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RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 14th December, 2012/23rd Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 301.

Estimation of production cost of sugarcane

*301. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any norms regarding estimation of production cost of sugarcane;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said norms have been violated and there has been no estimation of the production cost during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) On the basis of information collected under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India, estimates of cost of production of various crops, including sugarcane, are generated for use of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The cost of production includes actual expenses in cash, kind and imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour.

The estimates of cost of production data generally involve a time lag of two years. The Commission projects cost of production by taking into account the subsequent changes in prices of various inputs. The cost of production for sugarcane from 2010-11 to 2012-13 as projected by CACP is given as under:-

Year	Cost of Production (Rs. per Quintal)
2010-11	100.81
2011-12	115.29
2012-13	147.96

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, तारिक अनवर साहब आज पहली बार उत्तर दे रहे हैं, हम इनका अभिनन्दन करते हैं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : हम लोग भी राहत ही प्रदान करेंगे।

SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the CACP Report on Price and Policy of Sugarcane, 2013, in which it has been mentioned that the cost of the production of sugarcane has risen primarily because of the energy cost *i.e.*, diesel, labour cost, and urea price. Because of all these, the cost of sugarcane production has increased enormously during the year 2012-13. Keeping in view the above, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Union Government is considering to help the sugarcane farmers by increasing the Minimum Support Price of sugarcane for the year 2012-13; if yes, to what extent.

श्री तारिक अनवर : सभापति महोदय, सरकार की हमेशा यह कोशिश रहती है कि गन्ना उत्पादकों को सही मूल्य मिले और उसके लिए समय-समय पर जो हमारे एक्सपर्ट्स हैं, उनकी राय ली जाती है और उसके आधार पर फैसले लिए जाते हैं। माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न किया है, मैं उनको इतना ही कहूंगा कि सरकार मूल्य निर्धारित करती है तो बहुत सारे फैक्टर्स को सामने रखकर उनका अध्ययन करने के बाद ही उसका फैसला लेती है। उसमें मूल रूप से जो estimated cost of production होता है, उसमें इस बात का consideration होता है कि higher human labour, higher bullock labour, higher machinery labour and rates paid for seed, fertilizers and pesticides – हम तमाम चीजों की क्या कीमत बढ़ी है और क्या inflation हुआ है, उनको ध्यान में रखा जाता है। सदस्य महोदय को मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि हर वर्ष की तरह इस वर्ष भी कीमत बढ़ाई गई है। In the year 2010-11, the cost of production was Rs. 100.81. In the year 2011-12, it was Rs. 115.29. In the year

2012-13, it is Rs. 147.96. तो इस प्रकार से सरकार ने हमेशा से इस बात का ध्यान रखा है and this year, the FRP has been increased to Rs. 170 per quintal from last year's Rs. 145. यह रिकवरी पर भी निर्भर करता है और जैसा मैंने बताया कि इस साल 2012-13 में हम लोगों ने जो cost of production दिया है, वह 147.96 रुपए है।

SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Sir, I would like to know how many sick sugar mills are there in the country, particularly in the State of Karnataka. How many sugar mills have been declared sick during the last three years in the State of Karnataka? Has the Government of Karnataka sought any financial and other assistance for revival of mills? If yes, what action has been taken in this regard?

श्री तारिक अनवर : सर, माननीय सदस्य का यह प्रश्न अलग है। मूल रूप से प्रश्न estimation of production cost of sugarcane के बारे में था, इसलिए मैं माननीय सदस्य को इस बात की जानकारी लिखित रूप से भेज दूंगा।

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, the Government of India has announced the price fixing of sugarcane. It can be fixed by the State Government. The production cost of sugarcane gets increased due to power cuts, fertilizer price rise, etc. My learned friend has already mentioned about this. I would like to know whether the Government of India has got any monitoring agency to control the private mills. In Tamil Nadu, for the past three years, more than 16 private mills have not given cane price to the farmers. Both, the MSP announced by the Central Government and the additional price announced by the State Government, were not followed by the private mills. I would like to know whether the Government of India has got any idea or any monitoring agency to control the private mills.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Sir, sugar mills come under the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution लेकिन फिर भी मैं माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार हमेशा इस बात का ध्यान रखा है कि मिल मालिकों के ऊपर फार्मर्स को या शुगरकेन ग्राहर्स को नहीं छोड़ा जा सकता है। इस बात का ध्यान रखते हुए अधिनियम, 1955 तथा गन्ना (नियंत्रण) आदेश 1966 में संशोधन किया गया था, जिसके अनुसार केन्द्र सरकार सांविधिक न्यूनतम मूल्य, एसएमपी के बदले गन्ने के लिए इस समय उचित लाभकारी मूल्य निर्धारित कर रही है। एफआरपी पद्धति के तहत किसानों से यह अपेक्षा नहीं की जाएगी कि वे मौसम की समाप्ति तक चीनी मिलों अथवा सरकार द्वारा फायदे की किसी भी प्रकार की घोषणा की प्रतीक्षा करें। इस प्रकार सरकार का हमेशा यह प्रयास रहता है कि जो फार्मर्स हैं, उनको समय पर कीमत मिल जाए। महोदय, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की ओर से उन्हें जो समर्थन मूल्य मिलता है, वह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट पर निर्भर करता है। लगभग पांच राज्य सरकारें स्टेट एडवाइज्ड प्राइस देती हैं। यह मूल्य अतिरिक्त

होता है। इसलिए जो मूल्य सीएसीपी के द्वारा निर्धारित किया जाता है और एसएपी पद्धति के तहत जो मूल्य निर्धारित किया जाता है, of sugarcane in various States, this could be because of local reasons, like recovery percentage of sugar in various States इस प्रकार जो स्टेट एडवाइज्ड प्राइस फिक्स किया जाता है, वह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के द्वारा किया जाता है।

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: The price that was fixed by the Central Government and the State Government was not given to the farmers by the private mills. What will be the action?

श्री तारिक अनवर : माननीय सदस्य को अगर किसी खास मिल के बारे में इस प्रकार की जानकारी है तो वे बताएं, उसके बारे में कार्यवाही की जाएगी।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : श्रीमन्, आज माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर का पहला दिन है इसलिए मैं जो प्रश्न माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ, उसको बड़े सरल तरीके से लूंगा। मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ, उसको बड़े सरल तरीके से लूंगा। मंत्री जी स्वयं कह रहे हैं कि सीएसीपी को प्राइस निर्धारित करने का अधिकार है। इसलिए सीएसीपी का इस वर्ष का cost आपने 147.96 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल बताया है। दूसरी तरफ राज्य सरकार की जो मूल्य निर्धारण समिति है, जैसे हम उत्तर प्रदेश को ले लें, उत्तर प्रदेश में गन्ने का मूल्य 290 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल निर्धारित किया गया है। यानी वह आपकी कॉस्ट से करीब दुगुना है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपके प्राइस निर्धारित करने के कौन से आधार हैं, क्या मानक हैं और राज्य सरकार के प्राइस तय करने के कौन से मानक हैं क्योंकि यह अंतर बहुत बड़ा है, अगर दो-चार पैसे का अंतर होता तो मान भी लेते, लेकिन करीब दुगुना अंतर है। इससे तो ऐसा लग रहा है कि जो केन्द्र सरकार की सीएसीपी है, जो किसानों के मूल्य को निर्धारित करती है, वह पूरी तरह से अवैध है, गलत निर्धारण करती है – चाहे वह गन्ने का हो, गेहूँ का हो या धान का हो, एक तरीके से आपके सभी मूल्य गलत हो गए। इसलिए एक तो मैं उनको आधार जानना चाहता हूँ कि राज्य जो मूल्य निर्धारित करता है, उसका आधार क्या है और केन्द्र सरकार की सीएसीपी जो मूल्य निर्धारित करती है, उसका आधार क्या है? दूसरी बात है कि शुगर मिल और किसानों के बीच विवाद बराबर रहता है। जो मूल्य सरकारें घोषित करती हैं, उस पर शुगर मिल कहती है कि उस मूल्य पर हम गन्ना नहीं खरीद पायेंगे, कोर्ट में भी मामला गया और अदालत ने भी तमाम जजमेंट दिये हैं। क्या मंत्री जी कोई ऐसी नीति बनायेंगे कि जो शुगर का मार्केट रेट हो, उस रेट के आधार पर गन्ने का मूल्य तय किया जाये, जैसा कि महाराष्ट्र में कोआपरेटिव सिस्टम है, वहां गन्ने का मूल्य तय किया जाता है, तो क्या कोई ऐसा आधार बनायेंगे जिससे कि शुगर मिलें भी चल सकें और किसानों को भी उनके उत्पादन की लागत मिल सके, क्या कोई ऐसी योजना उनके विचाराधीन है?

श्री तारिक अनवर : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न किया है, The CACP decides the cost of production. SAP of a State is the price to be paid to farmers,

which includes return to farmers. सर, जो माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है, उसके बारे में, मैंने अपने पहले प्रश्न के जबाब में यह कहा था कि गवर्नमेंट कोई भी फैसला अपने आप नहीं लेती है। हमारे एक्सपर्ट्स हैं, जिनको इस बात की पूरी जानकारी होती है, इसके अलावा लगभग 16 कृषि विश्वविद्यालय हैं, उनसे हम राय लेते हैं, स्टेट्स से हम राय लेते हैं और सभी एक्सपर्ट्स की राय लेने के बाद हम किसी नतीजे पर पहुंचते हैं और तभी सरकार कोई मूल्य निर्धारित करती है। उसमें इस बात का भी ध्यान रखा जाता है कि जो उपभोक्ता है, उस पर भी ज्यादा भार न पड़े। जो डोमेस्टिक मार्केट है और इंटरनेशनल मार्केट है, इनका भी ध्यान रखना पड़ता है। जहां तक स्टेट्स का मामला है, स्टेट्स अपना फैसला करती हैं और वे अपना फैसला करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं। केन्द्र सरकार एक राष्ट्रीय पॉलिसी बनाती है, नीति बनाती है और उसके आधार पर मूल्य निर्धारित करती है। उसके बाद कई राज्य, जैसे उत्तर प्रदेश है, कर्णाटक है, तमिलनाडु है, ये राज्य अपना समर्थन मूल्य अलग देते हैं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने..

श्री सभापति : नरेश अग्रवाल जी, आपने एक सवाल पूछ लिया है।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने दो बात कही हैं। मैंने पहले भी पूछा कि यह सेंट्रल सब्जेक्ट है या स्टेट सब्जेक्ट है, मूल्य तय करने का अधिकार केन्द्र को है या राज्य को है। अगर केन्द्र को मूल्य तय करने का अधिकार है, तो राज्य सरकार अलग मूल्य तय कर देगी, कल को राज्य गेहूं का, धान का मूल्य अलग तय कर देंगे, तो आप यह बताइये कि अगर यह सेंट्रल सब्जेक्ट है, तो सेंट्रल ने इतना कम दाम क्यों तय किया? अगर स्टेट ने 290 रुपये तय किया, तो सेंट्रल ने 147 रुपये क्यों तय किया? आखिर दोनों के मानक क्या हैं, आप दोनों के मानक बताइये?

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

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : इनके यहां तो मुकेश अम्बानी ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : आप सुन लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्लीज़, आप सुन लीजिए।

श्री तारिक अनवर : सर, मानक बिल्कुल साफ हैं। जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि सरकार एक राष्ट्रीय नीति बनाती है। जो हमारे पास एक्सपर्ट्स की रिपोर्ट आती है, सरकार कोई अलग से बैठकर फैसला नहीं लेती है, वह तमाम चीजों को सामने रखकर, राज्यों से परामर्श करके और जैसा कि मैंने बताया इस काम में लगभग 16 कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों को लगाया जाता है और वे अपनी रिपोर्ट देते हैं, उसी के आधार पर सरकार अपना फैसला लेती है। जहां तक स्टेट की बात आप कह रहे हैं, तो स्टेट इस मामले में, शुगर के मामले में स्वतंत्र है, अगर वह अपनी तरफ से गन्ना उत्पादकों का सहयोग करना चाहते हैं, तो इसमें केन्द्र सरकार को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : नहीं, श्रीमान!...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : नहीं, नहीं। I am Sorry. This is not a debate. ...*(Interruptions)*...
This is not a debate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : केन्द्र सरकार किसानों को सही मूल्य नहीं दिलाना चाहती है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : नरेश जी। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री तारिक अनवर : बिल्कुल सही मूल्य दिलाना चाहती है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : नरेश जी, प्लीज। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : इसके विरोध में हम और हमारा दल प्रश्न-काल का बहिष्कार कर रहा है।

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। श्रीमन्, मैं मंत्री जी से दो छोटे-छोटे सीधे सवाल पूछ लूंगा। एक सवाल यह है कि आपके CACP द्वारा जो लागत मूल्य निर्धारित करने के पैरामीटर्स निर्धारित किये गये हैं, ये पैरामीटर्स किस वर्ष में निर्धारित किये गये थे, यानी कब से इन पैरामीटर्स को रिवाइज़ नहीं किया गया। यानी इन parameters को कब से रिवाइज़ नहीं किया गया, कृपया एक तो हमें यह बता दें और ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आप एक ही सवाल पूछ सकते हैं।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सभापति जी, सवाल वही है। दूसरा, मुझे यह कहना है कि सरकार जो मूल्य निर्धारित करती है, उस निर्धारण के बाद गन्ना मिलों में चला जाता है और गन्ना मिलों में गन्ना देने के बाद किसान को कागज का एक पुर्जा मिल जाता है, लेकिन तीन-तीन, चार-चार साल तक उसकी पेमेंट नहीं होती है। मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार किसान के लिए कैसे सुनिश्चित करेगी कि उससे जो भी गन्ना लिया गया है, उसका पैसा उसको वक्त पर मिल जाए? आप बस मेरी इन दो बातों का जवाब दे दीजिए।

श्री तारिक अनवर : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न किया गया है, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। जो बातें इन्होंने कही हैं, ऐसी कुछ शिकायतें या इसी तरह की बातें केन्द्र सरकार के सामने आई थीं, जिसके बाद गन्ना उत्पादकों के लिए अलग से एक नीति निर्धारित की गई। पहले मिल मालिकों के ऊपर इस बात को छोड़ दिया गया था कि गन्ना पहुंचाने के बाद, मिल में जो प्रोफिट होगा, उस प्रोफिट के आधार पर गन्ना उत्पादकों यानी फार्मर्स को पैसा दिया जाता था, लेकिन जो शिकायतें मिलीं, केन्द्र सरकार के सामने ये जो बातें आईं, उसके बाद यह फैसला हुआ कि इसमें कुछ तब्दीली आनी चाहिए, कुछ बदलाव आना चाहिए। इसके बाद केन्द्र सरकार ने इसमें बदलाव किया और यह तय किया कि हम मूल्य निर्धारित करेंगे और उसी मूल्य पर मिलों को पहले ही किसानों को मूल्य देना पड़ेगा। यह अभी इसी आधार पर दिया जा रहा है। जो राष्ट्रीय नीति बनाई गई है, वह उन्हीं बातों

को ध्यान में रखकर बनाई गई है कि किसानों को उनके उत्पाद की समय पर कीमत मिल जाए।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सभापति जी, मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया है, मुझे जवाब चाहिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, it was not given to farmers in 2005-06. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, Dr. Ramalingam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : मैंने यह पूछा था कि आप जो आकलन करते हैं, उसके जो parameters बनाए गए हैं, वे किस साल में बनाए गए थे और कब से रिवाइज नहीं किए गए हैं? आप कम से कम यह बता दें।

श्री तारिक अनवर : सभापति जी, ये parameters लगभग हर वर्ष रिवाइज होते हैं। मैंने अभी पढ़कर बताया है और मैं इसका उत्तर अभी भी बता सकता हूँ। जैसे 2005-06 में जो कीमत थी, जो SMP थी, वह Rs.79.50 थी, इसी तरह से 2006-07 में इसकी कीमत 80.25 रुपये थी...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : मैं आपसे राशि नहीं पूछ रहा हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं आपसे सिर्फ यह पूछ रहा हूँ कि आपके CACP के आकलन के जो parameters हैं, ...*(व्यवधान)*... वे कब से रिवाइज नहीं हुए हैं?...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : अगर जवाब unsatisfactory है, तो आपको प्रोसिजर मालूम है। Let us go to Question No. 302. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, I come from Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*... The basic problem is ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. But this is not your question.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, people have been dying. ...*(Interruptions)*... Right from the beginning, I have been raising my hand and you are just not looking at me, Sir. My question is ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Precious minutes are being lost. Please allow the next question to be taken up.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: How can you say that precious minutes are being lost, Sir? This issue relates to farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: But, it was not your question, number one.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: I am from Maharashtra, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody is disputing that. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, agitation is on in Maharashtra. Farmers have been dying. Even then if you don't allow any Member from Maharashtra to ask ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then why didn't you ask the question in the first instance? ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Right from the time the question was asked, I have been raising my hand, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: A supplementary is a matter of chance and courtesy. It is not a right. Question No. 302.

Parameters for approval of private universities

*302. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held any meetings for evolving parameters to approve private universities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof during the last four years alongwith the decision taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Private Universities can be established either by the Central Government by an Act of Parliament or by the State Governments by an Act of State Legislature. All the private universities existing in the country have been set up by the Acts of State Legislature and the norms and parameters to establish Private Universities are decided by the State Governments concerned. However, University Grants Commission (UGC) has powers to frame Regulations for determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examinations and research in universities, including private universities. Neither the UGC nor the Ministry of Human Resource Development have any powers to approve or disapprove a private university duly set up by a State through a State Act.

Meetings of the Expert Committee constituted by the UGC to define the parameters for evaluation of a State Private University and also to prepare a Proforma for the use of the Expert Committees visiting State Private Universities, were held on 12th March, 2011, 17th April, 2011 and 21st August, 2012. The above Committee finalized the format of the letter to be sent to State Private Universities after receipt of the Act, format for submission of information by State Private Universities to the UGC for Inspection purposes, procedure for inspection of State Private Universities and format for preparation of report by the UGC Expert Committees visiting State Private Universities.

Out of a total of 145 private universities, 98 have been established in the last four years. UGC has completed inspection of 53 private universities.

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान : चेयरमैन साहब, वज़ीर-ए-मौसूफ़ ने थोड़ी तफ़सील से अपना जवाब रखा कि प्राइवेट यूनिवर्सिटीज़ को क़ायम करने के लिए यूजीसी के ज़रिए पैमाना रखा गया है। इन्होंने अपने जवाब में बताया कि पूरे भारत में 150 प्राइवेट यूनिवर्सिटीज़ हैं और यूजीसी के ओहदेदारों ने अब तक सिर्फ़ 53 यूनिवर्सिटीज़ का मुआयना किया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इनमें से कितनी यूनिवर्सिटीज़ यूजीसी के हिसाब से सही हैं और कितनी यूनिवर्सिटीज़ ने यूजीसी के गाइडलाइंस को नज़रअंदाज़ किया है? अगर उन्होंने यूजीसी के गाइडलाइंस को नज़रअंदाज़ किया है, तो फिर सरकार ने उनके खिलाफ़ क्या कार्रवाई की है, वज़ीर-ए-मौसूफ़ बताने की कोशिश करें?

†[جناب محمد علی خان : چیئرمین صاحب، وزیر موصوف نے تھوڑی تفصیل سے اپنا جواب رکھا کہ پرائیویٹ یونیورسٹیز کو قائم کرنے کے لئے یوجی سی کے ذریعے پیمانہ رکھا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے اپنے جواب میں بتایا کہ پورے بھارت میں 150 پرائیویٹ یونیورسٹیز ہیں اور یوجی سی کے عہدیداروں نے اب تک صرف 53 یونیورسٹیز کا معائنہ کیا ہے۔ میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ ان میں سے کتنی یونیورسٹیز یوجی سی کے حساب سے صحیح ہیں اور کتنی یونیورسٹیز نے یوجی سی کی گائڈ لائنس کو نظر انداز کیا ہے؟ اگر انہوں نے اسے نظر انداز کیا ہے، تو پھر سرکار نے ان کے خلاف کیا کارروائی کی ہے، یہ وزیر موصوف بتائے کی کوشش کریں؟]

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the UGC has inspected about 53 universities and it has found about 5 to be in order. Once we get some complaints about these universities, we do give them some time to rectify whatever are the shortcomings and even after the rectification if they do not meet the norms, the standards and the regulations, then the UGC has the power to ask them to close some of their courses. But the UGC has no power to close the universities.

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान : चेयरमैन सर, पूरे भारत में जितनी यूनिवर्सिटीज़ हैं, उनमें से सबसे ज्यादा यूनिवर्सिटीज़ साउथ में तमिलनाडु, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, महाराष्ट्र और केरल में हैं। खुसूसन आन्ध्र प्रदेश में यूजीसी ने पढ़ाने की जो टेक्निक रखी है, वह यूजीसी के स्टैंडर्ड से कम है। अख़बारों के ज़रिए या वहाँ के बच्चों के ज़रिए ये मालूमात हुए हैं। इसी वजह से बच्चे तालीम हासिल करने के बाद अपनी मुलाज़मतों के लिए जहाँ पर जाते हैं, वहाँ उन बच्चों को उनके स्टैंडर्ड के हिसाब से कम होने की वजह से मुलाज़मतों में दुश्वारी हो रही है। मैं वज़ीर-ए-मौसूफ़ को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि तालीम हासिल करने के बाद भी बच्चों के साथ दुश्वारी हो रही है और यूजीसी के गाइडलाइंस को नजरअंदाज करके यूनिवर्सिटीज़ बच्चों को तालीम दे रही हैं, जिनका दारोमदार आपने रियासती हुकूमत पर छोड़ा है। मुलाज़मतों में उन बच्चों के मुस्तक़बिल के लिए जो दुश्वारी पैदा हो रही है, क्या सरकार ने इस तरफ कुछ तवज्जह की है और उस दुश्वारी को यूजीसी और मरकज़ी सरकार की जानिब से हल करने का कोई पैमाना बनाया है?

† جناب محمد علی خان : چیئر مین سر، پورے بھارت میں جتنی یونیورسٹیز ہیں، ان میں سب سے زیادہ یونیورسٹیز ساؤتھ میں تمل ناڈو، آندھرا پردیش، کرناٹک، مہاراشٹر اور کیڑل میں ہیں۔ خصوصاً آندھرا پردیش میں یوجی۔سی۔ نے پڑھانے کی جو ٹیکنیک رکھی ہے، وہ یوجی۔سی۔ کے اسٹینڈرڈ سے کم ہے۔ اخبارات کے ذریعے یا وہاں کے بچوں کے ذریعے یہ معلومات حاصل ہوئی ہیں۔ اسی وجہ سے بچے تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے بعد اپنی ملازمتوں کے لئے جہاں پر جاتے ہیں، وہاں ان بچوں کو ان کے اسٹینڈرڈ کے حساب سے کم ہونے کی وجہ سے ملازمتوں میں دشواری ہو رہی ہے۔ میں وزیر موصوف کو یہ بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے بعد بھی بچوں کے ساتھ دشواری ہو رہی ہے اور یوجی۔سی۔ کی گائڈ لائنس کو نظر انداز کر کے یونیورسٹیز، بچوں کو تعلیم دے رہی ہیں، جن کا دارومدار آپ نے، ریاستی حکومت پر چھوڑا ہے۔ ملازمتوں میں ان بچوں کے مستقبل کے لئے جو دشواری پیدا ہو رہی ہے، کیا سرکار نے اس طرف کچھ توجہ کی ہے اور اس دشواری کو یوجی۔سی۔ اور مرکزی سرکار کی جانب سے حل کرنے کا کوئی پیمانہ بنایا ہے؟

† [Transliteration in Urdu Script.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the hon. Member is right; a number of complaints regarding malpractices in education are coming to our notice. That is why we have brought before Parliament the Unfair Practices Bill and I would take this opportunity to urge on hon. Members of Parliament to pass this Bill so that we can take action on these universities or institutions following malpractices. Similarly, there is another Bill, which is Regulatory Authority Bill, which seeks to make it mandatory for all universities and institutions to get accredited. That would also help in dealing with such malpractices.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Minister, if you kindly see your reply, out of 145 private universities, 98 have been established in the last four years and you have inspected only 53 universities. Obviously, we need to have private input in university education. But many are plain selling shops. Now what is happening is that they establish universities, they admit students, take high capitation fees; you don't complete the inspection, and, thereafter, poor students are left in the lurch pleading to litigation. I know your regulatory mechanism is on the anvil. But the larger issue remains there. Are you going to take some firmer step on behalf of the UGC, or, is the UGC itself not very competent in view of the enormity of the work pressure which is there? I think you cannot. For us, the most important thing is two fold — excellence of standards and future of students. I regret to say that many universities were cleared in 1998. Almost a kind of mushrooming growth is there. How do you see this problem and what response would you like to give to this House?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I am glad that the hon. Member has mirrored the concern of the Government that we need to focus on the quality and standards in education. Hon. Member's observation is right that a number of private universities have come up in the last four years. I feel that the responsibility of ensuring the quality and standards in education has to be taken both by the Centre and the States. The universities can only be established by an Act of Parliament or the State Legislature. Beyond that, it is the UGC which sets the norms, standards and also the manner in which the universities should offer the courses. Once it receives any information of malpractice or complaint of not meeting the standards, the UGC does send its inspection team and it also does guide the university to rectify. And, after that, it can only direct the institution to close the course against which complaints are there. Now, if we pass these Bills, then, I think, it would strengthen the mechanism

of ensuring the standards. The UGC will be strengthened, and, parallel to this, we are trying to bring the...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But what is the UGC doing? Have you closed any university or any course in any private university? Please tell the House. It is a matter of great concern. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I have just explained to you that the UGC can only direct that certain courses are to be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chandan, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Those Bills are very different and we have to debate those Bills. Don't take recourse to the Bills and say that they are solution to the problems. There are major lacunae...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chandan Mitra, it is not your turn. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I am only saying that those Bills will strengthen the cause of ensuring that there is quality in education, and, as far as the UGC is concerned, it does not have the power to close down any university. It can only direct the universities or the institutions to close courses which are of dubious nature or which do not meet the standards. Now, these universities have been formed according to the UGC Regulations, 2003. There are new regulations which are being formed, namely, the UGC Regulations, 2012. Once these regulations come in, I think, there would be more stringent standards against the norms under which universities can be established.

Sir, I would like to compliment the State of Himachal Pradesh, which has come up with a separate Act for bringing out a regulatory authority to regulate the standards. So, I think, this is the thing, which the States can do to ensure that there is standard in education.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, the quality of higher education is a matter of serious concern. The hon. Prime Minister, in his speech in 2009, said that ninety per cent of the university education quality is very poor. In 2004, the hon. Supreme Court, in the case of Prof. Yashpal v. State of Chhattisgarh, said that there should be stringent measures taken by the UGC to inspect and control the universities for ensuring the quality of education. But, Sir, the answer shows that even after all these things, out of 145 universities, only 53 were inspected by the UGC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: My question is: whether the UGC will take urgent steps to complete the investigation within six months, and, till that time, whether the establishment of foreign and private universities will be kept on hold.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the question here does not relate to the foreign universities. Sir, there are 145 private universities, and, as I said, we will, the UGC will definitely ensure that all steps are taken to expedite the investigation into the malpractices or complaints of not meeting the norms by the universities. But, parallel to this, I think, the States also should do much more as I am sure that the States are equally concerned about the quality and standards of education. Sir, I feel that the States should play a more pro-active role in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Karan Singh. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री बसावराज पाटिल : सभापति जी, ...(व्यवधान)... सर, पीछे जो बैठे हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)... देखिए, प्लीज़ ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, यह बड़ा सीरियस क्वेश्चन है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आपने अभी सवाल पूछा है। ...(व्यवधान)... Please ...(*Interruptions*)... I have an obligation to rotate questions.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, one thing is clear that we do need a rapid expansion in our University system because of the growth in the Twelfth Plan of the entire educational pyramid. I must, first of all, declare my interest. I happen to be Chairman of a State Central University as well as a Private University. There are some very fine private Universities that have been set up. But, as has been said, there are also sub-standard ones. Sir, my view is that the UGC is not being able to grapple with the situation. For one thing, the UGC needs to be strengthened. Very often we have the UGC without a full-time head. You remember, people like C.D. Deshmukh and others used to be Chairman of the UGC. Dr. Manmohan Singh himself was the Chairman of the UGC. I think the UGC needs to be strengthened, streamlined and where necessary, given more staff and it should become really the focus for maintaining standards. The States can also do it. Will the Minister be pleased to tell us whether any steps are being taken to strengthen the UGC and improve its functioning?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I thank Dr. Karan Singh for his observations. He has been so committed to the cause of education. I am sure that his commitment finds a reflection in the way this Ministry is functioning. The UGC is the regulatory authority through which the Central Government enforces its vigilance on the whole subject of education. I agree that it needs to be strengthened. We are working towards it. We will definitely take suggestions from all the hon. Members towards strengthening the UGC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Question 303. ...(*Interruptions*)...

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल : सर, मेरी पार्टी के 15 सांसदों में से अकेला मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary question is not a party right.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: I know, Sir. लेकिन, आपकी कर्टसी की मर्सी कभी इधर भी हो सकती है? ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री सभापति : सवाल हर तरफ रोटेट होते हैं। अगर आपको दिलचस्पी हो, तो आपको डेटा दिखाया जा सकता है। यह सेलेक्टिविटी की बात नहीं है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... Please ...(*Interruptions*)...

Misuse of Section 66A of the IT Act

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Section 66A of the IT Act is prone to misuse by law enforcement agencies;

(b) whether the said Section goes beyond the parameters of restriction of speech set out under Article 19 of the Constitution of India; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to amend the Section so that it is not misused by police and other law enforcement agencies?

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Section 66A was provided in the Information Technology Act,

2000 based on the international best practices and similar provisions in the Communications Acts of a number of countries.

(b) The provisions of section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 are in line with the freedom of speech and expression and citizen's rights enshrined in articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

(c) The Government has held discussions with stakeholders including the Industry Associations, intermediaries and users to address the issue of proper implementation of the provisions of the Act. It has been agreed to provide necessary guidelines to prevent misinterpretation of the provisions of the Act and to minimise the unintended consequences.

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह : सर, अभी हाल ही में मुम्बई में धारा 66A के तहत फेसबुक पर कमेंट करने पर दो लड़कियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया। यह बात हर कोई जानता है कि पुलिस को गिरफ्तार करने की ताकत भी है और अधिकार भी है, लेकिन क्या सरकार आई.पी.सी. का ज्ञान पुलिस ऑफिसर्स को देती है या नहीं कि इस धारा के तहत वे उनको गिरफ्तार कर सकते हैं या नहीं कर सकते हैं? अगर वे ऐसा नहीं कर सकते हैं, तो फिर क्यों उनको गिरफ्तार किया गया और उसके लिए पुलिस को प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए क्या सरकार के पास कोई व्यवस्था है?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सर, आपके माध्यम से सबसे पहले तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे हिसाब से कई जगहों पर आई.टी. एक्ट की धारा 66A का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। उसकी कई वजहें हो सकती हैं। उनमें से एक वजह यह भी हो सकती है कि जो **executing agency** है या जो **Sub-Inspector of Police** है, शायद उसको सेक्शन 66A ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह स्टेट कर रही है। यह कई स्टेट्स में हो रहा है, केवल एक ही स्टेट में ऐसा नहीं है। तो यह जानकारी पुलिस को होनी बहुत जरूरी है कि किस तरह से धारा 66A का इस्तेमाल करना है और यह लाजिमी है। मैं चाहूंगा कि राज्य सरकारें इसके बारे में **executing agencies** को अवगत कराएं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जहां तक मुम्बई का सवाल है, मैंने कुछ जानकारी मंगवाई थी। वहां दो प्रावधानों का इस्तेमाल हुआ है। उनमें से एक **Section 295 (A) of the IPC** है और दूसरा, **66A of the IT Act** है। फिर, उन्होंने 295(A) तो खत्म कर दिया और उसके बजाए **IPC** का **505(2)** लगा दिया। इस आधार पर वह **investigation** चल रही है। व्यक्तिगत तौर पर मैं कह सकता हूँ और आज के दिन सरकार की भी यही राय है कि यह जो मामला मुम्बई में हुआ, वह उचित नहीं था और 66ए का इस्तेमाल करना भी उचित नहीं था। लेकिन, मैं समझता हूँ कि आने वाले दिनों में हमको सभी स्टेट होल्डर्स को बिठा कर समझाना होगा

कि जो freedom of expression है, वह इस देश में fundamental है और चाहे कोई भी सरकार हो, लोकतंत्र के लिए यह बहुत जरूरी है कि हमें freedom of expression को पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित रखना है।

जहां तक इसके दुरुपयोग की बात है, हम यह भी विचार कर रहे हैं कि सारी राज्य सरकारों को दुरुपयोग खत्म करने के लिए एक advisory दी जाए कि 66ए की जो यह ताकत है, इसका उपयोग सब-इंस्पेक्टर ऑफ पुलिस को खुद नहीं करना चाहिए, जब तक कि उसका approval at a certain high level न मिले। इसके बारे में हम सोच रहे हैं और जल्द ही जल्द hopefully हम इस पर advisory भी लागू करेंगे।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह : मान्यवर, आज कल फैशन हो गया है कि अपने से बड़े को गाली दीजिए और यह मीडिया में आएगा, अखबार में आएगा तथा इससे हमारी महत्ता बढ़ेगी। आम आदमी पार्टी के निर्माता केजरीवाल जी हरेक पार्टी, पार्लियामेंट को, बड़े-बड़े नेताओं को, हरेक पार्टी के नेताओं को गाली-गलौच करते हैं, वह खबर आए दिन मीडिया में बनी रहती है। क्या आईटी एक्ट के तहत कोई ऐसा प्रावधान है, जिसके अंतर्गत ऐसे उलूल-जुलूल गाली-गलौच करने वाले व्यक्तियों पर कोई कार्रवाई हो सके?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : महोदय, मैं किसी भी व्यक्ति के बारे में आज यहां सदन में कुछ नहीं कहना चाहूंगा, लेकिन इतना जरूर है कि इंडियन पैनल कोड के अंतर्गत हम सब को, किसी के ऊपर कोई आरोप लगाए ओर गलत आरोप लगाए, तो मान हानि का मुकदमा हो सकता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... लेकिन, अगर हम आईटी एक्ट में इसका दुरुपयोग करेंगे, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह लोकतंत्र का खिलवाड़ होगा और मैं यह नहीं समझता हूँ कि यह कोई उचित बात है।

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, with due respect to the hon. Minister, I am a bit disappointed with the Minister's response, especially section (b) of the response. I think that he would be in a minority that considers the Act or Section 66A in consistent with the Constitution of India. Section 66A includes terms like grossly offensive, menacing character, etc., that are loosely defined. There is overwhelming evidence that it is these phrases that are being misused. It is not an issue of Sub-Inspector or DSP or application of law. It is this discretion that is being given to whoever is enforcing the law. Recently, a case was filed under Section 66A against a gentleman who sent a cake to a girl with a picture on it. Given the fact that there is overwhelming evidence that there is discretionary interpretation of phrases in Section 66A, would the Government not consider it appropriate to review Section 66A at this stage?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I fully appreciate the concerns of the distinguished Member. In fact, the whole process of putting these provisions in the Act started way back in 2005 when there were concerns of phishing and all kinds of material being put on the internet which were extremely harmful, especially morphing and things like that. Thereafter, an Expert Committee was set up. And pursuant to the recommendations of the Expert Committee, the reform of the Act was taken forward. Quite frankly, Sir, when the matter went to the Standing Committee, the Government's position was that the punishment imposed should not be more than two years and it should be a non-cognisable offence. If I could read the recommendations of the Standing Committee, it said that the Government was being soft and, in fact, it should be made a cognisable offence. Despite that, we made it bailable. And the distinguished Member was a Member of that Committee. So, I fully appreciate his concerns but I wish those had been reflected in the Report of the Standing Committee. Maybe, we would not have; we have reduced the punishment to two years and made it a non-cognisable offence. But, having said that, I want to invite the attention of the distinguished Members to various statutes all over the world. There has been a lot of criticism as to why we are using this language. But, Sir, through you, I would refer to the UK Communications Act, 2003. Section 127(1) says, "A person is guilty of an offence if he sends by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character." Please note the words 'grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character', the exact words used in the IT Act. These are the exact words used in the UK Act. Then, Sir, let us come to the US Act. Section 502 of the US Telecommunications Act, 1934, amended in 1996, uses the expression, "Whoever initiates the transmission of, any comment, request, suggestion, proposal, image, or other communication which is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, or indecent, with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass another person". It is much wider than the Indian Act. Then, Sir, let me invite your attention to the Australian Act. Australian Code, 1995 uses the expression 'menacing, harassing or offensive'. Sir, I daresay that our legislation is consistent with other legislations. But, having said that, I believe that our country cherishes democracy and fundamental rights and we will protect them with greater vigour than perhaps in other nations. So, this country is totally committed to protection of freedom of speech, but, at the same time, there are two aspects to it. And, through you, Sir, I would like to request the Member

to consider that many a time – and we have seen this in the past like the incidents in Kokrajhar – such messages are sent which cause enormous disruptions in society and result in violence. If we were to repeal this Act, I would request the Member to consider what the consequences would be.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has conceded that Section 66A has been grossly misused and the misuse has been rampant in various States. Will the hon. Minister tell us the cases of misuse State-wise and what remedial action has been taken? Secondly, we have been hearing about the misuse of this law against two girls in Maharashtra. Isn't it a fact that two teachers of Kishtwar region in Jammu and Kashmir were sacked, harassed and arrested because they put something on Facebook which was thought to be offensive by some people? If that is so, what are the steps the Central Government has taken to redeem the situation as it has done in the case of Maharashtra?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which of the two questions do you wish to be taken up?
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I will answer both. ...(Interruptions)... He is an illustrious Member of this House and I would certainly like to answer both.

Sir, first of all, I never conceded that there is such rampant misuse of this. In fact, if you look at 2011, there was not a single incident of misuse of Section 66A. ...(Interruptions)... I have said that there has been misuse. ...(Interruptions)... But, I have never said rampant misuse and concession. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: You said, "in various States." ...(Interruptions)... You have said that Maharashtra is not the only State. ...(Interruptions)... This is on record. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Of course, at the moment, data of 2012 is not available with us. But, there is no case limited only to Section 66A other than one. The rest are all penal provisions, provisions of the penal code that are attached alongwith Section 66A. I have with me about five instances. Now, five instances cannot suggest such a rampant misuse in a population of 1.2 billion. But, that does not mean that there is no misuse. There has been misuse. I think we need to educate our executing agencies. I think we need to have interactions with more stakeholders. We need to see as to how this law can be strengthened and improved so that there is a

balance to protect the victims on both sides – those who are victims of the internet and those who are being penalised and persecuted in this fashion. Keeping that in mind, we will certainly move forward after interaction with the stakeholders.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: What about Kishtwar? ..(Interruptions)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, actually it is the State Governments that must take note of this fact. The Central Government, as you know, has no business to interfere in the processes of State Governments. If they misuse the Act there is a remedy in the court. In any case we issue an advisory. That is exactly what we are doing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That is exactly what I have said that we are contemplating interaction with stakeholders so that an appropriate advisory can be issued.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, the answer to the question is very vague and general. It is same as the wordings of Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The second thing is, it is correct that the Parliamentary Committee has made that suggestion. But we are all aware of the fact that both the Houses of Parliament had passed Section 66A without any discussion within two or three minutes. Now, the Minister has mentioned about the international practice. He has correctly stated that these types of words are there in the United Kingdom Act. But in my Private Resolution which will come up in the afternoon today, I have correctly stated that the U.K. Act, 2003, is strictly for the communication between two persons using public electronic communication network, *i.e.*, mails written persistently to harass someone and not “tweets” or “status updates” or that type of thing which is related to the social media. In our country we have very strong provisions for ensuring freedom of speech than in the British Constitution which is unwritten; and it is very vague. How can the Minister evaluate or compare the constitutional validity of the Indian law with the constitutional validity of other laws in the U.K. and the United States of America?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Well, Sir, I am not seeking to validate any law. In fact, through you, Sir, I can inform my learned colleague that the matter now is pending in the Supreme Court. There is a writ petition which has been filed challenging the constitutional validity of this Act. I am sure; the Supreme Court will consider

all the aspects, including the ones raised by my distinguished colleague to ultimately render a finding.

I may also mention to my distinguished colleague that there is another matter in the Allahabad High Court where the *vires* of 66A of the Act has been challenged. We should allow the courts to determine these matters.

Recently, just a few weeks ago, a judgement of the House of Lords on this issue was challenged in the U.K. saying that it was completely unconstitutional. I will just read out from page 605 of GPP *versus* Colon Lord's Bigam judgement, where he says, "Parliament has criminalised only grossly offensive messages under the Indian statute. I have found the respondent's message to be in offensive would have been extraordinary. Hence the justice is initial finding but some added value has to be given to the word "grossly". The question is whether the justice is despite what I have said about the character of the respondent's language were entitled in a particular circumstances of the case to find that this additional criteria was not made." So, the important thing is the executing agency does not quite understand the implication of the word "grossly". Therefore, we need, through advisory, to tell the executing agencies that this Act can only be used once there is a persistent and grossly offensive message which is persistently used against individuals. That's the kind of interaction that we want; and we will certainly work with stakeholders to make that happen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.304. ...(*Interruptions*)... That's enough. ...(*Interruptions*)... Look this is an evolving situation, please understand.

Improvement in statistical capacity and infrastructure

*304. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has initiated any steps to improve statistical capacity and infrastructure for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics for policy planning purposes, particularly at the State and sub-State levels; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOS&PI) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "India Statistical Strengthening Project" (ISSP) for improving the statistical capacity and infrastructure for collecting, compiling and disseminating of reliable official statistics at the State and Sub-State Level. The Scheme is operating since 2010-11 in all the States/UTs except Goa and Chandigarh. The approved outlay of the Scheme is Rs. 650.43 crores, out of which 80% is funded by the World Bank in the form of loan. The project aims to provide support to the States/UTs in certain key areas such as:

- (i) Improving Management and Coordination of Statistical Activities;
- (ii) Developing Statistical Skills and Capacity (Human Resource Development);
- (iii) Developing Statistical Infrastructure and Physical Infrastructure, including Civil Works and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities;
- (iv) Conducting Surveys and Studies; and
- (v) Improving Statistical Operations (Data Collection, Processing, Management and Dissemination), particularly for important key statistical activities viz. Estimation of State Domestic Product; Conduct of Annual Survey of Industries; Compilation of Index of Industrial Production; Compilation of Consumer Price Index numbers; Collection and compilation of Housing statistics, etc.

Thirteen States/UTs, namely, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Mizoram, Sikkim, Lakshadweep, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand have commenced implementation of the ISSP Project, based on MOUs signed with the Ministry. An amount of Rs. 130.86 crores has been released to these States/UTs under the Project.

The Government is also providing financial assistance to the State Governments in pursuance of the recommendations made by 13th Finance Commission to strengthen the Statistical System at State and sub-State levels. The Commission recommended a Grant of Rs. 616 crores to all the States/UTs over the period 2010-15 at the rate of Rs. 1 crore per district for utilisation towards Preparation of Business Register,

Preparation of Local Bodies Accounts, Activities providing network connectivity among districts and with State Headquarters, etc. Rs. 123.20 crores as first instalment has been released to the 28 States.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Sir, as the hon. Minister said in his reply, there is a need to improve statistical capacity and infrastructure for collecting, compiling and giving the official data at the State and district levels. And statistics on key indicators mentioned at point No.5 of the reply play a very important role in policy formulation at State and district levels. This will help in timely completion of projects and inclusive growth.

Sir, the question is: India's industrial production data for January, 2012 was revised from 6.8 per cent to 1.1 per cent; and also trade data downwards by 8 billion dollars due to wrong compilation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he would use IT to collect information for providing accurate data for effective implementation of the projects.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, I have already stated in my statement that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has sponsored a scheme called Indian Statistical Strengthening Project, ISSP. This was done on the recommendation of Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee of the NSC. On the basis of that it was felt then that actually the Indian Statistical Service at the State level and at the sub-State level was not really collecting the quality data and there was a need to strengthen that system itself at the State level and at the sub-State level. Therefore, on the recommendation of the NSC, the Government of India in the Eleventh Plan has recommended and approved a Centrally-sponsored Scheme of Rs. 650 crores and on the basis of that MoUs have been signed with different State Governments and the State Governments are being given money so that the system can work. The system itself requires improvement to collect the quality data. Unless there is a quality data available at the State and the district levels, and even at the Panchayat level, the whole system will not get the right kind of planning. Therefore, this ISSP programme was introduced. Thirteen States have already signed the MoUs and money has been released. The rest of the States are in the process of signing MoUs. I hope they will soon be signing MoUs so that we are in a position to release those funds to strengthen the State statistical database.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Sir, the World Bank gave us a loan of Rs. 520 crores

in 2010. But, if you look at the utilization of money since implementation of the project, it is not satisfactory. For the year 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 200 crore was provided in the Budget and afterwards it has been brought down to Rs. 130 crores. Again, in 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 200 crores was allocated. But so far not a single rupee has been released to any State. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why the budget has been reduced to Rs. 130 crores. What are the reasons for not releasing the money this year to States? Part (b) of my question is, how many districts in Andhra Pradesh have been given the grant as recommended by the 13th Finance Commission.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, this scheme is a continuous scheme and it would also continue in the Twelfth Plan. Two States have availed of the second instalment. Karnataka has received the second instalment. The only thing is, we monitor this scheme. At the State level, there is a Committee and at the Central level there is a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of the Department. Once they proceed on the basis of the MoUs, immediately after they have used the money, the second instalment goes. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, we recently had a meeting of the Steering Committee and the Secretary of my Ministry had been to Andhra Pradesh. Sir, Andhra Pradesh is also proactively working on this. I am sure they will also be in a position to take the second instalment so that they can strengthen their projects.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: The hon. Minister in his reply has said that the 13th Finance Commission has allotted Rs. 1 crore per district. I would like to know whether the annual budgetary provisions, which come to Rs. 3.50 lac crores, are spent through the district agencies. Whether real time basis they are incurring the expenditure and giving back the details to the Ministry so that it can be available for the public to know how much expenditure has been incurred in a particular period.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 13th Finance Commission has given a grant of Rs. 616 crores – Rs. 1 crore to each district. On the recommendation of the Ministry, the Finance Ministry releases that fund to the districts. At the district level, they are supposed to spend this money on preparation of business register, preparation of local bodies accounts, activities providing network connectivity among districts and with State Headquarters, etc. These are the projected schemes that have

been given, and we also do monitor these schemes as to whether the districts are spending the money for the purpose for which this has been given to them.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the funds, contributed by the Members of Parliament from their MPLADS funds for the Gujarat Earthquake that happened in 2001, the tsunami disaster in 2004 and the Aila cyclone in West Bengal in 2009, are still lying unspent, as the Ministry has shown its non-seriousness by not ensuring timely completion of works.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, this is purely a separate question altogether. This is about MPLADS, and it has nothing to do with the ISSP Programme. Anyway, I will be in a position to give, in writing, how much money has, exactly, been given by the hon. Members of Parliament for different calamities and what the status of the expenditure is. I will get that information collected and I will pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, the statistical exercise and improving the statistical information is a very important aspect as it helps in the policy-making and even help Parliament to take a view on how things are moving. In his reply to part (a) and (b), the Minister has defined the key areas for this project. It is most unfortunate that the employment data is missing. He has stated that it includes Conduct of Annual Survey of Industries, Compilation of Index of Industrial Production, Compilation of Consumer Price Index Numbers, etc. etc. But the most crucial employment data is missing. This is No.1. Secondly, in order to make this more effective and the whole statistical exercise much more meaningful, there is a serious need to involve the whole statistical exercise and this project, and have a proper coordination, with the entire National Sample Survey that is going on at a different interval. I ask this because we find that both the Departments release figures which are, sometimes, grossly contradictory and conflicting with each other thus creating more confusion. For example, in the matter of defining the Below Poverty Line families, it was stipulated that the food requirement of an individual is 2,100 calories. On the basis of the consumption expenditure data that is available in the Government of India, the Below Poverty Line definition, that is being made by the Planning Commission, is terribly conflicting with each other. To meet the calorie requirement of 2,100, a family of five would, at least, need Rs.10,000. And the Government

is saying that Rs.32 is the Below Poverty Line amount. This is just an example to show how the statistical misnomer takes place and people stand confused, and their policy decisions also gets distorted. So, I would like to know whether coordination is being seriously thought of to erase this kind of a contradiction and conflict which confuses and misleads people. It becomes a misinformation rather than a guiding information in the matter of policy decisions.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, actually, on these 20 key statistical variables that have been included in the ISSP Programme, No.13 is collection and compilation of labour and employment statistics. Although in the reply itself, I have broadly said so, yet the 20 parameters that have been laid down in the MoUs, this statistics is also included. And, so far as the statistics and coordination between the NSSO, the CSO and the State Statistical Organisations are concerned, we have coordination, and on the basis of that, the NSSO and the CSO prepare their statistical data. Now, on the basis of the data, in what way they will use it, it is their business. Any data that is being provided to any organization is in the public domain. The primary duty of the Department of Statistics is to bring the data correctly and place it before the Government, and on what basis, the Central Government or the State Governments or any other agencies want to use that, that is up to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 305. ...(*Interruptions*)... No, please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: This agency is the Central Government. The NSSO and the CSO are giving conflicting figures. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: We are not giving any contradictory figures. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It is in the Government domain, and this conflict is creating a problem.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: We are not giving any contradictory database. The data supplied by the NSSO and the data supplied by the CSO is the same data. No other NSSO is available excepting the NSSO which is under me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Expansion of railway lines in Karnataka**

*305. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the length of railway line in kilometres that has been added in Karnataka *vis-a-vis* other States of the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): State-wise new line projects/sections completed during Eleventh Five Year Plan *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2011-2012 is given as under:

Sl.No.	State	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	50	0	124	120
2.	Assam and N.E. Region	20	113	0	0	42
3.	Bihar	20	74	62	6	60
4.	Haryana	0	0	45	30	0
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	11	0	0
6.	Jharkhand	26	0	29	147	69
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	16	59	18	0	0
8.	Karnataka	14	0	63	16	30
9.	Maharashtra	0	18	0	112	8
10.	Madhya Pradesh	60	5	0	30	20
11.	Odisha	0	21	0	0	47
12.	Punjab	0	0	0	63	35
13.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	31	15
14.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	10	61	54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15. Uttar Pradesh		0	17	5	35	130
16. West Bengal		0	0	15	54	97
TOTAL:		156	357	258	709	727

Note: (i) Only those States where new lines have been added in last five years have been mentioned above.

(ii) The completed section in project falling in more than one State has been taken in the State with major share.

Recommendations on modernization and safety measures

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

(a) whether Sam Pitroda and Anil Kakodkar headed high level panels, set up to advise on modernization and safety of Railways, have recommended both—infusion of money from outside as well as fare hikes;

(b) if so, whether they have estimated requirement of ₹ 5,60,000 crore over next five years;

(c) whether this recommendation has been accepted by Government;

(d) if so, how this huge amount is to be generated, especially when operating (or cost-return) ratio is likely to touch 95 in the current year; and

(e) whether Government would give autonomy to Railways to rationalize fares by indexing them with fuel costs?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Expert Group for Modernization of Indian Railways chaired by Sam Pitroda and the High Level Safety Review Committee chaired by Dr. Anil Kakodkar have submitted recommendations primarily regarding ways and means for Modernization of the Railways, and a road map for improving Safety, respectively. The estimated costs of implementing these recommendations, as well as possible sources of funding, both from internal generation and from other sources also form a part of the reports.

(b) The Expert Group for Modernization has indicated an investment requirement of ₹ 5,60,000 crore over the Twelfth and Thirteenth Five Year Plan terms. The High Level Safety Review Committee has also indicated an investment requirement of ₹ 1,00,000 crore over a period of five years.

(c) and (d) All the recommendations are presently under examination in the Ministry of Railways and the actual requirement of resources for Modernisation and Safety would depend on the recommendations accepted by the Government. The resource requirements would be met from the investments that are part of the Twelfth Five Year Plan and from other sources of revenue generation including those suggested in the Reports.

(e) The process of fixation of fares and freight rates is an ongoing and continuous process, based upon various imperatives such as input costs of the services, including that of fuel. The Railways Act, 1989, vests the Ministry of Railways with the authority to fix tariffs.

Off-the-air GSM monitoring equipments

*307. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 51 private companies are under the Government scanner for importing passive “off-the-air” interceptive devices;

(b) whether Telecom Department has served show-cause notices to these companies and has asked them to surrender such devices;

(c) whether any of Government Departments is having such devices and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether according to Government notice, use of “off-the-air” GSM monitoring equipments is illegal;

(e) number of companies that did not comply with Government instruction to surrender such equipments; and

(f) reasons for allowing import of such equipments and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Sir, a list of equipment, imported by private

agencies during 2007-2010, containing details of import of multi channel GSM/CDMA receiver, transmitter and trans-receivers, compiled by Central Board of Excise and Customs was forwarded by Ministry of Home Affairs to Department of Telecommunications for examination. During scrutiny, it came to notice that such kind of multi channel GSM/CDMA receivers, transmitter and trans-receivers are dual use items which can be used in normal mobile Base Transceiver stations (BTS) for legitimate operations of Telecom Service Providers and others. Equipment like mobile phones, filters etc. were also included in the said list.

Since, no private agency so far has confirmed or found to have imported 'off-the-air monitoring equipment', therefore, no show-cause notice has been issued to any private agency.

(c) In order to sensitize the State Government and other Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), Union Home Secretary had a meeting with all Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police on 31.05.2011 and directed to make special efforts to locate and seize such equipment which has no authorization. One of the central designated agencies has been nominated to take safe custody of such equipment from Government law enforcement agencies, if any.

(d) The monitoring of telephone conversation is governed by the provisions of Section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and guided by Rule 419A of Indian Telegraph (Amendment), Rules 2007. Thus, unauthorized use of any equipment including 'Off-the-air monitoring equipment' for interception and monitoring is illegal.

(e) and (f) D As per the verification carried out so far, no case from any company regarding availability of 'Off-the-air monitoring equipments' and usage thereof, could be established. But, taking cognizance of the risk posed by such equipment, the equipment which could be used to tap the communication off-the air have been moved to 'Restrictive List' from the 'Open General Licence' (OGL) list *vide* Department of Commerce notification No. 53/2009-14 dated 15-07-2010.

Complaints regarding catering licences

*308. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received several complaints regarding allotment of catering licences ever since procedure under the New Catering Policy, 2010 came into effect;

(b) if so, number of such complaints received till date alongwith action taken thereon;

(c) whether Railways are prepared to review the present procedure for allotment of catering licences;

(d) whether Railways have also received numerous complaints regarding quality and price of food served inside trains and in canteens of railway stations; and

(e) if so, whether Railways would consider utilizing services of women Self Help Groups in preparing and serving quality food inside coaches and in railway canteens?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No complaints have been received in allotment of catering licences after the implementation of New Catering Policy, 2010.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present procedures for allotment of catering licences are based on the policy guidelines of the New Catering Policy issued on 21st July, 2010. Review of policy is an ongoing process.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, the numbers of complaints on overcharging, quality of food and others have been reduced by 15.1% during the last one year as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(e) Women Self Help Groups can also apply for award of catering contracts subject to fulfilment of laid down terms and conditions.

Fertilizer prices

*309. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of impact of non-adoption of benchmark pricing for the year 2012-13 in comparison with years 2010-11 and 2011-12 when such benchmark prices were adopted;

(b) the details of criteria used to fix benchmark prices;

(c) the comparative prices of all decontrolled fertilizers before and after the prices were de-controlled and the reasons for increase in fertilizer prices; and

(d) whether there is any mechanism to identify and take action against manufacturers/marketers who do not fix prices at reasonable rates and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Benchmark Prices are international prices at which the contracting for imports of fertilizers is likely to take place. This is fixed taking into consideration the prevailing price trends of fertilizers in the international market. Benchmark Prices are adopted for the purpose of calculation of expected delivered prices of fertilizers.

Benchmark Prices were adopted for computing Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

NBS rates for the year 2011-12 was initially fixed on 19th November, 2010 so that contracting for import of fertilizers could take place well in time, to ensure availability of fertilizers in the year 2011-12. However, no contracting could take place even by mid-February, 2011. It was seen that, given the international prices of fertilizers prevailing at that point of time, the NBS rates announced by the Government for 2011-12 would result in substantial increase in MRPs of various fertilizers. The Government considered the overall situation and revised the Benchmark Prices and new NBS rates were announced on 9th March, 2011.

Even after revising the NBS Rates, the contracts for imports of P&K fertilizers could still not materialize. The situation was reviewed again and the Benchmark Prices were revised by the Government again on 28.4.2011, which was announced on 5.5.2011.

Thus, it is seen that the Benchmark Prices had no sanctity as it had to be revised twice for fixing NBS rates for the year 2011-12. Moreover, the Benchmark Prices adopted for the purpose of NBS rates calculations were viewed by the international suppliers as the prices recognized by Government of India.

No Benchmark Prices were adopted for calculation of NBS rates for the year 2012-13. The contracting for import of fertilizers could take place timely.

(c) NBS Policy for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers is being implemented *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010, under which a fixed amount of subsidy decided on annual basis, is provided on all grades of subsidized P&K fertilizers depending upon its nutrient contents. The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) is fixed by the fertilizer companies.

India is completely dependent on imports for Potassic Fertilizers and to the extent of 90% in Phosphatic fertilizers. Subsidy being fixed, any fluctuation in the international prices of these fertilizers and their raw materials or exchange rate of Indian Rupee against US\$, has bearing on the domestic retail prices.

During the year 2010-11, the international prices of P&K fertilizers and its raw materials increased marginally and exchange rate remained stable, therefore, the MRP of P&K fertilizers increased marginally.

During the year 2011-12, in spite of increase in the rates of subsidy rates, the prices of P&K fertilizers increased due to steep rise in international prices of P&K fertilizers. Depreciation of Indian Rupee during the year further added to increase in MRP.

During the year 2012-13, the prices of P&K fertilizers have increased mainly due to depreciation of Indian Rupees.

Thus, it is seen that the prices of P&K fertilizers have increased mainly due to fluctuation in international prices of P&K fertilizers and also on account of depreciation of Indian Rupee.

The comparative prices of the de-controlled fertilizers before and after the de-control of prices are given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) There is at present no institutional mechanism under the NBS Policy to determine the reasonableness of MRP fixed by the fertilizer companies or any express provision for taking action against manufacturers/marketers in this behalf. The Department however, keeps a watch on the MRP fixed the fertilizer companies. In case it is noticed that the prices are not reasonable, the matter is taken up with the concerned companies and they are asked to rectify the situation.

Statement

Highest MRP (in Rs./MT) of P&K fertilizers from 2009-10 to 2012-13 (Nov.)

Sl.No.	Fertilizer grades	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	DAP : 18-46-0-0	9350	10750	20297	26500

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	MAP : 11-52-0-0	9350	9950	20000	24200
3.	TSP : 0-46-0-0	7460	8057	17000	17000
4.	MOP : 0-0-60-0	4455	5055	12040	23100
5.	16-20-0-13	5875	7200	15300	18200
6.	20-20-0-13	6295	8095	15800	24800
7.	23-23-0-0	6145	7445	7445	
8.	10-26-26-0	7197	10103	16633	22225
9.	12-32-16-0	7637	9437	16500	23300
10.	14-28-14-0	7050		17029	
11.	14-35-14-0	8185	9900	17600	23300
12.	15-15-15-0		7421	11500	15600
13.	AS: 20.3-0-0-23	10350	8700	11300	11013
14.	20-20-0-0	5343	7643	18700	24450
15.	28-28-0-0	7481	11181	18700	24720
16.	17-17-17-0	5804		17710	20572.34
17.	19-19-19-0	6487		18093	19470.44
18.	SSP (0-16-0-11)		3200	6300	7500
19.	16-16-16-0		7100	15200	15200
20.	DAP lite (16-44-0-0)			19500	24937.5
21.	15-15-15-09		6800	15750	15000
22.	24-24-0-0		7768	14297	16223.4
23.	13-33-0-6			17400	17400

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	MAP lite (11-44-0-0)			18000	21500
25.	DAP lite-II (14-46-0-0)			18690	24800

Grades mentioned at Sl.No. 7, 23, 24 and 25 are now not in the NBS Scheme

The MRP is per records entered in FMS by the companies

MRP is exclusive of Local taxes.

Blank space means not under subsidy scheme or not available in market

Information of MRP of SSP during 2009-10 is not available.

Loan for implementation of Freight Corridor Scheme

†*310. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has got any financial assistance from Government of Japan for early implementation of Freight Corridor Scheme;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance and the extent to which this scheme would be implemented with this amount; and

(c) the conditions outlined between Government of India and Government of Japan for repayment of this loan and the time-duration fixed on the basis of these conditions within which this loan would be repaid?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) Project from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Rewari/Dadri near Delhi (1499 km) is being funded by Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) scheme of Government of Japan. The JICA funding for the WDFC project including for 200 electric locomotives is currently estimated at 646 billion Japanese Yen (JPY) (Rs. 45,000 Crore at exchange rate of 1 Rupee = 1.42 JPY) in two phases viz. phase-I (Rewari -Vadodara, 930 km) and phase 2 (Jawahar Lal Nehru Port-Vadodara and Rewari-Dadri, 569 Kms). The loan amount is slated to cover the project expenditure excluding land acquisition, administration costs, taxes and interest during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

construction. The first tranche of phase I Loan Agreement for 90 billion JPY (Rs. 6300 Crore) was signed in March, 2010. The Engineering Services Consultancy Loan Agreements for Phase-I for 2.6 billion JPY (Rs. 183 Crores) and for Phase-II for 1.6 billion JPY (Rs. 113 Crores) have been signed in October, 2009 and July, 2010 respectively.

(c) The repayment period of the JICA loan is 40 years including 10 year grace period and interest rate is 0.20% per annum for works and procurement of related goods and services and 0.01% for consultancy services with commitment charge of 0.10% per annum on unused portion of the loan.

Enrolment and drop-out rates

*311. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of increase/decrease in percentage of enrolment and drop-out rates of children in Government schools since implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act;

(b) whether Government has developed any mechanism to increase the enrolment rate and check drop-out rate in Government schools;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is considering to include teaching of tribal children in their mother tongue up to primary level as part of RTE Act to inculcate interest in their own culture and environment and reduce dropout rate as well as enable faster rate of learning; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at primary level has gone up from 115.63 in 2009-10 to 118.94 in 2011-12 and GER at upper primary level has also gone up from 75.8 to 86.52 during the above period. The average annual drop-out rate at primary level has declined from 9.11% in 2009-10 to 6.50% in 2011-12. The data on GER and Average Drop-out rate for Government schools is not separately available.

(b) and (c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is a centrally sponsored scheme to assist State achieve the objectives of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted to check drop out, which includes *inter-alia* enhancing access to primary and upper primary schools, strengthening school infrastructure, improving the teachers pupil ratio, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms, mid-day-meals in schools as well as strategies promoting elementary education for girls and children belonging to disadvantaged groups as also for community mobilization.

(d) and (e) Section 29(2) (f) of the RTE Act provides that the medium of instruction shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue. The National Curriculum Framework 2005 endorses the use of child's first/home language in education. However, it is for the academic authority specified by the State Government/ Union Territories with legislature to take a view in the matter.

Railway projects

*312. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of railway projects on Cachar-Jiribam and Jiribam-Imphal Sections;
- (b) the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the steps Government intends to take to complete these projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) There is no sanctioned railway project like Cachar-Jiribam. However, construction of new broad gauge line from Jiribam to Imphal (Tupul) (125 km) has been taken up. Project has been taken up in two phases *i.e.* Jiribam-Tupul and Tupul-Imphal. Contract for earthwork, bridges and tunnels in Jiribam-Tupul section have been awarded and works are in progress in various stages. 12.5 km of Jiribam-Dholakhal track linking has been completed. Jiribam-Tupul is targeted for completion by March, 2015 and Tupul-Imphal section is targeted for completion by March, 2017.

(b) Progress of work is badly hampered due to severe militancy, poor law and order conditions and frequent economic blockade, poor condition of NH-53 leading to problems in movement of material and machinery for construction, difficult geographical conditions etc.

- (c) Following steps are being taken :

- (i) Regular follow up meeting with concerned State Authorities for early handing over of land free of encumbrance.
- (ii) Regular follow up with concerned State Authorities for ensuring secure working environment in the insurgency affected States.
- (iii) Follow up with concerned State/Border Roads Authorities for improving road infrastructure for smooth movement of Railway related machinery and material.
- (iv) 3 battallion of CRPF and Manipur Rifle and Indian Reserve Battallion force engaged for security purpose.

Improvement in higher education

*313. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that higher education system in the country is plagued with various challenges such as low Gross Entrolment Ratio (GER) and lack of quality research and education;
- (b) if so, whether GER in higher education in the country is 16 per cent which is below the world average of 27 per cent; and
- (c) if so, the concrete steps Government proposes to take to improve the higher education system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of population in the age group of 18-23 years has increased from 13.7% in 2008-09 to 18.8 % (provisional) in 2010-11, as compared to estimated world average of 29% during the year 2009-10 as per the Global Education Digest (2012) published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

Education reforms are a continuous process and the Government seeks to carry them forward through expansion, inclusion and rapid improvement in quality through institutional and policy reforms and by enhancing public spending and creating an enabling environment for private section participation towards imparting quality education. National Knowledge Commission had recommended a series of initiatives

for expansion, excellence and greater access in Higher Education covering regulation, accreditation, governance, curriculum, research, faculty development, financing, asset management and affirmative actions. Government has already taken various legislative initiatives including making accreditation mandatory for all higher educational institutions to improve quality of higher education.

Government has also opened new institutions of higher learning including- 16 Central Universities, 7 new Indian Institutes of Management, 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology, 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 10 new National Institutes of Technology.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various schemes for improving quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence, Colleges with Potential for Excellence, Special Assistance Programme, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences, Fellowship Programmes for Research students as well as orientation and refresher programmes for newly appointed and in-service teachers through its Academic Staff Colleges.

Government has also launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT), to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching and learning process for the benefit of all the learners in higher education institutions in any time any where mode with a budget of ₹ 4612 crore.

Construction of Model, Adarsh and World-class stations

*314. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the targets for construction of Model stations, Adarsh stations, and World-class stations during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) how many Model Stations, Adarsh Stations and World-class Stations have actually been constructed during the last three years;
- (c) whether the targets could not be achieved;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and efforts made to achieve them; and

(e) the criteria for selecting a station for construction of Model, Adarsh or World-class station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Out of 594 stations identified under Model station scheme, 569 stations have already been developed and remaining 25 stations are targeted for development by March, 2013. Out of 976 stations identified under Adarsh stations scheme, 616 stations have been developed so far. Upgradation of stations under various schemes is a continuous process and works under these schemes are completed as per availability of resources. 50 stations are identified for development as World Class Stations through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. No station was targeted for completion as World Class Station during the last three years.

(e) Stations are identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme based on identified need for upgradation of passenger amenities. Stations located in metropolitan cities and important centres are identified for undertaking the feasibility study for development into World Class Station through PPP mode by leveraging the land around and the air space above stations.

Promotional avenues for teachers and librarians under KVS

*315. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various categories of teachers including librarians in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) have no promotional avenues as they retire from the same posts/designations on which they are initially appointed thereby leaving no incentive for better performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they are not allowed to appear in departmental examinations for the posts of Vice-Principal and Principal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a New Library Policy is under the consideration of KVS;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by Government to create promotional avenues for various categories of teachers, including librarians?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The Miscellaneous Category of teachers such as Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT) for Art/Drawing, Physical Education, Work Experience, Yoga Teacher, Primary Teacher (Music) and Librarian have no promotional avenues as there is no post of Post Graduate Teacher(PGT)/TGT in these categories. However, there is a provision of financial upgradation through grant of Senior Scale and Selection Scale to these teachers after completion of 12 and 24 years of service respectively. Out of the total sanctioned posts of 40812 of teaching staff in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), the number of Miscellaneous Category of teachers including Librarian is 5653.

(c) and (d) As per Recruitment Rules of KVS, only Post Graduate Teachers are eligible to appear in the Limited Departmental Examination for the post of Vice-Principal. Trained Graduate Teacher for Art/Drawing, Physical Education, Work Experience, Yoga Teacher, PRT (Music) and Librarian are not eligible for appearing in the Limited Departmental Examination for the post of Vice-Principal. There is no provision of Limited Departmental Examination for the post of Principal.

(e) and (f) The new policy document is at draft stage.

(g) There is a provision of financial upgradation through grant of Senior Scale and Selection Scale to these teachers including librarians after completion of 12 and 24 years of service respectively. The qualification criteria of acquiring higher qualification for miscellaneous categories of teachers for the grant of selection scale by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has been waived off by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, *vide* letter dated 24.5.2011.

Railway projects in East Coast Railway Zone

*316. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) budgetary allocation to East Coast Railway Zone, during last and current year, indicating amount released and spent;

(b) ongoing railway projects in Odisha including amount required, allocated, scheduled date of completion, project-wise and reasons for delay in execution thereof;

(c) status of railway overbridges in Berhampur, including funds sanctioned for each overbridge;

(d) status of survey for new railway line from Berhampur to Phulbani;

(e) railway projects pending approval of Planning Commission; and

(f) whether Government proposes introducing new trains from Berhampur to New Delhi, intercity express between Jeypore (Koraput) to Puri, Bhubaneswar- Surat Duronto Express, DMU trains between Berhampur-Puri, Koraput-Berhampur?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Details of outlay provided for New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects during 2011-12 and 2012-13 on East Coast Railway and expenditure incurred is as below:

Plan Head	2011-12		2012-13	
	Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure
	2011-12	2011-12	2012-13	upto Oct.-12
	Rs. in Cr.	Rs. in Cr.	Rs. in Cr.	Rs. in Cr.
New Line	583.4	561.02	106	89.79
Doubling	569.97	359.19	542.5	110.15

Note: At present, there is no on-going Gauge Conversion Project on East Coast Railway.

(b) Project-wise details of projects falling fully/partly in Odisha including amount allotted in 2012-13, amount required for completion. Target for completion wherever fixed is given in Statement (*See* below). Railway has huge throughforward of ongoing projects and limited availability of resources. As a result, resources are thinly spread, thus prolonging period of completion. Targets are, therefore, fixed annually depending upon availability of resources and payment made on individual project.

(c) There are 4 nos. of Road Over Bridges (ROB) being constructed in and around Berhampur town. Present status and allotment of fund for the year 2012-13 are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of ROB	Present Status	Allotment of funds for 2012-13 (Rs. in Cr.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Berhampur-Gopalpur Road ROB at km. 596/28-30 in lieu of LC No. 306	Tender for Railway portion of ROB has been opened on 30.10.2012 and presently under finalization.	2.07

1	2	3	4
2.	Jagannathpur-Berhampur ROB in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) NO. 309	Contract for Railway portion of ROB was awarded on 14.02.2012 and work is in progress.	1.05
3.	Berhampur-Golanthra ROB in lieu of LC No.312		2.10
4.	Haldipadar-Sillapup ROB in lieu of LC No. 313.	Work of Railway portion completed. Work in State Government portion is in progress.	0.87

(d) Berhampur to Phulwani is a part of Sambalpur-Berhampur *via* Phulwani new line proposal for which survey has been taken up.

(e) As on 01.04.12, proposal for construction of new line from Rayagada to Gopalpur (258 Km) has been sent to Planning Commission for in-principle approval and appraisal. Approval of Planning Commission is awaited.

(f) No, Sir. At present, there are no such proposals.

Statement

Details of ongoing projects falling in Odisha 2012-13

Sl. No.	Plan	Project	Anti Cost 2012-13	Outlay 2012-13	Exp. upto March, 2012	Funds required to complete projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	NL	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 km)	818.29	2.00	242.22	576.07
2.	NL	Daitari-Banspani (155 km)	1326.63	10.00	1024.94	301.69
3.	NL	Digha-Jaleswar (41 km) with new MM for Digha-Egra (31 km)	352.94	10.00	150.10	202.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	NL	Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 km)	1300	2.00	452.24	847.76
5.	NL	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 km)	470.21	40.00	206.14	264.07
6.	NL	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 km)	224	12.00	190.90	33.10
7.	NL	Talcher-Bimlagarh (154 km)	810.78	30.00	110.00	700.78
TOTAL:			5302.85	106.00	2376.54	2926.31
1.	GC	Rupsa-Bangriposi (90 km)	641.97	0.50	174.47	467.00
TOTAL:			641.97	0.50	174.47	467.00
1.	DL	Banspani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhpura (180 km)	942.45	100.00	70.88	871.57
2.	DL	Banspani-Jaroli (9 km)	90.9	8.00	66.40	24.50
3.	DL	Bhadrak-Nergundi 3rd line (80 km)	558.67	1.00	0.00	558.67
4.	DL	Bimlagarh-Dumitra	130.7	9.00	104.70	26.00
5.	DL	Brundamal-Jharsuguda- flyover connection for joining DN Line	81.66	6.00	10.00	71.66
6.	DL	Champajharan-Bimlagarh (21 km)	177.38	25.00	5.13	172.25
7.	DL	Champa-Jharsuguda 3rd line (165 km)	1013.61	40.00	58.04	955.57
8.	DL	Cuttack-Barang (12 km)	200	25.00	177.37	22.63
9.	DL	Delang-Puri (28.7 km)	170	40.00	35.04	134.96
10.	DL	Jharsuguda-Rengali (25.6 km)	213.13	25.00	159.54	53.59
11.	DL	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line (35 km)	221	10.50	219.99	1.01
12.	DL	Manoharpur-Bondamanda 3rd line (30 km)	258.2	1.00	0.00	258.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	DL	Raipur-Titlagarh (203 km) incl. NL Mandir Hasaud-Naya Raipur (20 km) and new MM for conversion of Raipur (Kendri)-Dhamtari and Abhanpur-Rajimbranch (67.20 km)	852.98	100.00	62.51	790.47
14.	DL	Rajatgarh-Barang (20 km)	275.5	10.50	255.00	20.50
15.	DL	Sambalpur-Talcher (174.11 km)	679.27	40.00	66.00	613.27
16.	DL	Sambalpur-Titlagarh (182 km)	950.84	130.00	99.74	851.10
TOTAL:			6816.29	571.01	1390.34	5425.95

NL: New Line; GC: Gauge Conversion; DL: Doubling.

Note: Railway has huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources as a result resources are thinly spread prolonging period of completion. Targets are fixed annually depending on availability of resources and progress of individual projects. During 2012-13, Khurda Road-Begunia (32 km) new line, Lanjigarh-Junagarh (part) new line (9 km) Garhmadopur-Jenapur-Jakhpur doubling (14 km) and Jharsuguda-Brundamal-Rengali doubling (25.6 km) sections are targeted for completion on projects falling fully/partly in Odisha.

Retention of extra money by HFCL

*317. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of ₹ 1.97 lakh has been retained by Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) from its resident ex-employees at Durgapur Township as non-interest bearing security deposit for 600 square feet flat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per valuation made by M/s Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) in June, 2000, the value for 600 square feet flat was ₹ 0.97 lakh only; and

(c) if so, the reasons for retaining ₹ 1.97 lakh by the Company from its resident ex-employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 1.97 lakh has been retained by Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) from ex-employees residing at Durgapur Township as Security Money for a 600 sq. feet Flat. In the valuation carried out by M/s Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) in year 2003, the value of flat was 0.97 lakhs. The company had taken into account the land cost, cost of development and cost of associated land alongwith the cost of the building for fixing the security money in respect of each type of quarter in its townships.

Internet facility for all

†*318. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even today, people's access to internet is very limited in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has failed to achieve its target of providing internet facility to all the people by 2012;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is formulating any plan to provide internet facility at cheaper rate to the people of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The number of internet subscribers as reported by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for last three years are as follows:

Sl.No.	Period	Number of Internet Subscribers (in millions)
1.	31st March, 2010	16.18
2.	31st March, 2011	19.67
3.	31st March, 2012	22.86

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- The target for Internet and Broadband subscribers in the country as given in Broadband Policy 2004 and achievements are as follows:

Year Ending	Internet Subscribers		Broadband	
	Target	Achievement (Wireline subscribers)	Target	Achievement (Wireline subscribers)
2005	6 million	6.7 million	3 million	0.903 million
2007	18 million	10.36 million	9 million	3.13 million
2010	40 million	18.69 million	20 million	10.99 million

- The main impediments which are hindering the growth of internet/broadband are as under:
 - Lack of interest in private operators, for broadband network expansion in rural areas, being non-remunerative
 - Difficulty in laying of OFC network due to issues related to right of way clearances and high cost of right of way charges
 - High backhaul cost
 - Low PC penetration
 - High cost of Customer Premises Equipment (CPEs)
 - Low literacy levels
 - Lack of local content
 - Poor power supply

(d) and (e) The Government has approved a scheme for creation of a National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) on 25.10.2011 for providing Broadband connectivity to 2,47,864 Village Panchayats. The project will be funded by USOF and initial estimated cost of project is Rs.20,000 crore. The project is proposed to be completed in 2 years.

NOFN project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *i.e.* Bharat

Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), a company incorporated under Indian Companies Act 1956 fully owned by Central Government, with equity participation from Government, BSNL, RailTel and Powergrid. The Company has been incorporated on 25.2.2012 for this purpose

The optical fibre has predominantly reached State capitals, districts and blocks, at present. National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project is planned to connect the 2,47,864 Gram Panchayats in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibres of PSUs *viz.* BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid and laying incremental fibre wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks.

Operating Kalindi Express during winter season

*319. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalindi Express (Train No. 14724) is cancelled during winter season every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is the only train which connects Bilhaur, Kannauj, Farrukhabad and Mainpuri with Delhi and in the absence of this train, the commuters of these areas are put to a lot of hardships; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Railways to solve this problem permanently?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 14723/14724 Kanpur Central-Bhiwani Kalindi Express provides connection for Delhi to the passengers of Bilhaur, Kannauj, Farrukhabad and Mainpuri, etc. For the convenience of the passengers, this train was not fully cancelled and was operated as a tri-weekly service instead of a daily service between 01.12.2011 and 31.01.2012 during the last winter season of 2011-12 due to foggy condition. During the current winter season Kalindi Express has not been cancelled.

Food production growth rate

*320. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food production growth rate has come down to 1.3 per cent during the last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per 4th advance estimates released on 17.07.2012, the estimated production of foodgrains in the country during 2011-12 stands at 257.44 million tonnes which is higher by 5.3% as compared to the foodgrains production during 2010-11. However, as per estimates released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the growth rate in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Agriculture and Allied Sectors (at 2004-05 prices) has declined to 2.8% during 2011-12 (Revised Estimates) as compared to 7.0% during 2010-11 (Quick Estimates).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Suicide by farmers in Vidarbha

2326. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of rains during July-September, 2012 has adversely affected crops like paddy, sugarcane, pulses, cotton and fodder crops in many parts of country where rain-fed cropping pattern is the major source of farm production;

(b) if so, the extent of losses in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra where farmers are committing suicides due to uneconomic cropping; and

(c) whether any relief measures have been taken so that small and marginal farmers of districts like Yavatmal, Akola, Washim, Buldhana, etc. are not compelled to commit suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Despite deficient/scanty rainfall in some parts of the country during Kharif 2012-13, as per 1st Advance Estimates of production of food grains, oilseeds and commercial crops for 2012-13, at all-India level, production of rice, sugarcane, cotton and jute is projected to be higher than average. However, production of coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds is estimated to be lower than average.

Reasons of suicide by farmers in Vidarbha region, as reported by Government of Maharashtra, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons.

(c) The Rehabilitation Package announced by Government in 2006 to mitigate distress of farmers in identified districts in the country, which has since been implemented, included six districts *viz.*, Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Washi, Yavatmal and Wardha in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Further, the Vidarbha Intensified Irrigation Development Programme, which seeks to bring in more farming areas under protective irrigation, announced in the Budget 2012-13, is under implementation. Other measures taken by Government to prevent suicides by farmers and benefit small and marginal farmers in the country, including Vidarbha region in Maharashtra, comprise enhancement in Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, providing debt waiver, debt relief, interest subvention on crop loan, development of storage and marketing infrastructure etc., as per guidelines under the relevant scheme(s).

Incentives for small units under FPIs

2327. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives Government contemplates for small units working in the food processing sector;

(b) how many Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises/Units are operating in this sector; and

(c) the value of their output and how much employment they have generated during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Under the scheme of Technology up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries of this Ministry, financial assistance is provided to the food processing units including Small Scale Units @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and @ 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas *i.e.* North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) Areas.

(b) and (c) The Number of working enterprises, Output and Employment in Food Processing Sector for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) as per the latest available data from Fourth All India Census of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises held in 2006-07 are as under:-

Working Enterprises (in Numbers)	25,12,018
Output (Rs. crores)	1,88,848
Employment (in Numbers)	62,99,426

National Dairy Plan

2328. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved the National Dairy Plan Phase-I to be implemented during the period 2011-12 to 2016-17;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how far the State of Maharashtra would be benefited by this Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The Government of India has approved the National Dairy Plan Phase-I (NDP-I) for a period of six years from 2011-12 to 2016-17 on 16th March, 2012 as a Central Sector Scheme.

(b) NDP-I is being implemented with a total investment of about Rs. 2,242 crore with the following objectives:

- (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.

The key components of NDP-I are Productivity enhancement, Village based milk procurement system and monitoring, learning and evaluation.

NDP I is focusing on 14 major milk producing States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The scheme is implemented

by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) through End Implementing Agencies (EIAs) comprising of State Livestock Boards, State Cooperative Dairy Federations, District Cooperative Milk Producer Unions, Producer Companies, Trusts (NGO's, Section 25 companies), subsidiaries of statutory bodies, ICAR institutes and Veterinary/ Dairy Institutes/Universities etc.

(c) The assistance under the scheme is provided based on the proposals received from the EIAs in a State. As on 11.12.2012, five sub projects with a total outlay of Rs. 736.95 lakh including a grant of Rs. 644.09 lakh has been approved for State of Maharashtra and an amount of Rs. 154.10 lakh has been released as grant assistance.

Incentive to grow oilseeds

2329. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives offered or proposed to be offered to farmers to grow oilseeds in the country; and

(b) the response of farmers to the incentives offered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is providing incentives to grow oilseeds through various schemes, viz.; Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Under these schemes, incentives are being provided for production and distribution of seeds, Infrastructure Development, Block Demonstrations on improved technologies/IPM, Front Line Demonstrations, supply of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicide, farm implements, micro-nutrients, rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilizing bacteria, gypsum/pyrite/liming agents/dolomite, sprinkler sets, pipes for carrying water from source to field etc.

(b) As a result of the above incentives, the farmers are realizing higher yield and net income. The production of oilseeds has increased from 24.35 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 30.01 million tonnes in 2011-12 (4th Advance Estimates). The highest production of oilseeds to the tune of 32.48 million tonnes was achieved during 2010-11. The oilseeds yield which was 885 kg. per hectare in 2004-05 increased, to 1135 kg. per hectare during 2011-12 (4th Advance Estimates).

Impact of climate change

2330. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has prepared action plans for management of the likely effects of climate change on agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the effect of climate change could cause scarcity of agricultural products; and
- (d) if so, the plans formulated by Government to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has implemented schemes/programmes, viz., 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) to make Indian Agriculture climate resilient by embedding and mainstreaming various adaptation measures. Besides, Mission document on the 'National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture' (NMSA) has been approved by the Planning Commission for implementation of interventions to address the issue of climate change. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated a Network Project entitled 'National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture' (NICRA) to enhance resilience of Indian Agriculture to climate change and climate vulnerability through strategic research, technology demonstration, capacity building and sponsored/competitive grants for R&D. The Council is also providing improved agro-advisories on real time weather data for appropriate agronomic interventions and preparing District Level Contingency Plans for 572 target districts of the country.

(c) and (d) As such there is no scarcity of foodgrains foreseen. However, for contingency requirement, the Government of India has in place system for foodgrain production, procurement, storage and distribution.

Credit flow to agriculture sector

†2331. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the quantum of credit to the agriculture sector has been continuously increased during the past years;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase made in the credit given to agriculture sector during last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that agricultural production has not increased on year to year basis despite the increase made in the availability of credit; and

(d) if so, the quantity of agricultural production registered during said years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are as under:-

Year	Credit flow (Rs. in crore)	% increase over previous year
2009-10	384514	27.36
2010-11	468291	21.79
2011-12	511029*	9.13

*Provisional

(c) and (d) The foodgrain production has increased from 218.11 Million Tonnes in the year 2009-10 to 244.49 Million Tonnes in 2010-11 and further to 257.44 Million Tonnes in 2011-12 as per 4th Advance Estimates.

Implementation of Grameen Bhandaran Yojana

2332. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The national level evaluation study of the scheme conducted during 2005 has found that the Scheme has achieved its major objectives. The study has found that 95% of godowns are used to store agricultural output and that the 70% of godown owners are predominantly farmers. Hence, the rural godowns are largely benefiting the farmers.

Since inception of the scheme on 01.04.2001, a total number of 19018 rural godowns were constructed throughout the country upto 31.3.2012.

(c) The Scheme is demand driven and credit linked and the entrepreneur is free to prepare the project as per the Operational guidelines and submit to Bank and the subsidy is provided to the eligible projects which are appraised and approved by the concerned Banks. The subsidy at the rates of 33.33% is given for North East States, Sikkim and hilly areas with a maximum ceiling of Rs.3.33 crore. Subsidy at the rate of 33.33% is also given to women farmers, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs, their Self Help Groups and Cooperatives with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 3.00 crore. Subsidy at the rate of 25% is given to farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives and CWC/SWCs with a maximum ceiling of Rs.2.25 crore and 15% subsidy is given to all other categories of individuals, companies and corporations with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 1.35 crore.

Development of horticulture in North-Eastern Region

2333. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to develop horticulture as the main economic activity in the North-Eastern region;

(b) the immediate steps being taken to develop linkages between the farmers and market for achieving better remunerative prices; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to develop infrastructure in the North-Eastern region to revitalize the hill agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) In order to develop horticulture in North-Eastern region, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation extends financial assistance under

Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Horticulture Board (NHB) schemes to increase production and productivity of horticulture crops, creation of post harvest management and marketing infrastructure and setting up of processing units.

Under HMNEH scheme, 407 markets, 27 cold storages and 36 processing units have been established in North-Eastern region since 2001-2002.

Low production of pulses

2334. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that yield of pulses is low in our country compared to yield in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of yield of pulses in the country;

(c) whether any Government/private agency has suggested measures to increase the yield to control the inflation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per information available with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2010 (latest available), comparative position of yield of pulses in India *vis-a-vis* other major countries is as under:-

(Kg/Hectare)

Country	Yield
1	2
India*	691
Australia	1089
Canada	1814
China	1396

1	2
France	3850
Indonesia	1127
Pakistan	549
United Kingdom	3462
USA	1845

*As per official estimates for 2010-11 released by Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) and (d) As per a study by Tata Strategic Management Group, the practices like existence of strong Pulses Grower Associations; more attention on pest and nutrient management; focused approach on development of new markets; easy access to credit for farmers and more investment in research and development are helpful in achieving higher yield of pulses. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken several measures to strengthen the basic research in pulses to generate information for its utilization by All India Coordinated Research Projects on Pulses to develop location specific varieties and technology and 124 high yielding, short duration varieties of pulses suitable for varied agro ecologies have been developed during last 5 years. Besides, to increase the production and productivity of pulses in the country, the Government of India is implementing several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM-Pulses), Special Plan to achieve more than 19 million tones of pulse production during 2012-13, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) etc.

Privatization of DMS

2335. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) is presently a profit earning or loss making enterprise;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to privatize DMS in near future;

(c) if so, the gains out of privatization for Government as well as for concessionaires who have been working on DMS booth for years; and

(d) whether after privatization of DMS, the private company will allow concessionaires to work freely or they will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) is presently a loss making enterprise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

Dependence on groundwater

2336. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the deficient rainfall has increased farmers' dependence on groundwater to save their crops; and

(b) if so, in what way Government proposes to help such farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Dependence of farmers on irrigation including groundwater sources increases during deficient rainfall/dry spell conditions.

For providing protective irrigation from surface as well as sub surface water sources in the drought affected areas including areas with prolonged dry spell for 15 days, diesel subsidy scheme was implemented during Kharif, 2012. Under this scheme 50% cost of diesel for supplementary and protective irrigation was provided as financial assistance to farmers (limited to 2 hectare per farmer) equally shared by Government of India and respective State Government/Union Territory.

Development and preservation of high breeds of cows/livestock

2337. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps for development and preservation of high breeds of cows/livestock in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the names of the universities and research centres involved in improving the livestock/cow breeds as well as developing their new breeds;
- (d) the names of the new breeds and the salient features thereof;
- (e) whether Government extends financial assistance to corporate organisations for this purpose; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Department is implementing following schemes for development and conservation of high breeds of cows/livestock in the country:—

1. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
2. Central Cattle Breeding Farms (CCBFs)
3. Central Herd Registration Scheme (CHRS)
4. Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute (CFSP&TI)
5. Integrated Development of Small Ruminants and Rabbits (IDSRR)
6. Pig Development

(c) The details of the Universities and Research Centres involved in improving livestock/cow breeds as well as developing their new breeds are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) The details of the new breeds and the salient features are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(e) and (f) This Department do not extend financial assistance to corporate organization for this purpose.

Statement-I

List of Research Centres and Universities involved in improving livestock/cow

Sl.No.	Name of the Institute	Location
1	2	3
Research Centres		
1.	National Dairy Research Institute	Karnal, Haryana

1	2	3
2.	Indian Veterinary Research Institute	Izatnagar, Bareilly, UP
3.	Central Institute for Research on Goat	Makhdoom, Mathura, UP
4.	Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes	Hissar, Haryana
5.	National Institute for Animal Nutrition and Physiology	Bangalore, Karnataka
6.	Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute	Avikanagar, Rajasthan
7.	Central Avian Research Institute	Izatnagar, Bareilly, UP
8.	National Bureau of Animal General Resources	Karnal, Haryana
9.	National Research Centre on Pig	Rani, Guwahati
10.	National Research Centre on Yak	Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh
11.	National Research Centre on Mithun	Jharnapani, Nagaland
12.	National Research Centre on Camel	Bikaner, Rajasthan
13.	National Research Centre on Meat	Uppal, Hyderabad, AP
14.	National Research Centre on Equines and Vety Type Cultures	Hissar, Haryana
15.	Project Directorate on Cattle	Meerut, UP
16.	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute	IGFRI, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
17.	ICAR Research Complex	ICAR, Patna, Bihar
Universities		
1.	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University	TNVASU, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
2.	Anand Agriculture University	AAU, Anand Gujarat
3.	Assam Agriculture University	AAU, Guwahati Assam

1	2	3
4.	Guru Angad Dev Animal Science and Veterinary University	GADVASU, Ludhiana, Punjab
5.	Haryana Agriculture University	HAU, Hissar Haryana
6.	Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences	LLRUVAS, Hissar Haryana
7.	UP Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwa Vidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan	DUVASU, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
8.	Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology	NDUAT, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh
9.	Junagarh Agriculture University	JAU, Junagadh, Gujarat
10.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth	MPKV, Rahuri, Maharashtra
11.	Venkateswara Veterinary University	SVVU, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
12.	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology	MPUAT, LRS, Vallabh-nagar, Rajasthan
13.	Kerala Agriculture University	KAU, Thrissur, Kerala
14.	Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	KVASU, Pookode, Wayanad
15.	Rajasthan Agriculture University	RAU, Bikaner, Rajasthan
16.	Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences	RAJUVAS, Bikaner, Rajasthan
17.	Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University	SAU, Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat
18.	West Bengal University of Animal Fishery Sciences	WBUUAFS, Kolkata West Bengal

1	2	3
19.	Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University	MAFSU, Nagpur Maharashtra
20.	Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya	CSKHPV, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
21.	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology	GBPUAT, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand
22.	Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology	OUAT, Bhubaneswar Odisha
23.	Navsari Agricultural University	NAU, Navsari Gujarat
24.	Birsa Agricultural University	BAU, Ranchi Jharkhand
25.	Madhya Pradesh Pashu-Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya	MPPCVVV, Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh
26.	Central Agricultural University	CAU, Mizoram
27.	Nagaland University	Nagaland University, Medziphema, Nagaland

Statement-II*Name of the New Breeds*

Sl. No.	Name of the Breed	Lactation Yield in kgs.	Lactation Length in days
1.	Frieswal	3273	300
2.	Karan Swiss	3271	305
3.	Karan Fries	3457	305
4.	Vrindavani	3589	304
5.	Sunandani	3265	305

Production of millet

2338. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a drastic fall in the area under cultivation of millet which constitutes the main foodgrain for the poor in the semi arid regions; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted by Government to enhance the production of millet to protect the food security of this group of persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) On account of delayed/deficient rainfall during monsoon season, the area under millets (coarse cereals) during Kharif 2012-13 declined to 178.17 lakh hectares (1st advance estimates) as compared to 206.73 lakh hectares during Kharif 2011-12 (4th advance estimates).

(b) In order to promote cultivation and consumption of millets based food products, the Government of India announced an allocation of Rs.300.00 crore in 2011-12 under the "Initiatives for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion (INSIMP)" as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in 16 major millet growing States of the country.

The programme aims to demonstrate improved production and post harvest technologies in an integrated manner with visible impact to catalyze increase in production of millets in the country. The scheme is also expected to generate consumer demand for millet based products through value addition techniques.

Rebate on diesel used by fishermen

2339. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made by coastal fishermen to increase the rebate on diesel used by fishermen in view of increase in diesel prices;

(b) the rate before revision and the date of revision; (c) whether it is a fact that while revising the rate, a new condition has been imposed stating that fishermen Below Poverty Line (BPL) would only be entitled for rebate; and

(d) whether fishermen's organization has represented for withdrawal of the new condition as there can be no fisherman owning a boat but still under BPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, a rebate on High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil at the rate of ₹ 1.50 per litre was provided to the mechanized fishing vessels under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations. The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries intended to continue the scheme during the Eleventh Plan with enhanced subsidy from ₹ 1.50 per litre to ₹ 3 per litre. While approving the revised scheme in February, 2009, it was directed that such subsidy should be provided only to fishers Below the Poverty Line (BPL). Restoration of rebate on HSD to all categories of fishermen has not been supported.

Shortage of cold storage facilities

2340. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the report prepared by ASSOCHAM and Yes Bank, farmers are losing about ₹ 1 lakh crore in the absence of cold storage facilities;
- (b) whether to overcome the above situation, there is a need to construct godowns and cold storage facilities to the tune of one crore tonnes capacity;
- (c) if so, the action plan Ministry has prepared to achieve the above target, with a particular reference to Twelfth Five Year Plan and Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) to what extent Government's 100 per cent FDI in cold chain would help to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) As per the report entitled "FDI in Retail - Advantage Farmers", prepared by ASSOCHAM and Yes Bank the estimated post-harvest losses of produce especially fruits, vegetables and other perishable are over ₹ 1 lakh crore per annum, 57% of which is due to avoidable losses and rest is due to avoidable cost of storage and commissions. As per the report, present cold storage capacity has been estimated at 23 million tonnes with shortage of 9-10 million tonnes capacity.

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However, All India Coordinated Research Project on Post harvest Technology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) conducted a study at National level and made public its report in September, 2012. As per this, estimated harvest and post-harvest losses was ₹ 44,143 crore at 2007-08 prices.

As per Government estimates there is availability of 30.38 million MT cold storage capacity in the country. Every year more than 1.2 Million MT capacity of cold storage is being added.

(b) and (c) The Government is continuing implementation of following schemes during Twelfth Plan period under which grant-in-aid is provided to entrepreneurs for setting up of cold storages and godowns in the country including Andhra Pradesh:—

- (i) National Horticulture Mission (NHM)
- (ii) Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH)
- (iii) National Horticulture Board (NHB)
- (iv) Rural Godown Scheme
- (v) Scheme for Development and strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization
- (vi) Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)
- (vii) Scheme of Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- (viii) Scheme of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- (ix) Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of covered storage godowns of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

The cold storage and godown components of these schemes are project based.

(d) FDI in Cold Chain is expected to bring in modern, advanced technology associated with improvement in processes and handling practices which would reduce post harvest losses.

Growing of rice in phosphorus deficient soil

2341. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been invented that growing of rice in soil poor in phosphorus is possible;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the rare gene found in the roots can improve yield by 60 per cent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cultivation of rice in Phosphorus (P) deficient soil is possible by applications of water and citrate soluble phosphatic fertilizers in the soil. Rock phosphate of different grades can be applied to P deficient acidic soils for its better availability to the rice crop.

Also, it is reported that a gene "Phosphorus Starvation Tolerance (PSTOL1)" at locus Phosphorus Uptake 1 (PUP 1) has been isolated and cloned. This gene promotes better root system accessing to more phosphorus in the soil and gives higher yields in P deficient soils. Some varieties like Swarna, NDR 359, Vandana and few landraces also survive better under P-deficient conditions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is reported in an article published in Nature Vol. 488 (2012) that the transgenic plants generated with full-Length PSTOL1 coding region (35S::PSTOL1) in two rice varieties (IR64 and Nipponbare) at International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) showed enhanced grain yield by more than 60% under P-deficient conditions.

Deficiencies in loan waiver scheme

2342. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flaws have been reported in the loan waiver scheme relating to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that major deficiency remained in identifying beneficiaries and there is a fear that undeserving farmers may have cornered bulk of the waiver at the cost of deserving farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of milk products

‡2343. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of milk has continuously increased during past years in the country;

(b) if so, the average growth rate in annual production of milk during last one decade;

(c) whether export of milk products from the country has paved the way for economic development in this industry;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(e) whether Government in order to promote the export of milk powder has provided financial incentives as well as relaxed many policy decisions in the past years, thereby benefiting the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of milk has continuously increased during past years in the country and its average growth rate in annual production of milk during last one decade is given below:—

Year (March to February)	Milk Production (million tonnes)	Annual Growth (Year-wise)	Decade Growth (Average)
1	2	3	4
2002-03	86.2	2.13	4.48

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
2003-04	88.1	2.20	4.48
2004-05	92.5	4.99	
2005-06	97.1	4.97	
2006-07	102.6	5.66	
2007-08	107.9	5.17	
2008-09	112.2	3.99	
2009-10	116.4	3.74	
2010-11	121.8	4.64	
2011-12	127.9	5.01	

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

(c) and (d) The export of milk products has increased from Rs. 2.49 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 289.37 crores during 2011-12. By allowing export of milk products, the country is able to process more milk through milk processing plants and ultimately the farmer is getting higher income which helps in the economic development.

(e) The Government has taken following steps to promote the exports of milk products:

1. The Government has allowed export of skimmed milk powder and has lifted the ban on 8th June, 2012, *vide* Notification No. 2 (RE-2012)/2009-2014 and export of milk powders including whole milk Powder, dairy whitener and infant milk foods *vide* notification No. 25 (RE-2012)/2009-2014, dated 22nd Nov., 2012 respectively.
2. The Government has also announced 5% Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana on export of skimmed milk powder as per DGFT public notice No. 4 (RE-2012)/2009-14, dated 8th June, 2012.
3. The Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) also provides assistance to its registered exporters which includes the exporters of milk and milk products under the following Financial Assistance Schemes:

- (i) Scheme for Quality Development
- (ii) Scheme for Market Development
- (iii) Scheme for infrastructure Development (iv) Scheme for Transport Assistance

Cost of agriculture production

‡2344. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of agricultural production has increased by almost 15 per cent in the last three years;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of production of cash crops and non cash crops have increased at different rates; and

(d) if so, the percentage of hike in cost of production of cash crops and non-cash crops during 2009-10 to 2012-13?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) The weighted Average Cost of Production (C2 Cost) estimated by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) of major cash and non cash crops for 2010-11 and 2012-13 are given below:—

Crop	2010-11 Weighted Average Cost of Production	2012-13 Weighted Average Cost of Production	% Increase in 2012-13 over 2010-11
Paddy	742	1152	55.3
Masur (Lentil)	2191	3162	44.3
Rapeseed/Mustard	1520	1987	30.7
Cotton	2129	2772	30.2
Jute	1301	2045	57.2

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Output of rice

2345. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rice output target would be met despite below normal rains; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and comments of Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) For achieving the rice production target of 104.00 million tonnes during 2012-13, the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been implementing through State Governments various schemes in the country viz., National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) including its sub scheme, namely, Bringing Green Revolution Eastern India (BGREI).

As per 1st Advance Estimates for 2012-13, Kharif Rice production is assessed to be 85.59 million tonnes. To achieve the annual target, emphasis is being given on Boro and Rabi rice crops through promotion of technological and other interventions under the schemes.

Recommendation on ban on export of meat

2346. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted the recommendations contained in the 159th report of the Law Commission, the report of the National Commission on Cattle submitted on 31 July, 2002 and the 67th Report of the Animal Welfare Board of India, in which ban on meat export has been recommended;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in respect of each of the above reports; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting any of the recommendations made in above reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The recommendations contained in the report of National Commission on Cattle and 159th Report of Law Commission of India is under consideration. The 67th Report of the Animal Welfare Board of India has not been received by the Department.

(c) Question does not arise.

MSP for Kharif crops

2347. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Kharif crops for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons;

(b) the percentage rise in MSP thereof for each year;

(c) the price of various fertilizers and other farm inputs during these years and percentage increase thereof; and

(d) whether price rise of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, seeds, tractors etc. has neutralized the increase in MSP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Kharif crops for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The variation in prices of various agricultural inputs during October, 2010, October, 2011 and October, 2012 in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is given below:

Agriculture inputs	Percentage increase in Oct., 2010 over Oct. 2009	Percentage increase in Oct., 2011 over Oct. 2010	Percentage increase in Oct., 2012 over Oct. 2011
High Speed Diesel	14.6	9.3	14.6
Electricity	7.5	7.5	22.5
Fertilizers	7.6	16.0	11.6
Pesticides	2.9	0.8	6.8
Tractor	1.5	10.0	2.9

The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops covered under MSP on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments to ensure a minimum return to the growers. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors which include, *inter-alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices including diesel, electricity, fertilizers, pesticides and tractors etc.; trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

Statement
Minimum Support Prices
(According to Crop Year)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	2009-10	2010-11	(#) increase in MSP 2010-11 over 2009-10	2011-12	(#) increase in MSP 2011-12 over 2010-11	2012-13	(#) increase in MSP 2012-13 over 2011-12	(Rs. per quintal)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
KHARIF CROPS										
1.	Paddy	Common	950\$	1000	50(5.3)	1080	80(8.0)	1250	170(15.7)	
		Grade 'A'	980\$	1030	50(5.1)	1110	80(7.8)	1280	170(15.3)	
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	840	880	40(4.8)	980	100(11.4)	1500	520(53.1)	
		Maldandi	860	900	40(4.7)	1000	100(11.1)	1520	520(52.0)	
3.	Bajra		840	880	40(4.8)	980	100(11.4)	1175	195(19.9)	
4.	Maize		840	880	40(4.8)	980	100(11.4)	1175	195(19.9)	
5.	Ragi		915	965	50(5.5)	1050	85(8.8)	1500	450(42.8)	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Arhar (Tur)		2300	3000@	700(30.4)	3200@	200(6.7)	3850	650(20.3)
7.	Moong		2760	3170@	410(14.9)	3500@	330(10.4)	4400	900(25.7)
8.	Urad		2520	2900@	380(15.1)	3300@	400(13.8)	4300	1000(30.3)
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	2500a	2500a	0(0.0)	2800a	300(12.0)	3600	800(28.6)
		Long Staple	3000aa	3000aa	0(0.0)	3300aa	300(10.0)	3900	600(18.2)
10.	Groundnut in Shell		2100	2300	200(9.5)	2700	400(17.4)	3700	1000(37.0)
11.	Sunflower Seed		2215	2350	135(6.1)	2800	450(19.1)	3700	900(32.1)
12.	Soyabean	Black	1350	1400	50(3.7)	1650	250(17.8)	2200	550(33.3)
		Yellow	1390	1440	50(3.6)	1690	250(17.4)	2240	550(32.5)
13.	Sesamum		2850	2900	50(1.8)	3400	500(17.2)	4200	800(23.5)
14.	Nigerseed		2405	2450	45(1.9)	2900	450(18.4)	3500	600(20.7)

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

Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

a Staple length (mm) of 24.5 - 25.5 and Micronaire value of 4.3 - 5.1.

aa Staple length (mm) of 29.5 - 30.5 and Micronaire value of 3.5 - 4.3.

@ Additional incentive at the rate of Rs. 500 per quintal of tur, urad and moong sold to procurement agencies is payable during the harvest/arrival period of two months.

Old age pension to farmers

†2348. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated number of farmers having a holding upto ten acres in the country;
- (b) the number of agricultural workers at present in the country;
- (c) whether Government is contemplating on giving old age pension to farmers having ten acres land holding and to the agricultural workers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) As per provisional results of the latest Agriculture Census, there were 13,09,01,430 operational holdings in the country with operated area below 4.00 hectare (4.0 hectare = 9.884 acre) in 2010-11.

(b) As per the Report of the Working Group on Employment, Planning and Policy for the Twelfth Five Year Plan, set up by the Planning Commission, employment in Agriculture sector was estimated at 243.21 millions in 2009-10.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, Government is implementing National Social Assistance Programme comprising (i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, (ii) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, (iii) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme, (iv) National Family Benefit Scheme and (v) Annapurna. Farmers and agricultural workers can also take benefit of these schemes after fulfilling the conditions associated with each of the Schemes.

Proposal in managing DMS

2349. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the milk production and packing capacity of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) per day;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has been scouting for a partner to manage DMS as it is not doing well;

(c) whether Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation which sells milk and other dairy products under Amul brand has submitted any proposal to the Ministry for managing DMS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The milk processing and packing capacity of DMS is 5 lakh litre per day.

(b) No, Sir. .

(c) and (d) Chairman, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has written to Government proposing to take up the operation of DMS. The proposal is under examination of this Department.

MSP of wheat

2350. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has denied increase in MSP of wheat recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the same cited by CACP;

(d) whether Government is aware that during current year due to steep rise in cost of production, farmers are compelled to sell their wheat at least ₹ 600/- less than their production cost;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government would review to increase the MSP and send a fresh proposal to CACP in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (h) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat for 2012-13 season to be marketed in 2013-14 has not yet been finalized.

The Government had fixed the MSP for wheat for 2011-12 season to be marketed in 2012-13 at Rs.1285 per quintal. The Government ensures MSP through procurement operations undertaken by the Central, State and Cooperative agencies in the States. In addition State Governments have been alerted from time to time to ensure MSP to farmers.

Assistance to drought and flood-hit farmers

2351. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI PANKAJ BORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan of action to help the drought hit poor farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and total allocation of funds for the purpose in the last three years;

(c) whether Government has given compensation to the flood hit poor farmers who have lost their lives, land and crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and total fund utilized so far during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) To help the drought hit farmers, Government of India introduced several schemes such as (i) Diesel Subsidy Scheme (for providing protective irrigation in drought notified areas) (ii) enhancement of subsidy on seeds (to partially recompense farmers for re-sowing/purchasing drought tolerant varieties of seeds) (iii) up- scaling the Central Sector Scheme on Feed and Fodder (iv) waiver of import duty on oil cakes (v) additional allocation under Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) (vi) providing assistance for feed and fodder supplements under National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS)

- (vii) introducing drought impact mitigating interventions in perennial horticulture crops
 (viii) reducing interest on rescheduled crop loans.

Besides, additional wage employment upto 50 days per household beyond 100 days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), fast tracking release of installments under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) were also announced by Central Government as drought relief measures.

(c) and (d) State Governments initiate necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with them. Allocation under SDRF during the last three years (2009-10 to 2011-12) is given in Statement-I (*See below*). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature as per extant norms and established procedures. The details of releases under SDRF and NDRF during the last three years (2009-10 to 2011-12) are given in Statement-II (*See below*). The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal agency for administering SDRF/NDRF.

Statement-I

*Allocation of funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year
 2009-10 and under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)
 for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	State	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	418.22	508.84	534.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.81	36.74	38.58
3.	Assam	217.06	263.77	276.96
4.	Bihar	167.45	334.49	351.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	125.62	151.32	158.89

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	2.56	2.96	3.11
7.	Gujarat	299.00	502.12	527.23
8.	Haryana	151.18	192.90	202.55
9.	Himachal Pradesh	113.21	130.76	137.30
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	97.21	172.46	181.08
11.	Jharkhand	141.75	259.45	272.42
12.	Karnataka	139.36	160.96	169.01
13.	Kerala	103.91	131.08	137.63
14.	Madhya Pradesh	285.88	392.75	412.39
15.	Maharashtra	270.94	442.69	464.82
16.	Manipur	6.25	7.22	7.58
17.	Meghalaya	12.68	14.65	15.38
18.	Mizoram	7.40	8.55	8.98
19.	Nagaland	4.30	4.97	5.22
20.	Odisha	339.03	391.58	411.16
21.	Punjab	177.49	222.92	234.07
22.	Rajasthan	505.21	600.66	630.69
23.	Sikkim	19.70	22.75	23.89
24.	Tamil Nadu	254.13	293.52	308.20
25.	Tripura	14.44	19.31	20.28
26.	Uttar Pradesh	332.75	385.39	404.66
27.	Uttarakhand	101.85	117.66	123.54
28.	West Bengal	263.92	304.83	320.07
TOTAL:		4604.31	6077.30	6381.18

Statement-II

*State-wise details of releases of CRF/SDRF and NCCF/NDRF
during the years 2009-10 to 2011-12*

Sl. No.	State	Centre's share of CRF/SDRF			Released from NCCF/NDRF		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	313.670	481.63	300.71	685.81	582.11	643.39
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23.86	33.07	34.72	32.29	97.24	-
3.	Assam	162.80	237.39	124.63	0.00	0.00	-
4.	Bihar	125.59	250.87	263.41	267.48	368.01	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	139.935#*	56.745	116.33#	0.00	0.00	-
6.	Goa	1.92	1.11	2.275#	4.04	0.00	-
7.	Gujarat	224.25	876.59	395.42	0.00	0.00	-
8.	Haryana	167.385	72.34	72.34#	0.00	0.00	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	63.69	117.68	123.57	14.58	149.95	42.91
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	108.275#	77.605	0.00*	0.00	0.00	-
11.	Jharkhand	157.89#	194.59	204.32	0.00	0.00	-
12.	Karnataka	104.52	120.72	126.76	1594.36	0.00	70.23
13.	Kerala	77.93	98.31	103.22	0.00	12.78	109.69
14.	Madhya Pradesh	214.41	371.88	231.965	40.53	0.00	-
15.	Maharashtra	488.895	366.01	140.32	182.10	310.48	-
16.	Manipur	6.96	3.25	6.66#	0.91	0.00	-
17.	Meghalaya	9.51*	6.595	13.52#	0.00	0.00	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Mizoram	10.941 #	3.85	7.89 #	0.00	4.57	-
19.	Nagaland	3.22	2.235	0.00*	8.47	0.00	-
20.	Odisha	176.504	293.69	308.37	0.00	560.17	678.65
21.	Punjab	133.12	83.595	171.37#	0.00	0.00	
22.	Rajasthan	378.90	225.25	698.27#	115.12	0.00	-
23.	Sikkim	14.78	10.24	31.74#	0.00	0.00	200.38
24.	Tamil Nadu	142.95	220.14	231.15	0.00	317.17	523.977
25.	Tripura	16.09	8.69	26.94#	0.00	0.00	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	249.55	289.04	303.50	148.96	554.26	189.69
27.	Uttarakhand	76.39	105.89	0.00*	0.00	517.66	-
28.	West Bengal	197.93	228.62	240.05	166.869	704.85	-
TOTAL:		3791.865	4337.63	4279.45	3261.519	4179.25	2458.92

*Centre's share of CRF/SDRF has not been released for want of information relating to crediting of earlier released funds, utilization certificate and annual report etc.

#Including arrears of CRF/SDRF for the previous year.

Source :Ministry of Home Affairs.

Insurance of fish ponds

2352. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA:

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking to give fisheries the status at par with agriculture;

(b) whether it is a fact that no insurance company is coming forward for

covering insurance of fish ponds for which farmers are compelled to sustain heavy loss due to natural calamities; and

(c) whether Government is considering issuing instruction to include fish ponds in the insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) There has been demand from various stakeholders for according aquaculture a status that is at par with agriculture. Accordingly the issue of treating aquaculture at par with agriculture was included in the Pre-Budget Memorandum from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for 2012-13. However, no announcement was made in the Union Budget 2012-13 in this regard.

(b) and (c) The existing Centrally Sponsored/Central sector schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries do not cover insurance of fish ponds. Till date, the Government is not considering any proposal to include insurance of fish ponds in the existing scheme(s) during the Twelfth Plan.

Use of Endosulfan

2353. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Expert Committee has suggested to the Supreme Court that the use and manufacture of Endosulfan pesticide may be permitted for two years to exhaust all stocks of the raw material; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's opinion thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 9th October, 2012 in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No.213 of 2011, the Joint Expert Committee after due deliberation felt that to exhaust the available stocks of the raw material, manufacture and use of Endosulfan may be permitted for a total period of 2 years. The Committee was of the view that the manufacturing and marketing companies should be asked to ensure to completely exhaust the available raw material during this period and ensure that this pesticide

is fully utilized in accordance with label claim and good agricultural practices for pest control. The report of the Joint Committee has been submitted to the Supreme Court of India. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Setting up of cold storages and warehouses in Karnataka

2354. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides incentives for setting up and operating cold storages and warehouses facilities for storage and preservation of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cold storages and warehouses set up and being operated in Karnataka with incentives provided by Government so far; and

(d) the number of cold storages and warehouses proposed to be set up in Karnataka during Twelfth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Government is providing incentives through following schemes for setting up of cold and dry warehouses in the country:

1. **National Horticulture Mission (NHM)**

Under NHM scheme implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities related to horticulture such as development including setting up of cold storages for which credit linked back ended subsidy @ 40% (for general areas) and 55% (for hilly and tribal areas) of capital cost of the project upto 5000 MT capacity with maximum of Rs.6000/MT to all States except North Eastern and Himalayan States.

2. **Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH)**

Under HMNEH scheme implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities including setting up of cold storages for which credit linked back ended

subsidy 55% of capital cost of the project upto 5000 MT capacity with maximum of Rs.6000/MT to North Eastern and Himalayan States.

3. **National Horticulture Board (NHB)**

National Horticulture Board (NHB) provides back-ended capital investment subsidy to the eligible organizations for creation/modernization/expansion of cold storage/Controlled Atmosphere Storage @ 40% of the project cost in general areas and 55% in case of hilly and scheduled areas upto 5000 MT capacity with maximum of Rs.6000/MT. The scheme is demand driven and is being implemented across the country.

4. **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation infrastructure. Under this scheme, financial assistance (grant-in-aid) is provided @ 50% the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in General areas and 75% for NE region and difficult areas (North East including Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 Crore.

5. **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**

Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce has been implementing a scheme for Infrastructure Development. Under this scheme, Financial assistance is provided @ 25% of the cost of equipment subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10.00 lakh per beneficiary for the units related to export activity.

6. **Rural Godown Scheme**

Under Rural Godown Scheme, implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, subsidy is available for construction of Rural Godowns @ 25% for all categories of farmers, Agriculture graduates, cooperatives. All other categories of individuals companies and corporations are being given subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. The subsidy is 33.33% in case of North Eastern (NE) States/hilly areas, SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives and women farmers. The scheme has been recently revised

for making it more attractive by enhancing the maximum capacity to 30,000 MT with maximum ceiling on subsidy of Rs.3.00 crore for other than NE States and by enhancing the maximum capacity to 25,000 MT with maximum ceiling on subsidy of Rs.3.333 crores in respect of North Eastern/Hilly States.

7. Scheme for Development and strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization

Under Scheme for Development and strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization, implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, subsidy @ 25% of the capital cost of the project with a ceiling of Rs. 50.00 lakh per project is available. In respect of North-Eastern States and Hilly and Tribal areas and entrepreneurs belonging to SC/ST and their cooperatives subsidy of 33.33% is provided with a ceiling of Rs.60.00 lakh per project.

8. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme for construction of covered storage godowns of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The Scheme provides for construction of covered storage godowns through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). Under the PEG Scheme, FCI gives guarantee for the storage charges to the private investors for 10 years. The FCI has also finalised a scheme for hiring of private godowns through open tenders for one year extendable for another one year, to take care of the short term hiring needs.

(c) and (d) Government has provided incentives for setting up of 6 cold storages since 2006 through NHM and for 80 cold storages through NHB since 1999 in Karnataka. MoFPI has sanctioned 2 integrated cold chain projects in the State. APEDA has sanctioned 7 pack houses which includes cold storage facility in the State. Under Rural Godown Scheme 2 projects with capacity of 3493.4 MT have been sanctioned for Karnataka.

The cold storage and godown components of above schemes are project based and are considered on receipt of proposals from State Governments.

Production of pulses in Karnataka

2355. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is one of the key producing States of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details of pulses produced in the State during last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that poor rains have adversely affected production of pulses in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the relief measures extended by Government to producers of pulses in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Karnataka with 7.61% share in the average production of pulses at all-India level is one of important pulse producing States in the country. Details of production of pulses in Karnataka during last three years, *i.e.*, 2009-10 to 2011-12 are as under:

Year	Production (lakh tones)
2009-2010	11.18
2010-2011	15.65
2011-2012*	10.61

*4th advance estimates.

(c) and (d) Delayed rains/long dry spell in June and July, 2012 caused moisture stress and hampered the normal sowing of kharif redgram, greengram, blackgram and other short duration pulses in the State as a result of which, the estimated production of pulses during kharif 2012-13 declined to 4.67 lakh tones (1st advance estimates as compared to 5.90 lakh tones (4th advance estimates) during kharif 2011-12.

(e) The Government of India has extended support to producers of pulses in the country including the State of Karnataka through various promotional schemes/programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM-Pulses), Special Plan to achieve more than 19 million tones of pulse production during 2012-13, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) etc. National Food Security Mission has been strengthened from 1.4.2010 with the merger of pulses component of ISOPOM. In addition, under the State's Special Scheme called Bhoochethana being implemented in selected districts of the State, special thrust is given for use of micro nutrients alongwith recommended dose of fertilizers based on soil test reports as well as encouragement for adoption of integrated nutrient and integrated plant protection management practices etc. Intensive training programmes are conducted about the production technologies of different crops and services of farm facilitator are provided for effective adoption of these technologies by the farmers in their fields.

Skill development and training programme

2356. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds earmarked by Government for skill development and training programme in agriculture sector during the last three years across the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of results achieved by Government during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government is satisfied with the results achieved; and
- (d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) There is no specific programme on "skill development and training". However, a number of ongoing schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture have an inbuilt component of skill development and training in the field of agriculture sector. The details of funds actually spent on capacity building of extension functionaries and farmers during the last three years in different States across the country under these Schemes are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

There are some programmes organized by Government of India institutions *viz.* Directorate of Extension (DOE), National Institute of Agricultural Extension

Management (MANAGE) and Extension Education Institutes (EEIs), wherein State-wise allocation of funds is not possible and functionaries from all over the country attend the training programmes organized by these institutions as detailed at part (x) of Statement-I (*See below*).

Funds released by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to host organizations of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (which includes expenditure on training and capacity building of farmers, rural youth and extension functionaries) have been listed in part (xi) of Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Number of individuals benefiting under skill development and training component of different schemes is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However continuous efforts are made to improve the coverage and quality of these programmes through regular reviews, monitoring and formulation of new strategies.

Statement-I

Details of funds actually spent on various Programmes for Capacity Building of Extension Functionaries and Farmers during the last three years in different States

(i) Skill Development and Training under Scheme " Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms"

Sl. No.	State	2009-10 Financial (Rs. in Lakh)	2010-11 Financial (Rs. in Lakh)	2011-12 Financial (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	678.19	308.72	483.83
2.	Bihar	549.41	925.91	1202.98
3.	Chhattisgarh	141.95	83.46	184.76
4.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Gujarat	61.58	186.20	572.93

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	67.36	89.85	111.98
7.	Himachal Pradesh	134.81	86.48	198.07
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	57.80	26.70
9.	Jharkhand	26.82	112.12	482.95
10.	Karnataka	172.52	121.66	208.06
11.	Kerala	310.09	214.17	445.08
12.	Maharashtra	308.65	456.94	1088.46
13.	Madhya Pradesh	889.60	460.07	627.80
14.	Odisha	502.50	405.40	875.60
15.	Punjab	127.29	95.41	115.31
16.	Rajasthan	138.99	371.20	750.69
17.	Tamil Nadu	216.21	519.32	1172.70
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1331.48	741.43	1511.89
19.	Uttarakhand	196.45	143.37	153.46
20.	West Bengal	0.00	308.19	205.76
21.	Assam	95.50	68.08	128.23
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	69.90	156.58	109.04
23.	Manipur	44.79	44.40	85.39
24.	Meghalaya	0.00	2.85	0.00
25.	Mizoram	38.82	48.36	65.47
26.	Nagaland	2.95	15.80	60.85
27.	Tripura	42.60	37.70	192.11
28.	Sikkim	17.16	56.11	53.76

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Puducherry	0.00	2.82	3.89
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	23.26	13.50	26.82
TOTAL:		6188.88	6133.90	11144.57

(ii) Skill Development and Training under "National Food Security Mission"

Sl. No.	State	Year (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5

I. Farmer Field School

1.	Andhra Pradesh	343.72	112.383	62.039
2.	Assam	22.1	82.45	62.56
3.	Bihar	171.02	0	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	129.42	85.88	53.57
5.	Gujarat	35.151	45.12	27.16
6.	Haryana	23.22	23.65	26.48
7.	Jharkhand	33.99	29.41	38.59
8.	Karnataka	60.178	46.88	46.504
9.	Madhya Pradesh	305.88	237.61	306.01
10.	Maharashtra	194.35	149.83	240.28
11.	Odisha	124.78	124.44	84.49
12.	Punjab	63.75	54.16	39.95
13.	Rajasthan	23.39	38.92	24.12

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Tamil Nadu	85.086	66.36	41.81
15.	Uttar Pradesh	629.934	468.294	344.587
16.	West Bengal	153.85	93.808	65.595
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	2.55
18.	Kerala	8.5	3.91	2.89
19.	Tripura	0	0	0
TOTAL:		2408.319	1663.105	1469.185

II. Training of Trainers/Extension workers under NFSM-Pulses

1.	Popularization of cultivation of pulses in rice fallows, inter cropping and application of modern production technologies	20.918	14.930	15.680
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(iii) Skill Development and Training under "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)"

Sl. No.	State	Year (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	150.05	148.75	168.3
2.	Bihar	21.77	0	0
3.	Chhattisgarh	229.51	133.59	6.29
4.	Goa	15.94	0.86	0.87
5.	Gujarat	0	31.03	18.28
6.	Haryana	101.81	37.83	75.06

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Jharkhand	42.5	8.8	16.34
8.	Karnataka	191.78	66.16	72.62
9.	Kerala	0	107.95	87.94
10.	Madhya Pradesh	158.47	84.05	100.28
11.	Maharashtra	69.34	21.76	144.89
12.	Odisha	44.63	11.99	31.88
13.	Punjab	6.8	28.32	34.83
14.	Rajasthan	75.23	31.53	18.83
15.	Tamil Nadu	340	85	85
16.	Uttar Pradesh	469.2	96.52	81.3
17.	West Bengal	0	58.91	6.35
18.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	5.21
TOTAL:		1917.03	953.05	954.27

(iv) Skill Development and Training under "Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH)"

Sl. No.	State	Year (Rs. in lakhs)					
		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
		Allocated	Expenditure	Allocated	Expenditure	Allocated	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	99.75	36.00	155.03	148.32	109.28	27.00
2.	Assam	74	16.92	13	13.00	36	36.00
3.	Manipur	68.15	76.40	115.1	143.01	81.28	62.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Meghalaya	225	108.00	12.25	12.25	25.58	20.08
5.	Mizoram	82	70.50	122	55.50	85.5	86.00
6.	Nagaland	77.5	77.50	88.95	64.00	65.45	14.90
7.	Sikkim	100.5	89.40	49.05	35.55	82.93	59.98
8.	Tripura	122.5	102.50	62.39	62.39	61.99	62.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	46.74	46.74	109.94	96.24	174.78	141.14
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0	39.63	118.4	73.51	345.43	146.69
11.	Uttarakhand	81.7	33.12	20.75	20.38	189.23	8.03
TOTAL:		977.84	696.71	866.86	724.15	1257.45	664.60

(v) Skill Development and Training under "National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility"

Sl. No.	State	Year (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.75	0	27.5
2.	Bihar	22.6	17.1	0
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	14.5	0
4.	Gujarat	0	0	8.75
5.	Himachal Pradesh	12	0	0
6.	Jharkhand	2.8	0	0
7.	Karnataka	25.45	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Kerala	3.8	0	0
9.	Manipur	10	0	0
10.	Rajasthan	2.5	0	0
TOTAL:		92.9	31.6	36.25

(vi) Skill Development and Training under the scheme "Post-Harvest Technology and Management"

Sl. No.	State	Year (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	5	21
3.	Bihar	0	0	17
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	68	0
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	16	0
6.	Karnataka	0	50	129
7.	Kerala	14	0	0
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0	44	221
9.	Manipur	25	115	252
10.	Meghalaya	0	0	63
11.	Nagaland	0	88	109
12.	Odisha	0	90	54
13.	Rajasthan	0	25	0
14.	Sikkim	0	0	56

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Uttarakhand	0	0	79
16.	West Bengal	70	0	0
TOTAL:		133	501	1001

(vii) Skill Development and Training under the scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM)"

Sl. No.	State	Year (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.56	21.99	3.52
2	Bihar	19.83	33.2	41.97
3	Chhattisgarh	10.65	0	0
4	Gujarat	26.88	65.4	69.44
5	Haryana	3.75	6.5	6.05
6	Karnataka	16.16	24.45	20.26
7	Madhya Pradesh	351.76	62.74	31.5
8	Maharashtra	71.05	76.13	15.2
9	Odisha	35.33	235.5	323.1
10	Punjab	7.37	6.8	0
11	Rajasthan	28.39	28.81	34.83
12	Tamil Nadu	30.8	30.8	44.03
13	Uttar Pradesh	80.69	158.51	139.14
14	West Bengal	6.03	0	8.93
TOTAL:		695.25	750.83	737.97

(viii) Expenditure incurred under different, programmes of Government of India with no State-wise allocation of funds and functionaries from all over the country attend the training programmes

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution/ Training programme	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1.	Extension Education Institutes located at Nilokheri (Haryana), Hyderabad (AP), Anand (Gujarat) and Jorhat (Assam)	892.45	664.52	766
2.	Model Training Courses through State Agriculture Universities, ICAR Institutes and other Premier Institutions sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture (DOE)	80.98	105.35	170.07
3.	National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management sponsored training programmes	57.99	59.48	89.63
4.	PG diploma in Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM)	256.5	49.55	58.96
5.	Scheme on Agri-Clinic and Agri-business centres (ACABCs)	515.69	763.54	1163.46

(ix) State/Union Territory-wise funds provided to host organizations of "Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)" during the last three years.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Year-wise funds provided for KVKs (Rs in Lakh)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	103.55	108.68	180.4

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1033.24	2272.91	2410.8
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	719.48	1320.52	1215.2
4.	Assam	1207.61	2070.84	2036.03
5.	Bihar	1685.54	3548.51	2313.31
6.	Chhattisgarh	660.78	1518.1	1088.99
7.	Delhi	78.5	152.84	97.87
8.	Goa	137.5	265.83	178.25
9.	Gujarat	1405.14	2816.89	2143.81
10.	Haryana	1173.09	2114.65	1481.79
11.	Himachal Pradesh	812.95	1464.99	1109.93
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	737.61	1446.59	984.56
13.	Jharkhand	1050.5	2276.66	1859.42
14.	Karnataka	1374.39	3172.47	2379.97
15.	Kerala	769.59	1441.55	1130.99
16.	Lakshadweep UT	41.8	76.65	47.75
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1849.61	3680.82	2961.92
18.	Maharashtra	1722.87	3511.66	3468.8
19.	Manipur	576.98	916.45	1078.91
20.	Meghalaya	195.08	291.85	208.35
21.	Mizoram	570.45	630.04	785.67
22.	Nagaland	645.3	1291.97	753.79
23.	Odisha	1468.72	2891.72	2158.83
24.	Puducherry UT	94.8	214.52	224.15

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Punjab	1007.06	1793.82	1687.85
26.	Rajasthan	1944.89	4299.43	4200.2
27.	Sikkim	327.52	624.88	361.39
28.	Tamil Nadu	1651.95	3945	2642.36
29.	Tripura	138.28	252.98	206.45
30.	Uttar Pradesh	3153.73	6560.1	5600.28
31.	Uttarakhand	668.54	1233.02	890.32
32.	West Bengal	919.57	2020.34	1303.92
TOTAL:		29926.62	60227.28	49192.26

Statement-II

Details of result achieved (No. of persons trained) under skill development and training component of different schemes of Ministry of Agriculture during last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Number of persons Covered		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5

I. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

1.	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms -farmers training	1107795	781110	1418429
	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms-functionaries training (in man days)	47641	59727	113139
2.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	446280	328640	284000
3.	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	198013	90844	73638

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH)	37426	99832	163813
5.	Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds" - Promoting Hybrid Rice	927	400	250
	National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC)	650	680	580
6.	National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility	14800	3680	5940
7.	Promotion and Strengthening of Agriculture Mechanisation through Training, Testing and Demonstration	12631	30612	24660
8.	Post-Harvest Technology and Management	3047	11849	9717
9.	Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)	230160	252540	246320
10.	Extension Education Institutes	3082	3484	3776
11.	Model Training Courses	1265	968	1598
12.	MANAGE Training Programmes	4383	3633	4090
13.	PG diploma in Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM)	1224	1197	809
14.	Agri-Clinic and Agri-business Centres (trained)	2564	3224	4015
	Agri-Clinic and Agri-business Centres (agri ventures established)	1111	1292	2139
II. Department of Agricultural Research and Education (ICAR)				
15.	Training of Farmers and functionaries through Krishi Vigyan Kendras	1540000	1623000	1596000

Drought condition in Maharashtra

2357. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consistent deficit rainfall leading to severe drought conditions in Vidharbha, Marathwada and other parts of Maharashtra has mostly affected the marginal and small farmers of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken to ameliorate the sufferings of small and marginal farmers of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per reports of India Meteorological Department (IMD), the monsoon rainfall (1st June to 30th September, 2012) in Vidharbha was 8% above normal. Rainfall departure incase of Marathwada and Madhya Maharashtra was reported to be (-) 33% and (-) 25% respectively. Government of Maharashtra declared drought in 122 Taluks covering 25 districts.

(c) In view of rainfall deficit in several parts of the country including Maharashtra, Government of India introduced several schemes to mitigate the suffering of farmers especially that of small and marginal farmers such as (i) Diesel Subsidy Scheme (for providing protective irrigation in drought declared areas) (ii) enhancement of subsidy on seeds (to partially recompense farmers for re-sowing/purchasing drought tolerant varieties of seeds) (iii) up- scaling the Central Sector Scheme on Feed and Fodder (iv) waiver of import duty on oil cakes (v) additional allocation under Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP) (vi) providing assistance for feed and fodder supplements under National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS) (vii) introducing drought impact mitigating interventions in perennial horticulture crops (viii) reducing interest on rescheduled crop loans.

Besides, additional wage employment upto 50 days per household beyond 100 days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), fast tracking release of instalments under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) were also announced by Central Government as drought relief measures.

Loss of foodgrains and crops due to use of pesticides

2358. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual loss of foodgrains and major crops due to use of pesticides;
- (b) the reasons therefor alongwith the data of annual loss during each of the last three years and in the current year till date, crop-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the loss of foodgrains and major crops due to use of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Pesticides are meant to protect a plant from pests/diseases, if used as per label claims. They are applied to minimize crop loss in the event of pest attack/disease. As such, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) does not have any report of crop loss on account of pesticide use when applied judiciously as per approved label claim.

Cultivation of pulses

2359. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cultivation of pulses is reducing day-by-day;
- (b) whether most of the farmers have switched over to cultivate wheat, rice and cash crops of vegetables and horticulture which are more beneficial to them;
- (c) the quantum of pulses imported from other countries due to their shortage during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps Government proposes to take to motivate farmers to cultivate pulses at large scale to reduce their import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) During 2006-07 to 2009-10, the area under cultivation of pulses in the country has been hovering around 22-23 million hectares. In 2010-11, the area under pulses increased significantly to a record level of 26.40 million hectares. However, in the next year, *i.e.*, 2011-12, the pulses area declined to 24.78

million hectares, mainly on account of decrease in area under pulses cultivation in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(b) As indicated in the table below, the area under rice, wheat, vegetables and horticulture crops has been increasing during the last three years:

(Lakh Hectare)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Vegetables	Horticulture Crops
2009-10	419.18	284.57	79.85	208.76
2010-11	428.62	290.69	84.95	218.24
2011-12	439.74	299.02	88.13	227.40

Note: Figures for rice and wheat for 2011-12 are as per 4th Advance estimates and that for Vegetables and Horticulture Crops are as per 3rd Advance Estimates.

(c) The quantity of pulses imported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity Imported (in thousand tonnes)
2009-10	3509.58
2010-11	2698.66
2011-12	3364.80

(d) In order to motivate farmers and increase production and productivity of pulses, the Government is implementing several Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM-Pulses), Special Plan to achieve more than 19 million tonnes of pulse production during 2012-13, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) etc. In order to increase productivity of pulses, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also taken several measures to strengthen the basic research in pulses to develop location specific varieties and technology suitable for varied agro ecologies. Further, to incentives farmers for cultivation of pulses in the country, their Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) have also been increased significantly.

Enforcement of ban on cow slaughter for export

2360. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established any mechanism to strictly enforce already existing ban on slaughter of cow and its progeny for meat export;

(b) whether Government has established any mechanism to identify meat of cow/progeny and buffalo while granting permission for export of meat; and

(c) whether Government has studied Gujarat Government's steps taken on above subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) No. However, under the distribution of legislative powers between the Union of India and States under Article 248 (3) of the Constitution, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which the legislature of the States has exclusive powers to legislate.

Remunerative price for coconut

2361. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether price of copra and coconut oil have declined even after procurement by NAFED and other agencies;

(b) whether Government would increase support price of copra from ₹ 5100/- to ₹ 7000/- per quintal;

(c) whether Government would give subsidy to coconut oil at the rate of ₹ 15/- per kg. as given to Palm oil distributed through PDS;

(d) whether Government is prepared to give financial assistance to Kerala for its ongoing scheme for procurement of raw coconut at ₹ 30 per kg.; and

(e) whether Government will announce a special package for promotion of coconut cultivation and to ensure remunerative prices to coconut growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The wholesale domestic prices of Copra and

Coconut Oil (as on 4.12.12) have declined by 24.66% and 26.83% respectively during the last one year.

With a view to provide remunerative prices to the growers of agricultural commodities, the Government of India, on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various notified agricultural commodities including Copra.

The Government of India has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Milling Copra at Rs. 5100/- per quintal and for FAQ of Ball Copra at Rs. 5350/- per quintal for 2012 season.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is in the nature of a minimum guaranteed price for the farmers offered by the Government for their produce, in case the market prices fall below that level. If the market offers higher price than the MSP, the farmers are free to sell their produce at the market price.

(c) At present subsidy of Rs. 15/- kg is provided to imported edible oils (Refined Palmolein/Soyabean oils only) under the Scheme for distribution of subsidized imported edible oils. Government is not considering the proposal for providing subsidy on indigenous edible oils including Coconut oil.

(d) No, Sir. However, MSP has been fixed by Government of India for dehusked matured coconut with water @ Rs. 1400 per quintal for 2012 season.

(e) Apart from Price Support Scheme, the Government of India has been implementing various schemes for the integrated development of coconut. Emphasis has been given to the production and distribution of quality planting materials including hybrid varieties of coconut seedlings.

Government has also been implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Technology Mission on Coconut (TMOC)" *w.e.f.* 2001-02 to give greater emphasis to "product diversification and by-product utilization" by value addition.

Cost of production of paddy

‡2362. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the per quintal cost of paddy incurred by farmers right from sowing to harvesting is more than ₹ 1750/-;

(b) whether Central Government has assessed the expenditure on paddy crops a mere ₹ 350/- per quintal and whether it is possible;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the price of fertilizers and pesticides has increased three to four times resulting in increase in the cost of paddy crops; and

(d) whether Government will consider to increase the minimum support price of paddy from ₹ 1250/- to ₹ 2000/- per quintal making it more than the cost incurred by farmers on paddy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The Weighted Average Cost of Production of Paddy 2012-13 has been estimated at Rs. 1152 per quintal by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) as against Rs.888 per quintal in 2011-12.

(c) and (d) The price of fertilizers and pesticides have increased by 11.6 per cent and 6.8 per cent respectively during October, 2012 over October, 2011 in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

While framing price policy for kharif crops including paddy for 2012-13 season, the CACP has taken into account relevant factors, including cost of production.

Difficulties faced by farmers in selling their produce

2363. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of farmers are not getting MSP for their produce;

(b) whether Government has any plan to implement Swaminathan Commission recommendation for fixing MSP;

(c) whether Government is also aware that in some States farmers are facing difficulties in selling their produce like paddy and jute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) The Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for the crops covered under the MSP which also includes paddy and jute to ensure a minimum return to farmers. However, farmers are free to sell in open market if it offers a higher price than MSP.

The Government ensures MSP through procurement operations undertaken by the Central, State and Cooperative agencies in the States. In addition State Governments have been alerted from time to time to ensure MSP to farmers.

The National Commission on Farmers recommended that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation, however, has not been accepted by the Government. MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) based on objective criteria and considering variety of relevant factors.

Adjustment of subsidy

2364. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas is insisting that Department of Fertilizers should issue notification for adjustment of subsidy given to companies allocated subsidized gas for non-fertilizer products;

(b) whether Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) ruled that differential be adjusted through subsidy mechanism as that extra amount is returned;

(c) whether EGoM directed that notification be framed for mopping up by 24th May, 2012;

(d) if so, whether Ministry of Fertilizer has sought certain clarifications with regard to subsidy mechanism; and

(e) if so, whether Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas instead of clarifying the queries is insisting for issuance of the notification as directed by the EGoM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on pricing and commercial utilization of gas under NELP in its meeting dated 24.02.2012 had, *inter-alia*, decided that the Department of Fertilizers will finalize

the guidelines on adjusting subsidy on allocation of domestic gas to P&K fertilizers plants by 24.5.2012 and place the matter before EGoM. The Department of Fertilizers is in the process of formulating guidelines after consultation with the industry.

Compensation to fertilizer companies

2365. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced any compensation mechanism to fertilizer companies for balancing the price of Naphtha;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the compensation mechanism to different companies;

(c) whether Government has adjusted the compensation with the periodical change in price of Naphtha; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Under Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy being implemented *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010, the indigenous manufacturers producing complex fertilizers using Naphtha/FO (fuel oil)/LSHS (Low Sulphur Heavy Stock) as feedstock for producing Ammonia, have been allowed additional subsidy for a period of 2 years upto 31.3.2012 to compensate for the higher cost of 'Nitrogen'.

(b) to (d) The details of additional compensation provided on *ad hoc* basis to different companies on different grades of fertilizers is as under:—

Company	Product	Rate of Additional compensation (Rs./MT)
Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	17.17.17	4640
	20.20.0.13	5434
Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	20.20.0.13	3121
	20.6.0.0.23	3658
Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Corporation	20.20.0.0	2534

The quantum of additional subsidy is to be finalised in consultation with Department of Expenditure, based on study and recommendations by the Tariff Commission. The Tariff Commission has submitted its recommendations, which is under consideration of the Government.

Opening of Jan Aushadhi Stores in Andhra Pradesh

2366. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Jan Aushadhi Stores (JASs);
- (b) whether it is a fact that only 3 JASs have been opened in Andhra Pradesh in the last three years;
- (c) whether the objective of JAS campaign is to open at least two stores in each district; and
- (d) if so, the reasons behind opening of just three stores in three years in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The aims and objectives for opening of Jan Aushadhi Stores (JASs) in the Government Hospitals or other suitable locations is to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, by way of supply of medicines through Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). Under the campaign, it was intended to open, to begin with, at least one Jan Aushadhi Store in each district, wherever the State Governments extend their support and cooperation in allotting the space in the Government Hospitals or other suitable locations and also identifying the agencies amongst NGOs/Charitable/Co-operative/Hospitals/Government Bodies to manage such stores.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Only three JASs have been opened in Andhra Pradesh in the last three years. Under the campaign, it was intended to open at least one Jan Aushadhi Store initially in each district in first phase followed by five JASs in each district in second phase, wherever the State Governments extend their support and cooperation in allotting the space in the Government Hospitals or other suitable locations and also identifying the agencies amongst NGOs/Charitable/Co-operative/Hospitals and Government Bodies to manage such stores. Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI) has not received any further request from the

Andhra Pradesh Government for opening of additional Jan Aushadhi Stores in the State.

Self-reliance in fertilizers production

2367. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projected need of each kind of fertilizer in the country in the next three years;

(b) the details of the each kind of fertilizer the country is expected to produce in the next three years;

(c) how much subsidy Government is giving on each kind of fertilizer for every tonne; and

(d) the measures Government is taking to become self-reliant in the field of fertilizer production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The requirement and production of various fertilizers in coming three years is estimated as below:-

(Figures in lakh MT)

Name of Fertilizer	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Requirement	Production	Requirement	Production	Requirement	Production
Urea	325.00	245.00	335.00	245.00	344.00	245.00
DAP	127.00	44.00	131.00	44.00	135.00	44.00
NPK	115.00	100.00	118.00	100.00	122.00	100.00

(c) The expenditure per tonne under the head of subsidy for urea is Rs. 7934/- per tonne in the year 2010-11. The same for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizer for the year 2012-13 are given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) Government has taken following steps to become self-reliant in the field of fertilizer production:-

(i) Government is encouraging production of fertilizer (urea) in the country

to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government had announced a new policy of urea on 4th September, 2008 to attract new investments.

- (ii) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in August, 2011 approved the proposal for revival of closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) with the stipulation that Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR) proceedings be expedited and thereafter, the matter including changes, if any, required in bid parameters, be placed before the Committee for a final decision. Accordingly, the Draft Rehabilitation Schemes (DRSs) of HFCL/FCIL have been submitted to BIFR for their approval. BIFR has appointed State Bank of India as Operating Agency for examining the DRSs of HFCL/FCIL. At present, the matter is with BIFR.
- (iii) A joint venture has been planned with Government of Ghana for installing a urea plant in Ghana with urea offtake for India.
- (iv) Expansion of Thal urea plant of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (a PSU of the Department of Fertilizers) is in process of approval.
- (v) A new urea plant has been planned in Namrup in Assam for which, process for deciding the stake holders has been initiated.

Statement

*Expenditure per tonne for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizer
for the year 2012-13*

Sl. No.	P&K Fertilizer grades	Subsidy Per Tonne (Amount in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	DAP : 18-46-0-0	14350
2.	DAP Lite: 16-44-0-0	13434
3.	DAP Lite grade II 14:46:0:0	13390
4.	MAP Lite 11:44:0:0	12234
5.	MAP : 11-52-0-0	13978

1	2	3
6.	MOP: 0-0-60-0	14400
7.	AS : 20.6-0-0-23	5330
8.	13:33:0:6	10416
9.	NPK: 16-16-16-0	11169
10.	NPK: 10-26-26-0	14309
11.	NPK: 12-32-16-0	13697
12.	NPK: 14-35-14-0	14351
13.	NPK: 15-15-15-0	10471
14.	NPKS 15-15-15-09	10622
15.	NPS: 16-20-0-13	8419
16.	NPK: 17-17-17-0	11867
17.	NPK: 19-19-19-0	13263
18.	NPK 20-20-0-0	9161
19.	NPS 20-20-0-13	9379
20.	NPK 23-23-0-0	10535
21.	NPK 24-24-0-0	10993
22.	NPK 28-28-0-0	12825
23.	SSP: 0-16-0-11	3673
24.	TSP: 0-46-0-0	10030
25.	NPK: 14-28-14-0	12825
26.	NPS 20-20-0-13-0.3	9879
27.	NPK: 15-15-15-0.2	10771

Demand of fertilizers

2368. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increasing demand of fertilizers requires expansion of production capacity of fertilizers in the country rather than importing them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to take suitable steps to enhance the installed capacity of production of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) At present out of total demand of 300 LMT of urea, approximately 70% of total requirement of urea is met by indigenous production (220 LMT). The Government is considering a New Investment Policy - 2012 which is likely to add an additional urea capacity of 70 to 80 LMT per annum by 2016-17. So far as P&K fertilizers are concerned, the country is fully dependent on imports in potash sector and to the extent of 90% in phosphatic sector either in form of finished fertilizers or its raw material/intermediates.

Takeover of Indian companies by MNCs

2369. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that recent takeovers of Indian companies by MNCs could increase the possibility of other takeovers of Indian companies which would have impact on the Indian health care scenario as well as on pricing and availability of medicines in the country;

(b) whether Government is planning to bring down the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in existing pharmaceutical ventures; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) With a view to examine the issues involved in a broader perspectives, Planning Commission had with the approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) under the

Chairpersonship of Shri Arun Maira, Member (Industry), Planning Commission to consider all the relevant aspects. Based on an analysis done by National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority, the Department of Pharmaceuticals submitted its comments to Shri Arun Maira committee. In this, we have Stated that it would be reasonable to conclude that there is no substantive factual proof for increase in prices of drugs due to acquisitions.

(b) and (c) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion who are nodal Department of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), has informed that the policy for allowing FDI, upto 100% in existing companies, in the Pharmaceuticals sector, under the Government approval route, was introduced *vide* Press Note 3 of 2011, dated 08.11.2011. This provision has since been incorporated under "Circular 1 of 2012–Consolidated FDI Policy", effective from 10.04.2012.

Import of active pharmaceutical ingredients

2370. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and status of various issues till date that have been deliberated by the Inter Ministers Committee formed as per recommendations of the 45th Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 80 per cent of active pharmaceutical ingredients are being imported from China by the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to upgrade the infrastructure, documentation as per WHO and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) of the Small and Medium Pharmaceutical industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No Inter Ministers Committee was formed as per the recommendations of the 45th Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health. However, a High Powered Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee formed by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) to look into the matters of implementation of Government commitment to provide quality medicines at affordable prices has finalized its recommendations. The various recommendations of the Committee pertaining to the

pricing and quality aspects of medicines have been referred to the concerned Ministries/Departments/Organizations for taking necessary action.

(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industries has clarified that Indian pharmaceutical Industry has been importing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and Intermediates from various countries, including China to meet the increasing demand. Details of imports of APIs and Intermediates by Indian Pharmaceutical industry for the last 3 years are given below:

(Values in US\$ mn)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (upto Feb 2012)
Total imports from Global	2406	2998	3069
Imports from China	1143	1881	1646
%age of China imports out of total imports	60%	64%	54%

(c) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is supporting SME Units in Pharmaceutical Sector through various schemes - Credit Link Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) to provide incentive to Micro and Small Enterprises for technology upgradation, Credit Guarantee Scheme, ISO-9000/ISO-14001/HACCP reimbursement scheme, Micro and Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises and National Manufacturing Competitive Programme (NMCP) to enhance their productivity and Competitiveness. In regard of Drug and Pharmaceuticals 294 units have availed Rs. 19.76 crore subsidy since inception of the scheme.

Availability of essential medicines at fair prices

‡2371. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether differences/anomalies in the prices of essential medicines have been found at large scale in the country;

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

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether no suitable results have been achieved through the campaigns initiated by Government under present policy; and

(d) if so, the further steps proposed to be taken by Government to provide essential medicines to the people at fair prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one is authorized to sell any scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. Therefore, there cannot be large scale price variation in cases of scheduled drugs.

However, in respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA.

Variations in the prices of non-scheduled drugs of different brands based on same chemical combinations are not ruled out as there is no control on the launch price of these medicines. Although the prices of decontrolled drugs are monitored and suitable action is taken by NPPA, as per the guidelines, in cases where price increase is more than 10% in a period of one year on moving basis.

(c) and (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' with the objective of making available medicines at affordable prices for all. Under this campaign less priced quality unbranded generic medicines are made available through Jan Aushadhi Stores. 146 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in different States/UTs in the country as on 30.11.2012.

Further, as per the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012) the prices of National List of Essential Medicines-2011 are to be controlled and regulated.

Free medicines for poor families

2372. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of increase in price of essential drugs and controlled drugs during the last five years;
- (b) whether Government is aware that price of essential drugs have become out of reach of BPL families;
- (c) whether Government would provide for free medicines shops for BPL families;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government would make it mandatory for drug manufacturing companies to provide for at least 10 per cent of their profits to be contributed for free medicines to poor families;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The details of percentage number of packs whose prices have increased or decreased or remained stable on the monthly basis in percentage terms as per Retail Audit Reports of IMS Health Research Pvt. Ltd. for the last five financial years are given in Statement-I (*See* below). The figures for the last 5 years in respect of scheduled formulations, the prices of which are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(b) No such information is centrally available. However, as per the Wholesale Price Indices released by the Economic Adviser's office of the Ministry of Industry, Government of India, it is be observed that the increase in prices of drugs and medicines has been generally lower than that for All Commodities during the years 2008-09 to 2010-2011.

(c) to (g) There are no such proposals.

Statement-I*Month Under Report: August, 2012***Number of Medicines (Packs) covered : 61,195**

The details of percentage number of packs whose prices have increased or decreased or remained stable on the monthly basis in percentage terms as per Retail Audit Reports of IMS Health Research Pvt. Ltd. for the last five financial years.

1. Percentage number of packs whose prices increased:

Year	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2007-08	0.77	0.14	0.10	0.02	0.13	0.12	0.01	0.01	0.32	0.33	0.03	0.00
2008-09	0.07	0.12	0.30	0.05	0.11	15.89	1.73	2.44	0.10	0.07	0.02	8.74
2009-10	1.99	0.62	4.75	0.01	0.07	3.21	0.14	0.003	2.92	0.03	0.02	2.66
2010-11	0.09	0.02	1.98	0.22	0.09	2.28	0.08	0.03	2.46	0.30	0.01	1.89
2011-12	0.07	0.02	1.49	0.01	0.004	1.77	0.19	0.03	5.00	0.007	0.03	0.10

2. Percentage number of packs whose prices decreased:

2007-08	0.22	0.20	0.42	0.02	0.09	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.07	0.12	0.03	0.01
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2008-09	0.01	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.09	10.85	1.32	2.41	0.29	0.02	0.03	6.67
2009-10	1.32	0.48	5.15	0.02	0.02	2.96	0.02	0.01	1.31	0.02	0.03	0.87
2010-11	0.06	0.01	1.45	0.14	0.03	1.15	0.01	0.02	0.88	0.15	0.01	0.62
2011-12	0.01	0.04	0.89	0.03	0.008	0.67	0.12	0.02	3.74	0.003	0.02	0.03
3. Percentage number of packs whose prices remain stable:												
2007-08	98.99	99.65	99.48	99.96	99.78	99.85	99.87	99.99	99.61	99.55	99.93	99.99
2008-09	99.93	99.85	99.62	99.92	99.80	73.26	96.95	95.15	99.61	99.91	99.95	84.59
2009-10	96.69	98.90	90.10	99.96	99.92	93.83	99.84	99.99	95.76	99.95	99.96	96.47
2010-11	99.85	99.97	96.57	99.65	99.88	96.57	99.91	99.95	96.66	99.55	99.98	97.49
2011-12	99.92	99.94	97.62	99.96	99.99	97.56	99.69	99.95	91.26	99.99	99.95	99.87

Statement-II

The figures for the last 5 years in respect of scheduled formulations

Formulation Prices

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.
Price Increased	78	190	184	223	257
Price Decreased	422	89	450	60	50
Price fixed for the first time*	1429	1256	1155	371	239
No change in prices	83	42	35	59	61
TOTAL:	2012*	1577*	1824*	713*	607*

*Includes Pro-rata prices fixed

New National Drug Policy

2373. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has cleared the New National Drug Policy recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the salient features of the policy;
- (d) whether Government has formulated a new mechanism to determine the price of essential drugs under the new pharma policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012) where it has also been proposed to regulate and control the prices of National List of Essential Medicines-2011.

(b) and (c) The salient features of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012) are as under:

- The regulation of prices of drugs is on the basis of essentiality of drugs as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011.
- The regulation of prices of drugs is on the basis of regulating the prices of formulations only.
- The regulation of prices of drugs is on the basis of fixing the ceiling price of formulations through Market Based Pricing (MBP).

(d) to (e) The methodology of fixing a ceiling price of medicines as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 is, by adopting the Simple Average Price of all the brands having market share (on the basis of Moving Annual Turnover) more than and equal to 1% of the total market turnover of that medicine, as per the formula below:-

(Sum of prices of all the brands of the medicine having market share more than and equal to 1% of the total market turnover of that medicine)/(Total number of manufacturers producing such brands of the medicine).

Cash subsidy to farmers on fertilizers

2374. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to provide subsidy to farmers on chemicals and fertilizers;

(b) the quantum of chemicals and fertilizers available in the market during the current financial year;

(c) the amount by which chemicals and fertilizers are costlier in the current year in comparison to the last financial year; and

(d) whether Government proposes to provide subsidy to farmers in cash to meet heavy expenses on account of 150 to 300 per cent rise in price of fertilizers during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Urea and 21 grades of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers are being provided to farmers at subsidized rates. However, no subsidy is provided on chemicals.

(b) The total availability of major chemicals and petro-chemicals and subsidised fertilizers during the current financial year upto September, 2012 and November, 2012 respectively is as under:-

1. Chemicals and petro-chemicals (Upto Sept., 12) 89.5800 LMT
2. Subsidised fertilizers (Upto Nov., 12) 390.0344 LMT

(c) The increase in Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) of subsidised fertilizers during the year 2012-13 as compared to previous year is given in Statement (See below).

(d) The Government has a plan to disburse subsidy directly to the farmers in order to increase transparency and to plug leakages in the subsidy disbursement process.

Statement

Highest MRP (in Rs./MT) of P&K fertilizers from 2009-10 to 2012-13 (upto Nov.)

Sl.No.	Fertilizer Grades	2011-12	2012-13	Increase
1	2	3	4	5
1.	DAP : 18-46-0-0	20297	26500	6203
2.	MAP : 11-52-0-0	20000	24200	4200
3.	TSP : 0-46-0-0	17000	17000	0
4.	MOP : 0-0-60-0	12040	23100	11060
5.	16-20-0-13	15300	18200	2900
6.	20-20-0-13	15800	24800	9000
7.	23-23-0-0	7445		

1	2	3	4	5
8.	10-26-26-0	16633	22225	5592
9.	12-32-16-0	16500	23300	6800
10.	14-28-14-0	17029		
11.	14-35-14-0	17600	23300	5700
12.	15-15-15-0	11500	15600	4100
13.	AS: 20.3-0-0-23	11300	11013	-287
14.	20-20-0-0	18700	24450	5750
15.	28-28-0-0	18700	24720	6020
16.	17-17-17-0	17710	20572	2862
17.	19-19-19-0	18093	19470	1377
18.	SSP (0-16-0-11)	6300	7500	1200
19.	16-16-16-0	15200	15200	0
20.	DAP lite (16-44-0-0)	19500	24938	5438
21.	15-15-15-09	15750	15000	-750
22.	24-24-0-0	14297	16223	1926
23.	13-33-0-6	17400	17400	0
24.	MAP lite (11-44-0-0)	18000	21500	3500
25.	DAP lite-II (14-46-0-0)	18690	24800	6110
26.	Urea	5310	5360	50

Grades mentioned at Sl.No. 7, 23, 24 and 25 are now not in the NBS Scheme.

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

MRP is exclusive of Local taxes.

Blank space means not under subsidy scheme or not available in market.

Requirement of natural gas for fertilizer industry

2375. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

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

(a) the quantity of natural gas required by the fertilizer industry to run the existing units, make available for future expansion of the existing units, convert the naphtha/FO/LSHS based units and to revive the closed units in the country;

(b) the estimated year-wise and plant-wise requirement of gas by the fertilizer industry during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15;

(c) the expected year of connectivity of gas pipelines to FO/LSHS/naphtha based and closed fertilizer units; and

(d) how the requirement of natural gas by the fertilizer industry in the said years be met and from which sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The quantity of natural gas required by fertilizer industry to run the existing units, make available for expansion of the existing units, convert the Naphtha/FO/LSHS based units and reviving the closed units in the country is 46.9 MMSCMD, 19.2 MMSCMD (approximately 8 units), 9.93 MMSCMD and 16.8 MMSCMD respectively.

(b) The additional estimated year-wise and plant-wise requirement of gas for conversion of Naphtha/FO/LSHS based units and one Greenfield project during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 is given in Statement (*See* below). The requirement for gas for expansion and revival project would come during the year 2016-17.

(c) There are four FO/LSHS plants, namely Nangal, Bhatinda and Panipat units of National Fertilizers Limited and Bharuch unit of Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. These four plants are already connected to gas pipelines. There are five Naphtha based units, namely Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, SPIC, Tuticorin, Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, New Mangalore, Zuari Industries Limited, Goa, Kanpur Fertilizers and Cement Limited, Kanpur (presently closed). Gas pipeline to all these plants is expected to be laid by end of year 2013-14.

(d) Each company enters into a Gas Sale Purchase Agreement with Gas Supplying Company, who in turn sources the gas either from domestic source or through imports.

Statement

A. Year-wise/plant-wise additional requirement of Natural Gas

Sl. No.	Name of the unit	Additional Requirement (mmscmd)		
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
A Naphtha based				
1	ZIL-Goa	1.28	1.28	1.28
2.	MCFL-Mangalore	0.00	1.00	1.00
3	SPIC-Tuticorin	0.00	1.66	1.66
4.	MFL-Manali	0.00	1.54	1.54
5.	DIL-Kanpur	0.00	1.70	1.70
I	Sub-Total of Naphtha based plants	1.28	6.18	6.18
B Fuel-Oil based				
6.	NFL-Panipat	0.90	0.90	0.90
7.	NFL-Nangal	1.00	1.00	1.00
8.	NFL-Bathinda	0.90	0.90	0.90
9.	GNVFC-Bharuch	0.95	0.95	0.95
II	Sub-Total of Fuel-Oil based	3.75	3.75	3.75
C Green Fields Projects				
10.	MATIX Fert. and Chem., Burdwan	2.4	2.4	2.4
III	Subtotal of Greenfield Projects	2.4	2.4	2.4
GRAND TOTAL:		7.43	12.33	12.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2.	CFCL-Gadepan-I	8.646	9.901	31.0	2.120	0.638	0.180	0.786	0.000	0.000	0.522	0.000	2.126	2.126	0.200
	CFCL-Gadepan-II	8.646	10.472	31.0	2.040	0.000	0.000	1.237	1.154	0.000	-0.522	0.097	1.966	2.063	-do-
3.	IFFCO-Aonla-I	9.999	10.450	30.4	4.480	1.350	0.399	0.444	1.735	0.000	0.013	0.000	4.305	4.305	0.000
	IFFCO-Aonla-II	9.999	10.200	30.0	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
4.	IFFCO-Phulpur-I	6.980	7.200	30.8	3.700	0.000	0.000	3.064	0.248	0.000	0.000	0.001	3.312	3.313	0.388
	IFFCO-Phulpur-II	9.999	10.300	31.0	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
5.	KSFL-Shahjahanpur	9.90	9.800	13.4	2.253	0.570	0.159	0.076	0.979	0.144	0.051	0.000	1.979	1.979	0.000
6.	TCL-Babrara	8.646	10.812	31.0	2.104	0.660	0.155	0.408	0.831	0.085	0.000	0.029	2.140	2.169	0.000
7.	IGFL-Jagdishpur	8.646	11.579	31.0	2.230	0.622	0.155	0.763	0.250	0.000	0.017	0.382	1.806	2.188	0.420
8.	SFC-Kota	3.795	4.000	25.4	0.620	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.473	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.473	0.474	0.147
	B. Non-HBJ Pipeline														
9.	BVFC-Namrup-II	1.20	1.20	2.3	0.98	0.197	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.197	0.197	0.783
	BVFC-Namrup-III	2.70	2.70	28.6	1.04	1.010	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.010	1.010	0.030

10. Kribhco-Hazira	21.945	22.135	30.9	4.950	1.707	0.157	0.020	1.340	0.450	0.057	0.007	3.731	3.738	0.500
11. NFCL-Kakinada-I	5.973	7.22000	26.0	3.2	0.845	0.243	0.000	1.727	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.815	2.815	0.0000
NFCL-Kakinada-II	5.973	8.43000	31.0	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
12. RCF-Trombay-V	3.300	3.300	31.0	2.050	0.928	0.043	0.000	0.947	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.918	1.918	0.132
13. RCF-Thai	17.070	19.500	31.0	4.750	1.643	0.117	0.000	2.107	0.468	0.000	0.319	4.335	4.654	0.000
14. IFFCO-Kalol	5.445	5.750	31.0	1.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.276	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.276	1.276	0.024
15. GSFC-Vadodara	3.7059	3.6900	31.0	2.486	0.670	0.046	0.045	0.722	0.202	0.000	0.000	1.685	1.685	NIL
16. GNFC-Bharuch	6.369	7.016	31.0	2.450	0.244	0.000	0.324	0.342	0.000	0.101	0.000	1.011	1.011	0.000
<hr/>														
TOTAL OF GAS BASED PLANTS:		196.155		46.993	13.004	1.973	7.810	14.728	2.075	0.239	0.867	40.289	41.156	2.655

Note: For few plants, the supply is lower than requirements. However, shortfall has not been shown. In such cases there is usually lower supply taken due to constraint in the plant operation, hence less consumption. IFFCO-Phulpur faced low supply pressure in GAIL pipeline, hence shown the shortfall, made up by use of naphtha.

**Handing over of infrastructure of Durgapur Unit of
HFCL to ADDA**

2376. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

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

(a) whether there are more than 1000 quarters in the township of Durgapur Unit of HFCL and Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) has requested the company/promoter and Government to hand over the township along with its infrastructure for their gainful utilization;

(b) whether in absence of confirmation from ADDA regarding acceptance of re-evaluation of the assets done by PDIL, the issue remains unresolved;

(c) if so, when the re-evaluation report was sent to ADDA for acceptance;

(d) whether HFCL has been directed by Government to take up the matter with State Government Authority/ADDA to resolve the issue of township; and

(e) if so, status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) has leased out Durgapur township land to Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL). After the decision of Government of India to close Durgapur unit of HFCL, ADDA wanted to get back the township land. HFCL agreed, 'in-principal', to handover the land of township to ADDA, subject to payment of value of the residential and public buildings as per the valuation done by M/s. Project and Development India Limited (PDIL). The valuation report was sent to ADDA in the year 2004. The value of quarters, other buildings and assets as determined by PDIL was Rs. 2062.95 lakhs, but ADDA indicated the value of these assets as Rs. 1335.67 lakhs only. No agreement on the valuation of quarters and other buildings and assets has been reached so far.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The situation has changed as Government of India has decided to revive Durgapur unit of HFCL. The HFCL is in touch with ADDA to discuss all issues arising in view of changed scenario.

Adulterated fertilizers

2377. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether adulterated fertilizers are available in plenty in the open market for sale;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to prevent the sale of such fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) State Governments are empowered under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, to draw the samples to verify the adulteration of fertilizer. Statements showing the actions taken by the State Governments with respect to the non-standard fertilizers, for the last 3 years are given in Statement (*See below*).

- (e) Government has taken following steps in this regard:
 - (i) Penal provisions under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 which include both fine and imprisonment from 3 months to 7 years are in force.
 - (ii) The quality of the fertilizer manufactured/imported and marketed in India is covered under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985. This Order prohibits the manufacture/import for sale, sell, offer for sale, stock or exhibit for sale or distribute any fertilizer which is not of prescribed standard.
 - (iii) The State Governments have been empowered to take follow up action against sale of non-standard fertilizers. All the offences committed under FCO are punishable by three months to seven years imprisonment and fine.
 - (iv) State Governments have been advised from 'time to time' by the Department of Fertilizers to keep a strict vigil so that adulteration of fertilizers should not take place.
 - (v) Department of Fertilizers have also, from time to time, sensitised the concerned State Governments for gearing up the enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction for taking all preventive/punitive steps for ensuring that no adulteration of subsidized fertilizer should take place.

Statement**A. State-wise details of follow up action on non-standard samples during 2009-10**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of		Administrative Action		Prosecution Launched	Cases Pending for action	Charging higher Price	Seizure of Stock/ Stop sale	Disposal allowed under cl.23	Conviction awarded	Cases pending in Court	No. of cases of other violation of FCO
		Non Std. samples	Std. samples	Taken	Other action								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Assam	9	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Bihar	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Jharkhand	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Odisha	124	2	3	60	59	0	3	12	0	0	0	0
5.	West Bengal	270	3	0	267	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
6.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	49	0	0	34	8	7	0	3	0	0	339	1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	659	30	128	493	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

B. State-wise details of follow up action on non-standard samples during 2010-11

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of		Administrative Action		Prosecution Launched	Cases Pending for action	Charging higher Price	Seizure of Stock/ Stop sale	Disposal allowed under cl.23	Conviction awarded	Cases pending in Court	No. of cases of other violation of FCO
		Non Std. samples	of	Taken	Other								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Assam	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
2.	Bihar	59											
3.	Jharkhand	4	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Odisha	65	12	11	7	5	30	0	74	2	0	0	0
5.	West Bengal	262	0	1	261	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	30	5	0	25	9	21	0	7	0	0	329	1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	596	156	355	84	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Providing train level platforms

‡2378. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of railway platforms under East Central Railway which are upto train level and by when train level platforms would be provided on those railway stations which are devoid of such platforms, for facilitating the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): 102 nos. of High level platforms have been provided at 'A1', 'A' and 'C' category stations, as per norms on East Central Railway. Improvement/augmentation to existing facilities including raising of height of platforms from Rail Level and Medium Level to High Level at railway stations is a continuous process and works in this regard are undertaken as and when warranted by growth in passenger traffic subject to availability of funds.

Demand for domestically manufactured electronic goods

2379. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the demand for domestically manufactured electronic goods is on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the said demand is not being met due to inadequate production;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to solve this problem; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a), (b) and (c) The demand for electronic goods in the country was estimated to be USD 82 billion in 2011-12 and is projected to reach USD 400 billion by 2020. However, the domestic production of electronic goods in the country was of the order of USD 29 billion in 2011-12.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) The steps taken by the Government to promote electronic hardware manufacturing in the country are details are given in Statement.

Statement

*Steps taken by the Government to promote Electronic Hardware
Manufacturing in the Country*

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the electronic hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
2. The National Policy on Electronics 2012 has been notified with a vision to create a globally competitive ESDM industry to meet the country's needs and serve the international market.
3. Policy to provide preference to domestically manufactured electronic products in procurement due to security considerations and in Government procurement has been notified.
4. Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme to provide world-class infrastructure for attracting investments in the ESDM Sector has been notified by the Government.
5. A Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme to offset disability and attract investments in Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Industries has been notified.
6. Scheme for mandatory registration of identified Electronic Products for meeting specified safety standards has been notified.
7. 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.
8. Government has constituted an Empowered Committee (EC) for identifying technology and investors for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication facilities in the country.
9. Under the Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme, approved units are allowed duty free import of goods required by them for carrying

on export activities, CST reimbursement and excise duty exemption on procurement of indigenously available goods, as per the Foreign Trade Policy.

10. Under the Focus Product Scheme of the Foreign Trade Policy, exports of listed electronic products are entitled to duty credit scrip equivalent to 2% / 5% of FOB value of exports.
11. For the promotion of Research and Development (R&D), a weighted deduction of 200% of expenditure incurred on in-house R&D in case of a company engaged in the business of electronic equipment, computers and telecommunication equipment is available under the Income Tax Act.
12. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) provides funding under several schemes for promotion of R&D, including support for International Patents in Electronics and IT (SIP-EIT); Multiplier Grants Scheme and Scheme for Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) in the area of Electronics, ICT and Management.

**Uninterrupted and trouble free services by telecom
service providers**

2380. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the telecom service providers have failed to provide uninterrupted and trouble free services to its subscribers;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government owned BSNL/MTNL also are not providing services to mobile subscribers as per their satisfaction norms; and
- (d) if so, the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act 1997, TRAI ,monitor quality of service

provided by telecom service providers, against the notified quality of service standards, through quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs). As per the performance monitoring reports for Basic Services (Wireline) submitted by the service providers for the quarter ending 30th September, 2012, it is seen that the service providers have met the Quality of Service benchmarks for most of the parameters, except for the parameters fault incidences and fault repair, which is not met by BSNL and MTNL in some of the service areas. In respect of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, as per PMR for the quarter ending September, 2012, it is seen that the service providers including BSNL and MTNL, have met the Quality of Service benchmarks for most of the parameters.

Wherever, deficiencies in meeting the quality of service bench marks are observed, the matter is taken up with the service providers for taking time bound action to address the deficiencies. TRAI closely monitors the performance of operators to ensure that these parameters are complied by service providers.

Guidelines for bulk SMSs

2381. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued new guidelines with regard to bulk SMSs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the cell phone companies are not adhering to the guidelines; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against those cell phone companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) Sir, the current regulatory framework for controlling unsolicited commercial communications/unwanted SMSs has been laid down by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through "The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2010" dated 1st December, 2010. All the provisions of the said regulation have come

into force from 27th September, 2011. TRAI has also issued several amendments to these regulations to strengthen the regulatory framework.

TRAI has recently issued the 10th Amendment Regulations on 5th November, 2012, to prevent unregistered telemarketers from misusing bulk SMS packages or tariff plans, which provide for sending large number of SMSs at nominal charges. A price restraint has been placed on sending of more than one hundred SMS per day per SIM at a concessional rate and a minimum charge of 50 paise has been mandated for SMS sent beyond 100 SMS in a day.

The main regulation has penal provisions against telemarketers for violations of the provisions of the regulations. In case of violation by a registered telemarketer, amounts will be deducted from the security deposit of such telemarketer by the Access Provider as per the following table and such amount will be deposited with TRAI:

**Deduction from Security Deposit of Telemarketer in case
of Violation**

Sl. No.	No. of Violation by Telemarketer access provider wise	Deduction from security deposit	Security Deposit	Additional Security Deposit
	0 violation	Nil	1,00,000	Nil
1.	1st Violation	Rs. 25,000	75,000	2,00,000
2.	2nd Violation	Rs. 75,000	2,00,000	Nil
3.	3rd Violation	Rs. 80,000	1,20,000	4,00,000
4.	4th Violation	Rs. 1,20,000	4,00,000	Nil
5.	5th Violation	Rs. 1,50,000	2,50,000	Nil
6.	6th Violation	Rs. 2,50,000	Nil	Nil

The regulations also provide for disconnection of telecom resources of unregistered telemarketers on complaints received on second instance, after issuing a notice on first violation.

The main regulation also has penal provisions against Access Providers for violations of the provisions of the regulations. In case the Access Provider violates any of the provisions of these regulations, TRAI may constitute an inquiry by an inquiry committee comprising of officers of TRAI and if on such inquiry the Access Provider is found to be in contravention of the provisions of regulations, TRAI may order the Access Providers to pay the following amount by way of financial disincentive.

Financial Disincentive on Access Providers

Sl. No.	Number of Violation by access provider	Financial Disincentive
1.	1st Violation	Rs 1,00,000
2.	2nd Violation	Rs 5,00,000
3.	3rd and subsequent Violation	Rs 10,00,000

Based on above provisions of the TRAI Regulations, the following action has been taken against the violators as on 30-11-2012 :-

- 1,53,057 notices have been sent to subscribers who have not registered as a telemarketer but were doing the telemarketing activities.
- 1,48,149 telephone numbers (telecom resources) of such subscribers have been disconnected.
- Rs 1,08,94,558 has been deducted from the security deposit of registered telemarketers in 195 cases.
- 13 telemarketers have been Black-listed.
- Financial disincentive imposed on one of the Access Service Providers.

Expansion and improvement of telecommunication services

2382. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the physical and financial targets set and achieved for expansion and improvement of telecommunication services in the country including North East during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government regarding areas where the set targets could not be achieved during the said period; and

(c) the future strategy of Government for the expansion and improvement of telecommunication services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) The details, of the physical and financial targets set and achieved for expansion and improvement of telecommunication services in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan as per Eleventh Plan document of the Planning Commission, are as given below:

Targets	Achievements
1	2
To reach a telecom subscriber base of 600 million.	Target has been achieved. Total number of telephone connections (upto March 2012): 951.34 million (wireless: 919.17 million and wireline: 32.17 million). State-wise, including North East and year-wise achievement is given in Statement (<i>See</i> below).
To provide 100 million rural telephone connections by 2010 and reach 200 million connections by 2012, that is, achieve a rural tele-density of 25 per cent	Target has been achieved. A total of 200.81 million rural connections were provided by 2010. The number of rural connections and rural teledensity at the close March 2012 was 330.82 million and 39.26 per cent respectively.
To provide a telephone connection on	Target achieved

1

2

demand across the country at an affordable price as envisaged in the Broadband Policy, 2004.

To provide a broadband connection on demand across the country by 2012.

To facilitate introduction of mobile TV

To make India a hub for telecom equipment manufacturing by facilitating establishment of Telecom — specific Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Establishing Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoEs) in premier educational institutions and other reputed organizations in the country in the PPP mode.

Programme has been initiated. Total number of broadband connections up to March 2012 was 13.81 million

Introduced on an experimental basis in Mumbai and Delhi

During Eleventh Plan the capital investment in the telecom sector is around Rs. 830,000 crore. Further Nokia, Motorola, Flextronics and Foxconn have set up SEZ units in the country for manufacturing mobile handsets.

Under Telecom Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP), 7 TCoEs have been set up in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in various areas of the telecom sector.

(c) With a vision to provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development, National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12) has been approved by the Government. The NTP-12 contains the objectives and strategies to achieve this vision.

Statement
Year-wise and Service area-wise rural, urban and total telephones (2007-11)

Sl. No.	Name of Service area	As on 31.03.2007			As on 31.03.2008			As on 31.03.2009		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4042500	11973572	16016072	6232063	17056445	23288508	9168503	23783900	32952403
2.	Assam	589916	2244370	2834286	1121598	3221811	4343409	2387025	3774963	6161988
3.	Bihar (incl. Jharkhand)	1941922	5838699	7780621	3067250	9867239	12934489	8145514	14217522	22363036
4.	Gujarat	3581450	10028107	13609557	5676493	13568463	19244956	8824235	17400289	26224524
5.	Haryana	1743264	3752539	5495803	2818430	4537293	7355723	4657315	6120251	10777566
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1303240	562705	1865945	1816752	899861	2716613	2407116	1293426	3700542
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	417978	1368797	1786775	653969	1807428	2461397	1405573	2338207	3743780
8.	Karnataka	2723324	11547204	14270528	4233923	15653416	19887339	5303369	21023170	26326539
9.	Kerala	5272534	6007960	11280494	6596172	8774742	15370914	8999684	10976819-	19976503
10.	Madhya Pradesh (incl. Chhattisgarh)	1790725	7223780	9014505	2893828	12090693	14984521	5952080	16322808	22274688
11.	Maharashtra (excl. Mumbai)	4266438	12444035	16710473	7555170	17166797	24721967	13122563	21493048	34615611

12. North East	370859	1194106	1564965	528250	1932556	2460806	953973	2731248	3685221
13. Odisha	1386429	2350757	3737186	2372557	3580756	5953313	4201192	5133558	9334750
14. Punjab	2720483	7500876	10221359	4244993	9154840	13399833	5630687	10899559	16530246
15. Rajasthan	3269370	6569035	9838405	6277476	9066299	15343775	8372417	16050138	24422555
16. Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	3304680	15939246	19243926	5255004	23967952	15343775	8341530	32330490	40672020
17. Uttar Pradesh-East	3056124	8732818	11788942	6248382	11429308	17677690	10027632	18646938	28674570
18. Uttar Pradesh-West (incl. Uttarakhand)	1795346	7450270	9245616	3482000	10694965	14186965	5952127	14827568	20779695
19. West Bengal (excl. Kolkata and incl. A&N and Sikkim)	2960814	3366268	6327082	4684791	5901543	10586334	8617793	8093819	16711612
20. Kolkata	562118	5912215	6474333	730448	8600104	9330552	1042267	12138680	13180947
21. Delhi	0	14356500	14356500	0	18703590	18703590	38	24501344	24501382
22. Mumbai	0	12403398	12403398	126	16316653	16316779	126	22114677	22114803
ALL-INDIA	47099514	158767257	205866771	76499675	223992754	300492429	123512759	306212422	429725181

Year-wise and Service area-wise rural, urban and total telephones (2007-11) – Contd.

Sl. No.	Name of Service area	As on 31.03.2010			As on 31.03.2011			As on 31.03.2012		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14783809	33302739	48086548	20657335	42387670	63045005	24234798	44953653	69188451
2.	Assam	4759338	4305054	9064392	6226799	5701595	11928394	7446276	6991653	14437929
3.	Bihar (incl. Jharkhand)	16150923	22205671	38356594	24414828	30322638	54737466	28945399	35145945	64091344
4.	Gujarat	11838464	22592478	34430942	16626792	32278047	48904839	19354263	35798520	55152783
5.	Haryana	6590174	8367041	14957215	8672189	12367428	21039617	9530632	13619554	23150186
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3150837	2192382	5343219	4246637	3306771	7553408	4678021	3601611	8279632
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	2288064	3491293	5779357	2575438	3395181	5970619	2672137	3839010	6511147
8.	Karnataka	8942729	30965624	39908353	13106714	39085531	52192245	16537821	41867248	58405069
9.	Kerala	11432163	16222816	27654979	13741854	20919943	34661797	16103832	21102076	37205908
10.	Madhya Pradesh (incl. Chhattisgarh)	10793752	22757276	33551028	16261785	30947016	47208801	18611940	34149159	52761099
11.	Maharashtra (excl. Mumbai)	19657736	26867954	46525690	28251347	36318090	64569437	32104336	41011076	73115412
12.	North East	2517520	3118702	5636222	3240243	4213729	7453972	3774961	4995729	8770690
13.	Odisha	6947818	8937321	15885139	9643190	13343282	22986472	11990324	15091434	27081758
14.	Punjab	7261943	14438956	21700899	9813990	20526339	30340329	11167292	22228745	33396037

15. Rajasthan	15988373	19277720	35266093	20047697	24339883	44387580	23002648	27321713	50324361
16. Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	12149092	45106636	57255728	15225978	57864453	73090431	17214398	63655455	80869853
17. Uttar Pradesh-East	19124891	26405510	45530401	28102215	37044756	65146971	34245341	42101240	76346581
18. Uttar Pradesh-West (incl. Uttarakhnad)	10329789	21643143	31972932	15490949	31131217	46622166	19025063	35409134	54434197
19. West Bengal (excl. Kolkata and incl. A&N and Sikkim)	14999712	11071493	26071205	23929559	16489331	40418890	27511904	19441618	46953522
20. Kolkata	721672	17143644	17865316	917022	23697521	24614543	901564	25271422	26172986
21. Delhi	344276	30666149	31010425	1096043	40564379	41660422	1776135	43626089	45402224
22. Mumbai	0	29427409	29427409	0	37791762	37791762	0	39294837	39294837
ALL-INDIA	200773076	420507011	621280086	282288604	564036562	846325166	330829085	620516921	951346006

Tele-density (in %)

	At the end of March	
	2007	2012
Tele-density (in %)		
Rural	5.89	39.26
Urban	48.10	169.17
Overall	18.22	78.66

Stricter radiation norms for mobile towers

2383. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced stricter radiation norms for mobile towers to reduce emission to one-tenth of the present level and failure would attract penalties of ₹ 5 lakh per tower;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has given any deadline to cell phone makers to comply with the new norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) In respect of Base Transmitting Station (BTS), norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has been reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with effect from 01.09.2012.

Self-certification regarding compliance of radiation norms is submitted by the Telecom Service Providers to respective Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications (DoT). All new BTS sites start radiating only after self-certificate is submitted to relevant TERM Cells. The TERM Cell tests upto 10% of BTS sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also be tested by TERM Cell.

If a site fails to meet the prescribed radiation criterion, there is a provision of levying a penalty of Rs. 5 lakh per BTS per service provider.

(c) and (d) In respect of Mobile Handsets, the following directions have been issued by DoT regarding Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) values:

(i) SAR level for mobile handsets is limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg, average over a mass of 1 gram of human tissue.

(ii) All the new design of mobile handsets shall comply with the SAR value

of 1.6 Watt/Kg averaged over a mass of 1 gram tissue with effect from 1st September, 2012.

- (iii) However, the mobile handsets with existing designs, which are compliant with 2.0 Watt/Kg averaged over a mass of 10 gram tissue, may continue to co-exist upto 31st August, 2013.
- (iv) From 1st September, 2013, only the mobile handsets with revised SAR value of 1.6 Watt/Kg are permitted to be manufactured or imported in India for domestic market.

Relief for BSNL and MTNL from onetime fee for spectrum

2384. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL have written to the Ministry for providing them relief from the one-time fee on telecom operators holding spectrum beyond the cap fixed by the regulator; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the stand of Government on the relief to MTNL and BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has received requests from BSNL and MTNL for providing them relief from one time fee on spectrum beyond the cap fixed by the Government. The matter was placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on "vacation of spectrum and auction of 3G spectrum and to look into the grant of license and allocation of spectrum in 2G band in 22 service areas". The EGoM, in its meeting held on 18.10.2012, has directed that the proposal for financial support to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in this matter be placed before the Cabinet.

Mobile services for remote rural areas of Uttarakhand

†2385. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government would provide the people of remote rural areas of Uttarakhand with good quality mobile services;

(b) if so, whether Government would give licences to the private players so as to put Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in competition; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Some complaints have been received from the mobile subscribers of BSNL in rural/remote areas of Uttarakhand regarding Quality of Service (QoS). However, BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) is in general, meeting the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India). In addition to BSNL, 10 private telecom operators are also providing telecom services in Uttarakhand.

Revenue of post offices

2386. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue of post offices, across the country, is decreasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to mitigate this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Revenue from Post Offices across the country for the last three years are as under:

	(Rs. in crores)			
Revenue Heads	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (Upto Oct., 2012)
Postal Operations/ SBCC	6266.70	6962.33	7910.52	5147.03*

*SBCC figures have been calculated notionally.

- (c) Does not arise in view of above.

Expansion of telecom services in rural areas

2387. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented TRAI's recommendations of October, 2005 for expansion of telecom services in rural areas;

(b) details of villages yet to be provided with telephone connectivity separately with landline or mobile and reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) time-frame fixed to connect the unconnected villages and action plan prepared for the same;

(d) whether private telecom operators are delaying launch of their mobile services under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and are not installing mobile towers in rural areas;

(e) if so, details thereof, operator-wise; and

(f) action including penal action taken against erring operators, operator-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken on the decisions of Department of Telecommunications on the Recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 'Growth of Telecom Services in Rural India-The Way Forward' - October 3, 2005.

(b) and (c) The details of villages yet to be connected with Basic Telephone facility (Land Line + Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are given in Statement-I (*See* below). About 57,271 villages in the country are yet to be connected with mobile services, as per the survey carried out by TERM Cells of Department of Telecommunication and details of such villages are given in Statement-II (*See* below). BSNL has planned to provide connectivity to technically feasible uncovered villages with basic telephone facility by 31.03.2013.

(d) and (e) There have been delays by Private Operators as well as by BSNL in launching their mobile services under Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of USOF.

Operator-wise target and achievement in respect of the Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of USOF is given in Statement-III (*See* below).

(f) Financial penalties have been imposed on companies for delay in rollout of services as per the provisions of the agreement(s) signed with concerned company.

Apart from above, M/s Reliance Communications Limited and M/s Reliance Telecom Limited switched off their mobile Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) at 1191 and 228 USOF supported sites respectively causing suspension/interruption of mobile services in concerned areas during Nov., 2010 to Feb., 2011. A financial penalty of Rs.4,63,22,000 has been imposed and recovered from M/s Reliance Communications Limited and Rs. 1,07,67,500 from M/s Reliance Telecom Limited for the period of interruption in mobile services caused due to shutting down of services by these companies. This is in accordance to provisions of the agreement signed by USOF with these companies.

Statement-I

Details of Villages yet to be connected with Basic Telephone facility

[Land Line+Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)] by BSNL

Name of the State/Circle	No. of Villages yet to be connected with Basic Telephone facility (Land line+WLL)
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	149
Andhra Pradesh	2232
Assam	622
Bihar	100
Jharkhand	547
Gujarat	1012
Haryana	86
Himachal Pradesh	71

1	2
Jammu and Kashmir	23
Karnataka	32
Kerala	0
Madhya Pradesh	131
Chhattisgarh	1552
Maharashtra	1669
North East-I	676
North East-II	278
Odisha	1860
Punjab	236
Rajasthan	909
Tamil Nadu	0
Uttar Pradesh (EAST)	16
Uttar Pradesh (WEST)	152
Uttarakhand	245
West Bengal	840
TOTAL:	13,438

Statement-II

State-wise summary of villages uncovered with mobile services as per the survey carried out by TERM Cells of DoT

Sl. No	Name of the State/Service Area	No. of villages uncovered with mobile services
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4660

1	2	3
2.	Assam	2976
3.	Bihar	271
4..	Jharkhand	5308
5.	Delhi	1
6.	Gujarat	1938
7.	Haryana	32
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1997
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	636
10.	Karnataka	1197
11.	Kerala	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1771
13.	Chhattisgarh	5460
14.	Maharashtra	5394
15.	North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura)	4021
16.	North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur)	3873
17.	Odisha	6734
18.	Punjab	100
19.	Rajasthan	3153
20.	Tamil Nadu	197
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5013
22.	Uttarakhand	1419
23.	West Bengal	899

1	2	3
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	221
GRAND TOTAL:		57,271

Statement-III*Operator-wise detail of Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of USOF*

- Details in respect of installation of mobile towers

Sl. No.	Name of Infrastructure Provider	Number of Mobile Towers to be set up	Number of Towers installed till Oct' 2012	Pending Towers
1.	RCIL	407	404	3
2.	OTIL	88	88	0
3.	GTL	410	410	0
4.	KEC	381	375	6
5.	BSNL	5758	5724	34
6.	VODAFONE	309	309	0
TOTAL:		7353	7310	43

Legends:

BSNL: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

GTL: GTL Infrastructure Ltd.

KEC: KEC Internation Ltd.

RCIL: Reliance Communications Infrastructure Ltd.

VECL: Vodafone Essar Cellular Ltd.

VESL: Vodafone Essar South Ltd.

Viomnetworks: Viomnetworks Pvt. Ltd.

- Details in respect of installation of BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations)

Sl. No.	Name of Universal Service Provider	Number of BTSs to be set up	Number of BTs installed till Oct' 2012	Pending BTSs
1.	BSNL	5311	5113	198
2.	Aircel/Dishnet	1586	914	672
3.	Vodafone	2943	2676	267
4.	Bharti Airtel	1174	1129	45
5.	Idea	2630	2544	86
6.	RCL	4774	1633	3141
7.	RTL	3641	1886	1755
TOTAL:		22,059	15,895	6,164

RCL-Reliance Communications Ltd.

RTL-Reliance Telecom Limited

Semiconductor facilities in the country

2388. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- the present status of semiconductor industry in the country;
- the present market for semiconductors in the country and the growth expected in the next ten years;
- how much of this demand is being met through imports;
- whether Government has taken any steps to set up new semiconductor facilities in the country and the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a), (b) and (c) The

semiconductor industry in India comprises of two main parts — consumption of integrated circuits (or 'IC's) by the electronics products industry in India, and the design of these integrated circuits as outsourced design services work done by Indian IT companies for foreign clients.

Most of the requirements of semiconductors are presently met through imports, as there is negligible (less than 1%) production of these chips in India.

However, India has demonstrated its strength in the semiconductor design industry. The country is home to all the top 25 global semiconductor companies; most of whom are engaged in highly skilled design and development services out of India development centres.

As per the report of India Semiconductor Association (ISA), jointly with M/s Frost and Sullivan, titled "Report on Semiconductor Market" released in 2011, the total market for semiconductors in India during the year 2010 stood at USD 6.55 Billion. Mobile Devices, Telecommunication and Information Technology/Office Automation contributed 82% to total Semiconductor revenues in 2010. The demand of Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) is projected to reach USD 400 billion by 2020. On an average, the semiconductors market is expected to constitute 10% -15% of the total ESDM market of USD 400 Billion. Thus, the total semiconductor market is expected to grow to a level of USD 40 - 60 billion by the year 2020.

(d) Yes, Sir. As part of the efforts to stimulate Electronics System Design and Manufacturing ecosystem in the country, the Government has, *inter-alia*, decided to set up semiconductor wafer fabs in the country. An Empowered Committee has been set up to identify the technology and investors for setting up the semiconductor wafer fabs and recommending nature and quantum of incentives to be provided by the Government. Global responses were sought in the form of an Expression of Interest (EOI) from companies to set up fabs. The Government is at an advanced stage in evaluating the responses received and the procedure is expected to be completed shortly.

(e) Does not arise.

Auction of spectrum

‡2389. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that 122 licences had been cancelled by the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details of spectrum being used under these licences;
- (c) whether Government has auctioned all this spectrum; and
- (d) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the amount generated through this auction and the spectrum still to be auctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Sir, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 423 of 2010 and Writ Petition (Civil) No. 10 of 2011 Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 02.02.2012 has directed that 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.

(b) to (d) A total of 473.6 MHz (413.6 MHz in 1800 MHz band and 60 MHz in 800 MHz band) spectrum was allotted in respect of the 122 fresh UAS licenses granted after 10.01.2008. A total quantum of 95 MHz of spectrum (CDMA) was put to auction in the 800 MHz band and a total quantum of 295 MHz (GSM) was put to auction in the 1800 MHz band, making a total of 390 MHz. The total bid value realized through 1800 MHz band spectrum auction is Rs.9407.64 crores.

GSM and CDMA based mobile connectivity of BSNL in Bihar

2390. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the allocated capacity of GSM and CDMA subscribers by BSNL for Bihar Telecom circle;
- (b) the criteria chosen for allocation and whether any assessment/study was made before allocating;
- (c) the details of purchase orders for mobile equipments like Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) for GSM services placed by BSNL, in the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) how many of these orders have been executed so far;

(e) whether non-availability of telecom equipments is hampering the growth of this sector in Bihar; and

(f) the steps taken by BSNL to speed up process of procurement so that BSNL does not lag behind other private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has an equipped Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) capacity of 22,65,684 lines and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) capacity of 2,36,250 lines in Bihar Telecom Circle. For future expansion, BSNL has allocated 7,50,000 lines of GSM and nil for WLL in Bihar Telecom Circle. BSNL makes the assessment for allocation after analysis of mobile traffic, available capacity and the criteria for running congestion in existing network and for providing coverage to some additional areas.

(c) and (d) Details of last two purchase orders placed by Bihar Telecom Circle of BSNL for GSM equipments are as follows:

2007-08

- 4 Purchase Orders Placed for 1022 BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations)
- 3 Purchase Orders placed for 391 BTSs.

2008-09

- 4 Purchase Orders placed for 799 BTSs (3G)

All Purchase Orders have been fully executed, except 4 Purchase Orders for 799 BTSs (3G).

(e) and (f) During the last few years, the growth of mobile services of BSNL in Bihar Telecom Circle has witnessed downward trend due many reasons including the delay in procurement of mobile equipment. However, during 2012-13, tender for procurement of mobile equipment in North/South and East Zone has been finalized by BSNL

GSM based mobile connectivity of BSNL in Bihar

2391. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present geographical area and population that is catered to by GSM based mobile connectivity of BSNL in Bihar;

(b) the steps taken to provide adequate telecom equipments by BSNL in Bihar Telecom circle to meet/cover all GSM subscribers;

(c) the requirement of 2G and 3G Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) for Bihar Telecom circle as have been assessed and out of it how many are in position at present; and

(d) the steps being taken to augment the infrastructure and provide required equipment to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) covers 68% of geographical area and about 65 million of population in Bihar through Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based mobile connectivity.

(b) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) augments its capacity for mobile network based on techno-commercial considerations. Presently, Bihar Telecom Circle of BSNL has GSM based equipped capacity of 22,65,684 lines. However, to augment the mobile infrastructure, BSNL has finalised tender for procurement of mobile equipment in North/South and East Zone during the 2012-13.

Broadband for villages

2392. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set apart ₹ 20,000 crores for reaching out broadband to around 2.5 lakh villages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of villages that would be covered in Odisha and other such underdeveloped States; and

(d) the details of other such facilities that are proposed to be created in the farflung rural areas to help the villagers remain updated about latest developments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Government has approved a scheme for creation of a National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) on 25.10.2011 for providing Broadband connectivity to 2,47,864 Village Panchayats in the country. The project will be funded by USOF and initial estimated cost of project is Rs.20,000 Crore. The project is proposed to be completed in 2 years.

NOFN project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *i.e.* Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), a company incorporated under Indian Companies Act 1956 fully owned by Central Government, with equity participation from Government, BSNL, Railtel and Powergrid. The Company has been incorporated on 25.2.2012 for this purpose

The optical fibre has predominantly reached State capitals, districts and blocks, at present. National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project is planned to connect 2,47,864 Gram Panchayats in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibres of PSUs *viz.* BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid and laying incremental fibre wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks.

(c) State-wise details of Gram Panchayats including Gram Panchayats in Odisha to be covered with broadband connectivity through the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project is given in Statement (*See* below). This includes 6233 Gram Panchayats in Odisha.

(d) On completion of the NOFN project, non-discriminatory access to the network will be provided to all the categories of service providers. These access providers/service providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV operators, content providers can launch various services in rural areas. Various applications for e-health, e-education, e-governance etc. will be provided.

Statement

State-wise detail of Village Panchayats to be covered with broadband connectivity through the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Village Panchayats
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	67

1	2	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21862
3.	Assam	3943
4.	Bihar	8460
5.	Chhattisgarh	9837
6.	Gujarat (including Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu)	14439
7.	Haryana	6234
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3241
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4146
10.	Jharkhand	4559
11.	Karnataka	5657
12.	Kerala	999
13.	Lakshadweep	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23022
15.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	28078
16.	Tripura	1040
17.	Mizoram	768
18.	Meghalaya	1463
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	1756
20.	Manipur	3011
21.	Nagaland	1110
22.	Odisha	6233
23.	Punjab	12809
24.	Chandigarh	17

1	2	3
25.	Rajasthan	9200
26.	Tamil Nadu	12617
27.	Puducherry	98
28.	Uttar Pradesh	52125
29.	Uttarakhand	7546
30.	West Bengal	3354
31.	Sikkim	163
TOTAL:		2,47,864

Subsidies provided from USOF

2393. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund balance at the end of November, 2012;
- (b) the details of addition and utilization of USO Fund for each of the last five years;
- (c) the details of subsidies provided by Government from USO Fund and the subsidy mechanism;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any impact assessment of subsidies provided through USOF;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The details of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund balance at the end of October, 2012 are given in Statement-I (*See* below). Potential balance at the end of November, 2012

can be compiled only after 15th December, 2012, the due date for submission of disbursement figures for November, 2012 by CCA (Controller of Communication Accounts) offices to USOF Head Quarter.

(b) The details of addition and utilization of USO Fund for each of last five years are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) The details of subsidies provided by Government from USO Fund are given in Statement-III (*See* below). The subsidy mechanism used is viability gap funding under which Telecom Service Providers are encouraged to provide telecom services in unviable rural areas.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The details are given in Statement-IV (*See* below).

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Statement-I

Details of Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund Balance at the end of October, 2012

(Rupees in Crore)

Financial Year	Funds Collected as USL (Universal Service Levy) (as per DoT Accounts)	Funds disbursed	Reimbursement of LF (Licence Fee) and Spectrum Charges to BSNL	Balance
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
2002-03	1653.61	300	2300	
2003-04	2143.22	200	2300	
2004-05	3457.73	1314.59	1765.68	
2005-06	3215.13	1766.85	582.96	
2006-07	3940.73	1500	0	
2007-08	5405.8	1290	0	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
2008-09	5515.14	1600	0	
2009-10	5778	2400	0	
2010-11	6114.56	3100	0	
2011-12	6723.57	1687.96	0	
2012-13*	3087.84	330.13	0	
TOTAL:	47035.33	15489.53	6948.64	24597.16

*2012-13 based on collections and disbursement upto 31.10.2012

Statement-II

Details of Addition and Utilization of USO Fund for each of the last five years and current year

(Rupees in Crore)

Financial Year	Funds Collected as USL (Universal Service Levy) (as per DoT Accounts)	Funds Disbursed
(1)	(2)	(3)
2007-08	5405.8	1290
2008-09	5515.14	1600
2009-10	5778	2400
2010-11	6114.56	3100
2011-12	6723.57	1687.96
2012-13*	3087.84	330.13

*2012-13 based on collections and disbursement upto 31.10.2012.

Statement-III*Details of subsidies provided by Government from USO Fund across different Financial Years*

ACTIVITY/ SCHEME	Figures in Crore												
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Grand Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
MARR-A		4.60	30.45	55.95	63.28	172.52	124.63	148.13	132.18	138.56	30.51	900.82	
MARR-B	63.37	0.00	41.64	52.22	42.91	84.41	51.84	52.78	13.55	0.42	0.00	403.15	
MOB-I							4.49	51.04	91.68	87.08	43.87	278.17	
New VPT-I				29.86	55.40	44.73	18.65	36.88	24.83	13.35	2.39	226.08	
New VPT-II								38.40	20.73	20.57	3.02	82.73	
NOFN											215.00	215.00	
OFC Assam											0.77	0.77	
RCP				31.89	41.72	19.69	8.86	7.74	1.65	-0.76	-0.15	110.63	
RDEL-A				120.10	872.41	727.69	174.04	166.95	30.68	5.51	0.17	2097.53	

RDEL-B	114.59	1393.44	342.74	122.10	46.10	17.72	-3.97	0.08	0.03	2032.83
RDEL-D	129.00	1062.78	0.00							1191.78
RDEL-P					750.00	1377.61	2601.77	1270.62		6000.00
RDEL-X					333.20	374.29	97.05	52.37	0.94	857.86
SMCF								0.53	2.49	3.02
VPT OPEX	236.63	66.40	83.39	81.54	118.87	85.89	25.05	8.61	-0.08	859.60
WIREUNE-BB						42.57	64.82	91.02	31.16	229.58
GRAND TOTAL:	300.00	200.00	1314.59	1766.85	1500.00	1290.00	1600.00	3100.00	330.13	15489.53

Acronyms used for different Schemes (Activities)

Acronyms	Description
1	2
MARR-A	: Replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs after 30.6.03
MARR-B	: Replacement of MARR VPTs between 1.4.02 to 30.6.03
MOB-I	: Mobile Infrastructure (Phase-I)
NEW VPT-I	: VPTs in uncovered villages, Phase-I (Census 1991/Under Bharat Nirman)

1	2
NEW VPT-I 1	: VPTs in uncovered villages, Phase-II (Census 2001)
NOFN	: National Optical Fibre Network
OFC Assam	: Augmentation, creation and management of Optical Fibre Network in Assam
RCP	: Rural Community Phones
RDEL-A	: Rural-household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELS) installed between 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2007
RDEL-B	: RDELS installed between 1.4.02 to 31.3.05
RDEL-D	: Support towards rental differential for RDELS installed before 1.4.02. Given from 1.4.02 to 31.1.04
RDEL-P	: (Support for RDELS installed prior to 1.4.02) for 3 yrs. from 18.7.2008 in lieu of phasing out of ADC
RDEL-X	: RDELS installed after 1.4.2007 (RDEL-A Agreement Extended)
SMCF	: Provision of Solar Mobile Charging Facilities
VPT OPEX	: Operation and Maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs)
WIREUNE-BB	: Rural Wire Line Broadband

Statement-IV*Impact assessment studies through USOF*

Sl. No.	Activity/Scheme on which impact assessment studies was/is being done	Agency that conducted the study	Present Status
1.	Operation and Maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs)	Done by USOF	Completed
2	Provision of Rural Wire line Broadband	IIM Ahmedabad's Idea Telecom Centre of Excellence (IITCOE)	Survey completed.

BSNL's market share in wireless segment

2394. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL Mobile's (wireless) market share has been decreasing over the past five years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has undertaken any measures to improve BSNL's market share in wireless segment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the impact of the measures taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Details of wireless market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last five years and the current year (upto 30.9.2012) are as follows:

As on	BSNL's wireless Market share (%)
1	2
31.03.2008	15.64

1	2
31.03.2009	13.32
31.03.2010	11.88
31.03.2011	11.32
31.03.2012	10.71
31.09.2012	10.99

(b) to (e) BSNL has taken following initiatives to improve its wireless market share:

- Strengthening of sales and distribution channel of mobile through Project Vijay.
- Augmentation of Mobile capacity by 15 Million *i.e.* Phase-VII
- Use of IT tools for monitoring performance of sales channels.
- Weekly meeting with Franchisees/Retailers and Sales teams of BSNL at SSA (Secondary Switching Area) head level.
- Fixing of target to sales team and ensuring delivery of material.
- Fixing and monitoring retailer manager wise target.
- Special camp to interact with customer willing to port out for their retention by sorting out their problems.
- Opening new sales channels in rural areas through agreement with Postal Department to increase rural reach.
- Aggressively push smart devices bundled with 3G Data plans as well as wireless broadband with 3G data cards/tablets/routers etc.
- Sustained Focus on Value Added Services catering to various segments of the society.
- Monitoring of Quality of Service (QoS) parameters to adhere to the benchmarks stipulated by TRAI.

As a result of the above initiatives, BSNL's wireless market share has improved from 10.71% (as on 31.03.2012) to 10.99% (as on 30.09.2012).

Investigations in allocation of excess 2G spectrum

2395. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has completed its investigation against Bharti Telecom Ltd. for allocation of excess 2G spectrum scam;

(b) if so, the reasons for not chargesheeting the Directors of the company even after the completion of investigation; and

(c) by when chargesheet against the company and its Directors would be filed in the court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) A Case RC-24(A)/2011/CBI/ACB/Delhi was registered on 17.11.2011 u/s 120B IPC r/w Section 13(2) r/w 13(l)(d) of PC Act, 1988 against Sh. Shyamal Ghosh, the then Secretary (Telecom), Department of Telecom (DoT), Sh. J.R. Gupta, the then Deputy Director General (Value Added Service), DoT, M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd., New Delhi (now known as M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd.), M/s Hutchison Max Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai (known as M/s Vodafone India Ltd.), M/s Sterling Cellular Ltd., New Delhi (known as M/s Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd.) and unknown officials of DoT and others in respect of allocation of additional spectrum. Investigation in this case is complete.

(b) and (c) Further action in this case is being taken.

Misuse of international SIM cards by anti-national elements

2396. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

(a) the action taken by Government on the fact that due to easy availability of international pre-paid mobile SIM cards without any proper verification of profile of the SIM card users, they are used in the country for communication by anti-national elements due to which police and security agencies are helpless to trace out such communications and to capture such antisocial elements;

(b) whether the Ministry is going to take any steps in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs to prevent misuse of international SIM cards by anti-national elements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Department of Telecommunication (DoT) issues No objection Certificate (NoC) for sale of International SIM cards/Global Calling Cards in India with certain terms and conditions to the Indian companies. These cards are being offered only to Indian customers for use outside India only. All such companies are required to send the details of subscriber related information to Security Agencies periodically. Further, Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells *i.e.* field units of DoT have also been directed to carry out periodic inspections of such companies *vide* letter dated 27.06.12.

**Empowered Group of Ministers' decision on charging of
spectrum fee**

2397. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has overruled the recommendations of the Telecom Commission to suit the interests of certain operators and thereby decided to charge excess spectrum prospectively from the earlier decision of the Telecom Commission to charge retrospectively;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CAG has estimated the loss at ₹ 36,993 crores for the excess spectrum;

(c) if so, whether Government has calculated the impact of charging spectrum fee from retrospective date to prospective date;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for overruling of the decision of the Telecom Commission by EGoMs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (e) Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), after considering various issues, including Telecom Commission recommendations, Ld. Attorney General's opinion, etc. on the issue of one time spectrum charge, made, among others, the following recommendations:

- (i) For spectrum holding upto 4.4 MHz (GSM)/2.5 MHz (CDMA), no one-time charge be levied.
 - (ii) For all spectrum holdings beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM)/2.5 MHz (CDMA), one time charge be levied prospectively at 2012 auction determined price. Date of charging will be the date of commencement of the first quarter following the cabinet decision.
 - (iii) For spectrum held above 6.2 (GSM)/5.0 MHz (CDMA), one time charge be levied from July, 2008 onwards. There will be two prices. The price, pro-rated for the period July, 2008 upto the date of applicability of auction determined price, would be the 2001 entry fee divided by 6.2, duly indexed using State Bank of India Prime Lending Rate (SBI PLR). The auction determined price be levied for spectrum beyond 6.2 (GSM)/5.0 MHz (CDMA) with effect from the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet decision.
- (b) The extract of the para 4.10 of the CAG Report No.19 of 2010-11 is given in Statement (*See* below).
- (c) Government has decided to levy one time charge on holding of excess spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz (GSM) from July, 2008 onwards.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement

Value of spectrum allocated beyond the contracted quantity

It was noticed in audit that 9 operators as per the details in the box, were allotted spectrum beyond the upper limit laid down in the UASL agreement. Thus while the DoT, on one hand, was not processing pending applications for licence due to non availability of spectrum, on the other hand it was allotting spectrum to existing operators beyond the contracted limit without any upfront charges being

imposed or without determination of market price of spectrum. **Based on the amount charged from CDMA operators for grant of GSM spectrum in 2007, the value of spectrum held by these operators beyond the contracted unit:**

Aircel	3.6	1
Bharti	32.4	13
BPL (Mumbai)	3.8	1
BSNL	61.6	19
IDEA	12.6	6
MTNL (Delhi and Mumbai)	12.4	2
Reliance	.1.8	1
Spice (Punjab)	1.6	1
Vodafone	19.6	7

worked out to Rs. 2561 crore though its market value on date would be higher.

The Technical Committee appointed by Hon'ble MoC&IT for "Allocation of Access (GSM/CDMA) spectrum and pricing" recommended in May 2009, that the additional spectrum assigned beyond 6.2+6.2 MHz in an service area should attract an upfront charge equivalent to the 3G auction price from the date of assignment.

Subsequently, TRAI also recommended in May 2010 for charging the additional spectrum held by operators beyond the licensed quantity which is under consideration of the Government. In the event of these recommendations being accepted, **the additional flow of revenue to the Government would come to Rs. 36,993 crore.**

Methodology for charging of excess spectrum

2398. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to charge the operators for excess spectrum held by them from 2008 onwards till December, 2012 at 2001

auction price indexed to SBI Prime Lending Rate (PLR) and divided by 6.2 MHz as reported in the news papers;

(b) if so, the logic behind dividing 2001 auction price by 6.2 MHz and not 4.4 MHz; and

(c) the reasons for not charging from the retrospective date of allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The Government, considering various issues, including Telecom Commission recommendations, Ltd. Attorney General's opinion, etc. on the issue of one time spectrum charge, has decided, for spectrum held above 6.2 MHz (GSM), a one-time charge be levied from July, 2008 upto the date of applicability of auction determined price, would be the 2001 entry fee divided by 6.2, duly indexed using State Bank of India Prime Lending Rate (SBI PLR). The auction determined price be levied for spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz (GSM) with effect from the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Government decision.

Auction of CDMA spectrum

2399. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the auction process of CDMA spectrum has flopped as both Tata and Videocon have withdrawn their applications as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the analysis of Department of Telecom for the failure of auction process for 800 MHz spectrum;

(c) whether it is because of the high reserve price set by DoT or some other reasons alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to make use of the available 800 MHz spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Both the applicants

M/s Tata Teleservices Limited and M/s Videocon Telecommunications Limited withdrew their applications for CDMA spectrum in the 800 MHz auction. As there were no participants for the CDMA spectrum in the 800 MHz band, no auction took place for this spectrum.

(b) to (d) No decision has been taken yet in this regard.

Non-recovery of landline telephone bills in Uttar Pradesh

2400. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government has received representations/complaints from Members of Parliament regarding non-recovery of landline telephone bills in Uttar Pradesh (East) Telecom Circle during November, 2012 which has resulted in huge loss to public exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken against representations from MPs, so far;

(d) whether enquiry would be set up regarding non-recovery of landline bills in UP (East) Telecom Circle and responsibility would be fixed;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) by when the recoveries and legal action are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has received two complaints from Members of Parliament regarding non-recovery of landline telephone bills in Uttar Pradesh (East) Telecom Circle during November, 2012. Details of these complaints are as follows:

1. Complaint from Shri Yashvir Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

- Telephone No. 05498-251001 Shri Amar Nath Rai, outstanding dues Rs. 30098/-

- Telephone No. 05498-251233 Shri Manish Rai, outstanding dues Rs. 19044/-

2. Complaint from Shri Prabhat Jha, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

- Telephone No. 05498-251001 Shri Amar Nath Rai regarding outstanding dues of Rs. 30098/-
- Telephone No. 05498-251233 Shri Manish Rai regarding outstanding dues of Rs. 19044/-

(c) to (g) Notices have been issued by Ballia SSA (Secondary Switching Area) to the defaulters and the defaulters have also been personally contacted for Payment of outstanding telephone bills. In case, telephone dues are not paid in-time, BSNL will take all necessary action.

Outstanding telephone dues of BSNL in Uttar Pradesh

2401. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether huge landline bills amounting to crores of rupees are due for payment since many years in Uttar Pradesh East Telecom Circle of BSNL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of defaulters against whom landline telephone bills of BSNL are pending under Chitbaragaon and Narahi exchanges in Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh alongwith the amount of bill outstanding for payment, defaulter-wise;

(d) the details of outstanding dues recovered during last three years from these defaulters;

(e) whether legal action has been taken against above said defaulters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Some landline bills are due for payment in Uttar Pradesh East Telecom Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The main reason for the same is that the subscribers after availing the services switch over from BSNL without paying the dues.

(c) to (f) The details of the names of defaulters against whom landline telephone bills of BSNL are pending under Chitbaragaon and Narahi exchanges in Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh (East) Telecom Circle alongwith the amount of bill outstanding for payment, defaulter-wise are given in Statement-I (*See below*) and the details of outstanding dues recovered during last three years from these defaulters are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

As per BSNL policy, legal action is initiated only when outstanding amount exceeds Rs.25000 to avoid huge legal expenditure including court fees and legal charges. Civil Suits are filed by BSNL against defaulters exceeding Rs.25000 and if not paid after persuasion within 3 years. In two cases only, one each in Chitbaragaon and Narahi exchanges in Ballia SSA, outstanding amount exceeds Rs. 25000/-. In these cases, BSNL is taking all necessary actions.

Statement-I

*Details of outstanding amount in r/o Chitbaragaon Exchange of
Ballia SSA in UP (E)*

Sl. No.	Phone. No	Name of the customer	Outstanding Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	5498236024	Post Master	5580
2.	5498236108	Sahara India	601
3.	5498236282	Shiv Kumar Prasad	1735
4.	5498236376	Sachiv	2090
5.	5498236445	Shalendra Pratap Singh, S/o Dharmatmanand	13737
6.	5498236468	Pashupat Nath Tiwari S/o Sri Shashi	2007

1	2	3	4
7.	5498236471	Zayada Khatun W/o Sri Shaukat Ali	1750
8.	5498236472	Modhoor Verma S/o Late Baboonandan Verma	10727
9.	5498236479	Niraj Kumar Singh	1036
10.	5498236480	Rajesh Prasad Chourasiya	789
11.	5498236481	Akhilesh Ram	4161
12.	5498236501	Principal Jamuna Ram	3093
13.	5498236502	Principal Jamuna Ram	3093
14.	5498236503	Principal Jamuna Ram	3093
15.	5498236504	Principal Jamuna Ram	1631
16.	5498236505	Principal Jamuna Ram	1631
17.	5498236506	Principal Jamuna Ram	1631
18.	5498236507	Principal Jamuna Ram	1631
19.	5498236508	Principal Jamuna Ram	1631
20.	5498236509	Principal Jamuna Ram	3093
21.	5498236003	Aftab Ahmad	200
22.	5498236005	Sunil Kumar Srivastav	2376
23.	5498236007	Sada Nand Gupta	1546
24.	5498236008	Uma Shankar Srivastav	132
25.	5498236009	Badouzzama Wasami	2116
26.	5498236010	Ziaullah	2075
27.	5498236013	Mukhtar Ahmad	1763
28.	5498236016	Suresh Kumar Mishra	-1
29.	5498236020	Santosh Tiwari	1487

1	2	3	4
30.	5498236021	Br. Manager	2845
31.	5498236022	M/S Ram Rayendra	459
32.	5498236025	Dayashankar Prasad	274
33.	5498236026	Office 2/C State Bank of India	4186
34.	5498236032	Gaurishankar Umashankar	693
35.	5498236038	Ashok Kumar S/o Late Varnasi Lal	665
36.	5498236042	Dharmatma Nand	513
37.	5498236046	S.P.	1026
38.	5498236047	Ram Sheelyadav	3871
39.	5498236048	Vinod Shankar Gupta	829
40.	5498236054	Hari Narayan Singh	1081
41.	5498236057	Sah Alam	1973
42.	5498236060	Ram Abbu Prasad	960
43.	5498236066	Dilip Kumar Kesari	2151
44.	5498236073	Chhathulal Ram	2301
45.	5498236081	Ram Janam Upadhyay	3426
46.	5498236084	Sabbir Ahmad	131
47.	5498236088	Surendra Ram	2666
48.	5498236090	Pati Narayan Singh	274
49.	5498236115	Ramesh Kumar Gupta	253
50.	5498236116	Inoradeo Singh Pradhan	1623
51.	5498236129	Rajesh Anchal	1091
52.	5498236140	Vishwanath Prasad Srivastav	132

1	2	3	4
53.	5498236149	Satya Narayan Prasad	1463
54.	5498236151	Geeta Devi W/o Sri Ashok Kumar	1642
55.	5498236152	Vijay Narayan Yadav	1546
56.	5498236155	Anil Kumar Gupta	238
57.	5498236168	Sanatanjee	1857
58.	5498236186	Rinku Singh	1688
59.	5498236196	Deen Bandhu Prasad (Prabandhak)	383
60.	5498236200	Gupteshwar Ram	120
61.	5498236208	Autinash Tiwari	19653
62.	5498236237	Rajendra Prasad	1139
63.	5498236241	Deen Bandhu Prasad Verma	30070
64.	5498236270	Bhim Shankar Verma	2021
65.	5498236292	Deepak Kumar Kharwar	2225
66.	5498236310	Radheshyam Agrawal	1834
67.	5498236319	Santosh Kumar Upadhyay	132
68.	5498236342	Principal	1963
69.	5498236354	Doodh Nath Yadav	276
70.	5498236358	Santosh Kumar	1968
71.	5498236373	Ram Sanehi Yadav	1546
72.	5498236385	Amar Nath Upadhyay	133
73.	5498236390	Ajay Kumar Singh	132
74.	5498236412	Krishna Mohan Upadhyay	1205
75.	5498236419	Virendra Singh	1831

1	2	3	4
76.	5498236424	Prabhu Narayan Verma	807
77.	5498236431	Parshuram Upadhyay	274
78.	5498236440	Ashok Kumar Kesarwani	844
79.	5498236450	Santosh Kumar Tiwari	230
80.	5498236456	U.P. State Warehousing Corporation	121
81.	5498236460	Rajesh Kumar Singh	994
82.	5498236477	Harimohan	3217
TOTAL:			191409

*Details of outstanding amount in respect of Narahi Exchange of
Ballia SSA in UP (E)*

Sl. No.	Phone. No	Name of the customer	Outstanding Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	5498251052	Balveer Rai	335
2.	5498251252	Muran Ahmad	4264
3.	5498251253	Supertendent Samudayak Helth Center	5931
4.	5498251001	Amar Nath Rai	30098
5.	5498251006	Kunti Devi	1273
6.	5498251015	Om Prakash Rai	355
7.	5498251016	Vijay Shankar Sinha	120
8.	5498251031	Manish Rai	17410
9.	5498251033	Imtiyaz Ansari	865
10.	5498251036	Shiv Kumar Rai	1559

1	2	3	4
11.	5498251047	Uttam Kumar Rai	1328
12.	5498251055	Vidyasagar Rai	722
13.	5498251061	Ram Prasad Chourasiya	1428
14.	5498251071	Shesh Mani Rai	2387
15.	5498251072	Lilawati Rai	4029
16.	5498251075	Harindra Nath Singh	840
17.	5498251081	Ram Chandra Verma	270
18.	5498251100	S.P. Ballia	262
19.	5498251108	Kamla Kant Singh	1110
20.	5498251109	Dr. Narayan Yadav	401
21.	5498251116	Shiv Jee Rai	1260
22.	5498251118	Chandra Bala	1106
23.	5498251121	Parshuram Singh	329
24.	5498251127	Pradeep Kumar Srivastav	5521
25.	5498251128	Brijesh Kumar Singh	940
26.	5498251135	Kshtrapal Rai	652
27.	5498251136	Lallan Prasad Rai	131
28.	5498251144	Bhim Nath Rai	1803
29.	5498251145	Ram Tapeswar Rai	49
30.	5498251149	Ram Ekabal Tiwari	717
31.	5498251153	Barmeshwar Rai	130
32.	5498251171	Durgesh Rai	1106
33.	5498251176	Sanjay Yadav	12608

1	2	3	4
34.	5498251185	Amardeo Rai	800
35.	5498251186	Gangotree Upadhyay	908
36.	5498251194	Vijay Shankar Giri	957
37.	5498251220	Sadan Kumar Rai	465
38.	5498251222	Saurabh Rai	454
39.	5498251228	Shashank Shekhar Raib.k.g.bank	1551
40.	5498251232	B.K.G. Bank	410
41.	5498251233	Manish Rai	19044
42.	5498251234	Shushila W/o Sri Kashi Nath	1194
43.	5498251236	Aman Yadav	3226
44.	5498251237	Santosh Rai	3226
45.	5498251238	Ramindra Nath Rai	522
46.	5498251241	Ranjeet Rai	4171
47.	5498251250	Deepak Srivastav	9625
48.	5498251251	Ved Prakash Filling Station	3115
TOTAL:			151007

Statement-II

*Details of amount recovered during last 3 years w.r.t.
Chitbaragaon exchange*

Sl. No.	Phone. No	Name of customer	Amount recovered during the last 3 years
1	2	3	4
1.	5498236024	Post Master	34966

1	2	3	4
2.	5498236108	Sahara India	19126
3.	5498236282	Shiv Kumar Prasad	14108
4.	5498236376	Sachiv	36578
5.	5498236445	Shalendra Pratap Singh, S/o Dharmatmanand	5249
6.	5498236468	Pashupat Nath Tiwari S/o Sri Shashi	7979
7.	5498236471	Zayada Khatun W/o Sri Shaukat Ali	16970
8.	5498236479	Niraj Kumar Singh	15890
9.	5498236480	Rajesh Prasad Chourasiya	12434
10.	5498236481	Akhilesh Ram	12228
11.	5498236003	Aftab Ahmad	7251
12.	5498236005	Sunil Kumar Srivastav	440
13.	5498236007	Sada Nand Gupta	1546
14.	5498236008	Uma Shankar Srivastav	7405
15.	5498236009	Badouzzama Wasami	2798
16.	5498236010	Ziaullah	3069
17.	5498236013	Mukhtar Ahmad	1980
18.	5498236016	Suresh Kumar Mishra	183
19.	5498236020	Santosh Tiwari	8059
20.	5498236021	Br. Manager	3367
21.	5498236022	M/S Ram Rayendra	3478
22.	5498236025	Dayashankar Prasad	39935
23.	5498236026	Ofiice 2/C State Bank of India	4204
24.	5498236032	Gaurishankar Umashankar	2339

1	2	3	4
25.	5498236038	Ashok Kumar S/o Late Varnasi Lal	1649
26.	5498236042	Dharmatma Nand	8027
27.	5498236047	Ram Sheel Yadav	2772
28.	5498236048	Vinod Shankar Gupta	2487
29.	5498236057	Sah Alam	387
30.	5498236060	Ram Abbu Prasad	3752
31.	5498236081	Ram Janam Upadhyay	4406
32.	5498236084	Sabbir Ahmad	262
33.	5498236088	Surendra Ram	5224
34.	5498236115	Ramesh Kumar Gupta	572
35.	5498236129	Rajesh Anchal	1367
36.	5498236140	Vishwanath Prasad Srivastav	5006
37.	5498236149	Satya Narayan Prasad	249
38.	5498236151	Geeta Devi W/o Sri Ashok Kumar	2186
39.	5498236152	Vijay Narayan Yadav	5040
40.	5498236168	Sanatan Jee	1397
41.	5498236196	Deen Bandhu Prasad (Prabandhak)	1162
42.	5498236200	Gupteshwar Ram	782
43.	5498236237	Rajendra Prasad	934
44.	5498236241	Deen Bandhu Prasad Verma	9362
45.	5498236270	Bhim Shankar Verma	416
46.	5498236310	Radheshyam Agrawal	1977
47.	5498236319	Santosh Kumar Upadhyay	3740

1	2	3	4
48.	5498236354	Doodh Nath Yadav	4561
49.	5498236385	Amar Nath Upadhyay	5355
50.	5498236390	Ajay Kumar Singh	3182
51.	5498236412	Krishna Mohan Upadhyay	2132
52.	5498236424	Prabhu Narayan Verma	1596
53.	5498236431	Parshuram Upadhyay	3993
54.	5498236440	Ashok Kumar Kesarwani	4207
55.	5498236450	Santosh Kumar Tiwari	5060
56.	5498236456	U.P. State Warehousing Corporation	2856
57.	5498236460	Rajesh Kumar Singh	4400
TOTAL:			362080

Details of amount recovered during last 3 years w.r.t. Narhi exchange

Sl. No.	Phone. No	Name of customer	Amount recovered during the last 3 years
1	2	3	4
1.	5498251052	Balveer Rai	9780
2.	5498251252	Muran Ahmad	4628
3.	5498251006	Kunti Devi	800
4.	5498251015	Om Prakash Rai	1690
5.	5498251016	Vijay Shankar Sinha	1145
6.	5498251047	Uttam Kumar Rai	535
7.	5498251055	Vidyasagar Rai	7256
8.	5498251061	Ram Prasad Chourasiya	2487

1	2	3	4
9.	5498251071	Shesh Mani Rai	2350
10.	5498251072	Lilawati Rai	2386
11.	5498251075	Harindra Nath Singh	1140
12.	5498251100	S.P. Ballia	2287
13.	5498251109	Dr. Narayan Yadav	291
14.	5498251121	Parshuram Singh	450
15.	5498251128	Bruesh Kumar Singh	761
16.	5498251135	Kshtrapal Rai	2394
17.	5498251136	Lallan Prasad Rai	4448
18.	5498251149	Ram Ekabal Tiwari	4451
19.	5498251153	Barmeshwar Rai	3845
20.	5498251185	Amardeo Rai	2276
21.	5498251186	Gangotree Upadhyay	7781
22.	5498251194	Vijay Shankar Giri	5752
23.	5498251220	Sadan Kumar Rai	2192
24.	5498251222	Saurabh Rai	1770
25.	5498251228	Shashank Shekhar Raib. K.G. bank	648
26.	5498251232	B.K.G. Bank	978
27.	5498251233	Manish Rai	267
28.	5498251234	Shushila W/o Sri Kashi Nath	531
29.	5498251238	Ramindra Nath Rai	1717
30.	5498251250	Deepak Srivastav	488
31.	5498251251	Ved Prakash Filling Station	8740
TOTAL:			86264

Curbing of hoax calls

2402. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

(a) the action taken by the Ministry till date in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Railways to curb hoax call activities as due to such calls, Railway services are affected several times;

(b) whether State Governments are empowered to issue notifications for telecom operators for compulsory maintenance of register in which all details of the callers are maintained and callers should demonstrate their valid identity cards; and

(c) whether his Ministry has communicated to State Governments in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Sir, consultations have been done by Department of Telecommunications with Ministry of Home Affairs and Telecom Service Providers to take a decision for making the demonstration of valid identity of caller and maintaining a record in register by Public Call Office Franchisees to facilitate the tracing of the hoax call activities. As no reference has been received from Ministry of Railways, consultations have not been done with the Ministry of Railways in this respect. However, action can be taken by law enforcement agencies against the hoax callers under the relevant provisions of Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.

(b) Public Call offices (PCOs) are run by the PCO franchisees under the agreement between PCO franchisee and the licensed Telecom Service Providers, and telecommunication being a central subject, the jurisdiction of policy framework lies with the Central Government. However, as per the Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are the State subjects under the Constitution, and as such primary responsibility of prevention, detection and, investigation of such fake calls lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Therefore, local police authorities/State Governments may issue suitable notifications based on local laws/special laws for maintaining law and order.

(c) No specific communication has been made with the State Governments by Department of Telecommunications with regard to hoax call activities instructions. However, consultations have been done by Department of Telecommunications with Ministry of Home Affairs and Telecom Service Providers to take a decision for making the demonstration of valid identity of caller and maintaining a record in register by Public Call Office Franchisees to facilitate the tracing of the hoax call activities.

Modernisation and diversification of post offices

2403. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has decided to modernise all post offices in the country with latest facilities, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details of the post offices modernised during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government plans to diversify post offices in other fields; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has decided to improve the Look and Feel of its post offices through Project Arrow. The project has been launched by modernising departmental post offices across the country in a phased manner with an aim to make visible, tangible and noteworthy differences in post office operations that matter to 'Aam Aadmi'. It aims at comprehensive improvement of the core operations of the post office as well as the ambience in which postal transactions are undertaken.

(b) The number of post offices covered for modernisation under 'Look and Feel' component of 'Project Arrow' during the last three years is as follows:

2009-10 — 500 post offices covered

2010-11 — 530 post offices covered

2011-12 — 206 post offices covered.

The list of the post offices covered is given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 227 Annexure No. 31]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department is diversifying activities in Post Offices to earn additional revenue which is an on-going process. The IT Platform set up under the IT project will support new products and services. It has diversified its activities to utilise its vast network to sell products and services for other organisations like:

- (i) Booking of Railway reserved tickets.
- (ii) UID enrolment/Delivery of AADHAAR cards.
- (iii) Selling of passport forms in identified post offices.
- (iv) Accepting of utility bills in identified post offices.
- (v) Disbursement of wages to MGNREGA beneficiaries through Post Office Savings Bank.
- (vi) Collection of Rural Price Index Data - The data so collected are electronically transmitted to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (vii) Payment of Old age pension paid by State Governments through Post Office Savings Accounts and through Money Orders.
- (viii) Sale of gold coins.
- (ix) Provision of New Pension Scheme through Post Offices, etc.

Yuva 340 and Yuva 540 schemes

‡2404. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of status of Yuva 340 and Yuva 540 schemes of Telecom Department, State-wise;

(b) whether this scheme has been implemented in all telephone circles of Madhya Pradesh; and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if not, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The plans Yuva 340 and Yuva 540 were never implemented by BSNL on national basis. However, Yuva 350 and Yuva 450 plans were implemented only in the State of Madhya Pradesh *w.e.f.* 15.3.2012 on promotional basis. These schemes were implemented in Bhopal, Indore and Jabalpur Secondary Switching Area (SSA) for three months on promotional basis.

Auction of 2G spectrum

†2405. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of spectrum auctioned after knowing the estimated loss of one lakh seventy six thousand crore rupees as mentioned in the reports of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and 2G spectrum scam;
- (b) the details of above mentioned spectrum auction;
- (c) whether Government feels that less number of bidders have participated in the auction; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the measure being taken by Government to get more number of bidders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) A total 236 blocks of 1.25 MHz each were put up for auction of 1800 MHz Band (including 60 top-up blocks). A total quantum of 95 MHz of spectrum (CDMA) was put to auction in the 800 MHz band and a total quantum of 295 MHz (GSM) was put to auction in the 1800 MHz band, making a total of 390 MHz.

(b) to (d) In 1800 MHz band, there were five applicants, and they were successful in various Telecom Service Areas:

- (i) M/s. Bharti Airtel Limited
- (ii) M/s. IDEA Cellular Limited

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iii) M/s. Vodafone South Limited
- (iv) Videocon Telecommunications Limited
- (v) Telewings Communications Services Private Limited

43.22 % of the total no. of blocks in 1800 MHz Band have been allocated through auction; 27.36 % of the total value (at reserve price) of the spectrum block in 1800 MHz Band was realized.

In 800 MHz band, there were two applicants and both the applicants withdrew their applications.

Private sector participation in cyber security

2406. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to rope in private sector participation in cyber security across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time-frame fixed by Government to complete the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Government has taken initiative for engaging with private sector on Cyber Security. In this regard a Joint Working Group (JWG) with representatives of both public and private sector was set upto work out the details in July, 2012.

(b) The Joint Working Group (JWG) has submitted its report on engagement with Private Sector on Cyber Security in October 15, 2012. The salient features of the JWG *inter-alia* include Guiding Principles and Objectives, "Roadmap" for Public - Private Partnership (PPP) on Cyber Security and four pilot projects. The recommended "Roadmap" includes setting up of an Institutional Framework for involvement of private sector, capacity building in the area of Cyber Security, development Cyber Security Standards and Assurance mechanisms and augmentation of testing and certification facilities for Information Technology products.

(c) Action has been initiated for implementation of the recommendations in key priority areas and it is an on-going process.

Telephone exchanges

†2407. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of telephone exchanges established in the country during the last Five Year Plan, State-wise, including Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the number of telephone exchanges functioning properly at present;
- (c) whether STD/ISD and Internet services have been provided to all exchanges in the States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the criteria adopted for extending these facilities to States; and
- (f) the number of telephone exchanges under construction in the country, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has established 624 Telephone Exchanges in the country including Madhya Pradesh during the last Five Year Plan. Circle-wise details are given in Statement-I (*See below*). All the exchanges of BSNL are functioning properly and are capable to provide STD/ISD and Internet services.

(f) At present, 24 telephone exchanges are under construction in BSNL. The State-wise and location-wise details are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I*Telephone Exchanges of BSNL established during the last Five Year Plan*

Sl. No.	Circles Name	Telephone Exchange established during the last Five Year Plan
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3
2.	Assam	8

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
3.	Andhra Pradesh	20
4.	Bihar	42
5.	Chhattisgarh	50
6.	Chennai TD	19
7.	Gujarat	52
8.	Haryana	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh.	3
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8
11.	Jharkhand	24
12.	Karnataka	79
13.	Kerala	9
14.	Kolkata TD	36
15.	Madhya Pradesh.	29
16.	Maharashtra	64
17.	North East-I	10
18.	North East-II	3
19.	Odisha	30
20.	Punjab	4
21.	Rajasthan	26
22.	Tamil Nadu	48
23.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	28
25.	Uttarakhand	5
26.	West Bengal	Nil

Statement-II*Telephone exchanges of BSNL under construction*

State	Location
Jammu and Kashmir	Nowgam
Bihar	Nabinagar
West Bengal	Karanjora and Kalaikunda
Gujarat	Vandematram, Piplaj, Gokuldharm, Express highway and Gandhinagar Sector-3,
Jharkhand	Tayo Colony and K. K. Singh Colony
Maharashtra	Akola Civil Line, CTO Compound, Shri Ram Tower, Vinay Unique Virar (W), Popaon, BARC, Jagtap Dairy, Restapeth, Shivtirth Nagar, Hsg Board Gogal, Hsg Board Sanquelim, Soccord Provorm and Navelim.

Proposals for setting up FPIs

†2408. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that proposals from various States for setting up FPIs are under consideration of the Central Government;
- (c) if so, the details of these proposals, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of proposals approved by Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) This Ministry does not maintain data on the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) functioning in the country, State-wise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

However, Ministry had assisted number of food processing units during the last three years and current year under the Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries. The details are given in Statement (See below).

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Statement indicating the number of proposals received and approved, funds sanctioned/released and pending for financial assistance during the last three years and/current year State/UT wise under the Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries is at Statement. During the Twelfth Plan (2012-13), the scheme of Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries has been subsumed in the National Mission on Food Processing (Centrally Sponsored Scheme) implemented by States/UTs *w.e.f.* 01.04.2012. Accordingly, all the State Governments have been empowered to receive the applications, sanction and release the grants-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries under various components of the Mission. The Major Programmes/Schemes covered under NMFP during 2012-13 are:

- (i) Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries.
- (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non Horticultural Products.
- (iii) Scheme for Human Resource Development (HRD)
 - (a) Creation of Infrastructure Facilities for Running Degree/Diploma/Certificate Courses in Food Processing Technology.
 - (b) Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)
 - (c) Food Processing Training Centre (FPTC)
- (iv) Scheme for Promotional Activities
 - (a) Organizing Seminar/Workshops
 - (b) Conducting Studies/Surveys
 - (c) Support to Exhibitions/Fairs
 - (d) Advertisement and Publicity

Statement

*Number of proposals received, units assisted and pending for financial assistance during the years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and current year State-wise under the scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of FPIs**

Sl. No.	Name of the States	2009-10					2010-11					2011-12					2012-13** (as on 01.11.2012)				
		O.B.	R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	349	61	41	369	369	39	30	378	378	25	105	298	298	0	80	218				
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	0	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
4.	Assam	63	6	22	47	47	19	26	40	40	5	12	33	33	0	10	23				
5.	Bihar	22	4	2	24	24	2	6	20	20	0	5	15	15	0	2	13				
6.	Chandigarh	4	0	0	4	4	0	1	3	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	3				
7.	Chhattisgarh	246	3	4	245	245	6	27	224	224	3	75	152	152	0	67	85				
8.	Daman and Diu	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	3	3	0	0	3				

9. Delhi	28	7	2	33	33	3	3	33	33	0	16	17	17	0	5	12
10. Goa	7	4	1	10	10	7	1	16	16	1	2	15	15	0	1	14
11. Gujarat	314	98	42	370	370	59	52	348	348	19	106	261	261	0	34	227
12. Haryana	209	31	11	229	229	20	14	204	204	24	62	166	166	0	61	105
13. Himachal Pradesh	37	17	10	44	44	12	7	49	49	2	14	37	37	0	4	33
14. Jammu and Kashmir	30	13	7	36	36	7	5	38	38	5	6	37	37	0	2	35
15. Jharkhand	13	6	3	16	16	4	4	16	16	2	1	17	17	0	0	17
16. Karnataka	236	45	24	257	257	36	14	279	279	14	61	232	232	0	40	192
17. Kerala	114	36	33	117	117	29	19	127	127	25	52	100	100	0	14	86
18. Madhya Pradesh	96	18	18	96	96	19	14	101	101	8	23	86	86	0	16	70
19. Maharashtra	401	113	113	401	401	88	56	433	433	53	202	284	284	0	84	200
20. Manipur	11	7	6	12	12	14	1	25	25	19	11	33	33	0	14	19
21. Meghalaya	4	2	2	4	4	0	2	2	2	1	0	3	3	0	1	2
22. Mizoram	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Nagaland	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
24. Odisha	34	7	6	35	35	7	8	34	34	1	9	26	26	0	6	20		
25. Puducherry	5	3	0	8	8	0	0	8	8	0	1	7	7	0	2	5		
26. Punjab	265	31	13	283	283	21	9	295	295	13	147	161	161	0	106	55		
27. Rajasthan	162	66	27	201	201	49	48	202	202	50	95	157	157	0	31	126		
28. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
29. Tamil Nadu	100	52	41	111	111	38	24	125	125	19	75	69	69	0	23	46		
30. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
31. Uttar Pradesh	135	59	32	162	162	29	47	144	144	15	53	106	106	0	28	78		
32. Uttarakhand	21	16	12	25	25	6	6	25	25	3	5	23	23	0	3	20		
33. West Bengal	54	14	10	58	58	15	10	63	63	7	19	51	51	0	5	46		
TOTAL:	2968	720	487	3201	3201	531	437	3295	3295	316	1157	2454	2454	0	641	1813		

*Data is under Reconciliation with Co-ordinating Bank *i.e.* HDFC Bank

**Committed liabilities of Eleventh Plan. And this scheme has been subsumed *w.e.f.* 01.4.2012 in the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFPP) in the Twelfth Plan (2012-13) for implementation through State/UT Governments.

Note: O.B.=Opening Balance, R=Received, S=Sanctioned, P=Pending

For the purpose of Sanction, both Instalment released cases as well as 1st instalment released cases have been Counted.

Turnover of FPIs

‡2409. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the turnover of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) is continuously rising in the country in the past years;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise therein during 2004-05 to 2011-12 along with value of annual turnover of this sector during the said period; and

(c) the annual average percentage of market demand for export and domestic consumption in this annual turnover and the percentage of rise in export during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The output for the year 2004-05 to 2010-11 generated by Food Processing Industries (FPI) Sector as well as the annual growth of output, as per latest available information in National Accounts Statistics (NAS), is as under:—

Year	Output (Rs. crore)	% Growth
2004-05	3,28,824	-6.0
2005-06	3,45,503	5.1
2006-07	4,11,855	19.2
2007-08	4,74,580	15.2
2008-09	5,46,050	15.1
2009-10	6,02,477	10.3
2010-11	6,66,662	10.7

Source: National Accounts Statistics

(c) Information on the annual average percentage of market demand for export and domestic consumption is not maintained in the Ministry. However, export from

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Food Processing Sector during 2004-05 to 2011-12 has increased, in Rupee terms, by an Annual Average Growth Rate (AAGR) of 23.5 percent

FPIs in Odisha

2410. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for establishment of Food Parks in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including location, estimated cost etc.;
- (c) whether Government has sanctioned any grants to the State for establishment of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) there;
- (d) whether any FPI is functioning in the State; and
- (e) if so, the detailed status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) One Food Park has been sanctioned for establishment at Khurda in Odisha under the Food Parks Scheme. The Food Parks scheme has since been discontinued with effect from 01.04.2007. A new scheme, *viz.* Infrastructure Development for Food Processing: Mega Food Parks has been approved by the Government during Eleventh Plan. Under the new scheme two Mega Food Park projects have been approved in the State of Odisha.

(b) The details of the Food Park at Khurda, Odisha including location, estimated cost etc. is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

The details of two Mega Food Park projects are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) to (e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has not received any application for financial assistance to set up food processing industries from the State Governments of Odisha under the Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries. However, the proposals received from private industries, funds sanctioned/released and pending for financial assistance during the last three years and the current year under the aforesaid scheme are given in

Statement-III (*See* below). During the Twelfth Plan (2012-13), the scheme of Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries has been subsumed in National Mission on Food Processing (Centrally Sponsored Scheme) being implemented by States/UTs with effect from 01.04.2012. Accordingly, all the State Governments have been empowered to receive the applications, sanction and release the grants-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries under various components of the Mission.

As per Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) Report for the year 2009-10, the total number of Food Processing Industries functioning in Odisha in organized sector is 644.

Statement-I

The details of the Food park at Khurda, Odisha including location, estimated cost etc.

ODISHA

Khurda Food Park

Project Location:	Khurda, Odisha
Implementing Agency:	Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO)
SNA	Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Ltd. 326, Barah Munda, Bhubaneswar-751003
Year of approval:	2001-02
Total Project Cost:	Rs. 990.73 lakhs
Revised Project Cost:	Rs. 1270.16 lakhs
Approved MFPI grant:	Rs. 400.00 lakhs
Grant released so far:	Rs. 300.00 lakhs
Date and Amount of release of last instalment:	Rs.100.00 lakhs on 30.07.2010

MEANS OF FINANCE

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Particulars	Amount	Actual Expenditure
1.	IDCO Contribution	870.16	629.02
2.	MFPI grant	400.00	300.00
TOTAL:		1270.16	929.02

COMMON FACILITIES CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No	Item	Amount	Actual Expenditure
1.	Water supply and Distribution	75.00	116.80
2.	Power supply and distribution	105.00	92.27
3.	Warehouse	56.00	74.30
4.	Cool room for storing fresh Fruits and Vegetables	20.00	161.00
5.	Cold Storage	72.00	
6.	Testing Lab	36.50	56.04
7.	Pollution treatment and Sewerage system	45.00	-
TOTAL:		410.50	500.41

Grant restricted to
Rs. 400.00 lakhs

Statement-II*Status of implementation of Mega Food Parks Scheme in Odisha***1. M/s MITS Mega Food Park Pvt. Limited, Odisha****Name of SPV**

MITS Mega Food Park Ltd.

Name of the PMC	Global Agri System Pvt. Ltd.
Location of CPC	Bhujbul and Sindhubadi Mouza, Rayagada
Area of CPC	50.05 acres
Location of PPCs	Kashipur, Distt-Rayagada, Padmapur, Distt-Rayagada, Umerkote Distt-Nawarangpur, Digapahandi Distt-Ganjam, Koraput- Distt-Koraput, Khurda (Major PPC)
Approved Project Cost	Rs 80.17 crore
Grant Approved by IMAC	Rs 50.00 crore
Date of In principle approval	29.04.2011
Date of Final Approval	16.04.2012

Present Status

The 1st tranche of 1st instalment was released on 08.08.2012. The SPV has approached Punjab National Bank (PNB) for the final sanction of the term loan of Rs 20.00 crore which PNB head office in Delhi has appraised the project and has forwarded the file to circle office in Bhubaneswar with sanction details. The SPV has taken steps to Identify user enterprise for the proposed facilities by participating in various events and conducting awareness campaigns with local entrepreneurs to make them aware of the facility upcoming in the food park.

2. M/s Huma Coastal Mega Food Park Pvt. Limited-Odisha:

In the 3rd Phase of Scheme implementation, in-principle approval has been accorded to M/s Huma Coastal Mega Food Park Pvt. Limited on 21.09.2012 to set up a Mega Food Park at Raniboro Teshil Khallikote, District Ganjam in Odisha. The estimated project cost is Rs.117.05 crore. The project proposes to set up 49 units in the above mega food park project. The SPV has been advised to submit DPR within the 4 months from the date of in-principle approval.

Statement-III

*Number of proposals received, units assisted and pending for financial assistance during the years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and current year State-wise under the scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of FPIs**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13**		(Rs in lakhs)						
		R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P	O.B.							
1.	Odisha	7	6	35	35	7	8	34	34	1	9	26	26	0	6	20

*Data is under Reconciliation with Co-ordinating Bank i.e. HDFC Bank

**Committed liabilities of Eleventh Plan. And this scheme has been subsumed w.e.f. 01.04.2012 in the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFPP) in the Twelfth Plan (2012-13) for implementation through State/UT Governments.

Note: O.B.=Opening Balance, R=Received, S=Sanctioned, P=Pending

For the purpose of Sanction, both Instalment released cases as well as 1st instalment released cases have been Counted.

Setting up of Food Processing Industries

2411. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) number of proposals received from State Governments/private industries for financial assistance to set up Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in their States during last three years including current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) present status of proposals and action taken by Government thereon along with details of projects sanctioned/pending for consideration, State/UT-wise;

(c) steps taken by Government to coordinate with State Governments for development and modernization of FPIs; and

(d) number of FPIs set up so far/funds sanctioned/released and utilized, year-wise, State/UT-wise including measures taken for providing marketing facilities to sell processed food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has not received any application for financial assistance to set up food processing industries from the State Governments under the Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries. However, the proposals received from private industries, funds sanctioned/released and pending for financial assistance during the last three years under the aforesaid scheme State-wise/UT-wise are given in Statement (*See* below).

During the Twelfth Plan (2012-13), the scheme of Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries has been subsumed in National Mission on Food Processing (Centrally Sponsored Scheme) implemented by States/UTs *w.e.f.* 01.04.2012. Accordingly, all the State Governments have been empowered to receive the applications, sanction and release the grants-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries under various components of the Mission.

(c) To facilitate the entrepreneurs and domestic agro-processing industries in setting up/modernisation of FPIs, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during 2012-13 of Twelfth Five Year Plan. Under the mission, State Governments receive the applications, sanction and release the grants-in-aid to the

eligible beneficiaries. NMFP also provides flexibility to States/UTs in the selection of beneficiaries, location of projects etc. for the development of food processing sector. This initiative of the Ministry would give an impetus to food processing industries in the country. The Major Programmes/Schemes covered under NMFP during 2012-13 are:

- (i) Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries.
- (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non Horticultural Products.
- (iii) Scheme for Human Resource Development (HRD).
 - (a) Creation of Infrastructure Facilities for Running Degree/Diploma/Certificate Courses in Food Processing Technology.
 - (b) Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)
 - (c) Food Processing Training Centre (FPTC)
- (iv) Scheme for Promotional Activities
 - (a) Organizing Seminar/Workshops
 - (b) Conducting Studies/Surveys
 - (c) Support to Exhibitions/Fairs
 - (d) Advertisement and Publicity

(d) A Statement indicating the number of proposals received, funds sanctioned/ released and pending for financial assistance during the last three years and current year State/UT-wise under the Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries is given in Statement (*See* below). Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not have any scheme for facilitating the marketing of processed food. However, Government agencies like Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) under Department of Commerce promotes the marketing of processed foods including export etc. under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.

Statement

*Number of proposals received, units assisted and pending for financial assistance during the years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and current year State-wise under the scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of FPIs**

Sl. No.	Name of the States	2009-10						2010-11						2011-12						2012-13** (as on 01.11.2012)					
		O.B.		R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P	O.B.	R	S	P			
		3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	15	16	17	18			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	349	61	41	369	369	39	30	378	378	25	105	298	298	0	80	218	298	298	0	0	0			
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	0	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
4.	Assam	63	6	22	47	47	19	26	40	40	5	12	33	33	0	10	23	33	33	0	10	23			
5.	Bihar	22	4	2	24	24	2	6	20	20	0	5	15	15	0	2	13	15	15	0	2	13			
6.	Chandigarh	4	0	0	4	4	0	1	3	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	3			
7.	Chhattisgarh	246	3	4	245	245	6	27	224	224	3	75	152	152	0	67	85	152	152	0	67	85			
8.	Daman and Diu	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	3	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	3			

23. Nagaland	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	0
24. Odisha	34	7	6	35	35	7	8	34	34	1	9	26	26	0	6	20
25. Puducherry	5	3	0	8	8	0	0	8	8	0	1	7	7	0	2	5
26. Punjab	265	31	13	283	283	21	9	295	295	13	147	161	161	0	106	55
27. Rajasthan	162	66	27	201	201	49	48	202	202	50	95	157	157	0	31	126
28. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29. Tamil Nadu	100	52	41	111	111	38	24	125	125	19	75	69	69	0	23	46
30. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Uttar Pradesh	135	59	32	162	162	29	47	144	144	15	53	106	106	0	28	78
32. Uttarakhnad	21	16	12	25	25	6	6	25	25	3	5	23	23	0	3	20
33. West Bengal	54	14	10	58	58	15	10	63	63	7	19	51	51	0	5	46
TOTAL:	2968	720	487	3201	3201	531	437	3295	3295	316	1157	2454	2454	0	641	1813

*Data is under Reconciliation with Co-ordinating Bank i.e. HDFC Bank

**Committed liabilities of Eleventh plan. And this scheme has been subsumed w.e.f. 01.04.2012 in the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFPP) in the Twelfth Plan (2012-13) for implementation through State/UT Governments.

Note: O.B.=Opening Balance, R=Received, S=Sanctioned, P=Pending

For the purpose of Sanction, both Instalment released cases as well as 1st instalment released cases have been Counted.

Kendriya Vidyalayas for Tibetan refugees

†2412. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to hand over the Kendriya Vidyalayas being run for the children of Tibetan refugees in the country to Tibetan Self Help Groups;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the places where the teachers and staff working in these Kendriya Vidyalayas would be adjusted; and

(d) whether all the persons working there would have to work under Tibetan Self Help Groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) There are no Kendriya Vidyalayas being run for the children of Tibetan refugees in the country. However, a proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for the transfer of schools established for educating the children of Tibetan refugees from the Central Tibetan School Administration (CTSA) to the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). No decision has been taken on the issue. The interest of the teachers and other employees would be protected while finalizing the proposal.

Students going abroad for higher education

2413. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been a 256 per cent rise in Indian students going abroad in the last ten years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the proportion of these students who return to the country to work and live; and

(d) how much of the country's money is spent on students going abroad for higher education annually?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The specific information regarding the number of Indian students going abroad or returning to the country after completing their studies to work and live in India, and the country's money spent on students going abroad is not maintained by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, as per a report of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore published in May, 2012 on Indian student mobility to selected European countries, it is observed that the Indian student flows to the world grew by 256 percent between 2000 and 2009. The reasons therefor would relate to individual interest and preference as well as the non-availability of comparable opportunities in India. The actual amount spent on students going abroad for higher education depends on the country, course and the University chosen by them.

Meeting of India-New Zealand Education Council

2414. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the first meeting of the India-New Zealand Education Council was held in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the meeting;
- (c) whether India and New Zealand have signed any Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs);
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the extent to which higher education joint research, student mobility, faculty development, etc., between the two countries will be boosted after the implementation of such MoUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first meeting of the India-New Zealand Education Council (INZEC) was held on 19th October, 2012 at New Delhi. During the meeting, issues relating to Joint Research, Student Mobility, Faculty Exchange and Training, Indigenous Studies, Open Educational Resources and Technology Enabled Learning, Vocational Education Framework, Skill Development, Leadership Development and Professional Development for Vocational Education and Training etc. were discussed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The following MoUs were signed during the INZEC meeting:-

- (i) An Educational Partnership Agreement between the University of Delhi, India and the Lincoln University and the Asia-Pacific Football Academy, Lincoln, New Zealand.
- (ii) An MoU between the University of Delhi, India and the Massy University New Zealand.
- (iii) A Memorandum of Collaboration between the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), India and The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand.
- (iv) An MoU between the Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi, India and the Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.
- (v) An International Education MoU between the Punjab Technical University, India and the Waiariki Institute of Technology of New Zealand.
- (vi) An MoU between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of the Republic of India and the Sport New Zealand of the Government of New Zealand on cooperation in the field of Sports.

The MoUs signed during the INZEC meeting will help in boosting the higher education collaborations between the institutions from both the countries in the field of joint research, student mobility, faculty development, open and distance learning, skill development and the promotion of sports education.

Software of Aakash tablet

2415. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to provide budget tablet 'Aakash' to all students within the next five years;
- (b) if so, what kind of software would be used in the tablet; and
- (c) the manner in which the tablet would meet requirements of diverse languages and varying levels of intellectual growth, even for the same age group of students in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Sir, at present there is no concrete proposal to provide the budget tablet 'Aakash' to all students within the next five years. However, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), a project is being implemented by IIT Bombay to achieve the following deliverables:

- (i) The acquisition of 1,00,000 Low Cost Access cum Computing Devices (LCADs) for teacher empowerment,
- (ii) The Testing of these LCADs and
- (iii) The Hardware and software optimization of LCADs.

IIT Bombay is engaged in the development of pedagogically efficient multi - lingual educational applications for various levels of education and is making efforts to provide the Aakash tablet with the latest versions of the standard Open Source operating systems such as Android and Linux.

Teaching of foreign languages

‡2416. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is emphasizing upon establishment of centres for teaching and learning of Urdu, Sanskrit, Chinese, Russian and European languages by providing special financial assistance to various universities of the country;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the traditional system of teaching and learning of various languages of the world in Indian universities has almost been discontinued;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government has any plan to revive the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Universities are created through an Act of Parliament or through an Act of the State Legislature and are

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

governed by their respective Acts and Statutes and ordinances framed thereunder. The Universities themselves decide on the establishment of a centre or department and the courses to be offered in their campuses. The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides General Development Assistance to all the Universities which are on its grant-in-aid list. The assistance is provided to create new infrastructure as well as for the renovation of the existing infrastructure to enable the Universities to provide access with quality to all aspiring students. Further, it has been the consistent policy of the UGC to encourage teaching and research in all languages including the traditional Indian languages, indigenous languages as well foreign languages in Indian universities.

- (c) and (d) No such data is maintained centrally.
- (e) In view of (c) and (d) above, the question does not arise.

Funds sought by Madhya Pradesh under RTE Act

‡2417. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the amount sought by Madhya Pradesh Government from Central Government for development of infrastructure under Right to Education Act is still pending with Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any kind of accountability in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The Central Government has released an amount of ₹ 80,343.30 lakh in two instalments for the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan/Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 in 2012-13 so far, to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, apart from the 13th Finance Commission award of ₹ 45,200.00 lakh earmarked for the State for 2012-13. As of 06.12.12, the State had an unspent balance of ₹ 44,410.00 lakh.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Irregularities in recruitment of teachers in schools
in Meghalaya**

2418. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI was asked to conduct an inquiry in Meghalaya to look into the irregularities in the recruitment of Assistant teachers in Government lower primary schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by CBI and Government in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that F.I.R. has been lodged by various NGOs against those named in the CBI report on the alleged irregularities in the matter; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. As per information received from the Government of Meghalaya, the CBI conducted an inquiry into the recruitment of assistant teachers in government lower primary schools. The CBI report was challenged in the Shillong Bench of the Guwahati High Court by the State Government. As per the direction of the Hon'ble High Court, a High level Scrutiny Committee has been notified by the State Government on 12th October, 2012 to ascertain the legality/basis of the selection of candidates.

Establishment of Meta Universities

†2419. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposals regarding expansion of technology in schools and establishment of Meta Universities;

(b) is so, by when these proposals would be cleared; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Schools" since December, 2004 (revised in 2010) to promote computer enabled learning and usage of ICT in Government and Government aided secondary and higher secondary schools. Under the CSS, financial assistance is provided for ICT infrastructure including internet connectivity, teachers' salaries, teachers' training and development of e-content for ICT aided teaching and learning.

A Meta University has been established in Delhi by the Indian Institute of Technology (NT), Delhi, the Jamia Milia Islamia and the Delhi University to share learning resources by using the latest technologies to enable the students to benefit from the pooling of learning resources available in these institutions.

(b) and (c) The higher educational institutions being fully autonomous entities are free to collaborate and identify the courses/programmes to be offered in the Meta Universities, and no clearance from the Ministry of Human Resource Development is required for this purpose.

Setting up of model schools

2420. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan to build 2500 Model schools all over the country as enunciated in Prime Minister's Independence Day speech in 2007 has been completed; and

(b) if so, where have those schools been established and the details thereof, State-wise and name-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (b) The centrally sponsored scheme to set up 6,000 model schools at the rate of one school per block was launched in November, 2008. Out of these, 3,500 schools are to be set up in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through State/UT Governments and the remaining 2,500 schools are to be set up under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in blocks which are not educationally backward.

Under the State sector component of the scheme, proposals to set up model schools in 2,973 blocks have been received from 24 States/UTs till 30.11.2012. Out

of these, model schools in 2,266 blocks covering 22 States have been approved. Financial sanctions amounting to Rs. 2,110.80 crore have been accorded for setting up 1,880 model schools in 21 States. State-wise details of proposals received, proposals approved, schools sanctioned and amounts released are given in Statement-I (See below). 473 model schools have so far become functional in 8 States, State-wise locations are given in Statement-II (See below). Implementation of the PPP component of the Model School Scheme has been initiated from 2012-13 and proposals have since been received in response to the Request for Qualification (RFQ) to pre-qualify the private entities for this purpose.

Statement-I

State-wise details about model schools from 2009-10 to 30.11.2012

(Amount in ₹ crore)

Sl. No.	State	No. of blocks for which proposals received	No. of schools approved	No. of schools accorded financial sanction	Amount Released				
					2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	666	589	355	0.00	0.00	412.09	0.00	412.09
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	80	67	67	0.00	39.09	63.45	8.35	110.89
4.	Bihar	411	368	368	18.85	100.06	0.00	203.53	322.44
5.	Chhattisgarh	74	74	74	22.65	58.89	2.32	0.00	83.86
6.	Gujarat	85	84	83	0.00	69.29	0.00	26.72	96.01
7.	Haryana	36	36	36	0.00	12.55	0.00	0.00	12.55
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	5	5	6.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.78
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	24	19	19	25.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.82

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Jharkhand	121	89	40	0.00	0.00	46.43	0.00	46.43
11.	Karnataka	74	74	74	83.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	83.80
12.	Madhya Pradesh	201	201	201	37.37	0.00	195.01	0.00	232.38
13.	Maharashtra	43	43	43	0.00	0.00	29.27	20.65	49.92
14.	Meghalaya	9	9	9	0.00	0.00	15.03	0.00	15.03
15.	Mizoram	1	1	1	1.36	0.00	0.00	1.729	3.089
16.	Nagaland	11	11	11	7.47	0.00	6.00	6.66	7.47
17.	Odisha	162	111	111	0.00	0.00	128.85	0.00	128.85
18.	Punjab	21	21	21	23.78	23.78	0.00	0.00	47.56
19.	Rajasthan	174	160	134	0.00	91.71	49.92	0.00	141.63
20.	Tamil Nadu	44	44	44	20.25	0.00	10.44	40.496	71.186
21.	Tripura	6	6	0	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	622	193	148	0.00	56.13	157.67	0.00	171.80
23.	West Bengal	67	61	36	3.58	19.07	0.00	18.57	41.22
24.	Uttarakhand	19	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:		2973	2266	1880	251.71	470.57	1068.48	320.045	2110.805

Statement-II

State-wise list of Model Schools which have become functional

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of School	Block
1	2	3	4
1.	Punjab	21	1. Sangat 2. Talwandi Sabo

1	2	3	4
			3. Mandi Phul West/Maur
			4. Khuhian sarver
			5. Abohar
			6. Fazilka
			7. Jalalabad
			8. Mamdot
			9. Ferozepur
			10. Mansa
			11. Budlads-I/Bhikhi
			12. Budlads-II at Bareta/Budlada
			13. Jhunir-I
			14. Jhunir-II at Sardulgarh
			15. Lambi
			16. Muktsar
			17. Samana-I/Samana-I at Patran
			18. Lehra gaga
			19. Anndana
			20. Saunam
			21. Valtoha
2.	Karnataka	74	1. Ramadurg
			2. Parsgad (Soudatti)
			3. Bilagi
			4. Mudhol

1

2

3

4

5. Bagalkote

6. Badami

7. Hungund

8. Bijapur

9. Sindhagi

10. B. Bagewadi

11. Muddebihal

12. Indi

13. Aland

14. Afzapur

15. Gulbarga

16. Chincholi

17. Chitapur

18. Basavakalyan

19. Bidar

20. Humnabad

21. Aurad

22. Lingasur

23. Devadurga

24. Manvi

25. Raichur

26. Sindhanur

27. Yelburga

1	2	3	4
			28. Kustagi
			29. Gangavthi
			30. Koppal
			31. Rona
			32. Mundargi
			33. Dharwad
			34. Kalghatagi
			35. H. Bommanahalli
			36. Hospet
			37. Siraguppa
			38. Bellary
			39. Sandur
			40. Kudiligl
			41. Molkalmur
			42. Chalakere
			43. Harapanahalli
			44. Pavagada
			45. Gudibende
			46. Bagepalli
			47. Chintamani
			48. Srinivaspur
			49. Bangarpet
			50. Mulebagilu

1	2	3	4
			51. Gouribidanur
			52. Channaptna
			53. Kanakapura
			54. Holenarasipur
			55. K. R. Nagar
			56. Hunsur
			57. Mysore
			58. Heggadadevankote
			59. Nanjangud
			60. T. Narasipur
			61. Gundlapet
			62. Chamarajnager
			63. Yealndur
			64. Kollegal
			65. Panavapur
			66. Mallavalli
			67. Gokak
			68. Rayabag
			69. Sedam
			70. Shahpur
			71. Surpur
			72. Yadgir
			73. Jama Khandi

1	2	3	4
			74. Jevargi
3.	Gujarat	12	1. Amirgarh 2. Danta 3. Khedbrahma 4. Dahod 5. Zhalod 6. Limkheda 7. Santrampur 8. Chhota Udepur 9. Naswadi 10. Kawant 11. Pavi Jetpur 12. Dediapada
4.	Tamil Nadu	18	1. Nallur 2. Panruti 3. Pennagaram 4. Shoolagiri 5. Kelamangalam 6. Ammapatti 7. Nambiyur 8. Moolanur 9. Kadavoor 10. Kollihills

1	2	3	4
			11. Edappadi
			12. Kadyampatti
			13. Konganapuram
			14. S. Pudur
			15. Thiyagadurgam
			16. Rshivandhiyam
			17. Kallakurichi
			18. Thirukoilur
5.	Chhattisgarh	74	1. Lormi
			2. Bhopal pattnem
			3. Chhindgarh
			4. Gidam
			5. Kuakonda
			6. Sukma
			7. Usoor
			8. Bemetara
			9. Dharamjaigarh
			10. Bataoli
			11. Bhaiyathan
			12. Kusmi
			13. Lakhanpur
			14. Lundra
			15. Mainpat

1	2	3	4
			16. Odgi
			17. Pratappur
			18. Rajpur
			19. Ramchandrapur
			20. Sitapur
			21. Bastar
			22. Kondagaon
			23. Jagdalpur
			24. Tokapal
			25. Darbha
			26. Lohandiguda
			27. Bastanar
			28. Makdi
			29. Bakawand
			30. Pharsagaon
			31. Baderajpur
			32. Keshkal
			33. Bhairamgarh
			34. Bijapur
			35. Bilha
			36. Gourela
			37. Kota
			38. Marwahi

1	2	3	4
			39. Masturi
			40. Mungeli
			41. Pathariya
			42. Pendra
			43. Takhatpur
			44. Dantewada
			45. Katekalyan
			46. Konta
			47. Pamgarh
			48. Bagicha
			49. Kansabel
			50. Pathalgaon
			51. Kawardha
			52. Panadariya
			53. Bodla
			54. Korba
			55. Kartala
			56. Kartghora
			57. Pali
			58. Pondiuprora
			59. Khadgawan
			60. Manendragarh
			61. Bharatpur

1	2	3	4
			62. Narayanpur
			63. Orcha (Bastar District in MDM List)
			64. Lailunga
			65. DeoBhog
			66. Mainpur
			67. BilaiGarh
			68. Kasdol
			69. Baloda Bazar
			70. Bhatapara
			71. Ambikapur
			72. Surajpur
			73. Udaypur
			74. Wadrafnagar
6.	Madhya Pradesh	201	1. Mungaoli
			2. Eshagarh
			3. Berasia
			4. Khaknar
			5. Burhanpur
			6. Gaurihar
			7. Bijawar
			8. Buxwaha
			9. Tamia

1	2	3	4
			10. Amarwada
			11. Parasia
			12. Jamai
			13. Bhitwar
			14. Ghatigaon
			15. Khirkiya
			16. Sohagpur
			17. Babai
			18. Bankhed
			19. Shahpura
			20. Harsud
			21. Pamdhana
			22. Baladi (Killod)
			23. Panna
			24. Pawai
			25. Banda
			26. Bina
			27. Khurai
			28. Malthon
			29. Shahgarh
			30. Basoda
			31. Nataran
			32. Sirong

1	2	3	4
			33. Latari
			34. Alirajpur
			35. Bhabra
			36. Jobat
			37. Katthiwada
			38. Sondwa
			39. Udaigarh
			40. Anuppur
			41. Jaithahri
			42. Kotma
			43. Pushaprajgarh
			44. Ashoknagar
			45. Chanderi
			46. Baihar
			47. Birsa
			48. Barwani
			49. Niwali
			50. Pansemal
			51. Pati
			52. Rajpur
			53. Sendhwa
			54. Bhimpur
			55. Ghoradongari

1	2	3	4
			56. Shahpur
			57. Goliad
			58. Phanda
			59. Badamalehra
			60. Chhatarpur
			61. Loundi
			62. Nowgong
			63. Rajnagar
			64. Harrai
			65. Batiyagarh
			66. Damon
			67. Hatta
			68. Jabera
			69. Patera
			70. Patharia
			71. Tendukheda
			72. Bagli
			73. Dewas
			74. Kannod
			75. Khategaon
			76. Sonkatch
			77. Tonk khurd
			78. Bannawar

1	2	3	4
			79. Bagh
			80. Dahi
			81. Dhar
			82. Dharamपुरी
			83. Gandhwani
			84. kukshi
			85. Manawar
			86. Nalchha
			87. Nisarpur
			88. Sardarpur
			89. Tirla
			90. Umarban
			91. Amarpur
			92. Bajag
			93. Dindori
			94. Karanjiya
			95. Mehadwani
			96. Samanapur
			97. Shahpura
			98. Aron
			99. Bamori
			100. Chachoda
			101. Guna

1	2	3	4
			102. Raghogarh
			103. Dabra
			104. Morar
			105. Depalpur
			106. Indore
			107. Mhow
			108. Sanwer
			109. Kundam
			110. Jhabua
			111. Meghnagar
			112. Petlawad
			113. Rama
			114. Ranapur
			115. Thandla
			116. Bahoriband
			117. Barwara
			118. Dheemarkheda
			119. Katni
			120. Rithi
			121. Vijayraghavgarh
			122. Khalwa
			123. Bhagwanpura
			124. Jhirniya

1	2	3	4
			125. Bichhiya
			126. Bijadandi
			127. Ghughori
			128. Mawai
			129. Mohgaon
			130. Narayanganj
			131. Niwas
			132. Bhanpura
			133. Garoth
			134. Joura
			135. Kailaras
			136. Morena
			137. Pahargarh
			138. Sabalgarh
			139. Jawad
			140. Manasa
			141. Neemuch
			142. Ajaygarh
			143. Biaora
			144. Khilchipur
			145. Narsingharh
			146. Rajgarh
			147. Sarangpur

1	2	3	4
			148. Zirapur
			149. Bajna
			150. Sailana
			151. Gangew
			152. Hanumana
			153. Jawa
			154. Mauganj
			155. Naigarhi
			156. Tyonthar
			157. Maihar
			158. Majhagawan
			159. Ramnagar
			160. Uchehra
			161. Ashta
			162. Ichhawar
			163. Sehore
			164. Lakhnadon
			165. Beohari
			166. Budhar
			167. Gohparu (Pali No.1)
			168. Jaisinghnagar
			169. Sohagpur
			170. Agar

1	2	3	4
			171. Badod
			172. Karahal
			173. Sheopur
			174. Vijaypur
			175. Badarwas
			176. Karera
			177. Khaniyadhana
			178. Kolaras
			179. Pichhore
			180. Pohari
			181. Shivpuri
			182.. Kusmi
			183. Majhauri
			184. Rampur Naikin
			185. Sidhi
			186. Sihawal
			187. Chitarangi
			188. Deosar
			189. Waidhan
			190. Baldevgarh
			191. Jatara
			192. Niwadi
			193. Palera

1	2	3	4
			194. Prithvipur
			195. Tikamgarh
			196. Ghatiya
			197. Khachrod
			198. Mahidpur
			199. Ujjain
			200. Gohparu
			201. Karkeli
7.	Jharkhand	40	1. Manika
			2. Kunda
			3. Lawlaung
			4. Barkatha
			5. Chauparan
			6. Tisri
			7. Gawan
			8. Bagodar
			9. Gandey
			10. Birni
			11. Dewri
			12. Dhanwar
			13. Giridih (Sadar)
			14. Bengabad
			15. Dumri (Balthariya)

1	2	3	4
			16. Pirtanr
			17. Borio
			18. Barhet
			19. Mandro
			20. Taljhari
			21. Littipara
			22. Pakur
			23. Jarmundi
			24. Raneshwar
			25. Shikaripara
			26. Masaliya
			27. Sariyahat
			28. Ramgarh
			29. Tundi
			30. Bero
			31. Erki (Tamarll)
			32. Karra
			33. Khunti
			34. Kisko
			35. Bhandra
			36. Jaldega
			37. Manoharpur
			38. Ichagarh

1	2	3	4
			39. Nimdih
			40. Dumaria
8.	Maharashtra	33	1. Mantha
			2. Badnapur
			3. Ghansavangi
			4. Jalna
			5. Ambad
			6. Bhokardhan
			7. Partur
			8. Gevarai
			9. Wadavani
			10. Mudkhed
			11. Umri
			12. Dharmabad
			13. Biloli
			14. Parbhani
			15. Gangakhed
			16. Jintur
			17. Purna
			18. Pathari
			19. Selu
			20. Manvat
			21. Hingoli

1	2	3	4
			22. Talasari
			23. Gaganbavada
			24. Peth
			25. Surgana
			26. Dhanora
			27. Attappali
			28. Bhamragad
			29. Ahari
			30. Sironcha
			31. Shahada
			32. Taloda
			33. Dhadgaon

Education loans to students by commercial banks

2421. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has noticed the decision of commercial banks to limit and reduce education loans to the students of self financing institutions; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Ministry to solve the problems being faced by students of self financing institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has informed that it has issued a Model Educational Loan Scheme for pursuing higher education in India and abroad in September, 2012. According to the scheme, all students who are Indian Nationals and have secured admission to a higher education course in India or abroad through an Entrance Test/Merit Based Selection process after Higher Secondary (10+2 or equivalent) are eligible for the

loan. Banks may adopt appropriate criteria based on employability and reputation of the institution concerned, where entrance test or selection based on marks obtained in qualifying examination is not the criterion. Details of the scheme may be seen at http://www.iba.org.in/educational_loan.asp.

Study model to allow students free time in schools

2422. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala has come out with a study model to allow students to bunk the classes to spend time on innovative ideas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such students would get certain concessions in attendance and some extra marks to their total scores at the end of the academic year; and

(c) whether Central Government is considering to implement such proposals all over the country and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Department of Education, Government of Kerala has evolved a strategy to engage school children in creative and innovative ideas, as an additional/extended learning activity without affecting the learning hours as envisaged in the Right to Education (RTE) Act. Grace marks ranging from 18-30 are added at the end of the academic year to promote children to spend time on innovative ideas.

(c) Education is in the concurrent list and it is for the respective State Governments to frame policies in such matters. However, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD), has implemented the scheme of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). Under the CCE, a candidate has to undergo assessments in Scholastic as well as Co-Scholastic Areas such as Life Skills, Attitudes and Values, Participation and Achievement in activities involving Literacy and Creative Skills, Scientific Skills, Aesthetic Skills and Performing Arts, etc.

UGC regulations for appointment of faculty members

2423. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are regulations by UGC for appointment of faculty members;
- (b) if so, whether States are following those regulations; and
- (c) if not, the manner in which the Ministry contemplates to enforce their strict implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for appointment of teachers and other academic staff in universities and colleges and measures for the maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2010.

(b) and (c) These Regulations apply to every University established under a Central Act, or a State Act; every Institution including a constituent or an affiliated College recognized by the Commission under Clause (f) of Section 2 of the UGC Act, 1956; and every Institution deemed to be a University under Section 3 of the said Act. These Regulations have the force of subordinate legislation and are therefore binding on all the institutions covered under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, including the State institutions.

Conversion of Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad into an IIT

2424. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Planning Commission has recommended upgradation of Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad into an IIT;
- (b) whether the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad has also submitted a proposal to Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of Government on the proposal; and
- (d) the time by when the proposal is likely to be approved and ISM, Dhanbad would be converted into an IIT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has recommended that the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad may be converted

into an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) while ensuring that its core competency in mining and geology would be central to the institution and would not be diluted.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The ISM, Dhanbad with the approval of its Finance Committee, Executive Board and General Council has forwarded the proposal for its conversion into an IIT. The proposal on "Conversion of Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad into an IIT" is an agenda item for the meeting of the Council of the IITs to be held on 7.1.2013.

Opening of KGBVs in Muslim dominated areas

‡2425. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to open residential Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in Muslim dominated areas;

(b) if so, by when the scheme would be implemented; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme has been in existence since 2004, wherein educationally backward blocks (EBBs) identified in those districts with rural female literacy below the national average as per the Census of 2001, are eligible for a KGBV residential school, provided those EBBs do not have a residential school at upper primary level for girls under any other scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment or the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. As of 30.9.2012, 544 KGBVs have been sanctioned in 71 Muslim concentration districts. State-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

Statement

State-wise details of opening of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in Muslim dominated areas

Sl. No.	State	No. of Muslim Concentration Districts	No. of KGBV Sanctioned in EBBs
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	13	34

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
2.	Bihar	7	102
3.	Gujarat	1	8
4.	Haryana	1	6
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	69
6.	Jharkhand	5	40
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1	2
8.	Manipur	1	1
9.	Rajasthan	1	3
10.	Uttarakhand	2	9
11.	Uttar Pradesh	20	219
12.	West Bengal	8	51
TOTAL:		71	544

EBB: Educationally Backward Block

Vocational colleges in Odisha

2426 SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of Government of Odisha is pending before the Ministry for setting up of 400 new Vocational Junior Colleges and to strengthen the existing 231 Government Vocational Junior Colleges; and

(b) if so, whether it would be approved during the current financial year considering the acute shortage of skilled manpower in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education, a proposal was received from the Government of Odisha to set up 400 new Vocational Junior

Colleges and to strengthen 231 existing Government Vocational Junior Colleges in the financial year 2011-2012. The proposal was considered by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in its meeting held on 07.02.2012 and the State Government was requested to revise its proposal as per the norms of the Scheme. Another proposal from the State Government was received on 24.07.2012 to strengthen 187 existing Government Vocational Junior Colleges. The proposal was placed before the Project Approval Board (PAB) held on 11.10.2012 and was not found in accordance with the provisions of the revised scheme of "Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education". The State has been requested to rework the proposal according to the revised scheme for further consideration.

Coverage of children under MDMS

2427. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the coverage of children enrolled under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) remains low in certain States;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure effective implementation of the scheme in States where coverage remains lower than the national average; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that foodgrains allocated under the scheme are utilized completely across the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) A review of the performance of the States/UTs in implementing the MDMS during the first Quarter of 2012-13, shows that the coverage of children in the States/UTs of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chandigarh, Delhi, A&N Islands, Tripura, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh was below the National Average. In addition, 144 poorly performing districts have been identified across the country. The matter has been brought to the notice of the concerned States/UTs alongwith other observations for taking corrective measures.

(b) and (c) For effective implementation of the Scheme, and proper utilization of foodgrains by the States/UTs, the Scheme Guidelines provide for an extensive monitoring mechanism at the school, block, district, State and the National levels. The Scheme is continuously monitored at National level through Quarterly Progress Reports, Monthly Progress Reports on lifting of foodgrains, in the National level

Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee meetings with all States/UTs Education Secretaries, and during Programme Approval Board meetings. To ensure accountability, registers for attendance, the details of Mid Day Meal beneficiaries and of foodgrains buffer stocks of one month are being maintained at the school level. These registers are also inspected by block and district level officers. In addition the Central Review Missions visit the States for an on-the-spot assessment. 41 Independent Monitoring Institutes also evaluate the Scheme at regular intervals.

Literacy among dalits

2428. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total percentage of literate people in the country;
- (b) the total dalit population in the country;
- (c) the percentage of dalit literates;
- (d) the reasons for the large proportion of illiterate dalit population, even now, inspite of the efforts of Government and the details thereof; and
- (e) how does Government plan to further address the challenge and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) As per the Census of 2011, 74.04% people in the country are literate.

(b) and (c) The data on the SC population and its literacy rate on the basis of the 2011 Census is not yet available. The total population and literacy rate of the Scheduled Castes in the country, as per the 2001 census, is 166,635,700 and 54.69% respectively.

(d) Illiteracy amongst the SCs is on account of various social and economic factors.

(e) Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of the National Literacy Mission, was launched on 8 September, 2009 and became operational *w.e.f.* 1st October, 2009. The Mission aims to provide adults (in the age group of 15 and above), in rural areas of low female literacy districts, opportunities for functional literacy, basic

education, skill development and continuing education. The focus of the Mission is on excluded and disadvantaged groups, including the SCs.

Caste and gender based discrimination under MDMS

2429. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain cases of bias and discrimination have come to light in different regions under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a gender and caste bias has been noticed during the serving of meals in certain States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the existing system of monitoring of this project in different regions in the country to control such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Independent Monitoring Institutes have been engaged to monitor the Mid Day Meal Scheme and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as per the defined Terms of Reference. The Monitoring Institutions have reported about caste discrimination in some districts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat and Karnataka Central teams were deputed in the 2nd week of the August, 2012 to these States to investigate into the matter. The teams did not come across any discrimination except in one school in district Boudh in Odisha. The matter was taken up by this Ministry with the Government of Odisha for taking immediate remedial action. The State Government have placed the Headmaster of the school under suspension and initiated disciplinary action against the Sub-Inspector of Schools. The District Administration has been instructed by the State Government to ensure social equity in all the schools.

- (e) The Government has made it clear that discrimination in the MDMS is unacceptable and has issued guidelines to the States to take preventive and corrective measures to ensure that discrimination does not occur, and is firmly dealt with if it does. The States/UTs have formed Committees/Samities with members from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to inspect preparation and distribution of

food. Similarly, priority is given to these communities in the recruitment of cook-cum-helpers. About 45% of the engaged cook-cum-helpers are from SC and ST communities.

The MDM guidelines lay down that on an average 25% of schools should be inspected every quarter by the State Government officers belonging to different departments at the District, Sub-Division, Tehsil/Taluka, block and other suitable levels. In addition, the Review Missions consisting of representatives of the Central Government, the respective State Government, the UNICEF and the Office of Supreme Court Commissioner are also monitoring the Scheme. Similarly, 41 independent Monitoring Institutions such as the Dr. PM Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Odisha, the NKC Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, the IIT Chennai and the Visva-Bharati University etc. also monitor this aspect.

Drop-out rates

2430. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest status of buildings in Government and local bodies schools;
- (b) the latest drop-out rates in schools in Classes I-V, I-VIII, I-X, Boys/Girls, SCs/STs; and
- (c) whether over the years, drop-out rate has come down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The status of school buildings under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is given in Statement-I (*See* below). With regard to the schools under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, 9636 new schools were sanctioned, out of which 8099 schools have become functional. The construction of buildings of 304 new schools has been completed and the construction work in respect of 2508 new schools is in progress.

(b) and (c) While the over-all drop-out rates (all categories) in the classes I-X have shown a declining trend during the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the drop-out rates in the classes I-V and I-VIII during the same period have more or less remained static. The details of the drop-out rates are given in Statement-II and Annexure. [*See* Appendix 227 Annexure No. 32]

Statement-I*Government Schools without own building under
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)*

State/UT	Total Schools	Schools in rented buildings	Schools without building	Schools without own building	% Schools in rented buildings	% Schools without building	% Schools without own building
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	330	3	2	5	0.9	0.6	1.5
Andhra Pradesh	78673	1263	2041	3304	1.6	2.6	4.2
Arunachal Pradesh	3951	4	98	102 21	0.1	2.5	2.6
Assam	42917	19	2	21	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bihar	69366	343	9775	10118	0.5	14.1	14.6
Chandigarh	111	1	0	1	0.9	0.0	0.9
Chhattisgarh	47208	210	814	1024	0.4	1.7	2.2
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	275	4	0	4	1.5	0.0	1.5
Daman and Diu	88	2	0	2	2.3	0.0	2.3
Delhi	2782	34	0	34	1.2	0.0	1.2
Goa	1042	78	0	78	7.5	0.0	7.5
Gujarat	33496	114	50	164	0.3	0.1	0.5
Haryana	15021	33	95	128	0.2	0.6	0.9
Himachal Pradesh	15001	41	2	43	0.3	0.0	0.3
Jammu and Kashmir	22538	5261	29	5290	23.3	0.1	23.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jharkhand	40343	139	519	658	0.3	1.3	1.6
Karnataka	50885	569	144	713	1.1	0.3	1.4
Kerala	5333	181	58	239	3.4	1.1	4.5
Lakshadweep	46	6	1	7	13.0	2.2	15.2
Madhya Pradesh	112079	192	207	399	0.2	0.2	0.4
Maharashtra	69771	2917	480	3397	4.2	0.7	4.9
Manipur	2479	13	62	75	0.5	2.5	3.0
Meghalaya	7803	114	169	283	1.5	2.2	3.6
Mizoram	2479	14	11	25	0.6	0.4	1.0
Nagaland	2670	11	292	303	0.4	10.9	11.3
Odisha	58023	394	1144	1538	0.7	2.0	2.7
Puducherry	435	8	0	8	1.8	0.0	1.8
Punjab	20368	111	41	152	0.5	0.2	0.7
Rajasthan	77829	844	1279	2123	1.1	1.6	2.7
Sikkim	902	13	8	21	1.4	0.9	2.3
Tamil Nadu	36575	128	2	130	0.3	0.0	0.4
Tripura	4275	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Uttar Pradesh	154757	1659	606	2265	1.1	0.4	1.5
Uttarakhand	17500	111	188	299	0.6	1.1	1.7
West Bengal	81363	2088	13	2101	2.6	0.0	2.6
TOTAL:	1078714	16923	18132	35055	1.6	1.7	3.2

Statement-II*Drop-out rates in Classes I-X — All Categories*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2008-09			2009-10			2010-11		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	26.78	26.19	26.50	32.70	27.07	30.06	19.0	23.3	21.1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	60.12	61.38	60.73	52.73	54.02	53.36	45.8	46.6	46.2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	63.39	62.43	62.95	65.00	64.70	64.86	62.3	61.0	61.7
4.	Assam	78.47	79.55	78.97	77.41	77.82	77.60	76.8	78.1	77.4
5.	Bihar	81.03	82.21	81.50	78.46	76.06	77.56	64.4	58.9	62.2
6.	Chandigarh	-1.17	8.67	3.45	0.30	7.86	3.78	-	-	-
7.	Chhattisgarh*	-	-	-	-	-	-	58.4	57.5	58.0
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	65.49	72.07	68.54	54.78	63.48	58.83	51.7	58.3	54.7
9.	Daman and Diu	34.52	30.95	32.87	41.15	29.75	35.93	26.7	30.2	28.3

10. Delhi	29.60	35.23	32.34	-5.22	9.15	1.97	19.7	26.3	22.9
11. Goa	36.20	32.93	34.61	35.85	32.63	34.30	29.3	26.9	28.1
12. Gujarat	56.24	62.25	58.84	60.37	64.41	62.14	61.1	52.4	57.9
13. Haryana	36.31	23.77	30.50	20.17	19.46	19.84	21.2	16.0	18.9
14. Himachal Pradesh	17.63	21.93	19.73	22.28	18.93	20.65	15.2	17.0	16.0
15. Jammu and Kashmir	63.62	64.48	63.99	47.16	40.63	44.30	47.1	38.9	43.6
16. Jharkhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.6	68.1	69.5
17. Karnataka	50.36	49.15	49.79	46.89	46.33	46.62	44.5	42.1	43.3
18. Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2.94	-5.20	-4.06	-	-	-
19. Lakshadweep	27.06	34.88	30.74	27.58	22.67	25.13	41.1	20.3	31.3
20. Madhya Pradesh	65.67	72.95	68.89	60.98	71.32	65.71	44.3	59.3	51.1
21. Maharashtra	41.22	46.48	43.75	38.63	42.62	40.54	36.5	40.0	38.2
22. Manipur	58.91	57.06	58.03	57.82	55.71	56.79	45.7	44.8	45.3
23. Meghalaya	77.03	75.77	76.40	79.31	76.46	77.89	78.0	76.7	77.4
24. Mizoram	70.16	66.45	68.41	64.79	60.72	62.87	55.0	52.3	53.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	Nagaland	68.34	66.84	67.61	75.69	73.97	74.86	75.8	74.4	75.1
26.	Odisha	68.29	65.76	67.18	69.98	65.91	68.19	67.2	59.7	64.0
27.	Puducherry	8.36	3.28	5.91	12.79	1.39	7.34	10.9	1.4	6.4
28.	Punjab	43.14	43.26	43.20	41.23	39.45	40.42	30.2	30.7	30.5
29.	Rajasthan	69.90	74.50	71.69	70.52	73.42	71.64	68.2	69.0	68.5
30.	Sikkim	81.99	82.53	82.26	82.07	79.36	80.73	72.4	67.1	69.9
31.	Tamil Nadu	40.90	35.17	38.14	37.56	30.28	34.06	28.2	23.6	25.9
32.	Tripura	71.68	70.33	71.04	63.42	62.34	62.90	59.1	57.5	58.4
33.	Uttar Pradesh	35.51	25.38	31.64	29.19	15.09	23.83	29.8	14.4	24.0
34.	Uttarakhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	31.8	41.3	36.6
35.	West Bengal	70.42	73.77	72.00	72.89	70.70	71.83	64.9	63.5	64.2
	INDIA:	55.82	55.95	55.88	53.38	51.97	52.76	50.4	47.9	49.3

Source: Statistics of School Education.

*Dropout rates are shown combined with the respective parent State.

Urdu language course in Kendriya Vidyalayas

2431. SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous demand to start Urdu language course in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether Government would appoint Urdu teachers on a permanent basis in Kendriya Vidyalayas without imposing the pre-condition that a minimum of 20 students should opt for the language course; and

(c) whether Government would consider any scheme to grant special scholarships to encourage students to opt for Urdu language course in Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has reported that it has not received any demand for starting Urdu Language Courses.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present.

CBSE syllabus

2432. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that controversies are arising, one after another, regarding the syllabus of CBSE;

(b) whether Government is of the opinion that this is because members appointed/nominated to Textbook Development Committee lack holistic knowledge in their respective fields; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No such controversies have come to the notice of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Under the CBSE affiliation Bye-Laws, the following norms are followed in respect of CBSE syllabi:

- For classes I-VIII, schools follow the syllabus on the basis of the curriculum prescribed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT);

- For classes IX-X, schools follow the syllabus as per the scheme of studies prescribed by the Board for the Secondary School Examination;
- For classes XI-XII, schools follow the syllabus as per the scheme of studies prescribed by the Board for the Senior School Certificate Examination.

(b) The NCERT textbooks in all the subjects are developed under the National Curriculum Framework-2005 (NCF-2005) which has the approval of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE). The Textbook Development Committees comprise of experts from the relevant subject field. The Textbooks developed by the committees are approved by a National Monitoring Committee (NMC) appointed by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Enrolment in primary and middle schools

2433. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of enrolment in primary and middle schools in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether in some States, primary school enrolment has fallen in the last three years;
- (c) if so, the details of States where primary school enrolment has fallen during the above period;
- (d) the reasons for this decline in enrolment;
- (e) the steps taken to improve the enrolment of children; and
- (f) the details of funds allocated for primary, secondary and senior secondary schools in rural areas during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) As per the Statistics of School Education brought out by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the State-wise details of enrolment in primary and middle schools, which are schools

having their highest classes upto IV/V and upto VII/VIII respectively, during the latest three years 2008-09 (Provisional), 2009-10 (Provisional) and 2010-11 (Provisional) are given in Statement (*See* below). Enrolment in primary schools has decreased in the States/UTs of Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry during the year 2010-11 as compared to 2009-10. Decline in birth rates in some parts of the country as well as steps taken by the State Governments to check duplicate enrolments, sometimes lead to a fall in enrolment data.

(e) The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting the goal of Universal Elementary Education through implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which became operational with effect from 1st April, 2010, provides that every child in the 6 to 14 age-group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education. The SSA Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act 2009 and the SSA is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance enrolment and retention of children. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance the enrolment and retention of children in school.

(f) The details of funds allocated to schools in rural areas is not maintained. However, the actual expenditure incurred by Education Departments of Centre and States/UTs during the year 2008-09 Revised Estimate (RE) for the year 2009-10 and Budget Estimate (BE) for the year 2010-11 under various schemes in Elementary Education and Secondary Education is given below:-

(In crores)

2008-09 (Actual Expenditure)			2009-10 (RE)			2010-11 (BE)		
Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Elementary Education								
28188.48	50812.37	79000.85	32518.06	65981.94	98500.00	39533.97	71057.60	110591.57
Secondary Education								
4995.81	40508.27	45504.08	7620.74	54610.42	62231.16	10506.31	59268.49	69774.80

Statement*State-wise details of enrolments in Primary and Middle Schools*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Enrolment in Primary Schools			Enrolment in Middle Schools		
		2008-09 (P)	2009-10 (P)	2010-11 (P)	2008-09 (P)	2009-10 (P)	2010-11 (P)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5696497	5372083	5463896	2495866	2395849	2329730
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	137209	132741	146302	131223	135174	139838
3.	Assam*	3211272	2419775	2419775	1707269	1696822	1696822
4.	Bihar	10535389	11285643	12222352	5971118	6588396	7498166
5.	Chhattisgarh	3660257	3151056	3183513	1379190	1263285	1331307
6.	Goa	99607	101523	99975	66450	71713	74233
7.	Gujarat	1364095	1368979		7208063	7232358	8601359
8.	Haryana	1322473	1631628	1439424	637590	828886	857686
9.	Himachal Pradesh	500175	469997	460208	404886	448181	401016
10.	Jammu and Kashmir*	1404721	1353944	1353944	559336	688182	688182
11.	Jharkhand	3559081	3685766		2941724	2941724	
12.	Karnataka	1187418	1083093	1041486	6382639	6373924	6383637
13.	Kerala	1013525	1192544	903718	1169668	1133607	1100069
14.	Madhya Pradesh\$	11955610	11955610	7352806	4608225	4608225	3213932
15.	Maharashtra	6474584	6516851	6634762	6545994	6577830	6631294
16.	Manipur	254207	254685	239042	184720	184978	181581
17.	Meghalaya	562449	666629	806801	113215	164985	159184
18.	Mizoram	151899	155325	166152	64887	66776	69318

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Nagaland*	195074	155613	155613	98752	88752	88752
20.	Odisha	4582202	4493299	4458178	1521456	1473972	1413287
21.	Punjab	1762896	1937373	1256813	1061179	699063	345947
22.	Rajasthan	5157826	5011554	4854140	6223825	6215599	5733049
23.	Sikkim*	110781	107557	107557	31237	33175	33175
24.	Tamil Nadu	7204120	5312720	3068578	3709961	3284874	2116846
25.	Tripura	207954	200086	124541	156232	150631	174216
26.	Uttar Pradesh	23803575	23954300	27319509	6571119	7615137	9804797
27.	Uttarakhand	1103335	1095139	1098640	462231	536216	541319
28.	West Bengal	6574718	8088891	6985716	471290	716740	629520
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	15526	16812	16735	13210	11737	11866
30.	Chandigarh	11435	8965	9894	13652	15952	15309
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	37811	39780	40032	10108	17737	19003
32.	Daman and Diu	23029	23511	20589	11768	11814	9142
33.	Delhi	1123372	1135532	1126848	243842	216650	222086
34.	Lakshadweep	5568	7663	6946	1754	3510	4079
35.	Puducherry	73429	71148	67120	29874	28001	22782
INDIA:		105083119	104457815	94651605	63203553	64520455	62542529

P - Provisional.

*: Data for the year 2010-11 has been repeated from 2009-10 for these States.

\$. Data for the year 2009-10 has been repeated from 2008-09 for the State.

Gujarat has not shown the figures of Enrolment for Primary and Middle Schools separately for 2010-11. Therefore, total enrolment for primary and middle schools has been shown against middle schools. Jharkhand has not provided figures of Enrolment by type of school for the year 2010-11.

Use of film archives and speeches of freedom struggle by CBSE

2434. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE has received any communication from National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC) for broadcasting film archives and speeches of our great patriotic leaders and history of our freedom struggle to wake up national integrity among our younger generation; and

(b) if so, further action taken by CBSE in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has approached the National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC) in May, 2012 for getting Digital Versatile Discs (DVDs) of films on patriotic leaders. The Corporation, *vide* its letter dated August 14, 2012, has informed the CBSE that the DVDs of landmark films including films such as 'GANDHI', 'MAKING OF MAHATMA', 'DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR' and 'SARDAR' are under preparation. The Corporation would contact the CBSE as and when the DVDs are finally prepared.

Impact of SSA and other schemes

2435. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the impact of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is dismal in States across the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that funds provided under the scheme are not being utilized fully;

(c) whether it is also a fact that schemes have failed to control students' drop-out rate in Government schools; and

(d) if so, whether Government would formulate annual action plans according to requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented effectively in all the States/UTs. Since the inception of the SSA, 1,81,522 schools have been opened, 12,34,016 teachers have been recruited, and 5,30,212 toilets and 2,13,617 drinking water facilities have been constructed in schools.

(b) The SSA has a good track record of fund utilisation. Expenditure in 2009-10 was 97.91% of Budget Estimates (BE), in 2010-11 it was 98.38%, in 2011-12 it was 99.36% of BE and in 2012-13 till date it is 80.41% of BE.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, the drop out rates have declined from 39.03% at the primary level and 54.65% at the elementary level to 27% at the primary and 40.6% at the elementary level in 2010-11.

The Annual Work Plan and Budgets by States/UTs are prepared every year based on their requirement of funds to meet the objectives of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

Scholarships for higher studies

2436. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for giving scholarships to college and university students to meet their day-to-day expenses while pursuing higher studies and also for facilitating sending of scholars abroad to enable them to best utilize better research facilities there;

(b) how many students and scholars have benefited from the schemes during the last three years, State/District-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the criteria for grant of scholarships to cover more students; and

(d) whether there is lack to awareness about scholarship schemes across the country and if so, the steps taken to popularise the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development operates the 'Central Sector Scholarship

Scheme for College and University Students'. The aim of the Scheme is to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from poor families to meet their day-to-day expenses while pursuing higher studies and professional courses in India.

Students who are above the 80th percentile in the relevant stream of Science, Commerce and Humanities, for a particular Board of Examination, in class XII of 10 + 2 or equivalent and whose family income is less than Rs. 4.50 lakh per annum are eligible to apply for scholarship under this scheme. From the pool of eligible applicants, each Board of Examination selects a prescribed number of students for each of the three streams strictly on merit with due provision for the reserved categories. This scheme does not envisage sending scholars abroad. 82000 fresh scholarships are available every year, out of which 50% are reserved for girls.

(b) The scholarships are paid into the bank account of the students through the State education Boards. Since merit is determined at the State level, there is no district-wise allocation of scholarships. A Statement indicating the number of beneficiaries for the last three years is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) From the academic year 2010-11, the eligibility criteria has been revised to include students who are above the 80th percentile in the relevant stream for a particular Board of Examination, in class XII of 10 + 2 or equivalent (as against the earlier requirement of 80% marks in aggregate). This has made more students eligible to apply for scholarships under this scheme Students.

(d) The State Education Boards are publicising this scheme to generate awareness and to popularise this Scheme.

Statement

Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students

Number of Beneficiaries

State/Board	2009-10 (Fresh+ Renewals of 2008-09)	2010-11 (Fresh+ Renewals of 2008-09 and 2009-10)	2011-12 (Fresh+ Renewals of 2009-10 and 2010-11)
1	2	3	4
CBSE	11685	14972	19624

1	2	3	4
ICSE	648	648	712
Andhra Pradesh	10504	16601	27889
Assam	404	571	1180
Bihar	53	256	406
Chhattisgarh	201	712	4975
Goa	163	256	422
Gujarat	7280	10408	16336
Haryana	3014	4533	7392
Himachal Pradesh	691	1109	1721
Jammu and Kashmir	43	107	128
Jharkhand	19	1123	2208
Karnataka	7358	10190	17433
Kerala	3860	6184	11620
Maharashtra	1916	3081	6851
Madhya Pradesh	5201	7722	13172
Manipur	43	43	44
Meghalaya	44	44	140
Mizoram	4	15	27
Nagaland	13	27	152
Odisha	239	836	1326
Punjab	1510	2673	5402
Rajasthan	5145	9123	19448
Tamil Nadu	8469	11697	16906

1	2	3	4
Tripura	218	218	703
Uttar Pradesh	1516	6839	6639
Uttarakhand	187	374	826
West Bengal	5671	11342	24153
TOTAL:	76099	121704	207835

States/UTs not included above are covered under CBSE.

Check on ragging cases

2437. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some universities and colleges in the country have expelled some students in ragging related cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last four years, State-wise including in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the ragging cases in the country with comprehensive laws and punishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), 42 cases of expulsion/suspension/rustication have been reported in various universities/colleges/institutions. The State-wise details from 2009-2012 are given in Statement (*See below*). As per the UGC, no case of ragging has been reported for the year 2012-13.

(c) The UGC, the All Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Medical Council of India (MCI) and the Dental Council of India (DCI), have all notified anti-ragging regulations to check ragging cases in the country. The Regulations have stringent provisions for taking action against the students and institutions found violating anti-ragging regulations. Advisories have also been issued before the start

of the academic session to the States/UTs, Civil and Police authorities to participate in the anti-ragging committees of the institutions and take immediate deterrent action in cases of ragging. The Ministry has set up an anti-ragging helpline which is working since 15th June, 2009. Anyone can call the toll-free helpline to report incidents of ragging. The UGC has started an anti-ragging portal at www.antiragging.in, which is working since 26th July, 2012.

Statement

*Details of students expelled in ragging cases —
State-wise w.e.f. 2009-12*

Sl.No.	Name of State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
4.	Assam	1	-	-
5.	Bihar	-	-	-
6.	Chandigarh	-	-	-
7.	Chhattisgarh	1	-	-
8.	Dadra and Nager Haveli	-	-	-
9.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-
10.	Delhi	1	1	1
11.	Goa	-	-	-
12.	Gujarat	-	-	-
13.	Haryana	-	1	-
14.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-
16.	Jharkhand	-	-	-
17.	Karnataka	5	-	1
18.	Kerala	1	3	3
19.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	2
21.	Maharashtra	1	-	-
22.	Manipur	~	-	-
23.	Meghalaya	-	-	-
24.	Mizoram	-	--	-
25.	Nagaland	-	-	-
26.	Odisha	2	-	-
27.	Puducherry	-	-	-
28.	Punjab	-	-	-
29.	Rajasthan	1	-	-
30.	Sikkim	1	-	-
31.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	2
32.	Tripura	-	-	-
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3	2	2
34.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-
35.	West Bengal	2	-	2

Basic facilities in schools in Andhra Pradesh

2438. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is ensuring that all schools get RO systems, toilets and desks;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh particularly in the agency areas in the Eleventh and Twelfth Plan period; and

(c) the funds allocated, released and spent for the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) data 2011-12 (provisional), 87.9% government elementary schools have toilet facilities and 94.3% government elementary schools have, drinking water facilities in the country. The State wise details are given in Statement-I (*See* below). The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) seeks to augment school infrastructure with the objective of meeting RTE requirements, for which, *inter-alia*, 8.53 lakh toilet facilities and 2.29 lakh drinking water facilities have been sanctioned across the States/Union Territories. The requirement of these facilities is worked out by the States based on need at school/village/block and district level. All new schools constructed under the SSA have provision for toilets. The SSA also provides for toilets in existing schools in urban areas. In rural areas, drinking water facilities in schools are provided in convergence with the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Under the SSA, grant is also provided for furniture for existing government upper primary schools which do not have furniture.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), a centrally sponsored scheme, provides *inter-alia* for infrastructure facilities in new secondary schools and existing secondary schools including toilet, drinking water facilities, furniture. State-wise number of Toilet Blocks approved under RMSA since inception is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) Year-wise details of funds released under the SSA are given in Statement-III (*See* below). The funds allocated and released to the States under the RMSA during last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Released	Funds Spent
1	2	3	4
2009-10	550.00	549.13	80.86

1	2	3	4
2010-11	1500.00	1481.95	936.49
2011-12	2512.45	2499.81	2337.27

Statement-I

State-wise Statement of government elementary schools with toilet and drinking water facilities as per DISE 2011-12 (provisional)

States/UTs	Percentage schools with toilet facility	Percentage schools with drinking water facility
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	86.4	96.1
Andhra Pradesh	76.9	85.4
Arunachal Pradesh	51.0	75.8
Assam	85.0	88.1
Bihar	73.6	93.3
Chandigarh	100.0	100.0
Chhattisgarh	68.4	93.4
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	74.9	98.5
Daman and Diu	98.9	100.0
Delhi	100.0	100.0
Goa	92.1	99.4
Gujarat	99.9	100.0
Haryana	97.3	99.4
Himachal Pradesh	97.3	98.6

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	45.2	79.6
Jharkhand	79.2	90.0
Karnataka	99.5	99.4
Kerala	95.2	98.3
Lakshadweep	89.1	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	96.6	97.8
Maharashtra	95.2	92.2
Manipur	100.0	94.5
Meghalaya	61.9	59.2
Mizoram	87.5	90.3
Nagaland	90.5	73.0
Odisha	81.8	94.7
Puducherry	99.8	100.0
Punjab	99.7	100.0
Rajasthan	96.6	93.7
Sikkim	98.7	95.9
Tamil Nadu	92.9	100.0
Tripura	81.9	74.9
Uttar Pradesh	92.1	97.9
Uttarakhand	96.8	95.4
West Bengal	90.7	97.6
TOTAL:	87.9	94.3

Statement-II*State-wise number of Toilet Blocks approved under RMSA*

Sl. No.	State	Nos. of Toilet Blocks Approved
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	161
3.	Andhra Pradesh	384.4
4.	Assam	585
5.	Bihar	610
6.	Chhattisgarh	1441
7.	Chandigarh	8
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
9.	Daman and Diu	2
10.	Delhi	0
11.	Goa	74
12.	Gujarat	143
13.	Haryana	257
14.	Himachal Pradesh	351
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	474
16.	Jharkhand	367
17.	Karnataka	1304
18.	Kerala	589
19.	Lakshadweep	22
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3434

1	2	3
21.	Maharashtra	120
22.	Meghalaya	19
23.	Manipur	224
24.	Mizoram	138
25.	Nagaland	82
26.	Odisha	967
27.	Puducherry	26
28.	Punjab	1272
29.	Rajasthan	1164
30.	Sikkim	67
31.	Tamil Nadu	969
32.	Tripura	220
33.	Uttarakhand	34.1
34.	Uttar Pradesh	85
35.	West Bengal	39
TOTAL:		194.01

Statement-III

State-wise Statement of funds released to States/Union Territories under SSA

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Release			
		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	71031.78	38569.90	81000.00	183551.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13683.64	11427.95	20401.77	23880.10
3.	Assam	42740.91	47480.00	76854.35	106921.15
4.	Bihar	186158.47	121739.06	204789.63	185108.20
5.	Chhattisgarh	51853.86	55592.82	87863.00	69870.22
6.	Goa	804.41	550.58	671.27	1079.14
7.	Gujarat	25432.47	20031.7.3	44065.01	88027.79
8.	Haryana	20546.87	27600.00	32786.11	40461.41
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8552.99	8608.00	13786.66	14192.78
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	20532.59	37363.27	40348.79	30070.50
11.	Jharkhand	69041.09	70940.22	89562.26	57903.46
12.	Karnataka	51578.19	44220.60	66903.00	62788.35
13.	Kerala	10854.04	11989.50	19660.73	17021.85
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85569.35	113249.00	176783.00	190427.12
15.	Maharashtra	67386.02	56432.00	85537.00	117962.58
16.	Manipur	321.21	1500.00	13253.77	3940.55
17.	Meghalaya	9440.36	9383.00	18540.90	14410.60
18.	Mizoram	5112.59	6617.75	10115.31	10814.05
19.	Nagaland	2867.87	4913.00	8636.83	9798.33
20.	Odisha	49080.90	63061.60	73177.85	92719.98
21.	Punjab	13808.10	20044.00	39612.74	48112.44
22.	Rajasthan	108326.80	127124.00	146182.29	148580.86
23.	Sikkim	1075.31	1736.00	4469.19	4022.84
24.	Tamil Nadu	45414.47	48366.00	69068.57	68141.96

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	6464.12	7473.00	17121.48	17493.76
26.	Uttar Pradesh	212884.89	196011.90	310462.88	263682.61
27.	Uttarakhand	11444.45	16006.29	25793.94	20892.49
28.	West Bengal	65169.37	104142.00	174703.17	177652.74
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	780.54	412.44	357.78	907.36
30.	Chandigarh	820.52	1100.72'	2155.89	1611.21
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	104.63	350.18	413.78	564.35
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	169.00	162.99	257.06
33.	Delhi	1529.01	3088.62	3552.71	3783.29
34.	Lakshadweep	70.00	143.80	127.39	127.86
35.	Puducherry	638.59	669.96	485.38	757.62
TOTAL RELEASES		1261120.41	1278107.89	1959407.42	2077538.33

Fortified salt for mid-day-meals

2439. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started issuing double fortified salt containing both iron and iodine to all schools providing mid-day-meals to school children in some States particularly in SC/ST areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if not, by when this proposal would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The Mid Day Meal Guidelines

stipulate that only double fortified salt should be used for cooking of the meal. These guidelines have been reiterated by the Central Government from time to time. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also instructed all the District Education Officer to use double fortified salt for the MDMS.

Caste and gender discrimination in serving mid-day-meals

2440. SHRI H.K. DUA:

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the reports that caste and gender discrimination is prevailing in serving the mid-day-meals in a large number of schools in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, in how many such schools discrimination of the kind of caste and gender is in practice, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government is going to take to ensure that every child gets equal measure of mid-day-meal without a trace of discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Independent Monitoring Institutes have been engaged to monitor the Mid Day Meal Scheme and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as per the defined Terms of Reference. The Monitoring Institutions have reported about caste discrimination in some districts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat and Karnataka. Central teams were deputed in the 2nd week of August, 2012 to these States to investigate into the matter. The teams did not come across any discrimination except in one school in district Boudh in Odisha. The matter was taken up by this Ministry with the Government of Odisha for taking immediate remedial action. The State Government have placed the Headmaster of the school under suspension and initiated disciplinary action against the Sub-Inspector of Schools. The District Administration has been instructed by the State Government to ensure social equity in all the schools.

(c) The Government has made it clear that discrimination in the MDMS is unacceptable and has issued guidelines to the States to take preventive and corrective measures to ensure that discrimination does not occur, and is firmly dealt with if it does. The States/UTs have formed Committees/Samities with members from the

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to inspect preparation and distribution of food. Similarly, priority is given to these communities in the recruitment of cook-cum-helpers. About 45% of the engaged cook-cum-helpers are from SC and ST communities.

The MDM guidelines lay down that on an average 25% of schools should be inspected every quarter by the State Government officers belonging to different departments at the District, Sub-Division, Tehsil/Taluka, block and other suitable levels. In addition, the Review Missions consisting of representatives of the Central Government, the respective State Government, the UNICEF and the office of the Supreme Court Commissioner are also monitoring the Scheme. Similarly, 41 independent Monitoring Institutions such as the IIT Chennai and the Visva-Bharati University etc. also monitor this aspect.

Decline in admissions in engineering and polytechnic institutions

‡2441. DR. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the admissions in polytechnic and engineering institutions in some States;
- (b) if so, the names of such States alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any scheme is under consideration of Government to prevent such decline in admissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The decline in admissions to polytechnic and engineering institutes is applicable to almost all the States/UTs throughout the Country. The number of admissions has declined due to the lack of adequate infrastructural facilities and the shortage of faculty in some institutes.

(c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has requested all the State Governments to provide a perspective plan for the development of Technical Education in their respective States. The AICTE has not yet received such perspective plans from any of the State Governments.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Number of university level students

2442. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of girls and boys registered as university level students during the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 in the country as a whole;

(b) their percentage out of those who had successfully completed the qualifying examinations for university level education during that year;

(c) the percentage by which Government expects to raise the number of university level students during next five years; and

(d) what would be the share of foreign universities in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the annual publication "Statistics of Higher and Technical Education" of Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of male and female students enrolled in universities and colleges in the country during 2009-10 (Provisional) are 1,13,50,529 and 79,82,805 respectively. The number of male and female students enrolled in universities and colleges in the country are 1,32,96,486 and 1,01,90,641 respectively in 2010-11, as per the provisional report on the All India Survey on Higher Education based on data collected upto 31st July, 2012. The data on the number of students who passed is not available for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

(c) and (d) The Approach Paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan has recommended that an additional enrolment of 10 million (1 crore) could be targeted in higher education during the Twelfth Plan period. The share of foreign universities in it is not estimated.

Students in professional courses

2443. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of students enrolled in universities and Government and aided institutions during the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 for professional courses in the country;

(b) the corresponding figure for self-financing institutions during these years; and

- (c) the pass percentage in these two sectors during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The total number of students enrolled is not available separately for professional courses. However, as per the annual publication "Statistics of Higher and Technical Education" of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of students enrolled in universities and colleges in the country during 2009-10 (Provisional) is 1,93,33,334, out of which the number of students enrolled at the post graduate and the undergraduate level is given below:

Level/Stream	Engineering/ Technology/ Architecture/ Design	Medicine	Agriculture and Allied	Management/ Hotel/ Travel/ Tourism	Education/ Teacher Training
Post Graduate	76565	35596	11783	207969	26892
Under Graduate	1928998	318588	78714	153041	518185

The number of students enrolled in universities and colleges in the country is estimated to be 2,34,87,127 in 2010-11, as per the provisional report of the All India Survey on Higher Education based on data collected upto 31st July, 2012. The data on the number of students enrolled for self- financing institutions and the number of students who passed is not available for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Vocational education under SSA

2444. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether vocational education is also provided in schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how many schools in Maharashtra are presently giving vocational education under SSA;
- (d) whether Government proposes to provide vocational education in all secondary schools in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Vocational Education is not included in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

(d) and (e) Under the revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Scheme of Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education, financial assistance is provided to Government Higher Secondary Schools/Government aided Higher Secondary Schools/Private Unaided Schools/NGOs for setting up and operating Vocational education Programmes. No proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra under the Scheme.

Establishment of medical college under Central University, Koraput

2445. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for establishment of a medical college under the Central University, Koraput; and

- (b) if so, the steps taken for setting up of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Central University of Odisha had submitted a proposal for setting up a Medical College in Koraput, which could not be considered favourably as the Eleventh Five Year Plan Scheme did not include establishment of medical and engineering colleges in the new Central Universities. The Twelfth Plan has not been finalised.

Standard of education

†2446. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline in educational standards day-by-day across the country;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts being made by Government to improve the standard of education and the details of the works done so far;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) whether Government has failed to improve the standard of education; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Improvement in educational standards is a continuous process and the Twelfth Five Year Plan seeks to carry forward the Government's efforts towards a rapid improvement in quality through institutional and policy reforms and by enhancing public spending.

(c) to (e) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which has come into force *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2010, envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector. The Act makes it incumbent on the Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children of 6-14 years of age; to ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child of the age of six to fourteen years. The Act stipulates that the State needs to provide infrastructure including school buildings, trained teaching staff and learning equipment as well as to ensure good quality elementary education according to the standards and norms specified in the Act.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) follows a holistic approach to improve the quality of elementary education, and subject to certain norms, provides for the opening of new primary schools, the upgradation of primary schools to upper primary schools, the construction of school buildings, the construction of additional classrooms, the recruitment of additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, the in-service training of the teachers and training of untrained teachers, the provision of text books, learning enhancement programmes, school and teacher grants and regular academic support to the schools through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres to improve the quality of classroom practices.

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 by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, to improve the quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, to remove gender, socio-economic and disability barriers and ensure universal access to secondary level education by 2017.

The CBSE has taken a number of steps for educational reforms which includes no Class X Board examination *w.e.f.* 2011 for students studying in the CBSE's Senior Secondary Schools and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X. The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation has been strengthened in all the CBSE affiliated schools *w.e.f.* October, 2009 in Class IX. A new Grading System has been introduced at Secondary School Level (for Class IX and X) effective from 2009-10 academic sessions.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also taken a number of steps and has written to all universities to implement academic reforms including the introduction of a semester system, a choice based credit system, curriculum development, and reforms in admission procedures, examination and evaluation systems. The UGC has also notified regulations specifying that qualifying the National Eligibility Test (NET) or the State-Level Eligibility Test (SLET) shall be the minimum eligibility criteria for an appointment as Assistant Professor with exemption to those who have obtained a Ph.D degree.

The Government has already introduced Bills in the Parliament which include proposals for the prohibition of unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities; mandatory accreditation of higher educational institutions; educational tribunals for adjudication of disputes; and legislation to regulate entry and operation of foreign educational institutions.

Setting up of university in Srirangapatnam, Karnataka

2447. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is having a proposal for setting up of five universities across the country; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that one of them would be established at Srirangapatnam in Karnataka and it would be named after Tipu Sultan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Ministry of Minority Affairs has informed us that it has constituted a committee to examine the setting up of five minority universities. The Terms of Reference of the committee are;

(i) To examine the possibility of setting up of five universities;

- (ii) The location of these five proposed universities;
- (iii) The norms and character under which these proposed universities will function;
- (iv) The curricula and academic contents for the various courses proposed to be introduced in these five universities;
- (v) The affiliated colleges that can be linked to these universities; and
- (vi) The standards to be set for these universities.

(b) In view of (a) above, the location or name of these universities cannot be decided by the Ministry of Minority Affairs at this juncture.

MFCs in Odisha

2448. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the status of eight Multi-Functional Complexes (MFCs) at Cuttack, Brahmapur, Jharsuguda, Rayagada, Bansapani, Balasore and Bhubaneswar with budget hotel at Sambalpur which had been announced by Railways earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Task of development of Multi Functional Complexes (MFCs) at Cuttack, Brahmapur, Jharsugda, Rayagada, Balasore, Sambalpur and Bhubaneswar railway stations has been assigned to Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and MFC at Banspani has been assigned to South Eastern Railway for development. Status of the MFCs is given in the Statement.

Statement

Status of MFCs

Sl.No.	Name of the Station	Status of MFC
1	2	3
1.	Cuttack	Developer fixed and development agreement executed on 03.12.2012.
2.	Brahmapur	Sites for MFCs finalised. Invitation of bids for fixing the developer is under process.
3.	Jharsugda	

1	2	3
4.	Rayagada	Location/sites for MFCs under finalisation/joint verification by Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and Zonal Railways.
5.	Balasore	
6.	Sambalpur	
7.	Bhubaneshwar	
8.	Banspani	Construction work is in progress.

Compensation to victims of train accidents

‡2449. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of compensation announced by Government to the victims of train accidents during the last three years;
- (b) whether compensation has been fully paid to all the victims;
- (c) the percentage of compensation paid in all the accident cases; and
- (d) the reasons for not providing compensation to all the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Compensation to the victims of train accident, as defined under Section 124 of the Railways Act, 1989, is not paid by the Railways on the basis of announcement. The claimant of the compensation has to file a claim in terms of Section 125 of the Railways Act in the Railway Claims Tribunal, which is a quasi judicial body, independent from the Railways. The amount of compensation is paid by the Railways after the claim filed by the claimant is decreed by the Tribunal in favour of the claimant in terms of the Railways Accidents and Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Amendment Rules, 1997, which lay down Rs. 4 lakhs for death and permanent disability; and Rs. 32,000/- to Rs. 3,60,000/- depending upon the gravity of the injury, and the decree so awarded by the Tribunal is satisfied by the Railways.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The amount of compensation paid by the Railways for death/injury in train accidents (as defined under Section 124 of the Act) in the cases which have been decreed by the Tribunal for payment of compensation during the past three years is as under:

- 2009-10 : Rs. 265.81 lakhs
- 2010-11 : Rs. 585.79 lakhs
- 2011-12 : Rs. 497.72 lakhs

Note : The compensation paid in a year is not related to the accidents/casualties in that year. The amount depends upon the number of cases which are finalised and payment made in a particular year irrespective of the year(s) in which the accident took place.

(b) Yes, Sir. Compensation in all those cases, which have been decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal for payment during the period of last three years and satisfied by the Railways, has been paid.

(c) The calculation of percentage of compensation paid in all the cases is not feasible in absence of any specific base of calculation.

(d) Non-award of decree in favour of the claimant by the Tribunal.

Railway projects in West Bengal

†2450. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is not treating West Bengal fairly in regard to completion of incomplete railway projects;

(b) whether sudden stoppage of construction work of East-West Metro has resulted in further increase in sufferings of common man;

(c) whether expenditure incurred thereon so far, is also getting wasted and causing financial loss to the country;

(d) whether cost will further increase if this project is not completed on time;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether reduction in purchase by Railways is resulting in loss to engineering industry in West Bengal; and

(f) the time by when the Ministry would complete the incomplete projects and the details of provisions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. There is no sudden stoppage of works in East-West Metro Corridor.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no indication of delays in completion of project.

(e) Purchase is a continuous process and is carried out depending upon requirement and availability of resources. Procurement in Railway is generally done through open tenders, notices for which are circulated in National Dailies and on web sites and no discrimination is done against engineering industry of West Bengal.

(f) Projects would be completed in coming years depending upon availability of resources.

Doubling of railway track

2451. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of doubling of railway track between Madurai and Kanyakumari which was announced in Railway Budget 2012-13;

(b) whether the survey of this project has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) Survey of doubling of railway track between Madurai and Kanyakumari has been taken up and is targeted for completion by March, 2013.

Circular Railway between Dumdum and Kolkata airport

2452. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be

pleased to refer answer to Unstarred Question 1473 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24 August, 2007 and state:

(a) the date of sanction of construction of Circular Railway project between Dumdum and Kolkata airport;

(b) the number of passengers travelled on this route *vis-a-vis* earning during last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the establishment cost incurred by Railways on this section during last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The extension of Circular Railway from DumDum to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport was sanctioned on 4th May, 2000.

(b) Number of passengers travelled on this route *vis-a-vis* earning during last three years, year-wise, are as follows:

Financial Year	Number of Passengers travelled	Passenger Earnings in ₹
2009-10	95442	3,45,713/-
2010-11	96736	3,28,908/-
2011-12	104957	3,40,675/-
2012-13 (Till October, 2012)	68917	2,33,069/-

(c) The establishment cost incurred by Railways on this section during last three years, year-wise, is as follows:

Financial Year	Amount in ₹
2009-10	2,24,27,185/-
2010-11	2,10,94,779/-
2011-12	2,40,70,091/-
2012-13 (Till October, 2012)	1,41,62,858/-

Development/upgradation of railway stations in Goa

2453. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 306 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23 November, 2012 and state:

(a) the items of development made as regard to Madgaon railway station under Model station scheme alongwith expenditure incurred on each item and the period when the development work was carried on;

(b) the details of specific development carried out as regard Vasco-Da-Gama railway station under Adarsh, Model, and Modern schemes; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on items, scheme-wise and the period when development work was carried on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Scheme-wise details of expenditure are not maintained. However, the details of developmental works carried out at Madgaon railway station, expenditure incurred and the period are as under:

Work	Exp. (₹ in Lakhs)	Year
Provision of computerized coach guidance system	12.56	2006-07
Provision of three line electric train Arrival/ Departure display board	04.74	2006-07
Provision of lighting arrangement for circulating area and approach road	01.50	2007-08
Provision of AC VIP lounge	10.00	2007-08
Provision of CCTV surveillance system	17.50	2008-09
Improvement of surface of Platform-1	12.00	2008-09
Implementation of Integrated Security System	47.00	2009-10
Improvement to approach road and circulating area	39.20	2012-13

(b) and (c) The developmental works carried out, under 'Model', 'Modern' and.

'Adarsh' station schemes at Vasco-da-gama station are improvement to circulating area and flooring on platform No. 2 and 3, extension of shelter on platform no. 1, 2 and 3, extension of platform No. 2 and 3, provision of Coach Guidance Information system, improvement to retiring rooms, replacement of damaged platforms sheets on platform no. 1 and 2, provision of Electronic Train Display Boards, providing RO water plant alongwith pipeline arrangements, improvement to lighting arrangements, provision of true colour display for passenger information system, provision of stainless steel chairs, provision of new retiring rooms and Provision of touch screen facility.

Station-wise/Scheme-wise details of expenditure are not maintained. The expenditure on such works is funded under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities'. The allocation/expenditure under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities' on South Western Railway (SWR) during past three years and current year is as under:

(₹ in crores)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2009-10	36.02	36.37
2010-11	20.04	12.56
2011-12	32.98	36.07
2012-13 (Upto Oct., 12)	28.98	25.77

Hike in container train fares

‡2454. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to hike fares of container trains by 31 per cent in two phases during the coming plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of additional annual earnings that Railways would generate as a result of this decision;

(c) whether this hike will also affect the domestic consumers alongwith the import-export business;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not contemplating upon running additional container trains instead of deciding fare hike to generate additional income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The Model Concession Agreement between the private container train operators and Railways provides for upto two revisions annually in haulage rates. Haulage rates, which were in force since 1st January, 2011, have been revised with effect from 1st December, 2012 in line with the increase in Railways' costs during the interregnum. Additional earning that is expected to accrue annually on account of this revision is approximately Rs.600 crores.

(c) and (d) The periodic revision in haulage rates, which has been implemented with effect from 1st December, 2012 in accordance with the Concession Agreement, was due. The revised rates are uniformly applicable to both domestic as well as export-import (EXIM) traffic in containers. Its impact, if any, would only be marginal and is unlikely to affect domestic consumers and export-import business.

(e) Railways run container trains as per demand. No difficulties are foreseen in meeting demands emanating from container train operators for running of additional trains.

Medical care facility in superfast trains

2455. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no medical facility is available for passengers in superfast trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to provide such facility in all such trains in the near future;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Railway has a system of rendering First Aid to any passenger in need. All Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express Trains are equipped

with Augmented First Aid Boxes. The Augmented First Aid Box contains wide range of medicines and disposable medical material. Front line railway staff in trains is trained to provide necessary first aid. In addition, services of doctors traveling as passengers are also utilized. Trains make unscheduled halts, if necessary, at the stations en-route in emergencies. Railway doctors are available on call at major stations. All the Station Masters have details of doctors, clinics and hospitals, both Government and Private, in the vicinity of the station, so that their services could also be availed, if needed.

Issues related to IRCTC website

2456. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of various problems faced by users of IRCTC website including congestion and payment issues;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons behind slow response of IRCTC website and number of complaints received during last year;
- (d) whether there have been instances where money was deducted from account, multiple times, while booking a single ticket;
- (e) whether IRCTC website becomes non-functional/slows down during tatkal ticketing session;
- (f) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply with respect to tatkal ticketing; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Some instances of the website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) not being accessible during morning hours and failure of some internet ticket booking transactions after deduction of money, do come to notice.

(c) During the opening hours of booking due to a sudden surge in online traffic, the IRCTC e-ticketing website transactions sometimes experience slow down.

During the year 2011-12, on an average, IRCTC has received about 20-25 written complaints per day in this regard, during peak period.

(d) Some instances of money being deducted from account multiple times while booking a single ticket have come to notice, on account of reasons like non-availability of lower berths, network failure at the bank's end or in the Payment Gateway etc. In such cases, the amount is credited by IRCTC to the user's account through the respective bank.

(e) As explained in part (c) above, due to sudden surge in online traffic during opening of Tatkal booking, the e-ticketing website has experienced slow down, on some occasions.

(f) and (g) At present, the accommodation earmarked under Tatkal Quota constitutes approximately 15.88% of the total reserved accommodation. This quota is being fully utilised. Increasing the Tatkal quota will reduce the general quota for which passengers book upto four months in advance. However, in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply in the overall reserved accommodation, several steps are taken which include introduction of new trains, augmenting the capacity of trains, attaching extra coaches by trains to clear the rush, special trains during holiday/festival seasons, etc.

Complaints regarding functioning of reservation counters

2457. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stations in Uttar Pradesh in respect of which complaints of inadequate period of functioning of reservation counters have been received during the last two years and the current year; and

(b) the action taken/being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Demands for extension of working hours of existing computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters are received from time to time. Whenever, such requests are received, the same are examined and wherever justified as per extant norms as well as feasible, needful is done. State-wise data of complaints regarding functioning of reservation counters is not maintained. However, with a view to expand the reservation facility, internet ticketing

facility has been made available for booking reserved tickets between 0030 hours and 2330 hours.

Railway bridge over Brahmaputra river

2458. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for construction of second railway bridge over Brahmaputra river near Saraighat bridge as the present bridge consists of single railway line;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal including the date of commissioning; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of 2nd rail bridge at Saraighat near Guwahati over river Brahmaputra has been completed. Survey report is under examination. Further decision would be taken once results of the survey report are finalized.

Double-decker train on over-crowded railway routes

†2459. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce double-decker trains on overcrowded railway routes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has identified/proposes to identify the over-crowded railway routes;
- (d) whether additional trains are being run on such railway routes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Railway Budget 2012-2013, the following 2 pairs of AC Double Decker services have been announced.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (1) 22625/22626 Chennai-Bangalore AC Double Decker Express (Daily).
- (2) 22183/22184 Habibganj-Indore AC Double Decker Express (Daily).

(c) to (e) Introduction of new train services including Double Decker services is an on-going process subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability of resources, etc.

Gauge conversion project

2460. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether gauge conversion project between Dindigul and Coimbatore that started in the year 2008, still being undertaken on snail's pace;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such prolonged delay in completing this 180 kilometres gauge conversion project; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to complete the same soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) On Dindigul-Coimbatore route (167 Km), gauge conversion of Coimbatore-Podanur (6 Km) and Dindigul-Pollachi (121 Km) sections have already been completed. Gauge conversion of balance portion *i.e.* Pollachi-Podanur (40 Km) is also being expedited where Pollachi-Kinattukkadavu (21 Km) section is planned for completion by 31.3.2013. State Government has been requested to expedite handing over of land required for Podanur-Kinattukkadavu (19 Km).

Hike in prices of catering services

†2461. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have steeply hiked the prices of its catering services all of a sudden;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and since when;
- (c) whether this hike was necessary;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government does not feel that this would act as a shock to poor people who are already facing price rise;

(e) the percentage of hike by Railways with regard to this service; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (f) The catering charges of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains were last revised on 27.05.1999 and the catering charges for standard meals, breakfast, beverages and Janta meals were last revised on 30.04.2003. Further, a new menu and tariff of 97 a-la-carte items have been notified by zonal railways in October, 2012. The rates of these items have been fixed based on prices of raw material, overhead costs such as fuel, manpower, electricity and water charges etc. The percentage of hike for these items varies from an average of 10% to 50% as compared to the tariff of a-la-carte items notified earlier. In some of the items, the rates have been reduced also. Standard meal items are still available as per old rates without any revision. A-la-carte items are optional.

Deaths at unmanned railway crossings

2462. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths in Odisha, both human and animals, at unmanned railway crossings during last three years, *i.e.*, 2010, 2011 and 2012 till date, with their locations; and

(b) the details of measures taken by Railways to stop such loss of lives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Number of persons who lost their lives in consequential incident at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users in the State of Odisha during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from April to October, 2012, and the locations of such incidents are given below:

Year	No of persons who lost their lives	Locations/Section/Block Section
1	2	3
2009-10	01	Between Rengali and Sasan stations on Jharsuguda -Titlagarh section of Sambalpur Division

1	2	3
2010-11	Nil	—
2011-12	04	2 persons lost their lives in incident between Kantabanji and Muribahal stations of Vijaynagaram -Titlagarh section of Sambalpur Division; 2 persons lost their lives in incident between Jarapada and Boinda stations of Angul - Sambalpur section of Sambalpur Division.
2012-13 (April to October, 2012)	15	1 person lost his life in incident between Maneswar and Hatibari station of Sambalpur-Angul section of Sambalpur Division; 14 persons lost their lives in incident between Sambalpur City and Maneswar stations of Angul -Sambalpur section of Sambalpur Division.

As per records, death of animas at unmanned level crossing during 2010 and 2011 is Nil. However, death of 18 cows has been reported in the current year during April to October, 2012 between Charbatia and Gurdijhitia stations.

(b) Various steps have been taken by the railways to prevent incidents at unmanned level crossings which include ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at these level crossings, public awareness and publicity campaigns through electronic and print media, mass messaging (SMSs) to educate the road users, joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to penalise the erring road users, progressive manning, provision of subway at technically feasible locations, construction of diversion road upto adjacent manned gates/grade separator (ROB/RUB), closure of such unmanned level crossings which are having negligible rail/road traffic, etc.

Oak Grove School, Jharipani

2463. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of students admitted by GM, Northern Railway, during

last five years in Oak Grove School, Jharipani, Mussoorie in different classes and the reasons for such admissions;

(b) the details of wards of employees in GP-1800, erstwhile Group-D, admitted during last five years;

(c) whether Right to Education Act is being implemented in the school;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether railway officials, having no educational background, are being posted as Principals;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken by Government to bring school to path of glorious academic excellence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Laying of new railway line

†2464. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to lay new railway line from Chandigarh to Dehradun route *via* Kala Amb;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are deprived of railway line even after 65 years of Independence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Survey for new railway line between Ghanauli and Dehradun *via* Chandigarh and Kala Amb has been completed. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 216 km long new line has been assessed as Rs. 3745.62 crore with a rate of return of (-) 0.4%. The project proposal has been sent to Planning Commission for necessary approval.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No, Sir. Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have 296.26 and 344.91 Route km of railway lines respectively as on 31.03.2011

Compensation for land acquired for railway projects

‡2465. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lands were acquired from farmers for new railway line project from Hajipur to Sugauli under East-Central Railway Zone, Hajipur;

(b) whether it is a fact that an advertisement regarding job for land was published;

(c) if so, the time by when jobs would be provided to farmers whose lands have been acquired;

(d) whether it is also a fact that 20 per cent amount of compensation for land has not been paid to farmers whose lands have been acquired for this project; and

(e) if so, the time by when the outstanding amount would be paid to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Against the total requirement of 1900 acres of land, 1174 acres of land has been acquired for construction of Hajipur-Sagauli rail line project.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Rs.99.12 crore have been deposited with State Government as per demand of the State Government for land acquisition of the project. Details of information regarding percentage of compensation still to be paid have not been provided by District Land Acquisition Officer. Details have been asked from State Government.

Average speed of trains

2466. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the average speed of trains in the country;
- (b) the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to increase the average speed of trains in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Speed of trains is dependent on various factors including the maximum permissible speed of sections over which train is operated, type of signaling system, type of rolling stock deployed, stoppages enroute, etc. The details of average speed of trains including halts (Kilometres per hour) for the year 2011-12 is given below:

Type of Train	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge
Mail/Express	50.3	30.2
EMU	40.5	-
Ordinary passenger	36.2	25.1
Goods	25.0	14.1

(c) to (e) It is a constant endeavour of Indian Railway to improve the average speed of trains by reviewing existing time table and by optimizing investments on infrastructural facilities like signaling system, rolling stock, track etc.

Compensation to train accident victims

†2467. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several persons have lost their lives in train accidents during last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, Zone-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Railways have provided compensation or employment to the kins of persons dying in the accidents;

(d) if so, the number of persons who have benefited from it and the number of applications pending for consideration; and

(e) the efforts being made by Railways to expeditiously dispose of the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Zone-wise and year-wise number of persons who lost their lives in consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from April to November, 2012, is as under:-

Railway	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	April to November, 2012
	Loss of lives	Loss of lives	Loss of lives	Loss of lives
1	2	3	4	5
Central	2	0	0	1
Eastern	1	67	6	0
East Central	6	0	11	0
Northern	4	3	1	3
North Eastern	0	1	1	10
Northeast Frontier	1	1	0	0
North Western	7	0	0	0
Southern	4	0	11	0
South Central	0	0	0	30
South Eastern	2	152*	0	1
Western	1	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
East Coast	1	1	10	0
South Western	0	0	0	26
West Central	0	24	4	0
North Central	39	2	71	0
South East Central	0	0	0	2
TOTAL:	68	251	115	73

*includes death of 150 persons in the derailment and collision of Janeswari Express on 28.05.2010 near Kharagpur caused due to sabotage.

(c) and (d) Compensation to the victims of consequential train accidents under Section 124 of Indian Railways Act 1989, is payable only after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and decree is awarded by the Tribunal. Year-wise number of death cases in train accidents in which compensation has been paid by the Railways during the last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of compensation cases settled
2009-10	50
2010-11	117
2011-12	104

By the end of March, 2012, about 203 applications for compensation in death cases in train accidents are pending for adjudication in different benches of Railway Claims Tribunal.

There is no general policy for providing employment to dependents of those who lost their lives in train accidents. However, considering the human sufferings in major consequential train accidents, employment has been provided purely as a humanitarian gesture wherever announcement to this effect has been made by Hon'ble Minister of Railways. Number of employment provided to the dependents of victims of train accidents on railways in 2009, 2010, 2011 and the current year from January to July, 2012, is 8, 35, 74 and 17 respectively.

(e) The Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) is a quasi-judicial body independent from the Railways. The time taken in disposal of compensation claims depends upon the facts and circumstances of each case. Railways make all out efforts at their end for early disposal of the compensation claims in train accidents. As soon as a passenger train accident takes place, all particulars of died and injured persons are obtained and claim application forms are sent to the claimants. Written Statements are to be filed by the Railways within 15 days of receipt of notice from the RCT. After decree by the Tribunal, Railways ensure that payment is made within a period of 15 days. Prior finance concurrence in respect of accident compensation claims cases have also been dispensed with.

Providing employment to dependents of deceased of train accidents wherever announcement has been made by the Hon'ble Minister of Railways is a continuous process and verification of claims of dependents takes considerable time. Zonal Railways make all out efforts to provide employment expeditiously in such cases.

Vacant posts in Railways

‡2468. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of reserved posts of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes lying vacant in Railways, as on date;
- (b) the measures taken/being taken by Railways to fill up all these vacant posts;
- (c) the total number of category-wise vacant posts under aforesaid three categories fill up during the last three years and in the current year;
- (d) whether Railways are formulating any scheme to fill up these vacant posts at the earliest; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The number of reserved posts of Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs)/Other Backward Classes (OBCs) lying vacant in the Railways, as on date is as under:-

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Group	SC	ST	OBC
'C'	527	1158	287
'D'	321	1278	235

There is no backlog vacancy in Group A and B.

(b) On the basis of periodical directions received from Department of Personnel and Training (DOP&T), instructions are issued to the Railways for launching Special Recruitment Drive for clearing the backlog vacancies reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs.

(c) The category-wise details of vacancies filled up through recruitment and promotion during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

Year	SC	ST	OBC
2009	617	537	853
2010	1603	1211	2543
2011	2346	1822	3859
2012	3231	4479	2644

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A Special Recruitment Drive was launched for clearing the backlog of reserved vacancies of SCs/STs/OBCs existing as on 01.11.2008. The recruitment is being monitored by the highest administrative officers in Railways. Recruitment process for filling-up of remaining backlog vacancies of SCs/STs/OBCs stated above are in different stages of progress and the same will be filled up in accordance with the statutory requirement.

Expansion of railway network

2469. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has expanded its railway network by only 10,000 kilometres in the last 62 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for this slow growth;

(c) whether it is also a fact that roads are given more preference than railway; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) As on 01.04.1950, railways had 53,596 route kilometres which increased to 64,600 route kilometres as on 31.03.2012. The expansion of Broad Gauge network has been done by way of laying new lines, gauge conversion, laying double/multiple lines and since 1951, about 52,241 kilometres of Broad Gauge line has been laid/converted to Broad Gauge.

(c) and (d) Due to advantage of door to door service, particularly in respect of short and medium lead and non bulk traffic, road is the preferred mode for certain streams of traffic. To attract such traffic to Railways, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and 15 other Private Container Operators have been permitted by Indian Railways to operate container trains with facilities for door to door service. Besides, Parcel leasing policy has been implemented to capture small volumes of non bulk traffic by providing end to end logistics.

Pre-paid taxi/auto booking counters at stations

2470. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers find it difficult to hire taxis/autos at railway stations as the taxi/auto drivers demand upto three times the actual fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there happens to be only one pre-paid booking counter at stations;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government proposes to set up more pre-paid counters at stations on the pattern of airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some difficulties have been reported.

(c) to (e) The provision of pre-paid counters at the stations depends upon importance of the station, space availability etc. The responsibility for setting up of pre-paid taxi booths lies with the State Government. Instructions already exist with the Zonal Railways to co-ordinate with the local civil authorities for arrangement of pre-paid taxi and three wheeler services at all A-1 category stations and also to ensure that traffic police officials properly supervise and regulate its implementation.

Railway lines in Chhattisgarh

†2471. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is provision for new railway lines for Chhattisgarh in the Railway Budget 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the work would be started on these lines;

(c) the places in Chhattisgarh where survey for new railway lines is to be undertaken;

(d) whether there is any proposal for conducting survey for railway lines at Girodpuri, the birth place of Guru Ghasidasji; and

(e) if so, the time by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Thirty three surveys for new lines to connect different places falling fully/partly in Chhattisgarh are in progress.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Eligibility criteria for DRM

2472. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the eligibility criteria to become Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) in Railways is 52 years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that this irrational restriction in the age bars employees/officers belonging to SC/ST to reach the level of DRM;

(c) whether Government has received any representations to remove this restriction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) An upper age limit of 52 years is being followed for short-listing of officers for the posts of Divisional Railway Managers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) A communication dated 02/07/2012 from Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians alongwith a copy of a letter from Shri P.L. Punia, Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, was received, wherein a request was made for reviewing the policy relating to posting of Divisional Railway Managers. The matter was examined in this Ministry and no change in age limit was contemplated as the work of Divisional Railway Managers involves gruelling routine making heavy demands on the officer's mental and physical resources.

Condition of Mumbai suburban train services

2473. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to improve the miserable travelling condition in Mumbai local suburban train services;

(b) the current status of extending suburban services to Dahanu Road which was promised by the then Railway Minister; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) To give the relief to daily commuters, the following steps have been taken to improve the suburban services of Mumbai area:

128 AC/DC EMU rakes with new State-of-the-art technology, having improved ventilation system, better seating arrangement and aesthetics, have already been inducted into service since 2007-08. With the induction of these rakes:

- 546 numbers of additional services (339 in Central Railway and 207 in Western Railway) have been introduced.
- 1077 numbers of services (650 in Central Railway and 427 in Western Railway) have been augmented from 9 car to 12 car.

(b) and (c) In the Railway Budget 2012-13, additional services in the Mumbai suburban including that on Virar-Dahanu Road section have been announced. The services announced in the Railway Budget are normally introduced during the course of financial year.

Incidents of theft and crime in railway yards and godowns

†2474. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of and has taken note of the increasing cases of theft and incidents of crime in railway godowns and yards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during last three years, division-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Railways to check recurrence of such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The number of cases of theft/pilferage of consignments over Indian Railways has decreased during the year 2011 as compared to the year 2010. Number of such cases reported during the last three years that is 2009, 2010 and 2011 over Indian Railways, Division-wise is given in Statement (See below).

(c) Following steps are being taken by the Railways to prevent theft/pilferage of consignments :-

- (i) Goods trains carrying valuable commodities are being escorted by Railway Protection Force in vulnerable and affected sections.
- (ii) Armed pickets are provided at black spots to prevent criminal interference with the goods trains.
- (iii) Criminals apprehended are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iv) Crime Intelligence is gathered on the activities of the criminals involved in theft of Railway property and raids are being conducted at the dens of receivers of stolen Railway properties with the help of Local Police.
- (v) Close coordination is being maintained with Local Police and Government Railway Police to prevent/detect the cases of theft/pilferage of Railway property.

Statement

Number of cases of theft/pilferage of consignments reported over Indian Railways (Division-wise) during the years 2009, 2010 and 2011

Railway	Division	No. of cases registered		
		2009	2010	2011
1	2	3	4	5
Central	Mumbai	4	7	12
	Nagpur	5	11	16
	Bhusawal	0	1	0
	Solapur	4	5	6
	Pune	0	8	6
	TOTAL:	13	32	40
Eastern	Howrah-I	16	10	11
	Howrah-II	11	13	9
	Sealdah	64	53	57
	Malda	7	17	13
	Asansol	10	14	8
	TOTAL:	108	107	98
East Central	Danapur	26	31	25
	Mughalsarai	54	52	44

1	2	3	4	5
	Dhanbad	66	87	86
	Sonepur	17	21	19
	Samastipur	16	10	11
	TOTAL:	179	201	185
East Coast	Khurda Road	15	10	10
	Waltair	5	3	7
	Sambalpur	0	6	1
	TOTAL:	20	19	18
Northern	Delhi-I	46	39	38
	Delhi-II	34	47	56
	Ambala	18	25	24
	Firozpur	7	10	12
	Moradabad	6	2	0
	Lucknow	6	10	18
	TOTAL:	117	133	148
North Central	Allahabad	23	25	9
	Jhansi	11	9	12
	Agra	6	5	15
	TOTAL:	40	39	36
North Eastern	Izzatnagar	0	3	5
	Lucknow	14	10	16
	Varanasi	14	6	3
	TOTAL:	28	19	24

1	2	3	4	5
Northeast Frontier	Katihar	28	22	17
	Alipurduar	6	2	2
	Lumding	125	129	71
	Tinsukia	12	8	4
	Rangia	9	13	5
	TOTAL:	180	174	99
North Western	Ajmer	1	0	0
	Bikaner	0	6	5
	Jaipur	8	11	10
	Jodhpur	3	7	3
	TOTAL:	12	24	18
Southern	Madras	136	177	44
	Truchirappalli	12	11	3
	Madurai	14	13	15
	Palghat	11	15	7
	Trivendram	30	36	16
	Salem	3	1	5
	TOTAL:	206	253	90
South Central	Secunderabad	19	10	4
	Hyderabad	3	2	0
	Guntakal	11	10	17
	Nanded	1	1	3

1	2	3	4	5
	Vijayawada	2	2	2
	Guntur	0	2	0
	TOTAL:	36	27	26
South Eastern	Kharagpur	262	143	3
	Adra	33	33	5
	Chakardharpur	22	30	15
	Ranchi	24	28	6
	TOTAL:	341	234	29
South East Central	Bilaspur	2	4	4
	Raipur	1	7	4
	Nagpur	0	1	1
	TOTAL:	3	12	9
South Western	Hubli	10	2	3
	Bangalore	19	12	19
	Mysore	3	5	1
	TOTAL:	32	19	23
Western	Mumbai Central	28	23	52
	Vadodara	2	1	1
	Ratlam	2	9	6
	Ahmedabad	15	13	17
	Rajkot	5	7	6
	Bhavnagar	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	52	53	82

1	2	3	4	5
West Central	Jabalpur	11	17	9
	Bhopal	12	9	5
	Kota	1	0	2
	TOTAL:	24	26	16
GRAND TOTAL:		1391	1372	941

Rawghat railway line project

‡2475. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on Rawghat railway line project was to be completed in December, 2012;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ground levelling work has not been completed yet;

(c) whether Government is aware that the tender of Rawghat mining is being awarded in December, 2012 and iron ore has to be transported to Rajhara and Bhilai from Rawghat;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government so that the work is not delayed; and

(e) by when the said project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The construction of Dallirajahara-Rawghat-Jagdapur new line has been sanctioned to, *inter-alia*, provide sustained iron ore supply from Rawghat and Bailadila mines to Bhilai Steel Plant. Ministry of Railways do not have information about the tender for mining in Rawghat. The railway project will be completed in coming years subject to availability of resources and conducive law and order environment in the project alignment areas.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bullet train

2476. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2120 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August, 2011 and state:

(a) the progress achieved so far on introduction of bullet train between Ahmedabad-Mumbai- Pune; and

(b) by when it would become a reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Pre-feasibility study for this high speed corridor was completed in April, 2010. A Project Steering Group (PSG) has been constituted with Chairman Railway Board; Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Secretary, Planning Commission to examine and finalise the options for implementing the project.

(b) As the project has not been sanctioned, no timeframe can be indicated.

Overcharging for food items and beverages

†2477. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rates prescribed for food items and beverages provided in Mail and Express trains;

(b) whether it is a fact that the passengers are being overcharged for food items and beverages in Poorva Express running between New Delhi and Howrah and even bill receipts are not being provided to passengers for food items and beverages; and

(c) the number of complaints registered in last three years and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) A uniform tariff and menu has been notified for items like Standard meals, Breakfast, Tea/Coffee, Janta meal and meals for Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto Express trains. The rates of standard meals, breakfast and beverages

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for other Mail/Express trains were last revised on 30.04.2003 are given in Statement (See below). The menu and tariff for Rajdhani/Shatabdi was last revised on 27.05.1999. Further, a uniform menu and tariff for 97 a-la-carte items has been notified by zonal railways in October, 2012.

(b) and (c) During the last three years, a total of 14 complaints have been registered in Poorva Express running between New Delhi and Howrah regarding overcharging/non issue of bills. Against such irregularities, actions have been taken such as show cause notices given in 4 cases, fines imposed in 7 cases, warning given in 1 case and complaints not substantiated in 2 cases. Also fines to the tune of ₹ 2,20,000/- have been imposed on the licensee.

Statement

*The rates of standard meals, breakfast and beverages for
Mail/Express trains are as under*

Sl. No.	Item	Tariff (existing)
1	2	3
1.	Standard tea (150 ml) in disposable cups of 170 ml capacity	3.00
2.	Tea (with tea bag) (150 ml) in disposable cups of 170 ml capacity	4.00
3.	Coffee using instant coffee powder (150 ml) in disposable cups of 170 ml capacity.	5.00
4.	Tea in pots (285 ml) + 2 tea bags + 2 sugar pouches	5.00
5.	Coffee in pots (285 ml) + 2 instant Coffee sachets + 2 sugar pouches	7.00
6.	Rail Neer/Packaged drinking water (chilled)	
	1 litre bottle/1000 ml	15.00
	500 ml. bottle	10.00

1	2	3
7	Janta Meal or Economy meal or Janta Khana	10.00
8	Standard Breakfast	
8(i)	Vegetarian Breakfast	17.00
	(a) Bread Butter and cutlet	
	(b) Idli and Vada	
	(c) Upma and Vada	
	(d) Pongal and Vada	
8(ii)	Non-Vegetarian Breakfast	
	Bread, Butter and omelet	20.00
9.	Standard Casserole meals	
9(i)	Vegetarian	30.00
9(ii)	Non-Vegetarian	35.00
10.	Standard Thali Meals (only in Refreshment Rooms)	
10(i)	Meals in Thalís (vegetarian)	22.00
10(ii)	Meals in Thalís (Non-vegetarian)	27.00

Service tax @ 8.66 % will be levied extra for items other than tea, coffee sold in cups and packaged drinking water and items sold in Static units.

Fourth platform at Kurukshetra Junction railway station

†2478. DR. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for construction of fourth platform at Kurukshetra Junction railway station is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal for construction of fourth platform at Kurukshetra Junction Railway Station.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Provision of fourth platform at Kurukshetra is not operationally feasible as all movements require cutting across both up and down lines.

Pending proposal of a railway line before Planning Commission

2479. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to lay a railway line between Dharwad and Belgaum *via* Kittur is pending before the Planning Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that six projects covering 626 kilometres at an estimated cost of ₹ 3,302 crore are pending with the Planning Commission; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in approving the same and by when would they be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) No, Sir.

(c) Examination of proposal in the Planning Commission is taking time.

Central projects in Haryana

2480. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central projects undertaken by Central Government in Haryana during last three years which are still awaiting completion, project-wise and year-wise;

- (b) the details of cost and time over-run in each case; and
- (c) the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure expeditious completion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitor the Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing ₹ 150 Crores and above on the basis of information supplied by the Project Implementing Agencies. The details of central projects undertaken in Haryana during last three years which are still awaiting completion is given in Statement (*See* below).

- (c) The project is delayed due to delay in supply of stone aggregate due to ban on mining, removal of encroachments, land acquisition problem, delay in approval of design from Railways, relocation of Toll Plaza, etc. The major steps initiated by the Government to ensure timely completion of projects includes rigorous project appraisal, regular review of progress of projects and problem resolution meetings at appropriate level and monitoring of the projects through Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS).

Statement*List of Central Projects undertaken in Haryana during last three years*

Sl. Project No.	Sector	Date of Approval	Date of Commissioning		Cost of Project		Cost Overrun	Time Overrun (in months)
			Original	Anticipated	Original	Anticipated		
1	Panipat-Jalandhar 6 lane (Km 96 to 387.1 km)	05/2009	11/2011	08/2013	1108.00	2288.00	1180.00	21
	Road Transport and Highways							
2	Butadiene Extraction Unit (BDEU) at Panipat	11/2009	02/2013	02/2013	341.50	341.50	0.00	0
3	Panipat - Ammonia Plant Feedstock Changeover Project	01/2010	01/2013	01/2013	1292.84	1292.84	0.00	0
4	Panipat-Rohtak	04/2011	10/2014	10/2014	807.00	807.00	0.00	0
	Road Transport and Highways							
5.	Rohtak-Bawal	05/2011	11/2013	11/2013	650.00	650.00	0.00	0
	Road Transport and Highways							
6.	Butene-1 Project at Panipat	02/2012	03/2014	03/2014	190.00	190.00	0.00	0
	Petroleum							

12.00 Noon.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Speed Post services

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Speed Post services have deteriorated;
- (b) whether any complaints have been received by the Ministry and the Delhi Circle of India Post in this regard;
- (c) if so, the action taken thereon so far; and
- (d) the steps being taken to streamline the Speed Post services to ensure speedy and timely delivery of postal items by this mode?

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The Speed Post services have not deteriorated. Both the traffic and revenue of Speed Post have been increasing over the years indicating the trust of the customers in the service. Information for last three years is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Complaints are received both in the Ministry and in the Postal Circles, including Delhi Circle regarding Speed Post services. The number of complaints received *vis-a-vis* the Speed Post traffic is minimal. India Post has a robust mechanism for redressal of Speed Post-related complaints and complaints are redressed expeditiously. Information regarding Speed Post complaints received and settled for All India and Delhi Circle during last three years is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) Monitoring of service performance is a continuous process. The performance of Speed Post service is regularly monitored both in the Directorate and in the Postal Circles with a view to improve the quality of service. Monitoring is done against a set of well defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) like time taken for delivery, reasons for non-delivery etc. to ensure consistency in quality of service. Such

monitoring has resulted in reduced transit time, improved delivery performance and increase in the number of Speed Post items available for online tracking. The number of Speed Post items tracked has increased from 63 lakhs in December, 2009 to 2.11 crores in October, 2012.

Statement-I

Traffic and revenue generated by Speed Post

Year	Traffic in crore	Revenue (₹ in Crore)	Percentage growth in revenue
2009-10	24.08	613.96	19.15%
2010-11	27.29	748.82	21.97%
2011-12	39.19	899.73	20.16%

Statement-II

*Information regarding complaints against Speed Post Services—
All India*

Year	Traffic in crores	Number of complaints	Percentage of complaints w.r.t. traffic	Number of complaints settled	Percentage settlement of number of complaints
2009-10	24.08	1,74,040	0.072%	1,67,653	96.33%
2010-11	27.29	1,91,970	0.070%	1,87,625	97.74%
2011-12	39.19	1,83,058	0.046%	1,77,779	97.12%

*Information regarding complaints against Speed Post Services—
Delhi Circle*

2009-10	2.83	30,244	0.106%	30,175	99.77%
2010-11	3.49	31,747	0.090%	30,847	97.16%
2011-12	5.22	37,201	0.071%	36,190	97.28%

श्री साबिर अली : सभापति जी, इससे पहले कि मैं अपना सवाल पूछूं, मेरी मुअदबाना गुजारिश है कि इस सवाल के परिप्रेक्ष्य में कुछ बातें कहना लाजमी है। इसलिए आपके माध्यम से मैं मंत्री जी से और मंत्रालय से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे पास जो data आया है, वह बड़ा आश्चर्यजनक है। इस सदन के पटल पर data रख दिया जाता है, लेकिन उसमें सत्यता बहुत दूर तक नहीं होती।

सर, इस सवाल के संदर्भ में एक शेर याद आता है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री साबिर अली : शेर है-

"आने वाला लापता है, जाने वाला बेखबर है।

किससे पूछूं मंज़िले-मक़सद कितनी दूर है?"

सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार का जो जवाब आया है, जवाब है कि सिर्फ 37,000 कंप्लेंट्स इनको दिल्ली शहर में मिली हैं और पूरे देश में एक साल में 1,83,000 कंप्लेंट्स मिली हैं और पूरे देश के लोग यह जानते हैं कि एक से दो फीसदी लोग ही कंप्लेंट कर पाते हैं या अपनी बातों को रख पाते हैं...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री साबिर अली : मैं सवाल पर ही आ रहा हूँ। इसलिए मैंने आपसे माज़रत की कि मेरे सवाल के संदर्भ में कुछ बातें कहनी जरूरी हैं, तभी सवाल पूरा होगा। इसलिए मैं आपकी इजाजत चाहता हूँ और आपका प्रोटेक्शन चाहता हूँ। इसके बगैर वे बातें कही नहीं जा सकतीं। मंत्री और मंत्रालय तो लोगों को सुनते ही नहीं, फोन कीजिए, तो उठाते ही नहीं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : इसका सवाल से क्या मतलब है?

श्री साबिर अली : सर, मैं सवाल पर आता हूँ। मेरा स्पीड पोस्ट से रिलेटेड सवाल है। अभी स्पीड पोस्ट की स्थिति यह है कि जो पहले पोस्ट्स की जाती थीं, एक शायर कहता है कि-

"ख़त पर ख़त मैंने लिखा, ख़त का जवाब आता नहीं।

क्या ख़ता मुझसे हुई, क़ासिद ख़बर लाता नहीं।।

सर, इस देश के लोग, गांव के लोग, सुदूर गांव के लोग खतों का इंतजार करते रह जाते हैं और स्पीड पोस्ट उन तक पहुंचती नहीं है, इनका कर्मचारी लिख देता है कि - "दरवाजा बंद है।" यह बड़ी अफसोसनाक बात है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए, प्लीज़।

श्री साबिर अली : सर, मैं सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूँ। अगर मैं यह बात नहीं कहूंगा, तो जवाब नहीं आएगा...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: None of this will go on record. You cannot do this.

श्री साबिर अली : *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

श्री साबिर अली : क्या मंत्री जी इस बात को बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि स्पीड पोस्ट की जो दुर्दशा है ओर उसकी जो कंप्लेंट्स हैं, क्या किसी कर्मचारी के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गई है? जो कंप्लेंट्स मिली हैं, उनमें आज तक कितने कर्मचारियों को दंडित किया गया है?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सभापति जी, सबसे पहले मैं आपके द्वारा माननीय सदस्य को कुछ आंकड़े बताना चाहता हूँ कि जहां तक दिल्ली का सवाल है, हमारा जो ट्रैफिक है, वह 2009-10 में 2.83 करोड़ था और कंप्लेंट्स 30,244 थीं। इन कंप्लेंट्स का जो सैटलमेंट हुआ, वह 99.77 परसेंट हुआ। जो percentage of complaints है in respect of traffic, वह 0.106% है और वह 2009 से आज 2012 में कम होता जा रहा है। 2012 का percentage of complaints in respect of traffic is 0.071. माननीय सदस्य की यह बात सही है कि पिछले कुछ दिनों में खास तौर से हम लोग जो Aadhaar card भेज रहे हैं, उसकी वजह से traffic increase हो गया है और कई जगहों पर हमारे पास इतने मुलाज़िम भी नहीं हैं कि पूरी तरह से हम उस ट्रैफिक की देखभाल कर सकें। हमारे पास All India shortage 5,700 पोस्टमैन की है। दिल्ली में भी काफी shortage है और बिहार में काफी shortage है। तो हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि जल्द से जल्द अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति की जाए ताकि यह shortage खत्म हो और जो भी बाकी complaints हैं, हम सही तरीके से उनको देख सकें।

श्री साबिर अली : मंत्री जी, आपने जो जवाब दिया, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सर, मंत्री जी ने पहले सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया है।

श्री सभापति : आप बीच में दखल मत दीजिए, वे सवाल पूछ रहे हैं।

श्री साबिर अली : सर, मैंने जो सवाल पूछा, उसका जवाब नहीं आया और बगैर आपके protection के इस सदन का और हमारे जैसे कमज़ोर लोगों का मामला हल नहीं हो सकता है, इसलिए आपका protection जरूरी है कि मंत्री और मंत्रालय को यह समझ होनी चाहिए कि जो सवाल पूछा जाए, उसका जवाब वही मिलना चाहिए, जो सवाल पूछा गया हो।

सर आपके माध्यम से मैं मंत्री जी से दूसरा सवाल यह पूछना चाहता हूँ, चूंकि यह मेरा अपना experience है, मैंने यहां से मुम्बई अपने घर खत भेजा। ग्यारह दिन लग गए लेकिन

खत नहीं पहुंचा, फिर उसी खत को दूसरी जगह से स्पीड पोस्ट के बजाय मुझे courier से भेजना पड़ा। सर, चूंकि स्पीड पोस्ट की reach बड़े शहरों तक ही है, वह देहात नहीं पहुंच पाती है। चूंकि यह गाड़ी से जाती है, letter ले जाने वाला डाकिया घर तक नहीं जाता है। और आजकल लोग आरामदेह हो गए हैं, इसलिए गाड़ी लेकर जाने या उनको बाइक मुहैया कराने की आपकी ऐसी कोई योजना है कि कम से कम उनको ऐसी सहूलियत हो कि वे सुदूर गांवों तक स्पीड पोस्ट पहुंचा सकें।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सर, माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत सही सवाल पूछा है। हमारी मुश्किल खास तौर पर रूरल एरियाज़ में यह है कि जहां तक फ्लाइट का कनेक्शन है, वहां हम एयर प्लेन से भेजते हैं, जहां रेलवे कनेक्शन है, वहां रेलवे से भेजते हैं, लेकिन हिंदुस्तान में कई ऐसी भी जगह हैं जहां रेल का भी कनेक्शन नहीं है और एयर कनेक्शन भी नहीं है, तो वहां ज़रूर वक्त लगता है, लेकिन हमारे मापदंड यह कहते हैं कि हिंदुस्तान में कहीं भी हो, किसी भी कोने में हो, छः दिन के अंदर यह चिट्ठी पहुंच जानी चाहिए। जहां तक metro cities का सवाल है, यह चिट्ठी दो दिनों में पहुंच जानी चाहिए। मुझे नहीं मालूम कि आपकी चिट्ठी को जाने में ग्यारह दिन क्यों लगे? अगर आप मुझे उसकी जानकारी देंगे, तो मैं तुरंत उसकी जांच करा कर कार्यवाही भी कराऊंगा।

जहां तक 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना की बात है, we are going to modernize the whole system. जैसे ही यह modernize होगा, electronically यह काम होगा, तो वह पार्सल कब पहुंचेगा, कहां पहुंचा है, कहां देरी है, उस सबका मुआयना करके हम जल्द से जल्द उसको पहुंचाएंगे।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सर, यह एक बहुत सिम्पल-सा question था कि क्या यह सच है कि स्पीड पोस्ट सेवाओं में गिरावट आई है? इसके लिए मंत्री जी ने रेवेन्यू कलेक्शन का डाटा तो दे दिया, लेकिन अगर स्पीड पोस्ट in time नहीं मिलती, तो पिछले 30 सालों में उनमें compensation देने में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है और कितने अधिकारियों के खिलाफ आपने कार्रवाई की है?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : जैसा कि मैंने पहले बताया कि कई जगहों पर हमारे पास अधिकारी ही नहीं हैं। जब इतना ज्यादा pressure है, वहां कोई अधिकारी ही नहीं हो, तो हम किसी को बरखास्त करें, यह भी उचित नहीं है। तो हम अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति करने जा रहे हैं और मैं नहीं समझता कि इस स्थिति में हमें किसी को दंडित करना चाहिए!...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सर, compensation का जवाब नहीं आया।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : Compensation किसको देना है?

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : जो डिले हुआ है।

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : Complaints का settlement हो चुका है, मैंने वे आंकड़े दे दिए कि कितनी complaints का settlement हो चुका है। अभी तक किसी ने हमारे पास ऐसी चिट्ठी नहीं लिखी कि हमें इतना compensation देना चाहिए था और हमें नहीं मिला।

श्री सभापति : श्री रामाकृष्णा...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सर, मैं एक बात आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ। ये senior-most minister हैं। मैंने एक Unstarred Question दिया था।

श्री सभापति : उसका इससे क्या मतलब है?

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सर, आप सुन लीजिए। उसमें इन्होंने कहा है कि हर साल compensation देने का रेट बढ़ रहा है। आज ये कह रहे हैं कि हमने compensation दिया नहीं है। सर, ये सदन को बिल्कुल गुमराह कर रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति : तो आप उस पर लिखिए। There is a procedure for it.

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : हमने complaints को settle किया है, इसका मतलब रूल्स के मुताबिक जो compensation दिया जाना था, हमने वह दिया है।

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: But, what is the procedure? Sir, the hon. Member is asking what the figure is and what the amount of compensation paid.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I don't have the figure right now. I will write it to the hon. Member if he wants to know the exact figure. There is no issue on that.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Then, you say that you do not have the information right now with you.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I have said it so.

SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: You have a system of tracking the time taken in the receipt of the Speed Post. If there is an inordinate delay, will you consider a scheme of refunding the difference between the Speed Post and the ordinary post charges to the person?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Once the core tracking system is introduced, which will make all procedures entirely electronic, none of this will arise. And hopefully, within a few months this core tracking system will be put in place. Most of the head offices are electronically connected; so, we can track everything. But, in rural areas, that has not yet been done. As and when it is done, we will certainly do this.

SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: My main question was whether you would consider refunding the difference between Speed Post and the ordinary post charges.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If people want refund and if they give reasons as to why refund should be given, we will certainly consider it.

SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: If the reason is the inordinate delay...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: We will look into the reasons for that inordinate delay. As I said, the maximum period is six days. Where there is no connectivity, how do we reach those parcels to people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : माननीय मंत्री जी, आपने स्वीकार किया कि अधिकारी नहीं है, इसलिए चिट्ठियां देर से पहुंचती हैं। हमारे माननीय सदस्य को तो आपको इस कारण से compensation देना चाहिए क्योंकि उन्होंने अपनी पत्नी को चिट्ठी लिखी थी, जो नहीं पहुंची और उसका खामियाजा उनको भुगतना पड़ा। महोदय, शुरू में कबूतरों के द्वारा चिट्ठी भेजी जाती थी और वह शत-प्रतिशत पहुंचती थी। पहले राजा-महाराजाओं के द्वारा जो चिट्ठी भेजी जाती थी, वह कबूतरों के माध्यम से भेजी जाती थी। उसके बाद आपका सिस्टम शुरू हुआ, जिसमें चिट्ठी नहीं पहुंची - अधिकतर लोगों की यह शिकायत है, हमारी भी है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि वे पांच साल में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सिस्टम करने जो रहे हैं और पांच साल के बाद यह गारंटी होगी कि सबको चिट्ठी पहुंच जाएगी। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इस कंट्री में जो courier system है, उसके द्वारा अगर आप कोई चिट्ठी भेजते हैं तो courier वाला वह courier उसके घर पर पहुंचाकर उसकी receiving लेता है। क्या आप उस सिस्टम को अपने विभाग में लागू करने पर विचार करेंगे? यदि हां, तो वह सिस्टम कब तक लागू होगा और यदि नहीं, तो क्यों?

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : सर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात उठायी है, उसके संबंध में मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि इंडियन स्पीड पोस्ट का आज के दिन जो मार्केट शेयर है, वह नम्बर दो पर है। इसका मतलब है कि लोग हमारे यहां से पार्सल भेजना चाहते हैं, स्पीड पोस्ट का इस्तेमाल करना चाहते हैं क्योंकि वे मानते हैं कि टाइम पर चिट्ठी पहुंचती है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : नम्बर दो बड़ा खराब होता है। आप नम्बर एक पर रखिए...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. There is no discussion on this. ...(Interruptions)... Please.

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : जैसा मैंने बताया कि हमारा रेवेन्यू भी इन्क्रीज़ हो रहा है और बीस प्रतिशत की रफ्तार से इन्क्रीज़ हो रहा है, ट्रैफिक भी बीस प्रतिशत की रफ्तार से इन्क्रीज़

[श्री कपिल सिब्बल]

हो रहा है। इसका मतलब यह है कि लोगों में इंडियन स्पीड पोस्ट पर विश्वास है। हां, यह सही है कि खामियां हैं और compensation हमें देना चाहिए। जितना compensation हमने आज तक स्पीड पोस्ट के अंतर्गत दिया है, वह आंकड़े आपको उपलब्ध करा दिए जाएंगे।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मैंने courier system के बारे में पूछा था...(व्यवधान)...

श्री कपिल सिब्बल : courier system लागू होगा, बिल्कुल लागू होना चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Short Notice Question is over. Statement by Minister correcting answer to Question. Shri Tariq Anwar.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER
TO QUESTION**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question No. 2173 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 2012, regarding 'Suicide by farmers'.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statement in relation to Budget

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, a copy (in English and Hindi) of Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the first quarter of the financial year 2012-13.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8362/15/12]

I. Report and Accounts (2011-12) of various PSUs and related papers**II. Report and Accounts (2011-12) of various Institutes and related papers**

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:

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under subsection (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) (a) Fifty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7865/15/12]

(ii) (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7866/15/12]

(iii) (a) Sixty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Udyoga Mandal, Kochi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7864/15/12]

[Shri Srikant Jena]

(iv) (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), NOIDA, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7868/15/12]

(v) (a) Thirty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7863/15/12]

(vi) (a) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited (FAGMILs), Jodhpur, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7867/15/12]

(vii) (a) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), Mumbai, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8269/15/12]

- (viii) (a) Fifty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8271/15/12]

- (ix) (a) Tenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Dibrugarh, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8273/15/12]

- (x) (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Rastriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), Mumbai, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8272/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

- (i) (a) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Chennai, for the year 2011-12, 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. 7862/15/12]

[Shri Srikant Jena]

- (ii) (a) Twentieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), Gurgaon, 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 (ii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7861/15/12]

I. Reports and Accounts (2010-11) of various National Institute of Technology, and related papers

II. Reports and Accounts (2011-12) of various Universities and related papers

III. Reports and Accounts (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12) of various Universities Shiksha Abhiyans, IITs, IIMs, Educational Societies, Councils, Parishads, Institutions etc. and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): Sir, I lay on the Table—

- I. (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 National Institute of Technology, Agartala, 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. 7823/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Patna, Bihar, 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. 7835/15/12]

- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of the Section 30 and sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Central Universities Act, 2009:—

- (i) (a) Fourth Annual Report of the Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7644/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7645/15/12]

- (iii) (a) Third Annual Report of the Central University of Orissa, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7643/15/12]

- (iv) (a) Fourth Annual Report of the Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8200/15/12]

- (v) (a) Third Annual Report of the Central University of Rajasthan (CAU), Rajasthan, for the year 2011-12.

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central University of Rajasthan (CAU), Rajasthan, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8195/15/12]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8199/15/12]

- (vii) (a) Fourth Annual Report of the Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8179/15/12]

- (viii) (a) Annual Report of the Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Vishwavidyalaya.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8177/15/12]

- (ix) (a) Annual Report of the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8155/15/12]

- (x) (a) Annual Report of the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8181/15/12]

- (xi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central University of Bihar, Patna, for the year, 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8170/15/12]

- (xii) Annual Accounts of the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8181/15/12]

- (xiii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of the Section 29 and sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Pondicherry University Act, 1985:—

- (a) Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Pondicherry University, Puducherry, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Pondicherry University, Puducherry, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8163/15/12]

- (xiv) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Assam University Act, 1989 :—

- (a) Nineteenth Annual Report of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8153/15/12]

- (xv) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon, under Section 30 of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU) Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7819/15/12]

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

(xvi) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 and sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Mizoram University Act, 2000:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Mizoram University, Aizawl, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Mizoram University, Aizawl, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8168/15/12]

(xvii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 31 of the University of Allahabad Act, 2005:—

- (a) Seventh Annual Report of the University of Allahabad, Allahabad, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8156/15/12]

(xviii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under Section 31 of the Nagaland University Act, 1989:—

- (a) Seventeenth Annual Report of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8157/15/12]

(xix) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 30 and sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Tezpur University Act, 1993:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Tezpur University, Assam, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Tezpur University, Assam, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8180/15/12]

(xx) 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 2011-12.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8184/15/12]

(xxi) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 34 of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Act, 2007:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Review by the Government on the working of the above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8182/15/12]

(xxii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 33 and sub-section (4) of Section 34 of the Tripura University Act, 2006:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Tripura University, Tripura, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by the Government on the working of above University.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8357/15/12]

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

(xxiii) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 33 and sub-section (4) of Section 34 of the Rajiv Gandhi University Act, 2006 :—

- (i) Annual Accounts of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, for the year 2008-09 and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8178/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Twenty-fourth Annual Report of Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, for the year 2011-12.
- (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) (i) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8191/15/12]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Accounts of the Manipur University, Imphal, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 34 of the Manipur University Act, 2005.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7646/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority, Punjab, Chandigarh, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7654/15/12]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7655/15/12]

- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Authority, Punjab, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iv)(a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7833/15/12]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the State Society of Gujarat implementing the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Gandhinagar, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (v) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7834/15/12]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the State Society of Sikkim implementing the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Gangtok, 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 (vi) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7829/15/12]

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rajasthan Council of Secondary Education Society implementing the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Authority, Rajasthan, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7828/15/12]

- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Authority, Haryana, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (viii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7830/15/12]

- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Andhra Pradesh, 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 (ix) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7831/15/12]

- (x) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Kerala, 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. 7832/15/12]

- (xi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Haryana Prathmik Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad, Panchkula, Haryana, 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 (xi) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7824/15/12]

- (xii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Haryana Prathmik Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad, Panchkula, Haryana, 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 (xii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7825/15/12]

- (xiii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad, Panchkula, Haryana, 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 (xiii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7830/15/12]

- (xiv) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kashipur, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xiv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7650/15/12]

- (xv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Rohtak, 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 (xv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7649/15/12]

- (xvi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), 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.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xvi) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7651/15/12]

- (xvii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, 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 (xvii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8358/15/12]

- (xviii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society, Secunderabad, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7827/15/12]

(xix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7821/15/12]

(xx) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, 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 (xx) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7842/15/12]

(xxi) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITD&M), Kancheepuram, for the year 2011-12.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7822/15/12]

(xxii) (a) Annual Report of the Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, for the year 2011-12.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7845/15/12]

(xxiii) (a) Annual Report of Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Vedvidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year 2011-12.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7849/15/12]

(xxiv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Model School Project, Gujarat Council of Secondary Education, Gandhinagar, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xxiv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7834/15/12]

(xxv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Model School Scheme, Bihar Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad, Patna, 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 (xxv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7844/15/12]

(xxvi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Model School Scheme, Bihar Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad, Patna, 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 (xxvi) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7837/15/12]

(xxvii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Model School Scheme, Madhya Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Samiti, Bhopal, 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 (xxvii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7847/15/12]

(xxviii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Model School Scheme, Madhya Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Samiti, Bhopal, 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 (xxviii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7848/15/12]

- (xxix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Model School Scheme, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Karnataka, 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 (xxix) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7841/15/12]

- (xxx) (a) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8186/15/12]

- (xxxi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Society (RMSA), Union Territory of Chandigarh, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7850/15/12]

- (xxxii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the West Bengal Society for Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Mission (RMSA), 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 (xxxii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7838/15/12]

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

- (xxxiii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Mizoram, 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 (xxxiii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7839/15/12]

- (xxxiv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Goa Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Alto Porvorim, for the years 2009-10 and 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 (xxxiv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7840/15/12]

- (xxxv) (a) Annual Report of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8185/15/12]

- (xxxvi) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Rajasthan, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xxxvi) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7846/15/12]

- (xxxvii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Rajasthan, for the year 2009-10.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xxxvii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7852/15/12]

- (xxxviii)(a) Annual Report of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Rajasthan, 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 (xxxviii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7836/15/12]

- (xxxix)(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7851/15/12]

- (xl) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Union Territory Mission Authority, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, for the year 2011-12, 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 (xl) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7641/15/12]

- (xli) (a) Annual Report of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12.

- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.

- (c) Statement by Government accepting the above Reports.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8187/15/12]

I. Notifications of Ministry of Agriculture**II. Report and Accounts (2011-12) of NIFTEM, New Delhi and related papers****III. Reports and Accounts (2011-12) of IGPB, New Delhi and NMPPB, New Delhi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table—

- I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) Notification No. DEL: NDDDB-02/12, dated the 22nd October, 2012, publishing the National Dairy Development Board Workmen (Appointment, Pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 2012, under Section 50 of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8359/15/12]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under subsection (4) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956: —
- (a) Second Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, 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 Institute.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7771/15/12]

- III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Grape Processing Board (IGPB), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of above Board.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8077/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7772/15/12]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

II. Reports and Accounts (2011-12) of various PSUs and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MILIND DEORA): Sir, I lay on the Table—

- I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications), under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—
- (1) No. 311-13/2012-QoS, dated the 5th November, 2012, publishing the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (Tenth Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
 - (2) F. No. 305-8/2012-QoS, dated the 8th November, 2012, publishing the Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2012.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7845/15/12]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications):—

- (1) No. 18-07/2010-IP, dated the 5th October, 2012, notifying Policy for providing preference to domestically manufactured electronic products in procurement due to security consideration and in Government procurement.

[Shri Milind Deora]

- (2) No. 18-07/2010-IP, dated the 27th November, 2012, publishing corrigendum to Notification No. 18-07/2010-IP, dated the 5th October, 2012.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8360/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under subsection (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) (a) Twelfth Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7856/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Sixty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8218/15/12]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8217/15/12]

**Reports and Accounts (2006-07, 2010-11 and 2011-12) of various PSUs,
Corporations, Cooperatives and related papers**

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 62 and Section 85 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FR), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FR), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7779/15/12]

(ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 14 and sub-section (4) of Section 17 of the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962:—

- (a) Annual Report of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8081/15/12]

(iii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- 1. (a) Thirty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram,

[Shri Tariq Anwar]

for the year 2006-07, 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. 7775/15/12]

2. (a) Forty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Seeds Corporation Limited (NSC), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, 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. 8079/15/12]

3. (a) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited (SFCEI), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, 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.

- (c) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) (i) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8078/15/12]

(iv) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

1. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7777/15/12]

- 2. (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited (NLCF), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7780/15/12]

- 3. (a) Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7778/15/12]

- 4. (a) Annual Report of the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iv) (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8080/15/12]

Reports and Accounts (2011-12) of various Railway PSUs and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, 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. 7900/15/12]

- (ii) (a) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7898/15/12]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, 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. 7899/15/12]

- (iv) (a) Twelfth Annual Report and Accounts of the RAILTEL Corporation of India Limited (RCIL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, 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. 7895/15/12]

- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7896/15/12]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by the Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7897/15/12]

Report of CAG for the year ended March, 2011

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2011: No.18 of 2012-13 - (Performance Audit) - Union Government (Defence Services) – Medical Establishments in Defence Services.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8361/15/12]

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I present the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation:-

- (i) Two Hundred and First Report on the Statutory Orders laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha during the 226th Session;
- (ii) Two Hundred and Second Report on the Railway Passengers (Manner of

[Shrimati Maya Singh]

Investigation of Untoward Incidents) Rules, 2003 and Customs (Compounding of Offences) Rules, 2005; and

- (iii) Two Hundred and Third Report on the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005.

REPORTS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Seventh and Eighth Reports of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am now taking up the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2012. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Mullappally Ramachandran, please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, सरकार से एक आग्रह करना है। माननीय संसदीय कार्य राज्य मंत्री ध्यान दें। अब इस सत्र में केवल चार दिन बचे हुये हैं, आप लोकपाल बिल कब ला रहे हैं? सलेक्ट कमेटी ने इसको finalize करके भेज दिया है। लोकपाल बिल जल्दी आये, सदन में आये, यह देश की अपेक्षा है। लेकिन अब केवल तीन-चार दिन बचे हैं, आप लोकपाल बिल सदन में कब ला रहे हैं, इसका कोई संकेत नहीं है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... हम सरकार से आग्रह करते हैं कि सरकार सदन में बताये कि वह लोकपाल बिल कब लाने जा रही है? ...(*व्यवधान*)...यह बहुत जरूरी है।...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, let us take up the North-Eastern Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill. No, please. That is enough. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : आपके सांसद उस कमेटी के चेयरमैन थे। ...(*व्यवधान*)... सर, माननीय मंत्री जी बतायें। ...(*व्यवधान*)... सर, सरकार बताये कि वह लोकपाल बिल कब ला रही है? ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please. Let us take up the North-Eastern Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill. Mr. Mullappally Ramachandran now. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर। माननीय मंत्री जी बतायें कि सरकार लोकपाल बिल कब ला रही है, क्योंकि सत्र के चार दिन बचे हैं? ...(*व्यवधान*)...

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): No, Sir. The Government should respond. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You made your point. ...(*Interruptions*)... What you said is enough. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री शान्ता कुमार (हिमाचल प्रदेश): सर, लोकपाल के ऊपर देश में इतना बड़ा आंदोलन हुआ है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... आप सरकार को रूलिंग दीजिए। ...(*व्यवधान*)... सरकार लोकपाल बिल कब ला रही है? ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What you said is on record. Okay. ...(*Interruptions*)... You made your point; it is not Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, let him say something. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What are you doing? ...(*Interruptions*)... I have called Shri Mullappally Ramachandran. Only what he says will go on record. You made your point; that is on the record. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot direct him. You know that. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत : *

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : *

श्री वी.पी. सिंह बदनौर : *

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजीव शुक्ल) : सर, हम तो लोकसभा में लोकपाल को पास करा चुके हैं, इन्होंने इसको यहां पर रोका। ...(*व्यवधान*)... सलेक्ट कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आ गई है, रिपोर्ट का अध्ययन हो रहा है, उसके बाद जल्दी से जल्दी हम लायेंगे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now Shri Mullappally Ramachandran.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The North-Eastern areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2012

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to move:

*Not recorded.

[Shri Mullappally Ramachandran]

“That the Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, I moved for consideration and passing the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2012, as passed by Lok Sabha on 30.9.2012 with the objective of creating separate All-India Services cadres in the States of Manipur and Tripura by splitting the existing joint cadre of Manipur and Tripura.

At present, there is a joint cadre for All-India Services for the States of Manipur and Tripura. The demand for bifurcation of joint Manipur and Tripura cadre was initially raised by the then Chief Minister of Tripura in 2004. The issue was discussed in several review meetings. A meeting of the Cadre Controlling Authorities of All-India Services—namely, the Department of Personnel and Training, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests —was convened on 12th January, 2009 by DoPT where it was recommended to split the joint Manipur-Tripura All-India Services cadre into two independent State cadres. The proposal for splitting the Joint Manipur-Tripura Cadre of All India Services was considered by the Central Government after consultation with the stakeholders including the State Governments of Manipur and Tripura. The proposal to amend the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971 for the constitution of separate All-India Services Cadres in Manipur and Tripura was forwarded for consideration of the Cabinet on 5th September, 2011. The Cabinet approved the proposal in its meeting held on 16th September, 2011. After approval of the Cabinet, the North Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Amendment Bill, 2011 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7th December, 2011 after compliance of the requisite formalities. The Bill was referred to the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report by 31st March, 2012. The Committee considered the Bill in its sitting held on 6th February, 2012 and heard the presentation made by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee presented its report to Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2012 and a copy of the Report was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the same day. The Committee adopted the Bill without any changes. Splitting of Joint Manipur-Tripura All India Services cadre requires amendment to Section 61 of the North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 to provide for separate cadre for Manipur and Tripura. The North Eastern

Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2012 will address the demand for individual cadre of All India Services in the States of Manipur and Tripura and is intended to result in better cadre management and also expected to provide better governance. Thank you, Sir.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania. Hon. Members, I would like to say something. The time allotted for this Bill is one hour. We have to pass this Bill today. Therefore, I will be strictly enforcing the time. पिलानिया जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक) : उपसभापति जी, जीरो ऑवर का क्या हुआ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not today. ...(*Interruptions*)... On Monday, not today.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. You do not get worried about our taking more time. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You always stick to the rules, I know.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: You prescribe as much time as you like. This Bill hardly deserves any discussion, it is innocuous and it is only procedural. What the hon. Minister has done is reading out the Statement of Objects and Reasons which is already here. He has taken that time. But my only reaction is देर आए, दुरुस्त आए. So much time has been taken. It took eight years to consider the demand which came in 2004. In 2004, the demand for bifurcation of the Joint Manipur and Tripura Cadre in respect of each of the three services was initially raised by the then Chief Minister of Tripura. Eight years it has taken for consideration when there was hardly anything to be considered. After that when it was further looked into by red-tape, ultimately, a meeting was convened on 12th January, 2009. A meeting of the Cadre Controlling Authority of All India Services, namely, the Department of Personnel and Training, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests was called. Since then four years have been taken. Delay defeats justice, delay defeats delivery, delay defeats the objective. That is the whole thing. There was hardly anything to be discussed and reasoned out. It was sent to the Standing Committee, which looked into it and again sent it back. It was an exercise just of routine, Sir. The point for consideration is that seven sister States

[Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilonia]

need special consideration in the area of security, in the area of development, in the area of strategic importance. They suffer from infiltration, smuggling, insurgency, etc. They deserve special care because they are important for national integration. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, all of them need special consideration and hence they have been given the Special Category Status. You see what is happening. The National Human Rights Commission informed the Supreme Court that 191 fake encounter killings had taken place in the last five years. Piqued by the attitude of the Manipur Government in responding to over 1,500 alleged fake encounter killings in the State in the last three decades, a bench of Justice Aftab Alam and Ranjana P. Desai had asked during a hearing last year, your honour, it is worth consideration by this whole House: Is there a war going on in Manipur? Is this the attitude and orientation of a State to say that if they are killing our men, we will kill them? This was a question posed. And, it needs a reflection by the Home Ministry. In response to alleged extra-judicial killings, the NHRC, in an affidavit, said, "In the last five years, from 2007 to 2012, it had received 1,671 complaints regarding fake encounters. So, fake encounter is a matter that requires attention than bifurcating two cadres. That is what was my point. It is really distressing, the Commission awarded compensation in the range of rupees five to ten lakhs to the victims of the fake encounters. And, the Supreme Court asked, "Is it a value for the cost of a life which you have killed unauthorisedly?" There was no reply.

As far as Imphal is concerned, on 11th of this month, Kuki body has again given a challenge of public blockade. That is also a matter that needs serious consideration.

I think, insurgency is another thing that is a great danger to the sovereignty of the country. So, I would like to request the Home Ministry to take special measures to check and prevent insurgency in seven Sister States, particularly in Manipur, which is under discussion today.

Sir, I won't take more time, as you have pointed out, except saying that this bifurcation, though it has come much delayed, will help in bringing a more peaceful, more pointed, more effective administration. The bifurcated services will keep Mahatama Gandhi's talisman in view that whenever you are going to take a decision,

whenever you are going to take a step in Administration, think of the lowest and the loneliest whose face you have seen and please consider whether your decision is going to help him, in any way, to improve his destiny. Take care of दरिद्र नारायण. My saying will be only that for the new bifurcating services. I wish them good luck. God bless them!

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I entirely endorse Dr. Gyan Prakash's point that it is very, very distressing that a simple matter of bifurcating two cadres has taken not eight years, as Dr. Gyan Prakashji has said, but has actually taken nine years, since we are on the edge of 2013. I agree that there are some complexities involved. There are some consultations that have to be undertaken with stakeholders. But if the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had displayed adequate measures in this regard, I am sure that, many years ago, this extremely desirable step could have been taken. However, as Dr. Gyan Prakashji said, देर आए, दुरुस्त आए; I am very glad that at long last the people of Manipur and the people of Tripura are going to get the justice they have so long sought. There is an apprehension in these cadres, which is really the reason why you have delayed this so long that as a result of having to work in relatively small States, their promotion prospects might be adversely affected. This appears to me to be not only wrong morality, but also wrong mathematics. For, either small State, the cadre is also small. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that somebody will rise higher on the Tripura- Manipur scale than on the separate scales for separate cadres, which you would have in Tripura and Manipur. Furthermore, Sir, if I may use what is, really, in my mind a euphemism, there is something awkward about making two States, which are separated by a third State, have a common cadre. Between Tripura and Manipur, there is no border; it is the Cachar area of Assam that intervenes and one wonders why it was necessary to put these two States together. In recent times, Tripura has demonstrated remarkable improvement. It is the city of Agartala, which I have known for a long time now, which used to be one of the most dilapidated cities in India. Now, if one goes there, one is astonished at how quickly the State has succeeded in entering the 21st Century. This, notwithstanding the fact that there is an extremely complicated, winding and willowing border between themselves and Bangladesh. There are many problems of immigration from Bangladesh into Tripura, some of it is legal, much of it illegal and the other way round. But, it is to the credit of the Tripura Government that, notwithstanding this, they have

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not had the kind of communal tension which one finds being stoked in Assam. I would, therefore, like to compliment the Government of Tripura on having managed all the very complicated issues of partition, from East Pakistan first and Bangladesh now, in such a manner as to maintain harmony, peace and tranquility within their State. They are also faced with a very serious insurgency problem. But the manner in which it has been handled has resulted in most of the South and the North Tripura districts being not entirely freed of this menace but the menace having been brought under so much control that on the first visit I had made to Kailashahar, we had to go in a convoy which started at 4 o'clock in the morning and had to reach its destination by 9 o'clock in the morning. Now, people go quite freely between Agartala and Kailashahar. There is, perhaps, some difficulty in the Dholai district, but I imagine that it will be more effective to control the problems of law and order and public order, which exist in Dholai district, with a single unified cadre, which is dedicated to that one State. There, would be no divided loyalties, if I may use the expression 'existing' in a given cadre, as to whether they should be in Manipur or whether they should be in Tripura.

Sir, the third compliment I would like to pay to Tripura is that on the question of implementation of the Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the State which has got the highest percentage of households who have received all 100 days' of employment is, amazingly, Tripura. I say 'amazingly' because of the problems of insurgency and law and order which they have; I say 'amazingly' because of the topography of the area; and I say 'amazingly' because of the mixture of tribal population and non-tribal population, which is such that they do not have a separate geographical area as an autonomous district under the Sixth Schedule, but there are areas which have a mixed population of the tribals and the non-tribals and yet they have managed it so well that in the Government's flagship programmes, a Government which does not share the same political attitude as the Central Government, it has returned in many ways the very best performance. Also, I would like to compliment the Tripura Government on having inherited in 2004 an extremely poor Panchayati Raj System. Over the last eight years, the other States that used to have a good system have in many ways regressed. In Kerala, Karnataka and West Bengal, we see that there are steps that have been taken that I would describe as regressive. In Tripura, more than perhaps in any other State of India, there has

been the most dynamic, long-term progress between 2004 and 2012. And, therefore, a State, which in many ways is a model of how to move out of backwardness and move towards real genuine economic progress in consultation with the people and the benefits of growth going to the people such as the State of Tripura, more than deserves a cadre of officers of its own.

Sir, I have still got eleven minutes left. Could you stop looking at me so harshly?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But if you try to be brief, I will be very happy.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Pardon, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you try to be brief, I will be very happy because we have to pass this Bill.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I promise you, I won't take more than eleven minutes. But the North-East is an area which receives virtually no attention in this House. The thin attendance we have here also demonstrates that there is not the kind of interest in an integral part of India in our Parliament as that area deserves. So, all I ask, as the former Minister of DoNER, is to utilize the time that has been given to me, and, with your permission, therefore, I will move to the question of Manipur.

Manipur is, as was pointed out by Shri Gyan Prakashji, an extremely complex area where in a very small proportion of the total territorial area of the State lives the bulk of the population. These are the people who live in the valley around Manipur and they are largely Meiteis; they are largely non-tribal. The hill areas which constitute the majority of the geographical area of Manipur are very sparsely populated, and that too by different tribes whose interests need to be harmonized, and which, I regret to say, have not always been harmonized with the result that we have had ethnic clashes and tribal clashes in Manipur which make one feel really rather depressed.

I learnt that there was near the Tipaimukh area a great shortage of rice; and I couldn't understand why; because our FCI godowns were full. Then, on visiting the place, one discovered that trucks that were moving from the FCI godown in Dimapur *via* the National Highway up to Churachandpur used to get thirteen different terrorist outfits demanding their *hafta* on the way, with a result that by the time

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the trucks arrived in Churachandpur, there was just enough to feed the population of Churachandpur, but not the others. The very simple solution that there was an FCI godown in Silchar and we could send it up the Barak Valley to the bottom of the hill on which the Tipaimukh region is located resulted in their suddenly getting a flood of rice.

I imagine that if you had a dedicated Manipur cadre of IAS officers, police officers and others, this extremely simple solution to a basic human need of food would have been found without waiting for some Minister from Delhi to go to a remote village on the eastern fringes of Manipur. That is the kind of problem that will be solved if we have a dedicated Manipur cadre, and also because of the ethnic complexity and the tribal complexity of Manipur, we need people who understand Senapati or Ukhrul or Tamenglong, at least as well as they understand the Imphal Valley. For that, the young officers need to find themselves in these remote rural and mountainous districts before they enter the valley and then, using the experience they have had in the valley, will be able to go back to these mountain regions and create a sense of participation on the part of the people.

I stress this because whereas there is a system of Panchayat Raj in the villages of the Valley in Manipur, and quite a good system too, the Autonomous District Councils, which have been created by State legislation and not by Central legislation in Manipur, are frequently suspended, or they finish their term and elections don't take place immediately. It is interesting to note in Delhi University, for example, if you go there, the bulk of the Manipur students are Tangkhul Nagas. And, why? It is because the educational facilities available for them in these Tangkhul Naga areas of Manipur, which are claimed by certain Naga outfits in neighbouring Nagaland as part of Greater Nagaim, don't get the kind of facilities that are available in other parts of the State, specifically, the Valley. And, therefore, they have to turn up in disproportionately large numbers to the capital of India in order to secure their educational rights which, by all justice, ought to be made available to them there itself, at least in such measure as the Valley gets.

Sir, I have another six minutes. Please let me finish. Poor Manipur deserves it surely, Sir. I don't think we have talked about Manipur for six minutes in the last six years!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I need to get the Bill passed.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We will pass it, Sir; what is the problem with six minutes?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is Friday today.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: These are all matters that really count. I plead with you to allow me to finish my remarks. I will give you one minute; I will finish it in five minutes! This is a really important matter.

We have a State like Manipur, which is so small that the Ministry of Home Affairs, all these years, has thought that it shouldn't have a cadre of its own, and yet, after the Armed Forces, which is the State that provides the largest number of sportspersons and wins the largest number of medals in any national sports olympics? It is Manipur. And yet, the State doesn't deserve a cadre of its own? Sir, if you visit Imphal, which is the jewel of the crown there, it is such a sad city. It is a sad city because the roads are pot-holed, all the buildings are crumbling and there isn't any sense or sight of modernity. When I tried to convene a meeting of all the Chief Ministers in Manipur, as I had been doing in rotation in the other States of the North-East, the Chief Minister asked me not to hold the meeting because he didn't have any hotel facilities to be able to put up the Chief Ministers in their suites. Therefore, I think a Manipur that is actually run by a Manipur cadre would turn in a much better performance than a Manipur which is run by a joint cadre. And, when I am saying so, I am particularly conscious of the fact...

Sir, I have four minutes. Let me finish. I am entitled to those four minutes, and I don't think we need to pass the Bill in four minutes minus what is going to get passed in any way.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, that is not the point. It is Friday today and we need to adjourn at one o'clock. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I would be back here at three o'clock. I am here; I am not going to go.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not understanding. Then we have to take up Private Members' Business. You cannot take more time. If hon. Members want to get the Bill passed today, they should make their submissions brief.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, he still has time left.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I know that. I have only thrown a hint; nothing more.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I will make my last point and sit down.

The Commonwealth Games was saved by one single officer who happened to be my Secretary in the Ministry of DoNER. He went as the Secretary of the Organizing Committee and saved the Games, or at least, saved the tattered honours of those Games. He was the ex-Chief Secretary of Manipur. So, I am deeply convinced that the people who are working in Manipur are very dedicated officers. What they need is a cadre of their own and, therefore, “देर आए, दुरुस्त आए”, my congratulations to the Minister of Home Affairs in completing what he thinks was a very complicated exercise, over a nine-year period, to constitute two separate cadres for two States that are divided by a third State. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, hon. Members, it is Friday today. We have to adjourn at one o'clock and then, at 2.30 p.m., we have to take up Private Members' Business. The Chair is also interested in getting the Bill passed. If you are also interested, try to reduce the time, because we have only 15 more minutes. That is my problem.

Now, Shri Narendra Kumar Kashyap; the time allotted to you is four minutes, but please try to conclude within three minutes. Otherwise, we will not be able to pass the Bill today. That is the point. You say that you are interested in getting it passed and you are yourself delaying it. Yes, Mr. Kashyap.

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, सरकार विशेषकर मणिपुर और त्रिपुरा राज्य की भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा, भारतीय पुलिस सेवा और भारतीय वन सेवा केंडर के पृथक गठन के लिए यह बिल लाई है, बहुजन समाज पार्टी की ओर से मैं इस बिल के समर्थन में खड़ा हुआ हूँ। लेकिन, सरकार को इस बिल को पास करते समय लाभ-हानि पर भी जरूर विचार करना चाहिए, क्योंकि इससे पहले मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़, बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड में भी इस तरह के प्रस्ताव, इस तरह के बिल प्रदेश सरकारों के द्वारा लाए गए थे और व्यावहारिक तौर से जो कठिनाइयां केंडर को पृथक करने में हुईं, उन कठिनाइयों का ध्यान भी हमें इस बिल को पास करते समय रखना होगा।

उत्तर प्रदेश से उत्तराखंड पृथक प्रदेश बना। असुविधा उस समय हुई जिस समय पहाड़ी क्षेत्र के रहने वाले अधिकारियों को मैदानी क्षेत्रों में डिप्यूट किया गया और मैदानी क्षेत्र के रहने

वाले अधिकारियों को पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में डिप्यूट किया गया। अगर कहीं ऐसी स्थिति मणिपुर और त्रिपुरा के बीच में उत्पन्न होती है, तो सरकार को इस कठिनाई का भी जरूर ध्यान रखना चाहिए।

दूसरी बात, जिसको कह कर मैं अपनी बात को समाप्त करूंगा कि हमें आरक्षित वर्गों के हितों का ध्यान भी इसमें जरूर रखना होगा। पिछली कठिनाइयां हमने बिहार में भी देखीं, झारखंड में भी देखीं और उत्तर प्रदेश में भी देखीं। आरक्षित वर्ग, जिसमें एससी, एसटी और ओबीसी के लोग शामिल होते हैं, क्या सरकार उनको उनके कोटे के अनुसार आरक्षित पदों पर रखने की व्यवस्था भी इस बिल के आधार पर करेगी, चूंकि वह कठिनाई अभी केन्द्रीय सरकार के स्तर पर हम लोगों ने महसूस की और सदन में भी महसूस की? कल भी इस पर विचार हुआ कि भारतवर्ष के सचिव अथवा समकक्ष अधिकारी, जिनकी संख्या 102 है, उनमें एससी एक भी नहीं है, एसटी दो हैं और एक भी ओबीसी को नियुक्ति नहीं दी गई है। इसी प्रकार की व्यवस्था अपर सचिव और उसके समकक्ष अधिकारियों की है। केन्द्रीय स्तर पर कहीं न कहीं जो अनदेखी एससी-एसटी-ओबीसी वर्ग के अधिकारियों के साथ हुई है अगर ऐसी कोई संभावना त्रिपुरा-मणिपुर के प्रशासनिक पृथक्करण के बाद होती है, तो क्या उसका कोई समाधान माननीय मंत्री जी इस सदन के समक्ष रखने की कृपा करेंगे? यदि ऐसा होता है, तो मैं समझता हूं कि यह विधेयक त्रिपुरा और मणिपुर राज्य के लिए आवश्यक भी है और जरूरी भी है, लेकिन इन शंकाओं के समाधान के बाद। आपने मौका दिया, आपका बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य (त्रिपुरा) : सर, सबसे पहले मैं त्रिपुरा गवर्नमेंट और त्रिपुरा की जनता की ओर से सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को यह बिल लाने के लिए बधाई देती हूं। Sir, I stand to speak in support of North-Eastern (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2011. The Government of Tripura has been pursuing the matter for quite some time with Government of India for splitting the Joint Manipur-Tripura cadre into two separate cadres for Manipur and Tripura. Our Chief Minister has been demanding from 2004 for holding Control Committee meeting. But even after nine years, no meeting was held. This joint cadre was set up in 1972 for IAS/IPS officers following reorganization of the North-Eastern States. This joint cadre has not been serving much purpose and it should be better to split the joint cadre into two separate cadres, which will help in improving the quality of public service through better cadre management.

I may also mention some of the issues in the context of the Bill relating to the splitting of Manipur-Tripura cadre. In a North-Eastern State like Tripura, we need service of AIS (All India Services) officers for implementation of schemes for sustainable development and for providing quality public service to the people. Out of 98 posts for Tripura part of the Manipur-Tripura cadre, actually 67 officers are in position. It has been found that due to various reasons, a number of officers

[श्रीमती झरना दास बैद्य]

borne on the cadre have left service or got transferred from the cadre, which is peculiar to all the North-Eastern States including Tripura.

Sir, in the last one decade, since 2000, 24 All India Services (AIS) officers were allocated to Tripura part of the Manipur-Tripura cadre. During the same period, nine officers left the cadre on ground of marriage; one officer left as per order of the hon. Central Administrative Tribunal, and, one officer left for Manipur. Besides this, 11 officers have either resigned or taken voluntary retirement.

The acute nature of problem faced is evident from the fact that against the authorized strength of 98 officers, only 67 officers are available in the cadre, out of whom 22 are on Central deputation and one officer has applied for voluntary retirement. Thus, effectively, services of only 44 officers are available to the State. Similar problems are also being faced in respect of Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service.

While little can be done about the officers borne on the cadre who opt for resignation or voluntary retirement, it is necessary to regulate the officers borne on the cadre, who apply for cadre change on the ground of marriage. Keeping in view the impact of cadre change on the ground of marriage on discharge of public service, it is felt that the request for cadre change on the ground of marriage needs to be dealt with on similar lines as sanction of leave, which cannot be claimed as a matter of right and which is considered keeping in view the large public interest.

In view of the acute shortage of AIS officers in the cadre, it is suggested that while processing any request for cadre change of officers borne on the Tripura cadre, the first right should be given to the State Government. (*Time bell ring*) One minute, Sir. I am from Tripura and this Bill is for Tripura.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that, and that is why I gave you more time. You have already taken two minutes more.

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: I am concluding. Sir, in case the situation so demands, as per the advice of the State Government, cadre of the spouse who has got married to one of the officers of Tripura cadre, may be changed to Tripura cadre rather than the officer of Tripura cadre going to another cadre. Such an arrangement will enable both the officers who have got married to serve in one

cadre without compromising with the quality of public service to be provided in the State. So, I support this Bill.

Sir, in the end, I would like to thank Mani Shankar Aiyarji for supporting the Bill and also for supporting the Tripura people. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. That is good.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Sir, I have got two points to make and I will be very short while doing so. In the All-India Services, local people do not come in much number; most of them come from outside, and, as pointed out, they try to get away from the cadre to other places citing one reason or the other. My short point is that Tripura has been able to politically manage the tribal and non-tribal problem very largely, very successfully. Unfortunately, it cannot be said in respect of Manipur. There are problems. The officers of the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service – (the Forest Service is very important there because large areas are in the forests) – are required to be trained specifically on two issues – one, on ethnic problems and secondly, more importantly, on human rights problem. Tripura has been under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act for a very long time. Without going into details, there are large numbers of cases of what they call extra-constitutional or extrajudicial killings. So, they have to be taught. If you want to bring them heart to heart – through they are legally with everybody – with the mainstream Indians. We must bring in a humane face in the administration. That can come by giving them proper training in human rights. With these few words, I would like to support the Bill. Thank you.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Odisha): Thank you very much, Sir. At the outset, I support the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2012. Sir, it has been long due for these two States to get separate administrative cadres in both Police and Forest Services. Sir, bifurcation of joint Manipur and Tripura cadres in respect of three services was demanded in 2004, but it has already taken eight years to give these two States separate administrative cadres. The seven sisters which constitute the North-Eastern zone are geopolitically in a very significant position. All these areas border the foreign countries and very powerful neighbours also. So, the people deserve a clean administration and a peaceful atmosphere to solve their

[Shri Baishnab Parida]

own problems. But there is one impression among the people of North-Eastern zone that India neglects them so far as their development is concerned and their administrative measures are concerned. So far, unemployment is very rampant there. Industrial development is not there. The people are very poor. The money which is sanctioned for their development is not properly utilised. (*Time-bell rings*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Corruption is rampant. (*Time-bell rings*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We want to pass it today. Please cooperate.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: I think as some of our learned friends advised, the Administrative, Police and Forest Services should provide clean governance and restore confidence of the people.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you conclude, that would be a service to those people. We will be able to pass it today.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Thank you very much, Sir. I again support the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Kumar Deepak Das. Not present. Then, Mr. Thaawar Chand. You are not speaking. You are supporting Manipur and Tripura by not talking so that we can pass it. That is the real support, I am telling you. Otherwise, being it Friday, I will have to postpone it to Monday. That is the point. Yours is the best speech, by not speaking and supporting.

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत : महोदय, मैं विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I would request the Minister only to mention why Goa is not being included when Goa has been demanding for separate cadre for quite a long time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That you can ask later but not in this connection. ...(*Interruptions*)... I will allow him later. ...(*Interruptions*)... Be brief. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Members, it is Friday. We are expected to adjourn at 1.00 p.m. With your consent, we will take five-ten minutes. Mr. Minister, be brief, so that we can pass it today.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in the discussion. Very valuable suggestions have been given by the hon. Members. I have taken note of the observations and suggestions made by the hon. Members.

Sir, as far as this Bill is concerned, this is an ordinary Bill. This is meant for bifurcation of cadre and giving Manipur and Tripura a separate cadre. Some questions have been raised by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and other hon. Members. They were relating to insurgency. The Government of India, with all seriousness, is dealing with the problem of insurgency in the Northern India.

Regarding shortage of officers in the cadre, there is a general shortage of officers of All India Services in several cadres. The Government is aware of this and the efforts are being made to remove the shortage.

Coming to the question of human rights violations in the State, there is a specified procedure for dealing with violations of human rights. The National Human Rights Commission deals with all such subjects and takes legal action as per the law of the land.

My friend, Shri Shantaram Naik, has raised a question about Goa. He wants to know whether the Government of India is willing to give them a special cadre. According to my information, the Government of Goa does not want to have a separate cadre. They have written to me in this connection.

I have taken note of all the suggestions made by the hon. Members. The Government of India, especially the Ministry of Home Affairs, will be paying attention, in all seriousness, to all the problems faced by them. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at four minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Need to amend Section 66A of Information Technology Act, 2000

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri P. Rajeeve to move a resolution regarding need to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I move the following Resolution:-

“Having regard to the fact that -

- (i) the Internet, an international network of interconnected computers that enables millions of people to communicate with one another in cyberspace and to access vast amounts of information from around the world has provided an unprecedented platform for citizens to exercise their fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression, the freedom to create and innovate, to organize and influence, to speak and be heard;
- (ii) in the last few months, a number of cases have come to light on how section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (herein after referred to as Act) is being arbitrarily used by the law enforcement agencies to arrest citizens in various parts of the country for posting comments on internet and social networking websites;

- (iii) although the offense is bailable, the citizens are being detained without being granted bail and various countries have criticized these incidents as a slap on India's democracy;
- (iv) the language and scope of legal terms used under section 66A of the Act are very wide and capable of distinctive varied interpretations with extremely wide parameters which have not been given any specific definitions under the law;
- (v) clause (a) of section 66A of the Act uses expressions such as 'grossly offensive' and 'menacing character' which are not defined anywhere and are subject to discretionary interpretations;
- (vi) clause (b) of section 66 A prescribes an imprisonment term upto three years for information that can cause annoyance, inconvenience, insult, criminal intimidation, thereby bundling disparate terms and providing similar punishment for criminal intimidation and causing inconvenience;
- (vii) clause (c) of the same section although intended to handle spam nowhere defines it and makes every kind of spam a criminally punishable act, which is also against the world-wide norms;
- (viii) the offence under section 66A of the Act is cognizable, and has made it possible for police to arrest citizens at odd times for example arresting two 21 years old women in Mumbai after sunset and a businessman at 5.00 a.m. in Puducherry;
- (ix) right to freedom of speech and expression is the foundation of all democratic countries and is essential for the proper functioning of the process of democracy;
- (x) only very narrow and stringent limits have been set to permit legislative abridgment of the right of freedom of speech and expression;
- (xi) the Supreme Court has given a broad dimension to Article 19 (1)(a) by laying down that freedom of speech under Article 19 (1)(a) not only guarantees freedom of speech and expression, it also ensures the right of the citizen to know and the right to receive information regarding matters of public concern;

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- (xii) in interpreting the Constitution we must keep in mind the social setting of the country so as to show a complete consciousness and deep awareness of the growing requirements of the society and the increasing needs of the nation and for this, the approach should be dynamic, pragmatic and elastic rather than static, pedantic or rigid;
- (xiii) there are tremendous problems in the way section 66A of the amended Act has been drafted as this provision though inspired by the noble objectives of protecting reputations and preventing misuse of networks, has not been able to achieve its goals;
- (xiv) the language of section 66A of the amended Act goes far beyond the reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech, as mandated under Article 19 (2) of the Constitution of India;
- (xv) India, being the world's largest vibrant democracy, reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech need to be very strictly construed and section 66A of the amended Act, needs to be amended to make the Indian Cyber law in sync with the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India and also with the existing realities of social media and digital platforms today;
- (xvi) it has been pointed out that section 66A of the Act has been based on United States Code, Title V (Sections 501 and 502) of Telecommunication Act titled Communications Decency Act (CDA), it must be brought to the notice of this House that the United States Supreme Court has held that the CDA's "indecent transmission" and "patently offensive display" provisions which abridge "the freedom of speech" protected by the First Amendment and thus unconstitutional, for instance, its use of the undefined terms like "indecent" and "patently offensive" provoke uncertainty among speakers about how the two standards relate to each other and just what they mean;
- (xvii) the vagueness of such a content-based regulation, coupled with its increased deterrent effect as a criminal statute, raises Special First Amendment concerns because of its obvious chilling effect on free speech; and

(xviii) it has also been stated that section 66A of the Act has been based on United Kingdom's section 127 of the Communication Act, 2003 which addresses improper use of public electronic communication network but the application of that section is restricted to a communication between two persons using public electronic communications network, *i.e.*, mails written persistently to harass someone and not "tweets" or "status updates" that are available for public consumptions and which are not intended for harassment, also, the intention or *mens rea* element is crucial in it and further, the maximum punishment has been only upto six months in contrast to the three years mandated by Section 66A of the Act, this House urges upon the Government to –

- (a) amend section 66A of the IT Act, 2000 in line with the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India;
- (b) restrict the application of section 66A of the Act to communication between two persons;
- (c) precisely define the offence covered by Section 66A of the Act;
- (d) reduce the penalty imposed by section 66A of the Act; and
- (e) make the offence under section 66A of the Act a noncognizable offence."

Sir, the country has witnessed several cases of arrests and other incidents under this section. Recently, in November, 2012, one girl was arrested for questioning the shutdown of Mumbai following the death of Shiv Sena supremo, Bal Thackeray, in her Facebook post. This post was 'liked' and 'shared' by her friend. 'Liking' and 'sharing' is done by just pressing the mouse or pressing your finger on i-pad or any other device. It is a very, very simple exercise. By just 'sharing' this post, her friend was also arrested. Sir, these two girls were arrested after sunset and both of them were jailed. This happened under this draconian Act. The authorities invoked the provision of section 66A to harass social media usages. In April, Prof. Mahapatra, a Chemistry Professor in Jadavpur University in West Bengal, was arrested for posting a cartoon in social media sites. In May, two Air India employees were arrested by the Mumbai police for their postings in Facebook and Orkut. They remained in custody for twelve days. In October, Ravi Srinivasan, a businessman, was arrested

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by the Puducherry police for tweeting something regarding ..*.. and one cartoonist and an activist Mr. Asim Trivedi was also arrested by the Mumbai Police under this Section. These are some examples. We can find out several other examples and different cases from different parts of our country. This is misuse of the Act. Actually, this is not misuse. This is real use of the Act which the Section is intended to use. While replying to a question, today, during Question Hour, the hon. Minister has said, "This is not misuse." I totally agree with him that this is not misuse of the Act, the application of the Section which is intended to be used. I must say that this is one of the draconian Acts in our country.

While considering these incidents, we can see some distinction in between print media, visual media and new media. Equality is one of the fundamental rights of our Constitution. Print media, visual media and new media should have the same provision as Right to Free Speech and Expression. Most of the print media and visual media have published and telecasted several articles and stories against the *hartal* in Mumbai. Some of them have published serious cartoons which are more critical than which was posted by Prof. Mohapatra. Some print media wrote editorials on this issue which is more critical than new media. Then, why none of them was booked? I am not demanding that. They are availing free speech and expression as enshrined in our Constitution. All of us are aware that there is no specific law for protecting freedom of the press in our country. It is interpretation of article 19 (1) of our Constitution which ensures Right to Free Speech and Expression. The media is enjoying this freedom. The country is benefiting from that. By this we are ensuring the democratic nature of our system. But then why is this not allowed to the new media? A person can think and write criticising what incident has happened in the print media. A person can write a story criticising one thing in the visual media. But if some persons just tweets a thing — sometimes the access is only for 100 or 150 persons, sometimes it is for 2 or 3 persons — then, they are booked and arrested after sunset and they were jailed for several days. This is totally unconstitutional. I totally agree that freedom is not absolute. Article 19(2) of our Constitution strictly mentions the reasonable restrictions on article 19(1) of our Constitution. I am not against the regulation on internet. While moving the Resolution, I have clearly said about it. But I am totally against the control of the internet

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

where the freedom ends. Regulation is okay as per article 19 (2) of our Constitution.

Now, the Minister, Mr. Kapil Sibal had declared some new guidelines for Section 66A of the Act. He did it publicly while the Parliament was in session. It was reported in the media. While answering to the question, he has stated that he had brought it to the attention of the State Governments and convened a meeting of the stakeholders and followed it up in the Advisory Council meeting. I am very happy to hear the Minister. While moving the Statutory motion, there was no statutory body or Advisory Council as per the IT Act. Now, I congratulate the Minister for constituting the Advisory Council. But according to these guidelines before registering complaints under Section 66A as per media reports junior police officials will have to seek the approval from an officer in the rank of Deputy Police Commissioner in rural areas and Inspector Generals in metros. This is a cosmetic treatment to divert the attention from the controversial Section 66A of the IT Act. As an eminent lawyer, Shri Kapil Sibal is well aware that these guidelines have no backing of law. The primary legislation is the Act as passed by the Parliament. The subordinate legislation is the rules and regulations. It should be in accordance with the parent Act; it should not be *ultra vires*. These guidelines are only the third stage of legislation. Guidelines cannot overrule the reach of the main legislation. Are the new guidelines in accordance with the IT Act? No, Sir. It is contradictory to Sections 78 and 80 of the Act, which give powers to police officers of the rank of an inspector to investigate cyber crimes. Section 78 – Power to Investigate Offences says, “Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), a police officer not below the rank of an inspector shall investigate any offence under this Act.” This is the position in this Act. How can you go beyond the provision of this Act delegating officers of the rank of IG or of the rank of DGP for implementing this provision? While Section 80 of the IT Act says, “Power of police officer and other officers to enter, search, etc.- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, any police officer, not below the rank of an inspector, or any other officer of the Central Government or a State Government authorised by the Central Government in this behalf may enter any public place and search and arrest without warrant any person found therein who is reasonably suspected or having committed or of committing or of being about to commit any offence under this Act.”

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This is the provision in the Act. No Government has the power, no executive has the power to go beyond the Act which gives power to a police officer of the rank of an inspector. How can a Minister or an executive get this power to give this new direction? This is totally contradictory to this Act. As a very eminent lawyer, Shri Kapil Sibal is well aware of that. This has no legislative backing and no legal backing. This is an exercise to divert the attention from the controversial Section 66A of the IT Act. This is only a direction. It is not a rule. It does not have the force of law. It is just an eye wash to quell the public pressure. The problem lies with the Act itself. It is absurdly poor worded and anti-democratic legislation. Sir, a faulty law cannot be implemented better by a person of higher rank. Then these new guidelines are not an answer to this problem. The main issue is the Act itself.

Now I come to the draconian provisions of Section 66A of the IT Act. After the IT Act was passed in 2000, there were regular reports of cyber crimes and tax enforcement that surrendered them. It is true that in this atmosphere the Government had decided to amend the IT Act. That is true. All of us agree to it. The first amendment Bill was prepared in 2006. The provision of Section 66A appeared all of a sudden. I have gone through all the documents, but I could not find a legislative note which explains its presence. That is true. While answering the question, the Minister clearly stated that. The Parliamentary Standing Committee gave a unanimous report to strengthen the provisions and increase the punishment. I am very happy to hear from the Minister like Mr. Kapil Sibal that the Government is very, very eager to accept all the recommendations of the Standing Committee. I am very happy to hear from the Minister. But, Sir, the amendment Bill was passed alongwith seven other Bills in seven minutes on 22nd December in the Lok Sabha and it was passed in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December, 2008, the last day of the Winter Session without any discussion! While we were going through Section 66A of this Act, Sir, any person who sends by means of a computer resource or a communication device (a) any information that is grossly offensive or has a menacing character or (b) any information which he knows to be false, what was the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience? How can you define 'inconvenience'? It is very difficult for an objective interpretation. It is only easy for a subjective interpretation. We

cannot blame a police officer, whether his rank is of an inspector or of a DCP or of an IG or of a DGP. How can he interpret this 'inconvenience'? How can he interpret this 'grossly offensive insult'? There is enough space for a subjective interpretation. Whether he is in the rank of an Inspector or a DGP or any higher post, there is no space for objective interpretation? The space opens for subjective interpretation. Some of these things, like enmity, came under IPC. I will come to that point later and I would also like to give a comparison with some international legislation with regard to this. The first, of course, targets in electronic communication. That is 'grossly offensive.' This is not a foreign word. We can find the word in the Indian legislation. I will come to that at the end of my speech. The maker of this claim is defiant. Some of them are not even present in the penal code from which the legal ingredients of most offences can be fished out. This problem occurs again in the second clause also which makes any false information and it causes annoyance. Mr. Harish Salve, a well reputed lawyer in this country, stated that India guaranteed the right to 'annoy' and there was no need to have a separate law. While arguing in the Supreme Court, it was reported in the media, that the existing laws are sufficient to address all these things. This specific section is not relevant to deal with these types of things. That is reported in the media. Some contain a laundry list of terms. They are very vague. Anybody can interpret as he wishes. Sir, Section 66A (c), actually, is intended to deal with spam mails but it never defined. The major two characteristics of spam mail is not included in Section 64C, 66A (c) of this Section. It does not cover spam, but covers everything else. Sir, this provision is certainly unconstitutional. Sir, this clearly demonstrates that the law is vague and goes against a cardinal principle in the drafting of criminal statutes, that is, the law should be defined precisely. The phraseology of Section 66A was so wide and vague and incapable of being judged on objective standards that it was susceptible to wanton abuse. This gives enough space for police officers for subjective interpretation and arrest anybody on their posting or sharing or sending e-mails. This Section is used in a way to say "any person who sends", and not publish. Why are they going after international legislations? The Minister, while he addressed the media, while he answered the question, compares it with international legislations, legislations of the U.S., the U.K., Australia and several other countries. But wherever this type of legislation says, "A person who sends it to another person", it is believed that it is not published. But while we are going through the explanation, which

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says, 'information created or transmitted', it is a very wide thing. Anybody can interpret it in any way. It is very easy to arrest any person by interpreting it. It is sent, but it is not going to be transmitted or received. In this social media, one can post it; sometimes, it is not transmitted. This whole thing, not considering the specialties or objective realities prevailing in this new I.T. sector, the Information Technology, the internet and the social media, is a very poor drafting. I am very sure if the Minister had his time to just look into the drafting of the words, the framing of the Bill, – at that time, Shri Kapil Sibal was not the Minister of that portfolio – he, who is an eminent lawyer of the country, would have never allowed this Section to be framed like this. This is very draconian, unconstitutional, very vague and against the basic principle of drafting of any statute, any criminal statute.

Sir, the Apex Court of the country saw a deeper problem with the wording of the provisions in the Act and also its implementation by State police officers, while considering the PIL recently. It also said that the wording of this Section is very wide as it can apply with regard to anybody or any activity. The Supreme Court, while hearing the PIL, stated that the wording of the Section is very wide as it can apply with regard to anybody or any activity. Thanks to the passing of the Judicial Accountability Bill, — the hon. Minister, Shri Veerappa Moily is there — this type of remarks in the open court would not be allowed. But this is the remark of the Judges while hearing this case. This was reported in the media. And the hon. Minister is not ready to accept that reading of the Judges. While replying to the question, he strictly took the position that it was in accordance with article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution. This Section questions the fundamental right of speech and expression as enshrined in the Constitution of India. Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution ensures the right to freedom of speech and expression. Article 19 (2) of the Constitution, specifically, defines the reasonable restriction. Section 66A of the I.T. Act goes beyond article 19(2) of the Constitution, that is, reasonable restriction. The Supreme Court held in the *Express Newspapers Private Limited versus the Union of India* that if any limitation on the exercise of the fundamental right under article 19(1) does not fall within the four corners of article 19(2), then, it cannot be upheld. So, Sir, Section 66A is totally unconstitutional. It goes far beyond Article 19(2) of the Constitution.

Sir, the provisions of Section 66A of the IT Act and already existing clauses in the IPC, which deal with similar offences, should be compared. While the punishment under the IPC for criminal nuisance is only Rs. 200, but the penalty imposed under Section 66A is imprisonment upto three years! Sir, I would not like to take more time. But, under Sections 500, 501 and 502 of the IPC, the maximum punishment is upto two years imprisonment. But, under Section 66A, the punishment is upto three years in jail! Let us read Section 504 of the IPC. It covers provocation that will cause break in public peace or commission of an offence, the maximum punishment is only two years. Under Sections 500, 501, 502 of the IPC which deals with defamation, printing or engraving defamatory material, and selling it is punishable. If I tweet a thing which is defamatory — sometimes it would be 100 or 150 maximum; I should be booked under Section 66A and imprisoned for three years. But, for the same thing, under Sections 500, 501 and 502 of the IPC, which deals with defamation, printing or engraving defamatory material — not only printing but also selling it — attracts the maximum punishment of two years!

Also, look at Section 507 of the IPC which deals with criminal intimidation by anonymous communication or having taken precaution to conceal whence the threat comes, the maximum punishment is two years imprisonment or fine or both. But, as per Section 66A, any electronic mail or electronic mail message for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience or to deceive or to mislead the addressee or recipient about the original such messages shall be punishable upto three years of jail. Sir, this is the comparison with the IPC.

Sir, Section 66A prevents to send a mail from work address. When we go through the experience of Gmail, we will get work mail address. You can send it through your work address — not by your personal mail — but, after this Act, it is not allowed; it is a crime. If you are just sending your mail from your work address then you are punishable for three years imprisonment. And, Sir, 'tunneling' and other type of things are also prevented under Section 66A.

The main defense of the Ministry and the Minister himself is that the UK and the US have the exact same wording. That is true; the controversial section has borrowed words out of context from the British and the American laws. Actually, it is a poor cut-and-paste exercise, without applying mind. Some officials did it; they just cut some from the UK law and pasted it here. Sir, it has taken from the UK's Post Office Act, 1935. It says:

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“If any person —

- (a) sends any message by telephone which is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene, or menacing character...”

Here, Section 66A of the IT Act says:

“Any person who sends, by means of a computer resource or a communication device —

- (a) any information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character...”

Here, the wording is also the same, but there is a deletion of just one thing. It is the same wording of the UK’s Post Office (Amendment) Act, 1935. “(b) sends any message by telephone, or any telegram, which he knows to be false, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, or needless anxiety to any other person;”. Here, the wording of Section 66A, is exactly the same as it is there in the UK’s Post Office Act of 1935. It is the same wording, Sir. Anyway, I would not like to take more time on this. But I would definitely like to emphasise that the wording in most of these clauses is the same as that of the UK’s Post Office Amendment Act of 1935. But, Sir, as per the UK Act, the fine does not exceed ten pounds, whereas, here, it is imprisonment upto a maximum of three years! As per UK’s Act, it is either imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month, or both, fine and imprisonment.

Sir, Section 66A bears a striking resemblance to three parts of this 1935 law, with Clauses B and C being merged into a single Clause B of 66A, with a whole bunch of new “purposes” added. Interestingly, we have a similar Act, the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, which was never amended to include these provisions. The Post Office Act was never amended to incorporate the provisions of the UK Act. Sir, let me highlight the difference between the provisions of these two Acts, the UK Act and the Section 66A of the IT Act. The first major difference is in regard to the term of imprisonment. In the 1935 Act, the maximum term of imprisonment is only one month. In the IT Act, as per Section 66A, the maximum term of imprisonment is upto three years. The current equivalent laws in the UK are the Communications Act, 2003 and the Malicious Communications Act, 1988...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already taken thirty minutes, Mr. Rajeeve,

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: I am concluding, Sir. I mentioned that the current equivalent laws in the UK are the Communications Act, 2003 and the Malicious Communications Act, 1988, as per both of which, the penalty is upto six months' imprisonment, or a maximum fine of 5000 Pounds or both. What is surprising is that in the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill of 2006, the penalty for Section 66A was upto three years; earlier, it was two years, but on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, it had been increased to three years. Sir, some of the language is taken from the Britain's Malicious Communications Act of 1988, which begins with the words "any person who sends to another person". This is the important difference in the international legislation and our section 66A of the IT Act. This is intended to curb malicious message from one person to another. It does not cover a post on a social website. In the UK Act, the section is restricted to a communication between two persons using public electronic communication network, that is, mails written personally to harass someone and not Tweets or status updates that are available for public consumption, which are not intended for anybody's harassment. Sir, earlier, the hon. Minister, while answering to a question, had made some comparison with the constitutional validity of the UK and US laws. The plain fact is that the Indian Constitution is stronger on free-speech grounds than the 'unwritten' UK Constitution. The Judiciary has wide powers for judicial review of statutes. That is not so in UK. There is some provision in the European Commission. But, in UK, there is no provision for judicial review. Judicial review is the ability of the court to strike down a law passed by Parliament as unconstitutional. They believe that Parliament is supreme, unlike in India. Putting those two aspects together, a law that is valid in the U.K. might well be unconstitutional in India for failing to fall within the eight octagonal walls of the reasonable restrictions allowed under article 19(2).

What is the litmus test for the Constitutional validity of a provision? It is not a comparison with any international legislation. It is not a comparison with the U.K. legislation. It is not a comparison with the Australian or the U.S. legislation. As an eminent lawyer, Mr. Kapil Sibal is well aware that the litmus test for Constitutional validity of any legislation is a comparison with article 19(2)—whether the reasonable restrictions fall within the provisions of the Constitution or they go beyond that. This definitely goes beyond article 19(2) of the Constitution.

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Sir, the term 'grossly offensive' is in the Indian legislation, that is, in section 20(b) of the Indian Post Office Act. It is there in the Indian Constitution. We are not going to the U.K. or the U.S. for the defence of the term 'grossly offensive'. It is here in the Indian Post Office Act for prohibiting sending by post materials of indecent, obscene, seditious, scurrilous, threatening or grossly offensive character. The big difference between section 20(b) of the Indian Post Office Act and section 66A of the IT Act is that the former is clearly restricted to one-to-one communication, the way the U.K.'s Malicious Communication Act, 1988, is. Reducing the scope of Section 66A to direct communications would make it less prone to challenge.

Sir, in this Section, some people are making criticism that there should be a strong provision because there have been pornography and that there have been encroachments in the cyberspace. There are enough provisions in this IT Act — Section 66B – punishment for dishonesty; Section 66C – punishment for identity theft; Section 66D – punishment for cheating; Section 66E – punishment for violation of privacy; Section 66F – punishment for cyber terrorism; Section 67 – punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form; Section 67A – punishment for publishing or transmitting material containing sexually explicit, etc., in the electronic form; Section 67B – punishment for publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit acts. There are various provisions. These provisions are sufficient to address this new danger.

Before concluding, I would like to say one more thing. I got a privilege to move the first Annulment Motion in the history of Parliament in regard to the IT Intermediary Guidelines, 2011. While intervening in the discussion, the Minister gave an assurance in this House that consultation process would be initiated and whatever consensus was reached, it would be incorporated in the rules. I got a very short notice for the consultative meeting. I was not in a position to personally attend that meeting. I gave a detailed note to the Ministry. But, I never got any information from the Ministry as to what was going on. In July, the Minister gave the assurance.

Sir, just like Section 66A, the Intermediary Rules go beyond the reasonable restrictions on the freedom of speech, as mandated under article 19(2) of the Constitution. The law on defamation has enough teeth to deter those on social media who may be doing mischief. As correctly stated by Mr. Harish Salve, it could be

extended to include electronic communications. This section is a blot on the Indian democracy. India is considered as a vibrant democracy with large demographics where the majority of the population is below the age of 27. Internet has become the most preferred medium for this section of the people for sharing their views and thoughts. I am not against any regulation on the Internet. But, I am totally against controlling the Internet where the freedom ends. The IT Act contains several provisions including Sections 66A and 79 which go beyond the limit of article 19(2) of the Constitution. Several organisations like Free Software Movement in India and Democratic Alliance for Knowledge Freedom conducted protests in different parts of the country. Most of the national media wrote editorials criticising this draconian Act. Mr. Minister, the public opinion is solely against this. You should recognise the public opinion and the public mind. Sir, I urge the Minister to amend the IT Act, including Section 66 (A) in accordance with article 19(2) of the Constitution. For the time being, the Government should come out with new rules under this Act clearly limiting the scope of Section 66 (A) and others to be in conformity with the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under article 19 of the Constitution of India. Sir, I hope the Minister will recognise the feeling of the young generation of this country, feeling of the democratic people of the country and intervene with an assurance that the Government will amend the draconian IT Act. Thank you, Sir.

The question was proposed.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Nominated): Can I associate myself with him?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We also associate ourselves. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In speeches, you cannot associate yourselves. You can speak ...*(Interruptions)*.... Now, Dr. Pilonia. One or two specific names have been taken by him who cannot come here and defend themselves. Those names have been expunged.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I thank you for your kind indulgence. You have asked me to participate in today's discussion. It is a very important and timely issue which has been raised through this Resolution by Shri Rajeev. I congratulate him. I salute him for this Resolution because it has focused attention on the illegality or *ultra vires* nature of Section 66(A) of the IT Act. I would not blame hon. Shri Kapil Sibal for this piece of legislation. It is his hon.

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predecessor, famous A Raja, who made amendment in the Bill on 16th December, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2008 and by Rajya Sabha on December 23, 2008, without discussion. That was the trouble. Had there been a detailed discussion, had there been an elaborate thinking, this legislation would not have been passed. But somehow in a hurry it went through. Finally, what is to be decided about this legislation will be at the door of the Supreme Court where a PIL is pending. It is interesting, Sir, that concerned about the widespread abuse of Section 66 (A), Shreya Singhal, a 20 year old girl from Delhi, filed a Public Interest Petition in the Supreme Court challenging the section's constitutionality. In her petition, which was admitted for hearing on 29th November, 2012, she submitted that the phraseology of section 66 (A) was so wide, vague and incapable of being judged on objective standards and that it was susceptible to wanton abuse. This is what Mr. Rajeeve's speech is, this is what Gyan Prakash says and this is what is being said by media. I feel convinced that after hearing a detailed and elaborate plea of Shri Rajeeve, I think, our learned Law Minister is convinced that there is a need to change it. There is hardly any need for much elaboration by me. Sir, hell broke loose on that fateful day when two young girls, innocent girls were incarcerated. They were arrested by police.

That shook the conscience of the people. That shook the conscience of the Media. And, they revolted against the draconian law. It happened on 18th of November, 2012, Sunday, when Ms. Shahina Dhada, 21 years of age, posted a comment on Facebook, saying, "Mumbai Bandh on Sunday was due to fear and not due to any respect to someone." And, it is interesting to note what she wrote. With your permission, I will quote it so that this august House is able to see whether she was really offensive. She wrote, "Every day thousands of people die." Is it not a truth? She wrote, "But still the world moves on." Is it not a truth? She wrote, "Just due to one politician died, a natural death, everyone just goes crazy. When was the last time did anyone show some respect or even a two-minute silence for Shahid Bhagat Singh, Azad, Sukhdev or any of the people because of whom we are free, free as a citizen?" This is what she wrote. What will be offensive there? What will be abusive there? What will be creating havoc in the country? She was arrested that evening. Unfortunately, one friend of her also agreed with her because she thought what she had said was right. It offended the law-makers. It offended

those who have wielded power. She was detained. A mob gathered there. Vandals struck at a hospital, which was run by her uncle. A damage of rupees fifteen lakh was caused, but nothing happened. She was arrested on Sunday and she was kept there till late Monday night. This shook the conscience of the people. When the matter went to the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court said, I am quoting in verbatim, "Somebody has blundered." It was said by the Bench of Justice Altamas Kabir and Justice J. Chalmeshvaram, while expressing anguish over the Mumbai arrest, to Attorney General G.E. Vahanavati, wondering what motive guided the Mumbai cops to slap non-bailable offences of the Indian Penal Code against two young girls from Palgarh. The Bench wished to know what action was initiated against the cops who arrested the girls after sunset. What is the guarantee that such arrests would not happen in future? What is the guarantee that the IG of Police or the Deputy Commissioner of Police would not falter again. Result of bad laws, if put into action by good officers, does not come out good. That is what is to be thought of. The Attorney General said what State Police did was unjustifiable and indefensible. Fine! But he found no fault with the law, as hon. Kapil Sibal is also not finding any fault with the law. Our submission is that there is fault with the law. Today, in reply to a question, a pre-judge judgement has been given that there does not appear to be any need to amend the law on this count. It is pre-judging the issue. I will again revert to what people say about it. There was a poll, conducted by *The Hindustan Times*.

The result of that poll was: — Sir, I will just submit in a second —76.06 per cent people said, "It was misuse of the law." Sir, this was a poll. Poll may not be a law, but the poll reflects what people feel about something. What people feel is more important for those who frame the law. People's feeling should be reflected in the law and people's feeling should be respected also. Ours is a vibrant democracy in which a hundred thoughts contend and collide with each other without fear or without being muzzled by the State. This is what our Preamble says; this is what Fundamental Right under Article 19 says and this is what Fundamental Right under Article 21 says. Right to dissent is the most important. The famous French philosopher Voltaire, the votary of independent thinking and free expression, said, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend till my death your right to say so." That is the crux of the problem and that is the root of the democracy — right to disagree, right to dissent and right to give expression. You need not feel annoyed just because I have expressed an opinion which is against yours. Let it be judged

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on the balance of rationality. Not only these two girls, there is a long list, which has already been cited by Shri Rajeeve, of the people who have been arrested under this law. But, ultimately, what sparked the issue was the arrest of those two innocent young girls, who just out of frivolity or out of their conviction wrote something on Facebook. Our Deputy Leader of the Opposition has very rightly said, — I am just quoting it because I feel it hits the proper nuance in the matter — “An April fool joke among friends could be interpreted as causing annoyance and punishable by a jail term if it was sent over the electronic medium. It is an abuse of electric medium.” Sir, electric medium is the latest thing behind the freedom of expression. Electric medium is that vehicle through which an expression can be given within seconds for the whole world to think and ponder upon. Gagging electric medium through section 66A would be anarchy, would be something very unfortunate. I will, again, give verbatim what the Supreme Court has provisionally mentioned. It was on 30th November, 2012 that the Supreme Court said, “The provision was widely worded. The recent arrest of three youngsters in Mumbai under the contentious section 66A of the Information Technology Act served as an eye opener to the Court. The provision is widely worded to bring under its sweep any activity or any person having dangerous repercussions on the life and liberty of individuals.” The Supreme Court Bench wished to know what action was initiated against Mumbai cops who arrested the girls, whether they have already been punished or they are under the process of punishment. That is all right. But the Supreme Court has issued notices and it has given six week’s time when hearing will be there. That will be the time to concede and for that I beseech the hon. Law Minister, that somehow erroneously this section has been brought in the Act; we want to modify it; we want to amend it; or, we want to withdraw it. That will be the occasion and that will be, I think, his sagacity and goodness.

Sir, I will just close by saying one thing. As Rabindranath Tagore had said, “We should be in a country where head is held high.” Our plea is only that, please, somehow, properly modify Section 66A so that our head is held high in this country and we are not gagged. Let us not be a nation of dump people. Let it be a nation of articulate people who stand for their liberty, who stand for their freedom and who fight for it also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Thank you very much, Sir, for tolerating me so long.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; thank you very much Pilaniaji. Now Shri Shantaram Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, let me, at the outset, say that I am a Member who can be categorized as computer savvy, Internet savvy, iPad savvy, and what not. So, a Member like me can't be against any philosophy of modern communication. In fact, myself and my good colleague, Dr. Natchiappan, are the two persons here who are called as iPad-savvy people. So, in all technologies, we are the most modern MPs; and I was the first MP who had used an iPad during his speech in this House — the first MP. In fact, it was reported next day in a newspaper. Therefore, I am very much for this new technology, Internet mechanism, computers, etc. Therefore, basically and fundamentally, I can't be against any concerned freedom.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)
in the Chair

Let me also say, at the outset, that the action of the Police of Maharashtra in arresting those two girls was highly objectionable, and no civil society would have appreciated that action. But, Sir, what I am submitting is that an action of a Police officer or an action of an authority, which misuses a particular provision of law, doesn't mean that that provision should go out of the Statute Book. Many people in the country, in the past, have misused Section 322 of IPC, Section 307 of IPC or provisions relating to rape. All major provisions of IPC have, on some day or other, been misused in some State or the other by some officer or the other. But it doesn't mean that those particular Sections should be taken out of the Statute Book. Many preventive detention laws have also been misused – we have to admit it – by certain officers. The courts have also punished them, rusticated them; but one cannot definitely say that because of such misuse, mishandling of law, those particular provisions should not remain on the Statute Book. No logical conclusions can be drawn, reasonably drawn, on account of this. Therefore, what one can do is, one can, somehow, rectify the approach of those who execute the law rather than deleting those Sections from the Statute Book. One can understand — a suggestion by Rajeeveji – that a punishment can be introduced. One can understand that. That

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is quite a reasonable suggestion. But taking out a Section from any point of view is not the solution.

Secondly, striking further on a personal note, I would say that in my career at a time when I was under a little bit of depression, the computer was my best friend. I purchased a computer and started my activities on computer and Net; and it helped me in my career. I would like to say that it helped me in my career. If today I am here, I give much credit to that box called the computer, without which I would not have been able to make a mark in public life. Today, people can download material from the Net. In fact, right now I have got the Information Technology Act at my residence; I came from Gujarat after an election campaign. I cannot have it in my hands all the time, but within minutes, from the Computer Section, I got the Act downloaded. Even while some Member is speaking and if some point strikes me, I refer to *Google*, write on my mobile or i-Pad and look for points to counter the points made by the Member. This is possible today. Earlier we used to go to the library for reference and got relevant points two days later, and so on. Therefore, the computer and Internet are helpful to the society. Today, writers and poets exchange their writings through the Internet. Thus, it has helped in many ways.

Then, Sir, according to me, the biggest advantage that Members of Parliament have is that by 6.00 or 7.00 p.m., we could access the entire debate, from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., verbatim, on the Net. This is one of the biggest advantages that we have. Sometimes we may get proceedings of the Question Hour by 3 o'clock. I made a suggestion that Unstarred Questions that are laid on the Table of the House, which are made available in the print form in the lobby, should also be made available on the Net. At present they are available after two days, but some Ministries upload it on the same day. So, this is another advantage. I am trying to tell you how the phenomenon of Internet has helped the entire society including Members of Parliament. No national daily bothers to report all that we speak here and the questions that we ask. They are only bothered about what is happening in the well of the House. So, as far as I am concerned, the people in my State must know about it and so, after I have made my address or put my questions in the House, I go to the Computer Section or to my home, and on the Net I prepare my own Press

Note which is published the next day in newspapers in Goa. That is how I communicate with the people of my State and inform them as to what I have done in the House. So, this is another positive aspect of the Internet.

Sir, as I have said, I am Internet-savvy. I use the Facebook. Somebody may object, rightly so, but I use it to pass on certain valid information which I may get from the House. So, I put it on the Facebook, which is not published elsewhere. Normally it is just thrown into the dustbin. There was an Unstarred Question the other day in reply to which it was said that the Ministry of Railways had identified seven corridors for bullet trains. So, within a few years we are going to have bullet trains in seven corridors of India. That is such a big news. Not many knew about it. So, I put it on the Facebook, for a limited number of people who follow it.

Now I come to another aspect, which is a bit political in nature, and which may not be liked by some of my friends here. Sometimes it is said that Gujarat has made such great progress in all these years. I have statistics with me to show that previously, when the Congress was ruling the State, the rate of growth was 40 per cent, 25 per cent or 15 per cent. In the last ten years, the rate of growth has remained below 11 per cent. All Congress-ruled States had a higher rate of growth, which point I made known through the Facebook; otherwise nobody published it. So, we get this advantage of informing the people as to what is happening.

Now, Sir, there is misuse too. I would talk about something which I think hardly anybody knows. Let me take the name of a newspaper, *The Times of India*. Let us say, an important political leader dies; the news appears in the newspaper the next day, but even before that it is put on the Net. A person, who is an important leader and who has sacrificed for the nation, dies. Within one hour, you will get, at least, fifty comments below that news. Many of them say why this man did not die earlier; such people should die. I am telling this with regard to important personalities of the country. There was an air crash recently in which the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh died. At that time, again the comment was "such defective jets should be supplied to all politicians so that all of them die." These are the comments published in the 'Times of India'. If a politician is hospitalized, so many nasty things are written. I don't know why nobody has objected to these comments. Such people should be jailed and a greater amount of sentence should be provided to such people. So far I have seen that there are objections to Facebook,

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Twitter, etc., etc. What about these comments which appear day in and day out. Therefore, somehow, I am not inclined to accept the suggestion of my good friend, Shri P. Rajeeve. He said that it should not be made cognizable. Why? People are attacking innocent people in a manner which is both derogatory and defamatory, charging somebody's character, finishing somebody, perhaps, politically. Why shouldn't it be treated as cognizable offence? Take bail, go home and enjoy! How can it be? Therefore, it should be decided on case- -to-case basis. But such offences have to be made cognizable if you want to provide a deterrent in such matters. In fact, I mentioned another aspect the other day through a Special Mention. But it was a very serious matter. It is relating to defamation. I am talking about defamation because there are now leaders born in streets every now and then. They defame you, me, Parliament, judiciary and everybody. They think that whatever they say is the philosophy of the country. MPs, Parliament, Assemblies, etc., are of no use. For the last five or six months, we have heard nasty words from leaders born in street. In our country, there is a law dealing with defamation. Section 499 defines it; section 500 gives punishment. This is given in criminal law. People hardly file defamation suit because once you come in the witness box, your life history comes out during the cross-examination. This is one aspect. I come from the State of Goa where laws are different in some areas. What is the civil law on defamation? Suppose I want to claim Rs.1 crore for defamation compensation and I want to file a civil suit. Then, what is the law? But there is no Act of Parliament; there is no legislation dealing with this matter. I am told by some of the lawyers practising in some other States that they hardly get cases of civil defamation. In India, it is the Law of Torts that applies. Law of Torts is something which is very vague. Decisions have been given in the past by Privy Council. These decisions are followed and judgment is given accordingly. But many cases do not come. But it is unfortunate that our country does not have a statute or a civil law passed by Parliament to deal with defamation and to seek civil remedies on defamation.

If that was done, some of the people would have controlled their tongue. If a suit could be filed and disposed of in a year's time, wherein claims of one crore or two crore of rupees are made, people would have thought twice before making any defamatory statement. Hon. Law Minister is not here but I hope Shri Kapil Sibal would convey this idea to the concerned Minister that we have to have a law on defamation to deal with this thing in general.

Now, Mr. Rajeeve is worried about the terms, 'grossly offensive' and 'menacing character' etc., and he says that there is no definition of these terms. Of course, every term cannot be described or defined. Ultimately, by necessity, we have to abide by the definition, which, in future, may be given by the Supreme Court of India as to what these two terms mean. Even if we define these terms, further definitions and further explanations will be given by the courts of law. Therefore, you cannot say that these are vague terms. Law will take its own course in defining these terms.

Secondly, as far as Supreme Court is concerned, in one of the parts of your Resolution, you said that the Supreme Court has given a broad dimension to Article 19(1)(a) by laying down that freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a) not only guarantees freedom of speech and expression but also ensures the right of citizens to know and the right to receive information regarding matters of public concern. But these are past cases. Now, new technology, new tweets, new Facebook posts, whatever it is, are there, and, the hon. Supreme Court has to de-novo lay down these rules and decide whether these sections or remarks violate the Fundamental Rights. I think, that still has not come up. In due course of time, hon. Supreme Court will have to address this issue. Therefore, right now, we cannot say that the Supreme Court has already laid down such rules. The Act has come subsequently. These Acts have still not been taken up exhaustively by the Supreme Court, and, therefore, we have to wait for the Supreme Court to make any legislation.

Sir, I would also like to say that our students also take help of this information technology in downloading their projects. Earlier when school teachers asked students to prepare any project, and, if, in the families, the father or the mother were not educated, the students had to face difficulty. Today, everybody has got access to computers, the Governments give computers to the students, and, the students do their own homework with the help of downloading. Students also use or misuse computers and internet for other things. For such cases, I would like to give a suggestion, and, this is pertaining to hon. Kapil Sibal's ministry. Sir, in every institution, some arrangement should be made to make students aware of the laws, which deal with cases of misusing the internet facilities. There are serious laws and there are serious punishments provided under the Act. Students must be made aware that if they misuse the internet facility, then, there is a law which provides necessary punishment.

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Now, as far as information technology is concerned, RTI provides that every Government department should make available to the people information regarding their departments. But this is not being followed in many States. At least, at national level, there are good websites from where you can get information but, at the State level, in many places, you do not get information. If these websites are updated and all information is made available, the task of information officers under the RTI, according to me, will be reduced to 50 per cent. Therefore, this technology has to be utilised in that manner. I don't know whether all-India Gazette is available on the website or not, but in my State, our local Gazette is available on the website. Maybe some of the States have also made it available on the website. Making available the weekly Government Gazette on the website is a must. Therefore, this technology has to be used for this purpose.

Another administration-related issue is this. Today, when State Governments write to the Central Government, their letter comes after 10 days or 20 days. I think e-mail facility has to be used with digital signature technology to correspond. If State Governments write a letter to the Central Government, the Central Government can reply maximum within two-three days through net by using digital signatures. If we still use post and other facilities and wait for a reply for 15-20 days, one simple proposal takes years only because of this correspondence. Therefore, this can be reduced to that extent.

As far as this Resolution of Rajeeveji is concerned, in fact, it is too long. It is your right, as it is permissible under the rules. But you have provided so many paragraphs in the Resolution whereby your concise concept has gone haywire. If it had been concise, the Resolution would have got more seriousness. In any case, your demand is that section 66A should be amended in line with the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India. Who says that it is not in line with the Fundamental Rights today? Who has decided that? I for one still feel that it is perfectly in consonance with the Fundamental Rights. There is no ground given to say that it violates the Fundamental Rights. Let the court decide.

Then, reduce the penalty imposed here. I don't know, but perhaps the Government may consider it. As far as cognizable offence is concerned, I have already made myself clear that it has to remain a cognizable offence. You cannot make it non-cognizable to give all the freedom to this.

With these words, I think, I will advise my good friend that he has succeeded in having a debate earlier also in this House by challenging the related rules with respect to 66A. You have succeeded; you have done a good job. As far as your philosophy is concerned, I think, after this debate, you will kindly withdraw this Resolution. Thank you.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I rise to support the principles involved in the Resolution, though the Resolution is a little too long for me to go through it and to understand the whole of it. But I do support that there is a merit in the Resolution. Sir, what is this 66A? It is basically defamatory matter. Indian Penal Code has defined long, long ago both the definition of defamation and the punishment in that. Now, IT is a new method of transmission. I can say a bad word to one, I can write a letter to one and it can be defamatory. But before the computer was discovered, there was no question of communicating it through computers. IT has not created any new crime. The crime was already there. It is a question of transmission of that matter from one medium to another medium. Earlier it was oral. Then it was in writing. Then it was in the print media. Now it is the electronic media. The electronic media did not create any new crime. It has just made another avenue of committing the crime. So, why should we have a separate law for defamation when a defamatory or libellous matter is communicated through a medium of the IT? My point is very simple. We have a well established law for defamation. There is one for libel in civil law. Let us use those laws and incorporate the provisions of the IPC in section 66A. You can say that whoever commits this crime will be punishable under relevant section of the Indian Penal Code. Just because a new technology is there, we need not invent new crimes. It is not proper. Some of the terms in it are imprecise. The IPC is there on the statute book for over 150 years. Umpteen number of cases came up before the Privy Council, the Federal Court, and the Supreme Court. They are very precise with the methodology of commission of the crime and crimes are defined. I urge the Minister, through you, Sir, let section 66A be there but instead of creating a new crime; put those crimes, which are already mentioned in the Indian Penal Code, here so that we do not have a plethora of crimes alongwith the change of technology. The world is moving very fast. Technology is moving very fast. For each technology we can't create a separate set of crimes. Crimes are basically the same. If there is anything very specific only relating to that particular technology, you can bring that in. But transmitting

[Shri D. Bandyopadhyay]

defamatory or libellous matter through the IT mechanism does not create a new crime. The crime was already there. You are just passing it through the IT methodology. That does not create a new crime.

My plea to the Government, through you, Sir, is that you put the normal section relating to defamatory matter in the IT Act and say that they are punishable under the IPC so that we do not have a new set of crime. Two young girls in Mumbai were caught for nothing. The Supreme Court admonished the people. Some action will be taken against them. But this imprecision in law creates conditions in which it could be misused. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Odisha): Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak on the Resolution moved by my friend, Shri P. Rajeeve.

Sir, this is a very timely move by one of our learned friends in this House. It has brought to notice the negative and harmful aspects of the IT Act which had been passed recently. The view or the opinion expressed in the Resolution of Shri P. Rajeeve does not confine to him. We can find this view now throughout the country. Through the print media, through the electronic media and even in public intercourses, the intellectuals and the conscious section of our society are expressing the fear that this IT Act is impeding the rights of individuals, right to speak, right to express, right to know, right to communicate, the fundamental rights, etc. It is impeding them and the recent events which were cited by Mr. Rajeeve and other friends have opened our eyes and shown how it harms the fundamental rights of the citizens. The case of two Mumbai girls, the event in Jadavpur University and in many other places, within a few months, have proved that if we do not amend this Act, it will create hundreds of such cases in our country. And this has been realised not only by our people, but by people in foreign countries; the international media has also opined that in India, such a law has been passed by the Parliament which is hampering the fundamental rights of its citizens, which are the bedrock of our democracy.

Sir, this revolution in the information technology has provided unprecedented scope to exercise our fundamental rights of freedom of speech and expression, the freedom to create and innovate, and to organise and influence, to speak and be

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heard. The technology has given us this right. What are the senators of the American Parliament saying? What is the *London Times* saying? What are the thinking sections of the society in any other country saying about this Act? We must be very prompt to amend this Act so that it should not harm the fundamental rights of our citizens and should not create a bad image in international press and international arena. That is very important for us.

Mr. Bandhopadhyay was talking about the nature of the crime. Of course, the crime is the same as had been committed before this IT revolution took place. But, now, the scope of this crime has definitely increased. The crime now not only harms a few individuals, it also harms millions of our people within minutes and within days. The views expressed in tablets or computers of these two girls immediately reached throughout the country and throughout the world. We claim that we are very conscious. Our young boys claim that they are more courageous than our girls. But, what happened? The young boys, the young men, remained silent. I salute those two girls. From this House, I salute them. I admire them. The young people are courageous enough to safeguard the democracy which we have achieved through the sacrifice of millions of our freedom fighters. This is a great assurance for our hon. Minister who himself is an eminent lawyer. We should be proud of these two young girls. We could not realise this flaw when we enacted the Information Technology Act hastily. We did not have a thorough discussion on the Bill before passing it. We couldn't foresee its consequences. But these girls have opened our eyes. Now, we should be very careful while enacting Acts. In Section 66A of the IT Act, there are certain terminologies which were misused by the organ of the State. Whatever may be the State, it may be a proletarian State, it may be a bourgeois State, and the organ of the State always tries to grab the power from the people. Unless people become conscious, resist the grabbing tendency of the State organ, it harms the society and it hampers the progress of the society. It harms the morale of the society. The police force is the organ of the State. Sometimes our soldiers and our officers misuse the Act. This has been misused; and this will be misused. So, that it should be rectified immediately.

I must thank my friend, Shri Rajeev, that he has done a great job. The Minister should not reject it. As my friends have said, the Government should not take it lightly. It is a serious thing. We should take timely steps to rectify it.

[Shri Baishnab Parida]

The Mover of the Resolution has mentioned that “grossly offensive” words could be interpreted as has been done by the Mumbai police to show their extra loyalty to some political force there. It had happened. It would happen in other cases also. Some people of the State organs will misuse powers in order to earn certain privileges. They show extra loyalty to please their bosses. They did it. Thanks to the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the guardian of the Indian democracy, have said, “This is a misuse.” As my friend said, let the Supreme Court decide it. The Supreme Court has given its verdict. There is a clear indication in that verdict. Now, it is the duty of the Legislature to amend the IT Act.

Fortunately, we are having Shri Kapil Sibal as the Minister who himself is a legal luminary. He knows better than us. We should not allow this loophole to continue any further; otherwise it will be misused by the organ of the State.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister to drop Section 66A or amend it so that it doesn't affect Fundamental Rights of the society which is the bedrock of our society. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, let me start by thanking my colleague, Shri P. Rajeev for bringing this Resolution. This debate about Section 66A of the IT Act was long overdue in the Parliament and I thank you for the same.

Sir, let me start with what I have to say by re quoting what Pilaniaji said - a quote from Voltaire, “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.” That is the essence of our democracy and the essence of what the Constitution promised us in terms of the right to express ourselves. Sir, let us understand clearly what the background to this debate is. Despite being the largest democracy in the world today, India ranks 39 globally in terms of free speech over the Internet and has reported a negative trajectory in terms of Internet freedom over the last few years. The CNN recently ran a programme titled “India a Democracy sans Freedom”. It described Section 66A as archaic, draconian and absurd. In March this year, India was added to the list of countries “under surveillance” in the latest Annual Report presented by “Reporters without Borders”, an international organisation on enemies of the Internet. The issue of misuse of Section 66A of

the Information Technology Act has been raised at various instances. There is overwhelming evidence that there is misuse and discretionary interpretation, parts of which the hon. Minister admitted earlier today in Parliament in response to a question. We are all aware that a Public Interest Litigation has been filed recently by a petitioner in the Supreme Court and there are fasts and protests by many citizens all over the country. Sir, this is the background against which we are having the discussion today. Sir, as my colleague said, the IT act, really a landmark Act, was unfortunately passed by this House on 23rd December 2008, the last day of the Winter Session of the 14th Lok Sabha in seven minutes flat, without any opportunity for discussion or counterpoints to be offered by the Members of this House. While the argument can be made that the Supreme Court may be inclined to look at the PIL and devise possible procedural solutions, I think, we should not abrogate our duty as parliamentarians. It is incumbent on the Parliament and representatives of the citizens to seek immediate legislative correction where correction is obviously required. The defence by the hon. Minister that the Parliamentary Committee recommended this, is respectfully I say, facetious because he is aware of the many cases where the Government ignores the Committees and in any event, the issue is of the law and its impact on citizens and its weakness and its implications *vis-a-vis* our constitutional guarantee of free speech and not about the interpretations of the Parliamentary Committee. In fact, the learned Attorney General's admission in the court of the potential misuse and the fact that the Government now has to issue guidelines is testimony to the large scale abuse of Section 66A and the rules. Guidelines are not an answer when the content of the law is bad. Issuance of procedural guidelines like raising the level from an Inspector to a DSP or IG, does not remedy fundamental flaws within Section 66A of the IT Act. To say that it is only a law enforcement implementation problem, is mischaracterizing the problem. Of course, there is the issue of abuse by agencies, as recent incidents have shown. The police machinery is not equipped with legal tools to interpret the statutes in online speech cases and cave in to political pressure often. The recent step of raising the level of officers who can invoke a law tells us that officers who have constitutional authority of making arrests under all other laws may even be misled or misinterpret the law. There can be no better admission of infirmity in the law than this self admission which the hon. Minister had to resort to recently. Further, guidelines also cannot be a substitute to a review of the act, to prevent encroachment of fundamental freedoms.

[Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar]

Added to this, the Section itself is bad in law. Hence this Resolution in the House to bring amendments to Section 66A.

Sir, let me lay out my reasoning on why a review of this Act and an amendment is absolutely essential in addition to what my various colleagues have already laid out. Restrictions on free speech, such as under Section 66A must pass the muster of 'reasonableness'. Legislation which arbitrarily or excessively invades the right cannot be said to contain the quality of reasonableness unless it strikes a proper balance between the freedom guaranteed in Article 19 (1) and the social control permitted by clause (2) of Article 19. If so, it will be held to be wanting in that quality. Undefined and overbroad words such as 'grossly offensive' and 'menacing character' are subject to discretionary interpretations and abuse. That is just a fact. This presents a danger to free speech under article 19(1)(a). The danger becomes even more amplified when even law enforcement officers at the district level can impose this restriction and the provision. Reliance on import of provisions from other countries does not assist. The Indian Constitution, as my colleague, Shri Rajeeve has said, is stronger on the guarantee of free speech than the unwritten U.K. Constitution, and the judiciary here has wide powers of judicial review or statutes. The Supreme Court itself has observed in *Union of India versus the ADP*, and I quote: "One-sided information, disinformation, misinformation and non information, all equally create an uninformed citizenry which makes democracy a farce. Freedom of speech and expression includes right to impart and receive information which includes freedom to hold opinions." The term "grossly offensive" will have to be read in such a heightened manner as not to include merely causing offence. As my colleague, Shri Rajeeve, has pointed out, the one other place where this phrase is used in Indian law, and it is used only once, is in section 20 (b) of the Indian Post Office Act. The big difference, as he has himself pointed out, is that under section 20 (b) of the IPO Act and section 66A of the IT Act, the former is clearly restricted to one-to-one communication, as is the case of most of the international precedents which the Minister has quoted earlier today, while replying to a Parliament question. Reducing the scope of section 66A to direct communications would make it less prone to abuse. Redundancy in the wake of other statutes in India must also be seen. Criminal statutes have undergone judicial scrutiny and implementation of robust procedures to prevent possible

encroachment on the personal freedom. “Annoyance”, “inconvenience”, “insult”, “ill will” and “hatred” are very different from “injury”, “danger”, and “criminal intimidation”. The question arises whether you need a separate provision in the IT Act for that. As my colleague, Shri Bandyopadhyay said, why we cannot use the existing provisions in the IPC or Cr.P.C. to take care of crimes that are already defined under law.

I have again a point of couple of other infirmities in the Act. The purportedly anti-spam provision under clause (c) does not cover spam. It does not have the two core characteristics of spam, that it is unsolicited and that it is sent in bulk. The definitional problems extend to “electronic mail” and “electronic mail message” in the ‘explanation’ that are vast to cover anything communicated electronically, including forms of communication that aren’t aimed at particular recipients the way an e-mail is. Sir, on the procedural front, — again my colleague has gone into this in detail — section 66A punishes the same actions in a stricter manner than the treatment and actions under the penal laws in India, namely, the I.P.C. and the Cr.P.C. Further, making it a cognizable offence means a police officer can arrest without a warrant. In combination with the above deficiencies, this exponentially increases the threat to free speech under section 66A. Sir, sometimes section 66A looks like a solution looking for a problem; especially, when the father of a girl receiving a cake from a young gentleman can file a case against the cake-giver under this provision as has happened a few days ago. Considering the potential and the recently demonstrated abuse of section 66A in contravention of the freedom of speech, it may be worthwhile to explore a judicial review before arrests under section 66A can be made. The UN Special Rapporteur’s Report last year on Internet Freedom and Hate speech detailed the tests and procedures for implementing reasonable restrictions on online speech to be applied only in emergency situations for a limited duration. Sir, a free and open internet is important for innovation, connection and economic growth. Therefore, there is a need to review section 66A holistically, keeping in mind the constitutional tenets and international conventions that we are a signatory to. To those in Government who raise national security or law and order as a bogey or a justification, let me quote President Obama. He said, and I quote: “We reject as false the choice between national security and our ideals of democracy”. We can meet both these goals if we are determined to do so.

[Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar]

Sir, let me end by saying that there is a clear case for proactive intervention on this issue by the Government. Little progress has been made by the Government to act on these apparent and widely reported abuse issues. There have been proposals, on two occasions, from the hon. Minister to constitute an Empowered group to discuss all issues on the table and look at alternative formulations. The Minister made this commitment when the First Open House was held in August this year and then again on Nov. 29th I understand from Press reports that he met representatives from civil society, intermediaries and industry. I attended the Open House in August, and it seems to me at least, Sir, that nothing has been done in the last five months. I would ask this question, Sir: why has the Government allowed some of these issues come to a boiling point? Sir, there should be no ego involved here. Let us frankly accept that there is a problem with the act, its clauses and the rules. I do not propose a specific interpretation of mine for the constitutional guarantee of free speech nor should the Minister expect us to blindly accept his. Let us accept what the hon. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha said this morning. He said that this is an evolving issue. So, Sir, let the law evolve. Let the Government constitute a Drafting Committee immediately with a multi-stakeholder representation, including civil society, to address these issues head on and arrive at a sustainable, acceptable framework, as was done in the case of RTI and several other statutes earlier, Sir. This is what is expected from a Government that represents a great democracy like our country. So, please do not ask him to withdraw the Resolution. Let us go forward and create a multi-stakeholder way of coming up with a solution and let me end by quoting John Milton, "Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties." Thank you, Sir. I support this Resolution.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Respected Sir, I rise to speak in favour of Shri Rajeeve's Resolution. I have listened to the speech of Shri Rajeeve in detail. Therefore, I don't want to repeat what he has already spoken. But, by and large, I agree with what he has said, and also what others who supported Shri Rajeeve's Resolution have said. The Fundamental Rights Chapter is sacrosanct. We had the Government of India Act, 1919. Then we had the Government of India Act, 1935, but ultimately the whole soul of our Constitution is the Chapter on Fundamental Rights and Article 19 gives the Freedom of Speech and Expression. Article 19(1)(a)

says, "All citizens shall have the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression." But no Fundamental Right is absolute. But every Fundamental Right can be restricted, subject to it being reasonable. Clause 2 of this says, (2) Nothing in sub-clause (a) of clause (1) shall affect the operation of any existing law, or prevent the State from making any law, in so far as such law imposes reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right conferred by the said sub-clause in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence."

Any law passed, unless it passes the test under Clause (b), in that it is reasonable on any one of these grounds it is unconstitutional. What importance is given to Article 19? You take Article 359. Article 359 says, "Where a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, the President may by order declare that the right to move any court for the enforcement of such of the rights conferred by Part III (except Articles 20 and 21)" – subsequently it has been added after emergency – "as may be mentioned in the order and all proceedings pending in any court for the enforcement of the rights so mentioned shall remain suspended..." Dr. Ambedkar, who hatched Article, was asked, "Which is the most important Article in your opinion?" He pointed out, 'Article 32.' Sir, Article 32 provides a Fundamental Right to remedy before the highest court of the country. One need not go to a smaller court. He can straightaway come to the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution for enforcement of the Fundamental Rights. Suppose, Fundamental Rights are not enforceable, then Article 32 is of no use. That is why he said that Article 32 is of fundamental importance and is the heart and soul of the Fundamental Rights Chapter. That right can be suspended under Article 359 only when there is a declaration of emergency. That is the importance given to this Article. Under no other circumstances, remedy under the Fundamental Rights will be suspended.

Now, to put it generally, this law was passed in hurry and we are worrying at leisure! That is what is happening. The amount of criticism that has come against Section 66A, throughout country, itself is an indicative that the legislation has not been passed after due consideration.

I read Section 80. It says, "Power of police officer and other officers to enter, search, etc.-

[Shri M. Rama Jois]

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), any police officer, not below the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, or any other officer of the Central Government or a State Government authorised by the Central Government in this behalf may enter any public place and search and arrest without warrant any person found therein who is reasonably suspected or having committed or of committing or of being about to commit...” — I don't know how a police officer will know one is 'about to commit an offence' — “..any offence under this Act.”

Then, what happens to Fundamental Right? Article 19(a), though it speaks of 'speech' and 'expression', in the Indian Express case, Justice Venkataramaiah gave a detailed judgment on this aspect of freedom of press. If you go by the Constitution, there is no specific Article which deals with Fundamental Right of media or press. Justice Venkataramaiah, in the Indian Express Newspaper case, interpreted that freedom of press is part of freedom of speech and expression. That is of utmost importance.

And, in this, I would say that it is the life and breadth of our Constitution. You cannot stifle down life and breath. For example, during Emergency, Abu Abraham, drew a cartoon in the Indian Express. In that, he indicated that the then President of India had been signing the Emergency Declaration before the advice of the Cabinet was tendered to him. The cartoon depicted President in bathroom and signed it by asking, 'Where to sign? and not Why to sign?' I don't know. If this law was in force at that time, Abu Abraham could have been prosecuted.

Then, I know the cases where somebody said, 'The then Prime Minister *murdabad.*' And, they were all prosecuted and then they could not go to court, because Article 32 was suspended.

To put it in other words, this is nothing but legislative terrorism. Now-a-days, we are seeing different types of terrorism — antinational terrorism, etc. This is nothing but legislative terrorism.

As Daisy said, 'rule of law means, want of arbitrariness.' When the entire Section is arbitrary and confers unreasonable power on the police authorities, there is no rule of law at all.

For example, if a girl takes away the boy or a boy takes away a girl, then, any media, 'gives the name of community of boy and girl.' Then that creates problems. These are certain things the Press is doing; unnecessarily they are creating tension. Such things should be controlled, I can understand. But, the wording of section 66A is so wide that one can be booked for doing any thing. Everybody professed about the arrest of two innocent girls. What did they say? I agree that Bal Thackeray was a great leader and was highly respected in Bombay and all that; on that day, they commented that the *bandh* should not have been there. The Kerala High Court has declared *bandh* unconstitutional. The Supreme Court's Justice Verma has confirmed it. Still, some people call *bandh*. I remember, during the Freedom Struggle time, we never used to call a *bandh*, but we used to call a *hartal*. It is only in sympathy of a particular issue that the people would stay indoors. Now, a *bandh* may be, as the girls pointed out, on account of fear and it may not be out of respect. The moment such a statement is made, going and arresting those girls is highly unwarranted. Right now, it is a subject of criticism everywhere.

Therefore, these provisions—sections 66A, 69A read with section 80—are atrocious. Voltaire says, as inscribed in the British Parliament, "I detest your opinion, but I shall protect your right to say so." That is the essence of democracy. Everyone has the freedom to express his opinion. Another may like it or may not like it.

I also remember a famous statement of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in this House. Somebody said, "I crush the opposition." Then, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee said in this House, "I shall crush the crushing mentality." Everyone has got the right to express his opinion. But, just because one expresses his opinion, you cannot take action against him. You see the wording of section 66A: "Punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc. — Any person who sends by means of a computer resource or a communication device (a) any information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character; or (b) any information which he knows to be false, but for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred or ill will, persistently by making use of such computer resource or a communication device, (c) any electronic mail or electronic mail message for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience or to deceive or to mislead the addressee or recipient about the origin of such messages, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine."

[Shri M. Rama Jois]

That is why I said that this is nothing but legislative terrorism. The intolerance is anti-democratic. In democracy, you must have the mentality of tolerating the opinion of others. Intolerance is fascist. Such an attitude itself is injurious to democracy. Therefore, our Constitution says that it should be within reasonable restrictions. What is a reasonable restriction? Ultimately, it will be decided by the court—the High Court or the Supreme Court. But, there are many cases, like Searchlight Patna's case *i.e.* M.S.M. Sharma's case. There are a number of cases where the Supreme Court has spoken on what is reasonable and what is unreasonable. Virtually, this provision is bordering on the Emergency situation. People will be afraid to even express their opinion frankly because they may feel that they may be subjected to punishment under Section 66A. My learned friend, Mr. Kapil Sibal, is a champion of Fundamental Rights, but in his avatar as Minister, I don't know what his opinion is. But in the Supreme Court always he has been a champion of Fundamental Rights. I had occasions of hearing him also on many important matters. Therefore, I am sure that he will consider all the arguments which so many people have given. He should consider all these particularly in the light of the fact that several legislations were passed in 12 minutes. There is absolutely no consideration of the consequences of these legislations. That is why I repeat that legislation is passed in a hurry and we are repenting at leisure. Therefore there is every scope for applying the mind once again and make the provisions under Sections 66A, 69A and 80 reasonable so as to fall within the framework of clause (2) of article 19 of the Constitution. Here I need not repeat, I would mention only two-three points of Mr. Rajeev's Resolution. Clause (b) of 66A provides for an imprisonment upto three years for information that causes annoyance, inconvenience, etc. Offence under Section 66A is cognizable and has made it possible for police to arrest citizens at odd times, for example, the arresting of 20 year old girls in Mumbai. The Supreme Court has given a broad definition of article 19 (1) (a) laying down that freedom of speech under article 19 (1) (a) not only guarantees freedom of speech and expression but it also ensures the rights of the citizens to know to receive information, etc. There are tremendous problems in the way of Section 66A of the amended Act. Though inspired by the noble objectives of protecting reputations and preventing misuse of computer network, it has not been able to achieve its goal. It is worse than the disease which it sought to remedy. That is my opinion. Therefore, it is better that

the matter is reconsidered and these Sections are substituted with reasonable wordings capable of being understood. The wording at present is capable of being misused or abused. The wording must be such that it is capable of being understood by citizens as also the enforcing agencies. Such an amendment is absolutely called for. Therefore, I fully support the Resolution of Mr. Rajeeve. I also support all those who spoke in support of it. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Since many speakers have come forward to speak on this important issue, we are not enforcing timing.

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, धन्यवाद, जो आपने मुझे इस महत्वपूर्ण संकल्प पर बोलने का मौका दिया। दुनिया के विकसित और विकासशील देशों में इंटरनेट और कम्प्यूटर आज एक जरूरी हिस्सा बन गए हैं। इस बात से भी इंकार नहीं किया जा सकता कि इंटरनेट और कम्प्यूटर के बिना हम राजनैतिक क्षेत्र से किसी भी क्षेत्र में जाएं, तो शायद हमें काम करना मुश्किल महसूस होगा। एक जमाना था, जब हम बैंक में एकाउंट खोलने जाया करते थे, तो वहां देखते थे कि बैंक ऑफिसर इतने बड़े-बड़े रजिस्टर मेंटेन करते थे और हमें बैंक एकाउंट में पैसा जमा करने के लिए या निकालने के लिए घंटों-घंटों लाइन में लगना पड़ता था। रजिस्ट्रों की उलटा-पल्टी में बहुत सारा समय जाया हुआ करता था और वह उपभोक्ता, जिसका काम सिर्फ एक-दो मिनट का होता था, उसे घंटों-घंटों इंतज़ार करना पड़ता था, लेकिन आज कम से कम हमें इस बात की प्रसन्नता है कि आई.टी. के क्षेत्र में हमारे देश ने बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल की है, बहुत बड़ी कामयाबी हासिल की है, जिसके जरिए आज बहुत सारी अनसुलझी बातें, बहुत सारी जरूरतें हम लोग घर में बैठकर पूरी कर लेते हैं।

महोदय, इंटरनेट और कम्प्यूटर के जरिए हम घर बैठे दुनिया और देश की तमाम जानकारियां हासिल करते हैं। मॉडर्न कंट्री में स्कूल-कॉलेज में पढ़ने वाले बच्चे इंटरनेट के जरिए अपने किसी भी सब्जेक्ट पर **better command** करते हैं और इंटरनेट कम्प्यूटर के जरिए आज हर मुश्किल आसान नजर आ रही है। तो हमें कम से कम इससे जरूर सहमत होना चाहिए कि इंटरनेट और कम्प्यूटर सिस्टम में हमारा देश जो आगे बढ़ा है, यह आगे चल सके, इसके लिए पूरे सदन के सदस्यों की सहमति की आवश्यकता है, लेकिन पिछले समय में जो कुछ अप्रत्याशित घटनाएं मुम्बई में हुईं, यकीनी तौर से उन घटनाओं को कभी भी नजरअंदाज करके नहीं देखा जाना चाहिए। अगर कुछ लड़कियां या कुछ लोग अपने विचारों की अभिव्यक्ति के लिए फेसबुक का प्रयोग करते हैं और वह प्रयोग किसी प्रकार से कानून के विरुद्ध नहीं है और उनको अरेस्ट किया जाए या उन पर जमानत के लिए दबाव डाला जाए, अगर इस तरह की घटनाएं देश में होती हैं, तो कहीं न कहीं यह हमारे कम्प्यूटर नेटवर्क और इंटरनेट का उपयोग करने वालों के लिए मुश्किल का क्षण जरूर हो सकता है, हालांकि हम इस बात को अभी तक

[श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप]

नहीं समझ पाए। जहां तक मुझे याद आता है कि जब बजट सेशन चल रहा था, सरकार CrPC में एक अमेंडमेंट लाई थी। 341(c) के नाम से CrPC में वह अमेंडमेंट हुआ। माननीय कानून मंत्री जी ने उसको प्रस्तुत किया और उस अमेंटमेंट के जरिए सरकार ने यह स्पष्टीकरण दिया था कि सात वर्ष या सात वर्ष से कम सजा वाले केसेज में पुलिस बिना कोर्ट के वॉरन्ट issue किए किसी भी अभियुक्त को गिरफ्तार नहीं कर सकती है। यह संशोधन इसी राज्य सभा में आया और वह पास हुआ। हालांकि हमने उस संशोधन पर एतराज जताया था और हमने इस बात की आशंका व्यक्त की थी कि सात साल दंड वाले केसेज में या उससे कम वाले केसेज में अगर पुलिस बिना वॉरन्ट के गिरफ्तारी करने का अधिकार पा लेती है, तो कहीं न कहीं देश में अर्थव्यवस्था का माहौल पैदा होगा। लेकिन इन लड़कियों की arrest के पीछे कौन सी कानूनी प्रक्रिया अपनाई गई, यह चीज़ अभी तक शायद सदन के संज्ञान में नहीं आई है, इसलिए मैं अपनी पार्टी की ओर से श्री राजीव जी के इस मत का समर्थन करता हूँ कि इस आई.टी. एक्ट के दुरुपयोग की किसी भी संभावना को अगर सदन में चर्चा के दौरान निस्तारित कर दिया जाए, निष्प्रभावी कर दिया जाए तो कम से कम इंटरनेट और जो कम्प्यूटर प्रयोग करने वाले लोग हैं, वे एक अनावश्यक बोझ से निकल सकेंगे, अनावश्यक दबाव से निकल सकेंगे। अलबत्ता कुछ ऐसे अपवाद जरूर आज पैदा हो गए हैं, जिन पर विराम लगाया जाना भी चाहिए। हम इस पक्ष में बिल्कुल नहीं हैं कि आई.टी. एक्ट को बिल्कुल निष्प्रभावी कर दिया जाए... या आईटी एक्ट में दंड के प्रावधान को समाप्त कर दिया जाए या आईटी एक्ट का कोई investigation न हो। हम इस पक्ष में हैं कि जो कानून प्रक्रिया है, जो कानूनी प्रावधान है, वह अपनी जगह पर काम करे, लेकिन अपवादस्वरूप कुछ चीजें जो आज पैदा हो गयी हैं, उन पर विराम लगाने के लिए कोई माध्यम सरकार अपना सकती है। आज सदन भी उस पर विराम लगाने की आवश्यकता महसूस करता है और देश भी महसूस करता है। महोदय, कई बार जीवन में कठिनाई भरे क्षण देखने को मिलते हैं। आज इंटरनेट के जरिए शादी हो जाती है और इंटरनेट के जरिए ही divorce हो जाता है। इस प्रकार इस हद तक इंटरनेट का दुरुपयोग न हो, इस पर हमें कुछ न कुछ लगाम लगाने की आवश्यकता है। जिस प्रकार से आईटी एक्ट के कानून का दुरुपयोग हुआ है, मैं समझता हूँ कि उसमें हमारे माननीय सदस्य की जो भावना है और उनका जो सजेशन है, उस पर विचार किया जाना बहुत आवश्यक है। राजीव जी ने जिन चार-पांच बिन्दुओं को खास तौर से अपने संकल्प के तौर पर उभारने की कोशिश की है, उनमें खास तौर पर 66(क) के संशोधन के संबंध में उन्होंने अपना विचार रखा है। हम उनकी बात से इसलिए सहमत हैं कि कम से कम आज के बाद अगर सरकार और सदन इस पर सकारात्मक रूप से विचार करके संशोधन करता है तो कम से कम बाकी निर्दोष बच्चे-बच्चियों या अन्य व्यक्तियों को अनावश्यक रूप से दंडित होने से बचाया जा सकता है। इसलिए मैं समझता हूँ कि आज के हालात में 66(क) में संशोधन किया जाना बहुत उचित नजर आता है और इस अपराध को असंज्ञेय अपराध बनाया जाए, मैं समझता हूँ कि आज

के युग में यह उचित प्रतीत होता है। इसके अतिरिक्त दंड के तौर पर जो कम सजा का सजेशन संकल्प के द्वारा उभारा गया है, उससे भी हम सब लोगों को इसलिए सहमत होना चाहिए कि अब हम और हमारा देश इंटरनेट और कम्प्यूटर से अलग नहीं हो सकता। इस सिस्टम को अगर देश में प्रभावी रूप से लागू करना है तो कहीं न कहीं हमें इस कानून में लचीलापन पैदा करना पड़ेगा, ताकि इसका उपयोग करने वाले लोग निःसंकोच होकर इसका उपयोग करें, लाभ उठाएं, देश आगे बढ़े। धन्यवाद।

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो संकल्प लाया गया है, एक विशिष्ट कारण से मैं इसमें संशोधन करने के लिए सरकार से अपील करता हूँ। इसमें इस प्रावधान के होने के कारण कई जगह पुलिस सब-इंस्पेक्टर जाकर एक्शन लेते हैं। जब पब्लिक चर्चा का विषय होता है। तो बेचारा पुलिस सब-इंस्पेक्टर सर्पेंड होता है और बाद में उसकी बहाली करनी ही पड़ती है। कानून में इस प्रकार के दोष को नहीं रखना चाहिए, जिसके कारण पुलिस सब-इंस्पेक्टर को या उसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन करने वाली अथॉरिटी को दुविधा के कारण निर्णय लेना पड़े। इसलिए पुलिस अधिकारी को दुविधा न हो और साथ ही साथ जनता को भी अनावश्यक कष्ट न हो, इसके लिए मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अपील करता हूँ कि उसमें क्लीयर **instructions** हों और उसके अंदर इस प्रकार के प्रावधान का निर्माण करके संशोधन लाया जाए, ताकि भविष्य में इस नियम का, इस क्लॉज का कोई दुरुपयोग न हो - न जनता कष्ट में आए और न पुलिस अधिकारी के द्वारा एक्शन लेने के बाद लोग उसको गालियां दें। प्रावधान है, इसलिए उन्होंने क्रम लिया है। इसके साथ-साथ मेरा यह भी कहना है कि इस प्रकार की जो प्राइवेट डिस्कशन होती है, वह सार्वजनिक क्यों बनती है? इसको रोकने के लिए भी सरकार को कोई न कोई प्रावधान करना चाहिए। कई बार किसी सेंटिमेंटल घटना के समय अगर यह सार्वजनिक होता है तो किसी अनहोनी घटना का कारण भी बन सकता है। ऐसा न हो, इस दृष्टि से **private discussion should be always private**, इसका ध्यान रखना चाहिए। साथ ही साथ इसके अंदर आवश्यक संशोधन लाया जाना चाहिए, ताकि इसके बारे में कोई दुविधा न रहे - न जनता को कष्ट हो, न किसी पुलिस अधिकारी को बाद में अनावश्यक समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़े। इस दृष्टि से मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि उनकी जो मांग है, उसे स्वीकार करते हुए, जो भी छोटा-मोटा आवश्यक **correction** करना है, उसको करने की कृपा करें, यह मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से विनती करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, Mr. Rama Chandra Khuntia.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, just a minute. There is a direction from the Chairman earlier that the time for Private Members' Business will be two hours. We know that in the list, yours is the next name and after that, my name is there. So, it will be good if we also get a chance to introduce our Resolutions. There is a direction. I don't know if the Treasury Benches have something to say. But there is a direction like that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Actually, what we are just following is, since it is a very important issue, let all the Members who want to express their views, let them express it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): You do it every time. Yesterday, when I was speaking on the Constitution Amendment Bill, you intervened and you wanted to stop me. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): At that time, time was enforced, but now we are not enforcing the time. ...(*Interruptions*)... I told you earlier itself. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Sir, will it be possible for us to conclude this discussion today?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Let the hon. Members speak and then we will see.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha): Sir, this Resolution which has been brought out by the hon. Member, Shri P. Rajeeve, is good in spirit that all citizens of this country must have the right to speak, and the right which is enshrined in our Constitution should be enjoyed by all and there should not be any other law which will prevent the citizens from enjoying the rights which have been given to them by our Constitution.

However, Sir, I do not fully agree with the text of the Resolution given by the Mover. But I do agree that there are some cases of misuse of this right like it happened in Maharashtra where two girls were arrested. Then, there was the case of a University in Bengal where a Professor was arrested. At the same time, there are some incidents in Kokrajhar and other places where there has been misuse of this Section.

Even today morning also, in reply to a question, the hon. Minister has clearly said that Section 66A was provided in the Information Technology Act, 2000 based on the international best practices and similar provisions of the Communication Acts of a number of countries. Sir, actually, when this Act was amended and this Section was included, it was done keeping in view the international laws and practices because the Internet is connecting the whole world. So, we also have to seek the views

and cooperation of the international community while enacting it, and they have taken that into consideration. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee. Now, it has been said that while enacting the legislation, they have not taken into consideration the recommendations of the Standing Committee. But I want to inform the House that when the law was in the public domain, as it was under the consideration of the Standing Committee, there was a discussion in the Standing Committee on this in which Members of the Opposition parties like BJP, etc., were also present. They were also there in that Standing Committee. In respect of the offence, whether it is to be cognizable or not, the Standing Committee has clearly said, and I quote, "The various amendments/proposals seek to tone down the quantum of the punishment or various types of cyber crimes, expressing their serious reservation on the Central Bureau of Investigation, and some industry representatives have maintained that in view of the gravity of the offence under all the above-cited sections, it should be made cognizable. On the other hand, the Department of Information Technology has stated that these punishments are proposed to be rationalized because while penal provisions do not give occasion of harassment to legitimate users, the common man is ignorant of the nuances of information technology. In a nutshell, the Department contends that in that sense people are getting bail easily and so we propose to keep it above the said Section..."

So, it is not that it has not been discussed. It has been discussed in the Standing Committee, and the legislation was discussed and passed in the Parliament. The comment made was that if it was passed in the Parliament within seven minutes, it was not because of the Treasury Benches or the Government; sometimes the Opposition do not allow discussions on the Bill in detail and do not allow others to speak. That is not right. You must not disallow others from speaking or taking more time. Now, in a Private Members' Bill, the Treasury Benches, the Government and everybody else is cooperating and discussing it for more than two hours. Hon. Member here was saying that it should be confined to two hours but we are not opposed to discussing it for even more than two hours because it is an important Bill. So, on the one hand, they would not allow to run the House systematically and allow the Member to speak, and on the other hand, they criticize the Treasury Benches saying that they are passing the Bill in seven minutes. That is not correct. I think we should all be responsible and help discuss the Bill in detail whenever any Bill comes up for discussion.

[Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia]

Sir, coming to the details, I wish to make one point about the immediate amendment and legislation. Some people say that it is not constitutional. Now, this case is pending in the Supreme Court and we are nobody to say whether it is constitutional or not, because we have the separation of powers. Some powers are vested with the States, some with the Central Government, and sometimes the question whether something is constitutionally right or wrong is defined and decided by the hon. Supreme Court and we legislate accordingly. So, this matter is also now pending with the Supreme Court and I think the Government is also in consultation with all the stakeholders, the corporate houses, the legal experts, and so on to arrive at a decision. That is in the process.

Sir, coming to the appeal that Shri Rajeeve made, about amendment to Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000 in line with the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India, it is very clear, and even the hon. Minister has said so, that it is in line with the rights guaranteed under the Constitution. Talking about restrictions on the application of Section 66A of the Act, communication between two people has been mentioned. Now, when you say communication between two persons, who are the two persons? Of the two persons, one may belong to India and the other to China; one may belong to India and the other to Pakistan; one may belong to India and the other to the United States of America. Also, that may be detrimental to the interests of our country. When you say two persons, how do you define 'two persons'? I think while saying that it is for two persons, it is objectionable and it is not the correct thing. Also, when it is between two persons, the other person may not like it. Say, I send some communication to anybody, say Mr. Rajeeve, and he does not like it. When you say the communication between two persons is objectionable, I think it is not correct. Communication between two persons can also be understood with a different meaning. This Resolution seeks to 'precisely define the offence covered by Section 66A of the Act; reduce the penalty imposed by Section 66A of the Act.' As I have already said, this thing has been done as per the recommendation of the Standing Committee. I would like to draw the attention of the House to one thing. There is nothing wrong with the legislation. Only proper implementation is required by the person who is responsible for implementing this. Sir, our country, India, is very much known for legislating progressive laws, whether it is labour law or criminal law or any other law. We are very much known for

the progressive legislation. But we have a very bad name for non-implementation because we do not implement it correctly. So, non-implementation does not depend upon the legislation; it depends upon the executive power of the executive who is responsible to execute it. From the political point of view, if something happens in West Bengal, we blame the West Bengal Government and its Chief Minister, and if something happens in Maharashtra, we blame the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. But what action do we take against the person who is implementing and misusing the Act. The person who is misusing the Act is the implementing authority. Without prejudice to any individual, I can say this. There are many big civil servants and officers who are working in this country for years together, but there are many pilot schemes which are not being implemented. They are also accused of non-implementation. But the moment they leave that post and come to the public field and Parliament, elected or nominated by party or people, they are the first person who blame that nothing is happening in this country. Then what had they been doing for forty years when they were at the top of the job? When they were at the top of the job, they didn't do anything. But when they come to this House, they say that nothing has been happening in this country, nobody is doing anything, administration is collapsed and it is doing nothing. Who is responsible for that? Whether it is Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, I can say with pride that our legislation is the best legislation in the country. There may be some lacunae. Law is an evolution process. If it is misused, it can be rectified and amended. Law is always in a developing process. When a law is implemented, its lacuna is identified and amended. If it comes in the jurisdiction of the court, the court decides whether it is constitutional or non-constitutional and if it requires any amendment, it is amended. But the question remains is who is responsible for implementing the law or pilot schemes. It is not the Member of Parliament of any party. The person who is in charge of implementation is not implementing it. But when the first chance comes, he tries to blame the system. That is why I say that it is not important to bring in the amendment. We have already brought so many legislations in our country. Are we taking the officers to task who are misusing the Act in Kokrajhar, West Bengal and Maharashtra? If the answer is 'No', why do we blame each other politically? If it happens in West Bengal, we blame the TMC; if it happens in Maharashtra, we blame the Congress. Who is misusing the Act? There may be a political leader who is giving directions verbally; I don't know. Nothing will happen in this country unless and until we have the guts to punish the person who is misusing the Act in this country. So, more important is the proper implementation of the Act. ...(*Interruptions*)...

5.00 P.M.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, we are coming near to five of the clock. What would be the fate of this Resolution? Would it be continued in the next session or not?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Let him complete first. It will be over at 5.03 p.m. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, my question is a very relevant question. It is a very important issue. I am ready to conclude it today itself. I will not take more time. I am ready to avoid the reply. My query is, will it continue or not? ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Let him complete it.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: I want a ruling from you. After five o'clock, will it continue or not?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): It will be over at 5.03 p.m.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will it continue in the next session?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): It will finish at 5.03 p.m. You raise the issue at that time.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: It is a specific query. I need an order from you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): We will get the sense of the House and then we will decide it.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Then, let us take the sense of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): We will do that at 5.03 p.m.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: There are precedents, Sir. In the Telangana Resolution, it was continued in the next session without taking the sense of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)... Otherwise, we will put into vote now to take the sense of the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Yes, Mr. Khuntia, please continue.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, in that case. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, then, I request the House and also the Chair that since it is an important issue, sense of the House may be taken that it will be continued in the next session also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Okay, let it be over at 5.03 p.m. Then, we will take the sense of the House. ...(*Interruptions*).. Why do you take the hon. Member's time? You made your request. We will look into that.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, even today, while giving the reply, the Minister has said in part 'c', "the Government has held discussion with the stakeholders, including the industry, associations, intermediaries and end-users to address the issue of proper implementation of the provisions of this Act. It has agreed to provide necessary guidelines to prevent misinterpretation of the provisions of this Act and to minimize the unintended consequences". I think, Sir, the Government is also very open in their mind, as the Minister has already said. I think, he might have made a mention to it because there was a dispute regarding the corporate house information. The Government probably is also open in their mind in this regard and is discussing with all other partners.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Wait a minute please. Since the mover of the Resolution has made a request for further continuing it, I would like to get the sense of the House to continue.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): With your permission, if I may intervene, I am not responding yet to any of the issues, ...(*Interruptions*).. What you have raised is an important issue. This country stands for freedom of expression. There is no question of diluting the fundamental right of free speech, and we, in this Government, do not believe, in any way, in emasculating that right. You believe that the Act itself is unconstitutional. We can have two ways out. The matter is pending in the Supreme Court.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Mr. Minister, we can continue it.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: My suggestion is that, so that this matter can be ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: This can be misused by any future Government.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Please, if you don't mind, I am not responding to the minutes. I am just giving the suggestion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Hon. Minister, the time for Private Members' Resolutions is over. Now, do you want to conclude it or do you want to continue it?

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: No, no, I want to continue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Okay, the sense of the House is to continue it. We will continue it in the next sitting of the Private Members' Resolutions day.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 17th December, 2012.

The House then adjourned at four minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 17th December, 2012.

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