0	8057	8057	8057	8057	8057	8057	8057	16000	17000	17000	17000	
4	MOP: 0-0-60-0	6000	6006	6064	6300	6064	11300	11300	11300	12040	12080	12040	
5	16-20-0-13	8954	6620	9645	10632	10988	14400	14653	14495	15300	15300	15300	
6	20-20-0-13	11400	10488	10488	11087	11385	14800	14800	15542	15800	18511.65	15800	
7	23-23-0-0	7445	7445	7445	7445	7445	7445	7445			14600		
8	10-26-26-0	10800	10880	10910	12096	12990	16000	16633	16633	16633	17642.61	17633	
9	12-32-16	11200	11210	11313	12756	13086	16400	16400	16400	16500	16500	16619	
10	14-28-14					13576	14950	14950	17028	17029	17028.71		
11	14-35-14	11337		11622	13365	13860	15148	15148	17424	17424	17424.14	17600	
12	15-15-15	7690	5820	8200	8500	5820	11000	11000	15000	11500	12000	11500	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	AS: 20-6-0-0-23	7600	7600	7600	7600	7600	11300	11300	11300	10306	14100	10306
14	20-20-0-0	7990	9600	9861	10900	11077	14000	14135	14800	15500	15500	14800
15	28-28-0-0	11524		11810	14156	14278	15740	15740	18512	18512	18511.9	18700
16	17-17-17-0											17710
17	19-19-19											18093
18	SSP	3200	3200	3200	4000	4000	4000					
19	16-16-16-0	7100	7100	7100	7100	7100	7100	7100	6010	15200	15200	15200
20	DAP lite (16-44-0-0)			11760	12373	13400	17600	17820	19500	19500	19500	19500
21	15-15-15-09	8000	9300	8000	9700	10663	12900	14851	15000	15750	15600	15000
22	24-24-0-0	7768	9000	9000	10000	10800	11550	12455	14151	14151	14151	14297
23	NPK 13:33:0:6						16200	16200	16200	17400	17400	17400
24	MAPlite (11-44-0-0)				16000		15700	15700		18000	18000	18000
25	DAPlite (14-46-0-0)				14900		14900	14900		18690	18512	

The MRP is per records entered in FMS by the companies.

MRP is exclusive of Local taxes.

MRP of SSP during October, 2011 to February, 2012 has been Rs. 4000-6000 PMT.

Evaluation of courses in universities

†*257. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether UGC has identified the universities and colleges for evaluating the quality of education being imparted on course level in the universities and colleges throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the colleges and universities identified, State-wise;
- (c) whether recognition is not granted without evaluating the level of courses in America and other developed countries whereas in India recognition is being granted without making any evaluation in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether in view of these facts, Government has taken any concrete steps regarding educational infrastructure and other facilities?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it does not undertake evaluation of quality of education being imparted in universities and colleges, separately for each course. However, UGC undertakes evaluation of courses offered by different institutions before granting them funds under the schemes of University with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Area (CPEPA), Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE) and Special Assistance Programme (SAP) etc. Similarly, quality of education infrastructure is also evaluated by the UGC before conferring the Section 12B status on an institution. UGC lays down, from time to time, guidelines and regulations, to ensure minimum standards of quality of education being imparted in colleges and universities. The universities, being autonomous entities, prescribe the courses of study, syllabi and course requirement etc. through its Statutes and Ordinances. UGC also prescribes the norms and standards of education to be imparted, norms for affiliation of colleges to universities and minimum standards of instructions for grant of degrees. The degree granting institutions can award only those degrees which are specified by UGC under Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956.

The UGC has established National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an Inter University Centre (IUC) of the UGC. The NAAC undertakes accreditation of colleges and universities by evaluating the institution on various quality standards and parameters laid down by UGC and respective university. However, the institution is taken as a unit of evaluation and not individual courses. While NAAC takes institution as a unit of evaluation of quality, another body, namely National Board of Accreditation (NBA) undertakes accreditation taking a programme/course as a unit.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Education is in the concurrent list of the VII Schedule of Constitution. States have equal and concurrent powers to create and set up universities in the country. No prior approval or recognition is needed from the Central Government for establishment of universities. Affiliation of colleges to a university is governed by UGC Regulations and respective Statutes of the university. The accreditation is presently voluntary in India. Therefore, evaluation and accreditation is not mandatory at present. The NAAC undertakes accreditation based on several parameters which include quality of teaching and learning, curricular aspects and learning resources. The status of accreditation undertaken by NAAC since inception of NAAC in 1994 is as follows.

	Universities	Colleges
Accreditation	168	4618
Re-accreditation	71	922

Accreditation is presently not mandatory in India. In order to make the accreditation mandatory, which is the only independent quality assurance mechanism to ensure basic threshold of quality of education, the Government has proposed a legislation, namely National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, which has been introduced in Parliament on 3rd May, 2010.

(e) The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010 once enacted, shall make it mandatory for every institution to apply for and obtain assessment and accreditation from a registered accreditation agency. In addition, several programmes and schemes have been initiated during the Eleventh Plan to improve education infrastructure and educational facilities in the country, which includes 374 Model Degree Colleges in districts with less than 12.4% Gross Enrollment Ratio, setting up new Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, National Institutes of Technology, Girls Hostels, Quality Improvement initiatives of UGC and All India Council of Technical Education and National Mission on Education through Information Communication and Technology etc.

Phone subscribers registered with NDNC

*258. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of landline and mobile phone subscribers in the country, State-wise and service provider-wise;
- (b) when the National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC) came into effect;
- (c) the total number of subscribers who have registered themselves with the NDNC Registry;

(d) whether it is a fact that TRAI has issued fresh regulations on NDNC Registry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Sir, the number of landline and mobile subscribers in the country service provider-wise and service area-wise (as on 31st January, 2012) is given in Statement-I and Statement-II. State-wise information in this regard is not being maintained.

(b) The National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC) came into operation *w.e.f.* 12th October, 2007.

(c) As per the information provided by TRAI, 161.04 million subscribers are registered with National Customer Preference Register (NCPR) as on 23rd March, 2012. The National Do Not Call Registry has been renamed as National Customer Preference Register (NCPR) *w.e.f.* 10th Feb., 2011.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. TRAI had established National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC) through the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007 dated 5th June, 2007. After review of the framework for controlling Unsolicited Communications, TRAI has issued "The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2010" on 1st December, 2010. These regulations became operational from 27th September, 2011 and established National Customer Preference Register (NCPR). All the subscribers who were registered in the NDNC Registry were automatically brought under NCPR. The main features of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2010 are as follows:

- (i) Filtering of Calls and SMS both by Access Service Provider and Telemarketers.
- (ii) In order to ensure effective control, there is a provision of security deposit by Telemarketers to their Access Service Providers and deduction ranging from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 2.5 lakhs in case of violation.
- (iii) In case telemarketer is not complying with the regulation even after deduction from security deposit, there is a provision for blacklisting of telemarketers.
- (iv) Disconnection of telecom resource(s) of Unregistered Telemarketers by Access Service Providers.
- (v) In case Access Service Provider is not complying with the regulation, there is a provision to levy financial disincentive ranging from Rs. One lakh to Ten lakhs.
- (vi) The regulations lay down a separate number series and specified SMS header for telemarketers for voice calls and SMSs respectively.

(vii) The customer can opt to block all commercial communication or opt for partially blocked category.

As per the provisions of The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2010, registration of telemarketers has started on web portal www.nccprai.gov.in from 15th January, 2011. Registration of customer preference on National Customer Preference Registry (NCPR) has started from 10 February, 2011.

Statement - I

Landline subscribers as on 31st January, 2012

State	Service Area	Service Providers									
		BSNL	MTNL	Bharti	Reliance	Tata	HFCL	Sistema Shyam	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	1964273	0	125048	88499	171120	0	0	2348940		
Assam	Assam	228385	0	0	0	2602	0	0	230987		
Bihar and Jharkhand	Bihar	594310	0	0	4827	10149	0	0	609286		
Delhi	Delhi	0	1556643	1074176	182449	77040	0	0	2890308		
Gujarat	Gujarat	1630181	0	54949	110702	65974	0	0	1861806		
Haryana	Haryana	548403	0	23769	4876	19107	0	0	596155		
Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	305985	0	0	4462	1861	0	0	312308		
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	205100	0	0	0	334	0	0	205434		

Karnataka	Karnataka	1982030	0	489563	110870	121345	0	0	2703808
Kerala	Kerala	3078823	0	55473	55991	12681	0	0	3202968
West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar	West Bengal Kolkata	685082 977592	0 0	0 92323	2263 81581	. 6113 30431	0 0	0 0	693458 1181927
M.P. and Chhattisgarh	Madhya Pradesh	850448	0	240365	35659	10127	0	0	1136599
Maharashtra	Maharashtra	2256119	0	70049	101347	225419	0	0	2652934
	Mumbai	0	1899470	330631	230307	542818	0	0	3003226
Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura	North East	252940	0	0		249	0	0	253189
	Odisha	453149	0	0	4130	7222	0	0	464501
	Punjab	1117328	0	105423	32348	15540	199315	0	1469954
	Rajasthan	1071837	0	39164	25389	5545	0	47395	1189330
	Tamil Nadu	2509358	0	484146	146962	61761	0	0	3202227
	Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	1269513 772128	0 0	50294 24080	40346 5689	13125 7518	0 0	0 0	1373278 809415
TOTAL :		22752984	3456113	3259453	1268697	1408081	199315	47395	32392038

Statement - II*Mobile-subscribers as on 31st January, 2012*

State	Circle	Service Providers									
		Bharti	Reliance	Vodafone	Tata	Idea	Aircel	BSNL	MTNL		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	17900408	9349500	6784329	7707188	9623900	1957801	8940056	0		
Assam	Assam	3565349	2686136	1951967	127535	287682	3704649	1604587	0		
Bihar and Jharkhand	Bihar	16816652	9462237	5799023	5002835	5476438	5082942	6033464	0		
Delhi	Delhi	8589731	8686907	8340459	4856373	4585267	2364118	0	2826624		
Gujarat	Gujarat	6814699	8170553	15761617	3857732	7713978	591428	4135930	0		
Haryana	Haryana	2275808	4260263	4343430	2867646	3431364	583521	2994325	0		
Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	1777668	1872074	422962	400506	429235	693185	1716774	0		
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	2026209	520531	685929	116735	162560	1575250	1014332	0		
Karnataka	Karnataka	15278989	8045188	6614514	7014596	5528696	1731093	6665782	0		
Kerala	Kerala	3501206	4253749	5825894	2376342	7402840	2415121	6955611	0		
West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar	West Bengal	9034631	7434027	11618854	3208778	1975171	3062163	3563744	0		
	Kolkata	3801989	5342181	4445740	3156152	1210597	1776039	2401422	0		

M.P. and Chhattisgarh	Madhya Pradesh	9602627	12286268	3790520	4950199	13315056	834563	4854454	0
Maharashtra	Maharashtra	9449972	10844584	12659140	9198909	14972162	1205671	6018121	0
	Mumbai	3714217	8761138	6002506	5177457	2818843	1202151	0	2912105
Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura	North East	2194615	906254	916493	75687	191918	2371230	1558450	0
	Odisha	6003168	4700014	2514974	2513609	976758	2759507	4308907	0
	Punjab	6926186	4914581	4454905	3097240	5194458	873883	4742674	0
	Rajasthan	13768431	7673753	9409930	3927410	3762139	1405751	5662270	0
	Tamil Nadu	13266658	8653682	12235508	4511465	2018098	21868334	9546801	0
Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	U.P.(E)	14019449	12499488	14559374	4640824	7054244	2365414	10189190	0
	U.P.(W)	6625502	9705091	9464037	4933645	9995876	2038307	4729667	0
TOTAL :		176954164	151028199	148602105	83718863	108127280	62462121	97636561	5738729

Notes:

- Subscriber data is available service area-wise.
- Data for NCT of Delhi Service area includes wireless subscribers of the areas served by the local exchanges of Ghaziabad and Noida (in UP) and Gurgaon and Faridabad (in Haryana).

Service Providers										
State	Circle	Uninor	Sistema Shyam	Loop	Videocon	S-Tel	HFCL	Etisalat	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	3142932	618866	0	10934	0	0	34868	66070782	
Assam	Assam	127	1134	325	0	79992	0	0	14009483	
Bihar and Jharkhand	Bihar	4571564	1572850	364	20299	2029624	0	41222	61909514	
Delhi	Delhi	0	1074913	0	0	0	0	759210	42083602	
Gujarat	Gujarat	3052199	128836	73	1234333	0	0	32712	51494090	
Haryana	Haryana	205	213261	93	852165	0	0	15171	21837252	
Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	61	313	0	79015	454924	0	0	7846717	
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	40	516	0	0	0	0	0	6102102	
Karnataka	Karnataka	1823105	2074851	618	11987	0	0	29712	54819131	
Kerala	Kerala	722923	622228	0	238083	0	0	12097	34326094	
West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar	West Bengal	3640447	1715463	0	20152	0	0	0	45273430	
	Kolkata	1698321	816077	2348	2966	0	0	0	24653832	

M.P. and Chhattisgarh	Madhya Pradesh	883	1888	270	1158819	0	0	78190	50873737
Maharashtra	Maharashtra	4080333	712265	357	13681	0	0	35051	69190246
	Mumbai	1424832	677237	3240766	980278	0	0	469909	37381439
Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura	North East	51	188	41	0	32083	0	0	8247010
Odisha	Odisha	1347034	434	966	10670	833665	0	0	25969706
Punjab	Punjab	319	691	147	0	1292888	18440	31516412	
Rajasthan	Rajasthan	383	2351655	400	10570	0	0	35987	48008679
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	1677247	1657076	0	1179228	0	0	31915	76646012
Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	U.P.(E)	7054485	456560	0	16722	0	0	50246	72905996
	U.P.(W)	4560885	452964	8	8827	0	0	47133	52561942
TOTAL :		38798376	15150266	3246776	5848729	3430288	1292888	1691863	903727208

Protest by sugarcane farmers

*259. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that sugarcane farmers from North India, under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union, have recently protested in the Capital and pressed their demand for higher cane price; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Representations are received from various Farmers' Associations for higher support price for various agricultural commodities, including sugarcane, from time to time.

A Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) at Rs. 145 per quintal, linked to a basic recovery rate of 9.5%, subject to a premium of Rs. 1.53 for every 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above that level of sugarcane for 2011-12 have been fixed by the Government based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Moreover, the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 (SCO) provides for payment of an 'agreed price' by the sugar mill to the farmers, which can not be lower than the FRP fixed by the Central Government.

Loss to exchequer in 2G SCAM

*260. SHRI SABIR ALI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of financial loss caused to the exchequer due to favouring Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) in the 2G scam *vis-a-vis* CAG's report in the matter;

(b) the quantum of penalty imposed on ADAG and the basis of deciding the quantum of penalty; and

(c) the relationship established between Reliance Telecom and Swan Telecom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Based on the values determined through various indicators, the Report of CAG on "Issue of Licences and Allocation of 2G Spectrum by the Department of Telecommunications", has made four different assessments of the loss to the Government on account of grant of permissions for usage of dual technology spectrum in 2007-08 in different service areas. These range from Rs. 12,433 crores to Rs. 37,154 crores. The permissions accorded include permissions to M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.

According to the charge sheet filed by CBI in FIR No. RC DAI 2009 A 0045 in the court, additional revenue of Rs. 8,448.95 crores could have accrued to the

Government Exchequer in respect of fee paid by dual technology users. The matter is *sub-judice*.

(b) Various penalties have been imposed on M/s Reliance Communications Limited and M/s. Reliance Telecom Limited in different contexts based on the nature of specific violations of the provisions of the Unified Access Services (UAS) licence agreement or agreement with USOF (Universal Service Obligation Fund).

(c) As per the information submitted by M/s. Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd. alongwith its applications dated 02.03.2007 for grant of UAS licences, the equity structure of the company was as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Promoter/ partner/shareholder	Indian/ Foreign	No. of equity shares of Rs. 10 each fully paid up	% of holding
1.	Tiger Traders Pvt. Ltd.	Indian	9,82,19,000	90.10
2.	Reliance Telecom Ltd. Preference shares	Indian	No. of preference shares of Re.1/- each	% of holding
3.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Indian	99,20,000	100

Subsequently, M/s. Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd., *vide* its letter dated 07.12.2007, informed that Reliance Telecom Ltd. has divested its entire minority equity stake of less than 10% as well as the holding of preference shares of the company and consequently, Reliance Telecom Ltd. has no interest in the company.

The above said report of CAG, has *inter-alia*, stated that it appears that Swan Telecom Private Limited while applying (on March 02, 2007) for the UAS licenses in 13 Service Areas was acting as a front company on behalf of RTL (Reliance Telecom Ltd.) and their application was in effect against the intent and spirit of the UAS licensing guidelines.

The findings of the CBI regarding the relationship between Reliance Telecom Ltd. and Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd. as indicated in the charge sheet filed by CBI in FIR no. RC DAI 2009 A 0045, are pending consideration of the court.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

MSP of agricultural products

1861. SHRIN. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the cost of production of agriculture due to increase in the prices of chemical fertilizers and overall increase in other costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by Government to compensate the farmers;

(c) whether Government proposes to raise the MSP of agricultural products in view of increasing cost of agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (d) The increase in the prices of major agricultural inputs in 2011-12 (April - February) over 2010-11 (April - March) in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is given below:

Input	% age increase
Fertilisers	13.6
Electricity (Irrigation)	5.6
Pesticides	1.2
Tractors	9.0
Diesel Oil (HSDO)	8.7

Daily wage rate for agriculture labour has increased by 19.8% in 2010 over the previous year.

The Government has raised the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural produce for 2011-12. The MSPs fixed by the Government for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are given in Statement.

Statement

Minimum support prices

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	Variety	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4
Kharif Crops			
Paddy	Common	1000	1080
	Grade A	1030	1110
Jowar	Hybrid	880	980
	Maldandi	900	1000

1	2	3	4
Bajra		880	980
Maize		880	980
Ragi		965	1050
Arhar (Tur)		3000 &	3200 &
Moong		3170&	3500 &
Urad		2900 &	3300 &
Cotton	Medium Staple	2500	2800
	Long Staple	3000	3300
Groundnut in shell		2300	2700
Sunflower seed		2350	2800
Soyabean	Black	1400	1650
	Yellow	1440	1690
Sesamum		2900	3400
Nigerseed		2450	2900
Rabi Crops			
Wheat		1120\$	1285
Barley		780	980
Gram		2100	2800
Masur (Lentil)		2250	2800
Rapeseed/Mustard		1850	2500
Safflower		1800	2500
Toria		1780	2425
Other Crops			
Copra	Milling	4450	4525
	Ball	4700	4775
Jute		1575	1675
Sugarcane #		139.12	145.00

\$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal was payable over 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.

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP).

MSP for wheat, rice and pulses

1862. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the peasants, who feed the entire country, are taking away their own lives because they are not getting even the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce;

(b) if so, the MSP announced by Government in respect of wheat, rice and other essential pulses; and

(c) the appropriate action Government is taking to address farmers' concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) As reported by State Governments and as also revealed in studies conducted earlier, causes of suicides by farmers are manifold including crop failure, indebtedness, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

(b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of wheat, rice and pulses fixed since 2009-10 is given below :

(Rs. Per quintal)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Commodity	MSP	MSP	MSP
Paddy (Common)	950\$	1000	1080
Wheat	1100	1120\$	1285
Arhar (Tur)	2300	3000&	3200&
Moong	2760	3170&	3500&
Urad	2520	2900&	3300&
Gram	1760	2100	2800
Masur	1870	2250	2800

& 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.

\$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal was payable over the Minimum Support Price.

(c) Government has taken several measures aimed at revitalizing agriculture sector, which, *inter-alia*, include launching of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme

(ADWDRS), 2008 etc., with the objective of increasing investment, productivity and production in agriculture and allied sectors and benefit farmers.

Decline in Production Growth Rate in 2012

†1863. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that approximately 7 per cent growth has been estimated in the agriculture production in year 2011;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether this production growth is estimated to be only 2.5 per cent in year 2012; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for disparity in production growth rate in just one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (d) As per the Quick Estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 31.01.2012 the estimated growth rate in Agriculture and Allied Sectors at 2004-05 prices for 2010-11 was 7.0 per cent. As per the Advance Estimates, released by CSO on 7.2.2012 growth rate for this sector at 2004-05 prices during 2011-12 is 2.5 per cent over the previous year. 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 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.

Contribution of private institutions in Government schemes

†1864. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI SHIV ANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has urged private institutions of the country to contribute actively in Government-run schemes for enhancement of agriculture production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) whether Government has formulated any roadmap in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in production of pulses

†1865. SHRI SHIV ANAND TIWARI :

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that production of pulses has increased under the National Food Security Mission;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) the annual average increase in the production and the increase in the rate of production; and
- (d) whether the production cost of pulses has also decreased; if so, the cost of production estimated in the year 2010-11 in comparison to the year 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of pulses has increased from 14.20 million tonnes during 2006-07 to 18.24 million tonnes during 2010-11 which is 4.04 million tonnes higher as compared to 2006-07. The National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses) being implemented in 468 districts of 16 major pulses growing States covering about 98% of pulses area of the country was revamped from 2010-11 with the merger of pulses component of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM). Further Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) was initiated under NFSM-Pulses for active promotion of technologies among the farmers in 1000 units of 1000 hectares each in major pulses growing States.

Under the NFSM-Pulses, 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 are also organised for transfer of latest production technology.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The production of pulses during the above period in the country is as under:-

(Million tonnes)

Year	Production	Percentage Change	
		Over 2006-07 %	Annual average %
2006-07	14.20	-	-
2007-08	14.76	3.94	3.94
2008-09	14.57	2.61	(-)1.29
2009-10	14.66	3.24	0.62
2010-11	18.24	28.45	24.42

(d) No, Sir. The cost of production of pulses has not decreased during the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Proposals under Feed and Fodder Development Scheme

1866. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has submitted six proposals amounting to Rs. 8359 lacs during 2010-11 and 2011-12 under Centrally sponsored Feed and Fodder Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of proposals sanctioned and the amount thereof, proposal-wise; and

(c) by when the pending proposals are likely to be sanctioned by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) This Department has received the following proposals during 2010-11 and 2011-12:

Year	Name of the Department	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
2010-11	Animal Husbandry	1573.80
		5123.08
		1152.43
		32.68
	Forest Department	275.00
2011-12	Animal Husbandry	467.50
	Forest Department	275.00

(2) Details of funds released:

Year	Name of the Department	Fund sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)	Fund released (Rs. in lakh)
2010-11	Animal Husbandry	630.43	300.00 (in 2010-11) 330.43 (in 2011-12)
	Forest Department	250.00	250.00
2011-12	Animal Husbandry	2076.083	1038.00

(c) The balance funds will be released on receipt of funds utilization certificate and physical progress report in respect of funds already released.

Subsidy to Farmers for purchasing equipments and modern technology

†1867. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government provides hundred per cent subsidy to landholding farmers to purchase agricultural equipments and modern technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the details of guidelines/rules in this regard;
- (c) whether funds given by Government to the State Governments for this purpose during last three years have been utilized completely; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture does not currently provide hundred per cent subsidy to landholding farmers for purchasing agricultural equipments and modern technology. However, the Ministry is providing financial subsidy ranging from 25% to 50% to farmers for purchasing agricultural machinery and implements under following schemes :-

- (1) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY);
- (2) National Food Security Mission (NFSM);
- (3) National Horticulture Mission (NHM);
- (4) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).

Details of funds released by the Ministry and expenditure incurred by State Governments under above schemes that includes financial subsidy for agricultural machinery and implements during 2009-10, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 are at Annexure [See Appendix 22.5 Annexure No. 8]

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Export of foodgrains for balance of agro-sector

†1868. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a decision is required to balance the agro-sector through export of ice, sugar and wheat;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the growth rate of foodgrain production is not likely to be satisfactory in the year 2012; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) The decision to allow export of agricultural commodities is taken/reviewed from time to time by the Government keeping in view the production, stock position, domestic demand and prices. The export of non-basmati rice and wheat, banned since 09.02.2007 and 01.04.2008, respectively, was lifted on 09.09.2011. Since then, the export of wheat and rice is continuing under Open General License out of privately held stocks.

Similarly, export of 26.18 lakh tonnes of sugar in 2010-11 and 21.53 lakh tonnes in 2011-12 has been permitted by Government under different schemes including Open General License.

(c) and (d) Production of foodgrains, as per Second Advance Estimate of Production for 2011-12, is 250.42 million tonnes, which is higher than the target of 245 million tonnes.

Increasing crop loan

†1869. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee related to the Ministry had recommended to increase the crop loan from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has implemented the recommendation of the Standing Committee;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (e) The Standing Committee on Agriculture in its First Report on Demands for Grants 2009-10, recommended that in view of the prevailing situation in the agriculture sector in the country, there is a pressing need to enhance the short term crop loan limit to Rs.5 lakh and lowering of the rate of interest from 7 to 4 percent.

The committee was apprised that the recommendation has been forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for appropriate action. The Committee took note of the step taken by the Department and was of the view that when the cost of credit to the farmers is reduced, defaults would come down and the Government would be spared of the cost involved in offering Debt Waivers. The Committee was further apprised that from Kharif 2006-07, farmers are receiving crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh at the rate of interest of 7% per annum. The Government of India has since 2009-10 been providing additional interest subvention to further reduce the cost of credit for prompt payee farmers, *i.e.*, those who repay their loan in time. The additional interest subvention was 1% in 2009-10 and 2% in 2010-11. This has been increased to 3% in 2011-12 making effective rate of interest for prompt payee farmers at 4% per annum.

Suicide by farmers

1870. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several farmers in West Bengal, Vidarbha and other parts of the country have committed suicide during January and February, 2012;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons identified for suicide of farmers during the said period;
- (d) whether Government would take concrete and effective measures to check suicide by farmers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (c) State Governments have been requested for confirmation of facts and relevant details in this regard.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) to (f) Measures already taken by Government to prevent suicides by farmers and improve their condition on sustainable basis 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) The benefit of pre-harvest interest rate subvention is now available also to small & 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 & Fertility Management etc.

Functioning of RKVY

1871. SHRI PRABHAT JHA :
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and spent during Eleventh Five Year Plan under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State-wise;

(b) the details of facilities available to farmers under this programme in the States covered under this programme;

(c) the details of increase in production and productivity in the States covered under National Agriculture Development Programme;

(d) the details of funds allocated under the said programme during Twelfth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the other action Government is taking to increase agricultural productivity particularly in MP, eastern UP and other eastern States and make agriculture profitable there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) A statement indicating State-wise allocation and release and expenditure of funds under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) during Eleventh Five Year Plan is given at Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The activities that are eligible for project based assistance under RKVY include integrated development of food crops; agriculture mechanization; activities for enhancement of soil health; integrated development of watersheds and development of rainfed farming systems in and outside watershed areas; support to state seed farms; post-harvest management, strengthening of market infrastructure and marketing development; strengthening of infrastructure to promote extension services, enhancement of horticulture production and popularization of micro-irrigation systems; development of animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries; training and study tours of farmers; promotion of organic farming and bio-fertilizers, etc.

Assistance is provided to farmers as per the subsidy norms already available in existing GoI schemes for the aforementioned components/activities.

(c) All States are covered under RKVY. Increase in production and productivity/yield of total foodgrains as estimated in the current year in comparison to final estimates of the previous year is at Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) The allocation for RKVY during 2012-13 is Rs. 9217 crore.

(e) A number of developmental schemes including NFSM, MMA, RKVY and its sub-schemes Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), Integrated Development of 60,000 pulses Villages in Rainfed Areas (Pulses Villages), Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (Vegetable Clusters), Initiative for Nutritional Security Through Intensive Millets Promotion (Nutri Cereals), National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS), Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) and Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP), etc. have been taken up for increasing agricultural productivity and make agriculture profitable in MP, UP and other eastern States.

Statement - I
Allocation and release and utilization of funds under RKVY in XI Plan as on 26.03.2012

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12						
		Allocation	Release	Utilization	Allocation	Release	Utilization	Allocation*	Release*	Utilization	Allocation	Release	Utilization			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Andhra Pradesh	93.13	61.08	61.08	316.57	297.17	296.01	410.00	410.00	410.00	*393.45	432.29	432.29	727.74	734.2	308.99
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2.85	1.90	1.90	6.88	0.00	0.00	16.10	15.98	15.98	39.08	28.95	28.95	8.26	8.28	4.13
3	Assam	23.77	0.00	0.00	142.62	144.12	142.62	79.86	79.86	79.86	*256.87	216.87	216.87	227.77	227.77	112.39
4	Bihar	64.02	57.77	57.77	148.54	148.54	148.54	110.79	110.79	110.79	380.94	415.10	415.10	506.82	506.82	203.48
5	Chhattisgarh	60.54	52.96	52.96	116.48	117.45	117.45	131.78	136.14	136.14	461.00	503.44	503.44	230.57	204.61	82.59
8	Goa	2.29	1.70	1.70	6.91	0.00	0.00	11.87	0.00	0.00	11.31	7.07	7.07	49.55	24.78	
7	Gujarat	53.71	49.81	47.61	243.39	243.39	243.39	386.19	386.19	386.19	353.45	388.63	388.63	515.48	515.48	257.74
8	Haryana	23.12	21.52	21.52	74.00	39.50	39.49	112.77	112.77	112.75	204.74	226.80	221.76	168.92	169.87	108.45
9	Himachal Pradesh	17.39	16.17	16.17	15.11	15.11	15.11	33.02	33.03	33.03	94.85	94.85	94.85	99.93	99.93	67.43
10	Jammu and Kashmir	6.85	0.00	0.00	16.17	1.20	1.20	42.05	42.85	42.85	*162.16	96.42	95.44	103.03	63.03	17.4
11	Jharkhand	61.66	55.68	55.68	58.62	29.31	29.31	70.13	70.13	70.13	160.96	96.90	81.10	168.56	168.56	54.88
12	Karnataka	171.97	154.30	154.30	316.57	314.14	314.14	410.00	410.00	410.00	284.03	284.03	284.03	595.9	595.9	207.73
13	Kerala	61.41	55.40	55.40	60.11	30.06	30.06	110.92	110.92	110.92	192.35	149.65	149.65	173.93	173.93	106.95

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
14 Madhya Pradesh	110.01	101.62	101.62	146.05	146.05	146.05	146.05	146.05	247.44	247.44	247.44	589.09	559.18	559.18	398.37	398.37	135.66
15 Maharashtra	142.20	128.20	128.20	269.63	261.77	261.77	261.77	407.24	404.39	404.39	404.39	653.00	653.00	653.00	727.67	727.67	192.14
16 Manipur	1.35	0.00	0.00	4.14	0.90	0.90	0.90	5.86	5.86	5.86	5.86	24.81	15.50	15.50	22.25	22.25	11.13
17 Meghalaya	7.00	6.37	6.37	13.53	6.77	6.77	6.77	24.68	24.68	24.68	24.68	46.12	46.12	46.12	14.66	14.66	7.33
18 Mizoram	1.05	0.00	0.00	4.29	0.80	0.80	0.80	4.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.49	3.75	3.75	34.61	30.36	12.55
19 Nagaland	9.45	3.19	3.19	13.89	6.95	6.95	6.95	20.38	20.38	20.38	20.38	13.24	13.25	13.25	37.54	37.54	18.77
20 Orissa	46.59	39.30	39.30	115.44	115.44	115.44	115.44	121.49	121.49	121.49	121.49	274.40	274.40	274.40	356.96	356.96	159.67
21 Punjab	39.85	36.05	36.05	87.52	87.52	87.52	87.52	43.23	43.23	43.23	43.23	179.12	179.12	179.12	138.87	138.87	35.62
22 Rajasthan	71.68	55.76	55.76	233.75	233.76	233.76	233.76	186.12	186.12	186.12	186.12	572.47	628.01	628.01	685.04	692.08	264.68
23 Sikkim	2.77	2.77	2.77	11.37	5.88	5.88	5.68	15.29	15.29	15.29	15.29	6.56	6.56	6.56	20.08	20.08	5.17
24 Tamil Nadu	188.21	153.60	153.60	140.38	140.38	140.38	140.38	127.90	127.90	127.90	127.90	225.71	250.03	250.03	333.06	333.06	170.08
25 Tripura	4.69	4.16	4.16	34.02	16.08	16.08	16.08	31.28	31.28	31.28	31.28	116.86	116.48	116.48	17.99	17.99	16.18
26 Uttar Pradesh	116.15	103.90	103.90	316.57	316.57	316.57	316.57	390.97	390.97	390.97	390.97	635.92	695.36	695.36	757.26	757.26	205.09
27 Uttarakhand	30.54	28.25	28.08	20.60	10.30	10.30	10.30	71.36	71.46	71.46	64.91	2.61	1.31	1.31	131.77	128.84	39.71
28 West Bengal	60.87	54.93	54.93	147.38	147.38	147.38	147.38	147.38	147.38	147.38	147.38	476.15	335.98	334.84	476.65	476.65	138.41
TOTAL STATES	1475.12	1246.39	1244.02	3080.53	2876.34	2868.14	3770.25	3756.53	3749.96	6662.00	6719.05	6674.77	7729.24	7645.78	2944.35		

* Allocation of Rs. 35.00 crore Green Revolution in Eastern India for Assam, Rs. 39.44 crore for Saffron Mission for J and K and increased allocation of Rs. 82.28 crore in respect of Andhra Pradesh is to be met from savings from overall allocation of Rs. 6722 crore.

Statement II*State-wise production and productivity/yield of total foodgrains*

State	Production ('000 Tonnes)		Yield ('Kg/Hectare)	
	2010-11 (Final Estimates)	2011-12 (2nd Advance Estimates)	2010-11 (Final Estimates)	2011-12 (2nd Advance Estimates)
Andhra Pradesh	20315.0	17609.7	2530	2494
Assam	4876.5	4648.7	1763	1681
Bihar	9222.0	13576.8	1479	2100
Chhattisgarh	7055.2	7052.2	1424	1445
Gujarat	8341.6	7975.4	1843	1898
Haryana	16629.5	17192.0	3526	3704
Himachal Pradesh	1421.1	1498.3	1787	1890
Jammu and Kashmir	1521.6	1436.9	1639	1556
Jharkhand	1876.6	4447.3	1257	1663
Karnataka	13877.2	12611.2	1684	1644
Kerala	527.2	552.9	2399	2488
Madhya Pradesh	14952.1	15099.7	1162	1151
Maharashtra	15420.4	12298.2	1184	1159
Orissa	7619.3	7549.5	1432	1410
Punjab	27866.3	27607.2	4280	4243
Rajasthan	18832.2	19689.8	1250	1332
Tamil Nadu	7594.9	8421.4	2393	2325
Uttar Pradesh	47247.6	49337.6	2386	2415
Uttarakhand	1815.6	1872.0	1841	1938
West Bengal	14466.9	16633.8	2601	2664
Others	3300.8	3308.7	2136	2128
ALL-INDIA	244779.7	250419.0	1931	1996

Pension for widows of farmers committing suicide

1872. SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether suicide by farmers is on the rise in Vidarbha, Kerala, Bundelkhand and West Bengal;
- (b) whether unviable farm conditions are pushing farmers to the verge;
- (c) whether Government intends to cover widows of 18 year under the pension plan scheme from the present 40 years in view of more young farmers committing suicide, leaving young women behind with no source of income; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) Since implementation of Rehabilitation Package in identified districts in 2006 coupled with various other measures to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farmers in the country on sustainable basis, number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons, as reported by State Governments of Maharashtra, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh has not risen. Government of West Bengal has informed that process of investigation to ascertain suicides due to agrarian reason has been initiated.

(b) To improve viability of farming, Government has taken various measures, which include provision of quality inputs, substantial increase in Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, interest subvention for pre-harvest and post-harvest loan, debt waiver, debt relief etc.

(c) and (d) Eligibility criteria for widow pension under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, which is administered by Ministry of Rural Development, was recently modified to lower the range of age group of widow from 40-64 years to 40-59 years.

Farmers' suicides in West Bengal

1873. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers committed suicide in West Bengal during last six months; and
- (b) the reasons for such suicides?

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.

Development of indigenous Bt. Cotton

1874. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the funding went into development of indigenous Bt. Cotton in the country, which has been subsequently withdrawn from the market;
- (b) whether the so called indigenous technology has actually been bought from outside the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) During 1999-2004, the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provided an amount of Rs. 1.84 crores for development of indigenous Bt. Cotton in the country.

(b) and (c) While the cry1Ac gene was obtained under material transfer agreement from Ottawa University, Canada, the development of transgenic Bikaneri Narma cotton variety (BN Bt.) as well as NHH 44 Bt. hybrid was reported using indigenous scientific tools and techniques.

Promotion of agricultural research

1875. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the GDP allocation and spending on agricultural research in the country during last five financial years, year-wise and percentage amount-wise;
- (b) whether any external funding has also been received from abroad during the said period for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action Government proposes to take to promote agricultural research in the country at international levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) The Public expenditure on agricultural research during last five financial years, year-wise and percentage of Agricultural GDP is as follows:

Year	Agri. GDP (Rs. Crore)	Public Expenditure on Agri. R&D (Rs. Crore)	% to Agri. GDP
2006-07	722,984	3982	0.55
2007-08	836,518	4472	0.53
2008-09	943,204	5456	0.58
2009-10	1,079,365	6304	0.58
2010-11	1,269,888	7472	0.59

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) World Bank and Government of India supported National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) is being implemented by ICAR with total Budget of USD 250 million (The World Bank contribution of USD 200 million and Government of India contribution of USD 50 million).

(d) ICAR is engaged in developing technologies using techniques/tools like geo informatics including GIS and Remote Sensing, information technology (IT), simulation modeling, nano science, biotechnology, etc. for conservation, management and sustainable utilization of the natural resources to ensure food, nutritional and environmental security in the country; and is pursuing research in priority areas such as abiotic stress management (droughts, cold waves, floods, salinity, alkalinity, acidity and nutritional disorders etc.), climate resilient agriculture, conservation agriculture including organic farming, bioremediation of contaminated soils and water, biofortification, bio-industrial watersheds, solid waste management, utilization of waste/poor quality water and development of decision support systems for micro level land use planning.

Release of subsidy under NHM/DIM

1876. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has received any proposal from Government of Karnataka for release of subsidy under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Drip Irrigation Method (DIM);

(b) if so, when was this proposal received;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the total amount of subsidy that would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals for Annual Action Plan, 2011-12 were received from the Government of Karnataka under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and under National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) during the month of April, 2011. Besides, proposals for additional grants were also received under NMMI during the month of October, 2011 and under NHM during the month of December, 2011.

(c) and (d) Annual Action Plans have been approved and Rs. 95.46 crore for NHM and Rs. 91.65 crore for NMMI has been released. Besides, additional grant of Rs. 4.50 crore under NHM and Rs. 20.00 crore under NMMI has been approved for release during the current financial year 2011-12.

Suicides by farmers in West Bengal

1877. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of farmers have committed suicide in West Bengal; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to address the causes of their farming related financial distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) Government of West Bengal has informed that process of investigation to ascertain suicides due to agrarian reasons has been initiated.

(b) Details of steps taken by Government to address problems of farmers, mitigate agrarian distress and improve financial condition 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) The 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.

Crop Insurance Scheme

†1878. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the policies under which insurance cover is being provided for the crops of farmers;
- (b) the amount given to farmers during the last five years under crop insurance cover along with the number of such farmers; and
- (c) the target set for Crop Insurance Scheme and how far this scheme is lagging behind its target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS provide comprehensive risk insurance to cover yield losses due to non-preventable risks like natural calamities, pests and diseases etc. and the cover is available for all farmers from sowing till harvesting of crops. Under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) crop losses on account of adverse conditions of weather parameters like deficit of excess rainfall, temperature, humidity etc. are covered. Under Pilot Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) insurance coverage is provided for total loss/death/becoming palm tree useless.

- (b) Details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Crop Insurance Schemes are demand driven and therefore, achievement of schemes mainly depends on crop condition and weather. It is mentioned that actual expenditure against Government of India liability under Crop Insurance Schemes has

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been much higher than the budget estimates set for Tenth and Eleventh Plan period. As against Budget Estimates of Rs. 1500 crore for Tenth Plan and Rs. 3500 crore for Eleventh Plan periods, actual expenditure has been much higher at Rs. 2626.84 crore and Rs. 7221.35 crore during Tenth and Eleventh Plan Period respectively under Crop Insurance Schemes.

Statement

Claims and number of farmers benefitted from 2006-07 to 2010-11 under Crop Insurance Schemes

Sl. No.	Year	Claims Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of farmers Benefitted
National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)			
1.	2006-07	229087.27	4521941
2.	2007-08	172526.80	3169895
3.	2008-09	388555.63	6193763
4.	2009-10	513824.79	9008648
5.	2010-11	220434.44	3300539
Pilot Modified NAIS (MNAIS)			
1.	2010-11	1595.88	46224
Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS)			
1.	2007-08	10595.60	223065
2.	2008-09	4050.80	216511
3.	2009-10	29104.73	1349953
4.	2010-11	43006.94	3091662
Pilot Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS)			
1.	2009-10	0	0
2.	2010-11	105.52	2347

**Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and
Post Harvest Operation Scheme**

1879. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operation Scheme is a hundred per cent Centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, whether only those below the poverty line can take advantage of this scheme;

(c) if so, whether a large number of fishermen are being deprived of the benefit of this scheme;

(d) whether Government propose to relax the norm so that fishermen get subsidized diesel upto 500 litres for their boats; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (e) The financial assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations varies from 10% to 100% depending on the component. Under the component of Fishermen Development Rebate on High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil of the CSS, the Central subsidy is provided to mechanised fishing vessels which are satisfying the criteria of (i) less than 20 meter size and are registered before 10th plan and (ii) owned by fishermen belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. The central subsidy to such fishing vessels is restricted to 500 liters per vessel for every active fishing month. Restoration of the diesel subsidy to all categories of mechanized fishing vessels irrespective of the economic status of the owners has not been considered by the Government.

Assistance to Goa for support price

1880. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether support price is given to any agricultural crop in Goa;

(b) if so, the names of such crops and the support price announced for them since last five years;

(c) whether Government has given any financial or other assistance to the State of Goa in the matter of support price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 major agricultural produce on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) and in consultation with the states including Goa and concerned Central Ministries/Departments. The MSPs so fixed are applicable throughout the country. MSPs fixed since 2007-08 are given Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Statement**Minimum Support Prices***(Rs. per quintal)*

Commodity	Variety	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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 Staple	1800	2500	2500	2500	2800
	Long Staple	2030	3000	3000	3000	3300
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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).

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP).

Redressal of grievances of cultivators

1881. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether more than 2.5 lakh farmers committed suicide between 1995-2010;
- whether Government inquired into the suicides committed by farmers and if so, the details thereof;
- the measures taken to check committing suicides;
- the details of measures taken to redress the grievances of farmers;
- the steps taken to improve the living conditions of farmers and to provide them easy loan;
- whether as per 2001 census over seven million population of cultivators dropped in comparison to 1991 census; and

- (g) how Government proposes to check fall in agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) This is as per documentation by National Crime-Records Bureau of all-India profile of suicide victims classified according to profession 'self employed (farming/agriculture)', which is available in its annual reports Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI) from 1995 through 2010. Causes of suicides across professional categories mentioned in ADSI include family problems, illness, drug abuse/addiction, unemployment, property dispute, bankruptcy or sudden change in economic status, poverty, professional/career problem, love affair, barrenness/impotency, cancellation/non-settlement of marriage, dowry dispute, fall in social reputation and causes not known. Reasons of suicides by farmers, as reported by State Governments concerned, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal.

(c) to (e) Measures taken by Government to prevent suicides by farmers due to agrarian distress, address their problems, provide them easy loan and improve their condition on sustainable basis 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 now 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) The 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 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.

(f) As per Census of India 1991 and Census of India 2001, number of cultivators was 110.7 million and 127.3 million respectively.

(g) Production of food grains during 2011-12 is estimated at an all time record level of 250.42 million tonne. Also, average annual growth in agriculture and allied sectors realized during first four years of Eleventh Plan Period, *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2010-11, is 3.5 per cent despite severe drought in 2009-10.

Fall in production due to climate change

†1882. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fall in agro produce has been registered last year due to climate change and advancement of the seasonal cycle period:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the year 2012-13 is likely to see an improvement in climate change and seasonal cycle;

(d) whether Government has taken appropriate steps in view of fall in the agro-production and has undertaken research in the field of climate and seasonal variation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary, production of foodgrain has reached a record level of 244.78 million tone during 2010-11. During the same period, country has also witnessed highest ever production in wheat, pulses, oilseeds and cotton.

(c) to (e) There is no conclusive evidence to suggest significant variations in climate and seasonal cycle in the country. However, for sustaining agricultural growth

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

even in the wake of changing climatic scenario, Ministry of Agriculture has intensified implementation of various schemes/programmes to make Indian Agriculture climate resilient by embedding and mainstreaming various adaption measures. Notable among these Schemes/Programmes are Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) etc.

Further, Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing National Network Project on Climate Change (NNPCC) and has also launched National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) for studying impacts of climate change on Indian Agriculture.

Proposals from Government of Madhya Pradesh under IDDP

†1883. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest status of the proposals submitted by Government of Madhya Pradesh under Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP);
- (b) the names of the districts of Madhya Pradesh where Government intends to implement it; and
- (c) by when action is likely to be initiated, on the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (c) Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted six project proposals under Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP). These six projects have been approved at a total cost of Rs. 3806.62 lakh by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India. Details are given as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	District covered	Date of Approval and Project period	Approved outlay	Total Fund released	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Guna & Narsinghpur	1993-94 to 2007-08	494.06	494.06	Completed
2	Khargaon, Chattarpur, Satna & Rewa	07.03.1996 1995-96 to 2007-08	475.28	475.28	Completed
3	Jhabua	29.09.2005 2005-06 to 2008	228.89	192.44	On-going
4	Chhindwara and Balaghat	29.09.2005 2005-06 to 2007-08	420.58	361.77	On-going

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Harda, Barwani, Neemuch, Sheopur and Seoni	30.03.2007 2006-07 to 2009-10	1422.09	743.27	On-going
6	Dewas, Dhar, Khandwa and Betul	16.02.2012 2011-12 to 2013-14	765.72	356.34	On-going
			3806.62	2623.16	

Miserable condition of farmers in Uttar Pradesh

1884. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that condition of farmers of U.P. is very miserable;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has conducted/is going to conduct any survey to find their real financial condition; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve their condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (d) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted the Situation Assessment Survey, a comprehensive socio-economic study of the Indian farmers covering educational level, level of living, farming practices, possession of productive, assets, awareness and access to modern technology, resource availability, indebtedness during the year 2003 in the rural areas. Highlights of the results of the survey at all-India level and for Uttar Pradesh are as follows:

- An estimated 27% of farmer households at all-India level and 24% of the farmer households in Uttar Pradesh did not like farming because it was not profitable. In all, 40% felt that, given a choice, they would take up some other carrier.
- The average Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure (MPCE) for farmer households was Rs. 502.83 at all-India level and Rs. 474.89 for farmer households of Uttar Pradesh.
- Out of 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million were reported to be indebted at all-India level. In Uttar Pradesh, 6.92 million farmer households 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. Estimated

number of indebted farmer households was highest in Uttar Pradesh (6.92 million), followed by Andhra Pradesh (4.95 million) and Maharashtra (3.61 million).

The Government of India is implementing the National Policy of Farmers, 2007 with an objective to increase the income of farmers by enhancing the economic viability of farming in addition to increasing production and productivity. The policy provisions, *inter-alia*, include asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; provide support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; region and crop specific implements and machinery; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; use of Information and Communication Technology to revitalize agricultural extension; implementation of Minimum Support Price; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture.

Development plans for Jharkhand under NRAA

1885. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large areas in Jharkhand are rainfed, for which special development plans have been prioritized by National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA);
- (b) if so, the details of rainfed area developmental plans of Jharkhand including physical and financial targets of Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (c) whether the targets have been fully achieved so far; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor including steps taken by Union Government to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (d) As per available estimates (2009-10), in Jharkhand, rainfed/net un-irrigated area is 11.49 lakh ha (about 92% of 12.50 lakh ha of net sown area). National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has taken up pilot project on "Capitalizing Opportunities of Rice Fallow for Sustainable Livelihood Development" in Jharkhand covering 4500 ha.

During Eleventh Five Year Plan under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), 703 micro watersheds covering 4.57 lakh ha with an estimated cost of Rs. 548.74 crores have been taken up and work is in progress in all micro-watersheds. In addition, development of rain fed/degraded areas is also taken up under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP

and FPR) etc. During first four years of Eleventh Five Year Plan, an area of 0.35 lakh ha have been developed with an expenditure of Rs. 36.55 crore in the State.

Granting status of Industry to Agriculture

1886. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering any proposal to grant industry status to agriculture; and
- (b) if so, the details and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Reservations of dairy sector in meat export subsidy

1887. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether dairy sector is against meat export subsidies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the views of the experts in this regard for the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), which promotes export of agricultural products has stated that they have no such specific reference from the dairy sector against meat export subsidies.

- (b) does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Planning Commission has informed that it had set up a Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairying for formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan. There are no comments regarding meat export subsidy in the report submitted by the Working Group.

Impact of climate change on farm-sector

1888. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether climate change is likely to have an adverse impact on India's farm sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to incorporate climate change considerations into farming policies; and

(d) the measures taken to improve resource conservation and effective land use management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) There are a number of reports by several organizations and authors about the possible impacts of climate change in general, and rise in temperature in particular, on global agriculture. Publications such as those by Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (2007) and Universal Ecological Fund (2011) indicate such impacts on some crops in different regions of the world.

According to these reports, there will be 14% deficit in global wheat production, 11% in rice and 9% in maize by 2020. They also claim that there will be reduction of up to 50% in rainfed crops in some African countries during 2000-2020 period. Indian studies conducted under ICAR Network Project on Climate Change (NPCC), however, indicate that climate change may reduce yield of timely sown irrigated wheat by about 6% in 2020. When late and very late sown wheat is taken into consideration, the projected impact could reduce the yield by 18%, if no adaptation measures are followed. Similarly, this study projects 4-6% reduction in yield of rice and up to 18% in respect of irrigated *kharif* maize, and 2.5% in rainfed sorghum by the year 2020.

(c) As part of the National Action Plan for Climate Change, the Mission Document on National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) has been formulated jointly by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Department of Agricultural Research & Education, in active consultation of stakeholders including State Governments, and approved in principle by Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change. Earlier, a scheme 'National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)' with an outlay of Rs. 350 crores for the period 2010-12 was launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The components of the scheme include: (i) strategic research on natural resources, major food crops, livestock, marine and freshwater fisheries for adaptation and mitigation; (ii) demonstration of available climate resilient practices on farmers' field in 100 most vulnerable districts of the country; (iii) strengthen research infrastructure and capacity building for climate change research; and (iv) sponsored research.

(d) The Government of India is implementing flagship programs like Integrated Watershed Management for conservation of resources in rainfed regions and promoting zero tillage, and bed planting practices to save on irrigation, water and fuel in irrigated cropping systems. Depending on the land capability and length of growing season, the crop planning is suggested for different agro climatic regions. Many land water management practices are being implemented at village level through the MGNREGA

which also helps in conservation of natural resources. District level contingency plans are being prepared to mitigate the changes in climate scenario.

MSP of important foodgrains

1889. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the cost of production of important foodgrains *vis-a-vis* their Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) during last three years;
- (b) whether the MSPs were enough to sustain and/or raising production of these crops; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) The Minimum Support Prices of major foodgrains since 2009-10 and the all India weighted average projected cost of production estimated by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is given below:

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Cost of production	MSP	Cost of production	MSP	Cost of production	MSP
Paddy (Common)	670	950\$	742	1000	888	1080
Wheat	701	1100	826	1120\$	927	1285
Arhar (Tur)	2231	2300	2422	3000&	2762	3200&
Moong	2759	2760	3109	3170&	3373	3500&
Urad	2294	2520	2490	2900&	2799	3300&
Gram	1641	1760	1902	2100	2121	2800
Masur	1626	1870	2191	2250	2592	2800

& 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.

\$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal was payable over the Minimum Support Price.

(b) and (c) The production of agricultural crops, *inter alia*, depends on a number of factors namely, agro climatic conditions, return on competing crops, MSP etc. Production of rice, wheat, pulses and foodgrains for 2009-10 and 2011-12 is given below.

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2009-10	2011-12*
Rice	89.09	102.75
Wheat	80.80	88.31
Pulses	14.66	17.28
Foodgrains	218.11	250.42

* Second Advance Estimates.

The Government offers to procure the agricultural produce at MSP if the market prices fall below that level. However, farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market if it offers a higher price.

Post of Dy. Director (Official Language) in CMFRI, Kochi

1890. SHRI P.R. RAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the staff strength of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi, Kerala;
- (b) whether Government has sanctioned a post of Deputy Director (Official Language) in this institute;
- (c) whether Government has upgraded the Post of Assistant Director (Official Language) as Deputy Director;
- (d) whether there is any violation of existing norms and rules in allocating Deputy Director (Official Language) post in the institute; and
- (e) if so, the details of the appointment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) Instructions issued by the Department of Official Language on 22nd July, 2004 provide that one Hindi Officer of the rank of Assistant Director be posted in each attached/subordinate office having 100 or more ministerial employees. The sanctioned strength of ministerial employees of CMFRI, Cochin is 143 and an Assistant Director (Official Language) is in position as per norms.

(c) to (e) In a recently carried out cadre review, six additional posts of Deputy Directors (OL) have been approved for the ICAR as a whole. Their deployment has been done keeping in mind administrative exigencies and in the interest of work relating to official language.

Use of helicopters for saving crops

1891. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking help of helicopters to save crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise: and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) At present government is not taking help of helicopters to save crops.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Helicopter was last used during 1993 for the control of serious desert locust invasion in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat by the Locust Warning Organization, Government of India. Since then no need was felt to use helicopter/ aircraft as no serious pest outbreak/invasion of desert locust occurred.

Further, the Government of India has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle of plant protection in overall crop production programmes of the country and is therefore, promoting IPM wherein chemical pesticides are used as a last resort, judiciously and on need basis. As such aerial spraying of pesticides is normally not recommended due to hazards associated with such spraying like shifting of pesticide through air in other areas and pesticides not settling on target based crop areas thereby polluting the whole area of crop agro-ecosystem causing disruption of biological equilibrium.

Adverse effect of excessive use of chemical fertilizers

1892. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that excessive use of chemical fertilizers, particularly urea by farmers across the country, has posed threat to the soil as well as decline in farm production:
- (b) if so, whether Government has chalked out any awareness programme for farmers to discourage excessive use of chemical fertilizers:
- (c) if so, the details thereof:
- (d) whether various fertilizer cooperatives would be engaged in the awareness programme of impact of chemical fertilizers on soil and farm production: and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) With average fertilizer consumption at 144.14 kg per hectare India is using much less quantities of chemical fertilizers compared to other developing countries. But imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter and neglect of micro and secondary nutrients over the years has resulted in nutrient deficiency and deterioration of soil health in many parts of the country, particularly in the intensively cultivated Indo-Gangetic plains.

(b) and (c) Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) advocating soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients for improving soil fertility.

National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) was launched during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. NPMSH&F provides assistance for setting up new static/mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs), strengthening of existing STLs, training of STL staff/extension officers/farmers, field demonstration on balanced use-of fertilizers, promoting use of organic manure, soil amendments and micro nutrients etc.

(d) and (e) Fertilizer companies including cooperatives have taken up various activities under NPMSH&F, for creating awareness, fertilizer companies and cooperatives have taken up trainings and field demonstrations on soil test based balanced use of fertilizers. Further, 17 static STLs, 13 mobile STLs and strengthening of 5 existing STLs have been approved to fertilizers companies.

Incentives for organic farming

1893. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether steps have been taken by Government to incentivize agricultural production by Organic Farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of financial assistance accorded to such projects by Government; and
- (d) the details of number of Organic Farming clusters presently operating in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is incentivizing

agricultural production by promoting organic farming through various schemes. Technical capacity building, support to input production, technology transfer, awareness creation etc. are being facilitated through National Project on Promotion Organic Farming (NPOF). In addition, under National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) financial assistance is being provided to States for area expansion through adoption and certification of farmers under organic management and for setting up of on-farm organic input production units.

(c) State-wise financial assistance provided under different schemes of DAC namely NPOF, RKVY, NHM and HMNEH is at Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) State-wise list of organic farming clusters operating in the country under organic certification is at Statement II.

Statement - I

State-wise details of financial assistance for promotion of organic farming given during 11th Plan period

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	State Name	Funds released/expenditure under different schemes on promotion of organic farming during 11th Plan period (2007-08 to 2011-12)				
		NPOF	RKVY	NHM	HMNEH	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	179.99	3916	1976.82	0	6072.81
2	Arunachal Pradesh	25.25	50	0	442.7	517.95
3	Assam	144.68	0	0	400.7	545.38
4	Bihar	12.43	4056	849.83	0	4918.26
5	Chhattisgarh	179.25	2807	4883.25	0	7869.5
6	Delhi	23.97	0	0	0	23.97
7	Goa	9.06	0	10.72	0	19.78
8	Gujarat	0	668	344.14	0	1012.14
9	Haryana	267.82	979	1355.95	0	2602.77
10	Himachal Pradesh	108.49	2727	0	837.39	3672.88
11	Jammu and Kashmir	106.3	373	0	323.25	802.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12	Jharkhand	0.86	277	245.27	0	523.13
13	Karnataka	386.66	3490	3184.9	0	7061.56
14	Kerala	71.74	68	1335.28	0	1475.02
15	Madhya Pradesh	192.7	27570	1041.91	0	28804.61
16	Maharashtra	449.46	0	929.17	0	1378.63
17	Manipur	21.93	35	0	600.2	657.13
18	Meghalaya	11.02	50	0	114.2	175.22
19	Mizoram	172.17			528.2	700.37
20	Nagaland	198.55	104	0	358.2	660.75
21	Orissa	149.25	1757	424.63	0	2330.88
22	Punjab	263.24	850	1200.09	0	2313.33
23	Rajasthan	249.04	3305	1324.23	0	4878.27
24	Sikkim	0	196	0	1330.06	1526.06
25	Tamil Nadu	234.24	2596	674.2	0	3504.44
26	Tripura	120.08	485	0	529.4	1134.48
27	Uttar Pradesh	257.61	3132	2016.39	0	5406
28	Uttarakhand	80.41	1627	0	559.54	2266.95
29	West Bengal	40	139	141.03	0	320.03
30	Pondicherry	7.92	0	0	0	7.92
TOTAL		3964.12	61257.00	21937.81	6023.84	93182.77

Statement II

State-wise list of organic farming clusters operating in the country under organic certification process

List of the States	Number of organic farming clusters
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	185
Assam	3
Bihar	1

1	2
Delhi	261
Goa	12
Gujarat	40
Haryana	36
Himachal Pradesh	8
Jammu and Kashmir	3
Jharkhand	2
Karnataka	300
Kerala	67
Lakshadweep	9
Madhya Pradesh	405
Maharashtra	210
Manipur	4
Meghalaya	3
Mizoram	16
Nagaland	3
Odisha	70
Punjab	7
Rajasthan	90
Sikkim	57
Tamil Nadu	7
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	14
Uttaranchal	194
West Bengal	6
TOTAL	2014

Source: Based on Information provided at Trace-Net by Certification Bodies of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under National Programme on Organic Production.

Second Green Revolution

1894. SHRI A.A. JINNAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to renew first Green Revolution or to start a second Green Revolution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has identified regions/ States for projecting Green Revolution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including total amount allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (c) Sir, in order to meet the food grains requirement of the growing population of the country, Government of India is laying emphasis on development of resource rich Eastern region of the country for enhancing agricultural production. This would also be helpful in reducing the over exploitation of natural resources in North-Western region, the traditional food bowl of the country. Accordingly, the Government of India launched a programme of "Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)"-a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2010-11 in the eastern States comprising of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh (East) and West Bengal with an objective to increase the productivity of rice based cropping system by promotion of recommended agricultural technologies and addressing the underlying key constraints of different agro climatic sub regions. Under this scheme, a bouquet of activities have been taken up that include block demonstrations of rice and wheat technologies in cluster mode approach; promoting resource conservation technology (zero tillage under wheat); creation of asset building activities for water management (shallow tube wells/dug wells/bore wells, distribution of pump sets); promotion of farm implements and need based site specific activities etc. An amount of Rs. 400 crore was allocated for implementation of the programme in each of the two years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Package for growing pulses and oilseeds

1895. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended promotional package to farmers of Karnataka for growing pulses and edible oil seeds in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers who availed the package in the State, district-wise; and

(d) net result achieved from the package in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has been providing assistance to the States including Karnataka for cultivation of pulses and oilseeds under National Food Security Mission-Pulses, (NFSM-Pulses) and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM). Under these programmes, assistance is being provided for purchase of breeder seed, seed production, seed distribution, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Herbicides/weedicides, Improved farm implements, assistance for increased water use efficiency through distribution of sprinklers, pipeline for carrying water to the fields and pump sets etc., apart from training of farmers and extension workers being organised for transfer of latest production technology. Besides, programme of 60,000 pulses village and Special Programme on Oil Palm Area Expansion-**sub schemes of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** are also being implemented for enhancing the production and productivity of these crops.

In addition, to demonstrate the production and protection technology of pulses as a cluster mode approach among the farmers on their fields through compact area approach, Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) is also under implementation in the country with 1000 units (one unit of 1000 ha each) covering one million hectare area of pulses.

The State Government of Karnataka has been allocated an amount of Rs. 36.47 crores for implementation of NFSM-Pulses in the State during 2011-12. Subsequently, an additional allocation of Rs. 8.88 crore has also been allocated to State under the programme during 2011-12 to cover more area under pulses crops.

(c) As per the reports received from the Government of Karnataka, about 4,59,056 farmers under ISOPOM and about 7,12,248 farmers under NFSM-Pulses and RKVY programmes have been benefitted. The district-wise number of farmers benefitted under the above Schemes in various districts of the State of Karnataka is given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) After implementation of crops developmental programmes of Pulses in Karnataka, the production of total pulses has increased from 8.93 lakh tonnes during 2006-07 to 15.65 lakh tonnes during 2010-11 which is 6.72 lakh tonnes higher as compared to 2006-07. Similarly, the production of total oilseeds in Karnataka has also increased from 11.25 lakh tonnes to 12.70 lakh tonnes during the same period. However, production of pulses and oilseeds in the State, during 2011-12, is estimated to have marginally decreased due to onset of late monsoon resulting less coverage of area and less production under the crops.

Statement*Details of the farmers benefitted under various schemes**State: Karnataka*

Sl. No.	District	Number of Farmers benefitted under				
		ISOPOM	NFSM- Pulses	Accelerated Pulses Production Programme	Additional Area Programme	Programme of 60,000 Pulses Villages
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Bangalore (U)	401	11	0	0	0
2	Bangalore (R)	4428	1677	0	0	0
3	Kolar	5415	1518	0	0	0
4	Tumkur	73481	5793	0	0	0
5	Chitradurga	4671	6674	0	0	0
6	Davangere	9748	1477	0	0	0
7	Hassan	9906	1560	0	0	0
8	Chickmagalur	9487	3952	0	0	0
9	D. Kannada	36	66	0	0	0
10	Udupi	269	229	0	0	0
11	Mysore	4227	2216	0	0	0
12	C. R. Nagar	14391	12	0	0	0
13	Mandya	1141	1406	0	0	0
14	Shimoga	4066	2436	0	0	0
15	U. Kannada	285	59	0	0	0
16	Dharwad	96569	18963	31448	6024	0
17	Haveri	20864	58	0	0	0
18	Gadag	25107	39871	37000	6024	0
19	Bellary	10796	14522	0	6024	0
20	Bijapur	18240	19269	30800	13554	10322

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21	Bagalkot	31615	13798	0	6024	0
22	Bellgaum	28162	120898	0	9036	0
23	Raichur	16762	4705	26850	9036	1000
24	Koppal	13088	15052	0	0	0
25	Gulberga	8146	21374	62733	15060	10322
26	Bidar	10208	17267	58200	6024	5161
27	Kodagu	0	0	0	0	0
28	C. B. Pur	10382	1806	0	0	0
29	Ramanagaram	3256	833	0	0	0
30	Yadgiri	23909	5658	28767	4518	5161
TOTAL		459056	323160	275798	81324	31966

Organic Farming

1896. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to give a boost to Organic Farming by implementing various schemes;
- (b) if so, the details of the schemes to be introduced to promote Organic Farming in the country;
- (c) whether ICAR has initiated methodology in Organic Farming; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government is promoting organic farming in the country through various schemes like National Project on Promotion of Organic Fanning (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH).

(b) Under NPOF components like technical capacity building through training, support to input production units through capital investment subsidy, technology transfer and awareness creation are being implemented. Further under schemes like NHM, HMNEH and RKVY, financial assistance is also provided to States for area expansion through adoption and certification of farmers under organic management and for setting up of on-farm organic input production units.

(c) and (d) During 10th Plan ICAR has initiated a Network Project on Organic Farming for developing package of practices of different crops and cropping systems for organic farming in different agro-ecological regions of the country.

Latest Technologies for Farmers

1897. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister while speaking at the Golden Jubilee Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in February this year, has observed that farm technologies are not reaching farmers on ground;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any concrete steps on the observations of the Prime Minister;

(c) the immediate steps taken by Government to ensure latest farm technologies reaches farmers on ground; and

(d) the role to be played by various State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) The Prime Minister has stated that one of the major concerns has been that extension services system is no longer sufficiently robust; that infrastructure of support at the district level needs to be revitalized; and that Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and the Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) have to play a major role in the process of revitalization and transformation of extension network.

(b) and (c) Conversions and synergy between activities of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ATMAs is being strengthened, as is the collaboration amongst ICAR institutes themselves and amongst ICAR institutes on the other hand, and the Agricultural Universities and the non-government organizations on the other. The KVKs are strengthening their mandate of assessment, refinement and management of technologies through activities such as front line demonstrations.

(d) Agriculture is the State subject and the States are primarily looking at extension to the village and panchayat levels.

Implementation of RKVY

1898. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund earmarked under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State-wise across the country during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred by each State; and

- (c) whether the targets have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) State-wise allocation and release of funds under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and expenditure reported by the States during Eleventh Five year Plan is given in Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to SQ/USQ No. 1871 (Part (a))].

(c) RKVY was launched in August, 2007 with the objective to incentivize the states to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing projects in agriculture and allied sectors. Accordingly, States have increased expenditure to agriculture and allied sector in the State Plan from Rs. 8770.16 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 22158.46 crore in 2010-11 (RE). In percentage term this translates into increased expenditure on agriculture and allied sector from 4.88% of total State Plan Expenditure in 2006-07 to 6.04% in 2010-11 (RE).

Production of crops compared to developed countries

1899. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the crop yield per hectare is very less in the country, as compared to the developed countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the assessed potential as against the yield; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard to improve the crop yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) As per reports of Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2010 (latest available) the yield of major crops in India is lower as compared to developed countries. A comparative position of yield of major crops in India *vis-a-vis* developed countries for 2010 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The yield of different varieties of crops is assessed by growing them at different locations of various zones of the country under All-India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP). As per result of Front Line Demonstrations conducted at farmers' fields with improved varieties and recommended packages of practices for cultivation in various crops, 15-20% higher yield can be achieved in India through proper management of cultivation practices at farmers' fields.

(d) In order to increase production and productivity of agricultural crops in the country, a number of Crop Development Schemes and Programmes, namely:

National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereal Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals under Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS), Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) and National Project for Science Health Fertility are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture through State Governments. In addition to above schemes, during 2010-11, two new programmes viz., Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India and Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in Rainfed Areal have been initiated under RKVY. National Food Security Mission has been strengthened from 1.4.2010 with the merger of pulses component of ISOPOM and inclusion of two new potential State namely; Assam and Jharkhand for pulses production. A new programme "Accelerated Pulse Production Programme (A3P)" in the form of block demonstrations has also been started to cover 1000 units of 1000 hectares each of five pulses crops in 16 pulses growing States of the country.

To achieve higher agricultural productivity, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also conducting basic and strategic research related to crop improvement, production and protection technologies in these crops towards profitable cropping systems suitable to different situations including development of location specific varieties and technologies as per the agro-ecological zones, development of varieties/hybrids, related production and protection technologies suitable for non-traditional areas and seasons. As a result of these initiatives, improved varieties/hybrids of crops have been developed with good adaptability to different agro-ecological zones with specific traits. Promotion and adoption of technologies are ensured through Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs). The technologies by ICAR Institutes and All-India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) in respect of cash crops are also being popularized through special programmes.

Statement

Comparative position of yield of major crops in India vis-a-vis developed countries for 2010

Yield: (Kg/Hectare)

Country	Rice	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Pulses	Oilseeds (Primary)	Sugarcane	Cotton
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
India*	2239	2989	1536	691	1193	70091	499
Australia	10842	1639	1877	1089	473	77672	4508

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Canada	NA	2802	4688	1814	645	NA	NA
China	6548	4749	5179	1583	589	65746	3694
France	4979	7042	7180	3850	1094	NA	NA
Russian Federation	5280	1918	1626	1399	364	NA	NA
United Kingdom	NA	7681	5648	3867	1252	NA	NA
United States of America	7538	3118	8996	1856	505	69894	2188
WORLD	4374	3000	3557	890	632	70772	2124

Source: FAO

* As per official estimates released by M/o Agriculture.

NA: Not Available.

National Dairy Plan, Phase-I

1900. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has initiated National Dairy Plan, Phase-I;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the major objectives of the plan; and
- (d) the States in which it is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) Government of India has approved the implementation of National Dairy Plan Phase-I (NDP I) with a total outlay of about Rs. 2,242 crore during the period from 2011-12 to 2016-17. The scheme will be implemented by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) through end implementing agencies.

- (c) The objective of NDP I is as follows:
 - (i) To help increase productivity of milch animals and thereby increase milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk.

(ii) To help provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organised milk-processing sector.

(d) NDPI will be implemented in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Kerala. Coverage of NDP-I will, however, be across the country in terms of benefits accruing from the scheme.

Crop insurance

†1901. SHRI ASHOK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the State of Rajasthan under crop insurance in 2010-11;

(b) whether Government proposes to bring all the crops within the ambit of crop insurance to give relief to farmers; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) Presently, four crop insurance schemes *i.e.* National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Pilot Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Pilot Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) are implemented to compensate the losses in crops of the farmers in the country. All schemes are demand driven and therefore, no State-wise funds are allocated. During 2010-11, Rs. 84256.37 lakh were utilized as Government of India's share for contribution in farmers' premium and settlement of claims in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) All food and Oilseed crops, annual commercial/horticultural crops and some perennial horticultural crops are already covered under crop insurance schemes. As per provisions of the scheme, the implementing States/UTs are free to notify any crop subject to the capacity of the State to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and availability of adequate past yield/weather data.

Controlling inflation in food articles

1902. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any step to increase agricultural production and productivity to control inflation in food articles on a sustainable basis;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there has been contribution from State Governments in controlling inflation in food articles; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) to (d) To increase production and productivity of various crops, a number of Agriculture Development Schemes and Programmes are implemented through State Government in the country like, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India, Integrated Development of 60,000 Pulses and Oilseeds Villages in Rainfed Areas, Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P), Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Maize and Oil Palm (ISOPOM), Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton and Jute, Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals/ Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

These Schemes and Programmes boost the Crop Production levels to meet the demand of foodgrains in the country and have cooling effect on food prices.

Besides, several fiscal and administrative measures have also been taken by the Government to successfully contain price rise of essential commodities. Some of these measures are:

- (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) Permitted Sugar mills to import duty-free raw sugar under Open General License (O.G.L.). Later this facility was extended to private trade on job basis; and
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) 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);
- (v) Imposed ban on export of non-basmati rice and wheat for short period of time;
- (vi) Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, edible oilseeds, paddy and rice;

- (vii) 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;
- (viii) 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;
- (ix) Suspension of Futures trading in rice, urad and Tur by the Forward Market Commission continues;
- (x) A quantity of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat and 10 lakh tonnes of rice to State/ UT Governments for distribution to retail consumers for the period of October, 2011 to September, 2012 under OMSS etc.
- (xi) An additional adhoc allocation of 123.68 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat have been made so far comprising BPL/APL families and poorest/backward districts in 27 States.
- (xii) 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 31.3.2012.
- (xiii) 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 30.9.2012.

MSP for paddy, soyabean and cotton

1903. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has ignored the long pending demand of farmers to increase the MSP for paddy, soyabean and cotton which has remained unchanged for 2011-12 season;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take to provide some relief to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT) : (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices of cotton, paddy and soyabean of 2011-12 season have been increased over the MSPs of 2010-11 season. The MSPs of these crops for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are given below :

(Rs. per quintal)

Crop	Variety	2010-11	2011-12
Cotton	Staple length (mm) of 24.5-25.5 and Micronaire value of 4.3-5.1	2500	2800
	Staple length (mm) of 29.5-30.5 and Micronaire value of 3.5-4.3	3000	3300
Paddy	Common	1000	1080
	Grade A	1030	1110
Soyabean	Black	1400	1650
	Yellow	1440	1690

(c) Government has taken several measures aimed at revitalizing agriculture sector, which, *inter-alia*, include launching of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, etc., with the objective of increasing investment, productivity and production in agriculture and allied sectors and benefit farmers.

Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region in Cuddalore

1904. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set up another Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region in Cuddalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government is going to obtain the clearance for the project and will start the process for setting it up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted a proposal to the Central Government for setting up a Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region at Cuddalore and Nagapattinam.

(b) and (c) As per the established procedure, the proposal has been considered by the High Powered Committee (HPC) chaired by Cabinet Secretary on 28.04.2011. Based on resolution of a few outstanding issues with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, the proposal is to be considered by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

Assessment of requirement of fertilizers

1905. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government ascertain the requirement of major fertilizers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and month-wise;
- (c) whether no scientific method is followed for assessing the requirement of fertilizers and the requirement is generally projected by an increase of 5 to 10 per cent over the previous season's/year's requirement;
- (d) whether the availability of irrigation facilities, soil health and other local factors are considered to determine the requirement of fertilizers; and
- (e) if so, the measures taken to determine realistic requirement of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government assesses State-wise and month-wise requirement of fertilizers before each cropping season in Zonal conferences on Agricultural Inputs in which representatives of State Governments and fertilizer industry participate. The State-wise and month-wise requirement of major fertilizers like Urea, DAP, MOP & Complex fertilizers during the current Rabi 2011-12 season are given in Statements I, II, III and IV (*See* below).

(c) to (e) Requirement of fertilizers is assessed by State Governments on the basis of past consumption, weather conditions, targeted crop area, cropping pattern, area under irrigation and soil mapping etc. The State Governments have been advised to project requirement of fertilizers on scientific basis.

Statement - I

Month-wise requirement of urea for rabi 2011-12

UREA		(In '000 MTs)					
State/Union Territory	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	Total Rabi 2012
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
South Zone							
Andhra Pradesh	320.00	200.00	225.00	300.00	330.00	225.00	1600.00
Karnataka	150.00	110.00	100.00	110.00	93.00	97.00	660.00
Kerala	25.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	12.00	8.00	100.00
Tamil Nadu	178.00	171.00	130.00	72.00	70.00	79.00	700.00
Pondicherry	3.80	3.00	3.00	2.10	2.40	2.70	17.00
Andaman and Nicobar	0.02	0.05	0.13	0.15	0.11	0.06	0.50
TOTAL	676.815	504.045	478.13	499.245	507.51	411.755	3077.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
West Zone							
Gujarat	210.00	215.00	250.00	215.00	150.00	135.00	1175.00
Madhya Pradesh	246.47	387.02	322.29	140.63	19.95	8.64	1125.00
Chhattisgarh	22.50	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	7.50	150.00
Maharashtra	195.00	210.00	240.00	230.00	200.00	175.00	1250.00
Rajasthan	140.00	210.00	340.00	230.00	70.00	60.00	1050.00
Goa	0.30	0.35	0.55	0.45	0.45	0.20	2.30
Daman and Diu	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.18
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.03	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.08	0.05	0.42
TOTAL	814.33	1052.47	1182.97	846.21	470.50	386.43	4752.90
North Zone							
Haryana	145.00	270.00	335.00	220.00	105.00	50.00	1125.00
Punjab	300.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	100.00	100.00	1350.00
Uttar Pradesh	400.00	650.00	850.00	800.00	400.00	200.00	3300.00
Uttarakhand	5.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	10.00	20.00	115.00
Himachal Pradesh	5.00	5.00	7.50	5.00	5.00	1.50	29.00
Jammu and Kashmir	13.70	24.43	19.17	9.15	7.56	4.00	78.00
Delhi	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.20	0.20	0.10	5.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	870.70	1225.93	1537.67	1364.35	627.76	375.60	6002.00
East Zone							
Bihar	160.00	210.00	285.00	210.00	160.00	125.00	1150.00
Jharkhand	21.25	22.50	27.50	16.25	6.25	6.25	100.00
Orissa	25.00	15.00	15.00	30.00	50.00	55.00	190.00
West Bengal	95.00	132.50	170.00	182.50	140.50	104.50	825.00
TOTAL	301.25	380.00	497.50	438.75	356.75	290.75	2265.00
North-East Zone							
Assam	14.40	20.80	33.60	36.80	33.60	20.80	160.00
Tripura	9.97	4.47	2.90	2.53	2.79	1.35	24.00
Manipur	1.60	2.10	2.60	2.80	1.90	1.50	12.50
Meghalaya	0.50	0.20	0.70	1.10	1.20	0.80	4.50
Nagaland	0.13	0.13	0.10	0.12	0.07	0.14	0.69
Arunachal Pradesh	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.57
Mizoram	0.10	0.05	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.21
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	26.80	27.84	40.00	43.47	39.67	24.68	202.47
ALL INDIA	2689.89	3190.29	3736.27	3192.02	2002.19	1489.21	16299.87

Statement - II*Month-wise requirement of DAP for rabi 2011-12***DAP***(In '000 MTs)*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	Total Rabi 2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
South Zone								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	125.00	100.00	100.00	75.00	50.00	50.00	500.00
2.	Karnataka	55.00	50.00	43.00	51.00	35.00	26.00	260.00
3.	Kerala	8.00	5.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	22.00
4.	Tamil Nadu	70.00	55.00	40.00	26.00	20.00	19.00	230.00
5.	Pondicherry	1.20	1.10	1.00	0.80	0.80	0.70	5.60
6.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.07	0.11	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.08	0.70
TOTAL		259.27	211.21	187.15	154.95	107.94	97.78	1018.30
West Zone								
1.	Gujarat	120.00	120.00	65.00	45.00	25.00	25.00	400.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	217.08	206.68	46.93	8.38	3.68	2.27	485.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	6.50	16.26	16.25	13.00	9.75	3.25	65.01
4.	Maharashtra	100.00	130.00	120.00	115.00	100.00	85.00	650.00
5.	Rajasthan	137.00	115.00	37.00	26.00	20.00	15.00	350.00
6.	Goa	0.05	0.10	0.35	0.50	0.20	0.10	1.30
7.	Daman and Diu	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.07
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.02	0.07	0.12	0.09	0.08	0.05	0.40
TOTAL		580.67	588.10	285.65	207.98	158.72	130.67	1951.79
North Zone								
1.	Haryana	225.00	125.00	25.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	400.00
2.	Punjab	225.00	150.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	415.00
3.	Uttar Pradesh	355.00	300.00	150.00	50.00	40.00	20.00	915.00
4.	Uttaranchal	2.50	6.00	2.50	2.00	0.00	0.00	13.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.79	16.54	11.60	4.30	2.91	1.86	45.00
7.	Delhi	1.20	1.30	0.30	0.15	0.05	0.00	3.00
8.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		816.49	598.84	199.40	75.45	60.96	39.86	1791.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
East Zone								
1.	Bihar	85.00	80.00	80.00	10.00	15.00	5.00	275.00
2.	Jharkhand	15.00	13.00	13.00	2.50	1.50	0.00	45.00
3.	Orissa	11.69	9.89	11.15	24.19	25.07	8.01	90.00
4.	West Bengal	76.20	44.00	45.70	52.70	29.30	12.10	260.00
TOTAL		187.89	146.89	149.85	89.39	70.87	25.11	670.00
North-East Zone								
1.	Assam	3.60	5.20	8.40	9.20	8.40	5.20	40.00
2.	Tripura	0.27	0.46	0.57	0.49	0.38	0.44	2.60
3.	Manipur	0.17	0.21	0.23	0.24	0.26	0.30	1.41
4.	Meghalaya	0.15	0.11	0.30	0.51	0.70	0.23	2.00
5.	Nagaland	0.10	0.12	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.60
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06
7.	Mizoram	0.23	0.12	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.01	0.47
8.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		4.53	6.23	9.59	10.61	9.91	6.28	47.14
ALL INDIA		1848.84	1551.27	831.64	538.38	408.40	299.70	5478.23

Statement - III*Month-wise requirement of MOP for rabi 2011-12**MOP**(In '000 MTs)*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	Total Rabi 2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80.00	50.00	60.00	55.00	50.00	40.00	335.00
2.	Karnataka	60.00	46.00	51.00	43.00	40.00	35.00	275.00
3.	Kerala	25.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	5.00	5.00	90.00
4.	Tamil Nadu	75.00	70.00	61.00	40.00	42.00	32.00	320.00
5.	Pondicherry	2.00	1.60	1.60	1.10	1.35	1.35	9.00
6.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.09	0.03	0.35
TOTAL		242.02	187.66	193.66	154.20	138.44	113.38	1029.35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
West Zone								
1.	Gujarat	28.00	23.00	20.00	18.00	18.00	13.00	120.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	32.28	28.44	11.00	1.84	1.06	0.37	75.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	4.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	1.50	30.00
4.	Maharashtra	50.00	52.00	54.00	55.00	54.00	50.00	315.00
5.	Rajasthan	5.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	2.0	20.00
6.	Goa	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.40
7.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.11
TOTAL		119.84	113.50	95.08	83.97	81.16	66.99	560.54
North Zone								
1.	Haryana	10.00	7.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	40.00
2.	Punjab	15.00	15.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
3.	Uttar Pradesh	65.00	45.00	45.00	35.00	50.00	100.00	250.00
4.	Uttarakhand	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	5.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2.50	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	1.00	6.00
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.38	8.40	6.02	2.97	1.75	1.48	25.00
7.	Delhi	0.60	0.40	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.05	1.50
8.	Chandigarh	0.00		0.00	0.00			0.00
TOTAL		99.48	77.30	64.22	52.12	61.85	22.53	377.50
East Zone								
1.	Bihar	45.00	65.00	35.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	165.00
2.	Jharkhand	6.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	14.00
3.	Orissa	10.17	11.04	11.73	18.09	20.20	13.77	85.00
4.	West Bengal	31.96	54.15	59.10	49.65	37.00	18.14	250.00
TOTAL		93.13	134.19	107.83	79.74	62.20	36.91	514.00
North-East Zone								
1.	Assam	7.20	10.40	16.80	18.40	16.80	10.40	80.00
2.	Tripura	4.65	1.84	1.01	0.85	0.76	0.40	9.50
3.	Manipur	0.08	0.14	0.10	0.17	0.14	0.24	0.87
4.	Meghalaya	0.03	0.05	0.07	0.20	0.30	0.05	0.70
5.	Nagaland	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.16
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06
7.	Mizoram	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.11
8.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		12.05	12.50	18.01	19.66	18.04	11.14	91.40
ALL INDIA		566.52	525.14	478.80	389.69	361.69	250.95	2572.80

Statement - IV*Month-wise requirement of complex for rabi 2011-12***COMPLEX***(In '000 MTs)*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	Total Rabi 2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	225.00	200.00	220.00	200.00	125.00	110.00	1080.00
2.	Karnataka	128.00	117.00	114.00	123.00	107.00	91.00	680.00
3.	Kerala	40.00	30.00	22.00	15.00	10.00	8.00	125.00
4.	Tamil Nadu	99.00	85.90	75.30	51.40	42.80	35.60	390.00
5.	Pondicherry	4.29	3.53	3.45	2.40	2.78	2.85	19.30
6.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.03	0.15	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.07	0.40
TOTAL		496.32	436.58	434.81	391.86	287.62	247.52	2294.70
West Zone								
1.	Gujarat	74.20	67.80	43.00	28.00	21.00	16.00	250.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	94.06	98.27	27.39	3.64	1.27	0.38	225.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	8.18	10.90	10.90	10.90	10.90	2.73	54.50
4.	Maharashtra	201.00	191.00	169.00	145.00	128.00	96.00	930.00
5.	Rajasthan	32.50	23.50	8.00	6.40	6.20	9.40	86.00
6.	Goa	0.30	0.53	0.54	0.57	0.36	0.20	2.50
7.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.06
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		410.24	392.01	258.83	194.53	167.73	124.72	1548.06
North Zone								
1.	Haryana	15.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	50.00
2.	Punjab	30.00	10.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	50.00
3.	Uttar Pradesh	175.00	175.00	125.00	75.00	30.00	20.00	600.00
4.	Uttaranchal	9.50	11.50	11.00	6.00	5.00	3.00	46.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	10.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	2.50	0.00	35.00
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Delhi	0.80	0.80	0.30	0.06	0.02	0.02	2.00
8.	Chandigarh	0.00			0.00			0.00
TOTAL		240.30	214.80	156.30	96.06	45.02	30.52	783.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
East Zone								
1.	Bihar	50.00	70.00	60.00	12.50	5.00	2.50	200.00
2.	Jharkhand	20.00	19.30	11.20	9.00	5.50	5.00	70.00
3.	Orissa	12.55	15.62	21.28	27.55	25.57	11.45	114.00
4.	West Bengal	64.05	95.50	116.10	107.50	75.00	41.85	500.00
TOTAL		146.60	200.42	208.58	156.55	111.07	60.80	884.00
North-East Zone								
1.	Assam	1.80	2.60	4.20	4.60	4.20	2.60	20.00
2.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Nagaland	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.09
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Mizoram	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20
8.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		1.91	2.71	4.22	4.62	4.22	2.62	20.29
ALL INDIA		1295.37	1246.51	1062.73	843.62	615.65	466.17	5530.04

Supply of fertilizers to Andhra Pradesh

1906. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand for Urea, DAP, MOP, Complex and other fertilizers for Rabi 2011-12 for Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of demand for Urea, DAP, MOP, Complex and other fertilizers for Kharif 2011 for Andhra Pradesh and supply made thereto; and

(c) how the Ministry is planning to supply urea etc. As per demand as at (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) The demand and supply (availability) of urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers in Andhra Pradesh during Rabi' 2011-12 (October' 11 to February' 12) are as under:

(Figures in '000 MTs)

Rabi' 2011-12 (October' 11 to February' 12)		
Fertilizer Grade	Requirement	Availability
Urea	1375.00	1331.64
DAP	450.00	479.42
MOP	295.00	294.17
Complex	970.00	1139.73

As can be seen, the availability of urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilisers during current Rabi' 2011-12 (October' 11 to February' 12) has been comfortable.

(b) The demand and availability (supply) of urea, phosphatic fertilizers (DAP/NPK) and MOP in Andhra Pradesh during Kharif' 2011 (April' 11 to September' 11) are as under:

(Figures in '000 MTs)

Kharif' 2011 (April' 11 to September' 11)		
Fertilizer Grade	Requirement	Availability (Supply)
Urea	1500.00	1466.39
*DAP	730.00	616.04
*NPK	1150.00	1267.40
MOP	325.00	82.50

* includes stock pre-positioned (69520 MT of DAP and 90160 MT of NPK fertilisers).

As can be seen, the availability of urea is adequate. Similarly, the availability of phosphatic fertilisers *i.e.* DAP/NPK during current Kharif, 2011 (April' 11 to September' 11) has been comfortable. In case of MOP, there was tightness in availability during Kharif, 2011. There is no viable source of Potash in the country as such the entire demand of MOP is met through imports. Upto the month of July' 11, contracting for import of MOP could not materialize due to substantial increase of prices and cartelization by MOP producers in the International market. The contracting of MOP took place only in the month of August' 11. As a result, MOP availability for direct application as well as for indigenous production of NPK fertilizers is comfortable in Rabi' 11-12.

(c) Various fertilizers are supplied as per the demand and it is reviewed every week with various State Governments through Video Conference.

Price-rise of Urea

1907. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the price of Urea in 2009;
- (b) the percentage by which the price of Urea increased in 2010 and 2011;
- (c) the percentage by which the price of Urea increased in the present year;
- (d) the quantity of Urea imported from 2009 till date, year-wise; and
- (e) the steps being taken to ensure adequate indigenous production of Urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) The MRP of Urea in 2009 was Rs. 4830/MT.

(b) With effect from 1-4-2010, the MRP of Urea increased by 10% *i.e.* Rs. 5310/MT. In the year 2011, there is no increase in the MRP of Urea.

(c) Nil.

(d) Quantity of Urea imported from 2009 is as under :

Year	Quantity (LMT) others	Quantity (LMT) OMIFCO
2009-10	31.48	20.62
2010-11	45.46	20.64
2011-12 (upto Feb, 2012)	57.65	19.10

(e) To increase indigenous production of urea, 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 & Greenfield plants were materialized. The Fertilizer companies have expressed concern regarding pricing and firm availability of gas before taking final investment decision to undertake expansion, Brownfield and new Greenfield projects. A proposal to amend the New Investment Policy notified by the DOF on 4th September 2008 is under consideration of Government.

Availability of rakes for transportation of fertilizers

†1908. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient number of rakes are not being made available for transportation of Urea as per the demand of Madhya Pradesh;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has chalked out a policy to set up a new system in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any time-limit has been fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (e) Ministry of Railways have been providing sufficient number of rakes for transportation of fertilizers from ports/plants to all States including Madhya Pradesh. As a result of which, the average availability of railway rakes per day during the year 2011-12 (April' 11 to February' 12) is 51 compared to 49 for the same period of last year. The cumulative requirement, availability and sales of Urea in Madhya Pradesh during the current year 2011-12 (April' 11 to February' 12) has been maintained over and above the assessed demand as under:

('lakh metric tonnes)

2011-12 (April' 11 to February' 12)			
Product	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Urea	17.41	17.50	17.19

In view of above, no new system is under consideration in this regard.

Formulation of National Fertilizer Policy

1909. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA : Will the Ministry of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted any Review Committee to go into all aspects of new developments to be incorporated in the National Fertilizer Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the recommendations made by the committee; and
- (c) the likely time-frame by which the new policy would be formulated and declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (c) The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to review the fertilizer policy has decided in its meeting held on 5th January, 2011 to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member Planning Commission to examine the proposal for introduction of NBS in urea, including various options therefor, and make suitable recommendations. The committee has also to examine the issues relating to investment policy and amendments proposed therein, and make appropriate recommendations. The Committee constituted

under the Chairmanship of Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member Planning Commission has submitted its report on 26-04-2011. The Group of Ministers, considered the report of the Committee of Secretary in its meeting held on 5th August, 2011 and directed that the proposal on Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) for Urea may be placed before CCEA along with the proposal of Department of Fertilizers and the views of Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and sought directions of CCEA. A pricing policy for urea manufacturing units beyond NPS (Stage-III) is under consideration of Government and is likely to be finalized early.

Shortage of fertilizers in Himachal Pradesh

†1910. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is not being able to provide the quota of fertilizer demanded by Himachal Pradesh Government and it is enhancing the price of fertilizer from 25 to 30 per cent every year due to which farmers orchard owners are frustrated and concerned;

(b) if so, the reasons for increase in price of fertilizer and not providing the required supply thereof; and

(c) if not, the appropriate steps being taken by Government to deal with the shortage of fertilizer in Himachal Pradesh at present, so that crops of crores of rupees of farmers and orchard owners could not get ruined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (c) Department of Fertilizers is implementing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for decontrolled Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010 under which the Government 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&K fertilizers, prevailing exchange rate, current domestic prices of P&K fertilizers, inventory level etc. The approval 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	24.00
P	32.338	21.804
K	26.756	24.00
S	1.677	1.677

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Under the NBS policy, Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) of P&K fertilizers have been left open and fertilizer manufacturers/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 Receipts (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 on the requirement of States. The Department of Fertilizers ensures supplies of fertilizer to all the States including Himachal Pradesh as per the assessment done by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

NIPER, Mohali

1911. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the functions of the Board of Governors of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali;
- (b) whether Government is aware that proposal of Rs. 1400 crores have been submitted to the Planning Commission for the Twelfth Five Year Plan by NIPER;
- (c) whether proposal has been examined by the Board of Government of NIPER;
- (d) if so, the details of such examinations; and
- (e) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) Section 8 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Act, 1998 confers the following powers on the Board of Governors (BoG) of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali:

- “8 (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board shall be responsible for the general superintendence, direction and control of the affairs of the Institute and shall exercise all the powers not otherwise provided for by this Act, the Statutes and the Ordinances, and shall have the power to review the acts of the Senate.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Board shall-

- (a) take decisions on questions of policy relating to the administration and working of the Institute;
 - (b) fix, demand and receive fees and other charges;
 - (c) supervise and control the residence and regulate the discipline of students of the Institute and to make arrangements for promoting their health, general welfare and cultural and corporate life;
 - (d) institute academic and other posts and to make appointments thereto (except in the case of the Director);
 - (e) frame Statutes and Ordinances and to alter, modify or rescind the same;
 - (f) institute and award fellowship, scholarship, prizes and medals;
 - (g) consider and pass resolutions on the annual report, the annual accounts and the budget estimates of the Institute for the next financial year as it thinks fit together with a statement of its development plans; and
 - (h) do all such things as may be necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the aforesaid powers.
- (3) The Board shall have the power to appoint such committees as it considers necessary for the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this Act.
- (4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) of section 4, the Board shall not dispose of in any manner any immovable property without the prior approval of the Central Government.”

Para 3.1.2 of the Statutes of the NIPER confers following additional powers on the BoG of NIPER, Mohali:

- (a) to create posts subject to availability of funds, to determine the number and emoluments of such posts and to define the duties and conditions of service of the employees of the Institute;
- (b) to appoint Professor, Associate Professors, Assistant Professor and other staff in equivalent grades, as may be necessary on the recommendation of the selection committees constituted for the purpose;
- (c) to regulate and enforce discipline among employees in the accordance with the Statutes, the Ordinances and the Regulations.
- (d) to manage and regulate the finances, accounts, investments, property business and all other administrative affairs of the Institute and for that purpose, to appoint such agents as it may think fit;

- (e) to fix the limit of the recurring and the non-recurring expenditure for a year on the recommendation of the Finance Committee;
- (f) subject to the provisions of the Act, to invest any money belonging to the Institute including any unapplied income in any manner it thinks fit or in the purchase of immovable property in India;
- (g) subject to the provisions of the Act to transfer or accept transfers of any movable or immovable property on behalf of the Institute;
- (h) to provide buildings, premises, furniture, apparatus and other means needed for carrying on the work of the Institute;
- (i) to enter into, vary, carry out and cancel contracts on behalf of the Institute;
- (j) to entertain, adjudicate upon and if thought fit, to redress any grievances of the employees of the Institute;
- (k) to select a common seal for the Institute and provide for the custody and use of such seal;
- (l) to delegate any of its powers to the Chairman, the Director, the Dean, the Registrar or such other employee or authority of the Institute or to a committee appointed by it, as it may deem fit;
- (m) to exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be conferred or imposed on it by the Act, or the Statutes.

(b) to (e) This Department has included proposals concerning NIPER, Mohali to the extent of Rs. 1375 crore in the Report of the Working Group on Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Industry for the 12th Five Year Plan. It is under consideration of the Planning Commission.

Financial and management lapses at NIPER, Mohali

1912. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether serious allegations of corruption has been made on the website Blog "Biped against Corruption" on the financial and management lapses at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali;
- (b) whether Government or the Board of Governors of NIPER has examined the allegations made;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

- (d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (d) In terms of the provisions of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Act, 1998, the Board of Governors (BoG) shall be responsible for the general superintendence, direction and control of the affairs of the Institute and shall exercise all the powers not otherwise provided for by the Act, the Statutes and the Ordinances, and shall have the power to review the acts of the Senate. As such, the report from the BoG is being sought.

Deemed Universities in Tamil Nadu

1913. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private universities in Tamil Nadu that applied for Deemed University status during the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan period;
- (b) how many were granted the Deemed University status during this period;
- (c) the amount of funds allotted for these Deemed Universities by UGC during these Plan periods; and
- (d) whether there have been any violations by these universities in appointments and pay structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No private university has applied for Deemed to be University status in Tamil Nadu. The private universities can be set up either through an Act of Parliament or an Act of State Legislature. A duly established private university is recognized as such under Section 2(f) of the University Grants Commission Act (UGC), 1956. However, 25 private institutions have applied for Deemed to be University status during Tenth Five Year Plan period and 30 private institutions have applied for Deemed to be University status during Eleventh Five Year Plan period from the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) During the Tenth Five Year Plan period (01.04.2002 to 31.03.2007), nine institutions of higher education from Tamil Nadu were declared as Deemed to be Universities by the Government of India. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan period (01.04.2007 to 31.03.2012), twelve institutions of higher education from Tamil Nadu were declared as Deemed to be Universities by the Government of India.

(c) University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that no grants were released to these Deemed to be Universities.

(d) Yes, Sir. Some violations were noticed in the review of these universities by UGC Expert Committees, which have been communicated to concerned deemed to be universities for rectification and compliance.

Expenditure incurred on fertilizer subsidy

1914. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of quantum of expenditure incurred on fertilizer subsidy last year;
- (b) whether there are varying rates of subsidies offered to some fertilizer units in the country;
- (c) whether Government is also paying subsidies on imported fertilizers;
- (d) if so, the reasons and details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the type and quantity of fertilizer imported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) The total quantum of subsidy released in the last year was Rs. 65836.68 Cr.

(b) Rate of subsidy on urea varies substantially among the urea manufacturing units in the country due to varying cost of production 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.

In the case of subsidy on Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) decontrolled fertilizers, Department of Fertilizer is implementing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy with effect from 1.4.2010. Under the NBS Policy, the Government announces per Kg subsidy on nutrients namely nitrogen 'N', Phosphate 'P', Potash 'K' and Sulphur 'S' on annual basis. Per Kg subsidy on nutrients is converted into per tonne subsidy on 25 grades of P&K fertilizers depending upon its nutrient content in each of them. Additional compensation is paid to M/s. FACT, M/s. GNVFC and M/s. MFL for use of costly naphtha/FO/LSHS as feedstock.

- (c) Yes Sir, the Government is also paying subsidies on imported fertilizers.
- (d) The mandate of Department of Fertilizer is to provide sufficient fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices. Gap between the demand and production is fulfilled through import of fertilizers. Total amount of subsidy paid during last three years on imported fertilizers are as follows:

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	Imported P&K fertilizers	Import of Urea (Gross)
2008-09	32597.50	12971.38
2009-10	23452.06	6999.63
2010-11	20850.00	9255.95

(e) The details of the type and quantity of fertilizer imported during the last three years are given as under:

Year	Quantity (LMT)				
	Urea	DAP	MAP	TSP	NPK
2008-09	56.67	61.92	2.67	1.73	—
2009-10	52.10	58.89	1.93	0.87	—
2010-11	66.10	74.11	1.88	0.98	9.81

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy

1915. SHRI A.A. JINNAH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recently released draft National Pharmaceutical Policy attempts to address the twin concerns of keeping medicines affordable and taking on board industry concerns;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether the policy moves away from cost of production based system to the more transparent market based pricing system; and
- (c) if, so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (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 & Family Welfare through National List of Essential Medicines - 2011. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) was 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 2011 are being examined.

Jan Aushadhi Stores

†1916. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to open 'Jan Aushadhi Store' in district hospitals for providing medicines at affordable prices to common man;
- (b) if so, the plan for its operation and set up and the target for near future and the current status thereof;
- (c) whether 'Jan Aushadhi Stores' will be opened in all district hospitals of the country or there is a plan to open it in some identified districts; and
- (d) the details of operational process for 'Jan Aushadhi Stores'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) to (d) The Government of India, Department of Pharmaceuticals, launched Jan Aushadhi Campaign in November, 2008 by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi Stores in the Government Hospitals to make available quality medicines at affordable prices to all, by way of supply of medicines through Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and others. To begin with, at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in each district is intended to be opened, wherever the State Governments taking into account their prevailing Health Policy, extend their support and cooperation in allotting the space in the Government Hospitals or any other suitable locations and also identifying the agencies amongst NGOs, Charitable/Co-operative/Hospitals and Government Bodies, to manage such stores. Therefore, opening up of Jan Aushadhi Stores in the Government Hospitals in fact depends upon the extent of support and cooperation the respective State Government extends in allotting the space and also identifying the agencies to manage such stores. Therefore, it would be difficult to set any timeline to open Jan Aushadhi Stores in each District in the country. Presently, Jan Aushadhi Stores have presence in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Utrakhand, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

Internet connectivity in NE Region

1917. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of action taken by Government to promote more international gateways of private sector for internet connectivity in the North-Eastern Region, since 2000;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether applications for licences to operate international internet gateways in NER are granted as well as pending till date;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and target fixed to clear pending applications; and
- (d) the details of various international gateways of Government as well as Non-Government sector for running of internet in the country. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) to (d) 36 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) obtained permission for setting up International Gateways for Internet connectivity prior to 24.08.2007. Subsequent to the Guidelines dated 24.08.2007 for grant of Licence for operating Internet Services, no separate permission is required to set up International Gateways for Internet connectivity by the Internet Service Providers. 47 'All India' Category 'A' Internet Licences have been issued subsequent to the ISP Guidelines dated 24.08.2007 which, *inter-alia*, include North-Eastern Region also.

Further, 25 companies including Public Sector Undertakings licenced to operate International Long Distance (ILD) Services Licence have also setup 47 International Long Distance (ILD) Gateways for voice and data Services in the country.

No application for International Internet Gateway/International Long Distance (ILD) Gateway for North-East Region is pending as on date.

Telephone Advisory Committees

†1918. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the district level Telephone Advisory Committees have been constituted across the country for the years 2012 and 2013;
- (b) whether the tenure of these Committees had expired on 30th September, 2011 and the names from the Members of Parliament were sought by the Department in the very first week of September;
- (c) the reasons for delay in constitution of the Committees;
- (d) whether there are reports that these committees have been constituted from 22nd December, 2011 to 22nd December, 2013, in respect of Rajasthan; and
- (e) the reasons for not providing new connections to the nominated Members, so far?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) 348 Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) whose tenure had expired on 30-09-2011 out of total 359 TACs have been constituted afresh *w.e.f.* 23rd December, 2011 to 22nd December, 2013.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The delay in constitution of TACs was due to delay in receipt of recommendations of the names of the persons to be nominated, from a large number of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(d) In Rajasthan Telecom Circle, the Telephone Advisory Committees have been constituted *w.e.f.* 23rd December, 2011 to 22nd December, 2013 for a period of two years.

(e) Most of the TAC members have been provided the Telephone Connection. However, in some cases, Telephone Connection could not be provided due to the following reasons:

- (i) Acceptance/consent of the Members has not been received.
- (ii) There are old outstanding dues against the members of TACs.
- (iii) Members have requested for change of address.
- (iv) Members have requested for change of nomination from one TAC to another TAC.
- (v) Addresses of some of the Members are not traceable.
- (vi) Some TAC members have been appointed recently, installation of telephones are under process.

Compulsory verification of sim card holders

1919. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :
SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry on representation for compulsory verification of profile of existing mobile sim card holders by Police Department to trace out sim cards obtained by take documents to control and avoid probable crimes;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any representation from Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has issued or contemplates to issue any advisory to all State Governments in this regard and sim card holders have to pay verification fee to Police Department, so that, financial implication should not be borne by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) Sir, a reference has been received regarding compulsory verification of SIM card holders by Police Department, which is being examined. However, provision for compulsory verification of subscribers by Police has already been made in Jammu and Kashmir since 20.01.10 and in Assam and North East since 20.07.10 considering higher security threats in these states. Further, Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells (field units of DoT) are carrying out sample verification of Customer Acquisition Form (CAF) and supporting documents on periodic basis for all the active subscribers to identify the mobile SIM cards issued without proper documentation. Penalty is imposed on non-compliant case. Apart from this, on receiving information from Law Enforcement Agencies about suspected customers physical verification is also done against the numbers reported and penalty is imposed on non-compliant cases. In order to deal with the issue of forged documents for obtaining mobile connections, Complaints/FIR are lodged with the Police.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) All Telecom Service Providers have been directed to compulsory verify the credential of a person before enrolling him as their subscriber by seeking Proof of Identity, Proof of Address and matching them with their respective originals. The cost of the whole setup is to be borne by the concerned TSP.

Need for quality upgradation in BSNL and MTNL

1920. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the immediate necessity of quality upgradation and capacity augmentation in BSNL and MTNL;

(b) if so, the measures taken thereon; and

(c) how many mobile connections and landline connections were increased or decreased during the last two years along with the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) and (b) The subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) sometimes face problems with regard to the Quality of Service (QoS). However, BSNL and MTNL are, in general, meeting the QoS benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). BSNL and MTNL are taking a

number of steps for further improvement in services. Some of the steps taken by BSNL and MTNL for improvement of telecom services are as follows:

- Improving the wireline Network by change of cables, drop wire etc. as required.
- All exchanges have been made Digital to improve service quality.
- Rehabilitation of outdoor network like replacement of old instruments and drop wires is being done on continuous basis to reduce fault rate.
- Remote Switching Units are planned to reduce the last mile loop length wherever required.
- Deployment of Next Generation Network (NGN) to provide telephony services which replaces/ upgrades the existing landline network and provides a lot of services from a single network based on IP in line with the emerging trends.
- Optimisation of Mobile Network continuously for improving the performance based on techno-commercial considerations.
- Training and redeployment of staff.

So far as capacity augmentation in BSNL and MTNL is concerned, BSNL has already initiated the action for procurement of Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) equipment for future expansion. In case of MTNL, it has sufficient capacity in Delhi and Mumbai to cater the demand of the subscribers.

(c) The circle wise details of increase/decrease in wireline and mobile connections of BSNL and MTNL during the last two years are given in the Statement.

Statement

Circle-wise details of increase/decrease in wireline and mobile connections of BSNL and MTNL during the last two years

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Wireline connections		Mobile connections	
		2009-10	2010-11	2009-10	2010-11
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>BSNL</i>					
1	Andaman and Nicobar	-1,366	-1,302	43,960	69,460
2	Andhra Pradesh	-118,672	-106,350	1,077,437	2,802,838
3	Assam	-43,297	-52,141	163,998	341,122

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Bihar	-2,105	4,886	1,202,861	899,568
5	Chhattisgarh	-26,007	-52,207	164,214	249,752
6	Gujarat	-62,309	-150,993	559,846	744,965
7	Haryana	-53,172	-177,514	838,416	497,202
8	Himachal Pradesh	-22,595	-21,605	389,606	407,614
9	Jammu and Kashmir	-7,782	-15,864	40,741	-121,735
10	Jharkhand	-4,161	-195,197	449,595	338,174
11	Karnataka	-71,908	-61,029	1,162,790	1,784,786
12	Kerala	-118,167	-163,249	1,078,666	1,823,535
13	Madhya Pradesh	-84,776	-136,871	662,975	680,632
14	Maharashtra	-318,425	-214,708	825,110	1,676,185
15	North East-I	-8,161	-53,298	126,484	132,935
16	North East-II	-970	-3,756	148,674	228,687
17	Odisha	-36,945	-44,340	876,745	1,325,165
18	Punjab	-62,927	-50,167	758,394	940,640
19	Rajasthan	-66,859	-231,273	1,191,791	1,306,702
20	Tamil Nadu	-158,240	-133,955	1,217,668	2,177,469
21	Uttarakhand	-15,934	-44,263	236,370	231,332
22	Uttar Pradesh (E)	-35,518	-39,570	2,046,797	1,865,955
23	Uttar Pradesh (W)	56,783	-427,128	563,438	788,557
24	West Bengal	-144,581	-149,794	326,791	867,345
25	Kolkata Telecom District-103,493		-71,278	265,189	654,694
26	Chennai Telecom District -4,284		-12,689	175,331	250,047
<i>MTNL</i>					
1	Delhi	11,479	8,972	344,455	232,797
2	Mumbai	-87,931	-41,757	267,049	146,268

Cancellation of 2G Licences

1921. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its verdict on 2G Scam cancelled 122 2G licences and rejected the 'first come and first served policy' and ordered that spectrum be auctioned; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government, so far, in the light of the above mentioned Judgement and to ensure that over 69 million mobile users in the country may not suffer and feel stranded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court order dated 02.02.2012 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 423 of 2010 in the matter of Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) & Ors Vs. Union of India (UoI) & Ors. And Writ Petition (Civil) No. 10 of 2011 in the matter of Dr. Subramanian Swamy Vs. Union of India (UoI) & Ors. Mentions, among other things, that:

- (i) The licences granted to the private respondents on or after 10.01.2008 pursuant to two press releases issued on 10.01.2008 and subsequent allocation of spectrum to the licenses are declared illegal and are quashed.
- (ii) The above direction shall become operative after four months.
- (iii) Keeping in view the decision taken by the Central Government in 2011, TRAI shall make fresh recommendations for grant of licence and allocation of spectrum in 2G band in 22 Service Areas by auction, as was done for allocation of spectrum in 3G band.
- (iv) The Central Government shall consider the recommendations of TRAI and take appropriate decision within next one month and fresh licences be granted by auction.

One of the observations of Hon'ble Court is that "There is a fundamental flaw in the first-come-first-served policy inasmuch as it involves an element of pure chance or accident. In matters involving award of contracts or grant of licence or permission to use public property, the invocation of first-come-first-served policy has inherently dangerous implications." The Court has also observes that "...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."

(b) The 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 last 400 days and indicating that there will be a time gap between cessation of licenses as per Supreme Court order and completion of auction.

A Review Petition has also been filed by the Government before Supreme Court on 02.03.2012, bringing out the issues, among others, relating to separation of functions between different organs of the State, specially highlighting the function of policy making. In the Review Petition the Government has made it clear the Government is not seeking in any manner to overturn the order quashing the 122 licences issued in 2008.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has made a reference to TRAI on 03.02.2012, seeking recommendations on the auction of 2G Spectrum. A pre-consultation paper on the issue of "Allocation of spectrum in 2G band in 22 Service Areas by auction" was issued by TRAI on 3rd February, 2012. Thereafter a consultation paper on 'Auction of Spectrum' was issued by TRAI on 07th March, 2012. In order to ensure that the mobile users of these companies continue to receive service, TRAI has issued instructions to all licensees, whose licenses have been ordered to be cancelled by the Apex Court, to ensure Quality of Service during the period of four months, as per the license conditions.

National Knowledge Network

1922. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to democratize information through projects such as the National Knowledge Network (NKN) and the Gram Panchayat Network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including total allocation for this project in the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (c) whether the NKN aims to connect top universities, Science and Research institutions and Central institutions like IITs, IIMs, etc; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) to (d) Government of India has approved a Project on 25.03.2010 for setting up of the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The outlay approved for the project is Rs. 5990 cr. over a time frame of 10 years. The implementing agency of the project is National Informatics Center (NIC).

The objective of the NKN is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high speed data communication network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. NKN is to facilitate creation, acquisition and

sharing of knowledge resources among the large participating institutions seamlessly across the nation and globally. It is to bridge the existing knowledge gap in the country. It would help the country evolve as a Knowledge Society and spur economic activities in the knowledge domain.

A separate network is planned to take optical fiber based connectivity to Gram Panchayats of the country by the Department of Telecommunications. The Estimated cost of the project is Rs. 20,000 crores.

NKN has already extended the connectivity to IITs, IIMs, ISRO, DRDO, CSIR, ICMR, ICAR, DAE, Medical, NITs, NIFTs, State and Central universities. Till date, 681 institutions have been connected through NKN.

VRS for employees of BSNL

1923. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is going to shelve one third of its present manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) route; 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) A proposal from BSNL has been received in the Department of Telecommunications regarding a Voluntary Retirement Scheme aiming to reduce the work force by around one lakh.

Opening of new post offices

1924. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received proposals from various State Governments to open new post offices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) and (b) A proposal for opening of Post Offices has been received from Chhattisgarh Government during the current financial year for opening of 1927 new rural branches of post offices at 1927 Gram Panchayat Headquarters.

- (c) Department of Posts has included it in its 12th Plan Proposal and has presented it to the Planning Commission.

Recommendations of Pitroda Panel on BSNL

1925. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has incurred losses during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has set up a Pitroda Panel to revive BSNL;
- (d) if so, the recommendations given by the Panel; and
- (e) the reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per unaudited and provisional accounts, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has incurred a loss of Rs. 7,134.36 crores during the period from April, 2011 to December, 2011.

(c) to (e) The Government had set up a Committee under Shri Sam Pitroda to review the functioning of BSNL. The important recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee are as follows:

- Focus on selection of the best professionals from the market at market rates.
- Appoint an eminent person from the private sector as the Chairman.
- Separate the post of the Managing Director/ CEO (from CMD).
- Change the Board composition to seven directors {one internal (MD/CEO), one non executive chairman, two government nominee and three external directors}.
- Provide three year contracts with specific targets for all key management team members.
- Establish four independent business units for Fixed access, Mobility, Enterprise and New businesses.
- Complete ITS absorption process.
- Induct significant young talent in Technology, IT, marketing, sales, etc.
- Retire or transfer around 100K employees through processes like VRS.
- Change procurement processes and procedures substantially using tools such as e-Procurement, vendor rating, rate running contracts, schedules, etc.

- Disinvest 30% through Indian strategic investor and at Initial Public Offering (IPO) to return 10% to the government and use 20% for employee VRS, expansion and operation.
- Provide 30 million new high speed broadband connections in the next three years.
- Unbundle local loop for public and private companies.
- Proactively offer sharing of active and passive infrastructure to other operators.
- Enhance rural communication facilities by connecting 250,000 panchayats.
- Create a separate subsidiary company for tower related infrastructure.
- Create a separate subsidiary to hold land bank and other real estate assets.
- Establish a BSNL venture fund to invest and/ or acquire small appropriate technology companies.

The Telecom Commission (TC) deliberated on the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee on improving the performance of the BSNL in its meeting held on 7.7.2010. The Telecom Commission decided to constitute 'Internal Committee' under the Chairmanship of Member (Services), Department of Telecom (DoT) to give its recommendations on the report. Accordingly, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Services) was constituted. The internal committee submitted its report on 29.10.2010, which was discussed again in the Telecom Commission in its meeting, held on 30.11.2010. TC decided the following in the matter:

- (i) Taking 30-50 professional from market at market rates changing Board Constitution or separating Chairman and MD posts may not be feasible in only one Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) as it may trigger protest from BSNL and demand for similar treatment by other PSUs.
- (ii) This is not the opportune time for listing and disinvestment of BSNL, as company is on downward performance path and disinvestment may not realize true value of the company. In absence of listing, option of giving stocks as incentive, to key management is not available for the present.
- (iii) Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) across the board may not be required; BSNL could examine option of VRS for select categories, examining financial burden and cost/benefit of the company.
- (iv) On adopting Managed capacity or managed services model—Internal Committee view that the Board of BSNL may take a view is endorsed.

- (v) Unbundling of the local loop is a commercial decision, which shall be decided by BSNL Board after critically examining the issue.
- (vi) All other issues are operational and commercial issues of BSNL for which the Board is competent to take decisions.

The Commission also observed that some of the above issues including items (ii), (iii) and (v) could be revisited if the need arose in the context of any major policy decisions involving restructuring and repositioning of BSNL.

Telecom penetration in rural areas

1926. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether high growth telecom penetration in the rural areas of our country offers growth opportunity for the coming Twelfth Five Year Plan as compared to urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the views of the private players in the matter, for the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) and (b) At present the rural tele-density is approximately 38% as compared to urban tele-density of 168%. Under the Report of the Working Group on the Telecom Sector for the 12th Five Year Plan, for increasing telecom penetration in rural areas, following are proposed:

- (i) Mobile access to all villages and rural density of at least 60% by 2017.
- (ii) Completion of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN).
- (iii) Initiate necessary policy changes for encouraging the sharing of active and passive infrastructure in order to address the various infrastructure issues related to rural areas.
- (iv) Development of Broadband kiosks, on the lines of STD PCOs, in the rural areas to provide easy access to rural people to Broadband services.
- (v) Encouragement for use of facilities like m-banking and e-governance projects.
- (vi) Development of low cost customer premises equipment and application in regional languages.

It is, therefore expected that rural areas of the country will offer high growth opportunity in the 12th Five Year Plan.

(c) The cellular Operators Association of India have suggested the following for consideration:

- Ensuring provision of Low cost Handset.
- Development of Regional Content.
- Affordability of service through rationalization of levies and duties.
- Reduction in Universal Service Obligation (USO) Levy.
- Financial inclusion through Mobile Banking.
- Automating Government Services and Government Service delivery mechanism.

The above suggestions have already been taken into account in the above mentioned report.

Censorship of Internet

1927. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the segments in the internet sector subjected to censorship;
- (b) whether Government has issued any guidelines governing censorship in the online internet sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the guidelines require pre-screening of user content by social networking web-sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) No segment in the Internet sector is subjected to censorship.

- (b) No sir.
- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

Communications network for armed forces

1928. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the BSNL's demand for additional funding of Rs. 5,354.55 crores to build an alternate communications network for the armed forces has been rejected by the Ministry of finance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. A note for Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure has been circulated for inter ministerial consultations for approval for enhancement of budget by Rs. 5236 crore for laying of alternate communications network for Defence Services for release of spectrum, over and above Rs. 8098 crore which was already approved by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure on 03.12.2009.

Privacy Policy Changes by Google

1929. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Information Technology Act, 2000, as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 covers sufficient ground to bring within its purview the arbitrary Privacy Policy changes like the one done by the Google on 1 March, 2012;

(b) whether the said Privacy Policy change is in agreement with aforementioned legislation;

(c) if so, how does the Ministry view its conflict with the European Directive on Data Protection;

(d) if not, how does the Ministry propose to rectify such conflict; and

(e) how does such Privacy Policy changes affect the end users in view of the growing internet users in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) and (b) Section 43 A of the amended Information Technology Act, 2000 establishes a legal framework for data privacy protection in India. It mandates 'body corporates' to implement 'reasonable security practices' for protecting 'sensitive personal information of individuals. The Information Technology (Reasonable security practices and procedures and sensitive personal data or information) rules, 2011 notified on 11.4.2011 under section 43 A of the Act explicitly define 'reasonable security practices' and 'sensitive personal information'. The rules mandates that body corporate must provide policy for privacy and disclosure of information, so that user is well aware of the type of personal data collected, purpose of collection and usage of such information. The rules also specify mode of collection of information, disclosure of information, transfer of information and reasonable security practices and procedures. All body corporate in India are required to comply with the provisions of the rules.

The Information Technology Act, 2000 and the rules prescribe therein requires the body corporate to publish the privacy policy. Google has published a Privacy Policy on their website.

Any change in the privacy policy is not within the purview of amended Information Technology Act, 2000.

(c) Section 43A of the Act and the Rules notified therein reflect global principles of privacy and are similar to EU Data Protection Directive and provide means for effective implementation by establishing procedural/enforcement mechanisms such as requirement of yearly audit of by the Government approved independent auditor.

Certain media reports have appeared on changes in Google's privacy policy. France's independent privacy watchdog, the CNIL (nationale de l'informatique et des libertes) stated that the changes made do not comply with European law. Another report states that European Union (EU) feels the new privacy policy makes it impossible to understand which purposes, personal data, recipients or access rights are relevant to the use of a specific service. It may be mentioned that Privacy is a fundamental right in Europe.

(d) Rectification of conflict between Google, an US Company and European Directive on Data Protection is not within the purview of Government of India.

(e) The new Google Privacy Policy provides information to the end users as to how their personal information is collected, for which it is collected, processed and secure. The end users, however, need to fully understand the privacy policy of Google, the consequences of sharing their personal information and their privacy rights before they start using online services.

Misuse of 2G spectrum licencing conditions

1930. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to misuse of 2G spectrum licencing conditions by various telecom operators, Government has incurred a loss of more than 35,000 crores;

(b) if so, the complete details of loss to the exchequer, operator-wise;

(c) whether Government would recover the loss from telecom operators; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) to (d) Initial/start-up spectrum is allotted to the Unified Access Service Licensees as per the

provisions of their Service Licence Agreement subject to availability of spectrum. Additional spectrum beyond the above is also considered for allocation, taking into account traffic and subscribed linked criteria evolved from time to time. A annual spectrum usage charges on percentage of AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) are being levied.

The Telecom Commission has given its recommendations on charging for spectrum after considering the recommendations of TRAI on “Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework’ of 10th May, 2010 and further recommendations of TRAI dated 08th February, 2011”.

Funds for Bihar

1931. SHRI SABIR ALI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds/amounts given/spent in Bihar by the Ministry and its various organizations during the last three years and the current year, so far;
- (b) the purpose 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 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA) : (a) The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), has disbursed following amounts to Bihar under various schemes during last three years and current year:

Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Amount (Rs. crores)	57.79	41.61	11.48	11.01

The details of funds/amounts, given/spent in Bihar by DoT’s Public Sector Undertaking Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years and current years are as given below:

Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Funds Allotted (Rs. crores)	1153.01	835.90	900.99	838.71
Expenditure Incurred (Rs. crores)	997.60	963.17	798.65	Not finalized.

(b) The subsidy, disbursed to Bihar by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through various schemes of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was utilized for the following purposes:

- (i) Public Access to Telephone Facilities: *e.g.* Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and Rural Community Phones (RCPs),

- (ii) Provision of household Telephone connections: *e.g.* Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELS),
- (iii) Provision of Mobile Telephony: *e.g.* Mobile Phase-1,
- (iv) Broadband facilities : *e.g.* Rural Wire Line-Broadband,
- (v) Solar Mobile charging facilities in un-electrified villages.

BSNL has utilized the funds for maintenance of existing network including staff expenses for modernizing the network and for adding further infrastructure to the network.

(c) It is expected that implementation of schemes like National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) and Wireless Broadband will increase the amount of funds spent by Department in Bihar. BSNL allots funds commensurate with the Company's targets for expansion.

Free software in IT programmes

†1932. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to popularize and operationalise free of cost software in all Government aided Information Technology programmes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) and (b) With the primary objective of popularization and promotion of Free & Open Source Software (FOSS) in the country, Government has set up National Resource Centre for Free and Open Source Software (NRCFOSS) to carry out Research & Development, Human Resource Development, FOSS deployment and awareness building. The Centre has brought out a Free & Open Source software GNU/Linux based Operating System named as Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS) with wide Indian languages support. BOSS can be freely downloaded from <http://bosslinux.in>. BOSS CDs are available for free distribution. BOSS Support Centres have been set up across the country for providing hand-holding support to users, popularization, adoption of BOSS and training.

Also, Open Technology Centre (OTC) has been established to spearhead the adoption of FOSS in e-Governance applications based on Open Standards. Government has announced National Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has developed free language CDs containing software and fonts for 22 constitutionally recognized Indian languages and these can be downloaded free of cost from <http://www.ildc.in> .

- (c) Does not arise.

Removal of objectionable contents

1933. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has directed Google, Facebook and Yahoo to remove objectionable contents within 15 days from their sites:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any guidelines which have been issued:

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all websites are following the existing guidelines;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) and (b) Five meetings were held with representatives of social networking sites namely Facebook, Google India and Yahoo India (P) Ltd. In the meetings, some objectionable contents were brought to the knowledge and shown to representatives of social networking sites. They were requested to take appropriate action as per law.

No such direction to remove the content within 15 days was issued by Government to Google, Facebook and Yahoo.

(c) and (d) Government on 11.4.2011, has notified Information Technology (Intermediaries guidelines) Rules, 2011 under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000. These Rules provide for the intermediaries to observe due diligence and guidelines. The rules provide that the intermediary shall publish the rules and regulations, privacy policy and user agreement for access or usage of the intermediary's computer resource by any person. Such rules and regulations, terms and conditions or user agreement shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is grossly harmful, harassing, blasphemous, defamatory, obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, libellous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically objectionable, disparaging, relating or encouraging money laundering or gambling, or otherwise unlawful in any manner whatever; etc.

The rules also provide that intermediary upon obtaining knowledge by itself or been brought to actual knowledge by an affected person about objectionable content shall act and wherever applicable, work with the user or owner of information to disable such information.

(e), (f) and (g) These Rules are in the form of due diligence and guidelines which are to be mandatorily observed by all intermediaries.

Competition for outsourcing from other countries

1934. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue that the Indian companies earned through their outsourcing services during the last ten years, year-wise;

(b) the extent to which, the attractive cost structures in Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and China pose threat to India's offshore outsourcing; and

(c) how Government is planning to retain the supremacy of the country in such competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) The revenue that the Indian companies earned through their outsourcing services during the last ten years, year-wise is given as under:

Sl. No.	Year	IT-ITES/BPO Exports in US \$ Billion
1.	2002-03	9.5
2.	2003-04	12.9
3.	2004-05	17.7
4.	2005-06	23.6
5.	2006-07	31.2
6.	2007-08	40.4
7.	2008-09	47.1
8.	2009-10	49.7
9.	2010-11	59.0
10.	2011-12 (E)	68.7

Source: NASSCOM.

(b) As per the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), India continues to retain its position as the world's leader in the global outsourcing market of Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services (IT-ITES), accounting for almost 58% of global sourcing in 2011 as compared to 55% in 2010. While a number of countries - Philippines, China, Malaysia etc. are steadily gaining momentum as destinations for IT-ITES investments, India's unique value proposition of a mature customer focused industry, domain experience, large pool of talent and proven track record has ensured that India remains at the centre stage of most global sourcing decisions.

(c) The salient measures taken to stimulate the growth of IT-ITES industry in the country are:

1. Approvals for all Foreign Direct Investments upto 100% in the IT, ITES Sector is under the automatic route. Software is exempted from basic customs duty. The indirect tax structure has been rationalized to the extent feasible given that 217 tariff lines covered under the Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) of WTO are exempted from basic customs duty.
2. Under Software Technology Parks (STP) scheme, approved units are allowed duty free import of goods required by them for carrying on software export activities, CST reimbursement and excise duty exemption on procurement of indigenously available goods as per the Foreign Trade Policy.
3. 235 IT-ITES specific Special Economic Zones (SEZs) been notified across the country, which are contributing to IT-ITES exports. Under Section 10AA, Income Tax benefits are available for units located in IT SEZ's.

Setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas

1935. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has shot down a proposal to set up 150 schools across the country on the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) The Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) in its 91st meeting held on 19.01.2012 has taken a policy decision that the scheme of opening of new Kendriya

Vidyalayas under the Public Private Partnership (PPP mode) in KVS, is not in keeping with the mandate of KVS.

National Learning Achievement Survey

1936. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether education of poor quality is being imparted to children in Government schools under SSA and students of higher classes cannot even read text books of lower classes;

(b) whether as per the National Learning Achievement Survey, students from class V onwards perform very poorly in mathematics, science and social science subjects and class VII and VIII students perform extremely poor in mathematics with just 30.50 per cent and 39.17 per cent of the students being able to pass the subject; and

(c) the measures taken to improve the quality of education being imparted to children in Government schools at primary and higher levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, conducts periodical National Learners' Achievement Surveys. Two rounds of such Achievement Surveys have been completed by NCERT and the third round has commenced. A comparison of the progress in respect of the two rounds is given below:

Subject	Class III		Class V		Class VIII	
	Round-I 2003-04	Round-II 2007-08	Round-I 2001-02	Round-II 2005-06	Round-I 2002-03	Round-II 2007-08
Mathematics	58.25%	61.89%	46.51%	48.46%	39.17%	42.71%
Language	63.12%	67.84%	58.57%	60.31%	53.86%	56.57%
EVS	NA	NA	50.30%	52.19%	NA	NA
Science	NA	NA	NA	NA	41.30%	42.73%
Social Science	NA	NA	NA	NA	46.19%	48.03%

NA: Not applicable.

(c) With a view to improving the quality of education, States have been advised to ensure that backlog teacher vacancies, both in the State sector and under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are filled up expeditiously, after persons qualify the Teacher Eligibility Tests (TETs). States have also been advised to ensure that untrained teachers acquire the requisite teacher qualifications within the time frames mandated under the

Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act. States have also been advised to undertake curricular reform in consonance with the provisions of section 29 of the RTE Act and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005. Further, SSA provides support as per its approved norms of intervention for States to *inter alia* improve school infrastructure, provide in-service teacher training, textbooks and uniforms for children, etc.

Regulation of Foreign Educational Institutions

1937. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foreign universities running in the country including Himachal Pradesh in association with the domestic educational institutions and in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE);
- (b) whether Government has conducted any study to evaluate the functioning of such universities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any legislative proposal for regulation of entry and operation of foreign educational institutions including technical educational institutions in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh, is under consideration of Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by when such a legislation is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has not granted any approval to any of the foreign universities to open their campuses in the country.

However, Eight Indian Technical institutions have been granted AICTE approval as per provisions in chapter V of its Approval Process Handbook (www.aicte-india.org), for starting Technical programme in collaboration with foreign universities/institutions till date. The details of these institutions are given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) to (f) Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of entry and operations) Bill, 2010 was introduced in Parliament on 3rd May, 2010. The Bill provides for regulation of entry and operations of Foreign Educational Institutions imparting or intending to impart higher education (including technical education and medical education and award of degree, diploma and equivalent qualifications by such institutions) and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Provision of the Bill can take effect only after approval of Parliament, as such no time-frame can be indicated.

Statement*Details of Eight-Indian Technical Institutions Granted, AICTE Approval*

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Institution	Name of the Foreign University
1.	Institute of Hotel Management- (IHM) Maulana Azad Educational Campus, Rauza Bagh, Aurangabad- 431001 (Maharashtra)	University of Huddersfield, U.K.
2.	Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT), P.O. Box No. 66, Faridpur Road, G.T. Karnal Road Side, Panipat -132103, Haryana	Staffordshire University, U.K.
3.	Sreenidhi Institute of Science & Technology, Yamanampet, Ghatkesar, Rangareddy, Andhra Pradesh -501301	Vaughan College of Aeronautics & Technology, USA
4.	IIMT Hotel Management College, O-Pocket, Ganga Nagar, Meerut- 250001.	TAFE, South Africa
5.	Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Technology, PSP Area, Sector- 22, New Delhi	Auburn University Alabama, USA
6.	Daly College Business School, Residency Area, Indore- 452001, Madhya Pradesh	Demontfort University, Leicester, UK
7.	SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, Dadabhai Road, Munshi Nagar, Andheri West, Mumbai- 400058	ESB Business School, Reutlingen University, Germany
8.	SR International College of Engineering, Hyderabad.	University of MASSA CHUSETTS Lowell, UK.

Setting up of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Amreli, Gujarat

1938. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

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

- (a) the action taken by the Ministry as on date to set up Kendriya Vidyalaya at Amreli in Gujarat;
- (b) by when this proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya and its educational activities will be resumed in Gujarat;

(c) the action which has been taken by the Ministry to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas at various places in Gujarat, as on date; and

(d) the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) Seven proposals have been received from the State Government of Gujarat for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) at Ahwa (Distt. Dang) and in districts Amreli, Patan, Narmada, Kheda, Tapi and Valsad. However, the State Government of Gujarat has not so far provided the requisite infrastructural facilities like suitable land and temporary accommodation for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalaya at Amreli (Gujarat).

(c) and (d) KVs are opened on receipt of proposals in the prescribed proforma from the various Ministries of Government of India and State Governments/UTs thereby committing the availability of requisite resources subject to availability of sanctions. The Regional Office of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Ahmedabad has been asked to examine all the seven proposals for opening of new KVs at Ahwa (Distt. Dang) and in districts Amreli, Patan, Narmada, Kheda, Tapi and Valsad and submit its recommendations. Only on receipt of the feasibility report and recommendations of the Regional Office, the establishment of new KVs will be considered subject to availability of funds and Government's approval.

Admissions in Higher Education

†1939. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of educational arrangement in the higher education segment, only 20 per cent of the youth are able to secure admission;

(b) if not, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said percentage is targeted to be raised to 30 per cent by 2017;

(d) if so, whether there is any plan for expansion of higher educational set up in the country; and

(e) if so, the number of institutions along with their category, which are likely to come up under the plan?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) Data on admission in higher educational institutions is not maintained. However, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of the population in the age group of 18-23 years is 15.0 in 2009-10. The Approach paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan has recommended that an additional enrolment of 10 million could be targeted in higher education during the Twelfth Plan period.

(d) and (e) During Eleventh Five Year Plan, several new Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Technology, National Institutes of Technology, Polytechnics and other Institutions of Higher learning have been established to increase the GER in higher education. A new scheme has been approved by the Government under which Central assistance on sharing basis shall be provided to the State Governments/ State Universities for setting up of a model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts, where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education is less than the national GER.

Qualifications and competence of academia in the country

†1940. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that country's educational system is witnessing an abysmal condition in terms of qualification and competence in the academia;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that a major share of the total expenses incurred for country's educational sector goes to the salary etc.; and

(d) if so, the annual average expenditure and the prospective plan for improvement in academic system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The expenditure on education as percentage of GDP for the year 2009-10 was 3.85%.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

A number of steps have been taken for improvements in the academic system. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2010 has been enacted which envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector. The Act makes it incumbent on Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children of 6-14 years of age; ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child of the age of six to fourteen years.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in March, 2009 with the objective to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme aims to achieve an enrolment ratio of 75% for class IX and X within five years.

In the higher education sector, Government has taken major initiatives in academic and institutional reforms which mark a paradigm shift in the development of higher education. Legislative proposals have already been introduced in the Parliament to set up a National Commission/Council for Higher Education and Research as an apex body for determination, coordination and maintenance of standards and promotion of higher education and research, as also to have mandatory accreditation system in place of the present voluntary system of accreditation to promote quality.

Under the National Mission in Education through ICT, so far nearly 400 universities have been provided 1 Gbps connectivity or have been configured under the scheme and more than 14,000 colleges have also been provided VPN connectivity.

Irregularities in the name of providing grants to schools

†1941. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI :
SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

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

- (a) whether any case has come to light in which certain amount of money has been taken from schools in the name of providing grants to them with the help of fake letterheads and by uploading fake information on the Ministry's website;
- (b) if so, the action taken for carrying-out the investigation in this regard; and
- (c) the number of cases of fake educational institutions found in various States of the country, during the last three years and the details of action taken in these matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Yes. Complaints have been received in the Ministry wherein allegations have been made that certain amount of money have been taken from schools in the name of providing grants to them with the help of fake letterheads and by uploading fake information on the Ministry's website.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) In order to get the matter investigated, an FIR No. 212 dated 31.10.2011 has been lodged with Delhi Police.

(c) The particulars of fake educational institutions have been placed on the website of the University Grants Commission.

South Asian University

1942. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE :
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE :

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

(a) whether there were arbitrary appointments of faculty members in South Asian University (SAU) and inadequate facilities such as gaps in curriculum and absence of library services being provided to students of the University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Government is taking to improve the facilities in SAU;

(d) whether UGC norms have been fulfilled to qualify it as a university; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) The South Asian University has been established through an Inter-Governmental process of SAARC countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. An Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed on behalf of SAARC Member States on April 4, 2007. The 7th SAARC Inter-Governmental Steering Committee on the establishment of South Asian University finalized the rules & regulations, academic structure and the business plan of South Asian University in September 2010. These have been approved by the Governing Board which again consists of representatives of SAARC member countries. The University follows procedure laid down in the rules and regulations including for recruitment of faculty members. The University at present offers eight Academic programmes. Curricula of these academic programmes have been developed by experts in respective fields and further fine-tuned by the faculty of the University. The University library has been in existence for a very short period and is the process of accumulating books and journals as per the recommendations of the Faculty Members. Several important digital databases have been subscribed and students and Faculties of South Asian University can access these through internet gateway provided by the Knowledge Commission of India. Government of India is committed to meet the capital cost of the University and provide

all necessary infrastructure to the University. Operational cost of the University is shared by all SAARC Member States.

(d) and (e) The University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 defines a University as follows: "University means a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act, and includes any such institution as may, in consultation with the University concerned, be recognized by the Commission in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf under this Act." The South Asian University has been established through an Act of Parliament, *viz.*, The South Asian University Act, 2008 (No. 8 of 2009), and therefore, falls squarely under the definition of University. Therefore, the question of South Asian University qualifying as a University as per UGC norms does not arise.

IIM University

1943. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE :

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE :

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

(a) whether Government proposes to set up an overarching institution such as an IIM University that would offer a Master of Business Administration degrees instead of Post Graduate Diploma in Management to all the students enrolled in all IIMs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Norms for setting up municipal schools

1944. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering relaxing norms for setting up municipal schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government has conducted any survey to estimate the number of unrecognized private schools in the country;

- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for establishment of schools by the appropriate Government and local authority within areas and limits of neighbourhood, as prescribed by the State Governments under the State RTE Rules. The Schedule of the RTE Act specifies the norms and standards for schools in the elementary education sector. There is no proposal of the Central Government for relaxation of the specified norms and standards.

(d) to (g) Government has not conducted a survey on unrecognized private schools. However, as per data available under District Information System for Education (DISE) 2010-11, there are 26,377 unrecognized private schools. Section 18 of the RTE Act provides that schools imparting elementary education have to seek recognition from the prescribed authority by adhering to the norms and standards specified in the Schedule of the RTE Act and the conditions laid down for such recognition by the State Governments.

Schools and universities in remote tribal and hilly areas

1945. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has universalised education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of open schools and universities, as on date, in the country;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to enable backward population living in the remote, tribal and hilly areas of the country to get benefits of such schools and universities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period ; and
- (e) the details of steps taken to expand schools/universities in such areas in the country during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) are flagship programmes of Ministry of Human Resource Development for achievement of Universalisation of Elementary and Secondary Education. SSA is being implemented

in partnership with State Governments to open new schools in those habitations which do not have schooling facilities and strengthen existing school infrastructure through provision of additional class rooms, toilets, drinking water, maintenance grant and school improvement grants. Existing schools with inadequate teacher strength are provided with additional teachers, while the capacity of existing teachers is being strengthened by extensive training, grants for developing teaching-learning materials and strengthening of the academic support structure of a cluster, block and district level. RMSA envisages construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas/ in areas with difficult terrain. The details of the schemes are available on the web-site of the Ministry at *mhrd.gov.in*.

(c) and (d) There is one National Institution of Open Schooling (NIOS) and 14 Open Universities in the country. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system of the country consists of State Open Universities (SOUs), Institutions and Universities offering education and includes Correspondence Course Institutes (CCIs) in conventional dual mode Universities. This is significant for continuing education, Skill updation and for quality education of relevance to learners located at educationally disadvantageous locations.

(e) The Twelfth Plan has not yet been finalised.

Supply of Aakash tablets to students

†1946. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had ordered one lakh Aakash tablets to its concerned company Datawind;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the company has supplied 30,000 tablets which are not as per prescribed norms;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against the company; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to supply high quality Aakash tablets to students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (d) 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:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) Acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and
- (ii) Hardware and software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices.

IIT Rajasthan selected M/s. Datawind through an open tender and placed an order for supplying 1,00,000 LCADs for the purpose of testing. Of the 6440, LCADs supplied to it, IIT Rajasthan, so far, has conditionally accepted 650 LCADs and rejected rest of the lots as the number of defective LCADs in those lots exceeded the stipulated 5% of devices. These devices were rejected for rectification and return to IIT Rajasthan.

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 mA H with a battery of 3200 mA H capacity with no enhancement in cost. The Aakash tablets are meant for supply to higher education institutions.

Permission for establishment of private universities

†1947. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private universities recognised across the country during the last five years and the details thereof in Rajasthan, district-wise;
- (b) whether all these universities fulfill the prescribed guidelines norms;
- (c) whether any mechanism has been evolved at the Centre and State levels for this purpose; and
- (d) if not, the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) 81 private universities have been set up through various state Acts passed by respective state legislatures across the country during the last five years. 24 State private universities have been set up in the State of Rajasthan during the last five years. District-wise details are as follows: Jaipur-13, Ajmer-1, Tonk-1, Jodhpur-1, Udaipur-2, Jhunjhunu-3, Alwar-2 and Chittorgarh-1.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that 11 out of 24 private universities in Rajasthan have been inspected by different UGC Expert Committees. UGC sends the observations of the UGC Expert Committees to these private universities for compliance and rectification of deficiencies.

(c) and (d) Private universities are regulated by UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003. The Regulations are available at www.ugc.ac.in.

Distribution of laptops to students

1948. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is distributing small laptop computers to students in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria for receiving the said computers by students along with the amount allocated by Government for this purpose;
- (d) whether Government has extended this facility to all apart from students;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether Government has upgraded such computers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof indicating the increase in its price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No, Sir. However 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.

An amount of Rs. 47.74 crore had been released to IIT Rajasthan for the project. A total of 366 LCADs were distributed during the launch ceremony on 5th October, 2011 to students from various institutions located in different States/UTs (not including devices retained at IIT Rajasthan for testing etc.) to get feedback from across the nation after testing the devices.

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. Since these tablets were for the purpose of testing, no criteria for distribution of tablet to students were laid down. Presently the devices are not ready for distribution. Once the production capacities are built up, norms to prioritise empowerment of students, especially from disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society, through this LCAD would get developed.

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 mA/H with a battery of 3200 mA/H capacity with no enhancement in cost.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

Shortage of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1949. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of teachers of various subjects in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) which has been adversely affecting the studies of the students;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) the number and location of such Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) As on 01.03.2012, out of 40,800 sanctioned posts, 5609 posts of teachers are lying vacant in Kendriya Vidyalayas all over the country. Recruitment to fill up the vacant post of teachers is a continuous process. There is also a provision to appoint teachers on contractual basis against such vacancies.

(c) The State-wise details of vacant posts of teachers are given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) The recruitment process for various posts of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is at an advanced stage of completion.

Statement
State-wise and Subject-wise vacant post of PGT as on 01.03.2012

S. No.	Name of State	POST GRADUATE TEACHER (PGT)															TOTAL
		SUBJECT															
		ENG	HINDI	GEOG	HIST	COMM	ECO	CHEM	PHY	BIO	Maths	Comp.	BIO. TECH	14	15	TOTAL	
1	A and N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
2	Andhra Pradesh	3	5	2	0	2	4	7	1	2	3	5	0	0	0	34	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	1	1	7		
4	Assam	6	3	1	1	2	0	3	0	1	3	1	0	0	21		
5	Bihar	5	4	1	1	2	5	11	3	5	8	3	0	0	48		
6	Chhattisgarh	2	1	2	1	2	4	6	4	4	9	0	0	0	35		
7	Delhi	4	0	1	3	0	10	0	3	0	11	0	0	0	32		
8	Goa	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	3	2	4	0	0	0	14		
9	Gujarat	11	4	2	2	1	7	11	6	12	14	2	0	0	72		
10	Himachal Pradesh	3	0	1	2	1	3	0	1	0	6	1	0	0	18		
11	Haryana	2	1	2	1	0	5	1	3	4	7	0	0	0	26		
12	J and K	9	6	4	5	0	6	11	5	2	1	2	0	0	51		
13	Jharkhand	6	1	2	2	0	0	1	7	0	7	1	0	0	27		
14	Karnataka	6	3	1	1	1	5	14	5	3	3	1	0	0	43		
15	Kerala	0	4	1	1	3	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	18		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
17	Maharashtra	8	7	10	10	10	1	12	17	17	4	15	1	0	102
18	Manipur	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	9
19	Meghalaya	0	1	2	3	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	2	0	13
20	Mizoram	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
21	Madhya Pradesh	30	7	2	2	2	3	23	13	18	12	29	1	0	140
22	Nagaland	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	7
23	Orrisa	4	12	1	0	2	2	2	13	10	5	5	0	0	54
24	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
25	Punjab	4	4	5	3	3	1	7	5	11	9	7	1	0	57
26	Rajasthan	14	2	3	3	3	3	12	2	2	6	9	0	0	56
27	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
28	Tamil Nadu	1	9	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	0	1	4	0	24
29	Tripura	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	11
30	Chandigarh	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
31	Uttarakhand	7	6	4	1	1	0	7	7	4	4	5	0	0	45
32	U.P.	13	1	5	1	1	2	10	8	12	6	12	0	0	70
33	Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
35	West Bengal	17	4	8	6	6	1	10	11	12	4	16	1	0	90
	TOTAL	163	90	64	53	28	28	145	152	138	95	176	34	2	1140

State-wise and Subject-wise vacant post of TGT/PRT/HM/Msc as on 01.03.2012

Name of State	Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT)										TGT (Misc)					PRT	HM	Total
	ENG	HINDI	BIO	SST	SKT	Maths	PET	LIB	ART	YOGA	MUSIC	PRT	HM	Total				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15				
A and N Islands	5	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	4	2	20				
Andhra Pradesh	33	34	18	10	25	17	5	10	13	5	2	101	4	277				
Arunachal Pradesh	6	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	3	0	3	41	2	66				
Assam	3	0	3	0	2	3	2	1	5	0	2	49	5	75				
Bihar	17	10	14	5	5	13	10	3	23	2	2	73	13	190				
Chhattisgarh	34	11	11	5	7	21	4	4	8	1	3	45	4	158				
Delhi	12	9	2	7	0	10	3	1	13	0	0	6	8	71				
Goa	3	5	4	4	3	6	3	1	7	0	0	23	1	60				
Gujarat	9	14	6	17	9	19	11	5	23	2	0	15	7	137				
Himachal Pradesh	4	2	1	0	3	1	1	1	5	0	1	23	4	46				
Haryana	5	5	7	2	0	10	2	0	4	0	0	12	5	52				
J and K	22	6	13	19	10	13	9	10	18	2	7	44	10	183				
Jharkhand	9	6	6	5	3	14	6	3	24	0	2	55	4	137				
Karnataka	24	29	21	21	14	24	6	5	11	0	0	144	10	309				
Kerala	6	17	8	26	15	14	4	10	23	2	4	105	9	243				
Lakshadweep	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	6				

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Maharashtra	19	40	20	21	18	37	7	7	10	20	7	1	68	5	273
Manipur	4	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	2	23	1	41
Meghalaya	2	1	3	2	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	13	1	25
Mizoram	3	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	12	1	21
Madhya Pradesh	57	25	19	27	21	51	15	15	10	35	5	4	72	31	372
Nagaland	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	1	13	1	24
Orrisa	35	19	10	18	21	29	8	8	16	17	3	3	59	6	244
Pondicherry	1	1	2	8	4	3	1	1	2	1	0	1	10	0	34
Punjab	25	14	5	13	12	10	10	11	2	9	2	0	55	7	165
Rajasthan	19	3	1	2	5	18	3	3	5	14	1	4	69	12	156
Sikkim	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Tamil Nadu	12	43	14	34	30	21	3	3	5	18	6	5	139	11	341
Tripura	3	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	25	2	38
Chandigarh	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	7
Uttarakhand	9	5	5	3	7	11	7	7	13	13	2	3	34	8	120
U.P.	16	7	7	10	3	35	7	7	1	22	5	0	78	9	200
Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	6
West Bengal	39	31	21	21	15	13	43	11	0	15	0	6	168	5	367
TOTAL	436	346	229	279	237	434	147	147	129	355	46	57	1585	189	4469

Utilization report for funds granted to NGOs

1950. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) registered with the Ministry;
- (b) the funds granted to each of the NGOs during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (c) the norms adopted and the process followed by Government to grant funds to NGOs;
- (d) the mechanism to monitor the functioning of these NGOs and utilization of funds granted to them;
- (e) the names of the NGOs who have not submitted the utilization report of the funds granted to them during the above period; and
- (f) the action taken by Government against those NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) No Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are registered with the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

- (b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Setting up of vocational training colleges in Gujarat

1951. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal of the State Government of Gujarat is pending before the Ministry, for setting up of 100 new vocational training colleges, 30 model colleges and to strengthen 231 existing Government vocational training colleges; and
- (b) if so, whether it would be approved during the current financial year, considering the acute shortfall of skilled manpower in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) No proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat for setting up of new and Strengthening of existing vocational training colleges under the scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education. However, proposal for establishment of 20 Model Degree Colleges under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of one such College in each of 374 identified Educationally Backward Districts in the Country, have been received from

Government of Gujarat. 19 Model Degree Colleges out of 20 have been approved while one proposal has been rejected.

Toilet facilities in schools

1952. SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many primary/secondary schools are without toilet facilities in the country, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) the steps Government proposes to take to provide toilets to the left out rural schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) A State-wise statement on the number of elementary and secondary schools lacking toilet facilities in the country is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) 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 & 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&B). The States/UTs have been requested to work out their requirements of toilet facilities and include the same in their AWP&B for 2012-13, in accordance with SSA norms. RMSA envisages strengthening of infrastructure of existing secondary schools including provision for toilet blocks and drinking water facilities. Till date construction of 19,339 toilet blocks has been approved in existing secondary schools.

Statement

The number of elementary schools [as per District Information System for Education (DISE) 2010-11] and secondary schools [as per provisional Secondary Education Management Information System (SEMIS) 2010-11] lacking toilet facilities

Sl.No.	State/UT	Elementary Schools without toilet facility	Secondary Schools without toilet facility
1	2	3	4
1.	A and N Islands	67	22
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19668	1308
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2273	136
4.	Assam	16968	5116

1	2	3	4
5.	Bihar	23535	1928
6.	Chandigarh	4	4
7.	Chhattisgarh	20659	1011
8.	D and N Haveli	89	4
9.	Daman and Diu	2	4
10.	Delhi	2	15
11.	Goa	144	33
12.	Gujarat	776	187
13.	Haryana	597	516
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2827	741
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	13870	1651
16.	Jharkhand	11463	1224
17.	Karnataka	3063	3492
18.	Kerala	652	167
19.	Lakshadweep	6	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	32604	4109
21.	Maharashtra	6855	45
22.	Manipur	1495	201
23.	Meghalaya	5759	61
24.	Mizoram	292	292
25.	Nagaland	258	143
26.	Orissa	12845	4052
27.	Puducherry	11	6
28.	Punjab	44	896
29.	Rajasthan	7208	5454
30.	Sikkim	6	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	2825	2660
32.	Tripura	867	363

1	2	3	4
33.	Uttar Pradesh	20470	11
34.	Uttarakhand	1999	1258
35.	West Bengal	8255	1589
TOTAL		218458	38699

Commercialisation of education

†1953. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is commercialisation of education in various parts of the country leading to fall in educational standards and it deprives the poor students of higher and professional education;

(b) if so, the appropriate steps being taken by Central Government to stop this commercialisation; and

(c) whether Government proposes to introduce job oriented courses in Government colleges and if so, the details of the proposed fee-structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) The Government has consistently held the view that education in India is not regarded as a commercial activity and all educational institutions have to be set up in the 'not for profit' mode. The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages non-governmental and voluntary efforts in Education, while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to commercialize Education. The Policy envisages that in the interest of maintaining standards and for several other valid reasons, the commercialization of technical and professional education will be curbed. An alternative system will be devised to involve private and voluntary efforts in Education, in conformity with accepted norms and goals.

At present, private sector participation exists in the funding and management of educational institutions as long as surplus earned is reasonable and the same is ploughed back for development of institution. Several pronouncements of the Supreme Court of India have also cautioned against commercialization of education, even though reasonable surplus for institutional development is permissible. The Eleventh Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to further explore private sector initiatives and various forms of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government has taken several initiatives to curb commercialization of education. Section 13 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 clearly prohibits collection of any capitation fee. As regards higher educational institutions, a legislative proposal namely “The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010” has already been introduced in the Parliament.

UGC has a scheme of supporting universities and colleges for carrier oriented courses. All Colleges and Universities recognized by the UGC under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of UGC Act, 1956 are eligible for implementing the scheme of Career-Oriented Courses. This scheme is designed to ensure the graduates to undertake courses which have knowledge, skill and attitudes for employment in the wage sector in general and self employment in particular. The fees structure will depend upon the economic viability of the course.

Funds allotted to universities and colleges in Tamil Nadu

1954. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of funds allotted by UGC to universities and colleges in Tamil Nadu in the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan periods;
- (b) the amount disbursed out of this allotment during the said Plan period; and
- (c) how many State Governments have fully implemented the UGC regulations and received the 80 per cent share of the expenses for the implementation of the Central Sixth Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) University Grants Commission (UGC) has allocated Rs. 16509.74 lakh and Rs. 70626.19 lakh to Universities and Colleges in Tamil Nadu in the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan periods respectively. Rs. 10380.22 lakh and Rs. 58485.79 lakh have been released by UGC out of this allocation during the said plan periods respectively.

- (c) 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. 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 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. So far no State has fulfilled all the conditions of the scheme and so no payment to any State Government has been made by the Government of India.

Teaching of Sanskrit in CBSE schools

1955. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of CBSE schools offering Sanskrit as an optional subject;
- (b) the number of students both in absolute and percentage terms, who appeared for Sanskrit in examinations of classes VIIIth and Xth;
- (c) whether Government rules require certain minimum number of students for Sanskrit to be offered as an optional subject;
- (d) if so, the number thereof; and
- (e) the number of teachers employed to teach Sanskrit in various Government schools under the CBSE pattern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) 8012 schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) offered Sanskrit as an optional subject in 2011. The number of students who appeared for Sanskrit Examination of class 10 in 2011 was 294471. CBSE being an examination conducting body for classes 10 and 12 does not maintain record of class 8 examination.

(c) and (d) No such requirement has been prescribed by the CBSE for its affiliated schools.

(e) CBSE affiliated schools maintain a students-teacher ratio of 40:1. School education is governed by the State school Education Act of respective state Government. Therefore, such data is not maintained at central level.

Grants for SSA given by United Kingdom

1956. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Kingdom (UK) has provided grants to India for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) during the past few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which such grants have been utilised;
- (c) whether the U.K. authorities have alleged that Government has misused the grants; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and further corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) The Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom provides partial support for implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme. The external assistance is provided through a reimbursement system, under which expenditure is first incurred by the Government of India through the State Implementation Societies for SSA, and thereafter reimbursed by the external agency as per a pre-defined annual ceiling. The DFID has provided funding for implementation of SSA programme in two spells namely Phase-I from 2004-07 during which the DFID has reimbursed Rs. 1527.11 crore, and Phase-II from 2007-10 during which the DFID has reimbursed Rs. 1152.36 crore. The DFID has also reimbursed Rs. 836.47 crore for SSA during 2010-12 as extension of Phase-II financing from 2007-10 to 2010-12.

(c) and (d) Several Newspapers had reported in June, 2010 that United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) is launching an inquiry into the alleged misuse of funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). DFID has, however, clarified that the U.K. Government is not proposing to investigate SSA. DFID has also stated that the SSA programme is considered amongst the most successful elementary education programmes, and DFID is proud to support it. DFID's Internal Audit Department (IAD) had, however, conducted an inquiry into UK assistance to SSA. The auditors have judged that DFID has adequate financial controls to manage its funding to SSA.

Opening of model schools

1957. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to build model schools along the lines of Kendriya Vidyalayas as proposed by the Prime Minister in 2007 Independence Day address;

(b) the allocation made in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the construction of 2500 model schools;

(c) how many such schools have been completed; and

(d) the deadline for completion of all such schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) 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 model 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 Twelfth Five Year Plan.

(b) Financial allocations of Rs. 2,625 crore have been made during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for Model School Scheme.

(c) and (d) Out of 1,573 model schools sanctioned so far in 21 States, construction of all the 21 schools in Punjab has been completed and the remaining school buildings are at different stages of construction.

Rehabilitation of out-of-school children

1958. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of out-of-school children in the age group of 6-14 years as per the latest Government statistics, State-wise;

(b) how many such children have been rehabilitated under Alternative and Innovative Education Scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the total budgetary allocation from States, under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) As per National Sample Survey conducted by the Social and Rural Research Institute-Specialist unit of IMRB International in 2009 for children in the age group 6-13 years, there were 81.5 lakh out of school children in the country. The details of out of school children identified under above survey are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provided support to alternate schooling facilities under its EGS and AIE component. EGS centres were envisaged as a transitory measure to provide schooling to children in habitations unserved by a regular school, till such time that regular and full time schooling facilities were provided in the area. The RTE Act-2009, which became operative on 1st April, 2010 provides that the appropriate Government shall establish a school in neighbourhood as defined in the State RTE rules within a period of three years from the commencement of the Act. The SSA norms have, therefore, been revised to correspond with the RTE Act. States have been advised to upgrade all EGS centres to regular Primary Schools by March, 2012, and no new EGS centres are being sanctioned with effect from 2010-11.

Instead of AIE centres, Special Training Centres are now being established for out of school children to ensure their age-appropriate enrolment and participation in regular elementary schools.

During the year 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 1642 crore was sanctioned for the coverage of 26,06,666 out of school children by operationalising 49,643 Special Training Centres. State-wise details about number of children to be covered and achievement (upto January, 2012) is given in Statement II.

Statement I

State-wise number of out of school children aged 6-13 years as per IMRB survey 2009

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Estimated out of school children 6-13 years age group
1	2	3
1	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,72,354
3	Arunachal Pradesh	20,601
4	Assam	2,34,983
5	Bihar	13,45,697
6	Chandigarh UT	1,974
7	Chhattisgarh	85,366
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	444
9	Daman and Diu	23
10	Delhi	1,24,022
11	Goa	0
12	Gujarat	1,62,355
13	Haryana	1,07,205
14	Himachal Pradesh	2,451
15	Jammu and Kashmir	9,691
16	Jharkhand	1,32,195
17	Karnataka	1,08,237
18	Kerala	15,776

1	2	3
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	3,28,692
21	Maharashtra	2,07,345
22	Manipur	12,222
23	Meghalaya	12,655
24	Mizoram	7,485
25	Nagaland	8,693
26	Orissa	4,35,560
27	Puducherry	993
28	Punjab	1,267
29	Rajasthan	10,18,326
30	Sikkim	647
31	Tamil Nadu	52,876
32	Tripura	8,434
33	Uttar Pradesh	27,69,111
34	Uttarakhand	56,225
35	West Bengal	7,06,713
GRAND TOTAL		81,50,618

Statement II*State-wise details of children covered under Special Training Centres*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Target of Special	No. of children enrolled
		Training during 2011-12	in Special Training Centres
1	2	3	4
1	A and N Island	282	166
2	Andhra Pradesh	250884	94227
3	Arunachal Pradesh	12650	10061

1	2	3	4
4	Assam	253832	227194
5	Bihar	559329	159192
6	Chandigarh	5200	4470
7	Chhattisgarh	96217	58732
8	D and Nagar Haveli	86	9
9	Daman and Diu	246	162
10	Delhi	14440	3623
11	Goa	1199	1281
12	Gujarat	101459	93971
13	Haryana	98241	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	2309	2702
15	Jammu and Kashmir	62873	0
16	Jharkhand	52749	8411
17	Karnataka	52244	28733
18	Kerela	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	7	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	73379	51340
21	Maharashtra	125549	13201
22	Manipur	17093	14695
23	Meghalaya	11645	0
24	Mizoram	9759	5358
25	Nagaland	19116	19116
26	Orissa	65074	15086
27	Puducherry	901	232
28	Punjab	23998	44785
29	Rajasthan	106339	62520

1	2	3	4
30	Sikkim	1769	74
31	Tamil Nadu	61653	49348
32	Tripura	6422	3915
33	Uttar Pradesh	157770	0
34	Uttarakhand	31393	21925
35	West Bengal	330559	96133
TOTAL		2606666	1090662

Filling up of backlog vacancies

1959. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether provision inserted *vide* the 81st Amendment to the Constitution is being followed in the Ministry for all groups *i.e.* Group A to Group D;
- whether backlog vacancies are notified and filled up every year;
- the reasons, if any, for not following the procedure; and
- the details of backlog vacancies filled during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Yes.

- Yes, if any.
- Does not arise.
- As per details as under:

Group	Scheduled Caste					Scheduled Tribe					Other Backward Class				
	During vacancy year					During vacancy year					During vacancy year				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
C	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Education in rural areas

1960. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is underlining the need for addressing the emerging challenges in the education sector at the primary and secondary level especially in the rural areas as compared to urban areas;
- (b) if so, the steps taken, so far, in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (c) the views of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) The Government is implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme for universalisation of elementary education, which, *inter-alia*, includes provision for universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children. Further the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has come into force with effect from 1.4.2010 for providing free and compulsory elementary education to all children in 6-14 age group. The Government is committed to implementation of the RTE Act, and has revised the SSA norms to align them with the provisions of the RTE Act. Keeping in view the enhanced financial requirements to implement the RTE norms, the fund sharing pattern for SSA between the Central and State Governments was revised to the 65 : 35 ratio *w.e.f.* 2010-11 for a period of five years, with the fund sharing pattern in respect of the States in the North Eastern Region continuing in the 90 : 10 ratio. The Government has also approved the 13th Finance Commission award of Rs. 24,068 crore for elementary education sector over a period of five years from 2010-15.

Further, the Government implements the Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme to provide hot cooked meal to all children at the elementary stage of education in government, local body and government aided schools.

For enhancing access of children to secondary education, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) programme was launched in 2009-10. RMSA provides support for opening of new schools, strengthening of existing schools, appointment of additional teachers, and quality interventions, including teacher training. In addition, Government implements the Girls' Hostel scheme and the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE) to enable girls to participate in secondary education.

With a view to arrest drop out rate of children of disadvantaged groups and to encourage them to continue their studies at secondary stage, the Centrally Sponsored

Scheme National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) was launched in May, 2008.

Pension for Navodaya Vidyalaya Teachers

1961. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is giving pension to the teaching staff of Navodaya Vidyalayas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when, pension would be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved introduction of New Pension Scheme (NPS) for all the regular employees of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti joining on or after 1.4.2009. All regular employees of NVS joining on or after 1.4.2009 shall become members of NPS. However, those employee who had joined Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti on regular basis before 1.4.2009 shall have the option either to continue with the existing Contributory Provident Fund Scheme or to join the New Pension Scheme.

Educational institutions in Muslim areas

1962. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that educational institutions in Muslim areas in the country are not sufficient; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) and (b) Establishing educational institutions in Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) is a priority for the Government. Several steps have been taken to improve access, equity and quality of education in MCDs. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), districts with concentration of Muslim population are specifically targeted for maximizing school access and eliminating infrastructure gaps through opening of 17394 new Primary Schools and 11990 Upper Primary Schools. Besides out of 3598 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) which were sanctioned, 490 KGBVs are for rural and urban areas of educationally backward Muslim minority concentration areas. In addition, under the

Scheme of Establishment of a model degree college in 374 identified higher educationally backward districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio of higher education below national average, 64 Minority Concentration Districts have been identified out of which 14 Model Degree Colleges have been approved. Similarly out of 57 Minority Concentration Districts eligible for Polytechnics, 48 districts have already been covered under the scheme of Sub-Mission on Polytechnics and an amount of Rs. 254.66 crores has been released so far. Two campuses of Aligarh Muslim University have been established at Mallapuram (Kerala) and Murshidabad (West Bengal). As on 20.03.2012, the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions has granted minority status certificates to 5830 educational institutions.

Medical education in IITs

†1963. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy to start medical education in IITs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when this policy would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) to (c) In order to enable the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to conduct research and impart education in the field of medicine, it has been decided 'in principle' to suitably amend the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 to provide for instructions leading to a degree in any branch of medicine, without prejudice to the requirements specified under the Medical Council of India Act, 1956, and inter-disciplinary research for advancement of learning and dissemination of knowledge in such areas of learning, as the IITs may deem fit, not leading to a degree or qualification for practice in medicine. No definite time-frame for implementation of the decision can be indicated.

Indira Gandhi National Tribal University

1964. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :
SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

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

- (a) the action taken by the Ministry as on date, on the representation on land issue of proposed Centre of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in Gujarat as this

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

University is demanding 300 acres of Government land at the same place and State Government may allocate 50 to 60 acres of Government land for this proposed Centre; and

- (b) by when the Ministry is going to sort out this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) is an autonomous organization governed by its Act and Statutes & Ordinances framed thereunder. The said Act empowers the University to establish such number of Regional Centres in various tribal areas of the country as is, in the opinion of the University, necessary for the furtherance of its objects. Though the IGNTU has sought 300 acres of land for proposed Centre of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University in Gujarat, the University has informed that they have not received any communication from Government of Gujarat in this regard.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Healthcare of children in MCD schools

1965. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that in MCD primary schools in the capital, out of the 23.5 crore rupees allotted for healthcare of children, an amount of around 22 crore is being paid for salaries of doctors and nurses and only a small amount is spent on students;

(b) if so, the details of those schools and the authorities involved in such irresponsible acts, at the cost of not providing spectacles, hearing aids, eye check-up, dental care and blood test and also to check viral diseases besides making medicines available; and

- (c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. There are 1750 MCD Primary schools in Delhi. The function of School Health Services (SHS) is to provide comprehensive health care services consisting of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services to all the students studying in these schools. Out of the allotted funds of Rs. 23.5 crore for 2010-11 for health care of children, Rs. 22.00 crore was earmarked for salaries. But only Rs. 14.98 crore was spent on salaries of Doctors, Nurses as well as medical staff. Apart from this Rs. 48.96 lakhs were spent on medicines.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

Vacancies in railway security division

1966. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :
SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the high powered committee set up by Railways, 1.25 lakh posts are lying vacant in the railway security division; and
- (b) if so, by when these posts are going to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir. There are 14189 vacancies in Railway Protection Force (RPF) as on 31.12.2011.

Additional sanction of 723 posts for Kolkata Metro Railway has been sanctioned on 30.12.2011 and has to be manned;

- (b) For the purpose of filling of vacancy the following recruitments are under process :
 - (1) Nearly 27.07 lakh applications have been received for 11952 vacancies of Constables notified *vide* Employment Notice No. 1/2011 dated 27.02.2011.
 - (2) Nearly 2, 27,207 applications have been received against 511 vacancies of Sub-Inspector notified *vide* Employment Notice No. 2/2011 dated 13.04.2011.

Evaluation of Corporate Safety Plan of Railways

1967. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have achieved the target set in the Corporate Safety Plan 2003-2013 till date for reducing the frequency of consequential accidents;
- (b) if so, whether Railways have made an attempt to examine its success and further improve safety for railway passengers; and
- (c) if not, the manner in which Railways plan to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of recommendations of Railway Safety Review Committee (RSRC) (Khanna Committee) 1998 a comprehensive Corporate Safety

Plan (2003-2013) was formulated. The implementation of recommendations is reviewed periodically to further improve safety and the present status is as following:

- (i) Accidents per million train kms. has already reduced to 0.15 in the year 2010-11 from 0.44 in 2002-03.
- (ii) As a result of various measures initiated in upgrading rolling stock, track and signalling systems, the chances of passenger fatality have come down.
- (iii) There is an overall reduction in consequential number of accidents from 161 (2003-04) to 56 (2010-11) attributable to human failure. However, human failure still continues to be one of the major causes of accidents. Development of manpower, regular training and improvement in working conditions is a continuous process and it is being pursued by Indian Railways with all seriousness.
- (iv) By conducting safety workshops, seminars, counseling, regular training of staff, etc. there is substantial improvement in safety culture at all places.
- (v) There is a reduction in number of consequential train accidents attributable to equipment failures from 18 (2003-04) to 5 (2010-2011) due to adoption of 'fail-proof' systems philosophy.
- (vi) Priority to safety related projects is always given in planning and implementation.
- (vii) 217 RSRC recommendations have been implemented out of the total 236 number of recommendations accepted.

(c) Targets of Corporate Safety Plan are given utmost importance in all the planning and implementation processes. Its progress is monitored on continuous basis and corrective steps are taken wherever required. Railways will concentrate to strive to achieve all the targets of corporate safety plan before the end of the plan in 2013.

Wagon factory at Cherthala

1968. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether RITES has completed the study on setting up of a wagon factory in Cherthala;
- (b) if not, the reasons for delay;
- (c) the time-frame for starting the wagon factory as a joint venture of the Centre and State Government; and
- (d) by when would the construction of second coach terminal at Kochuveli and Nemom be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir. RITES was not awarded a study for setting up of the Wagon Factory at Cherthala.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Land availability for setting up the wagon factory at Alappuzha in Joint Venture/Public Private Partnership (JV/PPP) mode is yet to be confirmed by State Government. Further action can only be initiated thereafter.

(d) The work of construction of 2nd Coaching Terminal at Kochuveli is in progress. No target date has been fixed.

Coaching terminal at Nemam is not yet sanctioned.

Whistle-blower policy

1969. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are mulling over introducing whistle-blower policy to discourage misuse of Tatkal reservation and nab touts who sell tickets in black;

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

(c) whether any consultations have been held with the stakeholders in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) With a view to reduce the chances of misuse of Tatkal scheme, the scheme has already been modified on various accounts *e.g.* issuing of Tatkal tickets only on production of self attested photocopy of one of the 9 prescribed proofs of identity mentioned in the scheme and carrying the same proof of identity during the journey, reduction of Advance Reservation Period from two days excluding the day of journey to one day excluding the day of journey, non-granting of any refund on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal ticket, non-issue of Duplicate Tatkal tickets, denying access to Tatkal bookings to authorized agents both through internet as well as across the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters between 08:00 hrs and 10:00 hrs., restriction of booking of a maximum of four passengers per Passenger Name Record (PNR) on Tatkal ticket and booking of only one Tatkal ticket per train per day on internet after 10:00 A.M. by Web service agents. Improvements/modifications in the reservation system is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) The above said modifications have been done on the basis of feedback received from various sources.

These changes have reduced the chances of misuse of Tatkal scheme.

Issuing of free train passes

1970. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether practice of wasteful expenditure of issuing free train passes by Railway Minister from discretionary quota is an anachronism in a democracy;
- (b) the statistics thereof, the number of passes and the expenses to Railways during last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) whether it is high-time to put an end to this discriminatory practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Period	No. of Passes Issued
2009-10	26
2010-11	03
2011-12 (upto 22/03/2012)	01

Since, these passes are issued on Complimentary basis, details of expenditure on such passes is not maintained.

- (c) As a gesture to recognize their contribution in their respective fields, Life-Time Achievement Passes are issued to different categories of people in the fields of sports, culture, art etc.

Representation from Forum on Social and Human Rights

1971. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the South Central Railway has received a representation from the Forum on Social and Human Rights of Andhra Pradesh to have meeting with the General Manager and others in the State capital to solve the vexatious problem of Tanuku Rail overbridge and the level crossing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a meeting has been held in 2012 in this regard;
- (d) if not, the steps Railways would take to ensure that citizen initiatives are positively viewed and matters taken forward; and

- (e) the reasons for not meeting this demand of the Forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (e) In terms of Railway policy, a Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of level crossing (LC) No. 152 was sanctioned on cost sharing basis and it has been commissioned in February, 2010 for road traffic and level crossing has been closed. In this connection, Railway has received representations regarding ROB at Tanuku from Dr. Pullarao, President, Forum on Social and Human Rights, Polavaram. The site was jointly inspected by officers of the Railway and State Government on 26.02.2011 in which Dr. P. Pulla Rao, was also present. The committee in their report mentioned that Road Under Bridge (RUB) is not technically feasible at the LC gate location. The State Government agreed for providing the stairs on both approaches and as per the latest information the work is in progress.

CCTV cameras at Railway Stations

1972. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have plans to ensure security at crowded railway stations and have stepped up their efforts of installing CCTV cameras at more than 200 sensitive stations across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of places where CCTV cameras need to be installed to tackle the terror, Naxal and ULFA attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For strengthening surveillance and security at sensitive stations, it has been decided to install Internet Protocol based CCTV cameras at 202 stations under an Integrated Security System comprising of following four broad areas :

- (i) Internet Protocol based CCTV surveillance system
- (ii) Access control
- (iii) Personal and baggage screening system
- (iv) Bomb Detection and Disposal System
- (c) Details of identified 202 stations is given in Statement.

Statement*List of nominated stations under Integrated Security System*

Sl. No.	Zone	Number of stations	Name of Stations
1	2	3	4
1	Central Railway	18	Bhusawal, Nasik Road, Manmad, Chalisgaon, Jalgaon, Akola, Murthapur, Badnera, Nagpur, Pune, Miraj, Chatrapati Shivaji Terminal (Main line & Suburban), Dadar, Kurla, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Thane & Kalyan.
2	Eastern Railway	11	Malda, Bardhaman, Asansol, Durgapur, Sealdah, Kolkata (T), Bidhannagar, Majherhat, Ballygunge, Dum Dum, Howrah.
3	Kolkata Metro	23	Dum Dum Jn., Belgachia, Shyambazar, Sovabazar, Girish Park, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Central, Chandni Chowk, Esplanade, Park Street, Maidan, Rabindra Sadan, Netaji Bhawan, Jatindas Park, Kalighat, Rabindra Sarobar, Tollygunge, Kudghat, Bansdram, Naktala, Garia Bazar, Birji (Previous Pranab Nagar) New Garia.
4	East Central Railway	07	Dhanbad, Mughalsarai, Patna Jn., Rajendra Nagar, Muzzafar Pur, Samastipur, Raxaul.
5	East Coast Railway	04	Puri, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam.
6	Northern Railway	38	Lucknow, Varanasi, Faizabad, Ayodhya, Srinagar, Badgam, Anantnag, Jammu, Udhampur, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Ambala, Saharanpur, Kalka, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Patiala, Bareilly, Moradabad, Haridwar, Chakkibank, Brijbehra, Panjgam, Awantipura, Kakapore, Pampore, Rajwansher, New Delhi, Delhi Main, H. Nizamuddin, Shahdara, Tilak Bridge, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt, Shivazi Bridge, Anand Vihar Ghaziabad.

1	2	3	4
7	North Central Railway	05	Agra, Mathura, Jhansi, Kanpur, Allahabad.
8	North Eastern Railway	03	Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chapra.
9	North Frontier Railway	16	Guwahati, Dimapur, New Jalpaiguri, Diphu, Lumding, Maibong, Katihar, Kishanganj, Siliguri, Kokrajhar, New Tinsukia, Simalguri, Jorhat Town, Mariani, Furkating, Dibrugarh.
10	North Western Railway	04	Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur.
11.	Southern Railway	14	Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Coimbatore, Madurai, Calicut, Tiruchirapalli, Mangalore, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Beach, Mambalam, Tambaram, Basin Bridge, Tiruvallur.
12	South Central Railway	03	Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Tirupati.
13	South Eastern Railway	11	Kharagpur, Ranchi, Tatanagar, Chakradharpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Bokaro, Puruliya, Adra, Muri, Midnapur.
14	South East Central Railway	03	Bilaspur, Raipur, Gondia.
15	South Western Railway	03	Bangalore, Yaswantpur, Mysore.
16	West Central Railway	02	Bhopal, Itarsi.
17	Western Railway	37	Surat, Vadodara, Godhra, Ahmedabad, Ujjain, Church Gate, Marine Drive, Charni Road, Grant Road, Mumbai Central, Mahalaxmi, Lower Parel, Elphinston Road, Dadar, Matunga Road, Mahim, Bandra Local, Bandra Terminus, Khar Road, Santa Cruz, Vile Parle, Andheri, Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Malad, Kandivali, Borivali, Dahisar, Miraroad, Bhayander, Nayagaon, Basairoad, Nalasupara, Virar, Palghar, Boisar, Dahanuroad.

Broad gauge line to connect Dharmatala with Tripura

1973. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have any proposal to lay a broad gauge line connecting Dharmatala with Tripura; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Kumarghat-Agartala new line project has been completed and commissioned on meter gauge laid with dual gauge sleeper. It will be converted to broad gauge after completion of Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion. Then, Dharmnagar in Tripura will be on a broad gauge line.

Setting up of a Medical College at Ahmedabad

1974. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways plan to set up a new medical college at Ahmedabad as announced by the then Hon'ble Minister of Railways in her Budget Speech in 2009;
- (b) if so, by when the new medical college attached to the existing railway hospital is likely to be set up;
- (c) the number of under graduate students who are proposed to be admitted in the initial stage; and
- (d) whether the proposed medical college would give admissions as per admission rules of the State Government or under any new policy under consideration of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five locations have been identified for Phase-I where hospitals have enough bed strength. Ahmedabad shall be taken up subsequently. However, no time frame can be given at present.

(c) and (d) This shall be decided at the time of final processing of the proposal for setting up of the medical colleges.

Gauge conversion of Gondia-Jabalpur railway line

†1975 . SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when the gauge conversion work of Gondia-Jabalpur railway line would be completed;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the reasons for delay in this project;
- (c) the total amount incurred on this project so far along with the details of the work completed; and
- (d) the time by which the remaining work is scheduled to be completed and the budget provision made in this regard; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) On Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi (285 km) gauge conversion project, Gondia-Balaghat (49 Km) and Balaghat - Katangi (46.8 Km) section have been completed and commissioned. Target date for completion of remaining sections has not been fixed as work is held up for forestry clearance. Expenditure of Rs. 620.42 crores is expected to be incurred up to 31.3.2012.

(d) Work will be completed in the coming years depending on availability of resources and clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. Outlay of Rs. 30 crore has been proposed in the budget for the 2012-13.

Railway industrial corridors in Chhattisgarh

†1976. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Minister of Railways has approved three railway industrial corridors in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the total cost thereof and the names of districts where these would be developed;
- (c) whether the Minister of Railways has also promised to complete the incomplete rail projects in the State; and
- (d) if so, by when work on these projects would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three rail corridors totaling 452 kilometers would be built at a cost of Rs. 4,362 crores.

These rail corridors would be developed in the four northern districts of the State; namely Surguja (including Surajpur), Korba, Janjgir-Champa and Raigarh.

(c) and (d) Completion of Railway projects is an ongoing exercise and all efforts are made to complete the projects in time depending upon availability of resources.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Independent authority to fix railway fares

1977. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a proposal to have an independent authority to fix railway fares;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the long term strategy for fixing railway fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the fare structure is an ongoing process. Such exploratory exercises are carried out from time to time for fixation of fares.

Halt stations for Qazigund-Baramulla train

1978. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Qazigund—Baramulla train is a small distance local train requiring stations at shorter distances;
- (b) whether Railways have received demands for establishing of new stations/halt stations; and
- (c) whether halt stations would be established at Puchal, Ratnipora and Naina Batpora on this railway line to accommodate the popular demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Qazigund–Baramulla is a 120 km section. 4 pairs of DMU (Diesel Multiple Unit) trains are running on this section.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) At present, no decision has been taken to establish these halt stations.

Railway projects in Himachal Pradesh

1979. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the ongoing/pending railway projects along with the survey conducted in Himachal Pradesh;

- (b) whether it is a fact that some projects are running behind schedule;
- (c) if so, the projects-wise details thereof; and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Railway for timely completion of the ongoing projects in the State and the time by which Manali-Leh projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Details of ongoing Railway projects falling partly/fully in the State of Himachal Pradesh are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Latest anticipated cost (Rs. in crore)	Anticipated expenditure upto March, 2012 (Rs. in crore)
1.	Nangal Dam-Talwara New line (83.74 km)	730	344
2.	Chandigarh-Baddi New line (33.23 km)	328.14	0.15
3.	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri New line (63.1 km)	2967	65.14

Moreover, the following surveys falling partly/fully in the State of Himachal Pradesh have been completed :

Sl. No.	Name of survey	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Una-Jajon-Doaba new line (40.14 km)	946.08	Not taken up for the present.
2.	Una-Hoshiarpur new line (40.5 km)	441.12	Project proposal sent to Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval.
3.	Kalka-Baddi new line (20 km)	385.45	Project proposal sent to Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval.
4.	Ghanauli-Baddi new line (26.30 km)	541.27	Project proposal sent to Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval

1	2	3	4
5.	Darla Ghat-Parvanoo new line (92.50 km)	3881.05	Survey report under examination.
6.	Bilaspur-Rampur-Bushar new line (119 km)	6187.60	Survey report under examination
7.	Nangal Dam-Sirhind doubling (102 km)	778.20	Survey report under examination
8.	Ghanauli-Dehradun new line (186 km)	3745.62	Project proposal sent to Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval
9.	Bilaspur-Manali Leh new line (498 km)	22831	Project proposal sent to Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Chandigarh-Baddi new line work has been stalled following refusal by State Government of Panjab and Chandigarh Administration to provide land for the project. Nangal Dam-Talwara new line project has been delayed as the same remained frozen for about 8 years after the State Government of Himachal Pradesh backed out of their initial commitment to provide land and wooden sleepers free of cost for the project.

(d) Case has been processed for declaration of 'Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri' and 'Nangal Dam-Talwara' new line projects as 'National Projects' with funding from Ministry of Finance as an additionally. Bilaspur-Manali-Leh new line project has not yet been sanctioned.

Under-bridge at Murena

†1980. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have received any proposal/demand to construct an under-bridge under broad gauge line in the city of Murena district of Madhya Pradesh in the public interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action 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) to (c) No, Sir. However, Railway has constructed one Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Delhi end of Morena station and one RUB at Level Crossing (LC) No. 449 at km. 1262/2-4 has been proposed for Morena city in Railway Works Programme 2012-13.

Public-private body to run Railways

1981. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government feels that the time is ripe for instituting a public-private body to run Railways on certain routes;
- (b) whether the Ministry has done survey on this; and
- (c) if so, by when Government would initiate action towards this goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Connectivity of Chhattisgarh regions with Kolkata

†1982. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether plans are being prepared for passengers of Surguja and Bastar regions of Chhattisgarh to have the rail route for Kolkata *via* Mumbai-Howrah and Vizagapatam, respectively;
- (b) whether the survey work has been started or it would start in 2011-12;
- (c) whether facilities for transportation of existing and transportable minerals in both of the above regions are sufficient; and
- (d) if not, the details of plan for enhancing such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Railway has taken up Dallirajahara-Jagdapur new line project which passes through bastar region of Chhattisgarh. On completion of this line, Bastar region will get connected to Kolkatta *via* Howrah-Mumbai route *via* Visakhapatnam.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) For improving the facilities for transportation, following new line project and 8 doubling projects are under execution in various stages.

New Line : Dallirajahara-Jagdulpur

Doubling : (i) Bilaspur-Urkura (110 km), (ii) Champa-Byepass line (iii) Champa-Jharsuguda 3rd line (165 km), (iv) Durg-Rajnandgaon 3rd line (v) Khodir-Annupur with flyover at Bilaspur (61.6 Km) (vi) Kirandul-Jagdulpur (150 Km) (vii) Raipur-Titlagarh (203 Km) 7 Raipur (kendri)-Dhamtari and Abhanpur-Rajimbrach (67.20 kms) (viii) Salka Road-Khongsarra- Annupur (90 Km).

Accidents due to rooftop travelling

1983. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of accidents occur due to rooftop travelling in trains;
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents occurred during last three years; and
- (c) the steps Railways are taking to stop rooftop travelling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Number of accidents due to rooftop travelling over Indian Railways during the last three years are as under :

2009	:	44
2010	:	69
2011	:	43

(c) Besides making announcements through Public Address System about the impending dangers and resultant penalties, the following steps are being taken by the Railways to prevent rooftop travelling :

- (i) Drives are being conducted against travelling on rooftop, foot board in coordination with Government Railway Police and Local Police and the offenders are prosecuted under the provisions of law.
- (ii) Awareness programmes are also launched time to time jointly with Local Police, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Scouts, Lions Club etc. urging the passengers to desist from travelling on the rooftop of trains.
- (iii) Signboards and posters have been placed on platforms to create awareness amongst the passengers.

Late running of trains

1984. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of trains running late and subsequently cancelled due to fog, bad weather and other reasons from October, 2011 to January, 2012, Zone-wise;

(b) the total loss incurred by Railways due to the late running and cancellation of trains, Zone-wise.

(c) the steps being taken by Railways to prevent late running of trains and develop mechanism/device to prevent fog related accidents during winter season; and

(d) the expenses incurred by Railways in this regard during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) The details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) The data of financial loss due to late running of trains or their cancellation is not maintained train-wise or zone-wise.

(c) Railways have provided Light Emitting Diode (LED) signals at 4808 stations (upto Feb., 2012) on Indian Railways to improve visibility of signals.

Further, in fog affected northern region of Indian Railways, modified automatic signals have been provided in Automatic Signalling section to facilitate safe running of trains.

In addition, Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) in Chennai Central-Gummidipundi section (50 routes Kms) on Southern Railway and in Delhi-Agra section (200 route Kms) on Northern/North Central Railways have been provided as pilot projects to prevent incidences of signal passing at danger and over speeding.

Based on the experience of the above two pilot projects, works for provision of TPWS have been sanctioned on about 3400 route Kms covering all automatic signalling territories on 8 Zonal Railways.

Extended trails of fog safe devices are in progress in fog prone Railways *viz.* Northern Railway, North Eastern Railway and North Western Railway.

Besides, during fog period to create path so as to safe and punctual running of trains, some Mail/Express trains are cancelled on busy routes on Northern part of the country with prior advance intimation.

(d) The amount spent so far on provision of Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) is Rs. 96.23 crores.

Statement

The number of Mail/Express trains running late and subsequently cancelled Zone-wise for the period from October, 2011 to January, 2012

Zone	Mail/Express trains running late and subsequently cancelled due to fog, bad weather and other reasons
Central Railway	14
Eastern Railway	19
East Central Railway	27
East Coast Railway	03
Northern Railway	94
North Central Railway	04
North Eastern Railway	30
North East Frontier Railway	08
North Western Railway	12
Southern Railway	-
South Eastern Railway	07
South Central Railway	10
South East Central Railway	-
South Western Railway	04
Western Railway	10
West Central Railway	32
TOTAL :	274

Improved medical and emergency facilities to passengers

1985. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medical and emergency facilities available for travelling railway passengers at railway stations and in the trains;

(b) whether Railways propose to strengthen its medical and emergency facilities to the passengers in the wake of various instances and to cope with emergent situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Railways thereto; and

(d) the time by which the improved medical and emergency facilities are likely to be made available to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) First Aid facilities are available at all the railway stations and in all passenger carrying trains. Front line railway staff on the train and at railway stations are trained in rendering First Aid to needy passengers. Railway doctors are on call to attend emergencies at railway stations. Doctors who are travelling as passengers are also called in to give medical assistance. The station masters have a list of nearby hospitals and doctors, whose services are availed in emergencies. Trains can also make unscheduled halts en-route if necessary. Medical terms with necessary First Aid equipments are provided on Duronto Trains as a Pilot Project.

(b) to (d) Northern Railway has set up 'Emergency Equipment Rooms' at five stations in Delhi area. These rooms are equipped with stretcher, trolley and wheel chair for patients, gas cutter, necessary medical facilities and other rescue equipments. Proposal to set up 'Emergency Response Rooms' in other major stations is under consideration in the Ministry of Railways.

Backlog vacancies

1986. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2011;

(b) the category/group-wise position of each cadre; and

(c) the steps proposed by Railways to improve the stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) was launched for clearing the backlog of reserved vacancies (Group 'C' including erstwhile Group 'D' of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) existing as on 01.11. 2008. There is no backlog in Group 'A' and Group 'B'. Recruitment process is being monitored by the highest administrative Officers. Notifications for around 1.48 lakh vacancies in Grade Pay Rs. 1800/- and above have already been issued for direct recruitment from open market. These include SC/ST/OBC vacancies of backlog as well as current shortfall. Present status of the backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and other Backward Classes (OBCs) is as under :

Position of Backlog Vacancies in Group 'C'	SC	ST	OBC
Backlog vacancies identified as on 01.11.2008	4003	4143	6722
Backlog vacancies filled up to 31.03.2011	1659	1234	2606
Remaining backlog as on 31.03.2011	2344	2909	4116

Pathankot-Leh railway line

1987. SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that survey of Pathankot-Leh railway line has been completed recently; and
- (b) if so, by when Railways propose to start construction work on this railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir. Pathankot-Leh new line survey has been taken up.

- (b) Does not arise as the project has not yet been sanctioned.

Concessional Pass Scheme

1988. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no encouraging response for concessional pass scheme for persons below poverty line in Mumbai City, Mumbai suburban and Thane districts of Maharashtra though more than 65 lakh persons travel daily by suburban railway trains.
- (b) if so, the number of passes issued in last one year;
- (c) the reasons for poor response; and
- (d) the efforts made to popularize the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) Under the 'Izzat' scheme, Monthly Season Tickets priced at Rs. 25 are issued to people working in unorganized sectors with monthly income not exceeding Rs. 1500/- . A total of 5989 Izzat Monthly Season Tickets have been issued in Mumbai and Thane area from March, 2011 to February, 2012. No study has been carried out to identify the reasons for the present level of response.

- (d) Publicity has been given to the Izzat Pass Scheme through media. Letters have also been issued to all District Collectors for issue of income certificate in prescribed format to Below Poverty Line card Holders. The details of the scheme have

also been published in the Central Railway's Suburban Time Table and the Western Zone Time Table with effect from 1.7.2011. The scheme is also mentioned under the list of concessions extended to passengers on the website of Indian Railways.

Delayed infrastructure projects

1989. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways topped the list of infrastructure projects that missed the deadline causing huge cost overruns to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the details regarding such projects which missed deadline and caused cost overruns; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways for completion of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. During Eleventh Five Year Plan (*i.e.* from 2007-08 to 2011-12), against revised target of 2000 Km of New line, Railway achieved a progress of 2205 Km which works out to 110%. In Gauge Conversion, against revised target of 6000 Km, Railway achieved a progress of 5290 Km which works out to 88%. In Doubling plan head, against a revised target of 2500 Km, Railway achieved a progress of 110% by completing 2756 Km.

(c) Railways has a huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited availability of resources. Targets are fixed on yearly basis. Ongoing projects will be completed in coming years depending upon availability of resources.

Projection of funds for completing railway projects

1990. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering the large number of ongoing projects and substantial allocation needed for their early and timely completion, the Minister would indicate a five year projection of funds required by Railways to complete all the projects without any further time overrun or cost escalation; and

(b) whether the Minister would declare a moratorium on starting new projects for the said period of five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) As on 01.04.2011, there were 340 ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects requiring more than Rs. 1,25,000 Crore for their completion. During 2011-12, 5 more projects consisting of 2 new lines and 3 doubling were included in the Supplementary Railway Budget costing Rs. 617.52 Crore.

To complete these projects, railway would require about Rs. 1,25,617 Crore.

(b) Railway infrastructure is essential for development of Remote and Backward regions and Railway intends to take up projects on operational/socio-economic development considerations. To augment resources, Railway is making effort to generate funds through extra budgetary sources such as States/beneficiaries participation etc.

Outsourcing and disinvestment in Railways

1991. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have planned for outsourcing and disinvestment in several areas;

(b) if so, whether this move would ensure focus on upgrading passenger amenities and help in generation of more revenue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) Outsourcing of certain activities through contracts for pre-defined periods in areas like sanitation, coach cleaning, pest control, garbage disposal etc. is an ongoing exercise. This is done as a part of the overall endeavour to improve passenger amenities. It does not lead to revenue generation. No disinvestment has been planned on Indian Railways.

Increasing fiscal resources

1992. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have sought loan from Ministry of Finance to manage its fiscal deficit;

(b) whether Railways have also planned to issue Rail Infrastructure Bond to increase the fiscal sources for its projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A loan of Rs. 3,000 crore has been extended by Ministry of Finance to meet urgent plan investment requirements in 2011-12.

(b) and (c) Railways have been borrowing from the market through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to supplement plan resources for supporting its rolling stock acquisition programme. IRFC does not issue Infrastructure Bonds. However, in the current year, tax-free bonds amounting to Rs. 7,000 crore have been

issued and funds raised to part finance select capacity enhancement projects of Doubling and Railway Electrification including rolling stock at interest rates ranging from 7.55% to 8.30% for tenors of 10 and 15 years.

On-line reservation facility to physically challenged persons

1993. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that at present on-line reservation facility is not available to physically challenged persons, causing a lot of hardship to them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Railways propose to take to introduce on-line ticket reservation facility for physically challenged persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) All persons including physically challenged persons can book full fare tickets on payment through the internet. However, booking of concessional tickets requiring verification of the requisite concession certificate and also retention of copies of the said certificate issued/signed by the competent authority at the railway counter as documentary evidence is not done through internet. Accordingly, the facility of e-ticketing has not been extended to such cases where the physical document is to be verified at the time of booking on concessional fare as in case of physically challenged persons.

Establishment of workshop at Jamalpur in Bihar

1994. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have sanctioned for establishment of a workshop at Jamalpur in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the status of the project;
- (c) the amount of budget of the project and the amount already allocated till February, 2012;
- (d) the completion schedule of the project; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) A Railway workshop is already functioning at Jamalpur. Therefore, there is no proposal to set up another workshop at Jamalpur in Bihar.

- (b) to (e) Do not arise.

New DEMU shed at Sonapur, Bihar

1995. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have sanctioned for establishment of new DEMU shed at Sonapur in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the status of the project;
- (c) the amount of budget of the project and the amount already allocated till February, 2012;
- (d) the completion schedule of the project; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Civil infrastructure work is near completion. Machinery and Plants are being procured. Electrical and Signal and Telecommunication works are in Progress.

(c) Total sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 21.75 crore and total cumulative expenditure for the project upto February, 2012 is Rs. 16.42 crore.

(d) and (e) the DEMU shed is likely to completed by the middle of 2012-13.

Replacement of old railway lines

1996. SHRI SABIR ALI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-replacement of old and outlived railway lines and poor maintenance of railway equipments could be ascribed as the factors responsible for train accidents involving Kalka Mail;

(b) whether C & AG in his report has referred to the poor maintenance and non filling of existing vital vacancies and had suggested for urgent need of the steps to be taken in the matter; and

(c) the length of old railway lines replaced with new ones during the last two years and the length of the old railway lines to be replaced in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) A statutory inquiry has been conducted by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation based at Lucknow into derailment of Train No. 2311 Up Howrah-Kalka Mail on 10.07.2011 at Malwan station on Allahabad Division of North Central Railway. As per the CCRS' preliminary report, the accident occurred due to breakage of rail across the weld between

left tongue and lead rails, and accordingly, he has attributed the cause of accident to 'Failure of Equipment-Permanent Way'. However, the inquiry is yet to be completed by the CCRS and his final report is awaited.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his recommendation has stated that Indian Railways should fill up all safety category posts. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. The policy of the railway administration is to fill up available vacancies promptly as per laid down procedure. Notifications for filling up of about 1,90,000 posts have already been issued.

(c) Track renewals in existing lines, both primary (with new materials) and secondary (with second hand materials), done during the last two years are as under :

*[Figures in kilometer of Complete
Track Renewal (CTR) Units]*

Year	Primary	Secondary	Total
2009-10	2734	1106	3840
2010-11	2580	885	3465
2011-12 (Current Year till 29.02.2012)	2283	779	3062

During the current year 2011-12, a progress of 3062 kilometer of CTR units has been achieved till February, 2012 against the annual target of 3000 kilometer of CTR units. For 2012-13, a target of 3200 kilometer of CTR units has been planned for track renewals.

Condition of railway hospital in Ajmer

†1997. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 745 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5 August, 2011 and state:

(a) whether for many years the biggest railway hospital of Rajasthan is in Ajmer;

(b) whether specialists and super specialists are called in only for special requirements;

(c) whether thousands of railway employees or their dependents in Ajmer region are supposed to wait for specialists at the time of serious ailments;

(d) whether Railways have taken any decision regarding appointment of specialist doctors in the hospital permanently;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Doctors in Railways are appointed through Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Amongst them, those with specialist qualification are utilized to work in different specialities. Specialists and Super-Specialists are also directly recruited through UPSC. In case where UPSC recruited specialists are not available services of full time contract specialists are made available.

Services of specialists and super-specialists are also made available through Honorary Visiting Specialists (HVS) and on case to case basis.

At present 13 full time specialist doctors are available at Ajmer Divisional Hospital out of which 8 are through UPSC and 5 are on contract. In addition two HVS and seven specialists on call basis are also available. The Railway beneficiaries therefore get immediate attention of specialists during serious ailments.

(f) Does not arise.

Computerised reservation network

†1998. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of computerized rail reservation system in Railways;
- (b) the details of railway stations/locations where computerized reservation counter of Railways is proposed to be set up during the current year; and
- (c) the roadmap envisaged for expansion of computerized reservation network in the country by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Computerized Passenger Reservation System is presently working at more than 2829 locations and on an average, 4.65 crore passengers are booked per month through the system including tickets booked through internet.

(b) During the current financial year, it is planned to set up computerised reservation counter at 72 new locations.

(c) Computerized reservation centers are provided as per policy at stations when reservation related workload is 100 transactions per day or at District Headquarters, important hill stations/tourist and pilgrimages centers/post offices on the basis of proposals received from Public/Public representatives and the Zonal Railways.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Construction of new railway lines

1999. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have received representations for construction of new railway lines from Government of Gujarat and various sections of people of the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when Railways intend to take up the work and by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) Demands for construction of railway lines are received at various levels. Details of each and every demand is not maintained. However, Minister of Revenue, Disaster Management, Road and Building, Capital Project, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat had sent a letter dated 10.12.2010 requesting for 6 new line projects in Gujarat *i.e.* Dhangadhara-Santalpur, Palanpur-Ambaji-Abu Road, Dhanera-Goradu, Tarad-vav-Suigam border, Nadiad-Dholka and Bharuch-Dahej-Jambusar. Surveys for all these new lines have been included in the Budget 2011-12 except Bharuch-Dahej-Jambusar. Bharuch-Dahej-Jambusar was an existing narrow gauge line, of which Bharuch-Samni-Dahej section has already been converted into broad gauge and survey for gauge conversion of Samni-Jambusar section is in progress as a part of Samni-Jambusar-Vishwamitri and Jambusar-Kavi gauge conversion project. Further consideration of the proposals would be feasible once the survey reports become available and the same are examined.

Doubling of railway lines in Gujarat

2000. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received representations for doubling of railway lines from various organisations/road users as well as from State Government of Gujarat; and
- (b) whether Government intends to take up the same and if so, the probable time-frame for completion of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Requests are received at various levels and a compendium is not maintained. However, based on demands and operational consideration, following doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat have been taken up and are in different stages of progress as per availability of resources:

- (i) Udhna-Jalgaon with electrification (306.93 km), (ii) Surat-Kosamba (35 km), (iii) Viramgam-Surendernagar (65.26 km) and (iv) Viramgam-Samkhiali (182.23 km).

Besides these ongoing projects, survey for doubling of following sections falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat, have also been taken up/proposed in the current Budget 2012-13:

- (i) Surendernagar-Rajkot. (ii) Ratlam-Vadodara 3rd line, (iii) Virar-Ahmedabad 3rd line, (iv) Ahmedabad-Junagarh, (v) Ahmedabad-Palanpur, (vi) Surendernagar-Vani Road, (vi) Rajkot-Junagarh (vii) Rajkot-Okha.

New railway lines in NE region

2001. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposal for construction of new railway lines in the NE region; and
- (b) the total budget provision for construction of new railway lines between Jogighopa and Aminganj *via* Barpeta Town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Railways have taken up 12 new line projects in the North Eastern Region.

(b) Jogighopa-Barpeta-Amingaon new line work is not a sanctioned work. As such, there is no budget provision for it.

Reducing travelling time in NE region

2002. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have any proposal for the NE region to introduce long distance train to reach the destination in shortest time;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Railways have introduced a long distance train in NE region which would reach its destination in about 83:30 hrs;
- (c) if so, whether Railways would review reduction in its travelling time; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Indian Railways do not introduce trains on region-wise basis as railway network runs across state boundaries.

(b) Yes, Sir. 15906 Dibrugarh-Kanniyakumari Vivek Express (weekly) has been introduced from 19.11.2011. The train originating from Dibrugarh reaches the destination *i.e.* Kanniyakumari in 82.40 Hours.

(c) and (d) Speeding up of trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches and better tracks.

Janshatabdi train between Pathankot and New Delhi

2003. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand from public at large to start a Janshatabdi train between Pathankot and New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that important stations like Pathankot, Dasuya and Jalandhar Cantt. where army personnel are living in a large number are there between Pathankot and New Delhi;

(c) whether a double line already exists there; and

(d) if not starting this train, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Representations are received at various levels of Railways *viz.* station, Divisional level, Zonal level and Railway Board's level. However, on the basis of demands received from various quarters, action as found feasible and justified, is taken, subject to operational feasibility and commercial viability.

(b) Dasuya and Jalandhar Cantt. are among the railway stations which fall between Pathankot and New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Introduction of train between Pathankot and New Delhi is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints including non-availability of maintenance facility at Pathankot.

Removal of dead bodies by children

2004. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that dead bodies are being got removed from railway station at Mughalsarai with the help of children by Government Railway Police (GRP);

- (b) whether it is a fact that GRP pays Rs. 200 to 300 to carry such bodies;
- (c) if so, from which fund the money is paid;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that this news was published in a prominent English Daily on 4th March, 2012; and
- (e) the action Government proposes to take to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) According to the information received from Government Railway Police/Mughalsarai, it is not a fact.

- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) As per the information furnished by the Government Railway Police/ Mughalsarai, the news published in the daily newspaper on 4.3.2012 was not correct.
- (e) The question does not arise. However, an amount of Rs. 700/- is paid by Railway administration to the concerned Government Railway Police for disposal of a dead body.

Revival of railways

2005. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the losses of Railways have mounted to alarming levels;
- (b) if so, the present status of the losses of Railways;
- (c) the reasons for these losses; and
- (d) the measures Government proposes to take to revive/improve the viability of Railways and not make it yet another sick PSU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is submitted that Railways are not running into losses. However, the level of internal resources generated since 2008-09 reduced owing to severe impact of implementation of recommendations of VIth Central Pay Commission. As a result, Railways had to resort to withdrawal from fund balances and also take a loan of Rs. 3,000 crore in 2011-12 to meet urgent plan investment requirements. Railways however, discharged full dividend liability in all these years. The position of internal resources generated since 2007-08 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (RE)	2012-13 (BE)
Internal resources generated	18,928	11,505	2,228	6,956	7,708	25,117

Thus it is seen that financial position is improving as the impact of Pay Commission has stabilized.

(c) and (d) The main reasons for shortfall in internal resources are less than expected growth in earnings along with higher operating expenditure and pension payments. However, in order to improve its financial health, Railways are continuously striving to augment traffic earnings and containing the expenditure.

The measures to improve the financial health of the Railways include rationalization of freight/fare structure besides other measures such as improving throughput through increased productivity and efficiency, reduction in wagon turnaround time, increasing carrying capacity (25 tonne) routes, and introduction of Freight Incentive Schemes for retaining and attracting additional traffic, introduction of more attractive Incentive Scheme for parcel traffic, extension of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) facilities to more and more location, speeding up of trains, review of trains with low patronage, deployment of additional coaches in well patronized trains, vigorous checking of ticket-less travelling, additional leasing of parcel space in certain nominated trains, leasing of vacant compartment of guard in front of SLR coach etc. In addition, efforts to improve productivity by better manpower planning, assets utilization, inventory management, fuel consumption etc. and controlling expenditure through number of austerity/economy measures are continuously being pursued.

Introduction of Train Protection and Warning System

2006. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to introduce 'Train Protection and Warning System' in Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the location/places/stations/routes where the new System would be installed; and
- (d) the amount spent so far in this regard?

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 3397 Route Kms on 8 Zonal Railways covering Automatic Block Signalling Sections.

(c) Details of Zonal Railways, routes/sections and Route Kms where TPWS has been sanctioned are as under:

Sl. No.	Railway	Section	Route Kms
1	2	3	4
1.	Central Railway	Pune-Lonavala-Karjat	78
2	Eastern Railway	Sealdah-Howrah-Khana, Sealdah -Dumdum-Dankuni, Bellur-Bandel, Sheoraphuli-Tarkeshwar, Bandel- Shaktigarh, Sealdah-Ranaghat	326
		Dumdum-Barasat-Bashirhat, Ballygaunge-Baruipur-Diamond Harbor, Ballygunge-Budge Budge, Baruipur-Jaynagar-Majilpur, Ranaghat-Shantipur, Ranaghat-Krishana Nagar, Ranaghat-Bangaon-Barasat, Naihati-Bandel, Sonarpur-Canning	327
3	Northern Railway	Delhi-New Delhi-Sahibabad-Delhi Shahadara-Delhi, Anand Vihar-Sahibabad-Ghaziabad, Tilak Bridge-Nizamudin, Nizamudin-Patel Nagar-Dayabasti, Delhi-Shakurbasti, Delhi-Narela	118
		Narela-Panipat-Ambala-Ludhiana-Jalandhar Cantt-Amritsar	424
4	Southern Railway	Basin Bridge- Arrakkonam	67
		Arrakkonam-Jolarpattai	150
		Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chhengalpattu	60

1	2	3	4
5	South Central Railway	Secunderabad-Falaknuma, Secunderabad-Ligampalli, Secunderabad-Maulali, Secunderabad-Bolaram, Hussain Sagar-Hyderabad	110
6	South Eastern Railway	Howrah-Kharagpur -Tata Nagar Rajkharswan-Sini, Chandil-Sini, Adityapur-Sini, Tata Nagar-Rajkharswan	250 97
7	Western Railway	Mumbai Central-Virar-Vadodara-Ahmedabad	500
8	North Central Railway	Ghaziabad-Tundla-Kanpur Kanpur-Mughalsarai Agra-Gwalior	414 351 125

(d) Amount spent so far is to the tune of about Rs. 96.23 crore.

Status of railway projects in Andhra Pradesh

2007. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Jagityal-Nizamabad (95 kms) railway project and Manoharabad-Kothapalli (149 kms) railway project which are aimed to improve connectivity in various backward areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the progress made on each of these projects, so far;

(c) the reasons for delay in completing these projects; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Jagityal-Nizamabad new line is part of Pedapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new line project. Pedapally-Karimnagar-Jagityal section has been completed and commissioned. Metapally-Mortad section (21 km) is targeted for completion by March, 2012. The work in remaining sections are under various stages of execution. On Manoharabad-Kothapalli project, preliminary activities have been taken up.

(c) Railways have huge throw forward of projects and the projects are being completed according to availability of funds.

(d) No target dates have been finalized.

Proposals of Government of Andhra Pradesh

2008 . SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposals of Government of Andhra Pradesh with regard to Muneerabad-Mahabubnagar railway project, Nandyal-Yerraguntla project and Gadwal-Raichur railway project indicating the progress made thereon, till date, project-wise; and

(b) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Muneerabad-Mahabubnagar, Nandyal-Yerraguntala and Gadwal-Raichur are sanctioned projects. Status of these projects is as under :-

Project	Progress made so far
Muneerabad-Mahabubnagar	Yeramaras-Yadalapur section (14.5 km) of this project has been completed and commissioned. Deverkadra-Marikal (16 km) section is targeted for completion in 2011-12. The work for the remaining sections are under execution in various stages.
Nandyal-Yerraguntla	The works for Phase-I of this project from Yerraguntala-Nossam (50 km) has been completed and section opened for good traffic. Nossam-Banganapalle section (45.30 km) is targeted for completion in 2011-12. The work for the remaining sections are under execution in various stages.
Gadwal Raichur	The works for Gadwal-Pandurangaswamy Road (28.8 km) section have been completed and engine rolling done. The work for the remaining sections are under execution in various stages.

(b) Target dates have not been fixed for completion of these projects. The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Restructuring of RPF

2009. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Protection Force (RPF) and policing in Railways badly need restructuring and revamping;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the RPF requires more legal support to tackle the menace of crime on Railways; and

- (d) if so, the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) At present, a three tier security system comprising of District Police, Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) is functional over the Indian Railways. Generally, prevention and detection of crime in station premises and trains is the responsibility of GRP; security of tracks, bridges and tunnels is entrusted upon the District police. As per the RPF Act, RPF is responsible for security of railway property, passenger and passenger area.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The issue is under consideration. Comments of States have been solicited on this proposal.

Financial crunch faced by Railways

2010. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have increased freight hike by 90 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this has been necessitated by the huge financial crunch the Railways are presently facing; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In an effort to (i) adjust freight rates in line with increased input costs; (ii) raise resources for undertaking maintenance and rehabilitation, modernization and critical safety related works, and (iii) meet demands emanating from various social obligations that the Railways are required to discharge, it had become necessary to rationalize the freight tariff structure. Accordingly, a revised set of freight rates, which do not constitute an increase of 90% over the earlier rates, has taken effect from 6th March, 2012.

Daily train between Amritsar and Nanded

2011. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have received any request from Government of Punjab

to start another daily train between Amritsar and Nanded to cope with the heavy rush of pilgrims visiting Hazur Sahib; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations including from the Government of Punjab have been received for introduction of a new train between Amritsar and Hazur Sahib Nanded.

A weekly express train service between Amritsar and Hazur Sahib Nanded has been announced in Railway Budget 2012-13.

Security arrangements for guards at manned level crossings

2012. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister has written a letter to all Chief Ministers for providing special security arrangements for guards posted at manned level crossings;

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

(c) the manner in which Railways are using the technology, including communication technology, to sensitize the locals as to how to behave at manned and unmanned level crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Road Sign Boards and Whistle Boards are placed on the approach of every level crossing on road and track side respectively to warn road users. Advertisements are issued in News paper, TV, etc. to sensitize road users to be careful while crossing gates.

MPLADS funds to registered trusts

2013. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for introducing unrealistic limit in allotting MPLADS funds to registered trusts;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that some of the best educational institutes are managed by such trusts and MPLADS fund allocation is must for them; and

- (c) whether the Ministry would consider withdrawal of the new limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) The decision to impose ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh per MP in a financial year to societies/trusts from the MPLADS fund was taken in consultation with various stake holders and with approval of Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS.

(b) The Ministry is aware that some of the non-government organizations are running educational institutions managed by them.

(c) The proposal to do away with limit of Rs. 50 lakh is under examination of the Government.

Delay in utilization of MPLADS funds in Odisha

2014. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Odisha has given an order to District level officers of various departments not to take up any project of MPLADS without prior clearance of State Government;

(b) whether MPLADS funds given to any department of Government of Odisha is going to the department and again being released a Letter of Credit as a part of department work, as a result of which the MPLADS project is delayed and MPLADS funds are being diverted for other works; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) As per information received from Government of Odisha, no restriction has been imposed by the State Government to take up MPLADS works. The district authorities may take up any admissible work recommended by Hon'ble MP without prior clearance by the State Government.

(b) and (c) It has been informed by Government of Odisha that as per State Government procedure followed till 30.06.2011, the MPLAD fund were given to the district level officers of Engineering Department of Odisha as deposit work by the Executing Agencies in the State and Letter of Credit was released subsequently. However, this system has been withdrawn with effect from 1st July, 2011.

Delay in execution of works under MPLADS

2015. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RD Department and Energy Department of

12.00 P.M.

Government of Odisha have given an order not to take up any work concerning MPLADS fund without getting the clearance of the State Government; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the works under MPLADS for village electrification and digging of tube wells in Korai Block of Jajpur district are not implemented for two years as the State Government has not given the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) The Government of Odisha has informed that Chief Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSSD), Odisha under Rural Development Department, Government of Odisha *vide* his letter dated 30.07.2010 had instructed all Executive Engineers of RWSSD that no deposit of any kind from any agencies whatsoever shall be accepted by any Executive Engineer nor any proposal for any deposit works can be submitted by them without specific approval by the Chief Engineer, RWSSD. It was subsequently clarified *vide* his letter dated 20.08.2011 that the instruction communicated earlier is not applicable in case of deposit from MPLAD and MLALAD Schemes and the works should be taken up immediately.

(b) Rural electrification in the State has been taken up under two schemes namely Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) and Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana (BGJY). All feasible and accessible un-electrified, de-electrified and partially electrified villages were to be covered under the programme. It was also directed by the Government of Odisha not to release fund of other schemes such as MPLADS, MLALADS, BRGF, Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana, etc. for electrification of villages programmed for coverage under RGGVY/BGJY. Out of 24 village electrification works recommended under MPLADS in Jajpur district, 19 electrification works included in RGGVY were not sanctioned and 5 electrification works not covered under RGGVY and BGJY have been executed under MPLADS utilizing Rs. 15.27 lakhs.

It was informed by the Government of Odisha as regards the works of 84 tube wells recommended under MPLADS in Korai Block, that the necessary estimates for feasible projects are under preparation and fund will be sanctioned after preparation of estimates and works would be implemented.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Rail projects in Andhra Pradesh

3. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has sanctioned rail projects for Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated and spent therefor, so far, project-wise;
- (d) whether there is an inordinate delay in implementation/completion of these projects;
- (e) whether an expert committee has been set up to find out the reasons for the delay in the implementation of these project; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) Details of the sanctioned rail projects falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years *i.e.* 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 and funds spent on these projects are as below:

Name of the project	Year of inclusion in the budget	Anticipated cost (in crore) in 2011-12	Expenditure incurred upto March-11 (in crore)	Expenditure up to February' 2012 in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
NEW LINES				
Badrachalam Road -Satupalli (56.25 Km.)*	2010-11	337.5	0.00	0.00
Gudur Durgarajapatnam (41.5 Km.)	2011-12	277.74	0.00	0.00
Nadikude -Sri Kalahasti (309 Km.)	2011-12	1313.99	0.00	0.00
DOUBLING				
Guntur-Tenali Doubling with electrification (24.38 Km.)	2011-12	129.9	0.0	0.00
Mancheryal-Peddampet (4.37 Km) Patch Tripling	2010-11	85.66	0.02	2.22

* Railways have to bear land cost of the project. The remaining cost is to be borne by M/s. SCCL Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5
Mukhed-Parbhani (81.43 Km.)	2011-12	334.32	0.0	0.09
Vijaywada-Gudivada-Bhimavaram-2011-12 Narsapur, Gudivada-Machlipatnam & Bhimavaram-Nidadavlu DL with Electrication (221 Km.)		1009.82	0.0	0.08

(d) No, Sir. The projects are recently sanctioned and preliminary activities *i.e.* Final location survey, preparation of detailed estimates etc. are under preparation. Moreover, Ministry of Railways has a huge throw forward of projects and the projects are being implemented according to availability of funds.

(e) to (f) No, Sir.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply says that they are only notional sanctions, but no expenditure is incurred in the last three years on whatever they have sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh. Sir, my first supplementary is this. On 50 : 50 basis, the Railways have agreed to set up certain high-speed passenger train corridors, and Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijaywada-Chennai train corridor is also one such corridor. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the pre-feasibility study of this corridor has been done. If so, what is the outcome?

SHRI MUKUL ROY : Sir, Badrachalam Road-Satupalli, which is 56.25 km. long, the anticipated cost is Rs. 337.5 crores; Gudur Durgarajapatnam, which is 41.5 km. long, which is a new line; and Nadikude-Sri Kalahasti, which is also a new line, have been included in the Budget. ...(*Interruptions*)... Nadikude line is in the Budget.

Sir, Guntur-Tenali doubling with electrification; Mancheryal-Peddampet Patch tripling; Mukhed-Parbhani doubling; Vijaywada-Gudivada-Bhimavaram-Narsapur, Gudivada-Machlipatnam and Bhimavaram-Nidadavlu doubling with electrification are under process.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Sir, the hon. Minister read out whatever answer he has laid on the Table in reply to my question. Sir, my supplementary is about high-speed trains, which the Railways have agreed to set up with the States on a 50 : 50 basis. Under such scheme, Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijaywada-Chennai was also sanctioned. My first supplementary question was about that. In reply to that, the hon. Minister simply read whatever answer he has laid on the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put your second supplementary.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied his first supplementary. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right; let the reply be given.

SHRI MUKUL ROY : Sir, the original question was about new projects; it was not about train movement. However, the hon. Member has put the question. I will get it done, and give the reply accordingly.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Sir, the Ministry of Railways has also decided to set up a National High Speed Rail Authority for planning, standard setting, implementing and monitoring of high speed rail projects. The consultant for the same has been appointed to advise the Ministry of Railways on the subject. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when this Authority is going to be set up. If it is already set up, what is the outcome?

SHRI MUKUL ROY : Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that this matter was under consideration of the Railway Board. It has been examined. It will be announced within a very short period. In fact, it is expected in the month of April.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the proposal to introduce high-speed trains in various States. As far as the North-Eastern Region is concerned, there are two problems in introduction of high-speed trains. First, there is no double line there. Second, on the Brahmaputra Bridge, only one-way line is there. So, we need a second one there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This Question pertains to rail lines in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : That is the problem we are facing there. I would like to know whether you would consider that type of a proposal within a short period.

SHRI MUKUL ROY : Sir, the supplementary put by the hon. Member is not related to this Short Notice Question. However, he has put the supplementary. I will apprise the hon. Member about it within a short period.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

- I. Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture**
- II. Report and Accounts of Various Corporations and related papers**
- III. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of NIPHM, Hyderabad and related papers**
- IV. Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Agriculture**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : Sir, I to lay on the Table—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) Notification No. S.O. 296 (E), dated the 17th February, 2012, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (First Amendment) Order, 2012, under Section 4 (d) of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3991/15/12]
- 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:—
- (i) (a) Twenty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1993-94, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6400/15/12]
- (ii) (a) Thirty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited (GSSC), Gandhinagar, 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. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6305/15/12]
- (iii) (a) Forty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6401/15/12]
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
- (i) (a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad, for the year 2010-11.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6304/15/12]
 - (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) and (b) above.
- IV. (i) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6306/15/12]
- (ii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6397/15/12]

Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ajit Singh 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 Civil Aviation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6444/15/12]

Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESHWARI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6449/15/12]
- (ii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6348/15/12]

Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Law and Justice

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 Law and Justice. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6321/15/12]

Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : 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 Youth Affairs and Sports. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6412/15/12]

Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Fertilizers in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6415/15/12]
- (ii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6416/15/12]
- (iii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Pharmaceuticals in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6414/15/12]
- (iv) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6242/15/12]

I. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of ICCR, New Delhi and related papers.**II. Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of External Affairs.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (I) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6341/15/12]

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
 - (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) and (b) above.
- II. Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Ministry of External Affairs. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6484/15/12]
- I. Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development**
 - II. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of UGC, New Delhi and related papers**
 - III. Report and Accounts (2009-10, 2010-11) of various National Institutes and related papers**
 - IV. Annual Accounts (2010-11) of various IITs and related papers**
 - V. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of Auroville Foundation, Auroville, Tamil Nadu and related papers**
 - VI. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of various Universities and related papers**
 - VII. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of EdCIL (India) Ltd. and related papers**
 - VIII. Report and Accounts of various Universities, Schools, Institutes, Authority, Missions, Samiti and Councils and related papers**

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : Sir, I lay on the Table —

- I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy), under Section 38 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, along with delay statement:—
 - (1) S.O.1353 (E), dated the 1st June, 2011, regarding relaxation to the State Government of Bihar in respect of the minimum teacher qualification norms notified by the NCTE. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6548/15/12]
 - (2) S.O. 2068 (E), dated the 26th August, 2011, regarding relaxation to the State Government of Chhattisgarh in respect of the minimum qualification notified by the NCTE for teacher education. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6549/15/12]

- (3) S.O. 2830 (E), dated the 21st November, 2011, regarding relaxation to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in respect of the minimum qualification notified by the NCTE for teacher education . [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6550/15/12]
 - (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) Notification F. No. 37-3/Legal/2011, dated the 30th September, 2011, publishing All India Council for Technical Education (Grant of Approvals for Technical Institutions) (1st Amendment) Regulations, 2011, under Section 24 of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987, along with delay statement. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6551/15/12]
- II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 18 and sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956: —
- (a) Annual Report of the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above 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. 6470/15/12]
- III. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 22 of the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007:—
- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6216/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6209/15/12]
- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6415/15/12]
- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6210/15/12]
- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Warrangal, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6208/15/12]
- (vi) (a) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Hazratbal, Srinagar, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6223/15/12]

- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6211/15/12]
- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6547/15/12]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6221/15/12]
- (x) (a) Fifty-first Annual Report of the National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Fifty-first Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6220/15/12]
- (xi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Agartala, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6376/15/12]

- (xii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Raipur, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 - (xiii) (a) Annual Report of the Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6222/15/12]
- IV. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961:—
- (a) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6219/15/12]
- V. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-sections (3) and (4) of Section 24 of the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988:—
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, Tamil Nadu, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (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. 6364/15/12]
- VI. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 and sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Act, 1994:—
- (a) Annual Report of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by the Government on the working of above University.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6214/15/12]
- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of the Section 30 of the Central Universities Act, 2009:—
- (a) Annual Report of the H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal, Uttarakhand, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (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. 6362/15/12]
- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 31 and sub-section (4) of Section 32 of the University of Allahabad Act, 2005:—
- (a) Annual Report of the University of Allahabad, Allahabad, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the University of Allahabad, Allahabad, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review of Government on the working of the above University.
- (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. 6464/15/12]
- (1) A Copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 32 of the English and Foreign Languages University Act, 2006 :—
 - (a) Annual Report of the English and Foreign Languages University (EFL), Hyderabad, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of above University.
- (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. 6361/15/12]
- (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 33 of the Rajiv Gandhi University Act, 2006:—
 - (a) Twenty-third Annual Report of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of above University.
- (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. 6469/15/12]
- (1) A Copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 33 of the Manipur University Act, 2005 :—
 - (a) Annual report of the Manipur University, Imphal, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of above University.
- (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. 6465/15/12]

VII. (1) A Copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the EdCIL (India) Limited, 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 company.

(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. 6366/15/12]

VIII. A Copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Central Universities Act, 2009 :-

(1) (a) Annual Accounts of the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.

(b) Annual Accounts of the Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.

(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. 6363/15/12]

A Copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers :—

(ii) (a) Annual Accounts of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon, under Section 13 of the Banaras Hindu University Act, 1915.

(b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6212/15/12]

(iii) (a) Annual Accounts of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11 and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 29 of Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985.

- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6217/15/12]
- (iv) (a) Annual Accounts of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, for the year 2009-10, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 34 of the Rajiv Gandhi University Act, 2006.
 - (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6213/15/12]
- (v) (a) Annual Accounts of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 35 of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Act, 2007.
 - (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iv) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6374/15/12]
- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above School.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (v) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6168/15/12]
- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Bhopal, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above School.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vi) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6170/15/12]
- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Vijayawada, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above School.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6169/15/12]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report on the Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Sansthan), Agra, governed by Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, for the year 2009-10.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Sansthan), Agra, governed by (Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, for the year 2009-10, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (viii) (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6224/15/12]
- (x) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA), Bhubaneswar, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ix) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6224/15/12]
- (xi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), State Education Mission Authority, Meghalaya, for the year 2009-10, 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. 6225/15/12]
- (xii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing (IIITD&M), Kancheepuram, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xi) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6226/15/12]
- (xiii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6227/15/12]
- (xiv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xiii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6368/15/12]
- (xv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technical Teacher's Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xiv) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6369/15/12]
- (xvi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Paschim Banga Sarva Shiksha Mission, Kolkata, 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 (xv) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6373/15/12]
- (xvii) (a) Annual Report of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Samiti.
 - (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xvi) (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6371/15/12]
- (xviii)
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), U.P. Education for All Project Board, Lucknow, 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 (xvii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6370/15/12]
- (xix)
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Union Territory Mission Authority, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, 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 (xviii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6360/15/12]
- (xx)
- (a) Annual Report of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Council. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6376/15/12]
- (xxi)
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Union Territory of Daman and Diu, 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 (xx) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6375/15/12]

- (xxii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi (Himachal Pradesh), for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xxi) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6365/15/12]
- (xxiii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA Rajya Mission Authority), Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xxii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6468/15/12]
- (xxiv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Jharkhand Education Project Council, Ranchi, for the year 2009-10, 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 (xxiii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6467/15/12]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture

II. Report and Accounts (2009-10) of APSAIDCL, Hyderabad and related papers

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, I lay on the Table —

- (I) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—
- (i) S.O. 198 (E), dated the 31st January, 2012, notifying specification of two new grades of customized fertilizer, namely, NPK Zn 12:26:18:0.5.5 and NPKZn BS: 8:18:26:1:0.1:6.0.

- (ii) S.O. 219 (E), dated the 3rd February, 2012, amending Notification No. S.O. 2363 (E), dated the 30th September, 2010, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (iii) S.O. 258 (E), dated the 10th February, 2012, regarding constitution of the Central Fertiliser Committee. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6200/15/12]

A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation), under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937:—

- (iv) (1) G.S.R. 40 (E), dated the 24th January, 2012, publishing the Mustard Seeds and Rape Seeds (oil seed) Grading and Marking Rules, 2012.
 - (v) G.S.R. 41 (E), dated the 24th January, 2012, publishing the Soyabeans Grading and Marking Rules, 2012.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 87 (E), dated the 14th February, 2012, publishing the Jaggery Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 2012. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6162/15/12]
 - (vii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) Notification No. S.O. 2845 (E), dated the 21st December, 2011, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Eighth Amendment), Order, 2010, under Section 4 (d) of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6161/15/12]
- 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) Forty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2009-10, 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. 6201/15/12]

I. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of CRIS, New Delhi and related papers**II. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of RSPB, New Delhi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- I. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6418/15/12]
- II. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6417/15/12]

Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : Sir, on behalf of Choudhary Mohan Jatwa, 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 Information & Broadcasting. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6492/15/12]

I. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of the ESC, New Delhi and related papers**II. Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (श्री सचिन पायलट) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :—

- I. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Layout Design Registry Electronics and Computer Software

Export Promotion Council (ESC), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Registry. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6505/15/12]
- II.
- (i) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6504/15/12]
 - (ii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Posts in the Ministry Communications and Information Technology. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6515/15/12]

Report on NREGA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005, for the year 2010-11. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6432/15/12]

Outcome Budget (2012-13) of Ministry of Science and Technology

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 to lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the Ministry of Science and Technology. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6393/15/12]
- (ii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science and Technology. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6394/15/12]
- (iii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Science and Technology in the Ministry of Science and Technology. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6395/15/12]

I. Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture

II. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of the CAA, Chennai and related papers

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, I lay on the Table :—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) Notification No. S.O. 397 (E), dated the 9th March, 2012, amending Notification No. S.O. 706 (E), dated the 29th March, 2010 to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6513/15/12]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
 - (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6512/15/12]
- I. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of BSNL, New Delhi and related papers**
- II. Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology**

SHRI SACHIN PILOT : 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) Eleventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), New Delhi, 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 Company.
- (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. 6230/15/12]
- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Department of Telecommunications in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6515/15/12]

Report of the CAG of India

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, I lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2011: No. 28 of 2011-12: Union Government—Department of Revenue (Indirect Taxes—Central Excise—Compliance Audit); and — [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6484/15/12]
- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2011: No.29 of 2011-12: Union Government—Department of Revenue (Indirect Taxes—Service Tax—Compliance Audit). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6485/15/12]

Outcome Budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : 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 Social Justice and Empowerment. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6515/15/12]

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA**The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2012**

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2012, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th March, 2012.”

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee (2011-12):—

Fifty-second Report on ‘Training of Pilots in the Indian Air Force’ relating to the Ministry of Defence;

Fifty-third Report on 'Abnormal Delay in Execution of Ordnance Factory Project NALANDA' relating to the Ministry of Defence;

Fifty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twenty-third Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme' relating to the Ministry of Commerce and industry (Department of Commerce); and

Fifty-fifth Report on 'Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme' relating to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-second Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : Sir, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-second Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2011-12), relating to Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology

संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री सचिन पायलट) : महोदय, मैं डाक विभाग, संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय की अनुदान मांगों (2011-12) के संबंध में विभाग संबंधित सूचना प्रौद्योगिक संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के चौबीसवें प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में एक वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology

SHRI SACHIN PILOT : Sir, on behalf of Shri Milind Deora, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2011-12), related to Department of Telecommunications.

**MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COURT OF THE
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESHWARI) : Sir, I to move the following Motion:—

“That in pursuance of item (xxiv) of clause (1) read with clause (2) of Statute 14 of the Statutes of the Aligarh Muslim University appended to the Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1981, in terms of Section 28 thereof, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, two Members from amongst the Members of the House to be members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University in the vacancies caused due to the expiry of term of Shrimati Kusum Rai therein and the retirement of Shri Moinul Hassan from the membership of Rajya Sabha due on 2nd April, 2012.”

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

**MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF
MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (PGIMER), CHANDIGARH**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, I move the following Motion:—

That in pursuance of clause (g) of section 5 read with sub-section (4) of Section 6 of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Act, 1966 (51 of 1966), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from amongst the Members of the House to be a member of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, in the vacancy to be caused due to the retirement of Shrimati Viplove Thakur from the membership of Rajya Sabha on 2nd April, 2012.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Sir, I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri P.R. Rajan stating that he is still under medical treatment. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence from 12th to 30th March, 2012 of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from 12th to 30th March, 2012 of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Permission to remain absent is granted.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We will not take up Zero Hour issues.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, my colleague, Shri Sitaram Yechury had mentioned in the Question Hour that serious horse trading is going on the occasion of the Rajya Sabha elections in one State.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What do I do?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, I want to draw your attention to seriously consider it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a matter which is with the Election Commission. What is it that we can do?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : It is going on. It is coming in the Press. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : जिस तरह से यह मीडिया में दिखा रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसे देखना चाहिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Mr. Sitaram Yechury has already raised that in the Question Hour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has raised it. But what is it that the House can do? The Election Commission is an independent body.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I think that should be countermanded and the House should express this. The House should take it up and also countermand it. Otherwise, these tainted people will come to this House. Tainted people will come to this House.

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजीव शुक्ल) : It is under the domain of the Election Commission. यह इलेक्शन कमिशन के डोमेन में है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA : Mr. Rajeev Shukla is opposing this also!

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I think the House has definite reason to feel seriously concerned about this. The House has got definite reason to feel seriously concerned about this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The matter is not before us. There is no notice.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : It is coming in the Press. Somebody is caught with Rs. 2 crores. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What do you want?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam) : Sir, I am associating myself with the concern expressed by Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. If this Member is elected, he is going to come to his House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission. What is it that I can do?

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal) : But the sense of the House should be communicated to the Election Commission. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is the sense of the House that can be communicated? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : The Election Commission is already seized of the matter. The sense of the House should be communicated to the Election Commission. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : In what forum?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : It is to countermand the Election.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Whatever you are talking is seen by our country. That is the sentiment. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, we have been talking so much about tainting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Dr. Maitreyan, election is under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission.

DR. V. MAITREYAN : We are expressing our concern.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have expressed it. That is the concern. Now why are you talking about it?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, this Member, after election, is coming to this House. This is our concern.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Don't say that. Who is coming or who is not coming is not in our hands.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab) : Sir, when the Member comes to this House, then, the issue can be referred to the Ethics Committee.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : When it is referred to the Ethics Committee, then, it can be looked into.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Sir, this thing comes purely under the domain of the Election Commission, but if you direct, I can definitely bring to the notice of the Home Minister the feelings of the members of the House.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let us take up the Zero Hour mentions. Now, Smt. Jharna Das Baidya - absent. Shri Bandyopadhyay.

Nation-wide strike by goldsmiths

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal) : Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of this House a very serious situation arising due to strike by goldsmiths and artisans in the country. Roughly, Sri, 1.5 crore people are involved. They are basically workmen; I am not talking of big business people. These workmen, unfortunately, have to resort to strike, because there is a problem.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We had discussed this issue in the House.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, let me say and finish, it. Then you can say yours comments.

There is an excise hike of 4 per cent which will adversely affect this particular group of people. Moreover, Sir, with the impact of increase of taxes with the effect of the rise of customs and excise duty, the price of gold in India would go up. Thus, there would be difference in the price with the international gold price which would encourage smuggling. In view of this, I feel, the Government has not been able to intercede or pro-actively intervene to create a situation in which the problem can be resolved.

We know that the hon. Finance Minister did make some concession in his reply to budget. But the fact is, in spite of that, the situation continues to be grim. Therefore, the hon. Finance Minister's concessions are too little and too late to resolve the issue. Under the circumstance, I request, through you, the Government that it should immediately intercede, call the representatives of the workmen and try to find a solution so that the penury of penury of these people does not increase. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Minister wants to respond.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA) : Sir, I have heard what the hon. Member has said.

[SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA]

I would like to bring to the notice of the House that the other day, while replying to the General Discussion on the Budget, the hon. Finance Minister had assured that he is finding a legislative route and working out on modalities as to how to do it. So, we should wait for the Finance Bill to come. He had assured the House that he would definitely do something. The cases up to Rs. 5 crores have already been exempted. So, let us wait for the Finance Bill to come, because he had already assured the House ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, the workers are on strike ...*(Interruptions)*... There is a loss of Rs. 20,000 crores ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal) : Sir, there is a loss of Rs. 20,000 crores ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, there is no doubt that this would be considered at the time of the Finance Bill ...*(Interruptions)*... I am saying that don't wait till that time. Do now something for these workers immediately ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't keep quite ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Tapan Sen ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : We have come to you. You go and talk to them ...*(Interruptions)*... The strike is going on ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Sir, let him wait for the Finance Bill ...*(Interruptions)*... That is the only route through which it can be done ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : You discuss it with the workers ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Sir, we can only bring an amendment to the Finance Bill ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot announce it in between ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Sir, the Government must protect the workers ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Sir, there is a legal procedure to be followed ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA (Odisha) : Sir, while associating with the hon. Member, let me clarify this. What the hon. Finance Minister said and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister repeating now is this. Sir, the goldsmiths are going to suffer, because they don't know how to fill-up forms if excise duty is imposed on them. Imposing excise duty on jewellers is a different thing and imposing excise duty on goldsmiths is altogether is a different thing. Hon. Finance Minister did not give any assurance on that count.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mohapatraji, you go through the record—I was sitting on the Chair—of what the hon. Finance Minister said. He said that this is a matter to be considered at the time of passing of the Finance Bill. He said that he has consideration for this. He also mentioned that he would address all these issues at the time of taking up of the Finance Bill. He assured that ...(*Interruptions*)... One minute.

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Sir, he addressed the issue of reduction in the excise duty. He did not address as to what would be its impact on the goldsmiths.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He said it. You go through the record. In fact, the hon. Members who have raised the issue welcomed the statement of the hon. Finance Minister. So, please wait for the Finance Bill ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Sir, we request the hon. Minister to please take note of this ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, I have only a point to make ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, we understand that before the Finance Bill this issue cannot be finalized. We understand that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This issue is raised in the Zero Hour.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : The strike is going on. Please understand the gravity of the situation. I want you to appreciate the issue and ask the Government to act on this immediately ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Sir, make the Government to act on this ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It relates to the Zero Hour submission. Whatever you wanted to say, you have already said. That has gone on record and the Government has also responded. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, Mr. Gujral. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Minister has responded ...(*Interruptions*)... Usually, in the Zero Hour, the Ministers do not respond, but he has responded. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) : Sir, the *Saraf Bazar* is closed everywhere, in Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Kolkata. Entire country is suffering. Gold, in our country, means security. Even the lower middle class families, in India, purchase gold for their future security. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have raised this in Zero Hour. The hon. Minister has also responded. ...(*Interruptions*)... He, during the reply, has referred to the assurance of the hon. Finance Minister, ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : What has he responded? ...(*Interruptions*)... An assurance should come from the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, सरकार को कहिए कि वह इसका कोई रास्ता निकाले। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is not for me ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, पूरे देश में हड़ताल चल रही है, पूरे उत्तर प्रदेश में हड़ताल चल रही है, उत्तर प्रदेश के हर जिले में हड़ताल चल रही है और इसके कारण हजारों करोड़ का बिजनेस ठप्प है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The scope is limited ...(*Interruptions*)... You have raised it. Wait for the response from the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)... What can I do. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Sir, I appeal to the Minister to ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has responded. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Government is here. They are listening to whatever you are saying. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Sir, The Finance Bill is the only option by which it can be ...(*Interruptions*)... How can anything be done in between? ...(*Interruptions*)... What I will be doing is ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, the Government should bring an amendment in the Finance Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)... They should bring an amendment in the Finance Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have asked the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to bring the sentiments of the House to the notice of the Finance Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)... He cannot answer. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : I will convey your feelings. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, it is their job. But they are not doing it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Naresh Gujral. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sit down please. ...(*Interruptions*)... कृपया आप बैठिए। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

Need to abolish capital punishment

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab) : Sir, the civilized world is rapidly abolishing the barbaric practice of capital punishment. As of May, 2001, ninety-six countries had banned it entirely. The Amnesty International regarded another 34 countries to be *de facto* abolishing it.

After the Independence of India, we retained the Penal Code of 1861, which provided for the death penalty for a murder. During the debates of the Constituent Assembly, between 1947 to 1949, several Members expressed the idea of abolishing the death penalty. Dr. Ambedkar, during the debates of the Constituent Assembly, said that he would much rather support the abolition of a death sentence itself because after all this country, by and large, believes in the principle of non-violence. It has been its ancient tradition. The proper thing for this country to do is to abolish the death sentence altogether. Unsuccessful attempts were made to abolish death penalty in 1956, 1958, 1961 and 1962 through the introduction of Private Members Bill in both Houses of Parliament. The legality of capital punishment has been challenged many a time in the Supreme Court. India is a country of Buddha and Gandhi, whose ideals we all cherish. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Buddhist tenets, in the new testament, all believe that the power to give and take life lies only with the God. So, a death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights. It is premeditated cold-blooded killing of a human being by the State in the name of justice. It violates the right to life, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The main countries contributing to death penalty are China, Iran, North Korea, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Sir, India, as a peaceful democratic nation, should not give an occasion to be bracketed with these countries. I would urge the Government to take immediate steps to bring forward a legislation for abolishing the capital punishment from our statute. Thank you.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) : Sir, I would like to associate myself with the point made by the hon. Member. Sir, I would also like to add one thing. Much discussion is going on capital punishment. India, which talks of *Manav dharma* and other things, should bring in reforms in the country. We should do something good in this direction. We should find out ways and means to get rid of this punishment and come out with a legislation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Okay.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I also associate myself with the point made by the hon. Member.

श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर (पंजाब) : सर, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

Alleged corruption in purchase in Tatra trucks for the Indian Army

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, एक महत्वपूर्ण खुलासा, जो कि आज आया है, उसे मैं विशेष रूप से सभागृह में उठाना चाहता हूँ। यह मुद्दा फिर से टेट्रा ट्रक्स स्कैम का है, यह मुद्दा फिर से रक्षा मंत्री के सामने जो तथ्य आये और उन पर उन्होंने जो reaction दिया, उसका है।

सर, जब यह बात देश के सामने आयी कि सेना प्रमुख के पास कोई 14 करोड़ रुपये की रिश्वत का ऑफर लेकर गया था, तो देश दंग रह गया। यह समाचार न्यूज़पेपर में आते ही रक्षा मंत्री ने तुरन्त **comprehensive inquiry order** की। जब यह मामला सदन में आया, तो सदस्यों ने रक्षा मंत्री से पूछा कि जब 45 दिन पहले सेनाध्यक्ष आपसे

[श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर]

मिले थे और उन्होंने यह जानकारी दी थी, तो आप चुप क्यों बैठे? तब रक्षा मंत्री का जवाब था कि उन्होंने **written complaint** नहीं दी थी, सेनाध्यक्ष ने केवल मौखिक रूप से कहा था, तो मैंने कहा कि **written** में दे दीजिए। वह **written** में नहीं था, इसलिए मैंने **inquiry** नहीं की, यह रक्षा मंत्री कह रहे थे। लेकिन सर,...

श्री उपसभापति : ज़ीरो आवर।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सर, यह विषय ज़ीरो आवर का ही है।

सर, मैं आज एक खुलासा करना चाहता हूँ कि इसी ट्रेडर ट्रक्स स्कैम के बारे में दो साल पहले रक्षा मंत्री के पास **written complaint** आयी थी, जिसे अन्य किसी ने नहीं, बल्कि उनके सहयोगी श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद ने दिया था, जो अभी मंत्री हैं। उन्होंने बाकायदा पत्र लिख कर, उसमें कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष का जिक्र करके यह लिखा था कि इसकी तुरन्त जाँच होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि कांग्रेस के एक नेता, श्री हनुमंथप्पा ने यह मसला उठाया कि जो कम्पनी ट्रेडर ट्रक्स की खरीद कर रही है, वह इसकी खरीद एजेंट के द्वारा क्यों कर रही है, वह मैनुफैक्चरर से इसकी खरीद क्यों नहीं करती, इसमें कमीशनबाजी हो रही है। इसके जवाब में रक्षा मंत्री ने पत्र लिखा कि इसकी जाँच चल रही है। 2009 से 2011 तक अगर ट्रेडर ट्रक्स स्कैम की जाँच हो रही है, तो मेरा मुद्दा यह है कि इस जाँच का नतीजा क्या निकला? इसमें कौन दोषी पाए गए? इसकी क्या **findings** हैं? किसको सज़ा दी गयी?

अगर इसकी जाँच दो साल में भी पूरी नहीं होती है, तो यह सरकार और रक्षा मंत्रालय इस स्कैम को छुपाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, उसको संरक्षण देने का काम कर रहे हैं और ये करप्शन का साथ देने का काम कर रहे हैं। यह एक बहुत गम्भीर स्थिति है और इसलिए यह बात कहना कि **written** में दे दो, इसका कोई मतलब नहीं था। इसलिए, मैं माँग करता हूँ कि उस **investigation** में क्या हुआ, जिसके बारे में गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी को रक्षा मंत्री ने पत्र लिख कर बताया था कि उसकी **inquiry** चल रही है। आप उसका नतीजा बताइए। अगर आप उसका संरक्षण कर रहे हैं, अगर यह बात साफ हो रही है, तो फिर आप सत्ता में बने रहने के अधिकारी नहीं हैं। रक्षा मंत्री, आप इस्तीफा दीजिए, हम यह माँग करते हैं।

श्री नंद कुमार साय (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री बलवीर पुंज (ओडिशा) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

Recent killing of a tribal woman in Madhya Pradesh

श्रीमती झरना दास वैद्य (त्रिपुरा) : सर, पिछले 10 फरवरी को मध्य प्रदेश के भोपाल में बेतूल स्थान पर एक लड़की का बलात्कार किया गया। जब उसकी माँ उसको बचाने के लिए उस घर में गयी, तब उसकी माँ को मार दिया गया। इस संबंध में एक जर्नलिस्ट को अरेस्ट किया गया, लेकिन आज तक उस लड़की को कोई **compensation** नहीं मिला और न ही उस पर कोई विचार हुआ। इसमें एक जर्नलिस्ट ही नहीं था, वहाँ एक ग्रुप था। उसमें एक दूसरा ट्रेफिकिंग का काम करता है। इसमें ये सब लोग थे, जिन्होंने गैंग रेप किया था। लेकिन जो दूसरा आरोपी है, उसको अभी भी गिरफ्तार नहीं किया गया है। आरोपियों के बाहर होने के कारण वह लड़की कैसे घर से बाहर जाएगी और काम कर सकेगी, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता? महोदय, हम आपके माध्यम से यह चाहते हैं कि इस मामले में अपराधियों को गिरफ्तार किया जाए और कड़ी से कड़ी सज़ा दी जाए।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala) : Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to vacate Andel Ground in Shimla by the Army

श्रीमती बिमला कश्यप सूद (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, हिमाचल प्रदेश के जिला शिमला में Andel Ground सेना प्राधिकरण ने 1955 में हिमाचल सरकार से पट्टे पर लिया था, जिसकी अवधि 31-3-1982 को खत्म हो गई थी और उसके बाद सेना प्राधिकरण द्वारा इस ग्राउंड की अवधि नहीं बढ़वाई गई। हिमाचल सरकार द्वारा इस ग्राउंड को खाली करवाने के लिए सेना प्राधिकरण से कई बार विनती की गई और इस बारे में हिमाचल सरकार द्वारा रक्षा मंत्रालय तथा सेना प्राधिकरण दोनों से अनेकों बार पत्राचार चलता रहा, परन्तु सारे प्रयत्न खोखले साबित हुए हैं।

महोदय, वर्तमान समय में Andel Ground का इस्तेमाल हेलीपैड तथा गोल्फ कोर्स के लिए किया जा रहा है। मैं यहां स्पष्ट करना चाहूंगी कि शिमला के नालदेरा में गोल्फ ग्राउंड पहले से ही बना हुआ है, उसको गोल्फ के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। अतः मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार तथा दोनों, रक्षा और सेना प्राधिकरण, से अनुरोध है कि Andel Ground जल्द से जल्द खाली किया जाए, ताकि हिमाचल सरकार वहां पर अपना अन्य संस्थान या कार्यालय स्थापित कर सके, क्योंकि हिमाचल एक पहाड़ी क्षेत्र होने के कारण वहां स्थान की कमी है। धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri N.K. Singh, not here. Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia.

Need to declare Odiya as classical language

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha) : Sir, the Odiya language etymologically has been derived from the word 'Udra', which means 'agriculture'. Odisha symbolizes the farmers as mentioned in 'Natya Shastra of Sage Bharat' in 2nd Century AD. In 261 BC, at the time of Ashoka the 13th Rock edicts—where it has been mentioned that 1 lakh people were killed and 1.5 lakh were arrested in Kalinga War—indicate the presence of Odiya language. The great Kalinga State at the time of Samrat Aairkharbel when Kalinga was spread from Ganga to Godavari up to Mathura in 168 BC, as has been written in Elephanta Caves of Khandagiri and Lalitgiri, and the subsequent information found of Bhouma Dynasty and Kesare Dynasty from 790 to 850, and the 15th Century Mahabharat written by Saral Das at the time of Kapilendra Dev, clearly speak about Odiya language. It has a separate script of its own. It is one of the original oldest languages.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to declare 'Odiya' language a classical language, as some of the other languages have also been declared 'classical' languages. Thank you.

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA (Odisha) : Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need to ensure safety of fishermen on Kerala coast

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala) : Sir, following the murderous attack by the Italian ship 'Enrica Lexie', the incident on March 1st, 2012 in which an oil tanker rammed into a fishing boat close to the Kerala coast killing five men, has spread panic and outrage among fisher folk on the Western Coast. The fact that criminal ship could just sped away, despite the presence of a formidable Southern Naval Command and a fleet of coast guard in Kochi, has raised serious security concerns. Similar incidents had happened in the past too. Reports indicate that at least 15 fishermen had died in recent years. But, except in few cases, the culprits were not identified and arrested. In many of the cases, the affected fishermen families were not given compensation.

The fisher folk in the coast of Kerala are suffering from a serious fear. Kerala coast is a busy route of international ships, and, at any given point of time, more than 40 ships are sailing in coastal waters. It is estimated that, at least, 1500 ships travel per day through this route. This shows the dangerous situation of the fisher folk working there. The Government have to ensure the safety of fishermen by giving strict directions through maritime agencies to the ships about the safety measures to be followed. And adequate steps should also be taken to pay compensation to the affected fishermen and their families. Thank you.

Need to accord in-principle approval to Sri Ram Sagar Project

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to take up P.V. Narasimha Rao Kanthanapally Sujala Sravanthi Project on Godavari River by constructing a barrage at Kanthanapally in Warangal District. The objective behind taking up of this Project is to establish 7.5 lakh acres of Sri Ram Sagar Project-I & II, Ayacut, which is facing a shortage of water. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has given administrative approval in February, 2009, for Rs. 10,409 crore for lifting 50 TMC of water and cropping into existing SRSP Canal for stabilization of 7.5 lakh acres of SRSP, Ayacut.

The preliminary Project Report was submitted to the Central Water Commission in November, 2009, for obtaining clearance. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has given replies relating to hydrology and inter-State irrigation to the Planning Directorate of CWC. The hydrological data submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is sufficient for approving the DPR in principle. Therefore, keeping in view the upstream Sripada Sagar and downstream Dummugudem Projects, which are cleared by the Hydrology Directorate of CWC, Kanthanapally Project may also be considered for giving in-principle clearance so that the Government of Andhra Pradesh could go forward for submitting a detailed DPR for approval.

Hence, I request the Government of India and also the hon. Minister of Water Resources, to take immediate steps for granting in-principle clearance of this Project, which helps the poor farmers of SRSP, Ayacut.

Concern over alleged construction of illegal guest houses around Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh

श्री बलवीर पुंज (ओडिशा) : महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान आन्ध्र प्रदेश के तिरुपति में अवैध रूप से चलाए जा रहे निर्माण कार्यों की ओर आकृष्ट कराना चाहता हूँ।

तिरुपति के पर्वत शिखर तिरुमाला, जहाँ बालाजी मंदिर स्थित है, वहाँ किसी की निजी चल-अचल संपत्ति नहीं है और न हो सकती है। यहाँ की भूमि और अन्य संपत्तियों का नियंत्रण 'तिरुमला तिरुमति देवस्थानम्' नामक ट्रस्ट करता है। इस ट्रस्ट के द्वारा बनवाई गयी धर्मशालाओं और भक्त-शिविरों में प्रतिदिन 40,000 भक्तों के ठहरने की क्षमता है।

महोदय, सन् 2004 से ट्रस्ट उदारतापूर्वक श्री पद्मावती नगर में निजी क्षेत्र को निर्माण कार्य के लिए भूमि उपलब्ध करा रहा है। तब यहाँ अतिथि-गृहों की संख्या 20 थी। पिछले छह सालों में यहाँ वीआईपी और निजी अतिथि-गृहों की बाढ़ सी आ गई है। देश के नामी व्यापारिक घरानों के यहाँ आधुनिक सुख-सुविधाओं से लैस अपने अतिथि-गृह हैं।

महोदय, हालाँकि धर्मार्थ के नाम पर बनाए जा रहे ऐसे अतिथि-गृहों का नियंत्रण ट्रस्ट के पास ही होता है, किंतु इन वीआईपी अतिथि-गृहों में आम आदमी को ठहरने का अवसर नहीं मिलता है। यहां के अतिथि-गृहों में लगातार दस दिन से ज्यादा ठहरने की अनुमति नहीं है, किंतु अतिथि-गृह का निर्माण कराने वाले अमीर दानवीर साल भर का किराया अग्रिम भुगतान कर इसे अपने नाम आरक्षित रखते हैं।

महोदय, दान के नाम पर चल रहा यह कार्य तिरुपति के पर्यावरण के लिए भी खतरा है। तिरुमला एक पर्वत शिखर है और भूमि सीमित है। मैं सदन के माध्यम से केन्द्रीय सरकार और आंध्र प्रदेश की सरकार से इस दिशा में तुरंत आवश्यक कदम उठाने की अपील करता हूँ, ताकि तिरुपति जाने वाले दर्शनार्थियों को ठहरने की सुविधा सुलभ हो सके और तिरुपति के आध्यात्मिक महत्त्व को व्यावसायिकता के खतरों से बचाया जा सके।

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अनिल माधव दवे (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Need to provide basic passenger amenities at Railway Stations in Ghaziabad

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश का गाज़ियाबाद एशिया की top ten citites की सूची में आता है। उद्योग व व्यापार का महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र होने के कारण लाखों कारोबारी रेल यात्रा द्वारा यहां से आवागमन करते हैं, जिससे रेल विभाग को मोटा राजस्व प्राप्त होता है, लेकिन गाज़ियाबाद के पुराने रेलवे स्टेशन पर सुविधाओं के अभाव में रेल यात्रियों को यात्रा करने में बड़ी कठिनाई होती है। इस स्टेशन से प्रतिदिन करीब 300 रेलगाड़ियां गुज़रती हैं।

महोदय, गाज़ियाबाद के इस पुराने रेलवे स्टेशन पर विकलांग, बीमार व बूढ़े यात्रियों को ऊंची सीढ़ियां चढ़ने में बहुत मुश्किल होती है। यात्री आरामगाह व वीआईपी आरामगाह की कमी से हजारों यात्री प्लेटफार्म व पटरियों के आसपास घूमकर अपना समय व्यतीत करते हैं। यहां सफाई, शौचालय, बाथरूम व पीने के स्वच्छ पानी का हमेशा अभाव रहता है। पार्किंग की गंभीर कमी से यात्रियों के स्टेशन पहुंचने में देरी होती है। स्टेशन के आसपास हमेशा जाम की स्थिति रहती है। पार्सल घर बंद होने से सामान बुकिंग के लिए व्यापारियों को दिल्ली जाना पड़ता है। अनेक प्रमुख ट्रेनें

[श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप]

गाज़ियाबाद में ठहराव के बिना आगे निकल जाती हैं और सबसे गंभीर समस्या गाज़ियाबाद से मेरठ जाने के लिए राजनगर, संजय नगर, गुलघर क्षेत्र में रेलवे लाइन के दोनों ओर की दीवारें टूटने से आए दिन व्यक्ति व जानवरों की मौतें होना है। उपरोक्त समस्याओं को राज्य सभा में भी प्रमुखता से उठाया गया है। बामुश्किल गाज़ियाबाद के पुराने रेलवे स्टेशन के उच्चीकरण की कार्यवाही को अमल में लाया गया, परंतु कार्य धीमी गति से होने के कारण समस्याएं जस की तस बनी हुई हैं। गाज़ियाबाद में बनने वाले ओवरब्रिज का रेलवे भाग पूरा न होने से यातायात व्यवस्था में कठिनाई हो रही है।

अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह पुरजोर अनुरोध करता हूँ कि गाज़ियाबाद के पुराने व नए रेलवे स्टेशन की मूलभूत समस्याओं का निदान कराने के लिए शीघ्रतिशीघ्र कोई समय सीमा निश्चित कराने का कष्ट करें, ताकि लाखों रेल यात्रियों को सुगमता से रेलयात्रा करने में कोई कठिनाई न हो।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari; not present. Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda; not present. Dr. Janardhan Waghmare; not present. Shri Rudra Narayan Pany; not present.

FAREWELL TO RETIRING MEMBERS

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI (Karnataka) : Sir, since I was not here the other day, I thought I can take your permission and say a few words.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words of thanks since it is going to be the last day for me in Rajya Sabha. To be in Rajya Sabha is a great honour. Out of billions of people in this country, very few people get this opportunity, and I was bestowed with this honour for seven years—first, six-year tenure, and then, one more year. I enjoyed the seven years to the fullest. Since I come from a different background of art and culture, it was a very unique experience being here in this august House. I thank my party for giving me this wonderful opportunity, and I thank them for having faith in me and for supporting me always. I also thank all the hon. Members of the House. They were always very kind and warm to me. So, I really thank them all. I thank the Rajya Sabha employees, officers and the staff, who were extremely good to me. Many hon. Members have expressed their feelings that they are feeling sad that I am leaving. I had the privilege of being number one heroine in my film industry for several years. As the time passes, suddenly, you come to know that somebody else is number one. So, the number one position keeps moving on. It moves away, and that is the reality of life. Nothing is permanent in this life. So is this seat. I know this fact, but one gets very attached and attracted towards this. Today, I am also feeling very sad leaving this place. But, I must say that I was very happy here. I met such wonderful people from different cultures and different parties. We have very learned people here. I heard their lovely speeches and debates. Though I could not participate much but I learnt a lot. To see how each Member comes out with brilliant questions in the Question Hour, and, how the country's issues are discovered, brought here, discussed and also solved, is amazing.

With a heavy heart, I am leaving today but I would like to say one thing to everybody. Our country, India, is a very beautiful country. We are all fortunate to be born here. Many great people have taken birth here. It is a country of great culture and heritage. यह संतों, ऋषियों और मुनियों का देश है। यहां पर बड़े-बड़े संत हुए, उनमें से खास तौर पर श्री अरबिन्दो जी ने यह predict किया है कि 'India is going to be a super-power one day, maybe very soon'. Whatever may be the condition of the country today, we have to really work towards the betterment for the country of tomorrow.

To achieve this goal, one has to have unconditional love for the country. One should work with purity of thought and action, and, should work selflessly so that the next generation can carry forward the work, which we have started.

As predicted, 2012 is going to be a phenomenal year. Everything is going to be very fast moving. A lot of changes are going to take place. A lot of developments will take place. So, I pray to God to give all of us wisdom, strength and courage to take our country, India, to a different level of being a super-power. My best wishes and love to all of you. Thank you so much.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय, आज मैं भी रिटायर हो रहा हूँ। मैं 18 साल तक, तीन पूरी टर्म्स तक इस सदन का सदस्य रहा तथा बहुत से वरिष्ठ लोगों के साथ मुझे काम करने का अवसर मिला। सबसे पहले मैं अपनी पार्टी के नेतृत्व को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने मुझे इस वरिष्ठ सदन में आने के लिए तीन बार मौका दिया। लोग ऐसा कहते हैं कि राज्य सभा में आने के लिए बहुत जोड़-तोड़ करनी पड़ती है, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैंने इस सदन में आने के लिए एक चाय का प्याला भी खर्च नहीं किया, यह मेरा सौभाग्य रहा है। मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि हम इस सदन में जो कुछ करना और बोलना चाहते हैं, वह इस देश के पिछले इतिहास में तो रिकॉर्ड होगा ही, लेकिन अगर हम अपनी भावनाएं भविष्य के लिए व्यक्त करते हैं, तो वह सब भविष्य के लिए भी रिकॉर्ड होता है। इसलिए मेरे जैसे व्यक्ति के लिए इस सदन का सदस्य बनना बहुत गौरवशाली बात रही। मैं अपने आपको भाग्यशाली मानता हूँ कि मुझे इस सदन में तीन बार रहने का स्वर्ण अवसर मिला।

महोदय, मैं 75 वर्ष का हो गया हूँ और मैं रिटायर भी हो रहा हूँ, इसलिए मेरे मन में इस बात का कोई गम नहीं है कि मैं यहां से रिटायरमेंट ले रहा हूँ। मुझे यह भी मालूम है कि शायद भविष्य में मैं इस सदन में नहीं आ पाऊंगा, इसलिए जिन मित्रों ने, सांसदों ने, सरकार के अंदर रहने वाले जिन मित्रों और भाई-बहनों ने जब भी मुझे सहयोग किया, मुझे अपना आशीर्वाद दिया, अपनी सद्भावना दी, मैं उन सबके प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ।

उपसभापति महोदय, जब आदरणीय उपराष्ट्रपति, श्री शंकर दयाल शर्मा जी इस सदन में सभापति थे, तब से लेकर अब तक, हमारे वर्तमान उपराष्ट्रपति महोदय तथा आपके समक्ष इस गरिमामय सदन में मुझे बोलने का मौका मिला। आप सबने मुझे बहुत स्नेह दिया है। यह मेरे जैसे एक साधारण व्यक्ति के लिए गौरव की बात है कि इन महान पुरुषों के साथ मुझे इस सदन में रहने का अवसर मिला। मैं उनके प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ कि जब कभी मुझे सदन में बोलने की इजाजत मिली, उन्होंने मुझे ठीक से बोलने का अवसर दिया। मेरे विचार जो कुछ थे, उन्हें मैंने सदन के अंदर प्रस्तुत किया। मैं इस बात को भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि अब सदन में, जो आज की परिस्थिति है उसके बारे में, जब कभी चर्चा होती है, तो चिंता का विषय हो जाता है। यह बात जरूर है कि हम भविष्य की दृष्टि से देखेंगे, तो हम मानते हैं कि भारतवर्ष एक बड़े समृद्ध राष्ट्र के रूप में उभर कर आने वाला है।

उपसभापति महोदय, यह कल्पना और यह सपना हमारा तभी पूरा हो सकता है जब हम सब लोग मिलकर कम

[श्री रामदास अग्रवाल]

से कम इन बातों पर निर्णय करें कि राष्ट्र-हित में जो बातें हैं, उनके बारे में हम सब मिलकर एक मत बनाकर, इस देश को आगे ले जाने का संकल्प व्यक्त करें। मुझे विश्वास है कि हमारे सदन के सभी माननीय सदस्य इस बात को अच्छी तरह से जानते, मानते और पहचानते हैं कि देश का उत्थान और देश का निर्माण लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था, संस्था के माध्यम से होना ही है, इसलिए इसकी गरिमा, इसकी प्रतिष्ठा और इसका सम्मान सभी प्रकार से हम सुरक्षित रखेंगे, हमने इसे रखा है और आगे भी रखेंगे, ऐसी मेरी भावना और ऐसा मेरा सबसे निवेदन है।

उपसभापति महोदय, अंत में, मैं यह बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश के अंदर जो लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था का ढांचा बना हुआ है, इसको सम्पुष्ट करने के लिए हम सब चाहे यहाँ रहें या न रहें, बाहर रहकर भी हम देश की और समाज की सेवा करते रहेंगे, पहले भी करते रहे हैं और आगे भी करते रहेंगे। आप सब का आशीर्वाद मुझ जैसे व्यक्ति को मिलेगा, तो मैं आगे भी अपने देश और समाज की सेवा करने में तत्पर रहूँगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ।

FAREWELL TO THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I am laying down my office as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha on 2nd of April. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the Members of this House who have cooperated with me during the last eight years.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) : Sir, also thank those who have not cooperated.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All of you have cooperated, without any exception. You have given me love and respect. Sometimes the Chair has some compulsions and it has to work in a very constrained manner. In such times, I probably might not have given an opportunity to some of the Members. But it has never been my intention to deprive the Members of their right to express their opinion. Because of time management, sometimes the Chair has such constraints. I will apologise if anybody is hurt by my decisions or my rulings. I also thank the leaders of all the political parties, the Leader of the House, our respected Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Leader of the Opposition and the floor leaders of all the political parties. I thank my party leadership who has given me the opportunity to preside over this House for over eight years. I thank the Secretary-General who has extended full cooperation in the functioning, the Secretary and other staff of the Table Office, Marshals, House Attendants, all staff of Rajya Sabha Secretariat and various Parliamentary functionaries. I once again thank you for all the cooperation.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, on behalf of my party—and I think all the Members will associate—I would say that during the last eight years, it has been my experience in this House that we have never found you discriminatory in any manner. We have always seen you smiling. Not only have we seen here, but the whole country, as soon as they see you sitting here, they know that

now the atmosphere would change, even if there is tense atmosphere, because you are on the seat. We have never found that you have made any partiality with anyone and whenever required, you always helped us. We pray that these eight years continue again.

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : महोदय, आपकी विदाई की इस बेला में मैं प्रतिपक्ष की तरफ से इतना ही कहूंगा कि मैं तो यहां नहीं रहूंगा, लेकिन आपका यह मुस्कराता हुआ चेहरा, केवल आपके चेहरे से ही परिलक्षित नहीं होता, आपकी आंखों के माध्यम से होता है, आपकी भाषा के माध्यम से होता है और आपके अनुशासन के माध्यम से होता है, मैं विशेषकर इसको मिस करूंगा। मेरी भगवान से यही प्रार्थना है कि यह मुस्कराता हुआ चेहरा अपने राजनीतिक जीवन में और ऊंचाइयों को छुए तथा आप और ऊंचे जाएं, आप इस मुस्कराहट को और लोगों के साथ बांटें। यह खुशबू सिर्फ अपने पास रखने की नहीं है, यह दूसरों को बांटने पर और बढ़ेगी। आप इस पद पर भी विराजमान हों और सदन की कार्यवाही चलाएं।

श्री बलवीर पुंज (ओडिशा) : सर, जब आप मुस्कराते हैं तब तो बड़े natural लगते हैं, परन्तु जब आप गुस्सा करने की कोशिश करते हैं, तो लगता है कि unnatural है और एक्टिंग कर रहे हैं। The anger on your face does not look genuine. But your smile is genuine. In the eight years, you have steered the House through most difficult situations, क्योंकि चेयरमैन साहब तो क्वेश्चन ऑवर में होते हैं which is comparatively much easier. But you were there during the most difficult situations. We give you credit for this and we salute you.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa) : Sir, on behalf of the Congress Party, I extend you all the best wishes. I am happy that from the bench closer to Ahluwaliaji, you will be coming to this side.

श्री तरुण विजय (उत्तराखंड) : सर, मैंने आप से एक बात सीखी है कि *विद्या ददाति विनियम*। जिसके पास विद्या है, जिसमें बड़प्पन है, वह बड़ा विनयी होता है, उसमें बड़प्पन का अहंकार नहीं होता है। वह सबको साथ लेकर चलने का प्रयास करता है और किसी भी स्थिति में वह बहुत अधिक क्रोधित नहीं होता है। जब हम आज की परिस्थिति में देखते हैं कि अपने ही अपनों की पीठ में खंजर घोंपते हैं, ऐसी स्थिति में आपने विभिन्न विचारों की पार्टियों को साथ लेकर एक ऐसा नेतृत्व दिया, जिस पर हमें गर्व है और हम हमेशा आपको याद रखेंगे।

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal) : Sir, I, on behalf of my party, extend gratitude for running the House the way you run from time to time. You have been an excellent Presiding Officer, although my experience is of only eight months, आप जैसे विद्वान और लेखक को हम temporarily miss करेंगे, यह हमारी उम्मीद है। हेमा मालिनी जी भी आज रिटायर हो रही हैं। वे कई साल पहले number one artist थीं। वे आज भी हमारे मन के अंदर number one artist ही हैं। हमने जिस 'dream girl' को देखा था, हमारे मन में आज भी उस 'dream girl' की छवि है। सुरेन्द्र सिंह अहलुवालिया जी जिस तरह से रिटायरिंग मेम्बर्स को tribute दे रहे थे, मुझे उनकी यह अदा अनोखी लगी। हमारे साथी अग्रवाल साहब was telling us that he has completed 75 years. But he must not retire from politics and social life. He is an excellent person. We have always seen him smiling.

With these words, Sir, I wish you all the best.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is difficult. It is embarrassing for me.

1.00 P.M.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (बिहार) : सर, मैं अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से और अपनी तरफ से आपके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। जब आप स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के चेयरमैन थे, तब मुझे आपके साथ एक सदस्य के रूप में काम करने का सौभाग्य मिला था। सर, मैं आपको, आपके व्यवहार को और आपके स्वभाव को बहुत पहले से जानता हूँ। सर, मैं आपके काम करने की क्षमता, as a Standing Committee Chairman, को अच्छी तरह से जानता हूँ। आप इस सदन में लगभग 8 साल से काम कर रहे हैं, मैं इससे भी अच्छी तरह से वाकिफ हूँ। मुझे पिछले दो सालों से आपको इस सदन में करीब से जानने का सौभाग्य भी मिला है। सर, आप जैसे दिखते हैं, जैसा कि माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा, निश्चित तौर पर उससे कहीं ज्यादा अच्छे हैं। मैं आपके लिए दुआ करता हूँ कि आपकी आयु लंबी हो और आपने जिस कार्यक्षमता के साथ, सभी लोगों को साथ लेकर इस हाउस को चलाने का काम किया है, अल्लाह करे कि आप और ऊंचे पद पर जाएं और इसी तरह से, जैसाकि अहलुवालिया साहब ने कहा कि आपने मुस्कराते हुए, सदन के माध्यम से देश और दुनिया पर अपनी एक छाप छोड़ने का काम किया है, आप ऐसे ही आगे भी अपनी छाप छोड़ते रहने के काम करें। आपके लिए मेरी पूरी शुभकामनाएं हैं।

इसके साथ ही साथ अहलुवालिया साहब के प्रति, आदरणीय अग्रवाल साहब के प्रति, मैडम हेमा जी के प्रति, जो आज रिटायर हो रही हैं, इन सभी के प्रति मेरी बहुत शुभकामनाएं हैं। मैं अहलुवालिया साहब को पिछले तीस सालों से जानता हूँ। ये हमारे बिहार, पटना के निवासी हैं, इसलिए मैं उनको विशेष तौर पर जानता हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि इन तीनों लोगों की कमी सदन में महसूस होगी। मेरी इन लोगों के लिए भी शुभकामना है कि ये जिस तरह से देश की सेवा में अपना योगदान देते रहे हैं, उसी तरह से, आगे भी, आने वाले वक्त में योगदान देते रहने का काम करें। मैं इन सभी लोगों को शुभकामनाएं और बधाई देने के साथ अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। उपसभापति जी धन्यवाद।

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI (West Bengal) : Sir, I join the House in expressing our heartiest thanks and gratitude to you. I sincerely wish that you will come back to your place, to your Chair, and guide the House for pretty more long years with all the efficiency as you have done before. Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I am not as experienced as others, being the lady Member. But, still, on behalf of our Party and myself and my association with you for the past four years, I thank you. Sometimes, when you are in the Chair and my chance comes to speak, maybe, we are afraid of your strictness of adhering to time. But, that is the way you have to handle the challenging timings and other things. Other than that, we have never seen you being partial to anybody. You are always encouraging. Sir, on behalf of our Party and myself, I wish you all the good health, good luck and I wish that you will come back here to guide us and be the guiding spirit. Thank you once again.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार) : उपसभापति जी, मैं आपसे बहुत विनम्रता के साथ एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज आपने अपनी विदाई की बात कहकर जिस तरीके के उद्गार प्रकट किए हैं, उसमें आपका बड़प्पन झलका है। मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि अगर हम लोगों के किसी आचरण से आपको दुःख पहुँचा है, तो मैं उसके लिए, हम सब की तरफ से आपसे माफी मांगता हूँ। मैं आपसे जो एक बड़ी बात कहना चाहूंगा, वह यह है कि आज हाउस ने जिस सर्वानुमति से अपने उद्गार प्रकट किए हैं, उससे शायद बाहर यह संदेश गया है कि संसद जब गरिमा के अनुसार ऊपर

उठती है, तब संसद की ऊंचाई क्या होती है। आज पूरे देश को उस ऊंचाई का एक बहुत ही सार्थक संदेश गया है, जो हम सभी ने देखा है। शायद आज के दिन संसद ने उस ऊंचाई को प्राप्त किया है, जिसके लिए सभी मित्रों का अभिनंदन है। हम आपको अपनी शुभकामनाएं देंगे और एक विनम्र आग्रह भी करेंगे कि आपने इस पद पर रहते हुए, जिस प्रकार से पिछले आठ वर्षों से हाउस को चलाया है, जिसे मैंने स्वयं देखा है, शायद अभी आपके बिना इस उपसभापति पद की कल्पना नहीं की जाएगी। आपके लिए मेरी बहुत-बहुत शुभकामनाएं हैं। धन्यवाद।

सुश्री अनुसूइया उइके (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले तो मैं आपके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करती हूँ, क्योंकि आज मेरा भी यहाँ आखिरी दिन है। मैं आपके लिए यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि आप हंसते रहें, मुस्कराते रहें। मेरी भगवान से यही प्रार्थना है कि आप सदा इसी तरह मुस्कराते रहें। मैं इसके साथ ही एक और बात कहूँगी कि अपने इन छह सालों के दौरान की कुछ यादें हम आपके बीच से लेकर जाएंगे। मैं इसके लिए दो पंक्तियाँ कहना चाहती हूँ,

कुछ यादें उदास बना देती हैं,
कुछ यादें परिहास बना देती हैं।
कुछ यादें यदि रह जाती हैं,
तो यही यादें इक दिन इतिहास बना देती हैं।

उपसभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA (Odisha) : Sir, I express my gratitude and join the feelings of other Members of this House. Sir, the way you conduct the House has a lasting impression for this House. Sir, we can't forget your smile. Thank you.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : उपसभापति महोदय, आप इस चेयर पर बैठ कर जो role play करते हैं, वह तो हम सब आए दिन देखते हैं और हम सब उससे, आपसे और आपकी मुस्कान से कितने प्रभावित हैं, यह सबने व्यक्त किया, लेकिन मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ, जो मैंने एक बार आपको वहाँ से नहीं, यहाँ से सुना था। मैंने आपको एक ही बार सुना, इसके बाद मुझे अवसर नहीं मिला, लेकिन आपका माइनॉरिटी से सम्बन्धित विषय पर भाषण था। उपसभापति महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैंने ऐसा संतुलित भाषण और ऐसा ज्ञान देने वाला, सारगर्भित भाषण, ऐसे complicated issue पर, नहीं सुना। मैं यह बात इसलिए कहना चाहता हूँ कि अल्पसंख्यक वर्गों के बारे में भाषण देने वाले लोग बाहर न जाने क्या-क्या बोलते हैं, लेकिन आप स्वयं इस जगह बैठ कर, जिस प्रकार से आपने अभिव्यक्ति की, वह अभिव्यक्ति ऐतिहासिक थी। मैं उस भाषण को हमेशा अपने दिल में याद रखता हूँ कि एक व्यक्ति है, जो constructive बात करता है, रचनात्मक सुझाव देता है और रचनात्मक ढंग से इन समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए प्रयास करता है। इसलिए, उपसभापति महोदय, आपका वह भाषण, जो यहाँ हुआ था, मेरे दिल में और अन्य सांसदों के मन में भी शायद याद आया होगा, वास्तव में बड़ा सारगर्भित था। मैं आपको बधाई देता हूँ और कामना करता हूँ कि आप जहाँ रहेंगे, वहाँ इस देश के और इन सारे समाज के लोगों को मिला कर काम करने के लिए, इस देश की उन्नति में अपना सहयोग देंगे। इन्हीं भावनाओं के साथ आपको बहुत-बहुत शुभकामना। धन्यवाद।

श्री नंद कुमार साय (छत्तीसगढ़) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, आज आपने अपनी विदाई की बात कही। यह विदाई बड़ा कठिन क्षण होता है। वैसे तो हम लोग अलग-अलग जगहों से, देश के दूर-दूर, अलग-अलग भागों से आते हैं। एक परिवार जैसा यहाँ वातावरण बनता है। भारतीय चिंतन में तो हमने कहा है कि सम्पूर्ण विश्व हमारा परिवार है। हालाँकि मैं बहुत ज्यादा उपस्थिति नहीं दे पाया, लेकिन मैंने देखा कि जब-जब कठिन समय में आप हाउस में प्रवेश करते थे, तो लगता था कि अब समाधान का समय आ गया है। हमें ऐसी अनुभूति होती थी। आपके चेहरे के सम्बन्ध में तो सभी लोगों ने कहा। हमने आपको कभी नाराज होते नहीं देखा। कभी नहीं देखा, कठिन स्थिति में भी। यह आना-जाना तो संसार की नियति है, प्रकृति है। आपसे फिर हमारी मुलाकात होगी, आप मिलते रहेंगे। आप यहाँ दोबारा आएँगे, सब

[श्री नंद कुमार साय]

लोगों ने ऐसी कल्पना की है। यह आने-जाने का क्रम तो जीवन का क्रम है। अंत में आपकी विदाई में मैं सुमित्रा नंदन पंत की इन पंक्तियों को पढ़ता हूँ :

यह सौँझ-उषा का आँगन, आलिंगन विरह-मिलन का
चिर हास-अश्रुमय आनन रे, इस मानव जीवन का।

बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF
MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : Mr. Deputy Chairman,
may I say a word on behalf of the Government?

I am greatly honoured to have had you not only as a friend, philosopher and guide but someone who has earned so much respect from the entire House. I think it is a great day for our Parliament. It is a great day for our democracy. I only want to say that we cherish the values, the wisdom with which you have guided the House. We want to place it on record. There is a famous song in the movie to Oliver Twist. Faquir sings to the boys, "You can go, but be back soon." I think it applies very well to you. You can go, but be back soon. My prayers are :

लब पे आती है दुआ, बन के तमन्ना मेरी,
जिन्दगी शमा की सूरत हो खुदाया तेरी।

Thank you Sir.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we have to say thank you; otherwise it is a disrespect. Like I always said to the Chair, I think, now also you are trying to deny me a chance. But jokingly I am saying. You were very helpful Presiding Officer for all of us. We are just completing two years in this House. The very first day onwards, we felt that your support was always very, very helpful. You were like a strict Headmaster but always smiling which helped us not to fear you. At the same time, you were very supportive. We felt that you were impartial. Here every one belongs to some political party. But you behaved as an impartial Presiding Officer and that is a good experience for all of us. So, on behalf of all of us and on behalf of my party, I am expressing our sincere thanks and gratitude to you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I am moved with your sentiments. I will carry this sweet memory and the sentiments, respect and love that you have showered on me. I remember the day when I was elected for the second time. The entire House and all the 18 or 19 political parties supported my nomination. That is a great honour which you have given to me and that has given me the strength to conduct the house. I, once again, thank all of you for the sentiments which you have expressed.

The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at eleven minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty eight minutes past two of the clock

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Hon. Members, since there is no quorum in the House, the Vice-Chairman, Prof. P.J. Kurien, has directed that the House may be adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Tuesday, the 24th April, 2012.

The House then adjourned at thirty-eight minutes past two of the clock
till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 24th April, 2012.
