

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 23rd November, 2012/2nd Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)

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

RE. SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.21, please...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I have given notice
...*(Interruptions)*...

सुश्री मायावती : माननीय सभापति जी, रिजर्वेशन विधेयक हाउस में कब आयेगा, पहले इसका फैसला होना चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No posters, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

सुश्री मायावती : सभापति जी, सरकार रिजर्वेशन विधेयक कब ला रही है, पहले इसका फैसला होना चाहिए, नहीं तो हम हाउस नहीं चलने देंगे। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : प्लीज़, आप वापिस जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I have given a notice for the suspension of Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 12.00 hours.

The House then adjourned at one minute past eleven
of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)
in the Chair]

Vol. 227
No. 2



Friday
23 November, 2012
2 Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)

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

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Achievements of SSA**

*21. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study on the impact and achievements of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has the latest data about the drop-out rate of students, including girls, at various levels in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which Government is going to address the problem in naxal-affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (e) The Central Government conducts studies from time to time to assess the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Two studies on out of school children estimated 134 lakh children out of school in 2005 which' decreased to a level of 81.5 lakh children in 2009. A study on student and teacher attendance conducted in 2006-07 revealed 68.5% student attendance at primary level and 75.7% at upper primary level while teacher attendance was found to be 81.7% and 80.5% at primary and upper primary levels, respectively.

A study on in-service teacher training revealed impact on classroom transactions in 10 out of the 15 sample States.

An evaluation of civil works under the programme was conducted in 11 States in 2006-07 which revealed active participation of Village Education Committees and better quality of school buildings.

Student learning assessment studies conducted in 3 year cycles for classes III, V and VIII have shown an improvement in student learning levels in most States/UTs.

The drop out rates in 2001-02, that is before start-up of SSA, and in

2010-11 show a steady decline from 39.03% to 27% in classes I-V and 54.65% to 40.6% in classes I-VIII.

For girls the drop out rate has come down from 39.88% to 25.10% for classes I-V and 56.92% to 41.00% for classes I-VIII in the same period. State-wise details are given in Statement (*See* below).

In order to address access and retention of children in the 6-14 years age group in the Left Wing Extremism affected (LWE) districts, 10,551 primary schools, 13,715 upper primary schools, 1,04,959 additional classrooms, 51,600 girls' toilets and 8,121 toilets have been sanctioned in these districts under SSA.

In 2012-13 special training for mainstreaming 6,59,668 out of school children into regular schools have been sanctioned for LWE districts and 889 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas (KGBVs) are functional in these districts where 36.61% of the total intake are ST girls.

These interventions have *inter-alia* resulted in an increase in enrolment in LWE districts from 2,16,98,119 in 2005-06 to 2,53,85,043 in 2011-12.

Statement

State-wise details of drop-outs

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Class I-V (Overall) | | Class I-V (Girls) | | Class I-VIII (Overall) | | Class I-VIII (Girls) | |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | | 2001-2002 | 2010-2011 | 2001-2002 | 2010-2011 | 2001-2002 | 2010-2011 | 2001-2002 | 2010-2011 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 43.03 | 17.40 | 43.46 | 16.70 | 63.09 | 32.90 | 65.16 | 32.70 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 49.77 | 43.00 | 50.16 | 42.10 | 60.62 | 50.50 | 57.42 | 49.10 |
| 3. | Assam | 48.64 | 29.90 | 51.18 | 26.40 | 69.21 | 54.00 | 71.27 | 58.20 |
| 4. | Bihar | 61.64 | 35.70 | 63.11 | 30.70 | 74.79 | 58.30 | 76.59 | 58.00 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | * | 31.00 | * | 32.20 | * | 48.30 | * | 49.00 |
| 6. | Goa | 5.73 | — | 8.12 | 2.40 | 4.19 | — | 9.89 | — |

| 4 | | [RAJYA SABHA] | | | | | | | | Starred Questions | |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 7. | Gujarat | 25.05 | 25.70 | 22.13 | 6.60 | 52.52 | 46.70 | 55.92 | 49.40 | | |
| 8. | Haryana | 30.51 | 9.40 | 30.53 | 8.90 | 12.35 | 4.60 | 17.13 | 3.90 | | |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 16.68 | 3.80 | 18.17 | 3.60 | 21.90 | – | 23.40 | – | | |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 29.27 | 8.40 | 25.38 | 6.80 | 30.14 | 6.10 | 27.30 | 4.00 | | |
| 11. | Jharkhand | * | 28.40 | * | 25.60 | * | 45.10 | * | 41.20 | | |
| 12. | Karnataka | 23.87 | 8.90 | 23.87 | 8.50 | 50.99 | 20.80 | 51.20 | 21.50 | | |
| 13. | Kerala | 0.00 | – | 0.00 | – | 0.00 | – | 0.00 | – | | |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 29.55 | 29.50 | 29.96 | 25.00 | 50.11 | 30.70 | 55.32 | 27.00 | | |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 7.37 | 20.30 | 8.77 | 19.00 | 37.03 | 25.90 | 38.90 | 27.40 | | |
| 16. | Manipur | 27.06 | 45.70 | 26.37 | 45.30 | 37.75 | 52.80 | 36.61 | 53.90 | | |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 56.96 | 58.40 | 56.75 | 55.70 | 76.99 | 70.40 | 76.90 | 68.30 | | |
| 18. | Mizoram | 59.31 | 37.90 | 57.82 | 38.70 | 59.89 | 36.70 | 58.50 | 35.70 | | |
| 19. | Nagaland | 41.50 | 39.90 | 44.44 | 39.80 | 53.36 | 45.40 | 50.80 | 45.60 | | |
| 20. | Odisha | 39.38 | 7.00 | 40.08 | 2.40 | 60.74 | 55.00 | 59.55 | 55.60 | | |
| 21. | Punjab | 20.34 | – | 19.29 | – | 36.99 | – | 38.83 | – | | |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 63.20 | 50.60 | 73.50 | 51.50 | 53.56 | 53.30 | 64.62 | 58.10 | | |
| 23. | Sikkim | 61.76 | 18.40 | 61.64 | 11.00 | 63.41 | 42.80 | 58.51 | 34.30 | | |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 27.24 | – | 24.03 | – | 40.07 | 8.00 | 35.43 | 8.20 | | |
| 25. | Tripura | 50.53 | 31.10 | 50.95 | 30.30 | 69.02 | 48.20 | 69.23 | 45.90 | | |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 49.40 | 34.10 | 54.99 | 34.80 | 60.11 | 49.70 | 66.81 | 50.20 | | |
| 27. | Uttarakhand | * | 32.90 | * | 32.20 | * | 31.60 | * | 29.30 | | |
| 28. | West Bengal | 39.86 | 28.40 | 40.41 | 27.00 | 70.87 | 49.10 | 74.38 | 47.70 | | |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0.00 | 7.80 | 0.00 | 7.10 | 26.98 | 15.10 | 26.99 | 17.10 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|--------|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 30. | Chandigarh | 12.72 | – | 9.50 | – | -1.22 | – | -6.62 | – |
| 31. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 35.41 | 12.70 | 44.28 | 16.50 | 55.41 | 33.70 | 62.68 | 40.20 |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | 0.00 | 8.30 | 0.00 | 8.00 | 16.68 | 10.80 | 23.85 | 8.30 |
| 33. | Delhi | 27.67 | 5.90 | 28.40 | 8.50 | 16.29 | – | 22.87 | – |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 17.23 | 7.10 | 23.62 | 3.10 | 23.42 | 12.70 | 24.85 | 9.70 |
| 35. | Puducherry | 0.00 | – | 0.00 | – | 2.92 | – | 3.27 | – |
| INDIA: | | 39.03 | 27.00 | 39.88 | 25.10 | 54.65 | 40.60 | 56.92 | 41.00 |

*Dropout rates are shown combined with their respective parent State.

Source: School Education Statistics of Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Train services in Tamil Nadu

*22. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new train services introduced in Tamil Nadu during the last three years, year-wise alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is introducing high-speed bullet trains in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in view of high rail traffic in Tamil Nadu, Railways have considered introducing a bullet train from Chennai *via* Madurai-Nagercoil; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Indian railways do not run train on State-wise basis, as the operation of train services run across State boundaries. However, the details of services introduced on Indian Railways and serving the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years are as under:–

| Year | No. of Trains (in single) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2010-2011 | 50 |
| 2011-2012 | 42 |
| 2012-2013 (upto 15.11.2012) | 22 |

Details of train services are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways in consultation with State Governments has selected seven corridors for carrying out pre-feasibility studies for introduction of High Speed passenger trains. These seven corridors are as follows:—

- (i) Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad (650 km. approx)
- (ii) Howrah-Haldia (135 km. approx)
- (iii) Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi-Patna (991 km. approx)
- (iv) Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijayawada-Chennai (664 km. approx)
- (v) Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram (850 km. approx)
- (vi) Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer-Jodhpur (591 km. approx.)
- (vii) Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar (450 km. approx)

The status of pre-feasibility studies are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(e) Out of seven corridors selected for carrying out pre-feasibility studies for introduction of High Speed Passenger trains, two corridors are from the State of Tamil Nadu namely:—

- (i) Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram
- (ii) Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijayawada-Chennai

Statement-I

Details of train-services

Details of train services introduced by Indian Railways during 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 (upto 15.11.2012) serving the State of Tamil Nadu.

| Sl. No. | Train No. | Train name | w.e.f. |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2010-11 | | | |
| 1. | 16175 | Chennai Egmore- Karraikal Express | 24.04.10 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------|--|----------|
| 2. | 16176 | Karraikal-Chennai Egmore Express | 24.04.10 |
| 3. | 12793 | Madurai-Chennai Egmore Express (Bi-Weekly) | 24.04.10 |
| 4. | 12794 | Chennai Egmore Madurai- Express (Bi-Weekly) | 24.04.10 |
| 5. | 16853 | Chennai Egmore-Tiruchchirappalli Express | 26.04.10 |
| 6. | 16854 | Tiruchchirappalli-Chennai Egmore Express | 26.04.10 |
| 7. | 813 | Villupuram-Mayiladythurai Passenger | 24.04.10 |
| 8. | 814 | Mayiladythurai-Villupuram Passenger | 24.04.10 |
| 9. | 817 | Villupuram-Mayiladuthurai Passenger | 23.04.10 |
| 10. | 818 | Mayiladuthurai-Villupuram Passenger | 23.04.10 |
| 11. | 18495 | Rameswaram-Bhubaneswar Express (Weekly) | 21.05.10 |
| 12. | 18496 | Bhubaneswar-Rameswaram Express (Weekly) | 21.05.10 |
| 13. | 12653 | Tiruchchirappalli-Mangalore Express (Weekly) | 02.10.10 |
| 14. | 12654 | Mangalore-Tiruchchirappalli Express (Weekly) | 02.10.10 |
| 15. | 12755 | Chennai Central-Haldia Weekly Express | 09.12.10 |
| 16. | 12756 | Haldia-Chennai Central Weekly Express | 09.12.10 |
| 17. | 76813 | Nagore-Velankanni Passenger | 20.12.10 |
| 18. | 76814 | Velankanni-Nagore Passenger | 20.12.10 |
| 19. | 76817 | Nagapattinam-Velankanni Passenger | 20.12.10 |
| 20. | 76818 | Velankanni-Nagapattinam Passenger | 20.12.10 |
| 21. | 16537 | Bangalore-Nagercoil Weekly Express | 22.01.11 |
| 22. | 16538 | Nagercoil-Bangalore Weekly Express | 22.01.11 |
| 23. | 66602 | Erode-Coimbatore Passenger (MEMU) - 6 Days | 25.01.11 |
| 24. | 66603 | Coimbatore- Erode Passenger (MEMU) - 6 Days | 25.01.11 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------|---|----------|
| 25. | 56764 | Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli Passenger | 25.01.11 |
| 26. | 56763 | Tirunelveli -Tiruchendur Passenger | 25.01.11 |
| 27. | 12757 | Coimbatore-Tirupati Express (tri weekly) | 25.01.11 |
| 28. | 12758 | Tirupati- Coimbatore Express (tri weekly) | 25.01.11 |
| 29. | 76825 | Thanjavur-Mayiladhuturai Passenger | 25.01.11 |
| 30. | 76826 | Mayiladhuturai-Thanjavur Passenger | 25.01.11 |
| 31. | 12243 | Chennai Central-Coimbatore AC Duronto Express (6 Days) | 26.01.11 |
| 32. | 12244 | Coimbatore-Chennai Central AC Duronto Express (6 Days) | 26.01.11 |
| 33. | 12753 | Chennai Central-New Jalpaiguri Express | 02.02.11 |
| 34. | 12754 | New Jalpaipuri-Chennai Central Express | 02.02.11 |
| 35. | 43002 | Avadi-Chennai Central EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 36. | 42403 | Chennai Central-Sullurupetta EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 37. | 42802 | Sullurupeta-Chennai Beach EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 38. | 41051 | Chennai Beach-Velacherry EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 39. | 41052 | Velacherry-Chennai Beach EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 40. | 43821 | Chennai Beach-Tiruttani EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 41. | 43512 | Tiruttani-Chennai Central EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 42. | 43431 | Chennai Central- Arakkonam Fast EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 43. | 43438 | Arakkonam-Chennai Central EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 44. | 43029 | Chennai Central-Avadi EMU | 25.02.11 |
| 45. | 16779 | Madurai-Tirupati Express (Bi-Weekly) | 31.03.11 |
| 46. | 16780 | Tirupati-Madurai Express (Bi-weekly) | 31.03.11 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------------|-------|--|----------|
| Passing through services | | | |
| 47. | 12867 | Howrah-Puducherry Express (Weekly) | 08.04.10 |
| 48. | 12868 | Puducherry-Howrah Express (Weekly) | 08.04.10 |
| 49. | 12543 | Yesvantpur-Tirupati Express (Tri-Weekly) | 25.01.11 |
| 50. | 12544 | Tirupati-Yesvantpur Express (Tri-Weekly) | 25.01.11 |
| 2011-12 | | | |
| 1. | 56146 | Coimbatore-Mettupaliyam Passenger (6 Days) | 01.07.11 |
| 2. | 56147 | Mettupaliyam-Coimbatore Passenger (6 Days) | 01.07.11 |
| 3. | 56148 | Coimbatore-Mettupaliyam Passenger (6 Days) | 01.07.11 |
| 4. | 56149 | Mettupaliyam-Coimbatore Passenger (6 Days) | 01.07.11 |
| 5. | 56150 | Coimbatore-Mettupaliyam Passenger (6 Days) | 01.07.11 |
| 6. | 56151 | Mettupaliyam-Coimbatore Passenger (6 Days) | 01.07.11 |
| 7. | 16611 | Coimbatore-Tuticorin Link Express (daily) | 01.07.11 |
| 8. | 16612 | Tuticorin-Coimbatore Link Express (daily) | 01.07.11 |
| 9. | 22601 | Chennai Central-Sai Nagar Shirdi Express (weekly) | 06.07.11 |
| 10. | 22602 | Sai Nagar Shirdi- Chennai Central Express (weekly) | 06.07.11 |
| 11. | 22681 | Mysore-Chennai Super Fast Express (Weekly) | 06.07.11 |
| 12. | 22682 | Chennai-Mysore Super Fast Express (Weekly) | 06.07.11 |
| 13. | 66002 | Avadi-Chennai Central MEMU | 19.07.11 |
| 14. | 66015 | Chennai Central-Tirupati Passenger | 19.07.11 |
| 15. | 66036 | Nellore-Chennai Passenger | 19.07.11 |
| 16. | 66003 | Chennai-Avadi Passenger | 19.07.11 |
| 17. | 66004 | Avadi-Chennai Passenger | 19.07.11 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------------|-------|--|----------|
| 18. | 66035 | Chennai-Nellore Passenger | 19.07.11 |
| 19. | 66014 | Tirupati-Chennai Passenger | 19.07.11 |
| 20. | 66005 | Chennai-Avadi Passenger | 19.07.11 |
| 21. | 17315 | Vasco-Velankannai Express (weekly) | 29.08.11 |
| 22. | 17316 | Velankannai-Vasco Express (weekly) | 29.08.11 |
| 23. | 16179 | Chennai Egmore-Mannargudi "Mannai" Express | 27.09.11 |
| 24. | 16180 | Mannargudi-Chennai Egmore "Mannai" Express | 27.09.11 |
| 25. | 19567 | Madurai-Okha Vivek Express (Weekly) (announced upto Tuticorin) | 12.11.11 |
| 26. | 19568 | Okha -Madurai Vivek Express (Weekly) (announced upto Tuticorin) | 12.11.11 |
| 27. | 22603 | Kharagpur -Villupuram Express (Weekly) | 20.02.12 |
| 28. | 22604 | Villupuram-Kharagpur Express (Weekly) | 20.02.12 |
| 29. | 66019 | Katpadi- Salem MEMU | 19.03.12 |
| 30. | 66020 | Salem-Katpadi MEMU | 19.03.12 |
| Passing through services | | | |
| 31. | 22403 | Puducherry-New Delhi Express | 07.06.11 |
| 32. | 22404 | New Delhi-Puducherry Express | 07.06.11 |
| 33. | 22607 | Ernakulam-Bangalore Express (Weekly) | 24.07.11 |
| 34. | 22608 | Bangalore-Ernakulam Express (Weekly) | 24.07.11 |
| 35. | 22815 | Bilaspur-Ernakulam Express (Weekly) | 14.11.11 |
| 36. | 22816 | Ernakulam-Bilaspur Express (Weekly) | 14.11.11 |
| 37. | 15905 | Kanniyakumari-Dibrugarh Vivek Express (Weekly) | 26.11.11 |
| 38. | 15906 | Dibrugarh-Kanniyakumari Vivek Express (Weekly) | 26.11.11 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|-----------|
| 39. | 22851 | Santragachi-Mangalore Vivek Express (Weekly) | 25.02.12 |
| 40. | 22852 | Mangalore-Santragachi Vivek Express (Weekly) | 25.02.12 |
| 41. | 22817 | Howrah-Mysore Express (Weekly) | 24.02.12 |
| 42. | 22818 | Mysore-Howrah Express (Weekly) | 24.02.12 |
| 2012-13 upto 15.11.2012 | | | |
| 1. | 22605 | Purulia-Villupuram Express (Weekly) | 13.04.12 |
| 2. | 22606 | Villupuram-Purulia Express (Weekly) | 13.04.12 |
| 3. | 22825 | Shalimar-Chennai Express (Weekly) | 03.07.12 |
| 4. | 22826 | Chennai-Shalimar Express (Weekly) | 03.07.12 |
| 5. | 76805 | Mannargudi-Tiruchchirappalli-Manamadurai Passenger | 01.07.12 |
| 6. | 76806 | Manamadurai-Tiruchchirappalli- Mannargudi Passenger | 01.07.12 |
| 7. | 76807 | Mannargudi-Tiruchchirappalli-Manamadurai Passenger | 01.07.12 |
| 8. | 76808 | Manamadurai-Tiruchchirappalli-Mannargudi Passenger | 01.07.12 |
| 9. | 17407 | Tirupati-Mannargudi Express (Tri-weekly) | 04.07.12 |
| 10. | 17408 | Mannargudi-Tirupati Express (Tri-weekly) | 01.07.12 |
| 11. | 22627 | Tiruchchirappalli-Tirunelveli Intercity Express. | 14.07.12. |
| 12. | 22628 | Tirunelveli-Tiruchchirappalli Intercity Express. | 14.07.12 |
| 13. | 22859 | Puri-Chennai Express (Weekly) | 22.07.12 |
| 14. | 22860 | Chennai-Puri Express (Weekly) | 22.07.12 |
| 15. | 12375 | Chennai Central-Asansol Express (Weekly) | 28.07.12 |
| 16. | 12376 | Asansol-Chennai Central Express (Weekly) | 28.07.12 |
| 17. | 22475 | Bikaner-Coimbatore Express (Weekly) | 12.09.12 |
| 18. | 22476 | Coimbatore- Bikaner Express (Weekly) | 12.09.12 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------|----------------------------------|----------|
| 19. | 56797 | Tirunelveli -Sengottai Passenger | 21.09.12 |
| 20. | 56796 | Sengottai -Tirunelveli Passenger | 21.09.12 |
| 21. | 56799 | Tirunelveli -Sengottai Passenger | 21.09.12 |
| 22. | 56898 | Sengottai -Tirunelveli Passenger | 21.09.12 |

Statement-II

Status of pre-feasibility studies

- (i) **Consultancy for pre-feasibility study for Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad (650 km.):** Pre-feasibility study has been completed and the Final Report submitted by the consultant has been accepted by the Ministry of Railways.
- (ii) **Consultancy for Pre-feasibility study for Howrah-Haldia (135 km.):** Pre-feasibility study has been completed. The consultant has submitted the Final Report to Ministry of Railways and same is under consideration
- (iii) **Consultancy for Pre-feasibility study for Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi-Patna (991 km.):** Pre-feasibility study has been completed. The consultant has submitted the Final Report to Ministry of Railways and the same is under examination.
- (iv) **Consultancy for Pre-feasibility study for Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijayawada-Chennai (664 km.):** The study is in progress. The Consultant has submitted Inspection Report and Interim Report No. I and II. Draft Final Report. Final Report is expected by December, 2012.
- (v) **Consultancy for Pre-feasibility study for Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram (850 km.):** The study is in progress. The consultant has submitted Inspection Report and Interim Report No. I and II. Draft Final Report and Final Report is expected by December, 2012 and January, 2013.
- (vi) **Consultancy for Pre-feasibility study for Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer-Jodhpur (591 km.):** The proposal for invitation of tender to engage a consultant is under finalization.

- (vii) **Consultancy for Pre-feasibility study for Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar (450 km):** The proposal for re-invitation of tender to engage a consultant is under finalization.

New Education Policy

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

- (a) whether Government has a proposal or is in favour of introduction of a New Education Policy in tune with the changes in education sector at the global level and to make it employment-oriented;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether opinion has been sought from educationists and State Governments in order to formulate the New Education Policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (d) The National Policy on Education 1986, as amended in 1992, has been the guiding document for the policies of the Central Government in the education sector. In the last twenty years, the education scenario has seen a monumental change with the emergence of several new paradigms like rights based approach to elementary education, the endeavour to extend universalization to secondary education, reshape the higher education scenario and its impact on the innovation environment and providing an impetus to skill development through vocational education in the context of the emergence of new technologies in a rapidly expanding economy placed in a globalised environment.

In order to meet the challenges taking place in the Education sector, the Government proposes to set up an Education Commission to make recommendations for improvement at all levels of education.

Further, the Government has taken several initiatives like; enactment of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act, 2009 which provides for right to free and compulsory education upto elementary level to every child in the country; Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan—a programme for universalization of secondary education; Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan—a programme of universalization of elementary education; Mid Day Meal Scheme launched with a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children and also National Curriculum Framework, 2005.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has also introduced Bills in the Parliament aiming at reforms in higher education which include proposals for 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.

A National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) has also been developed so as to provide horizontal and vertical mobility between general and vocational education so as to make education employment-oriented.

Education, being in the concurrent list, is the responsibility of both Centre as well as the State Governments. Educational reforms are taking place after consultation with all stakeholders including State Governments and academics.

Production of Kharif crops

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

(a) the quantum of Kharif crops produced in the country during the current year; and

(b) the quantum of Kharif crops estimated and the extent of loss occurred due to scanty/excess rainfall in the country, during this period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per First Advance Estimates for 2012-13 released on 24th September, 2012, details of production of kharif crops during the current year *vis-a-vis* their average production are given in the table below:—

| Crop | Kharif Production (Million Tonnes) | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | 2012-13 (1st Advance Estimates) | Average Production (2007-08 to 2011-12) | Decline(-)/ Increase(+) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Rice | 85.59 | 83.17 | 2.42 |
| Jowar | 2.63 | 3.32 | -0.69 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Bajra | 6.60 | 9.16 | -2.56 |
| Maize | 14.89 | 14.88 | 0.01 |
| Ragi | 1.65 | 2.06 | -0.41 |
| Small Millets | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.00 |
| Coarse Cereals | 26.33 | 29.98 | -3.65 |
| Tur | 2.78 | 2.66 | 0.12 |
| Urad | 1.14 | 1.11 | 0.03 |
| Moong | 0.73 | 1.06 | -0.33 |
| Other Kharif Pulses | 0.61 | 0.88 | -0.27 |
| Pulses | 5.26 | 5.71 | -0.45 |
| Foodgrains | 117.18 | 118.86 | -1.68 |
| Groundnut | 3.82 | 5.71 | -1.89 |
| Castorseed | 1.40 | 1.38 | 0.02 |
| Sesamum | 0.76 | 0.74 | 0.02 |
| Nigerseed | 0.09 | 0.11 | -0.02 |
| Sunflower | 0.10 | 0.27 | -0.17 |
| Soyabean | 12.62 | 11.17 | 1.45 |
| Oilseeds | 18.78 | 19.39 | -0.61 |
| Sugarcane | 335.33 | 325.11 | 10.22 |
| Cotton\$ | 33.40 | 28.08 | 5.32 |
| Jute\$\$ | 10.62 | 10.40 | 0.22 |
| Mesta\$\$ | 0.68 | 0.72 | -0.04 |

\$ Million bales of 170 kg. each.

\$\$ Million bales of 180 kg. each.

BSNL services in Andhra Pradesh

*25. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) in telecom services in Andhra Pradesh is on the decline; and

(b) the details of revenue earned by BSNL, during the last five years in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The market share of telephone subscribers of BSNL in the State of Andhra Pradesh has increased during last two financial years. The details of market share of BSNL as on 31st March of 2010, 2011 and 2012 are as follows:—

| As on | BSNL's Market share in the State of Andhra Pradesh (%) |
|------------|--|
| 31.03.2010 | 13.77 |
| 31.03.2011 | 14.77 |
| 31.03.2012 | 15.88 |

(b) The details of revenue earned, by BSNL during last five financial years in Andhra Pradesh are as follows:—

| Sl. No. | Financial Year | Revenue Earned by BSNL in the State of Andhra Pradesh (Rs. in crore) |
|---------|----------------|--|
| 1. | 2007-08 | 2507.42 |
| 2. | 2008-09 | 2544.90 |
| 3. | 2009-10 | 2405.06 |
| 4. | 2010-11 | 2539.68 |
| 5. | 2011-12 | 2399.43 |

Mobile services in remote areas of Uttarakhand

†*26. 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 is aware that mobile services remain disrupted in remote areas of Uttarakhand due to weak network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) the details of efforts made by the Ministry to ensure that the benefits of mobile services reach the people of remote areas of the State; and

(c) whether the Ministry would provide better services than the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is working satisfactorily in its Licensed Service Areas including Uttarakhand and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). However, due to road widening works in remote hilly areas undertaken by various agencies in Uttarakhand, the transmission media gets affected badly and its restoration takes longer time due to climatic condition and road approach not being proper in remote hilly terrain. Due to disturbance in transmission media, mobile services get affected.

BSNL augments its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage, capacity and to further improve the Quality of Service. BSNL is also optimizing its network continuously for its performance. For expansion and improvement of mobile services in Uttarakhand, various steps are being taken by BSNL like re-orientation of antenna, regular monitoring of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) sites, upgradation in configuration of BTS etc.

In remote/rural areas of Uttarakhand circle, the telecom services provided by BSNL are, in general, better or comparable to the private operators.

Economic losses suffered by Railway Departments

†*27. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal from Railways to cut the expenditure to be incurred on development in order to adjust imbalance between income and expenditure of its budget;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the estimated amount to be cut down during the current year;
- (c) whether Government has identified those Railway Departments where Railways have to bear economic losses almost every year; and
- (d) if so, the names of such Departments and the amount of average economic loss in each Department, per annum?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the trend of shortfall in generation of targeted internal resources, the plan outlay for the current year has been reassessed downward from ₹ 60,100 cr. to ₹ 55,881 cr.

(c) and (d) Railways are run as a single integrated organization, its accounts are not maintained department-wise and profitability is not calculated on departmental lines. On overall basis, the earnings have always exceeded expenditure. The position of earnings and working expenses (including pension) of Railways in the last three years is as under:—

(₹ in cr.)

| Year | Earnings | Working Expenses (including Pension) |
|--------------|----------|---|
| 2010-11 | 94,526 | 83,959 |
| 2011-12 | 1,04,154 | 92,147 |
| 2012-13 (BE) | 1,28,429 | 1,02,900 |

Organic farming

*28. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote organic farming in the country;
- (b) whether Government is taking action to spread awareness about organic farming at the grassroot level; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government of India is promoting organic farming through National Project on Organic

Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro-Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF), Network Project on Organic Farming under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the various schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Development Authority (APEDA).

NPOF scheme provides financial assistance through capital investment subsidy for fruit and vegetable waste/agro-waste compost production units, bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides production units, development and implementation of quality control regime and technical support for organic and biological inputs, human resource development through trainings etc. Assistance upto 25% and 33% of financial outlay upto a ceiling of Rs.40 lakhs and 60 lakhs respectively is provided as back ended subsidy for establishment of bio pesticides/bio fertilizers production units and agro waste compost production units respectively.

"National Horticulture Mission" (NHM) provides financial assistance for adoption of organic farming @ Rs. 10,000/- per hectare for maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary, for setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs.30,000/- per beneficiary, and for organic farming certification @ Rs.5.00 lakh for a group of farmers covering an area of 50 hectares.

Assistance for decentralized production and marketing of organic fertilizers is also available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) for projects formulated and approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.

Assistance @ 25% of total cost limited to Rs.1000/- per ha is being provided for integrated nutrient management in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients like FYM, Compost, Vermicompost, Bio-fertilizers etc. under the Macro-management of Agriculture (MMA).

Assistance @ Rs.500 per ha for promoting use of Integrated Nutrient Management-Organic Manures under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF).

ICAR is implementing a Network Project on Organic Farming to develop package of practices of different crops under organic farming in different agro-climatic regions of the country. ICAR also imparts training and organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on various aspects of organic farming.

APEDA, an organization under Ministry of Commerce is implementing National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) to provide various services such as certification, notification of standards, assistance for promotion of exports of organic products etc.

In addition, Government is spreading awareness about organic farming through various extension activities such as exhibitions and fairs, Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres, mass media support activities, radio talks, Kisan Melas, etc.

Quality of food served under MDMS

*29. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism for ascertaining the quality of food served under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS);

(b) whether Government has received any reports or complaints regarding the quality of food served under the Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to maintain the quality of food served under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Mid Day Meal Guidelines stipulate that children at primary stage be provided with a meal to ensure 450 calories of energy and 12 grams of protein and 700 calories of energy and 20 grams of protein at upper primary stage. The food norms for primary and upper primary children are also clearly defined. To ensure that good quality nutritious food is served, there is an extensive monitoring mechanism at school, block, district, State and the national levels. The Scheme is constantly reviewed through Quarterly Progress Reports, in the National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee meetings and during Programme Approval Board meetings. In addition, the Central Review Missions visit the States/UTs for an on the spot assessment and independent Monitoring Institutes also evaluate the Scheme at regular intervals.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, in the last three years and the current year, complaints of poor quality food served to the children have been received. The details of such complaints received at the national level are given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) The Mid Day Meal Guidelines provide for lifting of good quality foodgrains of atleast FAQ quality from FCI godown, storage of food items in dry and safe places, cooking meal in hygienic environment through properly trained cook-cum-helpers. The cooked food has to be tasted by 2-3 adults including one teacher before serving it to the children. In addition, community involvement is promoted in implementation and supervision of the Mid Day Meal Scheme and officers of the State level have been deputed to frequently inspect the hygienic standards.

Statement

Details of complaints received at national level

Year-wise and State-wise complaints received regarding poor quality food

| State | Year | Total |
|---------------|------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Bihar | 2009 | 0 |
| | 2010 | 2 |
| | 2011 | 1 |
| | 2012 | 1 |
| Rajasthan | 2009 | 1 |
| | 2010 | 0 |
| | 2011 | 0 |
| | 2012 | 0 |
| Assam | 2009 | 0 |
| | 2010 | 0 |
| | 2011 | 1 |
| | 2012 | 1 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 2009 | 0 |
| | 2010 | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----------------|------|---|
| | 2011 | 1 |
| | 2012 | 3 |
| Haryana | 2009 | 0 |
| | 2010 | 1 |
| | 2011 | 3 |
| | 2012 | 1 |
| Punjab | 2009 | 0 |
| | 2010 | 0 |
| | 2011 | 0 |
| | 2012 | 1 |
| Delhi | 2009 | 3 |
| | 2010 | 1 |
| | 2011 | 3 |
| | 2012 | 2 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 2009 | 4 |
| | 2010 | 1 |
| | 2011 | 1 |
| | 2012 | 1 |
| Maharashtra | 2009 | 0 |
| | 2010 | 0 |
| | 2011 | 0 |
| | 2012 | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------|------|----|
| Jharkhand | 2009 | 1 |
| | 2010 | 0 |
| | 2011 | 0 |
| | 2012 | 0 |
| Karnataka | 2009 | 0 |
| | 2010 | 1 |
| | 2011 | 0 |
| | 2012 | 1 |
| West Bengal | 2009 | 0 |
| | 2010 | 0 |
| | 2011 | 0 |
| | 2012 | 2 |
| TOTAL: | | 40 |

Supply of phosphatic fertilizers to Madhya Pradesh

†*30. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite making arrangements for advance payment to the authorized companies of Central Government by Madhya Pradesh as per the instructions for supply of phosphatic fertilizers, Madhya Pradesh is not being supplied these fertilizers as per demand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to ensure adequate availability of DAP and other phosphatic fertilizers to Madhya Pradesh again, as per the earlier arrangement?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The requirement of all fertilizers is assessed by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) in consultation with State Government in the beginning of the season and conveyed to Department of Fertilizers. On the basis of demand assessed by DAC, Department of Fertilizers prepares a monthly supply plan indicated by importers and indigenous manufacturers of the fertilizers. Various States make supply arrangements with fertilizer companies for meeting their requirements. The movement plan is approved by the Government keeping in view the 'least cost method' for minimizing the cost of freight. The data on availability of phosphatic fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh as per table below would show that adequate quantity of phosphatic fertilizers was available in Madhya Pradesh.

The requirement and availability of phosphatic fertilizers (DAP+NPK) in Madhya Pradesh from April, 2012 to October, 2012 are as below:-

Phosphatic Fertilizers (DAP + NPK)

(Figures in 000'MTs)

| Months | Requirement | Stock Pre-positioned during Feb-March, 2012 | Opening Stock | Receipts | Availability |
|--------------|-------------|---|---------------|----------|--------------|
| April-12 | 26.42 | 292.38 | 108.29 | 18.20 | 126.49 |
| May-12 | 105.21 | - | 120.71 | 52.22 | 172.93 |
| June-12 | 217.67 | - | 84.66 | 103.39 | 188.05 |
| July-12 | 140.69 | - | 72.33 | 173.61 | 245.94 |
| August-12 | 139.53 | - | 73.66 | 229.88 | 303.56 |
| September-12 | 240.48 | - | 126.57 | 182.77 | 309.34 |
| October-12 | 313.25 | - | 150.04 | 208.92 | 358.96 |

*The stock pre-positioned during February to March, 2012 is over and above the month-wise availability.

New train services from Bhavnagar, Gujarat

*31. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not considering starting of new train services from Bhavnagar in Gujarat to Kolkata, New Delhi, Chennai and other parts of the country, keeping in view the proposed new power plant there;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted any traffic survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Introduction of trains from Bhavnagar station to Kolkata/New Delhi/Chennai etc. is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints including inadequate terminal/maintenance facilities at New Delhi/Kolkata/Chennai and line capacity constraints on certain sections *en-route*.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Overcharging of medicines by companies

*32. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the medicines brought under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and the price fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for these medicines;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Authority has found cases of overcharging of medicines by major companies in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of such cases detected alongwith the action being taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As per Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) 74 scheduled bulk drugs and formulations containing any of those 74 bulk drugs come under the purview of price control and the prices of

these scheduled drugs/medicines are fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the provisions of the said Order.

(b) and (c) No one is authorized to sell any scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than the price fixed by the NPPA. In case, a company is found selling the scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than the prices fixed by NPPA, appropriate action is initiated against them by NPPA under para 13 of the DPCO, 1995 read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for recovery of the overcharged amount.

Based on detection of overcharging cases since its inception and till 31st October, 2012, NPPA has issued demand notices in 885 cases involving an amount of Rs.2577.28 crore (overcharging alongwith interest) for selling the medicines at a price higher than the prices fixed under DPCO, 1995. Out of which, Rs.232.52 crore has been realized till 31.10.2012 leaving a balance of Rs.2344.76 crore to be realized. Out of Rs.2344.76 crore, an amount of Rs.2260.80 crore is under litigation and pending in various courts, Rs. 16.26 crore is pending for recovery with Collectors of various States and the balance of Rs.67.70 crore is under process. This is an on-going process.

Ragging incidents in Central Universities

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has suspended seven Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- BHU students following a ragging complaint;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students suspended on this count from the Central Universities across the country, during the last two years; and

(d) the deterrent action taken against the erring students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-BHU, the following action has been taken against seven students, who were involved in ragging—

- (i) suspended from attending classes and academic privilege for the current semester with immediate effect and their registrations in current semester stand cancelled. In case they are found indulging in any misconduct, they will be liable for more stringent punishment.
- (ii) suspended from the hostel facility forthwith for the current semester.
- (iii) imposed penalty of Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand only) to each, to be deposited within ten days.
- (iv) debarred from privileges of campus interview.

(c) and (d) Out of the 40 Central Universities under the Ministry, the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Tripura University and Visvabharati have reported cases of ragging in the last two years. BHU has rusticated 3 students for one year and suspended 10 students found involved in ragging. Tripura University and Visvabharati suspended 5 and 2 students respectively. The other action taken by these Universities against the erring students include, amongst others, expelling or suspension from hostel for a certain period, debarring from academic privileges for a certain period, debarring the erring students from taking admission in any course or academic programme of the University.

Availability of basic infrastructure in schools

*34. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many schools in the country do not have basic infrastructure, including drinking water and toilets;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has given any direction to the Central Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has taken any action to provide basic infrastructure in schools; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) As per District Information System for Education (DISE) data

2011-12 (provisional) 87.9% Government elementary schools in the country have toilet facilities and 94.3% Government schools drinking water facilities.

(b) and (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court in writ petition (Civil) No. 631 of 2004 in the matter of Environmental and Consumer Protection Foundation vs. Delhi Administration and Others, has directed, in its order dated 3.10.2012 to all States and Union Territories to ensure providing toilet facilities for boys and girls, drinking water facilities, sufficient classrooms, etc. if not already provided, be implemented within six months.

(d) and (e) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) seeks to augment school infrastructure with the objective of meeting RTE requirements, for which so far 3,04,454 school buildings, 17,91,860 additional classrooms, 8,53,624 toilets and 2,29,840 drinking water facilities have been sanctioned across the States/Union Territories.

Projected spending on IT

*35. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether spending on Information Technology (IT) in the country is projected at \$71.5 billion in 2013, a 7.7 per cent increase from the \$66.4 billion forecasted for 2012; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Electronics and I.T. (DeitY) is not compiling any sectoral performance data. Such projections are being made by Global I.T. Research and Advisory Companies. According to one of such recent global survey, overall I.T. spending in India is projected to \$71.5 billion in 2013, as against US \$66.4 billion during 2012 *i.e.* an increase of 7.7%.

Market-based pricing system for drugs

*36. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group of Ministers (GoM) has recommended to adopt the method of market-based pricing instead of cost-based system to

fix the cost of 348 drugs being brought under the National List of Essential Medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that by this method consumers are not going to get the benefit and in fact it is the manufacturing companies which are going to be benefited; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which included anti-cancer drugs also. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) was circulated among the concerned Ministries/Stakeholders. The draft Policy was also available for comments of any other interested person on the Department's website www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in till 30.11.2011. The views/inputs received on the draft NPPP-2011 were examined and the matter was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM).

(c) and (d) No final decision has yet been taken in this matter.

Vacant posts in Railways

†*37. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of posts lying vacant under different categories in Railways at present;

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes posts lying vacant in the above mentioned category-wise vacancies; and

(c) the plan of Government to fill up the vacancies mentioned at (a) and (b) above?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Category-wise vacancies as on 01.04.2012 on the Zonal Railways is as under:-

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Group 'C' | 244098* |
| Erstwhile Group 'D' | 7232* |
| | (*provisional) |

(b) As per Government of India policy, 15%, 7½% and 27% posts are reserved for Schedule Caste (SC), Schedule Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) respectively. The backlog vacancy of SC, ST and OBC, as on 01.04.2012 is as under:-

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Category | |
| Group 'C' | 3130 |
| Erstwhile Group 'D' | 5534 |

(c) Notifications for filling up of about 2 lakhs posts have already been issued, which includes vacancies reserved for SC, ST and OBC.

Vacant posts of teachers

*38. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of vacant posts of teachers in the country;

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

(c) the steps Government is taking to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) There is an estimated shortage of 7.34 lakh teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as on 30.09.2012. A State-wise Statement on the total number of teachers in SSA schools is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

The Centrally sponsored scheme Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), *inter-alia* provides for appointment of additional teachers in existing Government secondary schools to improve the Pupil Teacher Ratio. Under RMSA, 40018 teachers

posts for existing secondary schools and 55974 teachers posts for new secondary schools have been sanctioned so far. The State-wise details are given in Statement-II (See below).

(c) The recruitment of teachers at elementary level is undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. States/UTs have been advised to expedite the recruitment of teacher posts sanctioned under SSA, as well as teacher vacancies under the State sector. The issue has been discussed with the States in meetings with State Education Ministers, State Education Secretaries, State Project Directors and in the SSA Project Approval Board Meetings.

Statement-I

The number of teachers in SSA schools

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Teacher posts Sanctioned till 2012-13 | Teacher Recruitment till 2012-13 (30.9.2012) | Vacancies under SSA (30.9.2012) | Vacancies reported under State Budget as on 31st March, 2012 |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 39189 | 38319 | 870 | 15379 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 7262 | 5226 | 2036 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 48808 | 38364 | 10444 | 13757 |
| 4. | Bihar | 403413 | 191983 | 211430 | 55464 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 67507 | 54985 | 12522 | 50766 |
| 6. | Goa | 169 | 149 | 20 | 86 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 58688 | 31336 | 27352 | 0 |
| 8. | Haryana | 13435 | 6345 | 7090 | 13906 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 5856 | 3553 | 2303 | 1009 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 43471 | 39739 | 3732 | 5438 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 11. | Jharkhand | 120396 | 84672 | 35724 | 23656 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 29055 | 24278 | 4777 | 15336 |
| 13. | Kerala | 2925 | 0 | 2925 | 88 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 173855 | 98287 | 75568 | 16244 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 42091 | 8522 | 33569 | 6729 |
| 16. | Manipur | 2871 | 1544 | 1327 | 0 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 13262 | 14020 | -758 | 0 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 2485 | 1303 | 1182 | 0 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 3147 | 590 | 2557 | 7 |
| 20. | Odisha | 89901 | 88442 | 1459 | 23679 |
| 21. | Punjab | 14090 | 7432 | 6658 | 19161 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 114132 | 94201 | 19931 | 32622 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 724 | 223 | 501 | 0 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 33214 | 22497 | 10717 | 14495 |
| 25. | Tripura | 6980 | 5694 | 1286 | 0 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 423553 | 258924 | 164629 | 147593 |
| 27. | Uttarakhand | 14316 | 5998 | 8318 | 7746 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 198253 | 115797 | 82456 | 98473 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 210 | 162 | 48 | 125 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 1390 | 785 | 605 | 109 |
| 31. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 937 | 526 | 411 | 294 |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | 119 | 95 | 24 | 145 |
| 33. | Delhi | 7104 | 4342 | 2762 | 3006 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|------------|-------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 38 | 16 | 22 | 40 |
| 35. | Puducherry | 48 | 36 | 12 | 552 |
| TOTAL SSA: | | 1982894 | 1248385 | 734509 | 565905 |

Statement-II

*Progress on Teacher Recruitment in New Schools
(2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12)*

| Sl. No. | No of State | 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 Cumulative Total of Teachers Posts Sanctioned in New Schools |
|---------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 209 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 0 |
| 3. | Bihar | 5579 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 9482 |
| 5. | Daman and Diu | 12 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 1968 |
| 7. | Haryana | 348 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 544 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3682 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 1782 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 2055 |
| 12. | Kerala | 672 |
| 13. | Lakshadweep | 31 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 5664 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------|---------------|-------|
| 15. | Meghalaya | 175 |
| 16. | Manipur | 830 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 532 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 1086 |
| 19. | Odisha | 5654 |
| 20. | Puducherry | 54 |
| 21. | Punjab | 1192 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 7902 |
| 23. | Tripura | 415 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 4576 |
| 25. | Uttarakhand | 1530 |
| TOTAL: | | 55974 |

Additional Teachers sanctioned since inception of the scheme

| Sl. No. | States | Total No. of Additional teachers posts sanctioned | Approval year |
|---------|----------------|---|---------------|
| 1. | Madhya Pradesh | 9665 | 2011-12 |
| 2. | Maharashtra | 949 | -do- |
| 3. | Rajasthan | 8098 | -do- |
| 4. | Andhra Pradesh | 9569 | -do- |
| 5. | Karnataka | 1373 | -do- |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu | 6752 | -do- |
| 7. | Haryana | 3612 | 2012-13 |
| TOTAL: | | 40018 | |

Originally it was 14602; Originally it was 19011.

Hike in charges for Speed Post services

*39. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has hiked charges for Speed Post services from ₹ 12 to ₹ 17 *w.e.f.* 1 October, 2012;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is earning more profit through Speed Post services and if so, whether it should, instead of decreasing the tariff, increase the tariff, thereby, becoming a profit-earning body;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Speed Post services do not ensure time-bound delivery of letters; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal to roll back the hike?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Speed Post rates for local articles have been increased from Rs. 12 to Rs. 17 (including service tax) *w.e.f.* 1st October, 2012. The details of Speed Post tariff prior to 1st October, 2012 and thereafter are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The revision of rate became necessary following escalation in costs of operations since 2001 when the last major revision of Speed Post rate took place.

(c) No, Sir. The Department of Posts is not earning more profit due to increase in tariff. The revision of rate will only partially cover the enhanced costs of operations.

(d) No, Sir. Speed Post service ensures time bound delivery as per the delivery norms given in the Citizen's Charter of the Department of Posts.

(e) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

Statement

Speed Post tariff prior to 01.10.2012

| Weight | Local | Upto 200 Kms. | 201 to 1000 Kms. | 1001 to 2000 Kms. | Above 2000 Kms. |
|-------------|--------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Upto 50 gms | Rs.12* | Rs.25* | Rs.25* | Rs.25* | Rs.25* |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| 51 to 200 gms. | Rs.20 | Rs.25 | Rs.30 | Rs.50 | Rs.60 |
| 201 to 500 gms. | Rs.20 | Rs.40 | Rs.45 | Rs.70 | Rs.80 |
| Additional 500 gms. or part thereof | Rs.5 | Rs.7.50 | Rs.15 | Rs.30 | Rs.40 |

*Inclusive of service tax and education cess

Proof of Delivery charges for Speed Post articles shall be rupees ten per Speed Post article in addition to Speed Post charge.

Speed Post tariff w.e.f. 01.10.2012

| Weight | Local (within municipal limits) | Upto 200 Kms. | 201 to 1000 Kms. | 1001 to 2000 Kms. | Above 2000 Kms. |
|---|--|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Upto 50 grams | Rs.15 | Rs.35 | Rs.35 | Rs.35 | Rs.35 |
| 51 grams to 200 grams | Rs.25 | Rs.35 | Rs.40 | Rs.60 | Rs.70 |
| 201 grams to 500 grams. | Rs.30 | Rs.50 | Rs.60 | Rs.80 | Rs.90 |
| Additional 500 grams or part thereof | Rs.10 | Rs.15 | Rs.30 | Rs.40 | Rs.50 |

The above tariff will be exclusive of taxes. The taxes will have to be paid extra as notified by the Central Government from time to time.

Proof of Delivery charges for Speed Post articles shall be rupees ten per Speed Post article in addition to Speed Post charge.

Subsidy on Urea and DAP

†*40. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy in crores of rupees given by Government on Urea, DAP and other fertilizers every year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that despite so much subsidy, DAP and Urea have become costlier by ₹ 500 and ₹ 200 per bag, respectively;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government is considering to provide cheap DAP and Urea to farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The details of subsidy paid on Urea and Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the last ten years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The MRP of Urea was increased from Rs.241.50 to Rs.265.50 per bag of 50 kg with effect from 1.4.2010 and further increased by Rs.2.50 per bag w.e.f. 1.11.2012. Therefore the price of Urea has not increased by Rs.200 per bag. The price of DAP has, however, increased more than Rs.500 per bag during past two years.

(c) and (d) The Department of Fertilizers is implementing Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers w.e.f. 1.4.2010. Under the NBS Policy, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on annual basis is provided to the subsidized P&K fertilizers depending upon its nutrient content. The Maximum Retail Prices of P&K fertilizers are fixed by the fertilizer companies.

India is fully dependent on imports in Potash sector and to the extent of 90% in case of Phosphate sector in terms of either finished fertilizers or raw material. Since subsidy is fixed, any rise or fall in the international prices of P&K fertilizers and its inputs affects the MRP of these fertilizers in the country. Further variation in exchange rate also affects the delivered prices of these fertilizers.

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

In spite of increase in subsidy during the year 2011-12, the MRP of P&K fertilizers increased during the year due to sharp increase in the prices of P&K fertilizers and their raw materials in international market. The depreciation of Indian Rupee further added to the increase in MRP of these fertilizers.

The price increase during 2012-13 is mainly due to depreciation of Indian Rupee and partly due to marginal increase international prices.

To summarise, the increase in the prices of P&K fertilizers is mainly due to increase in international prices of P&K fertilizers, which is not under the control of the Government and also on account of depreciation of India Rupee.

The MRP of Urea has remained unchanged since 1.4.2010 except a marginal increase of Rs.2.50 per bag w.e.f. 1.11.2012.

Statement

Details of subsidy paid on Urea and P&K fertilizers

(Rs. in Crores)

| Period | P&K Fertilizers including DAP | Urea | Total subsidy |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 2001-02 | 4503.52 | 8191.5 | 12695.02 |
| 2002-03 | 3224.52 | 7791.16 | 11015.68 |
| 2003-04 | 3326.00 | 8521.82 | 11847.82 |
| 2004-05 | 5142.18 | 10985.52 | 16127.70 |
| 2005-06 | 6596.19 | 12793.45 | 19389.64 |
| 2006-07 | 10298.12 | 17721.43 | 28019.55 |
| 2007-08 | 16933.80 | 26385.36 | 43319.16 |
| 2008-09 | 65554.79 | 33939.92 | 99494.71 |
| 2009-10 | 39452.06 | 24580.23 | 64032.29 |
| 2010-11 | 41500.00 | 24336.68 | 65836.68 |
| 2011-12 | 36107.94 | 37683 | 73790.94 |
| Actual Allocation BE 2012-13 | 28576.12 | 37016.01 | 65592.13 |

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Revenue earned by IT industries**

†156. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the revenue being earned by medium scale Information Technology Industrial Institutions in the country is increasing at a higher rate than the revenue earned by large Information Technology Industrial Institutions;
- (b) if so, the assessment of Government in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the percentage of increase in revenue of the companies under the above mentioned categories during the years 2010-11 and 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the revenue of mid-tier firms grew between 13-17 per cent during FY 2010-11 and between 11-15 per cent in FY 2011-12 whereas revenue of Tier-1 firms (large companies) grew between 20-24 per cent during FY 2010-11 and between 15-19 per cent in FY 2011-12.

Demand and supply of vegetables in urban areas

157. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the gap between demand and supply in vegetable sector is ever increasing in urban areas;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to bridge the gap of demand and supply, particularly in urban areas; and
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to take any special initiative in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) No gap between demand and supply of vegetables

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

has been reported from urban areas. However, in order to address supply chain deficiencies in the vegetable sector and to enhance production and productivity of vegetables, alongwith improving nutritional security, the Government has launched a scheme entitled "Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters" (VIUC) during the year 2011-12, under the aegis of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The scheme is being implemented in one city covering each of 29 States with a minimum population of one million or the Capital City of the State with the exception of Jammu and Kashmir, where both capital cities are covered under VIUC. The scheme is being continued during 2012-13 besides initiating Baseline Survey in a few more potential urban centres of different States.

Development of market infrastructure

158. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments had submitted proposals to the Central Government for development of market infrastructure in their respective State in the current financial year or in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof mentioning therein the details of the projects submitted during the last three years;

(c) how many of these projects are approved and how many have been rejected and on what grounds; and

(d) the progress of the remaining projects and by when all of them would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Assistance for development of market infrastructure in different States, is provided under various major schemes of Central Government, *i.e.* (i) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), (ii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM), (iii) Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), and (iv) Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization (AMIGS). Under RKVY scheme, States are provided with flexibility and autonomy in the process of selection, approval and execution of schemes/projects, including market infrastructure projects.

Under NHM scheme, 145 proposals of different State Governments were received

during current year and last three years, out of which 124 proposals were approved and 21 proposals were returned to State Governments for seeking clarifications with respect to provisions of operational guidelines.

Under HMNEH scheme, 161 proposals were received from different State Governments during current year and last three years, out of which 68 proposals have been sanctioned and 93 have not been sanctioned due to reasons of non compliance to operational guidelines.

Under AMIGS scheme, total 98 projects proposals were received during current year and last three years from the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Nagaland. While 15 projects of Maharashtra and Gujarat have been received recently, 21 projects have been approved and 62 projects were not approved due to non-compliance with the provisions of the scheme.

Setting up of hi-tech mini dairy units

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up hi-tech mini dairy units across the country to boost milk production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a proposal to set up such units in Jharkhand too; and
- (d) if so, the districts wherein such units are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Dairy units including hi-tech mini-dairy units are set up by End Implementing agencies in the State. The Ministry of Agriculture provides financial assistance under following schemes to promote setting up of dairy units to boost milk production in the country:

- I. **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** – It a State plan scheme. Under the scheme, funds are released to the State Government on the basis of projects approved" in the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) and no earmarking of funds for different sectors is done. Since States have been provided full flexibility and autonomy in the process of selection, planning, approval and execution of projects, States choose and select the

projects for implementation, in view of their regional and agro-climatic priorities and requirements for increasing production and productivity in the State.

II. **National Mission for Protein Supplement (NMPS)** – It is sub-scheme of RKVY. Details of the components under which establishment of dairy units are promoted are given in Table A in Statement-I (*See below*).

III. **Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS)** – The scheme is implemented by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through commercial, cooperative, urban cooperative and rural banks. The pattern of assistance is given in Table B in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Government of Jharkhand has informed setting up of dairy units comprising of milch animals from 2-100 animals/unit under RKVY in all 24 districts namely, Ranchi, Khnuti, Lohardaga, Simdega, Gumla, Jamshedpur, Saraikela, Chaibasa, Garhwa, Latehar, Palamau, Hazaribagh, Koderma, Bokaro, Ramgarh, Giridih, Dhanbad, Chatra, Dumka, Godda, Deoghar, Pakur, Sahebganj and Jamtara in the State.

Under DEDS scheme, details of small dairy units have been established in the districts namely, Deogarh, Garhwa, Palamau and Sahibganj of Jharkhand.

Statement-I

Table A

Table indicating details of the components under National Mission for Protein Supplement (NMPS) for establishment/strengthening of dairy units:

| Sl.No. | Component | Pattern of Assistance |
|--------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Strengthening of dairy units through induction of cross bred cows/indigenous descript milch cows like Sahiwal, Red Sindhi, Gir, Rathi etc./graded buffaloes upto 100 animals | The State Government Departments, State Government owned Undertaking/ Board/ Authorities would be given 100 % grant for undertaking the activities. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|--|--|
| 2 | Rearing of heifer calves-crossbred, indigenous descript milk breeds of cattle and graded buffalo upto 50 animals | <p>The projects implemented through Dairy/ Milk Cooperative Societies would be on 75:25 cost sharing basis between Central grant and Implementing agency's share.</p> <p>In case of the project being implemented by a progressive dairy farmer the assistance from the scheme should be limited to 25% of the project cost.</p> |

Statement-II

Table B

Table indicating details of the components under Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) for establishment of dairy units:

| Sl.No. | Component | Pattern of Assistance |
|--------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Establishment of small dairy units with cross bred cows/indigenous descript milch cows like Sahiwal, Red Sindhi, Gir, Rathi etc./graded buffaloes upto 10 animals | <p>25% of the outlay (33.33 % for SC/ST farmers) as back-ended subsidy subject to ceiling of Rs 1.25 lakh for unit of 10 animals (Rs.1.67 lakh for SC/ST farmers). Maximum permissible capital subsidy is Rs.25,000 (Rs.33,300 for SC/ST farmers) for a 2 animal unit. Subsidy shall be restricted on a pro-rata basis depending on the unit-size.</p> <p>Unit cost is Rs.5.0 lakh for 10 animal unit- minimum unit size is 2 animals with an upper limit of 10 animals.</p> |
| 2. | Rearing of heifer calves-crossbred, indigenous descript milch breeds of cattle and of graded buffalo upto 20 calves | 25% of the outlay (33.33 % for SC/ST farmers) as back-ended subsidy subject to ceiling of Rs. 1.20 lakh for unit of 20 calves (Rs.1.60 lakh for SC/ST farmers) |

1

2

3

ST farmers). Maximum permissible capital subsidy is Rs.30,000 (Rs.40,000 for SC/ST farmers) for a 5 calf unit. Subsidy shall be restricted on a pro-rata basis depending on the unit-size.

Unit cost is Rs.4.80 lakh for 20 calves unit - minimum unit size is 5 calves with an upper limit of 20 calves.

World Agriculture Congress

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

(a) whether India is set to host the World Agriculture Congress next year under the theme of Reshaping Agriculture for a Sustainable Future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has prepared the agenda for the event; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) World Agriculture Forum (WAF) conducts their Biennial Congresses at different places. In response to invitation extended by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. WAF has decided to hold their next Biennial Congress for the year 2013 at Hyderabad on the theme "Reshaping Agriculture for a Sustainable Future".

(b) As per the response received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. WAF is a policy neutral and not for profit international Non-Government organization based in the USA. According to the details available on their website www.worldagforum.com. the mission of WAF is to catalyse development of action plans that meet world's growing need for food, fiber, fuel and water. WAF Agriculture Congress is scheduled to be held from November 04-07, 2013 at Hyderabad.

The Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh is the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee set up for organizing the World Agriculture Congress.

(c) and (d) Draft Agenda of WAF 2013 Congress is available on the website of the Forum. However, the Andhra Pradesh Government may ask the organizers to modify it after taking into consideration the suggestions to be made by all stakeholders including Government.

Agricultural growth rate

†161. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the status of agriculture growth rate in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that agriculture growth is lower than the expectation; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to increase the agriculture growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As against the targeted Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 4% in the Eleventh Plan period (2007-08 to 2011-12) Agriculture and Allied Sectors registered a growth rate of 1.0 % in 2009-10 and 7.0% in 2010-11 at 2004-05 prices as per the quick estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 31st January, 2012. Further, as per the revised estimates released by CSO on 31st May, 2012. Agriculture and Allied Sectors is estimated to grow at 2.8% in 2011-12 at 2004-05 prices. There are year to year fluctuations in the growth rates, primarily due to fluctuation in weather as vast cultivated area is still rainfed. However, Agriculture and Allied Sectors have shown improvement in performance by registering an average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 3.3% during the Eleventh Plan, which is higher than the average growth rate of 2.4% during the Tenth Plan and 2.5% during the Ninth Plan Periods.

(c) The Government of India has launched several schemes to increase the agricultural growth rate such as, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Difference between prices of agricultural produce at
various APMCs**

162. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or going to be taken by Central Government in consultation with State Governments to inform the price of various agricultural commodities, fruits and vegetables of Agri Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Yards to farmers, as there is difference between prices of these agricultural produce between various APMCs, to take advantage of maximum profit;

(b) whether the Ministry approaches to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to declare agri product price bulletin of various APMCs *via* FM radio or television or through SMS; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture launched the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Central Sector Scheme of "Marketing Research and Information Network" in March, 2000 to provide internet-based connectivity to important wholesale markets in the country for collection and dissemination of price and market related information. Presently about 1900 wholesale markets are reporting market information with respect to prices and arrivals for more than 300 major agricultural and horticultural commodities in the central AGMARKNET portal (<http://www.agmarknet.nic.in>). Besides this, 16 State Marketing Boards have their own website having linkages with central AGMARKNET portal. Farmers may also receive the market information from the AGMARKNET portal, through SMS/Voice calls.

The central sector scheme "Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension" has been launched, under which facilities of Doordarshan and All India Radio are being utilized to transmit programs in agriculture for the farming community. Similarly, 96 Rural FM Radio Stations of All India Radio are being utilized to broadcast 30 minutes programme for farmers for 6 days a week. A Bulletin on "Agriculture News and Mandi Bhav" is being broadcasted through Doordarshan to provide agriculture related information including prices to farmers.

Shortfall in Kharif crops due to delayed monsoon

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

(a) whether the delayed monsoon is all set to adversely affect the Kharif crop output this year;

(b) if so, the details of Kharif rice, pulses and coarse cereals output; and

(c) the concrete steps Government is taking to make up Kharif shortfall of these produces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates (First Advance Estimates, 2012-13), Kharif food grain production for 2012-13 is 117.18 million tonnes which is 12.76 million tonnes less compared to that of 2011-12.

(c) Steps have been taken for enhancing coverage and productivity of rabi crops through initiatives like, early sowing, extending the enhanced ceiling on seed subsidy for rabi crops, fast tracking of releases under the schemes/programmes etc. Further to compensate the losses of kharif pulses production, a programme on Additional Area Coverage of Pulses during Rabi/Summer 2012-13 has been sanctioned with an allocation of Rs.100.00 crore. It is reported that as on 16.11.2012, the Rabi coverage is 19.58 million hectare which is about 0.9 million hectare more compared to the normal crop coverage during the corresponding period.

Minimum Support Price for Palm oil

164. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representations from State Governments with regard to announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Palm oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of MSP they have sought;

(d) whether any action has been taken on such representations; and

- (e) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh had earlier requested for including oil palm in the list of crops identified for announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Under the MSP Scheme those commodities are covered which are mostly items of mass consumption of all India nature with fairly long shelf life and/or necessary for food/nutrition security.

Since oil palm is a perishable commodity, it is not covered under MSP. However, it is covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), which is implemented by Ministry of Agriculture on the request of State Governments, for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of fall in market prices. The above position has been communicated to Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Development of dairy sector

165. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the plan of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to generate a credit flow of about ₹ 400 crore for the next three years to enhance the production and efficiency of dairy farming in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details of important elements of this scheme; and
- (c) the other steps Government proposes to take to improve the dairy sector in Punjab and at the national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) NABARD has prepared an Area Development Scheme on Dairy Development *i.e.* "Dairy Development through Improved Technique" for generating credit flow of Rs. 303.90 crores in Ludhiana and Rupnagar Districts of Punjab over a period of three years. The project has been prepared in consultation with concerned departments of the Government of Punjab and the State government is also an important partner in the implementation of the Plan.

- (b) The important elements of Area Development Scheme on Dairy are:

| Sl. No. | Elements | Estimated credit flow (Rs. crore) |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Loans to small and marginal farmers for setting up dairy units | 169.00 |
| 2. | Loans to SHG/JLG members for dairy farming | 42.80 |
| 3. | Loans to commercial dairy units | 34.00 |
| 4. | Credit for Modernization and expansion of milk plant | 29.00 |
| 5. | Loans for Installation of Bulk Milk Coolers, Milking Parlour etc. | 15.00 |
| 6. | Strengthening infrastructure of milk societies | 11.00 |
| 7. | Setting up of Common Service Centres (Silage Making, Feed Mixing, Indigenous Milk processing, packaging etc.) | 1.30 |
| 8. | Loans for setting up of dairy marketing outlets | 1.00 |
| 9. | Setting up agri clinic/AI Centre | 0.80 |
| TOTAL: | | 303.90 |

(c) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries is implementing the following schemes for Dairy Development in the country including Punjab.

1. Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)*
2. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production (SIQ&CMP)
3. Assistance to Cooperatives (A to C)
4. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS).
5. National Dairy Plan (Phase-I)

*Intensive Dairy Development Programme' (IDDP) is being implemented in hilly and backward areas including the districts, which have received less than Rs.50.00 lakh for dairy development activities during Operation Flood Programme. As per this provision, Punjab is not eligible for assistance under IDDP Scheme.

In addition to this State Government of Punjab has initiated the following steps to improve the dairy sector in Punjab:

- Genetic up-gradation by importing superior germ plasm as well as sexed semen.
- Improvement and strengthening of dairy education, training and extension services.
- Expansion of dairy farming facilitating opening of new dairy farms.
- Encouraging commercialization and modernization of dairy farming.

Appropriate price to small farmers for their produces

†166. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to implement any scheme in favour of the small farmers of the country to provide the producers appropriate price for their agricultural products during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the mechanism in place for implementation of the scheme?

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

The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops 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, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government ensures MSP through procurement operations undertaken by the Central, State and cooperative agencies in the States.

In addition, Government is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under the Price Support Scheme. The MIS is implemented on the request of State/UT Government in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when the prices tend to fall below the cost of production.

Kits to detect adulteration in milk and dairy products

167. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) has developed certain kits to detect various kinds of adulteration in milk and other dairy products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India has validated all the above kits; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for early availability of these kits in the market for use of the common man especially in Madhya Pradesh?

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

(b) A kit has been developed for detection of starch, sugar, glucose, urea, ammonium compounds, pond water, common salt, neutralizers, hydrogen peroxide, formalin in milk. The kit also contains reagents for detection of 'Vanaspati in ghee'.

In addition to this, a test for detection of detergent in milk has also been developed. The test is sensitive to detect minimum levels of 20 mg detergent per 100 ml of milk. It is simple and rapid and does not require laboratory equipments.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Presently, the kit is being used by several units in the Dairy industry. NDRI has also offered the kit for commercialization to the public/private sector companies.

Ban on selling of Bt. Cotton seeds

168. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the States in the country, including Maharashtra, have banned Mahyco from selling Bt. Cotton seeds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all the twelve varieties of seeds are banned to sell by Mahyco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) There is no ban on sale of Bt. Cotton seeds in States except in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) Ban has been imposed due to irregularities in supply of Bt. Cotton seed, non submission of entire production plan, reservations in sale plan and encouraged over pricing.

(c) and (d) Name of varieties which are banned for sale in the State are MECH-12, MRC-6301, MRC-7301, MRC-7326, MRC-7347, MRC-7351, MRC-7918, MRC-7383, MRC-7385, MRC-7387, MRC-7377 and MRC-6304.

Inclusion of millets in Noon Meal Scheme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked all State Governments to include millets in the Noon-Meal-Scheme to increase the demand of the cereal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the millet farming is declining for lack of policy and institutional support; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Mid-day-Meal Scheme (MDMS) is implemented

by Ministry of HRD in the Country. National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) an apex body for MDMS advises the Central Government on the policy issues for implementation of Mid-day-Meal Scheme. NSMC approved the inclusion of Millets in MDMS in its meeting held on 1st August, 2011, which the Ministry of HRD has agreed to.

All the States/UTs were informed to estimate the requirement of coarse grains including millets and submit to the Ministry of HRD to forward it to Department of Food and Public Distribution for allotment. None of the State Government submitted their demand for the millets during 2012-13.

A meeting was also convened by the Ministry of Agriculture with Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to facilitate inclusion of millets under Mid-day-Meal scheme on pilot scale basis and the requirement accordingly has been forwarded to Ministry of HRD.

(c) and (d) A new scheme called "Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP)" was launched in 2011-12 as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to demonstrate the improved production and post-harvest technologies in an integrated manner. Besides, increasing production of millets, the scheme, through processing and value addition techniques, is expected to generate consumer demand for millet based food products.

Growth rate of agriculture sector

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

(a) the growth rate realised in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether Government is satisfied with the performance of agriculture sector and taken mid-term corrective action to boost the growth rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the targeted and actual growth realised;

(d) whether Government has set any target for growth rate in agriculture for the Twelfth Five Year Plan in the light of achievement/pitfall noticed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) As against the targeted Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 4%, the average growth rate realised in the Agriculture and Allied Sectors during the Eleventh Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12) is 3.3%. Agriculture and Allied Sectors registered a growth of 5.8% in 2007-08, 0.1% in 2008-09, 1.0% in 2009-10 and 7.0% in 2010-11 at 2004-05 prices as per the quick estimates released by CSO on 31st January, 2012. Further, as per the revised estimates released by CSO on 31st May, 2012, Agriculture and Allied Sectors is estimated to grow at 2.8% in 2011-12 at 2004-05 prices.

As a result of the corrective actions undertaken by the government to boost the agricultural growth rate under various plan schemes *viz.*, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc., the growth performance of agriculture sector has shown improvement during the Eleventh Plan (3.3%) as compared to the growth performance during Tenth Plan (2.4%) and Ninth Plan (2.5%).

(d) and (e) The Approach Paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan States that Agriculture Sector has to grow at 4% average growth if not more in the Twelfth Plan.

During the Twelfth Five Year Plan, focus will be on sustaining higher agricultural growth in the country through effective transfer of latest crop production technologies to farmers under various crop development schemes being presently implemented by the ministry.

Procurement prices of agricultural products

†171. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to increase the procurement prices of agricultural produces specially the prices of sugarcane, wheat and paddy;

(b) if so, whether this procurement price would be more than the input cost of the farmers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the plan of Government for enhancing the production of agricultural products specially pulses, paddy and wheat in view of the food guarantee scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for wheat and paddy, and Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for 2011-12 and 2012-13 season are given below:

(₹ per quintal)

| Commodity | MSP for 2011-12 | MSP for 2012-13 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Wheat | 1285 | — |
| Paddy (Common) | 1080 | 1250 |
| Paddy Grade - A | 1110 | 1280 |
| Sugarcane* | 145 | 170 |

*Fair and remunerative price.

The Government has decided for further consultation with Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) regarding MSP for wheat for 2012-13.

(b) and (c) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops covered under MSP on the recommendations of the 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, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, international market prices situation etc.

(d) For enhancing the production and productivity of agricultural products specially pulses, paddy and wheat, the Government, *inter-alia*, implements various schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) covering rice, wheat and pulses, bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) etc. under which incentives are given with a view to increasing agricultural productivity and production.

Fund earmarked for SCSP and TSP

172. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds earmarked for SCSP and TSP during last five financial years as per the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission *vide* its letter dated 26 December, 2006;

(b) if no such funds were earmarked during the last five years, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether separate Budget Head has been opened for SCSP and TSP for financial year 2011-12 as mandated by the Department of Expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The details of funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) during the last 5 years is as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

| Year | Total Budget of the DAC | Amount earmarked for | |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| | | SCSP* | TSP* |
| 2007-08 | 5887.94 | 953.85 | 471.04 |
| 2008-09 | 6933.98 | 1123.30 | 554.72 |
| 2009-10 | 7218.16 | 1169.34 | 577.45 |
| 2010-11 | 10492.00 | 1699.70 | 839.36 |
| 2011-12 | 8654.18 | 1401.98 | 692.33 |

*Prior to 2011-12, no separate provision for SC and ST component have been provided in the detailed Demand for Grants. While releasing funds and issuing sanctions under various schemes, condition of spending at least 16.2% and 8% of the amount for the benefit of SCs and STs, respectively was used to be imposed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. From 2011-12 onwards, funds for SCSP and TSP have been provided in separate Minor Heads viz. 789 and 796, respectively in the detailed Demand for Grants.

Development of Animal husbandry in Rajasthan

†173. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central scheme has been introduced for the Development of animal husbandry in Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has been implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Central Sector Schemes in the States/UTs including Rajasthan during the last three years. These schemes include Livestock Health and Disease Control, Feed and Fodder Development, Dairy Development (Intensive Dairy Development Programme, Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production, Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme), Fishery Development and National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding. During the year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, a total sum of Rs. 19.79 crore, Rs.7.32 crore and Rs.21.99 crore have been released to the State Government of Rajasthan against which expenditure reported is Rs. 18.08 crore, Rs.7.71 crore and Rs. 16.54 crore respectively for the above schemes.

Reduction in size of cultivable land

174. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cultivable land available in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is reduction in the size of cultivable land available for agricultural use;

(c) whether Government proposes to allow changes in land use from agriculture to industry; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per the latest Land Use Statistics data (2009-10) compiled by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, the size of cultivable land available for agricultural use in the country has marginally declined to 182.5 million hectares during 2009-10 as compared to 182.7 million hectares during 2007-08. The State-wise details of the cultivable land in the country is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of State Governments and therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring in suitable Policy/Act/Legislation to check the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. With a view to prevent conversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes. Government of India has also taken several steps, *viz.*

National Policy for Farmers 2007 (NPF 2007): National Policy for Farmers, 2007 has recommended that "Prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture except under exceptional circumstances, provided that the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded/wastelands elsewhere. For non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated." State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities.

National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP, 2007): National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 formulated by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources has recommended that as far as possible, projects may be set up on wastelands, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non agricultural use in project may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped land may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes, and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum. These policies have been sent to the States/UTs for implementation.

Further, to increase the agricultural land area in the country and for maintaining

balance in different types of land uses, the Government is implementing various Programmes/Schemes, such as, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP and FPR), (iii) Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS) and (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA).

Statement

State-wise Cultivable land

(Area in Thousand Hectares)

| State/Union Territory | Cultivable land |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 15921 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 424 |
| Assam | 3211 |
| Bihar | 6601 |
| Chhattisgarh | 5570 |
| Goa | 197 |
| Gujarat | 12680 |
| Haryana | 3730 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 824 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 1058 |
| Jharkhand | 4288 |
| Karnataka | 12891 |
| Kerala | 2303 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 17298 |

| 1 | 2 |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Maharashtra | 21130 |
| Manipur | 240 |
| Meghalaya | 1052 |
| Mizoram | 415 |
| Nagaland | 671 |
| Odisha | 7126 |
| Punjab | 4206 |
| Rajasthan | 25569 |
| Sikkim | 98 |
| Tamil Nadu | 8131 |
| Tripura | 310 |
| Uttarakhand | 1548 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 19148 |
| West Bengal | 5684 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Island | 28 |
| Chandigarh | 2 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 24 |
| Daman and Diu | 4 |
| Delhi | 53 |
| Lakshadweep | 3 |
| Puducherry | 30 |
| ALL INDIA: | 182466 |

Source: Land Use Statistics at a Glance 2009-10, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture.

Suicide by farmers

175. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of suicide by farmers in the country so far in 2012, State-wise, including the State of Haryana;

(b) whether there is a decrease in the number of suicides as compared to the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the proposed plan of action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) During 2012, so far suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons have been reported in Andhra Pradesh (11) and Maharashtra (118) in the calendar year and Karnataka (2) in the financial year by respective State Governments. Government of Haryana has informed that no cases of suicide by farmers have been reported in the State.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. As reported by respective State Governments, there is a decrease in the number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in 2012 as compared to the last two years. During 2011, cases of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons were reported in Andhra Pradesh (183) and Maharashtra (485) in the calendar year and Karnataka (38) in the financial year. During 2010, cases of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons were reported in Andhra Pradesh (237), Maharashtra (548) and Punjab (4) in the calendar year and Karnataka (122) in the financial year.

Support to poor and small farmers

176. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of cultivators in the country with less than one acre of land;

(b) the percentage of total agricultural land they hold;

(c) their share out of total assistance extended by Government to farmers;

(d) their share in total agricultural production; and

(e) whether Government intends to revise its present policy of supporting better off farmers by extending more support to poor and small farmers in order to improve agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per provisional results of the latest Agriculture Census 2010-11, marginal operational holdings with operated area less than 0.50 hectare (0.50 hectare = 1.24 acre) accounted for 46.71 per cent of total operational holdings and 9.46 per cent of the total operated area respectively, in the country.

(c) to (e) The Government provides financial incentives, grants, concessions to the farmers with special emphasis on holdings of small and marginal farmers through various Schemes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Revised Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds, etc. Besides, Government has taken several measures for improving share of small and marginal farmers in total agricultural credit flow. As a result, share of small and marginal farmers in total agricultural credit flow has increased from 36 per cent in the year 2010-11 to 45 per cent in the year 2011-12. The data on share of marginal operational holdings in agriculture production is not maintained in the Ministry.

Co-operatization of agriculture sector

177. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has attempted to co-operativise agricultural sector, especially small and middle peasants;

(b) if so, to what extent it has succeeded;

(c) whether it has been possible to safeguard them from fierce exploitation by vested interests by bringing them together under village co-operatives; and

(d) whether it would be more practical and beneficial to them to distribute seeds and other inputs and ensure fair prices through these co-operatives rather than allowing foreign direct investment in retail trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Cooperative being a State subject, the States are expected to take necessary steps for promotion and development of the cooperatives. Each State have agriculture cooperative societies which provide agricultural inputs like, credit, seeds, pesticides, implements etc., to the farmers. Government of India has taken various measures for promoting and developing the Cooperative sector in the country. These include, *inter-alia* framing of national policy on cooperatives, enactment of Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002, assistance to cooperative education and training, assistance through NCDC for development of cooperatives, implementation of recommendations of the Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee, amendment to Constitution in respect of cooperatives, amendment to MSCS Act, 2002 and constitution of High Power Committee on Cooperative etc. Further, in view of the importance of the Cooperatives, the National Policy for Farmers provides for encouraging and supporting small farmers cooperatives to take up activities, such as processing, value addition and marketing of produces. Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade would complement and further strengthen these linkages to the farm sector.

Production of chilli

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is one of the major Chilli producing States in the country with potential to further increase the production;

(b) if so, the details of Chilli production in the State during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the incentives Government has so far provided to Chilli growers of Maharashtra and what further incentives Government propose to provide them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Maharashtra produced 45.600 tonnes of Chilli during 2010-11, constituting about 3.5% of total chilli production in the country. Details of production of Chilli in Maharashtra during the last three years is given below:—

| Year | Production (Tonnes) |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| 2008-2009 | 45,400 |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----------|--------|
| 2009-2010 | 45,400 |
| 2010-2011 | 45,600 |

Source: Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut

(c) Since 2005-06, the Government is implementing National Horticulture Mission in the country including the State of Maharashtra. Under the Mission incentives are provided for development of horticulture crops including spices like Chilli. For cultivation of spices, farmers are given assistance of Rs. 12,500 per hectare up to a maximum area of four hectares per beneficiary. Assistance is also provided for taking up Integrated Pest Management measures at the rate of Rs.1000 per hectare, for upto a maximum for four hectares per beneficiary. These incentives are being continued during the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Copra production in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra has the potential for copra production in a big way;

(b) if so, the details of copra production in the State during last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to tap the potential of copra production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) No, Sir. Coconut produced in Maharashtra is mostly consumed as tender coconut or mature coconut.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable

Investment in agriculture and allied sectors

180. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total investment in agriculture and allied sectors in the country during past three years, State-wise;
- (b) the percentage of households owning agricultural land of area upto 10 cents, upto one hectare, upto 50 hectares or more than 50 hectares, State-wise;
- (c) the total capital generated from agriculture during the past three years;
- (d) the rate of growth of agricultural production during the past three years;
- (e) the contribution of agriculture to GDP during the past three years, State-wise; and
- (f) the factors hampering growth in the agricultural sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The gross capital formation (investment) in agriculture and allied sectors in the country during past three years is given in the table below:—

| Year | Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors at 2004-05 prices (Rs. in crore) |
|---------|---|
| 2008-09 | 127127 |
| 2009-10 | 131139 |
| 2010-11 | 142254 |

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO).

Further, State-wise investment details are not compiled by CSO.

This Ministry does not maintain data on ownership of agricultural land. However, Agriculture Census being conducted by this Ministry on quinquennial basis collects information on operational land holdings for agriculture purposes by size groups. State-wise percentage of different size groups of operational holdings to total operational holdings is given in Statement-I (See below).

- (d) Agriculture and Allied Sectors registered a growth rate of 1.0% in

2009-10 and 7.0% in 2010-11 at 2004-05 prices as per the quick estimates released by CSO on 31st January, 2012. Further, as per the revised estimates released by CSO on 31st May, 2012, Agriculture and Allied Sectors is estimated to grow at 2.8% in 2011-12 at 2004-05 prices.

(e) As per the latest estimates released by CSO State-wise details of contribution of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in GDP are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(f) Agriculture and Allied Sectors have shown improvement in performance by registering an average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate, of 3.3% during the Eleventh Plan, which is higher than the average growth rate of 2.4% during the Tenth Plan and 2.5% during the Ninth Plan Periods.

Statement-I

State-wise percentage of different size groups of operational holdings to total operational holdings as per provisional results of Agriculture Census 2010-11

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Percentage of different size groups of operational holdings to total operational holdings* | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Marginal (below 1.00 ha.) | Small (1.00-2.00 ha.) | Semi-medium (2.00-4.00 ha.) | Medium (4.00-10.00 ha) | Large (10.00 ha. and above) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 39.19 | 20.46 | 26.58 | 13.49 | 0.28 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 63.94 | 22.15 | 10.62 | 3.02 | 0.27 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 19.63 | 17.69 | 31.14 | 25.56 | 5.97 |
| 4. | Assam | 67.31 | 18.25 | 11.16 | 3.12 | 0.15 |
| 5. | Bihar | 91.06 | 5.86 | 2.56 | 0.50 | 0.02 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 63.45 | 18.63 | 10.92 | 6.58 | 0.42 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 58.26 | 22.18 | 13.43 | 5.39 | 0.74 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 55.54 | 26.51 | 12.27 | 4.98 | 0.71 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 92.35 | 5.48 | 1.64 | 0.43 | 0.10 |
| 10. | Delhi | 55.17 | 22.04 | 14.53 | 7.53 | 0.73 |
| 11. | Goa | 78.82 | 11.16 | 6.22 | 2.98 | 0.82 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 36.89 | 29.12 | 22.00 | 10.48 | 1.51 |
| 13. | Haryana | 48.11 | 19.47 | 17.55 | 12.04 | 2.83 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 69.69 | 18.23 | 8.86 | 2.88 | 0.34 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 83.25 | 11.53 | 4.39 | 0.79 | 0.04 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 68.23 | 15.83 | 10.44 | 4.75 | 0.75 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 49.14 | 27.30 | 16.17 | 6.52 | 0.86 |
| 18. | Kerala | 96.32 | 2.64 | 0.83 | 0.18 | 0.03 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 95.81 | 2.60 | 1.26 | 0.25 | 0.08 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 43.86 | 27.60 | 18.65 | 8.89 | 1.00 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 48.98 | 29.56 | 15.75 | 5.18 | 0.53 |
| 22. | Manipur | 50.95 | 32.43 | 14.76 | 1.83 | 0.03 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 52.22 | 29.13 | 15.28 | 3.24 | 0.12 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 54.65 | 32.38 | 10.80 | 1.88 | 0.29 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 4.29 | 11.47 | 26.45 | 43.65 | 14.14 |
| 26. | Odisha | 72.17 | 19.68 | 6.67 | 1.36 | 0.12 |
| 27. | Puducherry | 85.71 | 8.36 | 4.36 | 1.35 | 0.21 |
| 28. | Punjab | 15.62 | 18.57 | 30.83 | 28.35 | 6.62 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 29. | Rajasthan | 36.46 | 21.94 | 19.38 | 16.36 | 5.86 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 54.02 | 22.61 | 14.43 | 7.90 | 1.04 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 77.19 | 14.56 | 6.19 | 1.85 | 0.21 |
| 32. | Tripura | 85.17 | 9.75 | 4.36 | 0.71 | 0.02 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 79.23 | 13.14 | 5.79 | 1.73 | 0.11 |
| 34. | Uttarakhand | 73.65 | 17.24 | 7.10 | 1.90 | 0.12 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 82.16 | 13.76 | 3.75 | 0.32 | 0.01 |
| TOTAL | | 67.04 | 17.93 | 10.05 | 4.25 | 0.73 |

Note: (1) Total may not tally due to rounding off.

(2) *As per provisional results of Agriculture Census.

Statement-II

State-wise contribution of agriculture to GDP during the past three years

(in percent) (at 2004-05 prices)

| Sl.No. | Name of the State/UT | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|--------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 18.2 | 17.5 | 17.3 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 15.2 | 13.9 | 16.3 |
| 3. | Assam | 19.6 | 19.2 | 19.2 |
| 4. | Bihar | 23.8 | 20.3 | 19.8 |
| 5. | Jharkhand | 14.5 | 12.0 | 11.7 |
| 6. | Goa | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 11.3 | 10.3 | 10.9 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|--------------------------------|------|------|------|
| 8. | Haryana | 18.5 | 16.2 | 15.8 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 15.5 | 12.0 | 13.9 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 19.0 | 18.2 | 17.5 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 13.4 | 13.8 | 14.1 |
| 12. | Kerala | 10.2 | 9.2 | 8.3 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 21.5 | 21.6 | 20.4 |
| 14. | Chhattisgarh | 12.1 | 12.9 | 14.3 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 6.8 | 6.5 | 6.9 |
| 16. | Manipur | 19.3 | 20.1 | 20.3 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 13.9 | 13.2 | 12.6 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 15.0 | 15.1 | 14.5 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 22.0 | 21.3 | 22.1 |
| 20. | Odisha | 14.8 | 15.3 | 14.4 |
| 21. | Punjab | 25.4 | 23.8 | 22.9 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 18.5 | 17.0 | 20.1 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 13.0 | 7.9 | 7.5 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.2 |
| 25. | Tripura | 20.6 | 19.3 | 17.9 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 23.0 | 21.4 | 20.8 |
| 27. | Uttarakhand | 9.2 | 8.8 | 8.3 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 15.6 | 15.6 | 14.5 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 7.8 | 6.9 | 6.5 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 30. | Chandigarh | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| 31. | Delhi | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| 32. | Puducherry | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.5 |

Source: CSO.

Decline in fertility of land

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

(a) whether it is a fact that fertility of agricultural land has been eroded due to use of Chemical fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to popularize and produce organic manure in the country to increase the fertility of land and the production of agricultural crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) There is no scientific evidence of declining fertility of agricultural land with judicious use of chemical fertilizers. However, indiscriminate and imbalanced use of fertilizers coupled with low addition of organic matter has resulted in deterioration of soil health in the country particularly in the intensively cultivated areas of Ingo-Gangetic plains.

(b) Following steps have been taken by the Government to popularize and produce organic manure in the country:—

- (i) Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) financial assistance is provided as credit linked back ended subsidy @ 33 per cent of total outlay restricted to Rs.60.00 lakh for setting up fruit/vegetable market waste/ Agro-waste compost production units
- (ii) Under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSH&F) financial assistance is provided @ Rs.500 per ha for promotion of organic manure.
- (iii) In addition, schemes like National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEHS) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) allow subsidy on inputs, including organic manures.

- (iv) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed improved technology for preparation of enriched/vermi-compost from various rural and urban wastes.
- (v) ICAR also imparts training, organizing front line demonstration to educate farmers.

MSP of rabi crops

182. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced recently MSP of various rabi crops except wheat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise;
- (c) the reasons for not announcing the MSP of wheat;
- (d) whether MSP announced by Government is in accordance with the rise of price of various fertilizers and the increased cost of production;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, crop-wise, alongwith the methodology to calculate MSP for various rabi crops; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for Rabi Crops of 2012-13 season, except for wheat, to be marketed in 2013-14 are given below:—

(Rs. per quintal)

| Commodity (Fair Average Quality) | MSP for 2012-13 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| Barely | 980 |

| 1 | 2 |
|------------------|------|
| Gram | 3000 |
| Masur (lentil) | 2900 |
| Rapeseed/Mustard | 3000 |
| Safflower | 2800 |

(c) The Government has decided for further consultation with Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) regarding MSP for wheat.

(d) to (f) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops covered under MSP on the recommendations of the 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 the price of fertilizers, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, international market prices situation etc.

Upgradation of Rajendra Agriculture University, Pusa, Bihar

183. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sent a letter to Government of Bihar for their NOC for upgrading the Rajendra Agriculture University, Pusa, Bihar to Central University;

(b) if so, whether any reply has been received from the State Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this letter was issued on proposal of Planning Commission for their planning during 2009-10;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has any proposal to upgrade the Rajendra Agriculture University, Pusa, Bihar to Central University; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Based on the report of the Special Task Force constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.C. Jha, the Planning Commission conveyed its 'in principle' approval for establishment of a new Central Agricultural University (CAU) at Pusa in Bihar. In pursuance of that a proposal was received from the Government of Bihar for conversion of the Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar into a Central Agricultural University (CAU).

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State Government and the Central Government is being finalized.

Shifting of rice production from Punjab to Eastern States

184. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists have suggested that rice production should be shifted from Punjab to Eastern States due to plunging of the groundwater level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Scientists are concerned about the low ground water level in Punjab and have suggested diversification of cropping systems. Rice-Wheat system being remunerative to the farmers in Punjab, there is a need for research on alternate economic and viable cropping systems in the State. In this context the Punjab Government has prepared a plan for diversification for finding alternative cropping systems such as maize-wheat, cotton-wheat, sugarcane, etc. In addition, the Government of India has also initiated a special programme "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)".

Expansion of horticulture crops

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

(a) whether poor marketing infrastructure, slow promotion and low productivity are some of the factors adversely impacting the expansion of horticultural crops in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard in the Twelfth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Area under Horticulture crops was 16.6 million ha. in 2001-02, which has increased to 22.7 million ha. in 2011-12, thereby registering an increase of about 37% over the base year.

(Source: Indian Horticulture Database 2011 and Third Advance Estimates of Area and Production of Horticulture Crops).

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

Reforms in agriculture sector

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that for the development of the country it is imperative to bring the agriculture sector of the country as well under the scope of reforms;
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has identified areas of agriculture sector where reforms are required; and
- (d) if so, the details of reforms proposed to be carried out at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) The Eleventh Five Year Plan started in the backdrop of a low annual growth rate in the agriculture sector vis-a-vis the non-farm sector during the Tenth Plan as well as declining profitability. Realizing the need for accelerating agricultural growth to 4% per annum for achieving equitable and inclusive growth, Government initiated a slew of measures and reforms in different areas of this sector. Notable among them are given in Statement (*See* below).

The above initiatives gave the desired results. As per the 4th Advance Estimates for 2011-12, all time record production was witnessed in rice, wheat, sugar cane and cotton. The average annual growth rate achieved in the agriculture and allied

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sector during Eleventh Plan improved to 3.3% as opposed to 2.5% and 2.4% in the Ninth and Tenth Plan, respectively.

These efforts will continue in the Twelfth Five Year Plan with greater vigour and focus by reorganizing the activities of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation into only 5 missions and 6 programmes.

Statement

Important initiatives by Government in Agriculture sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan

1. Launching of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with outlays of Rs.25000 crore and Rs.4882.48 crore, respectively. RKVY, through its flexible structure provided autonomy to States in the process of planning and execution of schemes and also incentivized the States to increase public investment in this sector.
2. Promotion of Horticulture in mission mode through National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North East and Hilly States (HMNEH) for improving farm incomes and livelihood security and enhancing employment generation.
3. Announcement of new sub-schemes under RKVY like Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern Region, Integrated Development of 60,000 pulses villages in rainfed areas, Promotion of Oil Palm, Initiative on Vegetable Clusters, Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion, National Mission for Protein Supplements, Accelerated Fodder Development Programme, Rainfed Area Development Programme, Saffron Mission, and Vidarbha Intensified Irrigation Development Programme.
4. Increasing the availability of agriculture credit to Rs. 4,68,291 crores in 2011-12 while bringing down the interest rates to 4% to farmers who repay in time.
5. Modification and strengthening of the scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms".
6. Implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 benefiting 3.69 crore farmers involving debt waiver and debt relief of Rs.65318.33 crore.

7. Enactment of Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 to facilitate Cooperative societies function in a democratic, professional, autonomous and economically sound manner.
8. Implementation of Rehabilitation Package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 suicide prone districts in 4 States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala.
9. Substantial increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops in recent years to make farming more remunerative.
10. Implementation of Terminal Market Complex Scheme in PPP mode.
11. Implementation of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme.
12. Circulation of Model APMC Act and Model APMC Rules containing important components of market reforms like direct marketing, development of markets by private and cooperative sectors, contract farming etc. to States for adoption. Constitution of a Committee of State Ministers In-charge Agricultural Marketing to accelerate the pace of agricultural market reforms.

PPP for Integrated Agricultural Development Scheme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to implement a scheme called Public- Private Partnership for Integrated Agricultural Development during Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether arrangement has been made for an investment of ₹ 5,000 crore from Government sector; and

(d) if so, the quantum of share in investment from private sector and target for increase in purchasing power of existing small and marginal farmers of the country under this proposal?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has issued a "Framework for Public Private Partnership for Integrated Agricultural Development (PPPIAD)", which is essentially a set of guidelines for the benefit of State Governments which wish to use Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana allocations to involve the private sector in agricultural development projects in the States. The programme aims to facilitate large scale integrated projects led by corporates in the agriculture and allied sectors. A copy of the scheme guidelines is given in Statement (See below).

Statement

*Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation*

Framework for Supporting

**Public Private Partnership for Integrated Agricultural Development
(PPPIAD) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**

"A Scheme for facilitating large scale integrated projects, led by private sector players in the agriculture and allied sectors, with a view to aggregating farmers, and integrating the agricultural supply chain, with financial assistance through RKVY, under the direct supervision of State Governments, supported by National Level Agencies."

Background and Rationale

The agricultural produce landscape in India is undergoing significant and rapid change. This is primarily led by-changing consumer demand preferences, as rising incomes rearrange the contents of the household food basket in both urban and rural India. Concern for food safety, traceability and assured year-round availability of quality agri produce at reasonable prices are demands which have emerged at the top of the supply chain. Organized retail (though as yet only 3% of the total retail market) is doubling its share every three years or so and is likely to play an increasingly important role in influencing the nature of agricultural markets in the coming decade. A game changer on the horizon is the proposed national food security legislation, which will require the sourcing of huge volumes of food from domestic producers. Traditional production and supply arrangements

are unlikely to prove adequate in meeting the challenges posed by these two major developments.

Agriculture GDP is heavily weighted in favour of high value produce (horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy, poultry and fish products); as much as 75% of agri GDP value today is contributed by these products. Recent evidence-suggests that this segment is increasingly favoured by small and marginal producers as it is labour intensive, offers quicker returns and can engage a higher proportion of women (especially dairy activities). Thus there appears to be immense potential to leverage high returns from non-cereal sub sectors, especially for small producers. This fits well with the Twelfth Plan's vision for "faster and more inclusive growth" and creative and collaborative effort can result in this vision being translated into reality.

However, several hurdles need to be overcome to reach these highly desirable goals. For one, 83% of land holdings in the country are now marginal or small and unless there is urgent intervention in aggregating producers through farmer's institutions, we are unlikely to achieve scale in production and leverage it to the advantage of all stakeholders, especially primary producers. The fragmented agricultural marketing value chain and the large number of intermediaries is another major constraint, leading to wastage, low returns to producers and volatility in availability and prices at the consumer end. Estimates of the wastage of perishable such as fruits and vegetables range from 18-40% but they are undeniably too high and penalize both producers and consumers. The example of AMUL in milk demonstrates the benefits of value chain integration in agricultural produce. Yet, an efficient supply chain for cereals, perishables and other high value agricultural produce is unlikely to materialize unless there is parallel investment in aggregating farmers and farm produce at the bottom end, and strong and direct linkages are created between producers and market players, both for retailing raw produce and processed food.

Finally, the growing demand for quality agricultural products creates an opportunity to reduce risk in agriculture through the integration of producers on the one hand and retailers and processors on the other. While production and price risks are the most obvious areas of attention, the potential to create partnerships between farmer's groups and market players also opens up better links with input suppliers, financial institutions and research bodies. This convergence can lead to better

targeting of government expenditures on agricultural subsidies and achieve better outcomes for public policy. Overall, a collaborative effort between the government, farmers and corporates in agriculture is likely to raise the rate of agricultural GDP growth, thereby directly impacting rural poverty.

In the above scenario, RKVY is likely to be a major window of funding during the Twelfth Plan to support integrated agriculture and allied sector projects. However, there are challenges of limitation of technical, administrative and financial capacity at the state level to absorb the growing level of funding support under RKVY. Project monitoring and assessing project outcomes are also areas requiring strengthening. Lastly, the short term nature of most RKVY interventions in the Eleventh Plan raises questions about the long term impact and sustainability of these investments. PPPIAD has been conceived of as an alternative mode of implementation under RKVY, using the technical and managerial capabilities of the private sector in combination with public funding, to achieve integrated and sustainable outcomes, as also to achieve value chain integration and additional private investment in agriculture.

Main features of PPPIAD

- Corporates to propose integrated agricultural development projects across the spectrum of agriculture and allied sectors, taking responsibility for delivering all the interventions through a single window. Each project to target at least 5000 farmers, spread over the project life.
- Complete flexibility in design, but ensuring an integrated value chain approach, covering all aspects from production to marketing. Projects can span 3-5 years.
- Average investment per farmer during project must be quantified, though an average of Rs. 1.00 lakh per farmer will be a desirable benchmark. Government support will be restricted to 50% of the overall per farmer investment proposed, with a ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per farmer through the project cycle. The remaining investment will be arranged by the corporate through institutional financing and its own and farmer contributions. All subsidies will be directly routed to farmers or reimbursed to project leaders after verification of asset distribution to farmers.
- Key interventions which must feature in each project are: (a) mobilizing farmers into producer groups and registering them in an appropriate legal

form or creating informal groups as may be appropriate to the area and Project (joint stock or producer companies, cooperatives, self-help group federations etc.); (b) technology infusion; (c) value addition; (d) marketing solutions; (e) project management.

- Financial assistance will be provided by State Governments directly to corporates through the RKVY window after the project has been approved by SLSC, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per farmer or 50% of the proposed investment per farmer, whichever is lower. Subsidy to farmer for availing drip/sprinkler irrigation/mechanization/grading/shade nets etc. could be considered separately as it is a large investment. Therefore, subsidy availed by farmers for drip/sprinkler/mechanization/grading/shade nets, etc. under NMMI would not be considered as a part of this Rs. 50,000 ceiling.
- Projects can also be proposed by corporates to State Governments through Small Farmers' Agri-business Consortium (SFAC). This institution has been designated as a National Level Agency for this purpose by Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India. SFAC will act as a facilitator to link the project promoter to the concerned State Government. The role of SFAC will be to examine the proposal from a technical viewpoint and thereafter propose it for funding to the concerned State. SFAC will be restricted to being a support agency to facilitate the process of technical appraisal, coordination and facilitation; it will not be involved in implementation directly or handling funds.
- An independent monitoring agency (like NABARD or other a suitably qualified consultancy firm with no conflict of interest with the particular project it is to monitor) will be appointed by the State Government to closely track the performance of the project and report to all relevant stakeholders in the State and Central government.

Coverage and Scope

PPPIAD is proposed as a pilot scheme to be launched during 2012-13 itself, with about 6-8 projects in the first tranche which interested States are willing to sponsor immediately. Its expansion during the Twelfth Plan will be decided based on the experience of the first lot of pilot projects.

Objectives

Main objectives of scheme are:

Augmenting the current government efforts in agricultural development by leveraging the capabilities of the private sector by:

- Addressing all concerns related to production and post-harvest management in agriculture/horticulture and agriculture allied sectors.
- Enhancing production and productivity, improve nutritional security and income support to farmers.
- Promote, developing and disseminating technologies for enhancing production and productivity.
- Assisting states in addressing the entire value chain, right from the stage of pre-production to the consumers table through appropriate interventions.
- Creating employment generation opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.
- Improving value addition and ensuring farmer's profitability increases.
- Making farming a viable business proposition.
- Improving the delivery and monitoring mechanism under RKVY funded projects.

Strategy

To achieve the above objectives, the scheme will adopt the following strategies:

- Companies to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR), to States directly or SFAC for consideration of SLSC.
- Organize growers into Farmers Association/Groups in every project.
- Identify/select aggregators and enable tie-up with farmers/associations/groups.
- Coordinate with ICAR/SAUs/Private Sector to provide improved varieties of seeds/seedlings and to introduce innovative technologies as required.

- Addressing issues in the credit supply chain with support from NABARD.
- Measures for production and productivity enhancement by adopting improved cultivars, production technologies using precision farming techniques, protected cultivation, micro irrigation etc.
- Primary processing, sorting, grading, washing, packaging and value addition clusters.
- Logistics from farm to market including:
 - Post Harvest Management, Storage and Transport infrastructure.
 - Aggregators for suitable tie ups in the supply-chain.
- Support to these groups to develop warehouses, cold chains, Controlled Atmosphere (CA).

Procedure for Approval and Implementation

Strategy and Roadmap

Companies will identify the regions they wish to take up in 2012-13 and develop the project for integrated agriculture development. The strategy and road map formulated by companies should invariably contain information on geography and climate, potential of agriculture development, availability of land, SWOT analysis, and strategy for development and plan of action proposed to be taken to achieve goals in the identified region. The document should focus on adoption of cluster approach for production and linking with available infrastructure, or to be created, for post harvest management, processing, marketing and export. Growers/farmers would also be entitled for assistance under all schemes of DAC/other departments of Government of India so that these schemes can ensure appropriate synergy and convergence for maximum benefit in the field. Each DPR will also provide a Results Framework Document (RFD), living clearly verifiable indicators for tracking the progress of the project during its life cycle.

Implementing Agencies

1. Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC).
2. State Government (Agriculture Department)/State level agencies.
3. Private sector partner.

Proposals can be either submitted directly to States or to SFAC at the national level. In either case, the NLA or State Government will examine the project proposal from the viewpoint of suitability to priorities and objectives of the State and the general framework of RKVY. If found suitable, the proposal will be forwarded to the SLSC chaired by Chief Secretary for consideration. Based on the approval of the SLSC, the project will be rolled out after an agreement has been signed between the State Government and Project Promoter. A standard format of agreement for PPPIAD under RKVY will be circulated for the guidance of States. They will be free to adapt this format to their specific needs.

All fund releases will be made directly by the State Government to the concerned private sector Project Promoter, based on satisfactory progress reports. Funding will be in the form of reimbursement of expenditures incurred by the Project Promoter on various approved budget heads, after these have been duly verified by the independent monitoring agency.

A baseline survey to determine the entry level situation and end-of-project survey will also be conducted by the independent monitoring agency to assess the impact of the project intervention. It will further furnish monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports to DAC and the State and operationalize Information Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Management Information System (MIS) up to grass root level and if need be develop and host its own website.

Scheme Components and Pattern of Assistance

The Scheme will cover all project components in all agriculture and allied sector areas. All farmer related services (*i.e.* not inputs or hardware) and other interventions leading to productivity enhancement will be supported fully. There will be a 50% limit on items (like farm machinery and irrigation infrastructure) which are to be provided on subsidy to farmers. However, there will be flexibility as far as the community based projects are concerned. For instance, 100 per cent subsidy can be obtained by FPOs for developing warehousing infrastructure under Rural Godown Scheme.

The scheme will be demand and need based in each segment. Technology will play an important role in different interventions. The interventions envisaged for

achieving desired goals would be varied and regionally differentiated with focus on potential vegetable crops to be developed in clusters by deploying modern and hi-tech interventions and duly ensuring backward and forward linkages.

Performance based overhead costs will be given to the companies for meeting administrative expenses for executing the projects. The companies would have to submit Results Framework Document (RFD) for getting the project approved. If the company's performance is excellent, it can be entitled to maximum overheads of 8 per cent, similarly, if it is average, it would be entitled to overheads of 5 per cent. If the company's performance is poor, it would be only entitled to overheads of 2 per cent.

The release of funds would be done in a phased manner as per the approved project proposal. The entire project would be divided into five phases with a specific financial allocation for each phase. Amount pertaining each phase would be released during the beginning of each phase. For availing funds of the subsequent phase, the company would have to submit a detailed utilization certificate from the company auditor and interim project report of that phase.

Dispute Redress Mechanism

A standing mechanism to review projects sanctioned under PPPIAD and resolve disputes will be activated at the State level with the following composition:

- (a) Agriculture Production Commissioner or Principal Secretary, Agriculture — Chair
- (b) Commissioner/Director, Agriculture — Member Secretary
- (c) Representative of Private Sector Implementing Partner — Member
- (d) Representative of independent monitoring agency — Member

This DRM will be the forum to resolve any disputes which arise during the implementation of PPPIAD projects. If this committee is unable to resolve an issue, it will be referred to the SLSC chaired by Chief Secretary, in which all members of the DRM will be invited to participate. The decision of the SLSC in any matter will be final.

III-effects of Endosulfan

188. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Endosulfan, used as pesticide and insecticide by cashew growers in some States, have not only affected physical structure, but has also rendered people mentally retarded;

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

(c) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) It is a fact that certain reports from Kerala have shown that some persons are affected physically and found mentally retarded. However, these findings could not be co-related with the use of Endosulfan. Epidemiological studies are required to establish the same. It is relevant to mention that Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an ad-interim order on 13.05.2011 banning production, sale and use of Endosulfan in the country till further orders and appointed a Joint Committee headed by the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Agriculture Commissioner to conduct a scientific study on the question whether the use of Endosulfan would cause any serious health hazard to human beings and would cause environmental pollution. Accordingly, the Central Government issued instructions on 14.05.2011 to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement interim order of the Court in toto, which are binding on all manufacturers.

(c) On the issue of use of Endosulfan, the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, issued from time to time, are being adhered to. Pesticides are inherently toxic in nature. They are designed to kill/combat pests, diseases and weeds. Government of India, being aware of this fact, enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 and rules framed there under. Registration Committee and Central Insecticides Board were constituted under Sections 5 and 4 respectively of the Act to assist Government of India to regulate their uses. Registration Committee registers safe and effective insecticides. If pesticides are used as per the recommendations made with respect to doses and label claims and method of use, then these registered pesticides do not pose any

hazard to human beings, livestock and matter related therewith. Government is popularizing the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for control of insect pests, diseases and weeds on various crops which envisages use of non-chemical methods like cultural, mechanical, biological, use of bio-pesticides and need-based judicious use of chemical pesticides.

Crop productivity

189. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crop yield per hectare in India is among the lowest as compared to global average due to structural weakness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that per hectare yield of rice in India, the world's second largest producer is at 2178 kg. while it is 6582 kg. in China and 6521 kg. in Japan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve sustainable resource management towards providing long term solutions to improve crop production in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per the official estimates for 2010-11 released by Ministry of Agriculture and reports of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2010 (latest available) respectively, details of per hectare yield of major crops in India *vis-a-vis* their global/world average yield are given in the table below:—

(Kg/Hectarre)

| Crop | India | World |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Rice | 2239 | 2912 |
| Wheat | 2989 | 3009 |
| Pulses | 691 | 877 |
| Oilseeds/Oilcrops (Primary) | 1193 | 630 |
| Sugarcane | 70091 | 71661 |

(c) and (d) As per above reports, the per hectare yield of rice in India has been 2239 kg/hectare as compared to 4365 kg/hectare in China and 4341 kg/hectare in Japan.

In order to achieve sustainable resource management for providing long term solutions to enhance production and productivity of agricultural crops including rice in the country, various crop development programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Macro Management of Agriculture and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are being implemented.

Under these programmes, resource conservation technologies such as System of Rice Intensification (SRI), direct Seeded Rice, Integrated Crop Management including line sowing of paddy seedlings, land preparation through Laser Land Levelers and Rotavators and mechanized paddy transplantation are being promoted.

Integrated price policy for agricultural products

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

(a) whether Government has taken any steps or would consider to take steps to prepare integrated price policy for ensuring remunerative price for agricultural products and placing them at par with industrial produces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops on the recommendations of the Commissioner 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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors which include, *inter-alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price priority, changes in terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

Grant-in-aid to Assam for agricultural schemes

191. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant-in-aid is being provided by Central Government for various agricultural schemes in Assam;

(b) if so, the names of the schemes and the amount of grant provided for each of them; and

(c) the details of the amount yet to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is providing grant-in-aid under various agricultural schemes to Assam. A Statement indicating the name of major schemes, funds allocated during 2012-13 and funds released upto 31.10.2012 is given in Statement (*See below*).

Statement

Name of major schemes, funds allocated and funds released

Name of the State: Assam

(Rs. in crore)

| Name of the Scheme | Year 2012-13 | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | Allocation | Release as on 31.10.2012 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) | 399.57 | 233.31 |
| National Food Security Mission (NFSM) | 41.86 | 23.98 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Macro Management Scheme | 15.89 | 0.0* |
| National Mission on Micro Irrigation | 4.00 | 0.00 |
| Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms | 20.59 | 7.26 |
| National Bamboo Mission | 10.20 | 7.52 |
| Horticulture Mission for North-East and Himalayan States | 30.00 | 15.00 |
| TOTAL: | 522.11 | 287.08 |

*State Government has unspent balance of Rs. 21.84 crore as on 01.04.2012

Suicide by Bt. Cotton farmers

192. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an internal advisory dated 9 January, 2012 sent by the Ministry to cotton growing States affirms that suicide by Bt. Cotton farmers were severe in 2011-12;

(b) if so, the assessment of Indian Agricultural Science with regard to shifting of cotton farmers to Bt. Cotton and the resultant adverse effect thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of a documentary film titled 'Bitter Seeds' on suicide by Bt. Cotton farmers in India which bagged 18 international film awards; and

(d) if so, how Government reacts to such international repercussions and commit to nation to stop forthwith such human tragedies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Film Division has not produced any Documentary Film regarding suicide

by Bt. Cotton farmers. However, US-based film maker Shri Micha Peled has produced a documentary film titled "Bitter Seeds".

(d) The Government lays maximum emphasis in assessing and minimizing the problems being faced by the farmers in cultivation of Crops. The Scientists of State Agriculture Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Officials of the States Directorate of Agriculture constantly interact with the farmers to assess their problems and take appropriate steps/develop technologies to reduce their miseries/tragedies, if any.

Cultivation of Bt. Cotton has resulted in increase in income of the farmers and in improving their standard of living. The yield of cotton has increased from 190 kg lint per ha to 491 kg lint per ha. Area under Bt. Cotton has increased by more than 90% of the total cotton area in the country. Reasons for suicide by farmers as reported by the State Governments, are manifold which, *inter-alia* includes indebtedness, socio-economic and personal reasons, crop failure and drought. There seems to be no evidence of direct relationship between Bt. Cotton and farmers' suicides.

Loan to small farmers

†193. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loan expended to farmers by the banks for farming during the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of total loan extended to the farmers, 94 per cent loan was given to big farmers whereas marginal farmers received only 6 per cent of it;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to formulate such a policy wherein 70 per cent loan is given to marginal farmers and 30 per cent loan to the big farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The agriculture credit flow during the year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 was Rs. 3,84,514 crore, Rs.4,68,291 crore and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rs. 5,11,029 crore respectively. During this period credit flow to small and marginal farmers was Rs. 1,22,654 crore, Rs. 1,67,739 crore and Rs. 2,27,835 crore respectively which is 32%, 36% and 45% of the total loan disbursed to the farmers during these years.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken several measures to improve credit flow to small and marginal farmers. These measures, *inter-alia*, includes fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh @ 4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of interest subvention scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, collateral free loan upto Rs. 1.00 lakh, implementation of revival package for short term cooperative credit structure in the country etc.

Price difference between generic and branded medicines

194. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big difference in prices of generic medicines and the same branded medicines;

(b) if so, the details of the prices of important medicines in both these categories; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure sufficient supply of generic medicines, manufactured by reputed companies to the common people and ensure that the doctors prescribe the medicines in generic names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The prices of generic medicines sold in the open market are generally at par with the prices of the branded medicines. However, there is a big difference in the prices of generic medicines sold through the Jan Aushadhi Drug stores *vis-a-vis* the prices of the branded medicines, as would be observed from the following illustration:-

| Name of salt | Dosage | Pack | Average Market Price of Branded Medicines (Rs.) | Prices of Generic Medicines sold in Jan Aushadhi generic drug stores (Rs.) |
|----------------------|--------|---------------|---|--|
| Tablet Ciprofloxacin | 250 mg | 10 | 55.00 | 11.10 |
| Tablet Ciprofloxacin | 500 mg | 10 | 97.00 | 21.50 |
| Tablet Diclofenac SR | 100 mg | 10 | 51.91 | 3.35 |
| Tablet Cetirizine | 10 mg | 10 | 37.50 | 2.75 |
| Tablet Paracetamol | 500 mg | 10 | 13.56 | 2.45 |
| Tablet Nimesulide | 100 mg | 10 | 38.66 | 2.70 |
| Cough Syrup | | 110 ml bottle | 33.00 | 13.30 |

The generic drugs being sold at the Jan Aushadhi Drug Stores are not only equal in quality but also have the same efficacy and potency as compared with the much expensive branded medicines. Under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995), Government is mandated to control the prices of 74 bulk Drugs and its formulation as per the provisions of the said Order. National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals also monitors and regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufactures are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntary failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest. The list of price of generic medicines and the same branded medicines is not maintained by the Government.

(c) The Jan Aushadhi Campaign was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals with the main objective to make available generic medicines at affordable prices to all. In so far as supply of generic medicines is concerned, presently all the five Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely IDPL, BCPL,

RDPL, KAPL and HAL are manufacturing and supplying generic medicines for sale at the Jan Aushadhi Stores. Wherever Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened, the concerned State Governments are issuing instructions/guidelines to their Doctors in the Government Hospitals to prescribe generic medicines. Similar instructions are also reported to have been issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to the Doctors to prescribe medicines in generic names.

Settlement of backlog levies of fertilizer units

195. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

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

(a) whether the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance is considering other alternative options to resolve settlement of backlog issue of additional State levies of fertilizer manufacturing units as the State Governments are not in a position to refund this additional levy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any communication during last six months in this regard, if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Ministry has communicated to Ministry of Finance to provide one time financial grant to resolve this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) To resolve the issue of settlement of backlog arrears in respect of Non-recognized Input Taxes levied by State Government of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, consultation process is going on with the stakeholders. Appropriate decision shall be taken by the Government, taking into account views of State Government and interests of farmers and fertilizers companies.

(c) the Department of Fertilizers has received communications from the public authorities in the matter and the Department of Fertilizers has sent an interim reply to them.

(d) and (e) The Department of Fertilizers has written to Ministry of Finance to review their comments *i.e.* "The proposed mechanism to levy additional MRP cannot apply with retrospective effect. In respect of prior period losses, no recovery should be made from the farmers buying the fertilizers post implementation of this proposal. The issue instead may be taken up with respective State Governments to recoup the losses of the manufacturers" and resolve the matter.

New pricing policy for urea sector

196. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

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

(a) the action taken by the Ministry on the fact that due to the existing Urea Pricing Policy, NPS-III, some of the fertilizer units are suffering from financial loss since long;

(b) the current status of the new pricing policy for urea sector and by when Central Government would amend new Urea Pricing Policy;

(c) whether Government intends to announce new pricing policy for four fertilizer producers of urea sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) A new pricing policy for existing urea units beyond Stage-III of New Pricing Scheme (NPS) is under consideration of the Government of India and is expected to be finalised shortly.

Pricing system of essential drugs

197. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to change the pricing system of essential drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has ordered the Centre not to alter the present pricing structure of essential drugs;

- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No final decision has yet been taken by the Government.

- (b) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.
- (c) No such final order has been given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- (d) and (e) In view of reply to (c) above, does not arise.

Revival of sick fertilizer industries

198. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest status of revival of sick fertilizer industries in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that despite waiving off loans and replacement of old machinery, some fertilizer industries are running in losses and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether sick fertilizer units have initiated steps for skill and management development of their personnel and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to merge sick fertilizer units with profit making fertilizer units, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The status of revival of closed/sick/loss making fertilizer PSUs is as under:—

Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL): The status of revival of the closed units of FCIL and HFCL is as under:

Based on the recommendation of Empowered Committee of Secretaries ECOS, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 4.8.2011 approved the proposal for revival of closed units of FCIL and HFCL 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 (DRS) of HFCL and FCIL have been submitted to BIFR for their approval. BIFR has appointed State Bank of India as Operating Agency for examining the DRS of HFCL and FCIL. After the approval of BIFR, the proposal shall be placed before competent authority for obtaining approval.

Madras Fertilizer Limited: Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR) in its hearing held on 2nd April, 2009 declared Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) a sick company and appointed State bank of India as Operating agency with the direction to prepare a revival scheme for the company. Eleven hearings were held so far before BIFR. In the last hearing held on 27.08.2012, the Bench directed Government of India and other equity partner to take a decision with regard to the revised option filed by the Company, and thereafter, the Operating Agency will examine the proposal and submit a DRS to the BIFR. Accordingly, based on the inputs received from the company, a revised rehabilitation proposal has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultation for formalising the view of the Government. Based on the view of Government and other equity partner, operating agency will form DRS and submit before BIFR for approval. The next hearing of BIFR is scheduled on 05.12.12.

Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL): BVFCL has proposed for a new brown field ammonia urea plant of larger capacity with State-of-art technology at most energy efficiency at Namrup site. Agreeing in principle to the proposal, Department of Fertilizers has given clearance to appoint a consultant to evaluate the available options and recommend the most suitable one.

(b) Loans have been waived off in respect of Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL) and FACT in past. Both the companies have shown profit during the year 2011-12.

(c) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by MFL and BVFCL for skill management development of their personnel are as under:—

BVFCL: For skill management development the Company provides in-house training programmes with the available resources, In case of need external expert are also called. The company has good infrastructure for conducting such trainings.

Besides this the company also sends its employees for attending training programmes conducted by Fertilizer Association of India (FAI), Central/regional Labour Institute, Indian Institute of Public Administration and at the vendors workshops.

MFL: MFL is an ISO 9001 certified company and the corporate management is committed to quality management system and ensures continued up-gradation of Technology, Development of Human Resources and Improvement of quality of work. Quality objectives of training are fixed every year and various in-house and external training programs are conducted regularly.

(d) There is no proposal to merge sick fertilizer units with profit earning units.

Overcharging of fertilizers in Andhra Pradesh

199. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that fertilizer dealers in Andhra Pradesh are charging more than the MRP for fertilizers like DAP, Complex, Potash etc. in the current season; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on such companies and also on dealers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No such incidents has been reported by State Government regarding overcharging on fertilizers in Andhra Pradesh for DAP, Complex and Potash. However, the State Governments are fully empowered under Clause 21 of Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) 1985 to take corrective/punitive actions against person/persons indulging in such malpractices. Under Clause 21 of the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, it is mandatory to print the maximum retail price on the container of all kinds of fertilizers, whether under statutory price control or out of the purview of the statutory price control. No person shall charge higher than the price printed on the bag. Any person violating this mandatory provision of FCO is held liable to be proceeded against for administrative/punitive measures under the provisions of FCO and Essential Commodities Act. Department of Fertilizers has from, time to time, been sensitizing all the State Governments to gear up the enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction for appropriate action against the offenders, if any.

- (b) Question does not arise.

Availability of low cost essential drugs

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

- (a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) keeps track of the movement of nonscheduled drug formulations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to amend the Indian Patent Act, 1970 so as to ensure sale of low cost medicines by the local drug makers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken to ensure the availability of low cost essential drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In respect of drugs which are not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). However, as a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

(c) to (e) The Government is not undertaking any proposal to amend the Indian Patent Act, 1970 as the Patent Law is in compliance with TRIPS Agreement and meets the domestic requirement.

(f) 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. Till date 145 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in different States/UTs in the country.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) was circulated among the concerned Ministries/Stakeholders. The draft Policy was also available for comments of any other interested person on the Department's website www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in till 30.11.2011. The views/inputs received on the draft NPPP-2011 were examined and the matter was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM). The GOM/Cabinet is seized of the matter.

De-regulation of fertilizers

†201. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to increase the price of urea by thirty per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the prices of chemical fertilizers have increased between forty and sixty per cent during the last two years and that it will affect the agriculture directly; and
- (d) whether in view of the facts above, Government is taking any strong steps to control the rates of chemical fertilizers by doing away with deregulation of these fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Formulation of policy for existing urea units beyond Stage-III of New Pricing Scheme (NPS) is under consideration of the Government of India.

(c) and (d) The increase in the prices of P&K fertilizers has been mainly due to fluctuation in international prices of P&K fertilizers, which is not under the control

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of the Government and depreciation of Indian Rupee. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration to regulate the MRP of P&K fertilizers.

Fixation of drugs prices

202. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that companies are fixing prices of drugs irrespective of their production cost;
- (b) if so, whether the apex court has issued directives in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government is taking to fix the prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled, drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations under price control. Under the provisions of DPCO, 1995, no person is authorized to sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 95 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. However, as a part of price-monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest.

(b) and (c) No such final directives have been issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, the prices of drugs are fixed as per the provisions of DPCO, 1995 as explained in reply to part (a) of the question as above.

Mechanism to control the prices of drugs

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

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism to control the prices of drugs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether prices of drugs have increased during the last three years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of 74 scheduled bulk drugs and their formulations under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995, *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking approval of the Government/NPPA. However, as a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever considered necessary so to do in public interest, after calling for such information NPPA fixes/revises the prices of any formulation including a non-scheduled formulation.

The prices of drugs and formulations are fixed by NPPA as per the provisions contained in Para 3, 5, 8, 9, 10 the formula in Para 7 of the DPCO, 1995 and the internal guidelines on the subject.

(c) and (d) There has been increase as well as decrease in the prices of bulk drugs and formulations during the last three years, details of which are given in Statement (*See* below).

Statement

Statement showing details of prices fixed/revised of scheduled bulk drugs by NPPA

| Particulars | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | (No. of Cases) Since Inception |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| First Time | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 17 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| No Change | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| Increases | 15 | 10 | 19 | 6 | 158 |
| Decreases | 10 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 347 |
| TOTAL: | 28 | 21 | 21 | 10 | 532 |

*Statement showing details of prices of scheduled formulations
Packs fixed/revised by NPPA*

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 (till 20.11.2012) | Total Since inception of NPPA (till 20.11.2012) |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|---|
| | Nos. | Nos. | Nos. | Nos. | Nos. | Nos. |
| Price Increased | 190 | 184 | 223 | 257 | 73 | 1862 |
| Price Decreased | 89 | 450 | 60 | 50 | 86 | 3495 |
| Price fixed for the first time* | 1256 | 1155 | 371 | 239 | 253 | 6315 |
| No change in prices | 42 | 35 | 59 | 61 | 65 | 465 |
| TOTAL: | 1577* | 1824* | 713* | 607* | 477* | 12137* |

*Includes Pro-rata prices fixed.

Availability of patented medicines at affordable price

204. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of patented medicines are pretty high and beyond the reach of common man;

(b) if so, the reasons that Government does not find a mechanism to provide such medicines at affordable prices to poor in the country; and

(c) the reasons that Government does not have any control on price of imported patented drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Patented Drugs are not included in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Under the provisions of the DPCO, 1995, prices of 74 scheduled bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Indian Patents Act as amended in 2005 contains provisions for issue of Compulsory License for patented drugs. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion had informed that so far one Compulsory license has been granted by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks to a drug manufacturing company since the amendment of the Patents Act in 2005 for an application filed under Section 84 of the Patents Act (as amended in 2005). As per the orders of the Controller of Patents, Mumbai compulsory license has been granted to M/s Natco for manufacture of an anti-cancer drug "NEXAVAR". M/s Natco Pharma Ltd. are required to sell this drug at a price not exceeding Rs. 8880/- for a pack of 120 tablets, required for a month's treatment which was earlier being sold by M/s Bayer Corporation at Rs. 2,80,428/- for one month treatment.

Shortage of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh

205. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of shortage of urea, DAP and other fertilizers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh during the current rabi season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the demand and supply of fertilizers during the current season, State-wise and district-wise in case of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the steps Government will take to ensure proper availability of fertilizers during the current rabi season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The demand (requirement) assessed

by Department of Agriculture (DAC) and availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK in all the States including Uttar Pradesh during the current season *i.e.* Rabi 2012-13 (October, 2012) are given in Statement (*See* below).

As can be seen from the Annexure, the availability of Urea and DAP during the current Rabi season 2012-13 (October, 2012) was more than the requirement. The short supply of NPK fertilizer during October, 2012 has been adequately compensated with extra supply of DAP, as such there was no shortage of phosphatic fertilizer in Uttar Pradesh. The district-wise requirement is uploaded into Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) by the respective State. In this case, since Uttar Pradesh government has not uploaded district-wise requirement, the same is not available. The Department of Fertilizers monitors the availability of fertilizer at State level. The monitoring within State is the responsibility of the respective State Government.

(d) Steps taken by Department of Fertilizers to ensure proper availability of fertilizers during the current rabi season is as given below:-

- (i) the movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
- (ii) the State governments have been advised to instruct the State institutional agencies to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies;
- (iii) a regular weekly Video conference is being conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways and Department of Shipping with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicted by the State Governments.

Statement

Availability of Fertilizers during Rabi 2012-13 (October, 2012)

(Figures in 000'MTs)

| States | Rabi 2012-13 (October, 2012) | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| | UREA | | | MOP | | |
| | Requirement | Availability | Sales | Requirement | Availability | Sales |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 300.00 | 341.73 | 296.96 | 75.00 | 66.80 | 21.60 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Karnataka | 140.00 | 232.66 | 210.91 | 60.00 | 64.43 | 13.58 |
| Kerala | 26.00 | 9.62 | 8.90 | 25.00 | 19.76 | 8.69 |
| Tamil Nadu | 173.00 | 135.29 | 133.43 | 84.00 | 45.12 | 36.43 |
| Gujarat | 220.00 | 140.79 | 99.47 | 18.00 | 13.39 | 6.87 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 240.99 | 247.57 | 219.93 | 21.52 | 23.46 | 3.62 |
| Chhattisgarh | 20.00 | 25.32 | 17.55 | 4.00 | 18.00 | 1.93 |
| Maharashtra | 195.00 | 204.82 | 168.81 | 48.00 | 101.98 | 9.45 |
| Rajasthan | 177.10 | 193.45 | 192.79 | 4.97 | 7.79 | 2.45 |
| Haryana | 250.00 | 188.13 | 170.79 | 10.00 | 3.09 | 0.00 |
| Punjab | 300.00 | 323.02 | 319.15 | 15.00 | 9.92 | 0.36 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 5.00 | 1.79 | 1.75 | 0.00 | 3.93 | 1.81 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 13.70 | 9.16 | 6.07 | 4.38 | 2.17 | 0.28 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 500.00 | 542.30 | 469.66 | 65.00 | 20.44 | 11.32 |
| Uttarakhand | 5.00 | 12.15 | 8.71 | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.32 |
| Bihar | 180.00 | 205.68 | 187.04 | 40.00 | 15.82 | 13.37 |
| Jharkhand | 21.25 | 21.51 | 14.65 | 2.50 | 0.26 | 0.09 |
| Odisha | 40.00 | 47.10 | 26.42 | 15.00 | 15.29 | 4.02 |
| West Bengal | 78.00 | 103.85 | 83.29 | 24.84 | 44.37 | 35.19 |
| Assam | 13.00 | 18.99 | 17.27 | 8.10 | 18.46 | 3.95 |
| ALL INDIA: | 2913.31 | 3007.94 | 2656.51 | 532.56 | 495.32 | 175.84 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Rajasthan | 112.36 | 189.35 | 146.49 | 34.49 | 19.67 | 16.46 | 146.85 | 209.01 | 162.95 |
| Haryana | 225.00 | 196.14 | 133.10 | 15.00 | 6.76 | 1.75 | 240.00 | 202.90 | 134.85 |
| Punjab | 230.00 | 261.19 | 183.53 | 35.00 | 3.33 | 2.09 | 265.00 | 264.52 | 185.62 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7.50 | 5.37 | 5.21 | 7.50 | 5.37 | 5.21 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 7.79 | 14.53 | 8.78 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7.79 | 14.53 | 8.78 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 400.00 | 619.13 | 381.88 | 175.00 | 150.04 | 76.08 | 575.00 | 769.17 | 457.97 |
| Uttarakhand | 1.00 | 8.18 | 7.15 | 6.00 | 10.63 | 8.46 | 7.00 | 18.81 | 15.60 |
| Bihar | 80.00 | 196.80 | 102.25 | 40.00 | 74.10 | 46.81 | 120.00 | 270.90 | 149.06 |
| Jharkhand | 11.50 | 15.74 | 3.09 | 20.00 | 8.67 | 5.01 | 31.50 | 24.41 | 8.10 |
| Odisha | 10.00 | 13.04 | 4.44 | 8.50 | 31.11 | 3.84 | 18.50 | 44.15 | 8.27 |
| West Bengal | 24.53 | 81.30 | 43.87 | 56.74 | 147.60 | 104.96 | 81.27 | 228.89 | 148.83 |
| Assam | 3.60 | 7.71 | 3.91 | 1.80 | 2.25 | 0.25 | 5.40 | 9.96 | 4.16 |
| ALL INDIA: | 1776.64 | 2335.85 | 1236.60 | 1182.01 | 1282.09 | 604.50 | 2958.65 | 3617.94 | 1841.09 |

Increase in the price of fertilizers

206. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government has increased the price of urea during the month of October, 2012;

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

(c) whether fertilizers prices have gone up by around 150 per cent during the last two years resulting in the plights of poor farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof, fertilizer-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps Government will take to bring down the prices of fertilizers, particularly urea and DAP ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) With effect from 1st November, 2012, the urea is being sold at Rs. 5360 per tonne (exclusive of the central excise duty, central sales tax, countervailing duty, the State tax and other local taxes wherever levied).

(c) to (e) The Department of Fertilizers is implementing Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers w.e.f. 1.4.2010. Under the NBS Policy, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on annual basis is provided to the subsidized P&K fertilizers depending upon its nutrient content. The Maximum Retail Prices of P&K fertilizers are fixed by the fertilizers companies.

India is fully dependent on imports in Potash sector and to the extent of 90% in case of Phosphate sector in terms of either finished fertilizers or raw material.

Since subsidy is fixed, any rise or fall in the international prices of P&K fertilizers

and its inputs affects the MRP of these fertilizers in the country. Further variation in exchange rate also affects the delivered prices of these fertilizers.

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

In spite of increase in subsidy during the year 2011-12, the MRP of P&K fertilizers increased during the year due to sharp increase in the prices of P&K fertilizers and its raw materials in international market. The depreciation of Indian Rupee further added to the increase in MRP of these fertilizers.

The price increase during 2012-13 is mainly due to depreciation of Indian Rupee and partly due to marginal increase international prices. To summarise, the increase in the prices of P&K fertilizers is mainly due to fluctuation in international prices of P&K fertilizers, which is not under the control of the Government and depreciation of India Rupee. MRPs of various P&K fertilizers in each quarter from the year 2010-11 to the current year is given in Statement (*See* below). There is no proposal to bring down the price of Urea.

Statement
MRP of Fertilizers during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 Quarter-wise*

| Sl. No. | Grades of Fertilizers® | 2010-11 (Qtr.-wise) | | | | 2011-12 (Qtr.-wise) | | | | 2012-13 | | in Rs/MT |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|----------|
| | | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 1. | DAP : 18-46-0-0 | 9950 | 9950 | 9950 | 9950 | 10750 | 12500 | 18200 | 20297 | 20000 | 24800 | 26500 |
| 2. | MAP : 11-52-0-0 | 9950 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 18200 | 20000 | 20000 | 20000 | 24200 |
| 3. | TSP : 0-46-0-0 | 8057 | 8057 | 8057 | 8057 | 8057 | 8057 | 8057 | 17000 | 17000 | 17000 | NA |
| 4. | MOP : 0-0-60-0 | 5055 | 5055 | 5055 | 5055 | 5055 | 6064 | 11300 | 12040 | 12040 | 16695 | 23100 |
| 5. | 16-20-0-13 | 6620 | 6620 | 6620 | 6620 | 7200 | 9645 | 14400 | 15300 | 15300 | 15300 | 18200 |
| 6. | 20-20-0-13 | 7280 | 7280 | 7395 | 7395 | 8095 | 11400 | 14800 | 15800 | 15800 | 19000 | 19000 |
| 7. | 23-23-0-0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 7445 | 7445 | 7445 | 7445 | 0 | 0 | NA |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 8. | 10-26-26-0 | 8197 | NA | 8300 | 10103 | 10910 | 16000 | 16633 | 16386 | 21900 | 22225 |
| 9. | 12-32-16-0 | 8637 | 8237 | 8637 | 9437 | 11313 | 16400 | 16500 | 16400 | 22300 | 22300 |
| 10. | 14-28-14-0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 14950 | 17029 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| 11. | 14-35-14-0 | NA | NA | NA | 9900 | 11622 | 15148 | 17424 | 17600 | 17600 | 23300 |
| 12. | 15-15-15-0 | NA | NA | NA | 7421 | 8200 | 11000 | 11500 | 11500 | 13000 | 15600 |
| 13. | AS: 20.3-0-0-23 | 8600 | 8600 | 7600 | 8700 | 7600 | 11300 | 10306 | 10306 | 11013 | 11013 |
| 14. | 20-20-0-0 | 5943 | NA | 6243 | 7643 | 9861 | 14000 | 15500 | 18700 | 18700 | 18500 |
| 15. | 28-28-0-0 | NA | NA | NA | 11181 | 11810 | 15740 | 18512 | 18700 | 24720 | 24720 |
| 16. | 17-17-17-0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 17710 | 20427 | 20427 | 20522 |
| 17. | 19-19-19-0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 18093 | 19470 | 19470 | 19470 |
| 18. | SSP (0-16-0-11)** | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 4000 to 6000 | 6500 to 7500 | 6500 to 7500 | 6500 to 7500 | 6500 to 7500 |
| 19. | 16-16-16-0 | NA | NA | NA | 7100 | 7100 | 7100 | 15200 | 15200 | 15200 | NA |
| 20. | DAP lite (16-44-0-0) | NA | NA | NA | NA | 11760 | 17600 | 19500 | 19500 | 19500 | 23966 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|-----|----------------------------|------|----|----|----|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 21. | 15-15-15-09 | | NA | NA | NA | 6800 | 9300 | 12900 | 15750 | 14851 | 15000 | 15000 |
| 22. | 24-24-0-0 | | NA | NA | NA | 7768 | 9000 | 11550 | 14151 | 14297 | 14802 | 16223 |
| 23. | 13-33-0-6 | | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 16200 | 17400 | 17400 | 17400 | 17400 |
| 24. | MAP lite (11-44-0-0) | | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 16000 | 18000 | 18000 | 18000 | 21500 |
| 25. | DAP lite-II (14-46-0-0) | | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 14900 | 18690 | 18300 | 18300 | 24800 |
| 26 | Urea | 4830 | | | | | | | | | | 5310 |

Note: *MRP is exclusive of Taxes,

**Upto April, 2008 MRP of SSP was fixed by respective State Governments, w.e.f. May, 2008 to September, 2009 MRP was Rs 3400/MT and w.e.f 1.10. 2009 to April, 2010 was open.

@Fertilizer grades mentioned at Sr.No. 7, 23, 24 and 25 are not under subsidy scheme presently.

Direct subsidy to farmers

‡207. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) since when provision of subsidy on chemical fertilizers was started;
- (b) the details of increase in the amount of subsidy on chemical fertilizers per tonne, year-wise and fertilizer-wise;
- (c) the measures being taken to provide the amount of subsidy directly to the farmers and to reduce the rising prices of fertilizers; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): The provision of subsidy on chemical fertilizers was started in the year 1977-78.

(b) The details of subsidy on various chemical fertilizers per tonne during the last five years are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) As per the recommendations of the Task Force on direct transfer of subsidy in respect of Kerosene, LPG and Fertilizers set up under the chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the programme of direct payment of fertilizer subsidy to the farmers shall be implemented in three phases. In Phase-I information on availability of fertilizers at the farm gate level *i.e.* at retailer level shall be captured. In Phase-II, which will be implemented after the Phase-I stabilizes, the subsidy is expected to be transferred to the last point sale and in Phase-III, the subsidy is expected to be transferred directly to the intended beneficiary based on AADHAR Numbers.

Phase-I has already been implemented with effect from 1.11.2012. For implementation of this Phase about 1.93 lakh dealers have been registered in the mobile Fertilizer Monitoring System (mFMS), who will acknowledge the receipt of fertilizers through mobile. The Government has provided an incentive of Rs.50 PMT for acknowledging such receipt. The acknowledgment of fertilizer receipt by the dealer has been linked to subsidy payment as 5-15% of subsidy will be released to the companies only on the basis of acknowledgment of receipt. With implementation

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of this phase the information on availability of fertilizers at the last point of sale to the farmers shall be available on real time basis in mFMS.

It has been decided to move to phase-III directly. In this regard the Department has decided to implement direct transfer of subsidy to the intended beneficiaries on pilot basis in 11 districts across 10 States.

Statement

Details of subsidy on various chemical fertilizers

| Sl. No. | Grades of Fertilizers@ | Subsidy amount in Rs per MT | | | | |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | \$2008-09 | \$2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | DAP : 18-46-0-0 | 40661 | 10532 | 15968 | 19763 | 14350 |
| 2. | MAP : 11-52-0-0 | 37942 | 8931 | 15879 | 19803 | 13978 |
| 3. | TSP : 0-46-0-0 | 31842 | 6890 | 11787 | 14875 | 10030 |
| 4. | MOP : 0-0-60-0 | 23250 | 21776 | 14392 | 16054 | 14400 |
| 5. | 16-20-0-13 | 19109 | 7241 | 9073 | 11030 | 8419 |
| 6. | 20-20-0-13 | 33062 | 8289 | 10002 | 12116 | 9379 |
| 7. | 10-26-26-0 | 27868 | 17106 | 15222 | 18080 | 14309 |
| 8. | 12-32-16 | 28261 | 14602 | 14825 | 17887 | 13697 |
| 9. | 14-28-14 | 28445 | 13530 | 13785 | 16602 | 12825 |
| 10. | 14-35-14 | 29806 | 14573 | 15578 | 18866 | 14351 |
| 11. | 15-15-15 | 17380 | 12086 | 10926 | 12937 | 10471 |
| 12. | AS: 20.6-0-0-23 | 5953 | 2509 | 5195 | 5979 | 5330 |
| 13. | 20-20-0-0 | 17518 | 7939 | 9770 | 11898 | 9161 |
| 14. | 28-28-0-0 | 27408 | 10155 | 13678 | 16657 | 12825 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|----------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| 15. | 17-17-17 | 22249 | 13320 | 12382 | 14662 | 11867 |
| 16. | 19-19-19 | 25671 | 14652 | 13839 | 16387 | 13263 |
| 17. | SSP | 8996 | *2000 | **4400 | 5359 | 3673 |
| 18. | 16-16-16-0 | NA | NA | 11654 | 13800 | 11169 |
| 19. | DAP lite (16-44-0-0) | NA | NA | 14991 | 18573 | 13434 |
| 20. | 15-15-15-09 | NA | NA | 11086 | 13088 | 10622 |
| 21. | 24-24-0-0 | NA | NA | 11724 | 14278 | 10993 |

\$ The subsidy figures are average at it was computed on monthly basis.

* w.e.f. 1.10.2009. @ Fertilizer grades.

** Rs. 4296 w.e.f. 1.1.11.

NA : not in subsidy regime.

Shortage of fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh

208. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of shortage of urea, DAP and other fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh during the current rabi season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the demand and supply of fertilizers during the current season, State-wise and district-wise in case of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the steps Government will take to ensure proper availability of fertilizers during the current rabi season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The demand (requirement) assessed by Department of Agriculture (DAC) and availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK in all the States including Madhya Pradesh during the current season *i.e.* Rabi 2012-13 (October, 2012) is at Annexure. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ No. 205 Part (a) to (c)].

As can be seen from the Annexure, the availability of Urea, DAP and MOP during the current Rabi season 2012-13 (October, 2012) was more than the requirement. The short supply of NPK fertilizer during October, 2012 has been adequately compensated with extra supply of DAP, as such there was no shortage of phosphatic fertilizer in Madhya Pradesh. The district-wise requirement is uploaded into Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) by the respective State. In this case, since Madhya Pradesh government has not uploaded district-wise requirement, the same is not available. The Department of Fertilizers monitors the availability of fertilizer at State level. The monitoring within a State is the responsibility of the respective State Government.

(d) Steps taken by Department of Fertilizers to ensure proper availability of fertilizers during the current rabi season is as given below:—

- (i) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
- (ii) The State governments have been advised to instruct the State institutional agencies to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies;
- (iii) a regular weekly Video conference is being conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), Ministry of Railways and Department of Shipping with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicted by the State governments.

Overcharging of drugs/medicines

209. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

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

(a) whether the price regulator issues show-cause notice to firms for overcharging of drugs/medicines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far?

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

prima-facie case of overcharging comes to the notice of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), NPPA initiates action by issuing Preliminary Notices to the Pharma companies seeking requisite information/details from them to examine the matter further and in confirmed cases of overcharging, demand notices are issued to the defaulting Pharma companies for depositing the overcharged amount with the Government.

Based on detection of overcharging cases since its inception and till 31st October, 2012, NPPA has issued demand notices in 885 cases involving an amount of Rs.2577.28 crore (overcharging alongwith interest) for selling the medicines at a price higher than the prices fixed under DPCO, 1995. Out of which, Rs.232.52 crore has been realized till 31.10.2012 leaving a balance of Rs.2344.76 crore to be realized. Out of Rs.2344.76 crore, an amount of Rs.2260.80 crore is under litigation and pending in various courts, Rs. 16.26 crore is pending for recovery with Collectors of various States and the balance of Rs.67.70 crore is under process.

Subsidy on rural mobile bills

210. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to subsidise rural mobile bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the funds collected under the Universal Service Obligation (USO) from the telecom companies are lying unutilized;

(d) if so, the details of such funds collected and utilized so far alongwith the purpose thereof; and

(e) whether Government has a proposal to discontinue the collection of USO fund as it remains unutilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) The funds collected under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) from the telecom companies are being utilized in implementation of various schemes for provision of telecom services in rural and remote areas of the country.

The details of collection and utilization of USO Fund as on 30.09.2012 is given in Statement-I (*See below*) and Scheme-wise disbursements is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(e) No, Sir.

Statement-I

Status of Collection and Utilisation of Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund as on 30.09.2012

(Rupees in crore)

| Financial Year | Funds Collected as UAL (Universal Access Levy) [Booked figures as per DoT A/Cs] | Funds allocated and disbursed through USOF | Reimbursement of License Fee (LF) 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 | 5405.80 | 1290 | 0 | |
| 2008-09 | 5515.14 | 1600 | 0 | |
| 2009-10 | 5778.00 | 2400 | 0 | |
| 2010-11 | 6114.56 | 3100 | 0 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 2011-12 | 6723.57 | 1687.96 | 0 | |
| 2012-13 (till 30.09.12) | 1577.11 | 321.08 | 0 | |
| TOTAL: | 45,524.60 | 15,480.48 | 6,948.64 | 23095.48 |

Statement-II*Status of Disbursements made Scheme-wise*

(Rupees in crore)

| Sl. No. | Activity | Subsidy Disbursed upto 2011-12 | Subsidy Disbursed in 2012-13 (upto 30.09.2012) | Total Subsidy Disbursed since 2002 (as on 30.09.2012) |
|---------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Operation and Maintenance of VPTs | 859.68 | -0.08 | 859.60 |
| 2. | Replacement of MARR VPTs | 1273.45 | 29.87 | 1303.32 |
| 3. | Provision of RCPs | 110.79 | -0.16 | 110.63 |
| 4. | VPTs in Uncovered villages | 223.69 | 2.39 | 226.08 |
| 5. | VPT in Newly Identified Uncovered Villages | 79.7 | 3.02 | 82.72 |
| 6. | RDELs installed prior to 01.04.2002 | 1191.78 | 0 | 1191.78 |
| 7. | RDELs installed between 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2005 | 2032.8 | 0.03 | 2032.83 |
| 8. | RDELs provided from 01.04.2005 to 31.03.2007 | 2097.36 | 0.17 | 2097.53 |

| 120 <i>Written Answers to</i> | | [RAJYA SABHA] | <i>Unstarred Questions</i> | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. | RDELS provided after 31.03.2007 | 856.92 | 0.94 | 857.86 |
| 10. | Operational Subsidy for RDELS in lieu of phased out ADC | 6000 | 0 | 6000.00 |
| 11. | Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme | 234.29 | 40.29 | 274.58 |
| 12. | Wireline Broadband | 198.41 | 26.35 | 224.76 |
| 13. | Solar Mobile Charging Stations | 0.53 | 2.49 | 3.02 |
| 14. | OFC Infrastructure in Assam | 0 | 0.77 | 0.77 |
| 15. | National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project | 0 | 215.00 | 215.00 |
| TOTAL: | | 15,159.4 | 321.08 | 15,480.48 |

VPT: Village Public Telephone

MARR: Multi Access Radio Relay

RCP: Rural Community Phones

RDEL: Rural Direct Exchange Lines

ADC: Access Deficit Charge

OFC: Optical Fibre Cable

Quality of BSNL and MTNL services

211. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have issued mobile connections in proportion to their installed capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise and State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether BSNL and MTNL are not meeting the Quality of Service benchmarks prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(e) the other measures taken to augment the mobile network and improve the signal quality of both the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited are utilizing maximum of their network capacity in the areas of their operations. Company-wise and circle-wise details of mobile capacities and connections, are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) to (e) The mobile subscribers of BSNL and MTNL sometimes face problems with regard to Quality of Service (QoS) as do subscribers of private networks. However, BSNL and MTNL are, in general, meeting the QoS benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI).

Quality of Service (QoS) improvement is a continuous process. Actions being taken by BSNL and MTNL to improve their Quality of Service, are as follows:

- Capacity augmentation, upgradation and continuous optimization of the network by having drive Tests
- Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) additions
- Close monitoring of the uptime of BTSs

There is no shortage of mobile capacity at present in MTNL. However, in case of BSNL, it could not procure equipments for the last four years because of non-finalisation of its tenders owing to complaints from the vendors. New tender has now been finalized and purchase orders have been placed for North and South Zones. BSNL is also taking action taken to place purchase orders for other two zones early.

Statement

*Mobile network capacity and connections of BSNL and
MTNL Circle-wise as on 30.9.2012*

| Sl.No | Circle | Mobile Network Capacity | Mobile Connections |
|-------------|---------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| BSNL | | | |
| 1. | Haryana | 2106210 | 3049859 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| 2. | Himachal Pradesh | 1053350 | 1480368 |
| 3. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1307177 | 1076663 |
| 4. | Punjab | 3247957 | 4397667 |
| 5. | Rajasthan | 3908694 | 5599480 |
| 6. | Uttarakhand | 950518 | 1396455 |
| 7. | U.P. (E) | 6444900 | 9815385 |
| 8. | U.P. (W) | 2532104 | 3442491 |
| 9. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 400000 | 195507 |
| 10. | Assam | 1317917 | 1174587 |
| 11. | Bihar | 2265394 | 4212935 |
| 12. | Kolkata Telecom District | 1461180 | 2297029 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 1701640 | 1618886 |
| 14. | North East-I | 611802 | 812597 |
| 15. | North East-II | 590879 | 774697 |
| 16. | Odisha | 2141500 | 4342280 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 2881854 | 3372100 |
| 18. | Chhattisgarh | 1750543 | 1496445 |
| 19. | Gujarat | 4488693 | 4073277 |
| 20. | Maharashtra | 6312481 | 6363135 |
| 21. | Madhya Pradesh | 3131300 | 3207660 |
| 22. | Andhra Pradesh | 5460403 | 9040002 |
| 23. | Chennai Telecom District | 1911594 | 1659441 |
| 24. | Kerala | 5350537 | 7189174 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------|------------|---------|---------|
| 25. | Karnataka | 5021639 | 6725705 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 7099106 | 7692786 |
| MTNL | | | |
| 1. | Delhi | 3025000 | 2495718 |
| 2. | Mumbai | 2800000 | 2612803 |

Committee for Internet Related Policies

212. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed a Committee for Internet Related Policies (CIRP) for regulations to be set up under the UN;
- (b) if so, the duties and jurisdiction of the Committee; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) A Statement on behalf of India was made in the 66th session of the UN General Assembly in October, 2011 wherein, it was suggested to establish a Working Group under the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for drawing detailed terms of reference regarding the proposal to constitute a UN Committee for Internet Related Policies (CIRP) to operationalize the "Enhanced Cooperation" with the multistakeholder participation as envisaged under the Tunis Agenda.

It was proposed that Committee for Internet Related Policies (CIRP) shall undertake the following tasks:—

- Develop and establish international public policies with a view to ensuring coordination and coherence in cross-cutting Internet-related global issues;
- Coordinate and oversee the bodies responsible for technical and operational functioning of the Internet, including global standards setting;

- Facilitate negotiation of treaties, conventions and agreements on Internet-related public policies;
- Address developmental issues related to the internet;
- Promote the promotion and protection of all human rights, namely, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including the right to Development;
- Undertake arbitration and dispute resolution, where necessary; and
- Crisis management in relation to the Internet.

The CIRP will comprise 50 member States chosen on the basis of equitable geographical representation, and will meet annually for two working weeks in Geneva. It will ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders by establishing four Advisory Groups, one each for civil society, the private sector, inter-governmental and international organizations, and the technical and academic community. The Advisory Groups will provide their inputs and recommendations to the CIRP. The meeting of CIRP and the advisory groups will be serviced by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretariat that also services the meeting of the commission on Science and Technology for Development. The internet Governance Forum will provide inputs to CIRP in the spirit of complementarity between the two. CIRP will report directly to the General Assembly and present recommendations for consideration, adoption and dissemination among all relevant inter-governmental bodies and international organizations. In order to operationalize the proposal, India calls for the establishment of an open-ended Working Group under the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for drawing up the detailed terms of reference for CIRP.

Equipments for communication industry

†213. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that communication industry in the country has been developing continuously since the last years;
- (b) if so, the annual average growth rate during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the expansion of communication industry in the country is continuously dependent on the supply of imported equipments; and

(d) if not, the percentage of equipments of this industry which are domestic products and the annual average growth rate of this domestic production during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The detail of total number of telephone connections during the last three years is as under:—

| Sl. No. | Year (As on) | Total Number of Telephone connections | Annual growth rate (in percentage) |
|---------|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | 31st March, 2009 | 429.73 million | |
| 2. | 31st March, 2010 | 621.28 million | 44.57 |
| 3. | 31st March, 2011 | 846.33 million | 36.22 |
| 4. | 31st March, 2012 | 951.35 million | 12.40 |

The annual average growth rate during the last three years is 31.07%,.

(c) and (d) Presently, wireless equipment with sufficient value addition are not being manufactured in the country. However, to promote telecom equipment manufacturing within the country, following steps have been taken:—

- (i) The National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-2012) *inter-alia*, has following objectives on promoting Telecom Equipment Manufacturing:
- Promote the ecosystem for design, Research and Development, IPR creation, testing, standardization and manufacturing *i.e.* complete value chain for domestic production of telecommunication equipment to meet Indian telecom sector demand to the extent of 60% and 80% with a minimum value addition of 45% and 65% by the year 2017 and 2020 respectively.

- Provide preference to domestically manufactured telecommunication products, in procurement of those telecommunication products which have security implications for the country and in Government procurement for its own use, consistent with our World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments.
- (ii) With a view to increasing share of domestically manufactured electronic products which includes telecom equipment also, the Government *vide* Notification No. 8(78)/2010-IPHW dated 10th February, 2012 has laid down the policy for providing preference to domestically manufactured electronic products in procurement. Department of Telecommunications has notified telecom products to be procured by all the Ministries or Departments (except the Ministry of Defence) of Government and the agencies under their administrative control and for all Government funded telecom projects (e.g. NFS and projects funded by USOF like NOFN etc.) *vide* notification No. 18-07/2012-IP dated 5th October, 2012. The notification proposes 50% to 100% preferential market access for domestically manufactured telecom equipment with minimum value addition of 25% to 65%.

Time taken for delivery of post

†214. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all post offices of the country are working properly;
- (b) if so, the time taken for delivery of ordinary post, speed post and registered post to their destinations in the country, separately; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) Yes, Sir. The post offices of the country are working properly. However, complaints are received at times relating to delay in delivery and they are attended to promptly.

(b) and (c) Standard time taken for delivery of ordinary post, speed post and registered post are given in Statement. (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Standard time taken for delivery of ordinary post, speed post and registered post are as follows

| Class of Mail | Time from posting/ booking to delivery | Unit in days |
|---|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excludes day of posting, holidays and Sundays. • Maximum time. • Articles posted before cut off time. |
| Delivery of First class mail <i>i.e.</i> letters, post-cards, Inland letter cards, etc. | Local* and between Metro Cities** | 2 |
| | *Local - within Municipal City limits | |
| | **Metro- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. | |
| | Rest of India | 4-6 |
| Delivery of: • Registered/articles • Second Class Mails <i>i.e.</i> Parcels, Book Packets, Registered Newspapers, etc. | Local* and between Metro Cities** | 3 |
| | *Local-within Municipal City limits | |
| | **Metro- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. | |
| | Rest of India | 5-7 |
| Delivery of Speed Post articles | Local* and between Metro Cities** | 2 |
| | *Local-within Municipal City limits | |
| | **Metro- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. | |
| | Rest of India | 4-6 |

Information Security Education and Awareness Project

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

(a) whether there is any scheme for participation of private institutes under Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project, across the country;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) the details of institutes which participated during the last three years in the above scheme; and

(d) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) project is aimed at human resource development in the country in the area of Information Security. The academic activities of the ISEA project are implemented by 6 Resource Centres (including Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai) and 33 Participating Institutes (including National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Government Engineering Colleges, select centres of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology).

A Scheme for participation of private institutes under ISEA Project was introduced on 23.2.2006 under which the following benefits to the AICTE/UGC approved non-profit private institutes were envisaged:—

- Access to their faculty/staff to attend Faculty Training' Programmes or any other training programmes conducted by Resource Centres/Participating Institutes on payment of requisite fee and meeting all other expenditures.
- Access to the training material, courseware developed under ISEA project.

No financial support to the private institutes was envisaged in the said scheme.

No formal proposals were received by the Department during the last three years and the current year under the above scheme. However, during this period, around 600 faculty members from various private institutions were trained under short-term

training programmes conducted by the implementing agencies. Further, around 70 private engineering colleges across the country participated in the half/one day awareness programme conducted under the ISEA project.

Quality of MTNL and BSNL services

216. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that services provided by MTNL and BSNL are not satisfactory as compared to private operators;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government is tacking to improve their efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The telecom subscribers of BSNL and MTNL sometimes face problems with regard to Quality of Service (QoS) as do Subscribers of private operators. However, BSNL and MTNL are, in general, meeting the QoS benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI).

Quality of Service (QoS) improvement is a continuous process. Actions being taken by BSNL and MTNL to improve their Quality of Service, are as follows:

- All circles are keeping adequate stock of spare cable for emergency purposes.
- Close co-ordination is being maintained with Police authorities to minimize the cases of cable theft.
- Close co-ordination with Municipal authorities to avoid damages of cable due to development work and regular patrolling of major routes.
- Rehabilitation and upgradation of external plant.
- Close monitoring of network operation through IT (Information Technology) enabled systems.
- Introduction of CDR (Call Detail Record) based billing, commercial and fault repair services.

- Introduction of effective Network Management System.
- Measures like BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) additions, capacity augmentation and upgradation, optimization of radio network and drive tests.

TRAI has been taking various steps to ensure Quality of Service by the service providers including BSNL and MTNL. Some of these steps are as follows:-

- TRAI has been monitoring the performance of Service Providers against the benchmarks given for the various parameters laid in Quality of Service Regulations through Quarterly and Monthly Performance Monitoring Reports. In addition, Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion is also being monitored on monthly basis.
- TRAI also undertakes objective assessment of the Quality of Service of Basic, Cellular and Broadband Services through independent agencies. A customer satisfaction survey is also conducted quarterly through these agencies. The results of these audit and survey are being widely published for public/Stakeholders knowledge.
- TRAI has been following up with the Service Providers for addressing deficiencies in meeting the Quality of Service benchmarks.

In addition, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) also reviews the performance of BSNL and MTNL periodically.

Guidelines for Wimax franchising

217. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently noticed any further lacunae in the guidelines notified for Wimax franchising;
- (b) if so, whether these have been rectified;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether due to the said lacunae, any of the telecom operators have been unduly benefited;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by Government to recover the benefits accrued to private telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (g) Government has not noticed any further lacunae in the guidelines notified for Wimax (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) franchising in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

Recommendations of JWG on cyber security

218. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Working Group set up for strengthening of the cyber security architecture in the country has released its report in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Group has made consultations with various stakeholders before finalization of its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the recommendations made by the Working Group so far; and

(f) the action taken by Government, so far, on such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The Joint Working Group report on engagement with Private Sector for strengthening Cyber Security Architecture in the country was formally released by National Security Adviser on 15th October, 2012 in New Delhi.

(b) The Joint Working Group has identified the guiding principles and objectives that would underpin the overall framework and roadmap for Public Private Partnership (PPP) on Cyber Security. It envisages setting up of Institutional Framework, Capacity building in the area of Cyber Security, Development of Cyber Security Standards and Assurance mechanisms, augmentation of testing and certification facilities for Information Technology products.

(c) and (d) The Joint Working Group included representatives of Government Departments and Agencies from Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) alongwith Information and Communication Technology Industry Associations including NASSCOM, Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

(e) The key recommendations of the Joint Working Group include the following:—

- (i) Setting up of a permanent Joint Working Group under the aegis of National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) with representatives from Government as well as private sector.
- (ii) Setting up of the Joint Committee of International Cooperation of Advocacy (JCICA).
- (iii) The private sector will set up Information Sharing and Analysis Sector (ISACs) in various sectors and cooperate with the sectoral Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) at the operational level.
- (iv) The Joint Working Group has identified four pilot projects for collaboration which include:
 - Setting up of Pilot Testing Lab.
 - Conducting a test audit of a specified sector
 - Studying vulnerabilities in a sample critical information infrastructure
 - Establishment of the multi - disciplinary Centre of Excellence

(f) Action has been initiated to work out the action plan for implementation of the recommendations.

Strengthening of cyber security

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

- (a) whether Government has received any recommendations about strengthening of cyber security for safeguarding public and private computer network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to form any new agency at the national and State levels to oversee the cyber security in the country; 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) Government is aware of the need to strengthen Cyber Security for safeguarding our cyber space. After consultation with various stakeholders, a framework for cyber security has been prepared for implementation.

(c) and (d) The proposed architecture envisages multilayer approach for ensuring defence in depth with clear demarcation of responsibilities between various agencies and Government Departments at the national and State levels. The architecture would provide for threat monitoring, traffic scanning, collection, aggregation and dissemination of cyber security related information for generation of situational assessment and proactive actions.

Guidelines for Telephone Advisory Committees

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

- (a) whether Government has framed any Rules under a statute or have prepared guidelines for the functioning of Telephone Advisory Committees;
- (b) if so, the details of such guidelines; and
- (c) the details of the proposals recommended by the Telephone Advisory Committee in Goa during the last five years and the number of proposals accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Circular in respect of Telephone Advisory Committees has been issued by Department of Telecommunication *vide* No. 8-01/2004-PHP dated September 10, 2004 is given in

Statement-I (*See* below). It was modified for provision of telephone facilities to TAC members *vide* No. 08-01/2009-PHP dated 26th October, 2010 is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) The main proposals recommended by the Telephone Advisory Committee in Goa during the last five years and the action taken/comments on the proposals are given in Statement-III (*See* below).

Statement-I

Government of India
Ministry of Communications and IT
Department of Telecommunications
415, Sanchar Bhawan, 20-Ashoka Road, New Delhi-1

No. 8-01/2004-PHP

September 10, 2004

CIRCULAR

Subject: Constitution of Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) at Telecom District level.

It has been decided that Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) will be reorganized for each Telecom Districts for a period of two years or till further orders whichever is earlier under the chairmanship of the Principal General Manager (PGM), General Manager (GM), Telecom District Manager (TDM), or Telecom District Engineer (TDE), as the case may be. In the case of Metro Districts *viz.* Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, one TAC each will be constituted under the Chairmanship of the concerned Area General Manager.

The TACs will be functioning in the following manner:-

Nomination of MPs in TAC.

- (i) The Hon'ble Members of Parliament shall be members of only one TAC falling within their constituency by virtue of their office. In case of nominated Rajya Sabha MPs, they may be nominated in the TAC falling within their adopted constituency [with regard to the constituency adopted for Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) programme]. However, Hon'ble MPs who become ministers shall not be nominated/ cease to continue in the TAC.

- (ii) Hon'ble MPs shall be given Co-Chairman status in TAC meetings in which he/she is present.
- (iii) Hon'ble MPs shall be member of a TAC till the tenure of the TAC or remains member of the House (Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha) whichever is earlier.

Strength of TAC.

The maximum strength of members in a TAC will be 20. However, the strength could be revised through specific orders of Department of Telecom in any special case.

Nomination of TAC member.

It would be ensured that the nominated TAC member have no outstanding telephone bills/dues pending in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

Facilities to TAC members

- (i) Each TAC member will be provided with a rent-free telephone connection on out of turn basis at his/her residence within the area of jurisdiction of the concerned TAC with 500 + free calls available to general subscribers as per commercial policy without ISD/STD facility.
- (ii) As per the prevailing policy, calls above the free calls shall be charged in appropriate commercial plan. Fixed WLL telephone connection shall be provided where the area is technically non-feasible. CLIP facility shall be provided to a TAC member if he/she abides by the commercial formalities. CLIP telephone/device shall be procured by the TAC members.
- (iii) TAC member shall be permitted for conversion of his/her working private telephone connection into TAC telephone provided under the capacity of TAC member subject to withdrawal of STD/ISD facility if available and clearance of upto date dues, if any. It will be incumbent upon each TAC members to pay the telephone bill above the free calls as per the commercial policy applicable to the member from time to time.

- (iv) Concerned GM level officer will ensure that the excess billing amount is realized from the TAC member within the prescribed time limit and would initiate appropriate action as per rule. All the commercial policies for realization of due/outstanding shall be applicable to TAC members also.
- (v) On expiry of his/her tenure, a member of TAC may be allowed to retain his/her telephone connection on private account.

TA/DA to TAC members for attending TAC meeting.

Each TAC shall hold at least two meetings every year preferably when Parliament/ State Legislature is not in session.

- (i) Hon'ble Members of Parliaments/MLAs are entitled to avail TA/DA as per the rules applicable to them (FRSR-II Appendix 2).
- (ii) Non-official TAC members are also entitled to avail TA/DA (conveyance allowance for local) as per the rule (FRSR-II).

Functions of the TAC.

- (i) TAC shall work as interface between telephone consumers and BSNL/ MTNL.
- (ii) Giving the public a confidence that their grievances are properly represented as well as redressed.
- (iii) Educate public/bring awareness among telephone consumers about the various services provided by BSNL/MTNL.
- (iv) To suggest measures for efficiency.

Termination of membership of TAC member.

The membership of a TAC can be terminated any time by the orders from Department of Telecommunications. Additionally, the ineligibility conditions which may also attract termination are following:—

- (i) If any member fails to attend two consecutive TAC meetings of the TAC of which he/she is a member.

- (ii) On the report of the Chairman of the TAC on misbehaviour/unsocial or antisocial activities on the part of the TAC members.
- (iii) If the member runs into outstanding arrears of his/her telephone connection.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this circular.

Hindi version will follow.

(AJEET SINGH)
Director (PHP)
Tel. No. 23372531

To

The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, BSNL, New Delhi.
The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MTNL, New Delhi.

Copy to:

1. All the Hon'ble MPs
(Liaison Officer (Phones), DOT, Room No. 520, 5th Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi-1. He is requested to bring it to the notice of all the Hon'ble MPs without fail).
2. PS to MOC and IT/MOS (C&IT)
3. PPS to Chairman (TC)
4. PPS to Member (S)
5. Press Information Officer, DOT; PIB, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

(SANGEETA CHUGH)
Assistant Director General (PHP)
Tel. No. 23725254

Statement-II

Government of India
Ministry of Communications and IT
Department of Telecommunications
415, Sanchar Bhawan, 20-Ashoka Road, New Delhi-1

CIRCULAR

Subject: Provision of telephone facilities to TAC members.

In partial modification of DoT circular/memo no. 8-01/2004 dated September 10, 2004 on the above subject, it has been decided by the competent authority that henceforth a TAC member would be provided any one of the following telephone facilities, as per his/her choice:

1. Prepaid Mobile Telephone Connection.

A Pre-paid SIM (with local/STD/All India Roaming/SMS etc.) will be provided subject to the following conditions/limits:-

- (a) The TAC member will be permitted to have the option to use his private prepaid mobile connection of BSNL/MTNL as TAC mobile connection or he can have a new SIM from BSNL/MTNL.
- (b) The TAC member will be free to choose any plan prevalent in the Telecom District.
- (c) A recharge coupon of amount of Rs. 700/- (Rs. Seven Hundred) only per month will be given.
- (d) The mobile handset will be arranged by the TAC member himself.
- (e) Those TAC members who have already taken a TAC category landline connection may avail this facility after surrendering the said landline telephone.

2. Landline Telephone Connection/Fixed Wireless Telephone Connection.

A Telephone connection without STD/ISD at his/her residence within the area of jurisdiction of the concerned TAC with free limit of Rs. 700/- (Rs. Seven hundred) only per month in any commercial plan. This will be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) TAC members shall be permitted for conversion of his/her working private telephone connection into TAC telephone provided under the capacity of TAC member subject to withdrawal of STD/ISD facility if available and clearance of upto date dues, if any. It will be incumbent upon each TAC members to pay the telephone bill beyond the free limit of Rs. 700/- per month.

- (b) Concerned head of telecom district will ensure that the billing amount beyond prescribed limit is realized from the TAC member within the prescribed time limit and would initiate appropriate action including disconnection as per rule in case of non payment of bills.

Note:-

- a. On expire of his/her tenure, a member of TAC may be allowed to retain his/her mobile/telephone connection on private account.
- b. In caste of Co-Chairman of TACs *i.e.* Hon'ble MPs, TAC telephone connection with STD facility may be installed at his/her address anywhere in the country, as per choice of Co-Chairman. The Chairman of the TAC in which Hon'ble MP has been nominated as Co-Chairman will coordinate for the provision/disconnection of telephone connection.

(A.K. Verma)

Director (PHP)

Tel. No. 2303 6028

To

1. CMD, BSNL, New Delhi.
2. CMD, MTNL, New Delhi.
3. All Heads of Telecom Circles/Heads of Metro Telephone Districts
4. All Heads of Telecom Districts.

Copy to:

1. PS to MOC & IT.
2. PS to MOS (C&IT) (P).
3. PS to MOS (C&IT) (K).
4. PPS to Chairman (TC).
5. PPS to Member (Services), DoT.
6. PPS to Member (Finance), DoT.
7. PPS to Member (Technology), DoT.

Statement-III

*Action taken/comments on the main proposals of Telephone Advisory
Committee of Goa Telecom District*

| Sl.No. | Main Proposals | Action taken/comments |
|--------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | BSNL should set up a separate Call Centre for Goa state. | A separate Call Centre in Maharashtra Circle has already been commissioned at Pune which covers Goa also. |
| 2. | Towers at Railway building should be erected so that signal along Railway track improves. | Implemented. |
| 3. | Improvement in bill payment procedure is required. | A new billing system called CDR System has been introduced. Now subscribers can view bills online and make payments online. |
| 4. | Postal PIN code should be mentioned in the bills. | Implemented. |
| 5. | Implementation of migration of mobile numbers to other service provider. | Implemented. |
| 6. | TAC member should be provided with ID cards with BSNL logo. | As per extant policy, no identity card is to be issued to TAC members. |
| 7. | Konkani speaking agent from Goa who knows the geographical locations of Goa should be appointed in Call centre. | Three language (Hindi, English and Marathi) options are available to the customers of Maharashtra Circle covered by Call Centre at Pune which also includes Goa State. |
| 8. | BSNL should supply good quality | Good quality Modems and CLIP |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|--|
| | Broadband Modems and CLIP instruments as the existing one are getting frequently faulty. | instruments are being supplied to the customers. Moreover there is option that customer can purchase modem and CLIP instruments from the market as per his own choice. |
| 9. | Goa may be made a separate Telecom Circle. | At present Goa is part of Maharashtra Telecom Circle and there is no proposal to make Goa a separate Telecom Circle. |
| 10. | Landline coverage:- All revenue villages in Goa should be covered with landline connectivity. | Implemented. |
| 11. | Acceptance of telephone bills:-Every Post office should accept payment of any Telephone bill of any exchange. | Implemented. |
| 12. | Construction of new telephone exchange building at Quepen. | Construction of new building was not taken up due to shortage of Fund. However, existing telephone exchange building was renovated in October, 2012. |

India's ranking in ICT penetration

221. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India's ranking has fallen in the World Information and Communication Technology (ICT) rankings, released by the World Economic Forum and INSEAD for the past two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India ranks amongst the lowest countries in terms of ICT penetration in the country; and

(d) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the business environment in the ICT sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has been ranked 69th among 142 nations in inherent capacity to leverage information and communication technologies (ICT) for progress, in the latest of a series of Networked Readiness Index reports brought out annually by the World Economic Forum and the business school, INSEAD. It ranked 48th among 138 nations in 2011 and 43rd among 133 nations in 2010.

(c) No, Sir. India is ranked 69th among 142 nations in inherent capacity to leverage information and communication technologies (ICT) for progress, in the latest of a series of Networked Readiness Index reports brought out annually by the World Economic Forum and the business school, INSEAD.

(d) Government of India has recently come up with a National Policy on Information Technology. The principal policy objectives of the IT Policy are to optimally leverage our existing and evolving ICT infrastructure and capabilities to meet the growing need for high quality social sector services like education, health, e-government services, economic services like banking, insurance, transportation and logistics etc. Another major objective is to use ICT capabilities to enhance competitiveness and efficiency in manufacturing across the board and in key infrastructure sectors.

National Mission on Food Processing

222. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to initiate National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) with the cooperation of State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether there is any time-frame fixed by Government for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has launched National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) main scheme through States/UTs during 2012-13 with an objective of decentralization of implementation of Ministry's schemes, which will lead to substantial participation by State Governments/UTs and to add significantly to the Ministry's outreach in terms of planning, supervision and monitoring of assistance through this scheme. The Major Programmes/Schemes to be 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 Modernisation of Abattoirs (no targets for 2012-13 and 2013-14)
 - (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development (HRD) with following components *i.e.* (a) Creation of Infrastructure Facilities for Running Degree/Diploma/Certificate Courses in Food Processing Technology; (b) Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) and (c) Food Processing Training Centre (FPTC).
 - (v) Scheme for Promotional Activities *i.e.* (a) Organizing Seminar/Workshops; (b) Conducting Studies/Surveys; (c) Support to Exhibitions/Fairs and (d) Advertisement and Publicity.
- (c) The scheme is already in operation during 2012-13 with the help of State Government/UTs.

Fruit processing in Uttarakhand

†223. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry feels the need of processing the fruits keeping in view the abundance thereof in the State of Uttarakhand;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is going to consider on the proposal of materialising any action plan based on the fruits;

(c) whether his Ministry will provide grants to the youths of the State to establish industries for processing; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern region including Sikkim, was sanctioned by Government of India during Ninth Plan. Considering the potential of Horticulture for socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which are contiguous hilly States. Government of India has approved for implementation of the Technology Mission on Horticulture to these States during 2003-04, with the title of the scheme as "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. This scheme is operational during 2012-13 also.

Under the Mini Mission-IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, assistance at still higher rates *i.e.* @ 50% upto Rs. 4 crore for setting up of new food processing units and upto Rs. 1 crore for Upgradation/modernization of existing units is available to industries involved in processing of horticultural produce.

(c) and (d) In addition, Government has launched National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) through States/UTs during 2012-13 with an objective of decentralization of implementation of Ministry's schemes, which will lead to substantial participation by State Governments/UTs and to add significantly to the Ministry's outreach in terms of planning, supervision and monitoring of assistance through this scheme. The Major Programmes/Schemes to be 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 Modernisation of Abattoirs (no targets for 2012-13 and 2013-14)
- (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development (HRD) with following components *i.e.* (a) Creation of Infrastructure Facilities for Running Degree/Diploma/Certificate Courses in Food Processing Technology; (b) Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) and (c) Food Processing Training Centre (FPTC).
- (v) Scheme for Promotional Activities *i.e.* (a) Organizing Seminar/Workshops; (b) Conducting Studies/Surveys; (c) Support to Exhibitions/Fairs and (d) Advertisement and Publicity.

The above scheme is meant for all the eligible entrepreneurs in the Mini Mission-IV area including for the youth of Uttarakhand.

Development of cold storage chains

224. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated policy to develop cold storage chains from farm gate to market place by involving modern technology through foreign direct investment (FDI); and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to train the rural youths to handle such technology and machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Government has permitted 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in food processing sector including cold chain set up for this purpose, except alcoholic beverages and items reserved for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

(b) Government is providing financial assistance under National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) for training, skill development of youths in food processing. Government has also established National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) for skill development in food processing and preservation technology.

Food park in Odisha

225. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to have a food park in Jajpur and Jagatsinghpur District of Odisha in view of Kalinga Nagar and Jajpur Road becoming industrial hubs and close to mines of Keonjhar, Cuttack and Dhenkanal Districts of Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many food parks have already been established in Odisha and the country;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the cost of establishing a food park in one district or city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government has approved 56 Food Parks in different States of the country including one Food Park in Odisha under the Food Park Scheme. The details of these Food Parks are given in Statement (*See* below).

(e) The cost of Food Park varies from project to project depending upon the investment capacity of the promoters. However, under the Food Park Scheme grant-in-aid was provided @ 25% of the project cost in general area and 33% of the project cost in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs.4.00 crores for development of common facilities in the Food Parks. The scheme has since been discontinued after the Tenth Plan.

Statement*List of Food Parks*

| Sl. No. | State | Location of the Project | Implementing agency | Year of approval |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Kuppam, Distt.-Chittoor | Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd., | 2000-01 |
| 2. | Assam | Chaygaon, Distt. Kamrup | Assam small Industries Development Corporation Ltd., | 2000-01 |
| 3. | Bihar | Hajipur, District Vaishali | North Bihar Ind. Area Dev. Authority, C/o Department of Industries | 2002-03 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | Village Teadesara, Dist-Rajnandgaon | Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation | 2001-02 |
| 5. | Haryana | Saha, Distt.-Ambala | Haryana State Ind. Dev. Corporation Ltd., | 2001-02 |
| 6. | Haryana | Rai, Distt.-Sonipat, | Haryana State Ind. Dev. Corporation Ltd., | 2001-02 |
| 7. | Jammu and Kashmir | Khunmoh, Distt.-Srinagar, | J&K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. | 2000-01 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | Sopore, Baramulla | J&K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (J&K SIDCO) | 2002-03 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|--|---------|
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu | Jammu Agro Industrial Food Park, | 2001-02 |
| 10. | Karnataka | Malur, Distt.-Kolar, | Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board/ Food Karnataka Limited | 2000-01 |
| 11. | Karnataka | Bagalkot, | Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board/ Food Karnataka Limited | 2000-01 |
| 12. | Karnataka | Jevargi | Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board Food Karnataka Limited | 2002-03 |
| 13. | Karnataka | Hirriyur | M/s Akshay Food Park Limited | 2006-07 |
| 14. | Kerala | Distt. Mallapuram, | Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation | 1996-97 |
| 15. | Kerala | Aroor, Distt.-Alappuzha, | Marine Products Infrastructure Development Corporation P. Ltd. (MIDCON)/Seafood Park India Ltd. | 2001-02 |
| 16. | Kerala | Mazhuvannur, Ernakulam | Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) | 2002-03 |
| 17. | Kerala | Adoor | Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) | 2005-06 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---------|
| 18. Madhya Pradesh | Jaggakhedi, Distt-Mandsaur, | Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd., | 2000-01 |
| 19. Madhya Pradesh | Nimrani, Distt. Khargone, | Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd., | 2001-02 |
| 20. Madhya Pradesh | Piparia, Babai, Distt-Hoshangabad | Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Bhopal) Ltd., | 2001-02 |
| 21. Madhya Pradesh | Borgaon, Distt. Chhindwara | M.P.Audyogik Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd., | 2001-02 |
| 22. Madhya Pradesh | Malanbur, Ghirongi, District Bhind (M.P). | M.P. Audyogik Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Gwalior) Ltd. | 2002-03 |
| 23. Madhya Pradesh | Maneri, Distt. Mandla | M.P. Audyogik Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd. | 2002-03 |
| 24. Maharashtra | Butibori, Distt.-Nagpur, | Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. | 2000-01 |
| 25. Maharashtra | Vinchur, Distt. Nashik | Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation | 2001-02 |
| 26. Maharashtra | Mouza Gumthala, Bhandara Road, Distt. Nagpur. | M/s Haldiram Krishi Udyog Pvt. Ltd., Distt. Nagpur. | 2002-03 |
| 27. Maharashtra | Village Sangvi, Distt. Satara | M/s Agrifood Informatics (India) Ltd., Pune-411013 | 2002-03 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|-------------|--|---|---------|
| 28. | Maharashtra | Palus, Distt-Sangli | Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation | 2003-04 |
| 29. | Maharashtra | Kapsi, Taluka Kamtee, Distt. Nagpur | M/s Maa Umiya Audyogic Sahakari Vasahat Maryadit | 2005-06 |
| 30. | Maharashtra | MIDC Industrial Area, Shendra, Aurangabad | M/s Laxmi Nirmal Pratishtan | 2006-07 |
| 31. | Manipur | Lamphelpat, Imphal | Manipur Food Industries Corporation Ltd. | 2000-01 |
| 32. | Manipur | Distt.-Ukhrul | Rishang Keishing Foundation for Management of Tribal Areas | 2001-02 |
| 33. | Mizoram | Chhingchip, | Mizoram Food and Allied Industries | 2001-02 |
| 34. | Nagaland | Bamunpukri, Dimapur | Progressive Rural Development Society | 2006-07 |
| 35. | Odisha | Khurda | Odisha Indl. Infrastructure Development Corporation | 2001-02 |
| 36. | Punjab | Sirhind, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib | Punjab Agri Export Corporation | 2000-01 |
| 37. | Rajasthan | Ranpur, Distt. Kota. | Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO) | 2002-03 |
| 38. | Rajasthan | Boranada, District Jodhpur | Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO) | 2002-03 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---------|
| 39. Rajasthan | Sri Ganganagar | Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO) | 2003-04 |
| 40. Rajasthan | Alwar | Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO) | 2006-07 |
| 41. Tamil Nadu | Virudhunagar, Distt.-Madurai | V.P.S. Ayyemperumal Nadar and Sons., | 2000-01 |
| 42. Tamil Nadu | Dindigul District | Nilakottai Food Park Ltd. | 2004-05 |
| 43. Tripura | Bodhjungnagar, West Tripura | Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. , | 2000-01 |
| 44. Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad | Wise Industrial Park Ltd. | 1999-00 |
| 45. Uttar Pradesh | Kharkion, Distt.-Varanasi | U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. | 2000-01 |
| 46. Uttar Pradesh | Shahajanwa, Gorakhpur | Gorakhpur Industrial Dev. Authority. | 2004-05 |
| 47. Uttar Pradesh | Village Kushalipur, District Saharanpur | M/S Kushal International Limited, | 2002-03 |
| 48. Uttar Pradesh | Kursi Road, Distt. Barabanki | U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. | 2000-01 |
| 49. West Bengal | Chakgaria, 24 Parganas (South) | State Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., (BENFISH), Kolkata | 1998-99 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|-------------|--|---|---------|
| 50. | West Bengal | Dankuni, Distt. Hooghly | Modular Consultants Pvt. Ltd. | 1996-97 |
| 51. | West Bengal | Haldia District Midnapore. | Haldia Development Authority, Haldia | 2002-03 |
| 52. | West Bengal | Sultanpur, South 24 Parganas | State Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., (BENFISH), Kolkata | 2003-04 |
| 53. | West Bengal | Malda | Deptt. Of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Government of West Bengal | 2003-04 |
| 54. | West Bengal | Shankarapur, Distt. Purba Medinipur | Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Resources, Government of West Bengal | 2004-05 |
| 55. | West Bengal | Sankhrai, Howrah | West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) | 2004-05 |
| 56. | West Bengal | Murshidabad | M/s Pataka Industries Limited | 2005-06 |

Effect of limiting subsidized LPG cylinders on MDMS

226. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has written to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on the decision to limit subsidized LPG cylinders to six a year as it would cost about ₹ 652 crore additional burden for the world's largest school feeding programme, the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to address this issue appropriately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Human Resource Development had requested Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to allow supply of subsidized LPG cylinders under Mid Day Meal Scheme as it entailed an additional burden of Rs. 653 crore on MDMS due to increase in the prices of the LPG cylinders. The request of this Ministry has not been agreed to, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has advised that the additional burden could be compensated to the Ministry of HRD through the budgetary provision for Mid Day Meal Scheme.

(c) Steps have been initiated to enhance cooking cost, which includes the fuel cost.

Setting up of model schools

227. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government is contemplating to set up Model Schools/Rashtriya Adarsh Vidyalayas under the Public-Private-Partnership model;

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

(c) the details of the modalities worked out in this regard;

(d) the time schedule fixed for setting up of Model Schools; and

(e) the number of such Model Schools to be set up in the country, State-wise, and the criteria proposed to be fixed for selection of their location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the Model School Scheme under which 2,500 model schools are to be set up under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in blocks which are not educationally backward. Implementation of this component has been initiated from 2012-13 and a Request for Qualification to pre-qualify eligible private entities has been issued in July, 2012. The selected private entities, such as trusts, societies and not-for-profit companies, will be responsible for setting up the model schools on a design, build, finance and operate basis. The Government will contribute to recurring cost on *per capita* basis for the students sponsored by the Government. Besides, a sum equal to 25% of such support for each sponsored student, not exceeding an amount equal to 10% of the capital investment in the school, shall also be provided as infrastructure grant. The initial agreement for such provision of quality education would be for 10 years for each school, which is extendable by mutual agreement.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has identified 3,203 blocks in the country, which are not educationally backward, for setting up of 2,500 model schools in next three years *i.e.* 500 schools in 2012-13 and 1,000 schools each in 2013-14 and 2014-15. State-wise number of such blocks is given in Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of blocks which are not educationally backward

| Sl.No. | State | Number of Blocks |
|--------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 9 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 391 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 39 |
| 4. | Assam | 97 |
| 5. | Bihar | 4 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 20 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|------------------------|-----|
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 72 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 2 |
| 10. | Delhi | 28 |
| 11. | Goa | 11 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 139 |
| 13. | Haryana | 83 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 113 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 118 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 11 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 106 |
| 18. | Kerala | 163 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 8 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 112 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 312 |
| 22. | Manipur | 30 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 30 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 35 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 36 |
| 26. | Odisha | 142 |
| 27. | Puducherry | 3 |
| 28. | Punjab | 121 |

| 156 | <i>Written Answers to</i> | [RAJYA SABHA] | <i>Unstarred Questions</i> |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | | 68 |
| 30. | Sikkim | | 9 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | | 358 |
| 32. | Tripura | | 31 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | | 150 |
| 34. | Uttarakhand | | 77 |
| 35. | West Bengal | | 275 |
| TOTAL: | | | 3,203 |

Improvement of education in Madarsas

228. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a consultative committee comprising of various stakeholders for effective implementation of a scheme aimed at improving education in Madarsas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of manner in which Government would focus to improve the Madarsa education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (c) A National Consultative Committee on implementation of the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) has been setup on 27th August, 2012, which would meet twice in a year and discuss various implementation issues and advise the Government on the scheme. The Committee is chaired by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development and includes representatives of State Governments, State Madarsa Boards, madarsas teachers associations and representative of minority educational institutions.

Opening of Mega Food Parks

‡229. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to establish fifteen more 'Mega Food Parks' in addition to sanctioned/approved fifteen 'Mega Food Parks';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places where these Mega Food Parks are being set up;

(c) the status of 'Mega Food Parks' being established in Mandsaur and Neemuch;

(d) by when these 'Mega Food Parks' will become fully operational; and

(e) whether there is any plan to allocate one more Mega Food Park to Punjab in view of huge availability of raw materials for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of these 15 new Mega Food Park projects are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) No Mega Food Park has been approved for establishment in Mandsaur and Neemuch.

(d) As per the provisions of the Mega Food Park Scheme Guidelines, the projects are required to be completed within 30 months from the date of "Final Approval".

(e) No, Sir.

Statement*Details of the 15 New Mega Food Parks*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project | Project Cost (Cr.) | Date of 'in-principle' approval | Location of the Project |
|---------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | M/s Indus Best Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Raipur, Chhattisgarh | 124.91 | 06.09.2012 | Bemta, Distt. Raipur, Chhattisgarh |
| 2. | M/s Goenka Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., Abhishekpakkam, Puducherry | 149.89 | 06.09.2012 | Abhishekpakkam, Distt. Puducherry |
| 3. | M/s Chhattisgarh Agro Mega Food Park Ltd., Raipur, Chhattisgarh | 129.65 | 21.09.2012 | Kharora, Distt. Raipur, Chhattisgarh |
| 4. | M/s Greens Food Park India Pvt. Ltd., Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir | 81.02 | 21.09.2012 | Lassipora, Distt. Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir |
| 5. | M/s Soma New Towns (P) Ltd., Sirsa, Haryana | 147.08 | 21.09.2012 | Natar, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana |
| 6. | M/s Green Tech Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Ajmer, Rajasthan | 113.11 | 21.09.2012 | Rupangarh, Distt. Ajmer, Rajasthan |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|------------|--|
| 7. | M/s Godavari Mega Aqua Park Pvt. Ltd., West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh | 119.12 | 21.09.2012 | Tadepalligudem, Distt. West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh |
| 8. | M/s Pristine Logistics and Infraprojects Pvt. Ltd., Khagaria, Bihar | 142.98 | 21.09.2012 | Mansi, Distt. Khagaria, Bihar |
| 9. | M/s Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park, Surat, Gujarat | 108.30 | 21.09.2012 | Mangrol, Distt. Surat, Gujarat |
| 10. | M/s Poliyana Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Una, Himachal Pradesh | 97.63 | 21.09.2012 | Poliyan, Distt. Una, Himachal Pradesh |
| 11. | M/s Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Satara, Maharashtra | 132.26 | 21.09.2012 | Deogaon, Distt. Satara, Maharashtra |
| 12. | M/s Huma Coastal Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Ganjam, Odisha | 117.05 | 21.09.2012 | Mauza Raniboro, Distt. Ganjam, Odisha |
| 13. | M/s Himalayan Organic Mega Food Park Ltd., South Sikkim, Sikkim | 80.37 | 21.09.2012 | Melli, Distt. South Sikkim, Sikkim |
| 14. | M/s Himalayan Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand | 124.52 | 21.09.2012 | Mauha Kheraganj, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand |
| 15. | M/s Bengal Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Jalpaiguri, West Bengal | 113.90 | 21.09.2012 | Rajganj, Distt. Jalpaiguri, West Bengal |

Education of children in naxal affected and tribal areas

230. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that children in naxal affected areas are facing lot of problems and finding it difficult to go to schools;
- (b) whether Government is also aware that drop-out rates are very high in naxal affected and tribal areas;
- (c) if so, the details of drop-out rate during the last three years;
- (d) the steps Government is going to take to address this problem in West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh;
- (e) whether Government has earmarked budget for children of naxal affected areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the special incentives thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) As per School Education Statistics (SES) brought out by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, drop out rates in the States with Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts have been showing a decreasing trend in many areas since inception of SSA. However, in a few areas, the progress is not satisfactory. A comparative Statement indicating the drop rate in the States with LWE for the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) In order to address the problem of drop out in LWE affected States, SSA provides for:

- Opening of new schools, new/additional teachers depending on enrolment and all other SSA activities.
- Residential schools/hostels - there are 77 residential schools/hostels in LWE districts with intake capacity of 31650 children.
- KGBVs - girls' residential schools for classes VI - VIII, 889 are in LWE districts.
- Coordination with Ashram Shalas and other SC/ST department schools by giving (i) free text books (ii) mid day meal (iii) Teacher training (iv) school/maintenance grant (v) teacher grant for teaching aids.
- Encourage Multi Lingual Education (MLE) in early grades in tribal districts

of Odisha (10 tribal languages), AP (8 dialects/languages- Gondi, Kolami, Banjara, Koya, Adivasi Oriya, Konda, Kuvi and Savara), Jharkhand (5 tribal languages) and Chhattisgarh (7 tribal languages). The instruction in home language in early grades improves learning comprehension and retention, acting as a bridge language to the learning of the State language. Recruitment of local teachers is also encouraged in these districts.

- Special training for drop outs/never enrolled through for age appropriate admission in regular schools has been sanctioned for 6,59,668 out of school children at a cost of Rs 33280.32 lakhs.
- Transportation/escort facility for total of 47,909 children has been provided in 2011-12 and 2012-13 in LWE districts.

LWE districts are treated as Special Focused districts for need based planning and sanctions.

(e) and (f) Rs. 1002901 lakh *i.e.* 17% of the total funds sanctioned under SSA for the year 2011-12 went to the 82 LWE affected districts while for the year 2012-13, Rs. 1150503.60 lakhs *i.e.* 16% of the total funds sanctioned under SSA went to these districts. A summary of the provisioning in key components during these two years is indicated in the table below with comparative percentage of the national approvals for the respective component.

| Items | 2011-12 | | 2012-13 | |
|---|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Number | % of total | Number | % of total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Opening of New PS (including EGS to PS) | 386 | 10% | 412 | 40% |
| Opening of new UPS | 354 | 21% | 381 | 24% |
| Total teachers | 38682 | 26% | 27829 | 23% |
| Construction of PS buildings | 90 | 31% | 379 | 27% |
| Construction of UPS buildings | 323 | 44% | 383 | 18% |
| Construction of Addl. Classrooms | 43364 | 19% | 46938 | 27% |
| KGBV | 659 | 18% | 887 | 23% |
| SSA (Financial, Rs. In lakh) | 970645 | 17% | 1093660.26 | 16% |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----|------------|-----|
| KGBV (financial, Rs. In lakh) | Rs. 24071 | 11% | 51102.17 | 28% |
| NPGEL (financial, Rs. In lakh) | Rs. 8186 | 21% | 5741.17 | 24% |
| TOTAL FUNDS (Financial, Rs. In lakh) | 1002901 | 17% | 1150503.60 | 16% |

Statement

Drop-out rate in naxal affected States

| Name of State | 2010-11 | | 2009-10 | | 2008-09 | |
|----------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| | Primary | Elementary | Primary | Elementary | Primary | Elementary |
| West Bengal | 28.4 | 49.1 | 20.52 | 50.46 | 27.84 | 59.33 |
| Chhattisgarh* | 31.0 | 48.3 | 34.12 | 40.67 | 26.52 | 37.54 |
| Jharkhand* | 28.4 | 45.1 | 27.05 | 61.87 | 20.70 | 60.14 |
| Odisha | 7.0 | 55.0 | 26.45 | 54.30 | 33.12 | 56.92 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 17.4 | 32.9 | 15.80 | 41.29 | 15.55 | 40.65 |

*Data combined with parent State.

**Source - SES

Jan Shikshan Sansthan in Uttarakhand

†231. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jan Shikshan Sansthan established at present in Uttarakhand alongwith the location thereof;

(b) the details of grants released to these Jan Shikshan Sansthan during fiscal year 2005-06 to the current fiscal year alongwith the beneficiaries thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry would propose to open more Jan Shikshan Sansthan in view of the adverse geographical and economic condition of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Information is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement*Details of Jan Shikshan Sansthan in Uttarakhand*

| Sl. No. | Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) in | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|-----|
| | | Benefi- ciaries | Grant ciaries | Benefi- ciaries | Grant ciaries | Benefi- ciaries | Grant ciaries | Benefi- ciaries | Grant Benefi- ciaries | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | JSS, Near Sunrise Colony, Chinakhan, Almora | - | 100 | 2440000 | 916 | 2478000 | 1905 | 2746073 | 2702 | 2988020 | 2540 | 2884175 | 2595 | 1443757 | 1156 | | |
| 2. | JSS, Pindri Road (Near Degree College), Bageshwar | 1800000 | 372 | 170963 | 606 | 1500000 | 979 | 2078496 | 1837 | 2814621 | 2770 | 2856374 | 2380 | 2826457 | 2441 | 1330542 | 452 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|----|---|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|
| 3. | JSS, Birla Institute Complex, Bhimtal, Nainital | 2228374 | 1650 | 2399720 | 2213 | 1500000 | 1933 | 2128805 | 2509 | 2281741 | 2822 | 3000000 | 2535 | 2831624 | 2464 | 1357223 | 1123 |
| 4. | JSS, Subhash Nagar, Gopeshwar Chamoli, Garhwal | - | - | - | - | 1500000 | 405 | 2468313 | 1713 | 2701643 | 3513 | 3000000 | 3053 | 2996376 | 2635 | 1500000 | 1139 |
| 5. | JSS, Pushpkunj Colony, Near Haridwar Bypass, Dehradun | 2800000 | 1180 | 1844150 | 1238 | 1972269 | 1241 | 1567314 | 1401 | 1091799 | 2260 | 2912355 | 1849 | 2128096 | 2737 | 1429679 | 1164 |
| 6. | JSS, Hifeed Campus, P.O. Ranichauri Tehri Garhwal | 1500000 | - | 875000 | 130 | 2453210 | 1590 | 2500000 | 2664 | 2715986 | 3165 | 3000000 | 3104 | 2982561 | 2538 | 1181643 | 1060 |

Scheme for providing quality Education in Madarsas

232. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that adequate benefit of Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) has not reached the intended beneficiaries;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there has been lack of enthusiasm on part of the implementing machinery;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the action taken in the matter; and
- (e) the steps being taken to ensure devolution of full benefits of the scheme to the intended beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) The Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) is being implemented by the Ministry from the year 2008-09. The budget allocation under the scheme has gone up by 300 percent from Rs. 50 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 150 crore for the year 2011-12. Similarly, the number of Madarsas and teachers benefited under the scheme has gone up from 1,979 Madarsas and 4,962 teachers in the year 2009-10 to 5,934 Madarsas and 14,412 teachers in the year 2011-12 respectively. With a view to facilitate a dialogue and get feedback on implementation issues, the Ministry has institutionalized a National Consultative Committee on SPQEM with stakeholders.

Reservation of seats in schools for poor students

†233. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to reserve 25 per cent of seats in Government and private schools for poor students; and
- (b) if so, the total number of students registered during the current session, 2012 alongwith the number of poor students?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that unaided private schools shall admit in class - I (or pre-primary class, as the case may be) to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of the class, children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. Education in government schools is free and admission is open to all children so the question of reserving seats in government schools does not arise.

(b) Implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act was carried out by 7 States in 2011-12 and in 2012-13, 13 States have admitted children under the provision. The total enrolment of children in class I in 2011-12 was 29,624,145. However, disaggregated data for children admitted under section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act is not maintained separately.

B. Tech status for Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Course

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

(a) whether Government has received representation regarding recognition of Aircraft maintenance Engineering Course equivalent to B. Tech; and

(b) if so, the status of the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the information given by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Council has received a proposal for affiliation of training course of 4 years duration as a B.E. (Aeronautical Maintenance) Degree from Indian Institute of Aircraft Engineering (IIAE), New Delhi.

(b) The proposal has been examined by the Council, which has determined that the programme being conducted by IIAE cannot be approved by AICTE.

Moral education

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

(a) whether moral education is a part of the syllabus in school, college books and if so, the details thereof;

- (b) whether there is any provision for penalty if any of the institutes does not teach moral education;
- (c) the steps Government is taking to impart moral education and the details thereof; and
- (d) the State which is leading in teaching of this subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks prescribe themes and examples related to moral conduct across the subject areas and across various stages of school education in the syllabi and textbooks for classes I - XII as a follow-up of National Curriculum Framework- 2005. NCERT has also brought out a Value Education Framework entitled "Education for values in schools - A framework" which provides guidelines to schools to identify their priorities of values and plan actions accordingly.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has included the constitutional values among students of the schools affiliated to it. CBSE published source books for classes VI-VIII and a Teachers Manual on Life Skills for Classes IX-X and also on Environmental Education and Adolescence Education which help to foster values in children. CBSE has also introduced value based questions from the prescribed books in the Summative Assessment II in classes IX-XII for the year 2012-13. The CBSE has recently launched a value education kit comprising of a Hand book for Teachers, Value Cards and a CD on songs on the theme of Duty, Solidarity and respect for Nature.

University Grant Commission (UGC) is funding various programmes at Under Graduate and Post Graduate level concerning Human Rights and Value Education in the universities and colleges. The commission has also been implementing the scheme of Human Rights and Value Education and provides financial assistance to the eligible Universities/Colleges under this scheme. The objectives of this scheme, *inter-alia*, include creation of awareness and commitment to values where the individualistic self-interest is properly reconciled with the collective and common good.

Gandhi Gram University, Dindigul

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

(a) whether Government recognises the need to ensure that Rural Human Resources both human and natural are utilised by developing the rural universities which provide access to the natives with most modern technology and management studies; and

(b) if so, whether Gandhi Gram University in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu would be taken up as a Central University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Council of Rural Institute, an autonomous body under Central Government, was set up in 1995, with these objectives in mind.

(b) No, Sir. Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul is a deemed to be university and is fully funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It receives both Plan and Non-Plan grants from the Central Government through University Grants Commission.

Education of forest dwelling tribal children

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the children of poor tribal families still dwelling in the forests remain deprived of education and are literally ignorant of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to identify such tribal families and to make them aware of education and provide them education and schooling in the said places;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) In order to provide access to school education to tribal communities, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme has sanctioned 11479 new primary schools, 11583 new upper primary schools, 149892 additional class rooms and 83827 teachers, while under the Rashtriya Madhyamik

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), 2258 new secondary schools have been sanctioned, 3985 existing secondary schools strengthened, 6062 additional class rooms and 14430 teachers have been sanctioned for districts with substantial tribal populations.

(c) to (e) Under the SSA, several interventions such as residential schools/hostels, escort/transport facilities, special training for out-of-school children to be mainstreamed to age-appropriate classes, and multi-lingual education with focus on home language, are being implemented alongwith awareness campaigns and local community participation in school management, in order to bring more and more tribal children into the fold of education.

Admission norms for sports quota in Central Universities

238. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether admission norms for sports quota in Central Universities stipulates a general physical fitness test even for players of indoor games which do not have physical involvement such as chess and carrom;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to reformulate these norms for players of chess and carrom;

(d) if so, the time by when fresh norms are likely to be notified; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) As informed by University Grants Commission (UGC), it has not prescribed any admission norms for sports quota in Central Universities. Central Universities are autonomous bodies established under Acts of Parliament and are governed by their Acts and Statutes and Ordinances made there under. Further, Central Universities are empowered to prescribe admission norms for sports quota with the approval of their statutory bodies.

Allowing firms to start technical institutions

239. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AICTE has allowed firms with ₹ 100 crore turnover to start their own technical institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a paradigm shift in the higher and technical education sector in the country where a regulatory body is reaching out actively to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has allowed Private Limited or Public Limited Company/Industry having turnover of at least ₹ 100 Cr per year for previous 3 years to establish New Technical Institution in Engineering and Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture and Town Planning and Hotel Management Catering Technology (HMCT). The Institute setup by such a Private Limited or Public Limited Company/Industry shall be governed by the rules as in Chapter-I of the Approval Process Handbook 2013-14 of AICTE, which is available in its website <http://www.aicte-india.org>.

(c) Yes, Sir. There are several reports by industry based organizations commenting on the lack of adequate skills in the technical education imparted to the students and hence less employability. Therefore, AICTE has reviewed the curriculum and has come up with model curriculum to involve industry best practices. In order to facilitate the stake holders model curriculum are available on the AICTE website.

AICTE further, through its approval process has allowed from 2013-14 industries with turnover of ₹ 100.00 crores or more in the past 3 years to set up theme based institutions in their areas of expertise so that the best practices of industry can be imparted alongwith curriculum. Further the technically advanced laboratories of the industry can be used in the enhancement of the skills of the students.

AICTE has further proposed scheme of setting up of research park with the industry in certain good institutions where AICTE will fund upto one crore of a rupees alongwith matching grant from the industry. It is expected that the institute will provide about 350 to 500 Sq. Mtr. of area within the campus to the industry to set up research extension facility within the institute. This facility would provide the students to work on live projects and faculty to participate with the industry experts for the same whereas the industry also would benefit from the faculty expertise.

AICTE also promotes entrepreneurship development with the industry. Further AICTE funds industry institute partnership cell to be set up within the institutions. Further AICTE promotes innovation promotions within the institutes based on the requirement of the industry through its students of technical institutions and funds such projects.

AICTE has collaborated with CII to institute a survey amongst its institutions to promote industry interaction and based on such survey has also instituted 3 national level awards.

Hence it is seen that AICTE is currently reaching out for the support of the industry to improve quality in technical education.

Five day a week schooling pattern in Kendriya Vidyalayas

240. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalayas are considering to make schooling five day a week affair for its students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to ask all the schools to follow this pattern so that the students can have time to pursue self learning and follow their passion and indulge in non-academic activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) considered this matter in its Academic Advisory Committee on 19th May, 2011. However, the Committee has not approved the proposal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Recruitment of regular teachers in University of Delhi

†241. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is aware that 50 per cent posts of teachers are lying vacant in Delhi University and its affiliated colleges and *ad-hoc* teachers are being engaged to make do with the job;

(b) whether it is also a fact that regular appointments are not being done in Delhi University for the past two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government has reviewed the effects of unavailability of regular teachers on the studies of the students;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The University of Delhi has informed that 358 posts of Assistant Professors have been advertised in January, 2012. As the University Grants Commission (UGC) has constituted a Committee to revisit the UGC Regulations (Minimum Qualification for appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education), 2010, the University would undertake the recruitment in full measure on receiving UGC's decision on Regulations on Minimum Qualifications.

(d) to (f) The University of Delhi is a statutory autonomous body governed by the Delhi University Act, 1922 and the Statutes/Ordinances framed thereunder. All academic matters, including appointment of teachers, are within the competence of the University. The University of Delhi has permitted the colleges to appoint teachers on *ad-hoc* basis so that the studies of the students are not affected. In order to mitigate the situation arising out of shortage of teachers, Government has increased the age of retirement of teachers from 62 to 65 years and also allowed the contractual appointment of retired teachers upto the age of 70 years.

Implementation of Right to Education

†242. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that the year 2013 has been fixed to be the target year for providing the Right to Education to all;
- (b) whether this target would be achieved within the stipulated time-frame;
- (c) the suggestions given by the education Ministers of different States in the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held in June, 2012 regarding the effective implementation of the Right to Education; and
- (d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 for children in the age group of six to fourteen years came into force with effect from 1st April, 2010 and stipulates that every elementary education school fulfil the norms and standards specified in the Schedule of the RTE Act for which it provided a three year window period *i.e.* till 31st March, 2013. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented to assist the States/UTs to achieve the norms specified in the RTE Act within the specified time-frame.

(c) and (d) The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) in its 59th meeting held on 6th June, 2012 discussed the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act and decided to constitute a Committee for assessing the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation procedure in the context of the no detention policy of the RTE Act. The Government has constituted such a Sub-Committee under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Haryana.

Review of SSA in Karnataka

243. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the success of its flagship programme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the State of Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take on the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The performance of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme in Karnataka was reviewed by the Joint Review Mission of the Government of India in January, 2011, then by two independent Monitoring Institutes whose review reports dated 27th August, 2012 and 9th July, 2012 have been received, in the States Education Secretaries' Conference on 27th July, 2012 as well as in a Financial Review of SSA on 29th - 30th October, 2012. The reviews have revealed that the State's progress on issues of access, retention and quality is satisfactory. However, further attention needs to be given *inter-alia*, to children with special needs, improving quality interventions, functionality of drinking water and toilet facilities, addressing the shortage of teachers.

Findings of the reviews have been utilized by the SSA programme in Karnataka. The Central Government has released Rs. 399.37 crore to the State for SSA implementation in 2012-13, so far.

Drop-out of students

244. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that substantial number of students drop-out before completing Twelfth standard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to check drop-out rate in schools across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Drop out rate of students for the Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X during 2010-11 (Provisional) in the country are 27.0, 40.6 and 49.3 respectively.

(c) Government has been making consistent progress to meet the goals of Universal Elementary Education through implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme. 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 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 programme is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance enrolment and retention of children. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted for reducing drop-out rates. This includes *inter-alia* strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings for children in habitations un-served by regular schools, provisioning for additional teachers, regular training of teachers, provision for text books and uniforms to children. Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in school. Further, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched for universal access to secondary education.

Launching of Aakash tablet

245. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the target of launching of Aakash tablet in October having been missed again;
- (b) whether Aakash is technically ready for being launched; and
- (c) how the new Aakash is different from the earlier one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Evolution of Aakash 2 from Aakash 1 has been a continuing multistep effort, requiring time at each step for stabilising the product. Many of these steps have been necessitated by availability of better hardware within the targeted price band. Deliveries of final version of Aakash commenced in October and after receiving and testing these tablets in sizeable numbers, the new version called Aakash 2 was launched by the Hon'ble President of India on the occasion of National Education Day *i.e.* 11th November, 2012.

Earlier, on 5.10.2011, the Low Cost Access-cum-computing Devices (LCAD) Aakash was launched and based on the feedback received; the specifications of Aakash tablet have been enhanced. Difference between new Aakash from the earlier one is as furnished in the table below:

TABLE

| Sl. No. | Technical Specifications | Aakash | Aakash 2 |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Processor | 366 MHz | 1 GHz |
| 2. | Memory (RAM) | 256 MB | 512 MB |
| 3. | Storage (Internal) | 2 GB | 4 GB |
| 4. | SD Card slot for external memory | upto 32 GB | upto 32 GB |
| 5. | Peripheral | 2 x Standard Type A USB 2.0 Ports | Mini USB 2.0 port with 4 Port USB Hub |
| 6. | Audio-out | 1x3.5 mm jack | Integrated speakers |
| 7. | Audio-in | 1x3.5 mm jack | 3.5mm jack for external headphones/speakers |
| 8. | Display and Resolution | 7" resistive touch screen with 800x480 pixel resolution | 7" multi-touch capacitive projective display with at least 800x480 resolution/screen |
| 9. | Connectivity | WiFi | WiFi |
| 10. | Battery | 2100 mAh | 3000 mAh |
| 11. | Playback Support | HD Video | HD Video |
| 12. | Operating System | Android 2.2 (Froyo) | Android 4.0 (Ice-Cream Sandwich) |

Revised rules and norms under RTE Act

246. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Right to Education Act, all functional schools across the country shall have to adhere to revised rules and norms effective from April, 2013;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these rules will force a large number of private schools across the country to shut;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the plan of action Government proposes to address this concern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 came into force with effect from 1st April, 2010 and provides for a three year window period *i.e.* till 31st March, 2013 for all schools in the elementary education sector to fulfil the norms and standards specified in the Schedule of the Act.

(c) to (e) The norms and standards specified in the Schedule of the Act are minimalist and considered necessary from the view point of imparting quality education to children. Since over four months of the three year window are still left, it is pre-mature to apprehend that large number of private schools may fail to meet these minimalist requirements.

Appointment of Director, National Bal Bhawan

247. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3361 and Unstarred Question 2574 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd September, 2011 and 27th April, 2012, respectively and to state:

- (a) whether regular Director, National Bal Bhawan, has not been appointed till date even after initiation of process two years back;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether any responsibility has been fixed for this inordinate delay;
- (c) the reasons for first constituting a Search-cum-Selection Committee for the purpose and then changing it to go through advertisement;
- (d) how much expenditure has been incurred on both the procedures separately;
- (e) whether some vested interests are behind non-appointment of a regular Director;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons for this delay and the authority responsible thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The Search-cum-Selection Committee has shortlisted the suitable candidates for the post of Director of National Bal Bhavan (NBB). These candidates have been invited for an interview on 3rd-4th December, 2012, to select a suitable candidate.

(d) A sum of Rs. 5.38 lakhs was spent on advertisement through DAVP, for inviting applications for the post of Director, NBB.

(e) to (g) The Search-cum-Selection Committee met four times during May to November, 2012, to ensure the widest possible choice in short-listing suitable candidates for the interview, as per the laid down procedure for the post.

Closure of colleges/institutes

248. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colleges/institutes offering MBA, MCA and Engineering courses which were closed during last five years alongwith years of their inception and the reasons for their closure;

(b) whether hundreds of such institutes came up during the last decade in various parts of the country due to heavy demand of education in these streams;

(c) whether due to poor standard of education most of these colleges were closed down as there was poor demand for employment in various sectors; and

(d) the reasons for which proper education standards were not enforced at the time of opening of these colleges and institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) As per the information given by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), there are 143 technical institutions which have submitted applications for closure of programme during the last five years. AICTE has not asked for reasons for the closure of these institutions. However, this may be due to poor admission in the institutions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The reasons for closure have not been sought by AICTE. However, the AICTE has framed various norms and standards to regulate the technical institutions in the country in order to ensure that quality is maintained in these institutions. The approvals for establishing new institutions and for granting extension, new courses, additional intake etc. are granted based on the suitability of the application in terms of prescribed norms for infrastructure facilities and faculty etc. These norms and standards are uniformly applicable to all the colleges.

Opening of Central Universities in Bihar

249. SHRI SABIR ALI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present position of opening Central Universities in Bihar; and
- (b) by when these universities would be ready to start academic activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, one Central University by the name of Central University of Bihar was established in Bihar in 2009. The Cabinet has approved a proposal to rename the existing Central University of Bihar as the Central University of South Bihar to be located at Gaya and to establish a new Central University at Motihari by the name of Central University of North Bihar. The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2012 to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 to facilitate the above is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament during the current session.

(b) The existing Central University of Bihar is functioning from its temporary location at BIT Campus, Patna since its establishment on 02.03.2009. Academic activities in the Central University of North Bihar can be started only after the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2012 is passed by both the Houses of the Parliament.

Vacant posts of teachers

250. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are vacancies of more than 11 lakh teachers all over the country as reported in newspapers recently;

- (b) if so, the action taken by Government to fill up these posts;
- (c) whether Government has any data about the vacancies in each State and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is aware that without filling these vacancies the objectives of Right to Education (RTE) can not be achieved; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a total of 19.82 lakh teacher posts have been sanctioned till 2012-13 since inception of the programme, against which 12.48 lakh teachers have been recruited by States/UTs, leaving 7.34 lakh vacancies. In addition, the States/UTs have reported 5,65,905 vacancies upto end of March, 2012 against teacher posts borne on the State Budget. A State-wise Statement of teacher vacancies reported by State Governments/UT administrations is given in Statement (*See* below). THE Central Government has laid emphasis with State Governments and UT administrations to expedite recruitment of teachers and to carry out redeployment of teachers to ensure that all schools have pupil teacher ratios as laid down in the Schedule of the RTE Ac, 2009. 25 States have conducted the mandatory Teacher Eligibility Test for recruitment of teachers.

Statement

Showing teacher vacancies in States/UTs

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Vacancies against posts sanctioned under SSA | Vacancies reported against teacher posts borne on the State Budget as on 31st March, 2012 |
|---------|-------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 870 | 15379 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2036 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 10444 | 13757 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------------|--------|--------|
| 4. | Bihar | 211430 | 55464 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 12522 | 50766 |
| 6. | Goa | 20 | 86 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 27352 | 0 |
| 8. | Haryana | 7090 | 13906 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 2303 | 1009 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3732 | 5438 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 35724 | 23656 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 4777 | 15336 |
| 13. | Kerala | 2925 | 88 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 75568 | 16244 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 33569 | 6729 |
| 16. | Manipur | 1327 | 0 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | -758 | 0 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 1182 | 0 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 2557 | 7 |
| 20. | Odisha | 1459 | 23679 |
| 21. | Punjab | 6658 | 19161 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 19931 | 32622 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 501 | 0 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 10717 | 14495 |
| 25. | Tripura | 1286 | 0 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 164629 | 147593 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| 27. | Uttarakhand | 8318 | 7746 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 82456 | 98473 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 48 | 125 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 605 | 109 |
| 31. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 411 | 294 |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | 24 | 145 |
| 33. | Delhi | 2762 | 3006 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 22 | 40 |
| 35. | Puducherry | 12 | 552 |
| TOTAL SSA: | | 734509 | 565905 |

Toilet facilities in schools

251. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's plan to have toilet facilities in all schools especially in rural areas all over the country has been achieved; and

(b) 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) and (b) All new schools constructed under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have provision for toilets. SSA also provides for toilets in existing schools in urban areas. In the case of existing schools in rural areas, toilets are provided by the Total Sanitation Campaign now called Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. As per District Information System for Education 2011-12 (provisional), 87.9 per cent Government schools in the country have toilet facilities. Under SSA, 7,39,363 toilet facilities have been sanctioned till 2012-13.

Action against private schools flouting norms

252. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE had issued notices to private schools where norms were flouted; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh and the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued notices to the schools on the complaints received pertaining to non-fulfillment of land norms, lack of infrastructure, non-payment of salary, non-adherence to service conditions, illegal termination of service, appointment of unqualified teachers, exorbitant fee hike, charging of capitation fee and donation, sponsoring of students of unaffiliated schools in the examinations of the Board etc. After examination of explanations submitted by the schools, suitable action was taken against the defaulting schools, depending on the merits of each case. A list indicating the show-cause notices issued to the schools and action taken during the last three years, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh, is given in Statement (*See* below).

Statement*State-wise details of show-cause notices issued to schools and
Action Taken*

| Sl. No. | State | No. of show-cause notices issued | | | Action taken | | |
|---------|----------------|----------------------------------|------|------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| | | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | Affiliation withdrawn | Down-graded | Advisory issued and others |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---------------------|---|---|----|----|---|---|----|
| 2. Bihar | | - | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 3. Chandigarh | | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 4. Delhi | | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 3 |
| 5. Haryana | | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - |
| 6. Himachal Pradesh | | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 7. Jharkhand | | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 8. Karnataka | | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 9. Kerala | | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | 5 |
| 10. Madhya Pradesh | | - | 2 | 3 | - | - | 5 |
| 11. Maharashtra | | - | - | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| 12. Punjab | | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 13. Rajasthan | | - | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 14. Tamil Nadu | | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 1 |
| 15. Uttar Pradesh | | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | - | 8 |
| 16. West Bengal | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 |
| 17. Odisha | | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| TOTAL: | | 7 | 21 | 31 | 9 | 6 | 44 |

Display of annual financial statement of schools

253. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made it mandatory for the schools to display their annual financial statement on their website;

(b) whether the requirement is under any legislation or rules framed thereunder or any regulation of CBSE enforceable by law;

- (c) the items of information required to be put on the website;
- (d) whether National Council of Teacher Education has made any recommendation in this regard; and
- (e) if so, whether these recommendations are binding on CBSE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed all schools affiliated to it to develop websites with comprehensive information. The information to be provided on the website of the school *inter-alia* includes affiliation status, details of infrastructure, names and designations of teachers, class-wise and section-wise enrolment of students, mailing address, telephone numbers and details of members of the school managing committee.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Standardisation of higher education

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

(a) whether the Union Government has proposed a basic standardised framework for higher education to give the world a better understanding of India's colleges and university system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present system of higher education in the country is far below in comparison to the education system of developed countries; and

(d) if so, to what extent the standardisation of higher education in the country is going to compete with the education system in developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) A standardised framework of all qualifications, based on standards or outcomes to facilitate higher educational

institutions to offer programmes in a flexible and modular manner, was discussed in the 60th Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) meeting. It was decided that the issue of higher educational framework be further discussed in the next CABE meeting. The objective of the framework is to permit students to seek certification and recognition of a module and thus be able to seamlessly move and progress vertically and horizontally across higher educational institutions. For vocational education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and All India Council for Technical Education have already issued a framework, namely National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF). Details of the NVEQF are available at http://www.aicte-india.org/downloads/NVEQF_Order.PDF.

(c) No, Sir. Teaching and learning processes in our country are comparable with any other country in the world, though institutions in Europe and USA are more closely associated with industry through research and development. Certain institutions or agencies publish lists of universities or educational institutions ranked globally according to their own criteria. These different international ranking systems use different values, indices and parameters to rank higher educational institutions. These criteria are neither universally accepted nor recognised and are therefore open to criticism about the subjective processes of their evaluation. Nonetheless, we strive for excellence and for due recognition.

(d) The objective of such a standard framework is not to compete with other countries, but to facilitate an unequivocal description of higher education qualification at the national level with the aim that the higher education system of the country is internationally understood and all levels of higher education relate to each other in a systematic and coherent way.

Minority educational institutions under RTE Act

255. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for an educational institution to qualify as a minority institution for the purpose of the scope of the Right to Education, State-wise; and

(b) the status of unaided private minority educational institutions, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009 does not lay down the criteria for recognizing educational institutions as minority institutions. Educational Institutions are granted minority status by the appropriate Government under the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004.

(b) The list and details of unaided private minority educational institutions are not maintained centrally.

Sanitation facilities in girls' schools

256. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attendance of girls in schools has improved with the provision of sanitation facilities in girls' schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of provision of such facilities in the girls' schools all over the country-side; and

(d) the time-frame within which all the girls' schools in the country would be covered with the above facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The enrollment of girls in schools has shown a considerable increase. As per School Education Statistics (SES) in 2005-06 the enrollment of girls was 6.16 crore in primary schools (class I- V), 2.33 crore in upper primary schools (class VI-VIII) and 1.61 crore in secondary and senior secondary schools (class IX-XII) which has increased to 6.48 crore, 2.92 crore and 2.29 crore respectively in 2010-11 as per SES 2010-11.

As per District Information System for Education (DISE), 37.42% elementary schools in the country had separate girls toilet in 2005-06 which has increased to 60.28% in 2010-11. As per Secondary Education Management Information System (SEMIS) 58.21% secondary schools in the country have separate girls toilets.

(d) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 stipulates that all schools must meet standards specified in the Schedule of the Act by 2013.

Vacant posts of SC and ST teachers in Central Universities

†257. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe teachers are lying vacant in Central Universities;

(b) if so, the details of vacancies, university-wise;

(c) whether Government is formulating any plan to fill these vacant posts and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has any intention to start any special drive to fill these vacant posts; and

(e) if so, the steps Government is going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of unfilled vacancies as made available by University Grants Commission and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The posts are filled by the Universities in accordance with regulations of University Grants Commission (UGC) as well as provisions of their respective Statutes and Ordinances. Ministry of Human Resource Development and UGC advise/request the Central Universities to fill-up the vacant teaching posts.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has written to all Central Universities, established prior to 2008, to launch a special drive to fill the backlog vacancies of SCs/STs. These institutions are being reminded regularly to fill up the vacant posts. Minister of Human Resource Development has written to Chairman UGC to ensure filling up of the identified backlog vacancies for SC/ST and maintenance of requisite records. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of India has also written to UGC and the Central Universities from time to time on this issue. UGC has, while approving the budget estimates for the year 2011-12, directed the Central Universities to fill up the vacant posts at the earliest.

Statement*Details of unfiled vacancies in UGC and IGNOU*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Central University | Total Sanctioned Strength | Details of SCs | | Details of STs | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----|-----|
| | | | Sanctioned | Filled | Sanctioned | Filled | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Aligarh Muslim University | 1887 | 283 | 1 | 282 | 142 | 0 | 142 |
| 2. | Banaras Hindu University | 2416 | 362 | 115 | 247 | 181 | 30 | 151 |
| 3. | University of Delhi | 1702 | 255 | 44 | 211 | 128 | 14 | 114 |
| 4. | University of Hyderabad | 542 | 81 | 29 | 52 | 41 | 11 | 30 |
| 5. | Jamia Millia Islamia | 824 | 124 | 58 | 66 | 62 | 17 | 45 |
| 6. | Jawaharlal Nehru University | 727 | 109 | 24 | 85 | 55 | 9 | 46 |
| 7. | Puducherry University | 460 | 69 | 50 | 19 | 35 | 17 | 18 |
| 8. | Visva-Bharati | 714 | 107 | 77 | 30 | 54 | 30 | 24 |
| 9. | Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University | 130 | 20 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 6 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----|---|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| 10. | Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishvavidyalaya | 79 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 11. | Maulana Azad National Urdu University | 284 | 43 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 9 | 12 |
| 12. | English and Foreign Languages University | 236 | 35 | 26 | 9 | 18 | 16 | 2 |
| 13. | University of Allahabad | 852 | 128 | 22 | 106 | 64 | 2 | 62 |
| 14. | Indira Gandhi National Tribal University | 228 | 34 | 4 | 30 | 17 | 2 | 15 |
| 15. | North Eastern Hill University | 406 | 61 | 6 | 55 | 30 | 19 | 11 |
| 16. | Assam University | 325 | 49 | 35 | 14 | 24 | 14 | 10 |
| 17. | Tezpur University | 243 | 36 | 20 | 16 | 18 | 8 | 10 |
| 18. | Nagaland University | 249 | 37 | 12 | 25 | 19 | 98 | - |
| 19. | Mizoram University | 337 | 51 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 132 | - |
| 20. | Manipur University | 266 | 40 | 5 | 35 | 20 | 4 | 16 |
| 21. | Rajiv Gandhi University | 157 | 24 | 1 | 23 | 12 | 24 | - |
| 22. | Tripura University | 216 | 32 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 13 | 3 |
| 23. | Sikkim University | 201 | 30 | 5 | 25 | 15 | 9 | 6 |
| 24. | Central University of Bihar | 140 | 21 | 1 | 20 | 11 | 1 | 10 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 25. | Central University of Gujarat | 140 | 21 | 19 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 1 |
| 26. | Central University of Haryana | 140 | 21 | 2 | 19 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 27. | Central University of Himachal Pradesh | 140 | 21 | 3 | 18 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 28. | Central University of Jammu | 21 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 29. | Central University of Jharkhand | 140 | 21 | 0 | 21 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 30. | Central University of Karnataka | 140 | 21 | 6 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 9 |
| 31. | Central University of Kashmir | 140 | 21 | 1 | 20 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 32. | Central University of Kerala | 140 | 21 | 2 | 19 | 11 | 1 | 10 |
| 33. | Central University of Odisha | 140 | 21 | 2 | 19 | 11 | 1 | 10 |
| 34. | Central University of Punjab | 140 | 21 | 0 | 21 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 35. | Central University of Rajasthan | 140 | 21 | 1 | 20 | 11 | 1 | 10 |
| 36. | Central University of Tamil Nadu | 140 | 21 | 0 | 21 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 37. | Dr. Harisingh Gour University | 329 | 49 | 14 | 35 | 25 | 3 | 22 |
| 38. | Guru Ghasidas University | 329 | 49 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 13 | 12 |
| 39. | Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University | 468 | 70 | 11 | 59 | 35 | 0 | 35 |
| 40. | Indira Gandhi National Open University | 461 | 67 | 28 | 39 | 33 | 13 | 20 |

Education of SC and ST students

‡258. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the schemes being run by Government to impart education and technical education to the SC and ST students;
- (b) whether SC and ST students are getting benefits of these schemes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent of benefits SC and ST students got during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Government has launched various schemes/programmes for the educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. At Primary and Secondary stage these Schemes are Early Childhood Education (ECE), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Mahila Samakhya Programme, National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Scheme for setting up of Model Schools in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) as benchmark of excellence, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Vocationalisation of Secondary Education and Jan Shikshan Sansthan.

In Higher Education, opening of Central Educational Institutions like Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Information Technology in uncovered/un-served areas, Expansion of Polytechnic and Scheme of setting up of 374 model colleges in districts having GER for higher education less than the national average have been launched. The University Grants Commission (UGC) also implements various schemes for educational empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes such as Establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells (EOC) for SC/ST/OBC/Minorities, Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SC/ST, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SC/ST, Post-Graduate Scholarships for SC/ST students in professional courses, Establishment Centres for Studies in Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Remedial Coaching schemes for SCs, STs, OBC (non-creamy layer) and Minorities, Scheme of career oriented courses in universities and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

colleges, Construction of Women's Hostels for Colleges. UGC has also issued guidelines to Universities and Colleges for implementation of reservation policy of Government of India.

In addition to this, many other Student Support Programmes like Construction and Running of Girls' Hostel for Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools, Construction of Women's Hostels in Polytechnics and Colleges, National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE), Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students, Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Education Loan and AICTE's Post Graduate Scholarship for GATE qualified, have also been initiated.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs have also launched schemes which supplement the efforts of Ministry of Human Resource Development. These schemes are — Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana, Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas, Post Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students, Hostels for SC/ST girls and boys, Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST Students, Central Sector Scholarship of Top Class Education for SC/ST students, National Overseas Scholarship for SC/ST students, Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas and Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution (Construction of Eklavaya Model Residential Schools - a component in this scheme).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Enrolment of SC/ST students at School and Higher Education level during the last three years is given in the following table:

(in lakhs)

| Year | School Education (I-XII) | | Higher Education | |
|----------|--------------------------|---------|------------------|-------|
| | SC | ST | SC | ST |
| 2007-08 | 425.91 | 228.20 | 23.02 | 9.48 |
| 2008-09 | 436.12* | 230.59* | 22.48 | 9.37 |
| 2009-10* | 455.74 | 233.01 | 24.39 | 10.80 |

*Provisional

Reforms initiated under RTE Act

259. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the reform process initiated after enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009;
- (b) how the students especially of tribal areas have benefited so far;
- (c) the steps taken for effective implementation of the Act; and
- (d) the experience so far Jharkhand is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has brought in several reform processes. States/UTs have *inter-alia* brought out notifications prohibiting corporal punishment, detention and board examinations in elementary education. The National Council for Teachers' Education (NCTE) has laid down teacher qualifications and 22 States/UTs have conducted Teacher Eligibility Tests to improve the quality of teaching.

(b) In order to ensure free and compulsory education for all children in tribal areas, opening of new schools, residential schools/hostels, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas transport/escort facility, additional teachers, special training for out of school children and funds for improving learning and retention have been provided under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme.

(c) For effective implementation of the RTE Act, 2009, Government of India has released Rs. 19,332 crore in 2010-11, Rs. 20,945 crores in 2011-12 and Rs. 19,790 crore till date in 2012-13 to the States/UTs under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme which is the main vehicle for the implementation of the RTE Act.

(d) Jharkhand has notified the State RTE Rules in order to implement the provisions of the Act. Since the notification of the RTE Act, 1,787 school buildings, 34,075 additional classrooms, 721 drinking water facilities and 4849 toilets have been completed in the State under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Also 4507 teachers have been recruited. Government of India has released Rs.89562.26 lakh in 2010-11,

Rs.57903.45 lakh in 2011-12 and Rs.56183.85 lakh as on date in 2012-13 to Jharkhand under the SSA programme, towards meeting the RTE objectives.

Stoppage for Garib Rath train at Shahjahanpur

†260. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry, keeping in view the demands of people of Shahjahanpur, is considering to include Shahjahanpur as stoppage for Garib Rath Train No. 12203 from Amritsar to Saharsa, Bihar;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) 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) Stoppage of 12203/12204 Saharsa-Amritsar Garib Rath Express at Shahjahanpur is operationally not feasible at present.

Pending railway projects

†261. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of pending railway projects where work was started a decade ago;

(b) the reasons for their not being completed till now;

(c) the phases on which these projects are at present; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to complete these railway projects at the earliest so as to avoid further loss of time and cost escalation thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Projects are sanctioned and monitored Zone-wise. Zone-wise details of ongoing railway projects over ten years is as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

| Sl.No. | Railway Zone | No. of projects |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Central | 3 |
| 2. | East Coast | 6 |
| 3. | East Central | 11 |
| 4. | Eastern | 9 |
| 5. | Northern | 6 |
| 6. | North Central | 4 |
| 7. | North Eastern | 5 |
| 8. | Northeast Frontier | 9 |
| 9. | North Western | 1 |
| 10. | Southern | 5 |
| 11. | South Central | 8 |
| 12. | South Eastern | 7 |
| 13. | South East Central | 3 |
| 14. | South Western | 6 |
| 15. | West Central | 2 |
| 16. | Western | 3 |

(b) and (c) Railways have huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. As a result, funds are thinly spread thus prolonging period of completion. Completion of projects also depends upon their relative priority. Apart from this, delay in land acquisition and forestry clearances, law and order problems, adverse monsoon and contract failures are main reasons affecting timely completion of projects.

(d) To expedite completion of ongoing projects, efforts are made to generate extra budgetary financing through State participation, Public Private Partnership, defence funding, declaring some projects as National Projects, revival of Capital Fund and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

In addition, (i) the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management and field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers; and (ii) Security, land acquisition and environment issues are also taken up with State Governments and Ministry of Environment and Forest for early approvals.

Adarsh Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh

262. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Adarsh Railway Stations developed in Andhra Pradesh since its announcement; and

(b) the number of Adarsh Railway Stations proposed to be developed in Andhra Pradesh during 2012-13?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) 30 railway stations have been developed so far under 'Adarsh' station scheme in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) 9 railway stations are proposed to be developed as Adarsh stations in Andhra Pradesh during 2012-13.

Vacancies in Railways

†263. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.66 lakh posts are lying vacant in Railways;

(b) the steps taken to fill up these posts; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The total number of vacancies in Zonal Railways as on 01.04.2012 is 2.5 lakhs (provisional).

(b) and (c) Notifications for filling up of about 2.0 lakhs posts including safety and operational posts have already been issued.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Employees caught in vigilance drives

264. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 15,000 railway employees were caught in vigilance drives in the recent past;

(b) whether booking clerks, TTEs and security personnel were found involved in various malpractices;

(c) if so, the details of railway employees along with the details of various malpractices for which they were caught;

(d) the action taken against them, so far; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such malpractices in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 1246 booking clerks and 790 TTEs have been taken up under D&AR action for various irregularities such as overcharging, excess/shortage in Government/Private cash, being accomplice in allowing unauthorized travel in trains during the year 2012 (upto August). 17 nos. of security personnel have been taken up for various irregularities like failure to check touts, misuse of Railway premises and other irregularities in delivery of scrap etc. in the year 2012 (upto August).

(d) Suitable disciplinary action has been initiated under Railway Servants (Disciplinary and Appeal) Rules, 1968 against all officials found responsible for various irregularities, depending on quantum of offence/irregularity.

(e) In order to prevent recurrence of such malpractices, regular preventive and decoy checks are conducted and suitable disciplinary action is initiated against officials found responsible for such irregularities, to serve as a deterrent. Vigilance awareness camps are also organized for Railway functionaries from time to time.

Promotion of coolies as gangman

‡265. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has quashed the decision of promoting coolies as gangman;

(b) if so, whether Government would reserve certain percentage of posts in group IV for coolies and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would provide free train passes to coolies and their family members, and would make rest rooms for them at all railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The scheme to absorb licensed porters as gangman who were on roll as on 26.2.2008 was a one-time measure only.

(c) Licensed Porters who are registered and authorized by Railways to work as porters at Railway Stations are being provided with one set each of Complimentary Cheque Pass and Privilege Ticket Order in IInd/Sleeper Class for self and spouse every year from place of working to any other stations and back on Indian Railways. Instructions already exist for providing resting facilities for Licensed Porters at large stations.

Passengers' safety in trains

266. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of certain cases involving the safety of women and children in local trains in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported and the action taken thereon during the last three months, zone-wise; and

(c) the details of measures taken by Railways to enhance security in passenger trains in view of the increasing number of cases of robbery and crimes, especially against women and children?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Number of cases of crimes against women and children reported in local trains over Indian Railways during the last three months is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Prevention of crime against travelling passengers including women passengers, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains, are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). As such, the cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police by deploying RPF personnel for escorting of important trains in affected areas and for access control duties at stations. Besides, Railways maintain regular coordination with the State Governments to ensure better security to the travelling public.

The following measures are being taken by the Government Railway Police and Railways for security of the passengers including women passengers in trains:—

1. On an average, 1275 trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force besides escorting of about 2200 trains by Government Railway Police daily.
2. Ladies Special Local Trains have been introduced in sub-urban sections, which are being escorted during peak hours.
3. Train escort parties have been briefed to keep extra vigil on the ladies compartments.
4. Regular drives are being conducted to prevent entry of male passengers in ladies compartments and if found, they are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railways Act.
5. RPF/GRP personnel remain present on station platform at a place where the ladies coach of the train stops to provide assistance to lady passengers in case of any eventuality.

Statement

Number of cases reported against women and children in local trains over Indian Railways during the last three months are as under:

| Railways | Months | No. of cases reported against women and children | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--|--------|---------|---|
| | | Rape | Murder | Robbery | Misbehaviour/ Eve-teasing/ other crimes |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Central | August-2012 | - | - | 11 | - |
| | September-2012 | - | 1 | 11 | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | 8 | - |
| Eastern | August-2012 | - | - | - | 10 |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | 10 |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | 9 |
| East Central | August-2012 | 1 | - | - | - |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | 1 |
| East Coast | August-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| Northern | August-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| North Central | August-2012 | - | - | - | - |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| North Eastern | August-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| Northeast Frontier | August-2012 | - | - | - | 1 |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | 1 |
| North Western | August-2012 | - | - | - | 2 |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| Southern | August-2012 | - | - | - | 1 |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| South Central | August-2012 | - | - | - | 3 |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | 2 |
| | October-2012 | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| South Eastern | August-2012 | - | - | 1 | - |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| South East Central | August-2012 | - | - | - | 1 |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | 1 |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | - |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|
| South Western | August-2012 | - | - | 3 | - |
| | September-2012 | - | - | - | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | 2 | - |
| Western | August-2012 | - | - | 3 | - |
| | September-2012 | - | - | 4 | - |
| | October-2012 | - | - | 4 | 2 |
| West Central | August-2012 | - | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| | September-2012 | - | - | 3 | 6 |
| | October-2012 | - | - | - | 4 |

**Recommendation of Expert Committee on modernization
of Railways**

267. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1357 given in Rajya Sabha on 2 December, 2011 and state:

- (a) the details of the Expert Committee's final report; and
- (b) how many recommendations have been accepted and how many are still under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The Ministry of Railways constituted an Expert Group for Modernization of Indian Railways on 21.09.2011 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda to, *inter-alia*, recommend ways and means to modernize Indian Railways.

The Group has submitted its report on 27.02.2012.

The Group has made recommendations pertaining to modernisation of tracks and bridges, signalling systems, rolling stock, stations and terminals, PPP initiatives, utilisation of land and airspace, construction of Dedicated Freight Corridors, High-

speed Passenger Corridors, expeditious implementation of 'priority' projects, harnessing Information and Communication Technology, indigenous development and safety. It has recommended mobilisation of resources for the aforesaid purposes along with Human Resource Development to increase specialisation and some organisational changes.

(b) The recommendations are presently under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

Setting up of thermal power plants

268. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have planned to set up its own captive thermal power plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which it would help in reducing Railways' cost of operation;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to set up such a plant in Maharashtra too; and
- (e) if so, where the plant is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Indian Railways (IR) is establishing its first coal based captive power plant of 1000 Mega Watt (MW) capacity at Nabinagar in Bihar in Joint Venture (JV) with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), which is under construction.

Indian Railways has further planned to set up two more captive power plants in Railway land, one 1320 MW capacity coal based power plant at Adra in Purulia District of West Bengal in Joint Venture with National Thermal Power Corporation and another 700 MW gas based power plant at Thakurli near Kalyan in Maharashtra. Fuel linkage and environmental clearance for both these plants are in process.

Annual saving of about Rs. 500 crore from Nabinagar plant, Rs. 600 crore from Adra plant and Rs. 200 crore from Thakurli plant has been estimated due to reduction in electricity tariff.

DFC projects

269. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have embarked on two Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any targets have been set for completion of these projects;

(d) if so, whether the work is progressing as per targets;

(e) whether there are proposals to have similar DFCs connecting other regions; and

(f) 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. Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) projects have been sanctioned and construction work is in progress. Eastern DFC is 1839 kms. long and extends from Dankuni near Kolkata to Ludhiana in Punjab. Western DFC is 1499 kms. long and extends from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Tughlakabad/Dadri near Delhi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The target for commissioning of Eastern and Western DFCs is March, 2017 and progress of work is being closely monitored.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Pre-feasibility studies for North - South DFC (Delhi - Chennai), East - West DFC (Howrah - Mumbai), Southern DFC (Chennai - Goa) and East - Coast DFC (Kharagpur - Vijayawada) have been completed and Preliminary Engineering cum Traffic Survey has been undertaken. Pre-feasibility Study for Chennai - Bangalore DFC is also being taken up.

Bullet Trains

270. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to introduce Bullet Trains using Public-Private-Partnership (PPP);

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a roadmap has been drawn on the introduction of Bullet Trains;
and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Seven corridors have been identified for carrying out pre-feasibility studies for introduction of High speed trains. Funding mechanism, including PPP option would be considered to implement the projects, after the acceptance of the pre-feasibility reports.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Target for constructing new railway lines

271. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fixed any target to lay new railway lines and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of new railway lines laid out of the target, so far;
- (c) whether Government has identified major difficulties in achieving the target;
and
- (d) the details of steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Year-wise details of targets fixed and achieved (in KMs) for new railway lines during the Eleventh Five Year Plan is as under:—

| Year | Target (Revised) | Achieved |
|---------|------------------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2007-08 | 150 | 156 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---------|------|------|
| 2008-09 | 250 | 357 |
| 2009-10 | 200 | 258 |
| 2010-11 | 700 | 709 |
| 2011-12 | 700 | 727 |
| TOTAL: | 2000 | 2207 |

Target of laying 700 km. new line has been fixed for 2012-13.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Limited availability of resources and huge throwforward of ongoing projects, delay in land acquisition and forestry clearances, law and order problems and contract failures are main reasons affecting timely completion of projects.

To expedite completion of ongoing projects, efforts are made to generate extra budgetary financing through State participation, Public Private Partnership, defence funding, declaring some projects as National Projects, revival of Capital Fund and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

In addition, (i) the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management and field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers; and (ii) Security, land acquisition and environment issues are also taken up with State Governments and Ministry of Environment and Forest for early approvals.

Financial loss making train routes

†272. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are operating trains on several routes which are not carrying passengers as per their stipulated capacity;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that operation of such trains is causing financial loss to Railways;

(c) if so, Government's response thereto; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the quantum of annual financial loss, as per Government's assessment, being incurred by Railways through such operation of trains on unviable routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The average occupancy of trains on Indian Railways during the current financial year (upto October, 2012) is 92%. However, occupancy of trains is not uniform and it varies during peak and lean seasons. Train services are also operated for ensuring connectivity across the Indian Railway network.

(b) Indian Railways do not assess Train-wise/sector-wise profitability or loss.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Railway tunnel in Pir Panjal mountain range

273. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the proposed 11 kilometre long railway tunnel in Pir Panjal mountain range;

(b) the total estimated cost of this project;

(c) the current status of the project; and

(d) the estimated time period for the completion of the tunnel and its regular use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The 11 km long railway tunnel in the Pir Panjal mountain range is a part of Qazigund-Banihal section (19 km.) of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line project. The latest estimated cost of Qazigund-Banihal section is Rs. 1691.88 crore. Work on this section is nearing completion and targeted to be completed during the current financial year of 2012-13. The tunnel can be put to regular use once the Qazigund-Banihal section is completed and commissioned.

Gulbarga-Bidar railway line

274. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) when was laying of Gulbarga-Bidar railway line started;
- (b) the details thereof including total distance to be covered, the number of stations thereon and its original estimated project cost;
- (c) the reasons for the delay in work;
- (d) by when work would be completed and what would be its total cost; and
- (e) whether at present there is any problem by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Gulbarga-Bidar Railway line was included in the Railway Budget for the year 1997-98. The distance of this new line project is 140 km. and there are 11 stations. The original estimated cost of the project was Rs. 229.16 crore.

(c) and (d) No target date has been fixed for completion of this project and it is progressing according to availability of resources. The latest anticipated cost of this project is Rs. 776 crore.

- (e) No, Sir.

Rail Tariff Authority

275. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has constituted Rail Tariff Authority (RTA) to decide train fares;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the RTA would take into account facilities like drinking water, sanitation and food before hiking the fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vacancies in Railways

†276. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 2.1 lakh posts are lying vacant in Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether out of these vacancies several thousand vacancies are of security, signal inspector and maintenance staff;
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to fill up the posts, particularly related to the security, immediately;
- (e) the reasons for not filling up these posts for so many years;
- (f) whether employees are recruited immediately against the employees retiring from the service; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The total number of vacancies in Zonal Railways as on 01.04.2012 is 2.5 lakhs (provisional).

- (b) The details are as under:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Safety Categories | 149271 |
| Other than Safety Categories | 102059 |

(c) and (d) Vacancy occurrence is a continuous process and these include all departments. However, notifications for filling up of about 2.0 lakhs posts have already been issued including Security Department.

(e) to (g) Any large organization like the Railways will have certain vacancies at any point of time. Vacancies have occurred due to normal retirements, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions and on account of creations of posts, etc. There is always a time lag between occurrence of vacancies and processing the same for filling up which involves notification of vacancies, holding examinations, finalization

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of select panels and issue of appointment letters. The policy of the Railway Administration is to fill up available vacancies promptly as per laid down procedures.

Converting single line railway track into double line

†277. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to convert single line railway track passing through Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh into double line;
- (b) if so, by when this line would be converted into double line; 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) Gauge conversion of Lucknow-Pilibhit *via* Sitapur, Lakhimpur railway line (262.76 km.) has been included in Railway Budget. The latest anticipated cost of the work is Rs. 715.75 crore. Its Final Location Survey work has been taken up. The gauge conversion work will be completed in coming years subject to availability of resources.

At present, there is no proposal for doubling of the railway line.

Railway projects in Uttar Pradesh

†278. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and present status of under construction railway projects in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the details of funds spent on railway projects during last three years;
- (c) the steps being taken by Railways on the requests made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding the said projects; and
- (d) the time to be taken for completing the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) There are 9 new line, 6 gauge conversion

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and 14 doubling sanctioned ongoing project falling fully/partly in Uttar Pradesh. The expenditure incurred on these projects during last three years *i.e.* 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 are ₹ 904.61 crore, ₹ 576.42 crore and ₹ 677.91 crore respectively. Railway has huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited availability of resources; hence, the projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(c) Steps have been taken to generate extra budgetary resources through State participation, Public Private Partnership, defence funding, declaring some projects as National Projects, revival of Capital Fund and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. All this will overcome the problem of shortage of funds to some extent. Regular meetings are held with Chief Secretaries and other concerned officials to speed up issues related to land acquisition, law and order conditions and forestry clearance, etc. Field units are empowered to expedite the completion.

(d) Targets for completion of all these projects have not been fixed. Targets are fixed annually depending upon availability of resources and progress made on individual projects.

Circular regarding purchasing items from SSI units

†279. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1535 given in Rajya Sabha on 24th August, 2012 and state:

(a) whether the 1998 Notification regarding purchasing 358 items from SSIs is being violated in Mumbai Division;

(b) if not, the reasons why Division is not intervening into the matter even after all the people concerned with SSI units have informed the Division of their problem, as reported by these people; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In Mumbai VT Division (Central Railway), all the items included in the said notification of 1998 list are being procured from SSI units either through tender

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

or through DGS&D rate contract except for a few items relating to passenger amenities, staff amenities to avoid public and Trade Union complaints and items required for maintaining desired standard in the office having public interface.

(c) In Mumbai VT Division (Central Railway), items like soap liquid (Hand cleaning agent) used in AC coaches, Soap toilet for the staff and only few furniture items which are not covered as per the prescribed description in the above said list, are being procured from Non-SSI units. Details are as under:—

| Sl. No. | Item | Purchase from SSI | | Purchase from Non-SSI | |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| | | Unit 2011-12 | | Unit 2011-12 | |
| | | Value in lakhs of Rs. | % | Value in lakhs of Rs. | % |
| 1. | Soap | 24.32 | 68.32 | 11.63 | 32.68 |
| 2. | Furniture | 116.20 | 94.33 | 8.21 | 6.67 |

Report of Kakodkar Committee

280. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a High Level Committee headed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by Government on the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) A High Level Safety Review Committee was constituted by Ministry of Railways on 16.09.2011 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission to go into all technical and technology related aspects in connection with safe running of train services in the country. The Committee has submitted its Report to Ministry of Railways on 17.02.2012.

(c) This Committee has made 106 recommendations in their Report covering the following aspects: General Safety Matters, Organizational structure, Empowerment at Working Level, Safety Related Works and Issues, Vacancies in Critical Safety Categories and Manpower Planning issues, Shortage of Critical Safety Spares, External Interference — Encroachment and Sabotage, Signalling, Telecommunication and Train Protection, Rolling Stock, Track, Bridges, Level Crossings, Human Resource Development with Emphasis on Education and Training, Training Institutes on IR, Research Eco-System on Indian Railways and Safety Architecture on IR.

(d) The recommendations of the committee are presently under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

New Railway Projects

281. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new projects declared in the last two Budgets; and
- (b) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) 18 New Line, 4 Gauge Conversion and 58 Doubling projects have been included in Railway Budgets 2011-12 and 2012-13.

- (b) Being new projects, preliminary activities taken up.

Proposal of running DMU services

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has any proposal of running DMU services on Pune-Jejuri-Nira section of the Pune Division to facilitate easy movement of commuters and agricultural produce;
- (b) if so, the progress made in this regard; 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) Pune-Jejuri-Nira section is presently being served by 2 pairs of passenger trains which are stopping at all stations. Besides,

3 pairs of Express trains are also available on this section. Introduction of DMU services for Pune-Jejuri-Nira section is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Recommendations of Sam Pitroda Committee

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

- (a) whether Government has received Sam Pitroda Committee recommendations on upgrading railway infrastructure;
- (b) if so, whether Government has accepted any of the recommendations; and
- (c) by when Government proposes to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations are under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

Repair work at Virudhachalam railway station

284. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any work was undertaken to repair the damage caused by Cyclone Thane to Virudhachalam railway station in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of electronic display boards functioning at this railway station;
- (d) whether Government plans to install more display boards at this station; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To replace/renew the damaged sheets of shelter of platform No.1 by Thane cyclone, agency has been fixed.

- (c) Following electronic display Boards are installed at the station:-
- (1) 3 - line Trains at a glance board - 2 nos.
 - (2) 5 - line Train Arrival/Departure Display Boards - 1 no.
 - (3) Coach Indication Board on platforms No.1 and 2: Total 48 nos.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Ticket booking counters at Chidambaram railway station

285. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of average daily train passengers who use Chidambaram railway station and the number of booking counters functioning there;
- (b) whether the number of booking counters is sufficient to provide service to all the passengers using this railway station; and
- (c) the steps taken to improve the ticket booking services at this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) On an average, 1486 unreserved tickets are issued daily at Chidambaram railway station. Two Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters - one in round-the-clock and another from 11.00 hours to 21.00 hours - are functioning at this station.

At reserved (Passenger Reservation System) counter, on an average, 290 requisition slips are dealt in the two shifts. During peak seasons, an additional shift is operated to cope with the demand. The existing arrangements are adequate for the present level of passenger traffic handled at this station.

Vacancies in Railways

286. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 2.1 lakh vacancies are there in Railways;

(b) if so, the details of vacancies, post-wise and category-wise; and

(c) out of the total vacancies, the number of vacancies earmarked for SC/ST, post-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The total number of vacancies in Zonal Railways as on 01.04.2012* is 2.5 lakhs.

(b) Post-wise and category-wise vacancies as on 01.04.2012* on the Zonal Railways is as under: -

| Category | Group C and erstwhile Group D posts |
|-------------------|--|
| Safety | 149271 |
| Other than Safety | 102059 |

*provisional

(c) As per Government of India policy 15% and 7½% posts are earmarked for SC and ST respectively.

Requirement of new wagons

287. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any estimation regarding the need for new wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken by the Ministry to set up new wagon factories to meet the additional requirement;

(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) Yes, Sir. For the year 2012-13, a requirement of 16000 wagons has been assessed.

(c) Yes, Sir. Railways have decided to set up Wagon Manufacturing factories at several places in Public Private Participation mode.

(d) Details of the wagon factories to be set up are as under:—

| Year of Approval | Location | Cost (Rs. in crores) |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 2010-11 | Guwahati | 188.50 |
| 2010-11 | Buniadpur | 135.82 |
| 2011-12 | Kazipet | 152.26 |
| 2012-13 | Sitapali | 176.73 |
| | Kolar | Announced in Railway Budget Speech |
| | Allapuzha | |

(e) Does not arise.

Rail Tariff Authority

288. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to constitute a Rail Tariff Authority to recommend fares and freight rates;

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

(c) whether any specific guidelines/instructions would be issued to the proposed Authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Construction of walls on sides of railway tracks

‡289. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a plan to construct a 5-6 feet high wall on both sides of the railway tracks in 100 kilometre periphery of Delhi;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) the total expenditure estimated to be incurred thereon and whether Railways have mobilised this fund so that deaths that occur while crossing tracks may be checked;

(d) the number of persons killed in Delhi region while crossing railway tracks during the past three years; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Construction of walls are planned on specific requirements to prevent encroachments. On Delhi-Palwal section approximately 13.96 kilometres of boundary wall has been constructed. There is no plan for construction of boundary wall on long stretches along the track in Delhi area specifically to prevent trespassing.

(d) and (e)

| Year | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 (upto September) |
|--------|------|------|-----------------------|
| Number | 545 | 401 | 411 |

Effect of vacant posts on functioning of Railways

‡290. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of different posts are lying vacant in Railways and the present officials have to bear extra burden of work, because of which they are under pressure;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the number of posts of TTE lying vacant and whether due to shortage of TTEs the checking of tickets is not being done effectively;
- (c) whether these vacancies are adversely affecting the functioning of Railways; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Any large organization like the Railways will have certain vacancies at any given point of time and this itself does not put any extra burden on officials.

(b) to (d) As on 01.04.2012 there are about 1500 vacant posts of TTE on the Zonal Railways. Adequate number of TTEs are essential for ensuring ticket checking activities in reserved coaches and for ensuring on board services. Railways have been advised from time to time to place indents for direct recruitment and also to fill up posts through promotion as per extant procedures. Railway Recruitment Boards have received indents from Zonal Railways for recruitment of 2314 ticket checking staff.

Train fire accidents

291. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the last one year many trains have caught fire;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Railways appointed investigation team for each accident and they have submitted their reports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) During 15th November, 2011 to 15th November, 2012, seven consequential accidents involving fire in train have taken place. The details of these incidents are as under:—

- (i) On 22.11.2011 at 02.35 hrs., while the train No. 13009 Up Howrah-Dehradun Express was on run between Nimiyaghat and Parasnath stations

of Gomoh - Gaya section of Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway, its two Air Conditioned Coaches (3AC) caught fire causing loss of lives of 9 passengers and simple injury to 2 passengers.

- (ii) On 13.01.2012 at 04.40 hrs, while the train No. 12842 Down Coromandal Express was on run on Bhadrak - Duvada section of Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway, there was a small fire in one General coach. The train was stopped by the travelling passengers after pulling alarm chain. Fire extinguishers available in the train engine was used to control fire. No casualty took place in this incident.
- (iii) On 18.05.2012 at 03.49 hrs, while the train No. 16031 Up Chennai - Jammu Tawi Express was on run between Nagpur and Godhani stations of Nagpur Division of Central Railway, Gateman of Level Crossing Gate No. 94 noticed smoke emitting from the Parcel Van and immediately attracted attention of the Loco Pilot who stopped the train. The Parcel Van subsequently caught fire. No casualty took place in this incident.
- (iv) On 30.05.2012 at 15.35 hrs, while the departmental inspection train No. RDSO Special was passing through Misrod station on Bhopal - Itarsi section of Bhopal Division of West Central Railway, smoke emission was observed in Track Recording Car and the train was stopped. No casualty took place in this incident.
- (v) On 30.05.2012 at 04.40 hrs, while the train No. 52976 (Akola - Ratlam) Passenger was on run between Palia and Ajnod stations of Mhow - Ratlam section of Ratlam Division of Western Railway, its one General Coach caught fire. No casualty took place in this incident.
- (vi) On 07.06.2012 at 14.25 hrs, while the Train No. 12943 (Valsad - Kanpur) Express was on run between Lalitpur and Dilwara stations of Bina -Jhansi section of Jhansi Division of North Central Railway, its one General Coach caught fire. Passengers pulled Alarm Chain and the train stopped at Dilwara station. No casualty took place in this accident.
- (vii) On 30.07.2012, at 04.19 hrs, while the train No. 12622 New Delhi - Chennai Tamil Nadu Express was passing Nellore station of Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway, the Gateman of Level Crossing No. 116 noticed fire in one Sleeper Class Coach (S-II) and the train was

stopped. 30 Passengers lost their lives, 6 suffered grievous injuries and 22 passengers sustained simple injuries in this incident.

(c) and (d) Out of the above seven incidents of fire in train, three incidents were inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and four incidents have been inquired into by the Departmental Enquiry Committees. As per the findings of the Enquiries Committees, out of the above seven incidents, five were caused due to failure of other than railway staff, one accident was caused due to failure of electrical maintenance staff and the final inquiry report in one accident is awaited.

In compliance of the recommendations of Commission of Railway Safety and Departmental Enquiry Committees, railways are consistently using fire retardant materials in coaches as per international standards and drives were launched regarding precautions to be taken in booking of contraband explosives and inflammable goods as per Commercial Rules, intensive check on unauthorised carriage of inflammable materials such as gas cylinders, crackers etc., by passengers in passenger carrying trains, surprise check by railway officials in coordination with Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) in trains and at stations to prevent carriage of inflammable materials by passengers. Drive was also launched to check irregularities in loading of parcels in Brake Vans/Parcel Vans and Zonal Railways have been instructed to ensure that the petrol tanks of two wheelers loaded in Brake Vans/Parcel Vans should be empty. Other measures taken to prevent fire, include provision of portable fire extinguishers in Guard-cum-Brake Van, Air Conditioned Coaches and Pantry Cars in all trains, improved materials for electrical fittings and fixtures such as Miniature Circuit Breakers (MCB), light fittings, terminal boards, connectors, etc., detailed instructions to zonal railways for observance of safe practices in handling of pantry cars and for ensuring periodical inspection of electrical and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) fittings in the pantry cars and intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carrying inflammable goods are regularly undertaken.

ID proofs for travelling in reserved train compartments

292. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to make it mandatory to establish *bonafides* for travelling in any reserved train compartment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have approved many more proofs for identity in addition to the already approved set of IDs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 01.12.2012, one of the passengers booked on a ticket for undertaking journey in any reserved class will have to produce any one of the prescribed proofs of identity failing which all the passengers will be treated as travelling without ticket and charged accordingly.

This provision shall, however, not affect the existing provision of Tatkal scheme where during the journey, the passenger is required to show the original proof of identity indicated on the ticket.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of prescribed proofs of identity have been increased from nine to ten by adding following identity card to the list of prescribed proofs of identity:—

"Photo identity cards having serial number issued by Public Sector Undertakings of State/Central Government, District Administrations, Municipal bodies and Panchayat Administrations."

Developing sub-urban station of Jaipur

†293. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Railways to develop any sub-urban station of Jaipur, keeping in view the increasing traffic and passenger load at Jaipur junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any prospective scheme in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) There is presently no sanctioned work to develop another sub-urban station in Jaipur. However, to decongest Jaipur station, the following trains have been provided stoppage at Durgapura:—

1. 12982/12981 Jaipur-Jabalpur-Jaipur Super Fast Express.
2. 12940/12939 Jaipur-Patna-Jaipur Super Fast Express.
3. 12968/12967 Jaipur-Chennai Central-Jaipur Super Fast Express.
4. 12976/12975 Jaipur-Mysore-Jaipur Super Fast Express.
5. 12970/12969 Jaipur-Coimbatore-Jaipur Super Fast Express.
6. 09733/09734 Kota-Hanuman Garh-Kota Holiday Express.

Shelving railway projects due to funds shortage

294. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have shelved many projects due to shortage of funds; and
- (b) if so, the details of railway projects in Karnataka which have been shelved, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Railway projects in Andhra Pradesh

295. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of railway projects that are currently in progress in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government has released funds to Andhra Pradesh to ensure that the projects are completed on time; and
- (c) if so, the details of funds released and the plan to release funds in a timely manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) 19 New lines and 10 Doubling Projects

falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh have been taken up at an anticipated cost of Rs. 17507 Crore. Expenditure amounting to Rs. 2680 crore have been incurred on these projects upto March, 2012. Funds for the projects are provided project wise and Zonal Railway wise and not State wise. Outlay of Rs. 477 crore have been provided during 2012-13 for projects falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh.

Electrification of railway routes

296. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for selection of railway routes for electrification;
- (b) the total length of railway network where electrification has been carried out so far, Zone-wise;
- (c) the details of requests received from various State Governments, including Madhya Pradesh, for electrification of railway routes in their respective State, during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Electrification of railway routes is decided based on financial viability, traffic volumes and operational flexibility.

(b) As on 01.04.2012, 22224 route kilometres (RKM) out of 64460 route kilometers are electrified. Details of electrified and total route kilometers zone-wise is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) During the last three years and current year, the following proposals for electrification of Rail Routes have been received from various State Governments including Madhya Pradesh and their present status are as under:—

| Sl. No. | Name of the proposed section(s) for electrification | State Government | Status/Action taken |
|---------|--|------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Vijayawada-Gudiwada-Machilipatnam-Bhimavaram/Narsapur-Nidadavolu | Andhra Pradesh | Doubling alongwith electrification of this section has been sanctioned in 2011-12. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|--|----------------|--|
| 2. | Bibinagar-Nallapadu | Andhra Pradesh | Survey for electrification is being taken up as part of Rail Budget 2012-13 pronouncement item.. |
| 3. | Nallapadu-Dronachallam (Dhone) | Andhra Pradesh | This is a part of Nallapadu-Guntakal electrification project which has been included in Rail Budget 2012-13. |
| 4. | Guwahati-Dibrugarh and Bongaigaon-Kamakhiya | Assam | Survey for electrification is being taken up for Guwahati-Tinsukia <i>via</i> Lumding as part of Rail Budget 2012-13 pronouncement item. Electrification for Bongaigaon - Kamakhiya section, not feasible on operational ground. |
| 5. | New Bongaigaon-Kamakhiya <i>via</i> Rangiya and Guwahati | Assam | This is a part of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati sanctioned electrification project. |
| 6. | Guwahati-Tinsukia <i>via</i> Lumding | Assam | Survey for electrification is being taken up for this section as part of Rail Budget 2012-13 pronouncement item. |
| 7. | Katihar-Guwahati | Assam | This is a part of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati sanctioned electrification project and work is in progress. |
| 8. | Koraput-Rayagada-Vizianagaram | Odisha | Koraput-Damanjodi is already electrified. Electrification of Damanjodi-Singapur Road is not under active consideration. Electrification of Vizianagaram-Rayagada-Singapur Road-Raipur has been sanctioned in 2011-12. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---|----------------|---|
| 9. | Itarsi-Katni-Allahabad | Madhya Pradesh | Electrification of this section has been included in Rail Budget 2012-13. |
| 10. | Electrification of all rail lines in Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh | Electrification of railway tracks is decided based on financial viability, traffic volumes and operational flexibility. |
| 11. | Maksi-Vijaypur and Guna-Gwalior | Madhya Pradesh | Survey for electrification is being taken up for this section as part of Rail Budget 2012-13 pronouncement item. |
| 12. | Manmad-Hyderabad | Maharashtra | Survey for electrification is being taken up for this section as part of Rail Budget 2012-13 pronouncement item. |
| 13. | Electrification of Konkan rail line | Maharashtra | Electrification of this section is not under consideration at present. |
| 14. | Titlagarh- Sambalpur- Jharsaguda and Talcher- Sambalpur | Odisha | Electrification of both sections have been included in Rail Budget 2012-13. |
| 15. | Haridaspur-Paradeep | Odisha | Electrification is being taken up by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited with new line. |
| 16. | Bina-Kota | Rajasthan | Completed. |
| 17. | Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur | Rajasthan | Not feasible on operational ground. |
| 18. | Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer- Ahmedabad | Rajasthan | The proposal is under scrutiny. Final decision shall depend upon operational and financial viability of the proposal. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------------|--|
| 19. | Villupuram-Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai | Tamil Nadu | Work has been physically Completed. |
| 20. | Madurai-Tuticorin/Nagercoil | Tamil Nadu | Work is in progress. |
| 21. | Coimbatore-Tiruchchirappalli | Tamil Nadu | Coimbatore-Erode is already electrified. Survey for electrification of Erode-Tiruchchirappalli is being taken. |
| 22. | Shoranur-Mangalore | Kerala | Work is sanctioned and in progress. |

Statement

*Zone-wise position of total route kilometers electrified
as on 01.04.2012:*

| Sl. No. | Zone | Total Route Kilometres | Route Kilometres electrified | %age of Electrified Route Kilometres |
|---------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Central | 3905 | 1935 | 49.55 |
| 2. | Eastern | 2436 | 1389 | 57.02 |
| 3. | East Central | 3656 | 1731 | 47.35 |
| 4. | East Coast | 2646 | 1534 | 57.97 |
| 5. | Northern | 6968 | 2176 | 31.23 |
| 6. | North Central | 3151 | 1603 | 50.87 |
| 7. | North Eastern | 3721 | 277 | 7.44 |
| 8. | Northeast Frontier | 3908 | 31 | 0.79 |
| 9. | North Western | 5464 | 0 | 0.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------|-------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 10. | Southern | 5102 | 2449 | 48.00 |
| 11. | South Central | 5810 | 2173 | 37.40 |
| 12. | South Eastern | 2631 | 2246 | 85.37 |
| 13. | Southeast Central | 2455 | 1245 | 50.71 |
| 14. | South Western | 3177 | 250 | 7.87 |
| 15. | Western | 6440 | 1607 | 24.95 |
| 16. | West Central | 2965 | 1553 | 52.38 |
| 17. | Metro/Kolkata | 25 | 25 | 100.00 |
| TOTAL: | | 64460 | 22224 | 34.48 |

Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

297. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing/pending railway projects along with survey conducted in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that some projects are running behind schedule;

(c) if so, the project-wise details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Railways for timely completion of the ongoing projects in the State, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) As on 01.04.2012, 6 new line, 5 gauge conversion and 9 doubling projects falling fully or partly in Madhya Pradesh are in various stages of progress. The details of ongoing railway projects/surveys in Madhya Pradesh are as under:—

| Sl.No. | Name of the project |
|--------|---------------------|
|--------|---------------------|

NEW LINE

1. Chhota Udaipur-Dhar
2. Dahod-Indore *via* Sardarpur, Jhabua and Dhar
3. Guna-Etawah *via* Shivpur-Gwalior-Bhind
4. Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho
5. Ramganjmandi-Bhopal
6. Ratlam-Dungarpur *via* Banswara

GAUGE CONVERSION

1. Chhindwara-Mandla Fort
2. Chhindwara-Nagpur
3. Gwalior-Sheopurkalan with extension to Kota
4. Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi
5. Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola

DOUBLING

1. Barkhera-Habibganj 3rd line
 2. Bhopal-Beena 3rd line
 3. Bina-Kota
 4. Ghat Pindrai-Belkhera Patch doubling
 5. Guna-Ruthiyai
 6. Itarsi-Bhudni 3rd line
 7. Akodia-Mohamed Khera-Shujalpur patch doubling
 8. Kalapipal-Phanda
 9. Manikpur-Katiadandi
-

Details of Surveys conducted for new line, gauge conversion and doubling during last three years in Madhya Pradesh:-

| Sl.No. | Name of the project | Kms |
|--------|--|-----|
| 1. | Chhindwara-Nainpur to Mandla Fort Gauge Conversion | 182 |
| 2. | Bina-Kota Doubling | 283 |
| 3. | Ratlam-Banswara-Dungarpur New Line | 176 |
| 4. | Khandwa-Dhar <i>via</i> Khargone, Badwani New Line | 250 |
| 5. | Jhansi-Bina 3rd line Doubling | 153 |
| 6. | Pipraigaon and Lalitpur <i>via</i> Chanderi New Line | 80 |
| 7. | Badi Sadri-Nimach New Line | 48 |
| 8. | Ramtek-Gotegaon <i>via</i> Sioni New Line | 276 |
| 9. | Bhind-Orai-Mahoba New Line | 217 |
| 10. | Manmad-Indore <i>via</i> Malegaon and Dhule New Line | 339 |
| 11. | Itarsi-Nagpur-Wardha-Ballarshah 3rd line Doubling | 505 |

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Projects are progressing as per availability of resources. However, progress of Khajuraho-Satna phase of Lalitpur-Singrauli new rail line project has suffered as it involves Panna Wild Life Sanctuary and clearances from the concerned authorities have not yet been received.

(d) Railways have huge throw-forward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. The projects are progressed as per availability of resources. To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non budgetary measures like funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries, declaration of important projects as National Projects and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) etc. To reduce delay on account of land availability, security issues, forestry clearances etc. meetings with State Government/Central Government officials are held from time to time. Contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management and field units have been further empowered.

Panoramic passenger train coaches in Kashmir

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

(a) whether Government intends to introduce panoramic passenger coaches in trains running in Kashmir to allow clear view of the Himalayan beauty;

(b) whether Government intends or have entered into any technical and commercial cooperation with Jungfran Railway of Switzerland, which is pioneer in running panoramic trains at high altitudes;

(c) whether these panoramic coaches would be produced in the country or will be imported; and

(d) by when these coaches would be introduced in trains running in Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Integral Coach Factory has already designed and manufactured Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) rakes for running in Jammu and Kashmir valley. These DEMUs have been specially designed to operate in subzero conditions and also have been furnished aesthetically keeping in view the tourist traffic in Srinagar Valley. Various features have been incorporated in these units, keeping in view all prevailing circumstances of the region to make the services passengers friendly. Specially designed roof mounted heating units to take care of comfort of passengers during winter season and stainless steel chequered sheet below the first window of the compartment for physically handicapped passengers so as to enable visually challenged passengers to identify the coach have been provided.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Replacing unmanned railway crossings with manned infrastructure

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

(a) the number of fatal/major accidents occurred on unmanned railway crossings, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the perspective planning of Railways in Twelfth Five Year Plan to replace unmanned railway crossings with manned infrastructure;

(c) whether target fixed during Eleventh Five Year Plan in this regard was achieved; and

(d) whether provisions will be made to have only manned railway crossings on the new railway lines being constructed to avoid accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The number of consequential train accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings causing loss of lives during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from 1st April to 15th November, 2012 were 62, 47, 54 and 34, respectively.

(b) As on 01.04.2012, out of a total of 31846 level crossings existing on Indian Railways, 18316 (58%) are manned level crossings and 13530 (42%) are unmanned level crossings. It has been decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings in next five years by (i) closing unmanned crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Units (TVUs), (ii) merger of unmanned level crossing with nearby unmanned/manned gates or Road Under Bridges or Road Over Bridges or Subways by construction of diversion road, (iii) provision of Subways/Road Under Bridges. The Unmanned Level Crossings which can not be eliminated by the above means, will be progressively manned based on the volume of rail road traffic (TVU) and visibility conditions.

(c) No target was fixed for elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(d) Instructions have been issued by Indian Railways that no new Unmanned Level Crossing will be provided during construction of new lines and gauge conversion work.

Procurement of Bullet Trains

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

(a) whether six Bullet Train sets, having 325 kilometer per hour speed, are being procured costing about ₹ 25,000 crore;

(b) if so, where are such rail tracks to withstand this speed because trains can run at maximum speed of 110 KM per hour on the existing broad gauge tracks; and

(c) why can't this huge amount be diverted towards completing new railway lines pending projects like Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded, approved in Railway Budget 2008, so as to provide basic rail facilities in backward regions for passenger and goods traffic, which would accelerate the pace of socio-economic development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Leasing out railway land

301. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lease railway land spread across various Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have identified the surplus land for such lease in various Zones;

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

(e) the extent to which non-tariff revenues of Railways would be increased thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) Indian Railway network occupies a land area measuring about 10.65 lakh acres. Ninety per cent of this land is directly under railway tracks, yards, workshops and allied infrastructure. The vacant land, measuring about 1.13 lakh acres is mostly in the form of a narrow strip along tracks which railways have been utilizing, or plan to utilize, for its expansion in the form of doubling, third line, quadrupling, gauge conversion, freight corridors, yard remodelling, traffic facility works, workshops, etc. and for servicing and maintenance of track and other rail related infrastructure.

Vacant land not required by railway for its immediate future operational needs is also proposed to be utilized for commercial development, wherever feasible, for the interim period, through a Statutory Authority namely Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) set up in 2007 through an act of Parliament. As the commercial development is a market driven activity, to be undertaken with the approval of the State Governments/local authorities, assessment of revenue generation can only be done when specific schemes are taken up for development.

Expansion and development of railway stations

302. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from the local Member of Parliament and the State Government regarding expansion and development of Sidhpur, Palanpur and Mehsana railway stations under Ahmedabad Division of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, so far;

(c) whether funds have been earmarked for the said proposal;

(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) Some references including those from Honourable Members of Parliament have been received for development of Sidhpur and Palanpur stations.

Sidhpur and Palanpur stations have been identified for development as Adarsh station during the current year 2012-13. Mehsana station has already been developed as Modern station.

(c) to (e) Station-wise details of funds allocated/spent are not maintained. The expenditure on such works is funded under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities'. The allocation and expenditure under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities' on Western Railway, which cover Sidhpur and Palanpur stations during the current year is ₹ 44.41 crore and ₹ 30.77 (upto October, 2012) crore respectively.

Increase in train fares

303. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has announced to increase train fares before the next railway budget;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to improve train services and amenities;
- (c) the reasons and rationale for increase in the train fares during mid of the financial year;
- (d) whether Government is aware that common people, who are already facing the acute price rise of essential commodities, will have to bear extra financial burden; and
- (e) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the fare and freight structures is an on-going process. Such exercises are yet exploratory in nature and do not constitute a systemic proposal for revision of fares.

Scarcity of train tickets during festive season

304. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that during the current festive season of Dussehra, Durga Puja and Deepawali, general public from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal do not have access to reserved tickets;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether touts have become active once again during the current festive season and have created fictitious scarcity of train tickets;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of action Government would take to increase availability of berths to general public during the current festive season and thereafter and bridge the gap between demand and supply of reserved tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The demand for reserved accommodation on Indian Railways is not uniform and varies from time to time. During peak rush period/days such as Durga Puja, Deepawali, Winter and Summer vacations etc. especially on well patronized sectors and in popular trains, the demand for reserved accommodation for various destinations including those located in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, exceeds the availability. Therefore, during peak periods, the available accommodation gets booked within short duration of opening of reservation. However, during non-peak periods and in relatively less popular trains, the accommodation is available for relatively longer period.

(c) and (d) During peak rush periods/festival seasons, when demand outstrips supply, some cases of cornering/black marketing of railway tickets by unscrupulous elements/touts come to notice at the time of surprise inspections and preventive checks conducted at reservation offices.

(e) To bridge the gap between demand and supply and to ensure increased availability of accommodation to passengers, composition of existing trains has been augmented (subject to operational constraints) and a large number of special trains including unreserved trains have been run to cater to the demand during the current festive season.

Starting Bhopal-New Delhi Shatabdi Express from Habibganj

†305. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether social organisations and people's representatives of Bhopal have requested the Ministry and the Railway Board to run Bhopal-New Delhi Shatabdi Express from Habibganj; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is considering the same and by when this would be implemented?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard. The same have been examined but not found feasible for implementation, at present, due to operational constraints.

Upgradation/beautification of railway stations in Goa

306. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any of the railway stations in Goa are proposed to be upgraded or beautified;
- (b) if so, the name of the stations;
- (c) the name of the scheme under which the upgradation/beautification project is proposed to be undertaken; and
- (d) by when the project is going to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Madgaon and Vasco-Da-Gama.

(c) and (d) Development/upgradation of stations is continuous process. Madgaon railway station has been developed under 'Model' station scheme. Further, the work of improvements/repairs to existing approach road to this station and circulating area has been completed recently. Vasco-da-gama station has already been developed under 'Adarsh', 'Model' and 'Modern' station schemes. In addition, a work of improvement to circulating area and other amenities has been sanctioned and planned for completion by November, 2013.

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

307. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress made in the implementation of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor;
- (b) the total quantity of load expected to be carried through the freight corridor;

(c) whether there is a time-line set for the implementation of the freight corridor; and

(d) if so, whether the time-line would be adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) is 1839 kms. long and extends from Dankuni near Kolkata to Ludhiana in Punjab. Mughalsarai-Sonnagar Section (118 Kms) of Eastern DFC is being constructed through Indian Railways' resources and construction work is in progress. Ludhiana -Mughalsarai section (1183 km) of Eastern DFC is being implemented with World Bank loan. Loan Agreement for the first sector (Khurja-Kanpur, 343 km) is signed and tendering is in progress. Technical evaluation of civil construction bids is complete and financial offers are to be received in December, 2012. Construction work in Khurja - Kanpur sector will start after award of civil contract. Sonnagar-Dankuni section (534 km) of Eastern DFC is planned to be implemented through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

(b) As per Business Plan of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL), the total traffic on the Eastern DFC is estimated at 289,708 million Net Ton Kilometre (NTKM) in the year 2036-37.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Eastern DFC is targeted for commissioning in March, 2017. The project implementation schedule and timelines are being monitored regularly to ensure timely completion of work.

Upgradation of railway stations

308. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the project 'upgradation of certain railway stations to world class' in the country; and

(b) the details of those stations that are proposed to be upgraded on the East Coast Railway system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Consultancy works for preparation of Master Plan and Feasibility report had been taken up for Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai,

New Delhi and Patna. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely, Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) has been set up as a Joint Venture between Ircn International Ltd. (IRCON), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways and Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), a statutory authority under Ministry of Railways, with an aim to undertake redevelopment of stations. To begin with, five stations, viz., Bijwasan (Delhi), Anand Vihar (Delhi), Chandigarh, Habibganj (Bhopal) and Shivaji Nagar (Pune) have been entrusted to IRSDC for redevelopment, in the first phase

(b) In the first phase, no station on East Coast Railway has been entrusted to IRSDC.

Station upgradation with help of Belgium Railways

309. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to seek the help of Belgium Railways for station upgradation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the stations that are proposed to be upgraded;

(d) the details of specialization of Belgium Railways that is proposed to be used;

(e) whether it is also proposed to get the help or technology of any other country to control train accidents in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Federal Public Service for Mobility and Transport of Kingdom of Belgium to ascertain general principles and cooperation between Indian and Belgian Railways for effective development and modernization of Railway Sector of both the countries. The cooperation programme, *inter-alia*, includes consultation and exchange of relevant information and services of cooperation for modernization of railway stations and railway infrastructure.

(c) and (d) Experience of Belgian Railway' companies in development of stations in Belgium and other countries in Europe is proposed to be used for redevelopment of stations in India. Projects to be developed under this MoU have not been identified yet.

(e) and (f) Technology induction from advanced countries for improving safety of train operations is an on-going process.

Implementation of MPLADS in Odisha

310. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether District Authority can keep projects pending for more than one year even though the MP has given list of projects much earlier;

(b) the total number of project proposals given by all ten Rajya Sabha MPs from Odisha from 2008 to March, 2012;

(c) the details thereof including project proposals given, project proposals sanctioned and the utilization, District-wise;

(d) whether State Government has any responsibility to implement MPLADS projects; and

(e) if so, whether any review meeting was taken by the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary or any State Government official to coordinate and monitor MPLADS projects in Odisha during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As per MPLADS guidelines all recommended eligible works should be sanctioned by the district authority within 75 days from the date of receipt of recommendation, after completing all formalities. The District Authority shall, however, inform MPs regarding rejection, if any, within 45 days from the date of receipt of recommendation. As per MPLADS guidelines, the time limit for completion of the works should generally not exceed one year.

(b) As per the latest information furnished by Government of Odisha, the details of works recommended by ten Rajya Sabha MPs from 2008 to March, 2012 is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) Under the scheme, works recommended by the MPs are sanctioned and implemented by the nodal District Authorities. The data on the works are maintained MP/constituency-wise and not District-wise.

(d) As per the MPLADS guidelines the State Government has the responsibility of proper and effective supervision of implementation of the MPLADS in the State.

(e) The State Government has reported the following review meetings held during the last three years:-

| Year | Review meeting taken by | Date |
|---------|--|------------------------------|
| 2009-10 | Special Secretary to Government P&C Deptt. | 05.02.2010 |
| 2010-11 | Hon'ble Chief Minister | 07.09.2010 |
| 2011-12 | Hon'ble Chief Minister | 15.07.2011 |
| 2011-12 | Chief Secretary | 26.04.2011 |
| 2011-12 | DC-cum-ACS | 03.06.2011 and 22.11.2011 |

Statement

Details of works recommended by Rajya Sabha MPs

| Sl.No. | Name of MP (RS) | Number of works recommended | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Smt. Renuka Pradhan | 93 | 91 | 104 | 200 |
| 2. | Shri Kishore Mohanty | - | 72 | 92 | 333 |
| 3. | Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia | 104 | 66 | 78 | 617 |
| 4. | Shri Mangala Kissan | 68 | 63 | 67 | 134 |
| 5. | Smt. Sushila Tiriya | 108 | 110 | 85 | 171 |
| 6. | Shri Rudra Narayan Pany | - | 106 | 98 | 624 |

12.00 Noon

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|----------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|
| 7. | Shri Sashi Bhusan Behera | - | - | 18 | 254 |
| 8. | Shri Pyari Mohan Mahapatra | 88 | 39 | 74 | 76 |
| 9. | Shri Balbir Punj | 47 | 59 | 139 | 2 |
| 10. | Shri Baisnaba Parida | - | - | 27 | 244 |

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, we have given a notice for discussion on the FDI in retail. ...(*Interruptions*)...

सुश्री मायावती (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय सभापति जी, आरक्षण से संबंधित विधेयक ...(*व्यवधान*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2010-11) of the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of Section 22 of the National Institute of Technology Act, 2007, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, 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 (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7640/15/12]

Report and Accounts (2011-12) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED), 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 (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited (FISHCOPFED), 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. 7500/15/12]

PETITION PRAYING FOR AMENDMENT IN THE EMPLOYEES PENSION SCHEME, 1995

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I report to the House, the receipt of a petition signed by him, praying for amendment in the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995.

...(Interruptions)...

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE RAJYA SABHA ON THE LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS BILL, 2011

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I present the Report (in English and Hindi) of the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha on the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2011.

...(Interruptions)...

EVIDENCE TENDERED BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE RAJYA SABHA ON THE LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS BILL, 2011

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy of the Evidence

tendered before the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha on the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2011.

...(Interruptions)...

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I present the Sixtieth Report* (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the National Commission for Human Resources for Health Bill, 2011.

...(Interruptions)...

**EVIDENCE TENDERED BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT RELATED
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy of the Evidence** tendered before the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on National Commission for Human Resources for Health Bill, 2011.

**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS**

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I present the One Hundred and Sixty-Fourth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Constitution (One Hundred-Eighteenth Amendment) Bill, 2012.

...(Interruptions)...

*The Report was presented to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 30th October, 2012 and forwarded to Speaker, Lok Sabha on the same day.

**The Evidence on the National Commission for Human Resources for Health Bill, 2011 was presented to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 30th October, 2012 and forwarded to Speaker, Lok Sabha on the same day.

**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Thirty-ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2010-11) on 'Infrastructural Facilities for Development of Food Processing Industries - An Evaluation'.

...(Interruptions)...

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): I have to inform the Members that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held on the 22nd November, 2012, has allotted time for Government Legislative Business, as follows:—

| Business | Time Allotted |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:- | |
| (a) The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008. | 4 hours |
| (b) The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2011. | 3 hours |
| 2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha:- | |
| (a) The National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2012. | 2 hours |
| (b) The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2012. | 1 hour |
| (c) The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2012. | 3 hours |

...(Interruptions)...

The Committee also recommended that the House may sit upto 6.00 p.m. and beyond daily for the transaction of Government Legislative and other Business.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, we take up the Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now we shall take up Zero Hour submissions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Shantaram Naik ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri Shanta Kumar...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Naresh Agarwal ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri P. Rajeeve... Please allow him to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please allow Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... Now we shall take up Special Mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please lay your Special Mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SPECIAL MENTIONS*

Need for consolidation of welfare measures for rural youth

SHRI C. M. RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, youth constitutes about 70 per cent of the total population of the country as per the 2011 Census, out of which more than 50 per cent come from rural India.

Though rural youth are getting formal education, degrees, etc., they lag way behind youth from the urban areas. After completing their education they migrate to urban areas in search of jobs and livelihood. While doing so, they face problems in two ways, as migrants and as rural youth. While searching for job opportunities, they feel less equipped as compared to the urban youth. After having spent a substantial part of their lives in rural areas, they face many problems living in the urban areas.

Sir, the need of the hour is to mitigate the problems of the rural youth and for that, they must be well-informed, made more aware of everyday happenings, and trained well. In order to equip them with the above, it is necessary to provide them with due exposure in the schools and provide proper guidance and counseling whenever they venture out in search of job/career opportunities.

*Laid on the Table.

Sir, it is my earnest appeal to the Government, through this august House, to consolidate various welfare measures aimed at the youth, particularly rural youth, and bring them under a single umbrella organization so that they are not made to run from pillar to post.

**Demand to make comprehensive land policy to protect interests
of indigenous people of Assam**

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): The State of Assam is badly affected by illegal cross-border infiltration, flood and erosion and various social tensions. On the one hand indigenous people of the State are agitating for the protection of their land and identity since a long time. It is also a fact that the Assam Accord which was declared officially in 1985 by the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi also endorsed the issue and included Clause VI for the constitutional safeguard to indigenous people of the State of Assam. On the other hand, the absence of a comprehensive land policy that can protect the land of the indigenous people and also the agricultural land is a dire need today.

Again in Assam, loss of prime agricultural land because of flood and erosion as also diversion to commercial, industrial and residential purposes has hit the crops production. The present system of land policy has failed to stop the widespread encroachment and land grabbing and, also as a result of the annually visiting floods and erosion, there has been substantial shrinkage of land till date. Vast tracts of land that include forests, protected land and other Government land have witnessed large scale transfer of ownership to encroachers.

It is, therefore, urged upon the Government to take up the issue of comprehensive land policy with the State of Assam on the basis of Assam Accord and make suitable amendment to the present land laws to protect the interest of the indigenous people of Assam.

**Demand to take deterrent action against pharma companies responsible
for conducting unethical clinical trials in the country**

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring the attention of this august House to clinical trials of new pharmaceuticals being conducted without authorization or regulation, on hapless subjects ignorant of their consequences and thus vulnerable to exploitation.

This is due to the fact that draft rules for providing mandatory compensation to the victims of clinical drug trials, namely, The Drugs and Cosmetics (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2011, have long awaited approval, despite the fact that an average of 10 persons undergoing clinical drug trials have died every week since the last 4 years.

Trials are conducted under the guise of demonstration projects in blatant violation of the guidelines of the Indian Council of Medical Research. Permitting this without provision of punishment of those responsible only serves to encourage such methods. Prevalent circumstances have emboldened foreign pharmaceutical MNCs to come to India for clinical trials as their cost here is as low as 20 to 40 per cent as compared to industrialized countries where drug tests are strictly monitored and any deviance from norms harshly penalized.

Also, the number of victims suffering from side effects of drugs under trial cannot be properly ascertained as the Drugs Controller General of India, DCGI, has no composite data of the same.

Thus it is humbly requested that deterrent action be taken against errant officials and establishments responsible for unethical clinical trials to prevent their recurrence and that statistics be collected regarding those affected by the trials so that victims may be adequately compensated.

**Demand to extend the National Mission for Food Processing
to Konkan Region**

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra): As per an estimate, a whopping 59 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables go wasted in the country in a year due to lack of proper cold storage infrastructure. India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world with production of 58 million tonnes of fruits and 129 million tonnes of vegetables in a year. Only 2 per cent of horticultural produce is processed in the country as against 15% in China and 8% in Asia Pacific region.

In this background, creation of a new Centrally sponsored scheme titled “National Mission on Food Processing” to be started in cooperation with the State Governments in 2012-13 as announced in the Budget for 2012-13 is a welcome step.

I would like that the Mission is extended to Konkan region of Maharashtra

- a region which has got immense potential for development for food processing industry. Besides famous Alphonso mango, cashew nuts, jackfruits, etc., are produced in large quantity in the Konkan region. There are around 10,000 food processing units in operation and nearly 10,000 self-help groups in the region comprising Ratnagiri and Raigad districts.

I urge upon the Government to provide necessary help through the proposed National Mission on Food Processing to give boost to the food processing industry in this region. Thank you.

**Demand for strict implementation of the Bonded Labour System
(Abolition) Act, 1976**

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the practice of bonded labour is in direct violation of the provisions under articles 21, 23 (1) and 24 of the Constitution of India, as well as the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 (BLSA). Bonded labour is most frequently encountered in brick kilns, stone quarries, mining, agriculture, construction works, handloom and textile industry, fire-cracker manufacturing, bulb-making, bangle industry, pulp-extracting, carpet industries, agarbathis, domestic work, charcoal-making, woodcutting and more. Persistent poverty, deprivation, illiteracy, unemployment and social inequality (over 90% of those bonded belong to the SCs/STs) are primary drivers of this continuing practice. Experts estimate that over 10.5 million people in India are bonded. However, there is no official or reliable data that periodically documents the extent of this practice. The Government only gives data about the number of released labourers.

Lack of regulation in the unorganized sector, weak enforcement of the law and rehabilitation schemes fuel the practice – there is extensive media coverage documenting these concerns. Though the current Act could do with certain amendments, strengthening enforcement of its existing provisions will help curb the problem significantly.

On October 15, 2012, the Hon. Supreme Court directed all State Governments to conduct comprehensive surveys, as mandated by the BLSA, to map bonded labour and to ensure stronger enforcement of the Act.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has partnered with the International Labour Organization on a project aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities that force

workers to enter into bondage. However, the project largely treats the issue as primarily an economic problem and does not look at deterrent punishment for perpetrators. It also focuses more on preventing bondage and does not pay enough attention to providing relief to labourers already under bondage.

I urge upon the Government to implement the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and take strong affirmative actions to provide relief to bonded labourers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, we shall take up Legislative Business.

...(Interruptions)...

The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

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

The House re-assembled at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)
in the Chair]

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, हम लोगों ने एक नोटिस दिया था और हमने यह रिक्वेस्ट की थी कि जो रिजर्वेशन का बिल है, उसके बारे में आप एक डेट फिक्स कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... लेकिन उसके बारे में अभी तक कोई निर्णय नहीं हुआ है। ...(व्यवधान)... उसके बारे में सरकार की तरफ से कोई एक्शन नहीं लिया गया है। ...(व्यवधान)... उस पर सरकार ने कोई assurance नहीं दिया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती माया सिंह : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, ...(व्यवधान)...

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS BILLS —
INTRODUCED**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri Rajkumar Dhoot; he is absent. ...(Interruptions)... Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta; he is absent. ...(Interruptions)...

The Sugarcane Growers' (Remunerative Price and Welfare) Bill, 2012

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA (Haryan): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for remunerative price for the produce of the sugarcane growers, insurance of sugarcane crop free of cost and for their overall welfare and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)...

The Population Stabilization Bill, 2012

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA (Haryana): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for promotion of family planning measures by the Central and State Governments for population stabilization in the country through various incentives and disincentives so as to ensure that the population is commensurate with its social, economic and other developments and with the ecological balance and bridge the gap between the haves and have nots and for achieving quality of life and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Rural Electrification Authority Bill, 2012

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA (Haryana): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Rural Electrification Authority to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to farmers for their agricultural activities and for providing at least one bulb connection to every dwelling in rural India and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri Prabhat Jha; he is absent. ..(Interruptions).. Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala; he is absent. ...*(Interruptions)...*

The Bihar Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2012

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह (झारखंड) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि बिहार पुनर्गठन अधिनियम, 2000 का संशोधन करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

The Orphans (Reservation of Posts in Government Establishment) Bill, 2012

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Punjab): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in Government establishments for orphans and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)...

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (amendment of article 75 and 164)

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Dr. Bharatkumar Raut; he is absent. *...(Interruptions)...*

The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2012

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)...

The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2012

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions)...

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (amendment of article 124 and 217)

SHRI H.K. DUA (Nominated): Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): It will be taken up in the next sitting. *...(Interruptions)...* The House is adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on 26th November, 2012.

The House then adjourned at thirty-six minutes past two of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 26th November, 2012.