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No. 06



Friday,
30 November, 2012
9 Agrahayana, 1934 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
CONTENTS

Announcement by the Chair (page 1)

Oral Answers to Questions (pages 1-37)

Written Answers to Starred Questions (pages 37-50)

Written Answers to Unstarred Questions (pages 51-238)

Papers Laid on the Table (pages 238-240, 245-246)

Re: Alleged Unparliamentary Remarks by a Member against Opposition Members
(pages 241-246)

Leave of Absence (pages 246)

Statement by Minister—

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth
Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Information Technology - *Laid on the Table* (pages 247)

Matter raised with permission—

Recent suicides committed by students for formation of separate Telangana
State (pages 247-248)

Special Mentions—

Demand for withdrawing proposal to dispose solid nuclear waste from
Kudankulam Nuclear Plant at K.G.F. in Kolar District of Karnataka (pages 249)

[P.T.O.]

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Demand for making treatment of cancer economical in the country (pages 250-251)

Demand for taking steps to protect Wakf property from encroachment and illegal possession in the country (pages 250-251)

Demand for declaring the catastrophe caused by Cyclone Nilam in Andhra Pradesh a national calamity (pages 251-252)

Demand for strengthening medical facilities by establishing AIIMS like Government medical and diagnostic centres in the country (pages 252)

Demand for taking steps to remove the social evil of giving death-feast in the country (pages 252-255)

Demand to consider alternative methods for interlinking of rivers in the country (pages 255-256)

Demand to include people from diverse fields while deciding on setting up nuclear power stations in the country (pages 256-257)

Need to ban the release of industrial effluents and polluted water from villages and cities into the River Ganga (page 257)

Demand for taking effective steps to protect traditional silk industry of Assam from degradation (pages 257-258)

Demand for taking effective steps to improve the condition of sanitation in the country (pages 258-259)

Demand for taking strict action against people responsible for death of an Indian woman in Ireland and granting adequate compensation to her family (pages 259-260)

Need for building international pressure to tackle the threat of Talibani terrorists to harm Indian people (pages 260-261)

Private Member's Resolution - *Withdrawn*

Amendment of Election Laws for having Transparency in Funding and Regulation of Expenditure (pages 261-280)

Information to the House (pages 280)

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RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 30th November, 2012/9th Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have received eight notices of motion from different Members under Rule 168 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha on foreign direct investment in multi brand retail sector. I have to inform the House that I have admitted the motion and will allow discussion on the subject. The date and time of the discussion will be decided.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): We wish to convey our gratefulness to hon. Chairman for accepting our request. We are extremely grateful and we wish to assure that we shall be fully cooperating in the running of the House.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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(Y) Ewū pŋeü Aō'ō Aēü xŋü Aō, ŋw, ü t^q ŋŋō^qŋē «ō, ŋ»B Yŋtō ~ eYō t+xŋ, eYō , ŋzō
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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the manner in which consumers would be compensated for the loss they have suffered?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since inception of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in August, 1997, there are 885 cases as on 31.10.2012 where demand notices have been issued by NPPA to the pharmaceutical companies amounting to Rs. 2577.28 Crore for selling the medicines at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. The hard copy of the list of 885 overcharging cases will be very voluminous running into several pages and hence the same (updated upto 31.10.2012) has been made available on the website of NPPA *i.e.* www.nppaindia.nic.in.

(c) and (d) In confirmed cases of overcharging, the excess amount charged by selling medicines at higher price than the price fixed by NPPA is recovered from the pharmaceutical companies under paragraph 13 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Interest on the overcharged amount is also recoverable as per the provisions of para 7 A of Essential Commodities Act. Till 31.10.2012, demand notice has been issued for Rs. 2577.28 Crore (overcharging along with interest), out of which, Rs. 232.52 Crore has been realized, 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 amount of Rs. 67.70 Crore is under process.

(e) The amount recovered from the pharmaceuticals companies for overcharging is deposited to the consolidated fund of India. The detection of overcharging cases acts as a deterrent to the pharmaceutical companies to charge higher prices from the consumer and it ensures availability of medicines to the consumers at reasonable price.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, will the hon. Minister tell us whether the Department has set up any mechanism for detection of these cases or does it depend upon rare complaints either from customers or some social activists? And if there is a mechanism, kindly describe it to us briefly. Let us see how efficacious it is.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, normally, the NPPA used to get the information from different State Drug Controllers. The NPPA also often goes to the market to purchase the sample copy and the MRP and apart from that, the NPPA also used to get information from any citizen at any time and on the basis of that information, the NPPA acts.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I believe that overcharging is also a criminal offence. Have you prosecuted any one so far?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, I have said in the statement itself that we have charged nearly Rs. 2,577 crore and realisation is up to Rs. 232 crore.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: That is your recovery by settlement, I also want to know that. Did you prosecute anybody and then settled the matter or did you just settle them?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: No prosecution; it is recovery. That is available in the DPCO. On the basis of the Essential Commodities Act, we charge them and ultimately the recovery takes place. And if recovery is late, then 15 per cent interest is also charged and on the basis of that, we recover the amount that is overdue on them.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Minister, I would really appreciate if you appreciate the spirit of this question. It is not a question of overcharging simpliciter. The larger issue is availability of cheap drugs to poor people who keep on suffering. In view of the opening up of the economy, what is very important is the insistence upon patenting. It will have a cascading effect as far as availability of drugs is concerned. What steps is the Government taking to ensure that cheap life-saving drugs are indeed available to patients in the country?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, there are two things. One issue is, the drugs which are under price control are available to the patients at the price that is determined and fixed by NPPA. Sometimes, the companies do charge more than the prescribed MRP. There comes the NPPA. It prosecutes and charges them. The second aspect is availability of drugs. Availability is more important.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I asked about patent and consequences thereof. Please respond to that.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The patent law is totally different because there are certain norms on which the patented drugs are sold in the market. Any patented drugs being imported to India, the landing cost and the MRP are determined by the companies. There, the landing cost price is determined by the companies which are bringing in the patented drugs. Therefore, we have very little role in the price of patented drugs. The policy is, landed cost will be calculated on the price they fix themselves. They don't disclose it to us, what exactly the price is. Now, under the new policy we are hoping that 33 life saving cancer drugs will be brought under this policy which is not under the patented drugs, but those drugs are half patented; and those could be brought under the price control. We have taken that action.

DR K.P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, most of the life-saving medicines pertaining to heart diseases and renal failure are highly priced which are beyond the reach of the poor and middle class people. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has any plan to reduce the price of life saving drugs; if so, which are the medicines going to be subsidised.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: in fact, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has given a list of 348 bulk drugs. They have notified that these are NLEM drugs which need to be brought under price control. There, these kinds of essential drugs are also included. On the basis of that, 614 formulations are brought under the price control. Recently, the Cabinet has taken a decision approving the New Pricing Policy which I hope will be placed before the House once it comes to the Department. Most probably, we will be laying it in the House next week. There we have taken care of drugs which are essential and notified by the Health Ministry. Those drugs will come under the price control.

အထွေထွေ ဖုန်းနံပါတ် ၊ အိတ်စ် တန်ဖိုး ကို ပြောပြပေးပါ။ သို့မဟုတ် နိုင်ငံရေး ပါတီများ၏ ဝင်ရောက်မှုကို မသိရှိရဘဲ ဘယ်လို ဆုံးဖြတ်နိုင်ကြောင်း ပြောပြပါ။
ဒေါက်တာ ဦးစိုးဌာန price declare ပြော ပြောပါ။ How is that possible? What is the Government doing? How could you say that they don't disclose the cost price? What is the problem? How could you give an answer like that?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: In fact, that is the problem we are facing because they are protected under the patented law. When we posed this question, "Why don't you tell us your cost price?"

MR. CHAIRMAN: It can't be a discussion.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: How are you allowing a drug company to come into the country, which is patented? If the Government asks for the cost price, you come and say that they are not disclosing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a wider discussion.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: As the House knows, the patented drugs are mostly imported. Under the Patents Act, they are protected. The NPPA is regularly in touch with them and are negotiating with them that they should bring down the price. Some times they have brought down the price.

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ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ

2001-2002		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*	കുറിപ്പ്
2001-2002		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*	കുറിപ്പ്
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	7600	1316450	820510	148913	114450	180836	372461	95845	271983	642382	437253	32982	4441665
2	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	0	0	0	0	0	945	0	0	0	0	0	0	945
3	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	0	10339	34840	28252	22099	52808	41086	64397	62761	10527	20468	94402	441979
4	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	10100	5450	2100	0	10000	49867	22033	69362	0	18590	105559	72406	365467
5	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	0	393793	147655	230766	47448	0	80488	24096	53990	65550	115586	142292	1301664
6	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	0	0	0	0	0	0	290	0	0	0	0	0	290
7	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	0	89514	42519	160293	90888	315929	351589	323718	310104	350839	437822	170525	2643740
8	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	3100	1118839	39433	258530	70220	26952	166284	293087	452687	396299	565071	623409	4013911
9	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	600	2400	0	600	0	0	1364	508	1931	719	0	201	8323
10	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	0	0	2050	0	0	0	0	0	200	6451	0	0	8701
11	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	0	0	0	0	0	0	5848	0	2683	0	67	0	8598
12	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	4850	174925	298855	149193	186650	167134	318943	225887	45619	289731	188496	134355	2184638
13	തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്	4450	4510	3547	2930	9747	3132	21464	6904	7950	0	6291	0	70925

06.09.2012 10:00 Uhr * 31.10.2012 10:00 Uhr

[*102. The questioner Shri Rasheed Masood was absent.]

Godowns under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana

†*102. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and capacity-wise details of godowns constructed under the Grameen Bhandaran Yojana of the Ministry along with year-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government has increased the construction cost of godowns from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3500 per tonne;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has revised the subsidy amount commensurate with the increase in the construction cost of godowns;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government would consider the same and by when?

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

Statement

(a) State-wise and year-wise details of godowns sanctioned under the 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' (Rural Godown Scheme) from 2001-02 to 2012-13 are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. The cost of construction of godowns under the scheme has been revised with effect from 20.10.2011 from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- per MT for godowns up to the capacity of 1000 MT, and from Rs. 1875/- to Rs. 3000/- per MT for godowns exceeding the capacity of 1000 MT. For the North East, Sikkim and Hilly areas, the cost of construction has been increased to Rs. 4000/- per MT.

The ceiling of subsidy per project for Women Farmers/ SC/ST entrepreneurs and their Self Help Groups/Co-operatives has been increased from Rs. 62.50 lakhs to Rs.3.00 crore. Similarly, for farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives & Central Warehousing Corporation/ State Warehousing Corporations, the ceiling on subsidy per project has been increased from Rs. 46.87 lakhs to Rs. 2.25 crore. For all other categories, ceiling on subsidy per project has been increased from Rs. 28.12 lakhs to Rs.1.35 crore. For the North East, Sikkim and Hilly areas, the ceiling on subsidy per project has been increased from Rs. 62.50 lakhs to Rs. 3.33 crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I
Capacity Sanctioned Under Rural Godown Scheme period from 2001-2002 to 2012-13

Sl. No.	State	(Capacity in MT)												Total
		2001-02 capacity	2002-03 capacity	2003-04 capacity	2004-05 capacity	2005-06 capacity	2006-07 capacity	2007-08 capacity	2008-09 capacity	2009-10 capacity	2010-11 capacity	2011-12 capacity	2012-13* capacity	
1	Andhra Pradesh	7600	1316450	820510	148913	114450	180836	372461	95845	271983	642382	437253	32982	4441665
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	945	0	0	0	0	0	0	945
3	Assam	0	10339	34840	28252	22099	52808	41086	64397	62761	10527	20468	94402	441979
4	Bihar	10100	5450	2100	0	10000	49867	22033	69362	0	18590	105559	72406	365467
5	Chhattisgarh	0	393793	147655	230766	47448	0	80488	24096	53990	65550	115586	142292	1301664
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	290	0	0	0	0	0	290
7	Gujarat	0	89514	42519	160293	90888	315929	351589	323718	310104	350839	437822	170525	2643740
8	Haryana	3100	1118839	39433	258530	70220	26952	166284	293087	452687	396299	565071	623409	4013911
9	Himachal Pradesh	600	2400	0	600	0	0	1364	508	1931	719	0	201	8323
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	2050	0	0	0	0	0	200	6451	0	0	8701
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	5848	0	2683	0	67	0	8598
12	Karnataka	4850	174925	298855	149193	186650	167134	318943	225887	45619	289731	188496	134355	2184638
13	Kerala	4450	4510	3547	2930	9747	3132	21464	6904	7950	0	6291	0	70925

14	Madhya Pradesh	3100	119949	471776	734674	347181	243844	988769	719229	13099	95068	63911	166169	3966769
15	Maharashtra	61000	71199	689922	521330	367249	181452	720127	43584	339488	64801	762601	64453	3887206
16	Meghalaya	3000	0	7983	750	1617	0	0	0	0	2764	8083	0	24197
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	756	0	0	0	756
18	Nagaland	0	0	4000	0	0	700	0	0	0	0	0	0	4700
19	Odisha	0	186284	55609	22927	55417	54816	62732	63894	43594	14061	0	229868	789202
20	Punjab	1500	2464710	67604	964628	440347	0	0	77256	15990	137091	290568	398688	4858382
21	Rajasthan	5900	1200	15356	36242	122876	94146	139795	90307	54528	116535	17500	91270	785655
22	Tamil Nadu	1900	6725	23622	63750	91572	5780	188340	108427	34055	162578	97673	39264	823686
23	Uttar Pradesh	3500	449081	1160761	88553	249502	158641	148756	25941	310099	128731	63412	789844	3576821
24	Uttarakhand	1450	9000	2500	24762	33643	62642	59633	11531	21872	82808	150874	44125	504840
25	West Bengal	0	14725	131433	43657	172698	97170	438408	166419	0	83719	60405	30017	1238651
26	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	996	0	996
27	UTs	0	0	1000	400	0	2600	0	0	0	0	0	0	4000
28	NAFED	0	0	0	0	27500	3300	0	0	0	0	0	0	30800
29	NCCF	0	0	0	0	0	10000	0	0	0	0	0	0	10000
TOTAL		112050	6439093	4023075	3481150	2461104	1712694	4128410	2410392	2043389	2669244	3392636	3124270	35997507

After desanction * upto 31.10.2012.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any supplementaries on this?

[illegible]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, under Rural Godown Scheme, one scheme is from the Ministry of Agriculture. The question is related to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Member is referring to a scheme which comes under the Food Ministry, and under the Food Ministry there are some criteria that such and such distance from railway station should be there, such and such distance from main road should be there. But in the case of Rural Godown Scheme, this type of criteria is not applicable. The Rural Godown Scheme is a demand-driven Scheme. Anybody can select any place where he would like to construct godown. There is no restriction about anything except that the godown should be out of Municipal Corporation. Otherwise, other than Municipal Corporation towns, godowns are allowed anywhere in India.

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taking advantage from Government and they are constructing and maintaining warehouses. The total number of projects which are sanctioned till recently is 29,715. Out of that, 16,567 godowns are already completed and others are under construction.

Use of MPLADS fund for setting up of porta cabins

*103. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether MPLADS fund can be used for setting up of porta cabins for operating grocery and consumer stores on public land by co-operative societies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether MPLADS fund can also be used for setting up of porta cabins for operating grocery and consumer stores on public land by disabled persons;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of the purposes for which MPLADS fund can be used; and
- (f) the details of MPs who have used their funds for the above stated purposes?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) No, sir. MPLADS funds cannot be used for creating any assets for commercial use. Further, moveable assets like Porta Cabins are not allowed for any purpose under MPLAD Scheme.

(e) and (f) The MPLADS funds can be used for creation of durable community assets of developmental nature in priority Sectors viz., drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. and the MPLAD funds are being utilized by the MPs for these purposes.

ଉତ୍ତର: (a) ରୁ (d) ନା, ସିର। MPLADS ଫଣ୍ଡ କୌଣସି ବ୍ୟବସାୟିକ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ହୋଇପାରେ ନାହିଁ। ଏହାଛଡ଼ା, ଗତିଶୀଳ ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ଯେପରିକି ପୋର୍ଟା କାବିନ୍, MPLAD ସ୍କିମ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ କୌଣସି ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ହୋଇପାରେ ନାହିଁ। (e) ଓ (f) MPLADS ଫଣ୍ଡ ଦୃଢ଼ ସାମାଜିକ ସେବା ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ହୋଇପାରେ ଯାହାକି ପ୍ରାଥମିକ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ଯେପରିକି ପିଇବାର ପାଣି, ମୂଳିକ ଶିକ୍ଷା, ସାମାଜିକ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ, ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛତା ଓ ରୋଡ଼, ଇତ୍ୟାଦି। ଏହି ଫଣ୍ଡଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଏହି କ୍ଷେତ୍ରଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ହେଉଛି।

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DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, there is a Committee in both the Houses which decides this issue. The Ministry does not decide this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, quite right.

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SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Part (f) is, "the details of MPs who have used their funds for the above stated purposes?" Sir, the MPs cannot use their funds for the above stated purposes, for setting up of porta cabins. So, it takes care of parts (a) to (f).

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many aided schools in many of the big cities which are centuries old, but they have no sanction building plans. These are aided schools. Now there is a difficulty in sanctioning funds under the MPLAD Scheme to these aided schools. I have requested many times to the Ministry for formulating a policy so that on the basis of structural certificates—there are structural certificates available with them—MPLADS funds can be sanctioned to the century-old aided schools. Even in a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, such a resolution was passed. I would like to know whether the Minister would like to consider this issue.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, there is absolutely no problem. Government aid can be provided to any school. There is absolutely no problem. In the guidelines itself ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: But it is not being done.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: You can recommend it. If any Collector or any Government says, 'No', we will take care of that.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: We have been raising it for the last three-four years, but it has not yet been done. What do you have to say?

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, the hon. Minister in the answer has admitted that drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation, etc. are the priority sectors. I think the most important sector among all these is primary education all over the country. We are glad that earlier we had been allowed to give funds to schools. But two years back, the Ministry had imposed a limit of Rs. 50 lakhs a year. Now, Rs. 50 lakhs is a very small amount. Many Members of Parliament have requested that this limit of Rs. 50 lakhs should be removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question should relate to the question under discussion.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, my question relates to Parts (e) and (f). Once you allow me to give funds under the MPLADS, why should there be a limit of Rs. 50 lakhs? There is an overall limit of Rs. 10 lakhs or Rs. 20 lakhs. I want to know from the hon. Minister when they are going to remove this limit of Rs. 50 lakhs.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, for Government aided schools, there is no limit. The limit has been imposed, in the guidelines, on schools being run by an NGO or a private trust. There the maximum limit is Rs. 50 lakhs a year and up to Rs. 25 lakhs for a school or an educational institution. ...(Interruptions)... Let me complete. Please allow me to complete.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete his answer.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: So, the restriction is that the maximum ceiling is Rs.50 lakhs in a year and up to Rs.25 lakhs for a particular school or college, but this is only in respect of private trusts or NGOs. But, in the case of Government schools, there is no limit. You can give the entire amount of Rs. 5 crores, if you wish to. Therefore, there is no restriction on schools run by the Government. At the same time, I must say that both the Parliamentary Committees have recommended that this ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs should be enhanced to Rs. 1 crore and that Rs. 25 lakhs should be enhanced to Rs. 50 lakhs. Apart from the recommendation of both the Parliamentary Committees, I have also received a recommendation letter signed by 150 Members of Parliament on this issue. We are considering that and, very soon, we will take a call on that.

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*104. [The questioner (Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan was absent.)

Construction of jetty linking Rameswaram with Talaimannar

*104.DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the laying of new railway lines in various parts of Sri Lanka, more specifically towards Northern Province, connecting Talaimannar and Jaffna has been completed and further construction of jetty in Talaimannar seashore to park the ferry service to Rameswaram is also complete?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Railway line work in Northern Province of Sri Lanka, from Medawachchiya to Talaimannar pier and Omathai to Kankesanthurai as well as the construction work of Jetty at Talaimannar Pier to park the ferry services are entrusted by Government of Sri Lanka to Ircn International Limited (Ircn), Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways and these works are in progress.

The railway line between Galle-Matara and Kaluthara- Galle also entrusted by Government of Sri Lanka to Ircon International Limited have been completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any supplementaries to be put? There are no supplementaries.

*105. [The questioner (Shri Prabhat Jha) was absent.]

Rise in cost of production

*105. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that cost of production in farm sector has drastically increased due to 150 to 300 percent rise in prices of fertilizers during the last two years and recent steep rise in price of diesel;

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

(c) whether Government is also aware that due to this rise in prices of fertilizers and diesel, agriculture has become depressingly unprofitable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) The cost of production of agricultural commodities depends upon their yields as well as prices of various inputs like labour, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation charges, mechanization, etc. As per data used by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the average cost of production of two major crops *viz.* paddy and wheat during the last few years is given below:

(Rs. per Quintal)

Crops	Cost of production		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Paddy	742	888	1152
Wheat	826	927	1128

The rise in cost of production, taking into account the increase in cost of various inputs including fertilizers and diesel, is addressed through the mechanism of Minimum Support Prices (MSP). MSPs are announced by Government for major agricultural commodities to ensure remunerative prices to growers with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy.

Profitability from agriculture depends upon several factors including productivity (yields), price realization, input use efficiency, etc. Government has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector by improving the availability of farm credit, expanding the coverage of agricultural insurance, implementing a massive programme of debt waiver, increasing investment and implementing a large number of schemes to improve infrastructure and increase productivity.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, this is a very important issue. The hon. Minister himself being a person who has a background of agriculture knows it better. As per the reply given by the hon. Minister, the cost of production of paddy, per quintal, is Rs. 1152 and wheat is Rs. 1128. This is the cost of production. What is the variation between the Minimum Support Price and cost of production? Can the Minister enlighten the House? This is my first question. My second question is this. Keeping this issue in mind, because the cost of production is going up day-by-day because of fertilizer, because of diesel, because of pesticides, because of wages, because of all other things, and then natural calamities, I would like to know whether the Government is seriously considering to implement the recommendation of Dr. Swaminathan Committee on Agriculture to fix the Minimum Support Price, cost of production, plus 50 per cent. What is the response of the Government in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The recommendation made by Dr. Swaminathan Committee for giving cost of production plus 50 per cent remunerative price was not accepted by the Government. There are many reasons why it has not been accepted. But one thing is absolutely clear. In the last two-three years, there is an increase in the price of some of the items, particularly inputs, which are required for agricultural production. Wholesale price indicates with the base of 2004-05, the farm inputs, during the period of 2009-10 and 2010-11, show an increase in price of fertilizer by 25 per cent, organic manure, by 20 per cent, electricity—some of the States are supplying free—by 16 per cent, pesticides by 4 per cent, tractors by 12 per cent, lubricants by 32 per cent, diesel oil (LDO) by 50 per cent and diesel oil

HSD by 22 per cent. So, this is the information we got and the same has also been collected by the CACP, the Expert Committee, which is going in-depth about the cost of cultivation and other factors and recommending to the Government the prices. Here the cost of production has been given. Hon. Member was asking what exactly the MSP was given. With regard to paddy, in 2010-11, the cost of cultivation was Rs. 742 per quintal and MSP was Rs. 1000 per quintal. In 2011-12, the cost of production was Rs. 888 and MSP was Rs. 1080. In 2012-13, the cost of production was Rs. 1152 per quintal and MSP was Rs. 1250. Similarly, with regard to wheat, in 2010-11, the cost of production was Rs. 826 and MSP was Rs. 1120. In 2011-12, Rs. 927 was the cost of production. The price recommended by CACP was Rs. 1285. And, in 2012-13, the cost of production per quintal was Rs. 1128 and CACP's recommendation is to continue last year's price, *i.e.* Rs. 1285. In fact, this year's CACP recommendation has not been accepted by us. We have not accepted that. Again, we have sent all these details to CACP with a request that CACP has to go in-depth about the prices of fertilizers, oil, labour charges and other factors. It has to go in-depth into all these and submit its revised proposal. Whatever recommendation was made by the CACP, that last year's support price should continue this year as well, is not accepted. That is not approved.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am not asking question. I seek your protection. It is a larger issue. Hundreds of farmers are committing suicides across the country, because of lack of support price.

I request, in view of the reply given by the hon. Minister, the Chair to please allow a two-hour discussion, because many Members in the House are interested in the discussion on the remunerative price for agriculture produce.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give notice on this. There is no problem on this.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I would say, in continuation of what Shri Venkaiahji has said, that the same question I had in my mind.

The hon. Minister has said in his reply and I quote. He says, "MSPs are announced by Government for major agricultural commodities to ensure remunerative prices to growers with a view to encourage higher investment and production and safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy." And, in another reply given earlier, the hon. Minister said, "it is clear that as far as MSP is concerned, it is nowhere remunerative."

Now, the Government has rejected the Swaminathan Commission's recommendation of paying cost of production +50 per cent as remunerative price. Will the hon. Minister, at least, accept cost of production +30 per cent of the remunerative price as the minimum price? This is number one.

The second one is : By when are you planning to make this study completed and then announce a proper price, because the agrarian distress continues? We have given separate notices for it. Now that the House resumed its normal functioning, we will beseech you to allow a Short Duration Discussion on that. We can discuss on that in detail. But, by when is the Government is planning to take a call on this issue? By when are you expecting the CACP's recommendations to come on the basis of all the inputs that you are taking about? Sir, the agrarian distress not only in terms of farmers' suicides, but it is continuing in a much larger sense. Farmers' suicides itself is unbearable. It just cannot be permissible in a country like ours. But, why is the Government not showing urgency required on this issue?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the prices of paddy and other crops have already been declared. It is only the price of wheat which is pending. The CACP did send, as I said, its recommendations. But, we have not accepted those recommendations. I can assure the House that in the next fifteen days time, we will announce the final price.

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, I listened carefully to Sitaramji.

Three objectives have been set down for this policy. The first one is to get farmer a good price which is acceptable and sensible for him and his family. But, the second one is to give consumer a cheap rate, so that he does not have to pay much for his family. And, the third one is the overall economy must be served by this. Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister: Is it not a contradiction that, actually, objectives 2 and 3 are overriding the objective 1.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, generally the factors which are considered by the CACP are : (1) Cost of production. Under the cost of production, it consider changes in input prices, change in market price, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, affect on industrial cost structure, affect on general price level, affect on cost of living, international market price situation and parity between price paid and price received by farmer. These are the items which come under the cost of production. So, this is one.

It is true, when the CACP has to recommend, it has to consider the overall situation. It is also true that farmer's interest has to be protected. And, that has been protected. In fact, if you look at the prices of last five years, and prices prior to that, every year, including this year, except in the case of wheat, have definitely been improved. We have seen the overall impact of those decisions in the market.

In fact, the last year was one of the years where we had produced more than 267 MT of wheat and rice. And this was, practically, the highest production in the last sixty years. Also, even though there was drought in certain States like north Karnataka, parts of Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Gujarat, and some districts of Rajasthan, and there were not enough rains in Punjab and Haryana, still, I am confident that even this year, our total production would surely go beyond 250 MT.

Then, Sir, our export of foodgrains was maximum the last year. In fact, more than 80 lakh tonnes of rice, 2.5 MT of wheat, 2.5 MT of sugar and 80 million bales of cotton had been exported. This shows that our production had certainly improved, and the farmers were definitely happy about this. However, it is true that there has been this serious issue of rise in the fertilizer and diesel prices. We will certainly take a call on this and take corrective action to protect the interests of our farmers.

Railway projects in Rajasthan

*106.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various railway projects in Rajasthan;
- (b) the status thereof, project-wise;
- (c) the number of projects getting delayed and the reasons therefor, project-wise;
- (d) the cost over-run for each delayed project, project-wise; and
- (e) the efforts made by Railways to complete the projects within the time-schedule or extended time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a), (b) and (d) The details of ongoing projects falling fully or partly in Rajasthan indicating original sanctioned cost and latest anticipated cost are given as under:

(Rs. in crore)						
Sl. No.	Name of the project & length (kms.)	Original Sanctioned Cost	Latest Anticipated cost	Expenditure on 31.03.2012	Outlay 2012-13	Status & Target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Bangurgram-Ras new line (27.8)	99.09	144.67	13.38	5.00	Earthwork and bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -33%.
2	Dausa-Gangapur City new line (92.67)	151.84	410.08	196.89	35.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -50%. Dausa-Didwana (35km) targeted for completion during 2013-14.
3	Ratlam-Dungarpur via Banswara new line (176.47)	2082.75	2082.75	0	30.00	Land acquisition taken up. Overall physical progress -1%.
4	Ranganjmandi-Bhopal new line (262)	424.6	1225.9	217.1	15.00	Ranganjmandi-Jhalawar (27 km) completed. Work taken up beyond Jhalawar.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	Abu Road-Sarotra Road doubling (23.12)	103.94	131.54	6.58	20.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -5%.
6	Ajmer-Bangurgram doubling (48.43)	213.39	251.99	0	33.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
7	Bangurgram-Guriya doubling (47)	246.08	246.08	0	0.10	Preliminary activities taken up.
8	Bhagat ki Kothi-Luni doubling (28.12)	97.36	98.16	9.17	25.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -23%.
9	Guriya-Marwar (43.50 km) & Karjoda-Palanpur doubling (5.40 km)	239.73	274.34	0.01	33.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
10	Keshav Ganj-Swaroopganj doubling (26.48)	92.3	118.57	45.45	35.00	Overall physical progress -90%. Project targeted for completion in 2012-13.
11	Rani-Keshavganj doubling (59.50)	273.74	277.67	0	1.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -23%.
12	Rani-Marwar doubling (54.5)	288.95	288.97	0	0.10	Preliminary activities taken up.

13	Rewari-Manheru doubling (69.02)	251.91	0	1.50	Preliminary activities taken up.
14	Sarotra Road-Karjoda doubling (23.59)	156.64	4.83	25.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -5%.
15	Swaroopganj-Abu Road doubling (25.36)	133.36	4.1	15.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -3%.
16	Bina-Kota doubling (283)	1125	1.00	4.00	Work started on major bridges.
17	Jaipur-Ringus-Churu & Sikar-Loharu gauge conversion (320.04)	653.46	95.65	100.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Sikar-Loharu (122 km) targeted for completion in 2012-13. Overall physical progress -40%.
18	Suratpura-Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar gauge conversion (240.95)	516.23	172.9	100.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar part (18 km) targeted for completion in 2012-13. Overall physical progress - 60%.
19	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion (299.2)	742.88	73.78	35.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -3%.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20	Dholpur-Sirmutra gauge conversion with ext. up to Gangapur City (144.6)	622.41	622.41	2.00	20.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
21	Gwalior-Sheopurkalan gauge conversion ext. up to Kota (284)	1176.09	1176.1	2.00	5.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
22	Alwar-Rewari Railway Electrification (82)	97.68	97.68	0.2	5.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
23	Mathura-Alwar Railway Electrification (121)	99.71	119.69	1.53	25.00	Work taken up.

(c) The ongoing projects falling fully/partly in Rajasthan are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(e) Funds have been provided yearly as per the availability of resources for completion of projects. Steps have been taken to generate extra budgetary resources through State participation, Public Private Partnership, defence funding, declaring some projects as National Projects and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for the incomplete reply which hides more than what it reveals! My intention was to highlight the endemic delay in the completion of railway projects, the consequent escalation of costs and also the consequent lack of accountability of persons who were expected to complete the projects in time. He should have, actually, given the following statistics : (1) announcement of a particular project in the Budget; (2) date of initiation of the project; (3) anticipated date of completion; (4) the delay that has been caused in each project. He has not given these details in his reply. Until and unless these details are given, railway projects will neither run nor move; they will only crawl.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it shall be my endeavour to try to satisfy the hon. Member in all possible ways. But, before that, I would seek his indulgence only to say that Railways is one department where we have been making various announcements for new projects in response to vociferous demands raised by hon. Members from time to time. That has landed us in a situation, we must all admit today, where there is a humongous throw-forward of projects, both in physical terms and, concomitantly, in financial terms. Sir, I am sure the hon. Member, with his vast experience, knows that with the large number of projects that we have, the financial spread-over of the projects has, indeed, been very thin, the reasons for which are known to the hon. Member and other hon. Members in the House. As a result, we have found it extremely difficult to complete the projects at the pace at which we would want them to be completed.

But, Sir, having said that, I would like to give the hon. Member just a brief synopsis of the various projects which have been completed during the Eleventh Plan in Rajasthan alone. The length in kilometres.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: I am not interested in that, Sir. That is not my question. My question is about accountability regarding completion of projects.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the question of accountability should always be there. That is the right of the Members of the House, as also that of the general public, to be enforced on the Government. I would admit that. But, Sir, that would arise when assured allocation has been made for a particular project for a particular year. Only then should we look at the reasons, if any, for the delays, and not otherwise. So, the procedure has been that when a project is announced, the first step is to work out a rough estimate of the amount pertaining to a project. Then, a demand is made, after, a preliminary survey, and that is brought before the House.

Thereafter, Sir, in-principle clearance is given and that is the second stage which could be a year and-a-half or two years; after that the actual amount is worked out. This would be only after the alignment is worked out; only after that it can be said that this would be the cost which would be incurred on a particular project. Thereafter, the work begins. It invariably happens. For example, I have these examples which are given in the answer and I do not know how the hon. Member rushed to a conclusion that the information was kept back from him. I mentioned as many as 23 projects here, where I have given the original cost, the anticipated cost, the expenditure as on 31st March, 2012, the outlay for the current year and the status. I wish to refer to this only for the reason that the question of accountability can arise if the amount allocated for a particular year has not been spent and no work has been initiated in that year and that has led to cost overrun.

Sir, in my humble opinion – I am sorry to say that my reply is a little stretched one—the concept of time and cost overrun is not technically correct. Sir, cost and time overrun question would arise if there is an assured allocation for a particular year and if it is not made, then that leads to cost overrun; otherwise, there is no cost overrun. Therefore, there is no question of accountability. What I would like to submit with all humility is, Sir, that the work is going on strictly according to the allocations made.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, with regard to my second supplementary, whatever the new Railway Minister has pointed out, does he promise this House that in future he would not sell lollipops in the form of projects which he would not be able to complete according to the schedule? And, would he announce

projects only when there is sufficient Budget, not maintaining them as promises only? As far as statistics in the reply are concerned, Sir, not even a single statistic has been mentioned as to when a project was started, what the scheduled date of completion was, and what the date of completion because of the delayed allocation structure would be. These have not been mentioned here, at all; otherwise, I would not have asked them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, on his first observation, I would seek the cooperation and indulgence of the hon. Members not to seek or ask for lollipops.

Sir, about the question, I reiterate that the work is going on according to allocations made for each year and he did not want me to read out the list. In addition to what is there, there are six projects entailing a cost of Rs. 338.71 crores relating to Rajasthan which would be completed in the current year. The six projects are Dausa-Deedwana new line, Sikar-Loharu gauge conversion, Hanumangrh Srinagar (Part) gauge conversion, Ratangarh-Sardarshahar gauge conversion, Banas-Sirohi doubling, and Mathura-Alwar railway electrification. We expect that these projects would be completed during this year. But, there could be a little difficulty in one of these projects.

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

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SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I must congratulate the hon. Minister for giving a detailed account of the projects in Rajasthan. The hon. Minister has rightly said, the taking up of projects depends on many factors, viz., the backwardness of the area, the rate of return, etc., etc. Of course, the allotment of funds also depends on a formula. It is not that the Minister can allot on his own. It depends on the rail density, the amount of efforts made by the State Governments, etc., etc. In the light of these details, there are certain initiatives taken by the State Governments. Some State Governments, like, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, etc. have prioritized certain projects and they have come forward for sharing 50 per cent of the project cost. Is there any proposal before the Government for the State of Rajasthan, which is a very vital and progressive State, requesting the State Government to augment the funds as has been done by other States, like, Andhra Pradesh, so that certain projects, which are vital for the economic linkage, not only for Rajasthan, but for the Railways in total as the Railways get benefited because

of the linkage? So, keeping that in view, is there any proposal before the Ministry of Railways to request the Government of Rajasthan to prioritize and also to augment the finance of the Railways in this connection?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: As the hon. Member has said, the State Governments are requested, from time to time, for sharing the cost of the projects, which they consider essential, but which we consider to be unremunerative. And, it is particularly the State of Karnataka which has come forward in this matter. Even in the case of pending projects, Karnataka has come forward to share the cost. This is the standing invitation to all. And, I would like to reiterate that request, today, to all the States again. I have also written a good many letters to some of the Chief Ministers, requesting them that in such cases, they should bear the cost of land and 50 per cent of the total cost construction. Very recently, the State of Haryana has come forward for one project. And, I would certainly welcome, and would also be grateful to the hon. Member if he can also persuade the Government of Rajasthan to share the cost that way so that our work can be expedited at a much faster speed in that direction.

*107. [The questioner (Shri Ram Kripal Yadav) was absent.]

Setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas

*107. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) on Public Private-Partnership model in Bihar;

(b) if so, how many such KVs would be set up in the State and also all over the country; and

(c) the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are sponsored by one of the following:

(i) Ministries or Departments of the Government of India.

(ii) State Governments.

- (iii) Union Territories' Administrations.
- (iv) Organization of employees belonging to the eligible categories.

The sponsoring authority is to provide free of cost, land for the school and temporary accommodation till such time the KV is constructed. Government of India bears all other recurring and non-recurring expenditure of running the school.

Public Sector Undertakings/Institutes of Higher Learning can also sponsor the KVs. The recurring and non-recurring expenditure for such KVs are met by the concerned Public Sector Undertaking/Institute of Higher Learning.

A proposal for opening of KVs under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode was considered by the Board of Governors (BOG), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), in its meeting held on 19th January, 2012. However, BOG decided not to introduce the scheme of opening of new KVs under the PPP Mode. Presently there is no plan to set up KVs on PPP Mode in Bihar or any other part of the country.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any supplementaries?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that in a meeting held on 19th January, 2012, the Board of Governors had not decided to introduce the scheme of opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas under the PPP mode. Even if you do not want PPP mode, we have sufficient funds to have more and more Kendriya Vidyalayas in different parts of the country. So, what are your future plans in this regard? How are you going to expand Kendriya Vidyalayas in different parts of the country?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, a total number of 107 Kendriya Vidyalayas for 2010-11 onwards have been sanctioned. They are in various stages of construction. In the Twelfth Five Year Plan, additional 500 Kendriya Vidyalayas are planned to be constructed.

[illegible]

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, right now, there are 135 districts in the country where there are no Kendriya Vidyaiayas. Definitely, we will consider those districts, on a priority basis, which do not have any Kendriya Vidyalaya.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, first of all, I congratulate the hon. Minister. Sir, the Government has decided to establish a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Barpeta. But building for that has not been sanctioned as yet. All the MLAs and MPs, contributing from their LAD Fund, have developed something. We have also provided the requisite land. I would like to know whether the Government will take necessary action to release the funds for construction of a permanent building for Kendriya Vidyalaya at Barpeta.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, if all the criteria have been met including the land, I do not see any reason why they should not go ahead with the construction. Right now, there are about 60 Kendriya Vidyalayas which are in progress, as far as construction is concerned. I am not sure if Barpetta is one of them. But if it is not there, I will check the reason and I will expedite it.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

(a) and (b) Projects are not sanctioned Division-wise. However, the details of ongoing projects falling partly/fully in Ratlam Division of Western Railway, their financial and physical progress made upto October, 2012 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Km.	Expenditure incurred upto October' 2012	Physical progress (%age)
1	Chhotaudepur-Dhar	157	104.87	10%
2	Dahod-Indore via Sardarpur, Jhabua & Dhar	200.97	131.90	12%
3.	Ratlam-Dungarpur via Banswara	176.00	3.45	1%

(c) Target for these projects have not been fixed. Targets are fixed annually depending upon availability of resources and progress made on individual projects. These projects are progressing as per availability of resources.

ఆంధ్ర ప్రదేశ్ లోని పశ్చిమ గోదావరి జిల్లాలోని చిహ్తాడేపూర్ నుండి ధర్మపురి వరకు 157 కి.మీ. దూరం ఉన్న చిహ్తాడేపూర్-ధర్మపురి రైల్వే ప్రాజెక్టుకు 2007-08 ఆర్థిక సంవత్సరంలో 104.87 కోట్ల రూపాయలు ఖర్చు అయ్యి 10% వరకు పూర్తి అయ్యింది. ఇంకా 200.97 కి.మీ. దూరం ఉన్న ధాదో-ఇండోర్ వీసా సర్దార్ పూర్, జబాబా & ధర్మపురి రైల్వే ప్రాజెక్టుకు 131.90 కోట్ల రూపాయలు ఖర్చు అయ్యి 12% వరకు పూర్తి అయ్యింది. 176 కి.మీ. దూరం ఉన్న రాతం-డంగర్ పూర్ వీసా బన్స్ వారా రైల్వే ప్రాజెక్టుకు 3.45 కోట్ల రూపాయలు ఖర్చు అయ్యి 1% వరకు పూర్తి అయ్యింది.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Verification of mobile SIM cards

*109.SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the updated status of action taken by the Ministry, in coordination with State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs, on a large number of mobile SIM cards obtained by using bogus documents and being used for anti-national activities;

(b) whether police personnel are facing great difficulty in capturing such antinational elements due to lack of proper verification as Central Government has recently announced strict verification norms only for new mobile subscribers; and

(c) whether no major action has been taken against mobile SIM cards which have been obtained by using bogus documents and are already in use?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Sir, Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells carry out monthly sample verification of Customer Acquisition Form/Customer Application Form (CAF)/Subscriber Acquisition Form (SAF) along with supporting documents to cross check the compliance on Photo, Identity, Address (PIA) basis. Penalties are imposed on non-compliant cases. In order to deal with the issue of forged documents for obtaining mobile connections, provisions to lodge complaints/FIR with the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) under law of the land, have been made. These provisions have been made stricter *vide* letter dated 09.08.12 and at present below mentioned procedures are in effect since 09.11.12:

- (i) In cases where forged documents are submitted by the subscriber and originals are also forged, police complaint/ FIR shall be lodged by the Point of Sale (PoS)/ Franchisee against the subscriber within fifteen days of bringing it to the notice of the franchisee.
- (ii) In case PoS/Franchisee fails to lodge complaint/FIR as above, Licensee shall lodge complaint/FIR against the subscriber and Franchisee/PoS within further three days.
- (iii) In case where it is found that the forgery has been done by point of sale, the Licensee' shall lodge the complaint/FIR against the Franchisee/ point of sale within one week and financial penalty shall be imposed.
- (iv) In case no action is taken by the Licensee as above or the Licensee itself is involved in forgery, TERM Cell shall lodge complaint/FIR against Licensee. Penalty shall be imposed on all such forged cases also.
- (v) In cases where it is found that the act of issuing connections were done by point of sale using the document of some other subscriber or any person without knowledge of the subscriber or the person, or the documents were forged by the franchisee/PoS of Licensee, the concerned PoS/franchisee may be terminated by the Licensee under intimation to the Licensor (concerned TERM Cell of DoT) and the designated security agencies, in addition to the actions mentioned above. The same may be intimated to all other Licensee(s) in that Service Area by TERM Cell. The other Licensee after getting any such intimation shall terminate/ not appoint any such point of sale.

Besides, LEAs can *suo-motto* register a case/FIR in case they find that forged documents have been submitted for obtaining mobile SIM under relevant provisions of CrPC/IPC etc.

(b) Cases have been reported wherein Law Enforcement Agencies/Police have faced difficulties in tracing out the actual user due to lack of proper verification. However, as per directions contained in the judgment and order dated 27.04.12 by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, DoT has issued new guidelines for verification of new mobile subscribers (Prepaid and Postpaid) *vide* its communication No 800-09/2010-VAS dated 09th August, 2012 which are in effect since 09.11.12.

(c) Approximately, 10714 complaints/FIRs have been lodged with Police till 31.10.12 in respect of cases wherein forged documents have been found. Out of these 8786 cases are against subscribers who were found to be involved in forgery. During periodic sample audit in respect of calendar years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 more than 2.4 Crore, CAFs have been audited during monthly sample audit and penalties amounting to more than Rs. 2757 Crores have been imposed on Telecom Service Providers.

Courses offered by CBSE

*110. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the courses being offered by CBSE for the students of Class 12 are not recognized by most of the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the justification for continuing such courses; and

(c) whether Government proposes to issue instructions to such Universities to accept those courses for already passed out students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has informed that, as per information available with the Board, all the academic subjects offered by it are recognized by Indian Universities for the purpose of granting admission. However, six new vocational subjects namely; Financial Market Management, Healthcare Sciences, Geospatial Technology, Food Production, Food

and Beverage Services and Mass Media Studies and Media Production were not treated at par with the other subjects by the University of Delhi for granting admission to its Honours courses. The University of Delhi has since conveyed to CBSE, approval of all the new vocational subjects for admissions to its undergraduate courses with effect from the Academic Session 2012-13.

(c) Does not arise.

New policy of fertilizer subsidy

*111.DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy has been put in place that will subsidize companies supplying fertilizers, conditional to them producing receipts of sale of fertilizers to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the UID project has been integrated within this policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The Department of Fertilizers is following a phased approach to direct cash transfer in the following manner:

- Phase I: Implemented with effect from 1st November, 2012, Phase I of the project gives information on availability of fertilizers at the last point of retail sales to the farmer.
 - All the 640 districts in the country have been linked to the Mobile Fertilizer Monitoring System (mFMS).
 - Therefore, the farmer can have real-time information on fertilizer availability at the neighborhood retail shop.
 - A part of the subsidy is transferred to the companies after the retailer acknowledges the receipt of the fertilizers. This will ensure that the fertilizer reaches the last point of sale to the farmer.

- Phase II: The Department is not doing the Phase II on transfer of subsidy to the retailer as it was only an interim measure, and it was decided to move to the phase of transfer of direct subsidy.
- Phase III: Transfer of subsidy directly to the farmer will be done in the following phased manner as the Department does not have a data base of farmers and each stage in the approach will serve as the platform for moving to the next stage. The stages are:
 - Phase III A: Capture of information on sale of fertilizers to the farmer.
 - Using the Aadhar and core bank account/Kisan credit card, the farmer will be identified and data base created for the subsequent phases.
 - A part of the subsidy may be disbursed to the companies only after the sale of fertilizer to the farmer is recorded and for the quantum of fertilizer sold.
 - The Government has decided to carry out a Pilot implementation of this stage of the mFMS to precede the nationwide implementation. For the pilot implementation, the Department has identified the following 11 districts on the basis of fertilizer consumption, Aadhaar rollout, dealer network and Phase I implementation status;
 - Tumkur, Karnataka
 - Mysore, Karnataka
 - Sonapat, Haryana
 - Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh
 - Nawanshahar, Punjab
 - East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
 - Dhalai, Tripura
 - Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh
 - Ajmer, Rajasthan
 - Wardha, Maharashtra

- Madurai, Tamil Nadu
 - It has been decided to launch the pilot of Phase III (Stage A & B) in the aforementioned 11 districts by the end of this year.
- Phase III B: Transfer of subsidy to the end beneficiary.
 - When once the credible database is complete, Aadhaar numbers and bank accounts have been linked to the database, fund transfer to the beneficiary can be considered through a strong ICT enabled system.
- Phase III C: Defining entitlements for purchase of fertilizers.
 - Can be done only when the complete database of all farmers across the country, along with the farm holding size etc is made available for defining eligibility for fertilizer subsidy.

Scrapping of one-time spectrum fee

*112.DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India has urged Government to scrap the proposal of Department of Telecom pertaining to charging of a one-time fee from existing telecom players for the spectrum they hold;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of Government on such request?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India has written a letter on 01.10.2012 urging the Government to drop the proposal of Department of Telecom (DoT) pertaining to charging of a one-time fee from existing telecom players for the spectrum they hold.

(b) Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) has stated in their letter that the existing players have already paid entry fee for the contracted spectrum held by them while acquiring the licenses and the DoT's proposal to charge one-time fee by amending the existing license is not permissible in law.

- (i) AUSPI has stated in their letter that Hon'ble Supreme Court has not touched the licenses older than 2008 and the Dual Technology Licenses in their judgment dated 02.02.2012. Hence, not charging the one-time fee will not be in conflict with the judgment. AUSPI has further stated that one-time fee up to 5/6.2 MHz will be favorable to the early entrants and will further vitiate the already distorted level playing field.
 - (ii) AUSPI has enclosed with their letter, copies of opinions from legal luminaries in the matter in support for their stand to drop the one-time charge for spectrum.
 - (iii) AUSPI in their letter also stated that the proposal of the DoT to charge for all the existing spectrum for the balance period of the license at Auction discovered prices by altering the terms and conditions of the licenses unilaterally is illegal, violative of the license conditions and create more inequalities and discriminations among the existing operators.
- (c) The Government has, *inter-alia*, decided the following on levy of onetime Spectrum Charges, except those relating to pricing of CDMA spectrum
- (i) for spectrum holding up to 4.4 MHz (GSM), no one time charge be levied;
 - (ii) for all spectrum holdings beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM), an one time charge be levied prospectively upon the existing operators at 2012 auction determined price. The date of applicability of the charge shall be the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet Decision;
 - (iii) for spectrum held above 6.2 MHz (GSM), a one-time charge be levied from July, 2008 onwards. There will be two prices. The price, pro-rated for the period July, 2008 up to the date of applicability of auction determined price, would be in the 2001 entry fee divided by 6.2, duly indexed using State Bank of India Prime Lending Rate (SBI PLR). The auction determined price be levied for spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz (GSM) with effect from the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet decision;
 - (iv) licensees may be given the option to surrender the spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM) if they did not wish to pay this charge.

Double stack container trains

*113. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sections on which Railways run double stack containers in the country;

(b) whether in view of the tremendous development of ports in Gujarat, Government plans to run special double stack container trains connecting Kandla and Mundra Ports with rest of the country; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) On the following sections Indian Railways run double stack container trains operated by Container Train Operators:

1. Between Garhi Harsaru (Near Gurgaon) and Mundra Port via Rewari, Ringus, Phulera, Palanpur, Gandhidham and Adhipur.
2. Between Garhi Harsaru (Near Gurgaon) and Pipavav Port via Rewari, Ringus, Phulera, Palanpur, Viramgam and Surendranagar.
3. Between Kanakpura (Near Jaipur) and Mundra Port via Phulera, Palanpur, Gandhidham and Adhipur.
4. Between Kanakpura (Near Jaipur) and Pipavav port via Phulera, Palanpur, Viramgam and Surendranagar.

(b) and (c) Double stack container trains operated by Container Train Operators are being run regularly from Mundra Port and Pipavav port situated in State of Gujarat to destinations situated in State of Rajasthan and Haryana. Double Stack operation is presently restricted on the sections which are on diesel traction. Due to physical infringement with Over-Head Equipments, running of double stack container train is not possible in existing electrified territory. However, to overcome this constraint, special arrangement has been planned in Over Head Equipment design to make it possible to run double stack container trains in electrified Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. Movement of Double Stack container train from and to Kandla Port has not been started by Container Train Operators due to lack of necessary port infrastructure and also for want of container traffic.

Check on hate mails

*114. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the action plan to counter hate mails that are spreading fast in the country and had led to exodus of North-East people to their own region;
- (b) whether Government has worked out certain kind of strategy in the matter;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some of the threats relating to cyber terror had originated from across the border; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The action plan and strategy of the Government to deal with the issue include the following:

- (i) Use of social media for dissemination of information on Government policies and programmes, as well as countering false information.
- (ii) Issuing advisory to all intermediaries including national and international social networking sites, advising them to take necessary action to disable inflammatory and hateful content hosted on their websites on priority basis.
- (iii) Maintaining regular dialogue with the intermediaries.
- (iv) Awareness campaign on the issue.
- (v) Use of existing legal provisions as contained in the Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000 to block such information for public access under certain circumstances.
- (vi) Using the provisions of Section 79 of the Information Technology Act 2000 to require the intermediaries to follow due diligence and guidelines with regard to malicious information hosted and posted on their infrastructure.

- (vii) Building/updating both legal and technical safeguards to prevent the misuse of Internet.

In addition, Government has notified a 'Framework and Guidelines' for use of Social Media by its agencies. It will help the Government to interact with the common citizens and disseminate information and at the same time effectively counter the spread of hate mails and malicious information.

(d) and (e) Cyber space by its very nature is borderless and anonymous. Anyone can exploit vulnerabilities in any system connected to the Internet and attack it from anywhere in the world without being identified. With the growing sophistication in technology, it is very difficult and challenging to positively attribute the origin of attack and to ascertain the identity of the perpetrator. As such, even though some of the cyber threats in the form of cyber attacks have been observed to be emanating from cyber space from across the border, conclusive attack attribution is very difficult.

Spectrum allocation

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has not taken any decision on spectrum allocation;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay in this regard; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government would consider the grievances of operators and consumers while taking a decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Government has taken decision on spectrum allocation.

(b) Pursuant to Supreme Court judgment dated 02-02-2012 Government has decided that administrative allotment of spectrum in the various categories *i.e.* [CMRTS, PMRTS, Commercial VSATs, Wide Area Paging service providers, All Captive users, which include Govt. Ministries/ Departments, PSU and Private users] be made, pending response of the Supreme Court on the Presidential Reference, in the following cases:

- (i) All Government and public sector applicants; and
- (ii) such of those private users who either hold or acquire a valid service licence or wireless operating licence rendering them eligible for allotment of spectrum and in which case auction of spectrum is not practicable and whose requirement is of such nature and urgency that decision regarding allotment has to be taken urgently and cannot wait till the end of September, 2012 by which time the decision on Presidential Reference is expected, may be allotted spectrum administratively on provisional basis at administrative charges subject to obtaining undertaking from the applicant that they would agree for assignment of frequencies with certain conditions.

The decision on administrative allotment of spectrum beyond Sept, 2012 is under consideration by the government;

However, allotment of spectrum for GSM/CDMA/3G & BWA services are made based on auction process.

- (c) Yes, Sir. Government makes consultation with operators and spectrum users before taking decision for allocation of spectrum.

Imparting of primary education in mother tongue

*116.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to launch a time-bound programme for imparting free and compulsory primary education to each and every child of the country in his/her mother tongue; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof, as on date, and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 stipulates under section 29 that the academic authority specified by the appropriate government, while laying down the curriculum and evaluation procedure shall take into consideration *inter alia* that the medium of instruction is, as far as practicable, in the child's mother tongue. It is for the specified academic authority in relation to the schools within the territory of the State Governments and Union Territories having a legislature, to take a view in the matter.

Subsidy for establishing food parks

†*117. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring some changes in the existing rules related to subsidy being provided by the Ministry for establishment of Food Parks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the details of the beneficiaries getting existing subsidy, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The subsidy pattern of Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Processing: Mega Food Parks is proposed to be revised during the remaining years' of Twelfth Plan.

- (b) (i) As per the proposed revised pattern there will be two types of projects: (1) Mega Food Parks, with a minimum of 50 acres and (2) Mini Food Parks, with a minimum of 30 acres.
- (ii) As per the proposed revised pattern, up-front subsidy has been proposed at 35% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 25.00 crore and Rs. 10.00 crores as interest subvention in five years on the term loan availed from the banks/financial institutions in general areas and at 50% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 25.00 crores as upfront subsidy and Rs. 15.00 crores as interest subvention in seven years for the term loan availed from banks/financial institutions in NE region including Sikkim, difficult and other hilly areas (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and notified ITDP areas for a Mega Food Park Project.
- (iii) In case of Mini Food Parks, the capital grant is proposed to be at 35% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 crore as upfront subsidy and Rs. 6.00 crore as interest subvention in five years in general areas and at 50% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 crore as upfront subsidy and Rs.9.00 crore as interest subvention in seven years for the term loan availed from banks/financial institutions in NE, difficult areas and notified ITDP areas.
- (d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bio-toilets in trains

*118. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has installed bio-toilets in all the trains being operated by South Central Railway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) So far nine trains are provided with 504 bio toilets for in-service trials. Based on the experience gained and outcome of these trials, it is planned to induct bio-toilets progressively in the trains. No separate plan for South Central Railway has been worked out. No Railway-wise introduction of bio-toilets is planned yet.

Recommendations of the Sam Pitroda and the Anil Kakodkar Committees

*119. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is mulling to consider the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda and the Anil Kakodkar Committees on modernization and safety of Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how many recommendations of these Committees have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Expert Group for modernization of Indian Railways chaired by Sam Pitroda and of the High level Safety Review Committee chaired by Dr. Anil Kakodkar have been received.

The recommendations of the Expert Group for Modernisation of Indian Railways include those 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. It has also provided a blue print for next five years for modernization of Indian Railways.

The High Level Safety Review Committee has made recommendations including general safety matters, organizational structure, empowerment at working level, safety related works and issues, manpower planning issues, shortage of critical safety spares, external interference-encroachment and sabotage, signalling, telecommunication and train protection, modernisation of rolling stock, tracks and bridges, level crossings, fire prevention of trains, road and level crossings and funding issues, human resource development with emphasis on education and training, training institutes on Indian Railways, research eco-system on Indian Railways and safety architecture on Indian Railways.

Both sets of recommendations are under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

Consideration for giving DMS units to GCMMF on lease

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

(a) whether Government is contemplating to give processing and distribution units of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) to Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Limited, (GCMMF), (Amul) on lease;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether GCMMF would employ the staff of DMS; and

(d) if not, Government's reaction in this regard and the steps being taken to save the staff of DMS from unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to give processing and distribution units of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) on lease to Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF). However, the Chairman, GCMMF has written to Government proposing to take up the operation of DMS. GCMMF has been requested to submit a comprehensive and detailed proposal covering various aspects of the matter. Such proposal has not been received from GCMMF.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Organic farming**

776. SHRI N. BALAGANGA:

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the area under organic farming has increased in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of area under organic farming along with the estimated production and value of organic cash and food crops grown in the country during last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to promote organic food in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The area under organic farming has increased in the country. The data related to the area under Organic Certification for the past three years available with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is given as below:

Year	Area (Million Hectares) Cultivated & wild area	Production (Million MT)
2009-10	4.55	1.70
2010-11	4.43	3.88
2011-12	5.55	0.69

Source: Data Provided by Certification Bodies under NOPF in Tracenet.

Further, data on agriculture export which includes food crops, cotton and processed products for past three years available with APEDA is as below:

Year of Production	Volume in MT	Value (Rs. in Crores)
2009-10	58408	526
2010-11	69837	699
2011-12	115417	839

(c) and (d) Government is providing incentives to cultivators of organic food products under the "National Horticulture Mission" (NHM) @ Rs. 10,000/- per hectare for maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary, setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary and organic farming certification @ Rs. 5.00 lakh for group of farmers covering an area of 50 hectare. Assistance for organic food promotion is also available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) for projects formulated and approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.

Annual income on farmers

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

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the average annual income of farmers working in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when such study would be conducted;

(d) whether the income of farmers at annual growth rate in the country has marginally increased since 2000; and

(e) if so, what has been the annual rate of increase during the decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) At the request of Ministry of Agriculture, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted a comprehensive 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' during 2003 in the rural areas collecting information, *inter-alia*, on receipts and expenses relating to cultivation, farming of animals, non-farm business and wages. The average monthly income per farmer household at all India level during the year 2002-03 was Rs. 2115.

(d) and (e) The next 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' is scheduled for 2013.

Modernization of production of vegetables

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

(a) whether in view of the shortage of vegetables in hilly areas and their high cost, Government proposes to modernize the methods of production of vegetables with lesser cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to bring such production activities under Agro-Industries to take up production in large scale in all the hilly areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) In order to enhance production and productivity of horticulture crops in the country including vegetables in hilly areas to meet the growing demand for these produce, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Under these schemes, assistance is provided for establishment of Hi-tech nurseries to produce nucleus seed and quality seedlings, covering more areas under Fl hybrids, promotion of protected cultivation of high value and off season vegetables, adoption of modern production system and management like micro irrigation mulching, mechanization, etc.

All these programmes are implemented through State Government Departments dealing with agriculture and horticulture.

Disposal of straw after harvest

779. PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice straw, after harvest, is being burnt in the field of farmers in the Punjab-Haryana region, thereby causing both atmospheric pollution and the loss of valuable organic matter; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to help farmers with appropriate implements to plough the straw into the soil, thereby enriching the organic matter content of the soil and the growth of earthworms?

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

(b) The Government is promoting the following technology for better management of straw by farmers by providing assistance upto 40% of the cost of the machine subject to maximum limit of Rs.20,000 under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme.

- (i) **Straw combine** - used for collecting straw from combine harvested fields.
- (ii) **Straw Balers** - effective for collection and compaction of straw in the form of bales for ease of transportation.
- (iii) **Rotavator** - an effective implement for incorporating straw into the soil.
- (iv) **Happy seeder/Zero till seed Drill** - These machines enable the farmers to sow second crop in straw/stubble laden fields and saving energy while simultaneously contributing much for water conservation.

Government of India is also providing assistance for organizing frontline demonstration on these equipments through the State Governments/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for the awareness of farmers.

Rising incidence of suicide by farmers

780. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of suicide committed by farmers during last three months till date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of suicide by farmers during last six months till date in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, district-wise;
- (c) whether Government has failed to check the rising incidence of suicide by farmers; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Details of suicide committed by farmers are

reported at State level from time to time by respective State Governments. During 2012, suicides committed by farmers due to agrarian reasons have been reported in Andhra Pradesh (25) and Maharashtra (118) in the calendar year and Karnataka (2) in the financial year by respective State Governments. Government of Tamil Nadu has not informed of cases of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons in 2012 in the State.

(c) and (d) Government has taken various effective measures including implementation of Rehabilitation Package in identified districts to revitalize agriculture sector, improve condition of farmers and check incidents of suicides among them. As reported by respective State Governments, the number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons has not increased in 2012 as compared to the previous year.

Effect of global warming

781. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of alternate sources of food, Government has envisaged, to make up for the diminishing availability of major grain crops, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that while India will be adversely affected by global warming phenomenon, China will actually experience a surge in crop yield by up to 20 per cent; and

(c) whether any plans have been conceptualized for procurement and storage of foodgrains in case of massive scarcity caused by rise in temperature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Presently there has not been any diminishing availability of food grains in the country. However, the Government is emphasizing the production of alternate sources of food such as coarse cereals, fruits and vegetables which may supplement the food and nutritional security of the country. The Government accordingly, is implementing schemes namely National Security through Intensive Millets Promotion, National Horticulture Mission, Rastriya Krishi Vigyan Yojana and National Food Security Mission in this regard.

(b) Generally, most countries in Asia will be adversely affected by global warming, the effects being moderate (upto 5-6%) in the short term (upto 2030) and

significant (upto 25%) in the medium to long term (2050 and beyond). However, China being a temperate country most models predict that cereals crops like rice in some regions of China (North East, North West and South East coastal Provinces) might increase by 15-20% (IPCC). While in India, most of the modeling work done by ICAR indicate 4-6% adverse impacts on yields in the short term (upto 2030). However, the existing adaptation technologies like tolerant varieties and improved crop management can neutralize the short term impacts.

(c) here is no massive scarcity of food grains foreseen. However, for contingency requirement, Government of India has in place system for food grain procurement, storage and distribution.

Achievements of Gramneen Bhandaran Yojana

782. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how far has the Grameen Bhandaran Yojana, launched in April 2011, and aimed at creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas been able to meet its targets;

(b) in the event of drought or other contingencies, what precaution has been taken, by both the Centre and States, to ensure supply of foodgrain for the country's population; and

(c) the steps taken to refurbish the capacity steps of existing storage facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) The central sector scheme 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' was launched with effect from 1.4.2001, with major objectives of creation of scientific storage capacity in rural areas for storing farm produce, prevention of distress sale and reduction of post-harvest losses. As per the report (2006) of independent evaluation of the scheme, carried out by Global Agri System Pvt. Ltd., principal objectives of the scheme have been met. As per the report, about 95% of godowns are used to store agriculture output, while 5% store both input and output. Commodities stored, are mainly local produce with major commodities being rice, wheat and pulses. During X Plan Period, storage capacity of 182.17 lakh MT

has been sanctioned against the target of 121.00 lakh MT, while storage capacity of 135.01 lakh MT has been sanctioned against the target of 90.00 lakh MT during XI Plan period.

(b) As per existing policy, Government makes allocation of food grains to States and Union Territories over and above the normal quotas for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for relief in case of natural calamities including droughts. The Government maintains sufficient stocks of foodgrains for this purpose.

(c) Under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana, assistance is provided to cooperatives through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for renovation of rural godowns. Assistance under the scheme has been provided for renovation of godowns of total capacity of 23.73 lakh MT in cooperative sector since inception. With effect from 20.10.2012, the normative cost of renovation of godowns in cooperative sector has been enhanced from Rs. 625 per MT to Rs. 750 per MT.

Loss of fruits and vegetables

783. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of fruits and vegetables are destroyed due to their perishable nature, every year;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of fruits and vegetables destroyed during last two years fruit/vegetable-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to stop this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The extent of damage of fruits and vegetables depends on various factors such as seasonality, perishability of the produce, post harvest handling, transport and storage. As per survey conducted by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), harvest and post harvest losses of fruits and vegetables are in the, range of 5.77 to 18.05 per cent. The details are given in Statement (*See below*).

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture extends financial assistance for integrated post harvest management, setting up of processing units and establishment of market infrastructure under various programmes namely Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Horticulture Board (NHB) to reduce the losses of fruits and vegetables. In addition, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides assistance for setting up of cold chain facilities.

Statement

*Estimate of Harvest and Post Harvest Losses of Fruits
and Vegetables (%)*

Sl. No.	Commodity	Loss (%)
1	2	3
A.	Fruits	
1.	Apple	12.26
2.	Banana	6.60
3.	Citrus	6.38
4.	Grapes	8.30
5.	Guava	18.05
6.	Mango	12.74
7.	Papaya	7.36
8.	Sapota	5.77
B.	Vegetables	
1.	Cabbage	6.94
2.	Cauliflower	6.88
3.	Green Pea	10.28
4.	Mushroom	12.54
5.	Onion	7.51

1	2	3
6.	Potato	8.99
7.	Tomato	12.98
8.	Tapioca	9.19

Share of agriculture in GDP

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

(a) whether dependence of population on agriculture has increased over a period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has decreased recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the comprehensive measures taken by Government to increase the agricultural share in GDP as prevalent in developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) quinquennial, Employment and Unemployment Surveys; the estimated number of workers employed in agriculture per 1000 persons declined from 580 in 2005-06 to 532 in 2009-10 on account of comparatively higher employment opportunities in the non-agriculture sectors.

(c) to (e) As per the latest estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) the share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in GDP of the country at 2004-05 prices was at 14% in 2011-12. The share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in GDP of the country declined from 15.8 % in 2008-09, to 14.7 % in 2009-10, and further to 14.5 % in 2010-11. The decline in the share of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in GDP of the country is on account of comparatively higher growth in GDP of non-agriculture sectors. However, the Government of India has launched several schemes to boost 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. in the country.

MSP for wheat

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

(a) whether Government has proposed no change in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat at Rs. 1285 per quintal for 2013-14 season but has suggested a bonus of Rs. 130 per quintal over and above MSP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Food Ministry has opposed the proposal and suggested to go with the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and retain MSP for wheat at the last years level of Rs. 1285/-; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

MSP for wheat for 2012-13 has not yet been finalized.

Spread of bird flu

786. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that bird flu is causing worry to poultry farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that export of Indian poultry products is banned; and

(d) if so, how many countries have banned Indian poultry products and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Bird flu is a highly contagious disease resulting in huge economic losses in terms of high mortality of birds, culling of birds, fall in production and disruption of trade of poultry and poultry products, thus is a cause of worry to poultry farmers. However, the number of cases of bird flu in the country during the current financial year has not increased in comparison to the ones 5 reported during last financial year. The State Governments are in the state of preparedness, also well equipped and well experienced in carrying out the control and containment operations. In past 12 occurrences, including the last one at CPDO, Hessarghatta, Bangalore, the disease was contained and controlled at the source itself.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Industry and the Indian Embassies, countries such as Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia had imposed ban on import of poultry products from India due to bird flu. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), had taken up the matter with Indian Missions in these countries with a request to take up the issue with the respective authorities for lifting up the ban.

Use of bull in agriculture

787. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the ratio of man and animal in 1947 and at present;
- (b) the policy of Government regarding use of bull in agriculture; and
- (c) whether Government encourage use of bull in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The man and animal ratio (livestock) in 1947 and at present is presented in the following table:

(in million)

Year	Man	Animal (Livestock)	Man - Animal Ratio	Remark
1951	361.09	292.80	100 : 81	No population and livestock census was conducted in 1947
2007	1138	529.70	100 : 47	Livestock population as per Livestock Census 2007. Estimated human population for the year 2007.

Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2012, Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Formulation of policy on development of bovine population including draught animals is a State subject and most of the States have a formulated policy for development of bovine population including draught animals. In order to supplement and complement the efforts made by the States the Government is implementing 'National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding' which has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. One of the achievements of the project would be increasing the availability of improved draught animals for farm sector. Selective breeding and multiplication of the important draught breeds of cattle in their breeding tract, through both artificial insemination (AI) as well as natural service, will establish regular and continuous supply of high quality draught animals greatly improving the overall draught animal economy in the country.

APMC Act

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

(a) whether Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act, supposed to contain farm-produce volatility, has degenerated into a cartel system;

(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) As agriculture marketing is a state subject, various State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) have enacted legislation (Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act) to provide for regulation of marketing of wholesale agricultural produce through a network of regulated wholesale markets with the objective of ensuring better prices and timely payment to farmers for their produce. In order to bring reforms in agricultural marketing, a model Agriculture Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act was circulated in 2003, for adoption by States/UTs in their respective state legislations. The Model Act provides for alternative competitive marketing channels to farmers such as direct marketing, contract farming, farmers/consumers markets, setting up of markets in private and cooperative sector and e-trading, etc., which aim at facilitating better remuneration to farmers for their produce through reduction in intermediation and transparency while preventing cartelization. The status of agricultural marketing reforms in States/UTs is given in Statement.

Statement

Progress of Reforms in Agricultural Markets (APMC Act) as on 30.10.2012

Sl. No.	Stage of Reforms	Name of States/ Union Territories
1	2	3
1.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done for Direct Marketing; Contract Farming and Markets in Private/ Coop Sectors	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Tripura.
2.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done partially	(a) Direct Marketing: NCT of Delhi. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh) (b) Contract 'Farming: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh.
3.	States/UTs where there is no APMC Act and hence not requiring reforms	Bihar*, Kerala, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Lakshadweep.

1	2	3
4.	States/UTs where APMC Act already provides for the reforms	Tamil Nadu
5.	States/UTs where reforms are yet to be initiated	Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir West Bengal, Puducherry, and Uttar Pradesh.

* APMC Act is repealed w.e.f. 1.9.2006.

Per capita availability of foodgrains

789. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita foodgrains availability in our country has decreased during last ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for last ten years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of per capita foodgrain availability in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The per capita availability of cereal, pulses and foodgrains since 2002 is given below:

(Grams per day)			
Year	Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains
1	2	3	4
2002	458.7	35.4	494.1
2003	408.5	29.1	437.6
2004	426.9	35.8	462.7
2005	390.9	31.5	422.4
2006	412.8	32.5	445.3
2007	407.4	35.5	442.8
2008	394.2	41.8	436.0

1	2	3	4
2009	407.0	37.0	444.0
2010	401.7	35.4	437.1
2011(P)	423.5	39.4	462.9

(P) - Provisional.

The fluctuations in per capita availability are mainly due to fluctuations in production on account of variations in weather conditions, increasing population etc.

Need for revolutionary improvement in agriculture sector

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a need of new revolutionary improvement in the Agricultural sector in the country;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that priority must be given for making per hectare production rate competitive to International level instead of increasing capital investment in Agricultural sector of the country;
- (d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and
- (e) the perspective plan of Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) 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. The need for accelerating agricultural growth to 4% per annum to achieve equitable and inclusive growth and make farming viable, led to various initiatives for revitalization of agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan. The results have been satisfactory. All-time record production was witnessed in rice, wheat, sugar cane and cotton, as the average annual growth rate in the agriculture and allied sector during Eleventh Plan improved to 3.3% as opposed to 2.4% in the Tenth Plan. These initiatives will continue in the 12th Five Year Plan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Increasing capital investment in agriculture is necessary to, *inter-alia*, create required infrastructure, which is key to increasing productivity. The Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in Agriculture and Allied sector at constant (2004-05) prices has increased from Rs. 92,057 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 142,254 crore in 2010-11. The impact of this increased investment is clearly visible in the above mentioned results.

Export of Beef

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

(a) whether a Working Group of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has submitted a report to Planning Commission of India for Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) in which under para 12.3.1 of chapter 12 titled 'Meat and abattoir', it is mentioned that 'export of beef is banned at present that's why after making required amendments in export-import policy, export of beef be permitted';

(b) whether Government would like to ignore this report keeping in mind sentiments of majority of Indian masses; and

(c) if so, by when Government will take decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Planning Commission has informed that it had set up a Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairying for formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan and the cited recommendation of the Working Group under Para 12.3.1 of Chapter 12 has already been deleted. The final version of Para 12.3.1 reads as follows:

"Since slaughter is a state subject, the actual processing of meat for exports as well as for domestic demand follow the laws of the individual states, which are at variance with each other. The new regulations notified in May, 2011 under Food Safety and Standards Act call for complete modernization of the industry to produce quality and safe meat. There is a need to improve awareness among the stake holders on Food Safety and quality aspects of meat for effective implementation of the newly proposed Food Safety Rules."

(b) and (c) does not arise in view of reply at (a).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Failure of monsoon in Tamil Nadu

792. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu has approached the Centre for financial assistance in view of the failure of monsoon in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of Tamil Nadu has not sent any memorandum to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in 2012 seeking financial assistance for failure of monsoon.

Measures to tackle debt incurred by farmers

793. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government intends to take to tackle the increasing debt incurred by farmers, in view of the escalating input prices;

(b) whether Government intends to extend the reach of agricultural cooperatives and banks in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Government announces each season minimum support prices for major agriculture commodities to ensure remunerative prices to the growers taking into consideration the relevant factors including the cost of production and changes in the input prices and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. Besides, to raise farm income and to improve agriculture production and productivity, Government has formulated various schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Agriculture Credit Initiatives, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), Crop Insurance etc.

(b) and (c) A package for revival and strengthening of Short-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) in the country formulated on the basis of

recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee is presently under implementation with an estimated total financial outlay of Rs. 13596 crore. Under multi-pronged strategy to extend banking facilities in the unbanked rural areas, all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) have been advised to allocate 25 per cent of the total number of branches to be opened during a year in unbanked rural centres. Monetary Policy Statement of April, 2010, the roadmap to provide banking services in every village having population above 2000 was finalized by State Level Banking Committees (SLBCs). 74,414 villages with population above 2,000 were identified as unbanked, which were allocated to various banks, including RRBs for providing banking services by March, 2012. Banks have covered 74,199 (99.7 per cent) of these unbanked villages.

Contingency plan for States receiving scanty rainfall

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

(a) whether Government has prepared a contingency plan that focuses on alternative or short duration crops in the States receiving scanty rainfall;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether plan prepared by ICAR does not include any change in the cropping pattern for the key paddy growing States, where monsoon rainfall is adequate so far;

(d) whether the farmers have been urged to avoid long duration rice varieties and go for medium duration varieties for dealing with 36 per cent deficiency in rainfall; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has so far prepared 374 district contingency plans to address weather aberrations in the country mainly due to delay in onset of monsoon leading to drought, breaks in monsoon, floods, cyclone, excess and unseasonal rains and other extreme weather events such as heat wave, cold wave, frost and hailstorm.

Contingency strategies cover monsoon delays upto 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks and include changes in crop and/or variety preferably of short or medium duration based on length of growing season and cropping sequence followed in the district.

(c) The plans do contain changes in cropping pattern/varieties even in paddy growing states if there is a significant delay in monsoon rains or delay in release of irrigation water. These changes are highly location specific depending on the cropping pattern in the district. But in some states/districts with transplanted paddy as the main crop, only change in varieties is suggested as change in cropping pattern is not possible in that situation except for rabi.

(d) and (e) In all the agro-advisories issued by the Agricultural Universities, the details of short duration varieties to be grown due to deficit rainfall are provided in their websites and also through local media and television channels particularly in deficit rainfall states.

Measures to control suicide by farmers

795. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to work out certain measures to control suicide among farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action plan to grant interest-free loans to the poor farmers; and
- (d) the action plan to provide other kinds of help to poor marginalized farmers to help them financially or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Measures taken by Government to control suicide among farmers include, *inter-alia*, implementation of Rehabilitation Package in identified districts, provision of various inputs and support services, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, interest subvention on crop loan, debt waiver, debt relief, enhancement in Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities, development of storage and marketing infrastructure etc., as per guidelines under the relevant scheme(s).

National Policy for Farmers (NPF) 2007, acknowledges the preponderance of small and marginal holdings in the country. NPF envisages farming activity becoming more viable and the economic condition of farmers improving on a sustainable basis. Major provisions of NPF comprise various asset reforms (land, water, livestock etc.) to empower farmers, development of support services (credit, insurance, extension, prices and marketing etc.) and creation of opportunities for non-farm employment for farm households. Accordingly, specific steps have been identified and incorporated in the plan of action for operationalization of NPF.

Loan at lower interest rate for dairy profession

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provides agro loans at 3 per cent interest rate to farmers for agricultural purposes whereas there is no concession in the interest on loans for dairy profession even though it is complementary to agriculture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide loans at lower interest rate to farmers especially in Madhya Pradesh for purchasing cattle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Government of India provides interest subvention at 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on their own funds used for short term crop loan upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per farmer provided the lending institutions make available short term credit at the ground level at 7% per annum to farmers. An additional interest subvention at 3% is available to the prompt paying, farmers. Thus, the prompt paying borrower/farmer would get short term crop loans at 4% per annum. However, this benefit of interest subvention is not available for Dairy even though it is complementary to agriculture.

(c) The Department of Animals Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not have any scheme to provide loans at lower interest rate to farmers for purchasing cattle. However, the Department is implementing “Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme” (DEDS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Development (NABARD) in which back ended capital subsidy (25% of the project cost for General Category and 33.33% for SC & ST beneficiaries) is provided through eligible financial institutions, subject to the norms of the scheme. One of the components of DEDS is establishment of small dairy unit of 2 to 10 crossbreed cows, indigenous descript milch cows and graded buffaloes. The scheme is available throughout the country including Madhya Pradesh.

Impact of deficient monsoon on foodgrains production

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of deficient monsoon in 2012 on foodgrains production, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to assess and expeditiously mitigate the impact of deficient rainfall/drought like situation in many parts of the country on farmers and in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per First Advance Estimates 2012-13, Kharif foodgrain production is estimated at 117.18 million tones which is 12.76 million tones less compared to that of 2011-12. This is mainly due to delayed/deficient monsoon. State-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) An empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) had been constituted to review the situation and take quick and timely decisions on policy issues as well as on other issues for effective management of drought and related matters. Important decisions of EGoM include implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme for providing protective irrigation in the rainfall deficient districts, enhancement of ceiling on seeds subsidy to partially recompense farmer for re-sowing and/or purchasing drought tolerant variety of seeds, interest subvention/restructuring of crop loans, additional wage employment upto 50 days per household, additional budget allocation of Rs. 100 crore under Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP), additional budget allocation of Rs. 50.00 crore under Central Sector Scheme on Fodder and Feed, fast tracking of fund releases under the major schemes of Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, waiver of import duty on oil cakes etc.

Statement

*State-wise first advance estimates of production of foodgrains
during 2012-13. (As on 24-09-2012)*

('000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	Kharif Foodgrains
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8403.7
2.	Assam	3817.0
3.	Bihar	6495.0
4.	Chhattisgarh	6065.7
5.	Gujarat	2793.1
6.	Haryana	3939.0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	851.0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1056.9
9.	Jharkhand	4813.6
10.	Karnataka	7566.3
11.	Kerala	449.0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4811.3
13.	Maharashtra	6698.0
14.	Orissa	6013.7
15.	Punjab	11458.8
16.	Rajasthan	5808.4
17.	Tamil Nadu	6085.2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	17197.0
19.	Uttarakhand	948.0

1	2	3
20.	West Bengal	9410.8
21.	Others	2494.5
22.	ALL-INDIA	117176.1

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Development in agriculture sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that for development of agriculture sector in the country, Government has been taking policy decision to give boost to the development of agriculture sector by increasing prices for last one decade;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this move, the quantum of capital investment in the agriculture sector has increased but it did not increase the dividend of the producer; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) The Minimum Support Prices(MSPs) for the major crops covered under the MSP increased by 127% for paddy, 104% for wheat, 183% for Arhar, 221% for Moong, 87% for Rapeseed/Mustard, 156% for Jute, etc since 2003-04.

The MSP fixed by Government is based on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the concerned State Governments and the 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.

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

Gross Capital Formation (investment) in agriculture relative to Gross Domestic Product(GDP) in this sector has increased from 16.1 % in 2004-05 to 20.1 % in 2010-11 at 2004-05 prices. Government is implementing various programmes/schemes, *inter-alia*, with the objective of improving productivity, profitability and economic viability of farming, namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) etc.

Awareness programme on sustainable use of groundwater

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

- (a) whether Government has recently launched an awareness programme to educate farmers on sustainable use of groundwater resources in rainfed area of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has launched this programme through print/electronic media for the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been conducting mass awareness programme for promoting rain water harvesting, artificial recharge and water conservation in different parts of the country involving Central/State agencies, Non-Government voluntary/Resident-Welfare Organizations, educational institutions, industries, farmers, individuals etc. for sustainable use of groundwater resources. So far 455 mass awareness campaigns have been organized by CGWB.

Central Ground Water Authority organizes campaigns on rain water harvesting, ground water pollution, water conservation etc. through Doordarshan/All India Radio/print media, release of postage-stamp/post-cards/booklets, display of hoardings on water conservation/rain water harvesting at prominent public places.

(e) These efforts have led to overall improvement in ground water use and also an increase in ground water development from 58% in 2004 to 61% in 2009. During the same period percentage of Blocks/Mandals/Talukas categorized as overexploited, critical and semi critical has gone down from 29% to 26%.

Availability of fertilizers DAP and urea to farmers

†800. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizers, DAP and Urea 20:20:0 and 15:15:0 were made available to the farmers as per their demands in all states in the year, 2012;

(b) if so, the details of fertilizers supplied to each state, district-wise;

(c) whether farmers are not able to get sufficient supply of fertilizers every year despite it being utmost essential and necessary for them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether new fertilizers units have been opened in the country during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The demand (requirement) assessed by Department of Agriculture (DAC) and availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK in all the state in the year 2012 (April, 2012 to October, 2012) are given in Statement (*See* below).

As can be seen from the Annexure, the availability of all the Fertilizers during the year is comfortable. Department of Fertilizers (DOF) does not monitor the grade-wise requirement *vis-a-vis* availability of NPK fertilizer. However, as can be seen from the Annexure that availability of NPK fertilizer is quite comfortable.

The Department of Fertilizers monitors the availability of Fertilizer at State level. The monitoring within state is the responsibility of the respective state Government.

(e) and (f) No, new Fertilizer unit has been opened in the country during last three years. However, one Greenfield project *viz.* Matix Fertilizers and Chemical Ltd. is being established at Panagarh (Distt. Burdwan, West Bengal).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise Requirement, Availability and Sales of Urea, DAP, NPK and MOP Fertilizers during the year 2012-13 [April 2012 to October 2012]

(Figures in 000' MT)

States	Urea			DAP			NPK			MOP		
	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	1950.00	1795.46	1750.69	830.00	595.15	372.96	1300.00	1435.92	1017.55	400.00	259.52	178.44
Karnataka	940.00	881.29	858.50	675.00	457.12	195.42	865.00	787.84	492.34	347.00	237.36	164.58
Kerala	126.00	82.14	81.19	32.00	24.36	16.64	170.00	125.35	104.93	115.00	77.67	55.28
Tamil Nadu	623.00	489.08	487.20	295.00	179.32	151.70	396.76	465.34	346.14	295.00	144.69	125.17
Gujarat	1420.00	1115.57	1074.24	590.00	272.97	150.52	348.70	399.20	209.77	118.00	51.61	42.88
Madhya Pradesh	990.99	1047.28	903.02	873.80	1119.02	687.96	309.46	250.85	174.39	111.52	99.72	64.67
Chhattisgarh	520.00	539.16	436.74	231.84	212.07	115.99	130.00	110.22	86.56	89.00	88.92	42.83
Maharashtra	1745.00	1533.80	1483.25	1086.00	633.61	330.41	1155.00	1138.09	747.46	373.00	297.01	181.32
Rajasthan	852.10	844.10	819.97	492.36	526.36	381.44	124.49	72.66	66.28	36.97	15.50	10.15

Haryana	1125.00	1079.57	984.21	545.00	643.94	375.91	65.00	21.13	16.12	45.00	21.46	18.36
Punjab	1625.00	1743.83	1520.49	705.00	811.13	608.15	85.00	36.20	29.84	71.00	43.39	25.61
Himachal Pradesh	40.00	38.54	34.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	14.85	9.34	0.30	4.22	1.81
Jammu and Kashmir	81.20	99.76	61.42	47.79	39.00	22.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.38	6.41	3.47
Uttar Pradesh	3100.00	3630.04	3170.42	1300.00	1846.96	1171.54	750.00	657.66	478.99	165.00	125.50	109.27
Uttarakhand	140.00	156.56	144.66	21.00	27.64	17.47	31.00	30.83	23.32	5.00	4.54	3.04
Bihar	1180.00	1129.25	1094.97	305.00	467.03	318.39	215.00	226.01	145.58	120.00	96.42	58.08
Jharkhand	191.25	149.33	133.79	91.50	51.91	29.54	60.00	25.10	21.43	22.50	6.88	2.36
Orissa	490.00	419.77	398.94	185.00	92.94	82.31	213.51	175.39	117.69	125.00	62.34	51.07
West Bengal	578.00	754.33	602.21	274.53	296.89	187.45	456.74	534.15	417.70	174.84	190.63	114.41
ALL INDIA	17996.71	17728.01	16235.58	8717.01	8324.73	5239.97	6733.64	6522.06	4517.16	2730.29	1879.07	1274.09

Availability of fertilizers at reasonable prices

†801. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large scale anomalies have been found in the prices of essential fertilizers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the campaign started by Government under the present policy has given any results so far; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken further by Government to provide fertilizers to farmers at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No anomalies regarding prices of fertilizers have come to the notice of the Department.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) Prior to the implementation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy, the MRP of P&K fertilizers were fixed by the Government, which was much lower than its delivered cost and difference in delivered cost and its MRP was paid as subsidy. This led to increase in consumption of fertilizers but also near stagnation in agricultural productivity. The fertilizer sector worked in a highly regulated environment and the fertilizer industry suffered from low profitability as compared to other sectors. The industry lacked innovation and had no incentive to invest towards modernization and increase efficiency. The subsidy outgo of Government had also increased exponentially.

It was, thus, observed that subsidy regime prior to NBS Policy had been proving to be a losing proposition for all the stake holders viz. farmers, industry and the Government. Considering all the issues relating to agriculture productivity, balanced fertilization and growth of indigenous fertilizer industry, competitiveness amongst the fertilizer companies and to overcome the deficiency of concession scheme, the Government decided to introduce Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for P&K fertilizers w.e.f 1.4.2010.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Since, NBS Policy has been under implementation for last 2½ years only, a formal study is yet to be conducted on its impact. However, there is a proposal under consideration to get the study done by a reputed consulting firm.

(d) Urea is made available to the farmers at a price fixed by the Government, which is much below the delivered price. The difference in the cost of delivered price and MRP is provided as subsidy. Government also provides a fixed subsidy on 21 grades of P&K fertilizers, depending on their nutrient content, to make them available to the farmers at subsidised rates. The MRPs of P&K fertilizers are, however, fixed by the companies.

Availability of rakes for transportation of urea

†802. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the demand of Uttar Pradesh, adequate number of rakes are being provided by Government for transportation of urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy to establish a new system for this purpose; 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. 4.9 railway rakes per day were loaded as against a target of 4.8 railway rakes per day, to achieve target of availability of Urea during the current Rabi season 2012-13 (October, 2012). The demand (requirement) assessed by Department of Agriculture (DAC) and availability of Urea in the State of Uttar Pradesh during current season in Rabi 2012-13 (October, 2012) is as below:

(Figures in 000 MTS)

Availability of Fertilizers during Rabi 2012-13 October, 2012			
Urea	Requirement	Availability	Sale
	500.00	542.30	469.66

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As can be seen from the table above, the availability of Urea during the current Rabi season 2012-13 (October, 2012) was more than the requirement.

(c) and (d) No need has been felt for a new system.

Sitting up of integrated petrochemical unit in Tamil Nadu

803. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any integrated Petroleum, Plastic, Chemical and Petrochemical unit in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Environmental Ministry's approval has been obtained and conveyed to the State Government; and

(d) if not, the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved a proposal of the State Government of Tamil Nadu to set up a Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) in the Cuddalore and Nagapatinam districts covering an area of 256.83 sq. kms.

(b) The proposal seeks to attract Rs. 92,160 crore as investment and create infrastructure worth Rs. 13,354 crore. The project is expected to generate employment for around 7.5 lakh persons.

(c) The State Government is required to obtain the necessary environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (M/o E & F) based on a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment as per the guidelines issued by the M/o E & F from time to time.

(d) No fixed time frames are set in this regard and the approval is based on satisfactory completion of prescribed procedures as per M/o E & F guidelines.

Need to control prices of medicines

804. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether out of the medicines sold in the country presently, only 20 to 30 percent medicines are covered under price control;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the domestic market prices of medicines covered under the price control constitutes a very less portion of the market price of the total medicines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is a need to control prices of medicines in the country;
- (f) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard; and
- (g) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. 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, 95. 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.

The prices of formulations containing 74 bulk drugs specified in the First schedule of the DPCO, 1995 that presently are under price control regime are fixed/ revised by NPPA on the basis of formula contained in Para 7 of the DPCO, 1995 which includes Material cost, Conversion cost, Packing Material cost, Packing Charges and a maximum allowable post manufacturing expenses of upto 100 per cent and the instant guidelines on the subject. Actual allowable taxes are also added to arrive at the equivalent MRP.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. The prices of non scheduled formulations are not fixed by NPPA. There is no control on the launch price of the non scheduled formulations. 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.

(e) to (g) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality as per the medicines as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (348 drugs with specified dosage and strengths), as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM). Based on the recommendations of the GoM, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy 2012 (NPPP-2012) was formulated and placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications. Further, action to notify NPPP-2012 has been undertaken.

Investment policy for urea sector

805. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any new investment policy for the urea sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Department of Fertilizers has suggested any changes in the eligibility criteria for plants to qualify for Greenfield, Brownfield and revamped plants categories;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) New Investment Policy 2012 is under consideration of the Government.

Revival of fertilizer factory at Gorakhpur

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether there was any announcement of Government for revival of fertilizer factory of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the initiatives being taken by Government for implementing this announcement;
- (c) whether the fertilizer factory of Gorakhpur would be made operational this year; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in its meeting held on 4.8.2011 approved the proposal for revival of closed units of Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL) including Gorakhpur unit of FCIL with the stipulation that Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR) proceedings be expedited and thereafter, the matter including changes, if any, required in bid parameters, be placed before the Committee for a final decision. Accordingly, the Draft Rehabilitation Schemes (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. At present, the matter is with BIFR. In view of this, it is not possible, at this stage, to give a time limit for operationalization of the Gorakhpur unit.

Spiralling prices of fertilizers

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of fertilizers have increased 12 times in two years in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that due to this rise in prices, the farming community in Andhra Pradesh has been affected very badly; and
- (c) if so, the reasons that Government does not have control on the prices of fertilizers as we have in the case of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)

Policy is being implemented *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, which are non-Urea fertilizers. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on annual basis is provided on each grade of subsidized P&K fertilizers, depending upon its nutrient content. Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) of P&K fertilizers is fixed by fertilizer companies.

India is completely dependent on imports for Potassic Fertilizers and to the extent of 90% in Phosphatic fertilizers. Subsidy being fixed, the international prices of these fertilizers and their raw materials has direct bearing on the domestic retail prices. The prices of fertilizers and their inputs are highly volatile in the international market, therefore, the fertilizer companies keep adjusting MRPs of their fertilizers in line with international cost of fertilizers. The exchange rate fluctuations also affect the cost of acquisition of fertilizers and, consequently, result in change in the MRPs. Thus, the MRPs of P&K fertilizers keep changing throughout the country including in Andhra Pradesh.

The prices of P&K fertilizers have increased due to fluctuations in international prices, which is beyond the control of the Government and also on account of depreciation of Indian Rupee. Rise in prices of fertilizers have affected all farmers including those in Andhra Pradesh.

Revival of closed urea plants

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

- (a) whether Government has decided to revive closed urea plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is applicable to Fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in its meeting held on 4.8.2011, approved the proposal for revival of closed units of Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (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. At present, the matter is with BIFR.

(c) No, Sir.

Price control of essential medicines

†809. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a final decision to bring the prices of essential medicines in the country under its control;

(b) if so, whether Government has proposed any mechanism for fixing prices of these medicines;

(c) if so, the criteria of fixing prices of these medicines; and

(d) the criteria on which the prices of medicines under control, are being fixed till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality as per the medicines as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (348 drugs with specified dosage and strengths), as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM). Based on the recommendations of the GoM, National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy-2012 (NPPP-2012) was formulated and placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications. Further action to notify NPPP-2012 has been undertaken.

(d) The drugs in which there is price control at present, viz. drugs under Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO-95) are based on the criteria of market share of the drugs/monopoly of its manufacturers in the market.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Inclusion of cancer drugs under essential medicines list

810. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to include many cancer drugs under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order as part of the new list of essential medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure affordability of cancer drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM), National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012) which also contains anti-cancer drugs was placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications. Further action to notify NPPP-2012 has been undertaken.

(c) Besides formulating NPPP-2012, 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.

Investment in fertilizer sector

811. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government is taking to boost investment in the fertiliser sector as per the recommendations of the Working Group of Fertilizer Industry for the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether reduction of fertilizer subsidies is complementary to increasing public investment; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Government of India is considering to formulate New Investment Policy 2012 to boost indigenous production of urea in the country which would reduce subsidies on Urea in a long run.

Sale and distribution of sub-standard fertilizers, pesticides etc.

812. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 and Insecticides Act, 1968 for sale and distribution of sub-standard fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides and fungicides, during last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

- (b) whether the penal provision include prosecution of offenders with upto seven years imprisonment under ECA,1955;and

- (c) if so, the action taken during last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The State Governments are adequately empowered under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 to take both administrative action as well as legal action such as filing of cases in the court of law. The details showing the action taken by the State Governments on Non Standard fertilizers, for preceding last 3 year given in Statement-I to III (*See below*). Action taken during last three years in case of Pesticides is given in Statement-IV (*See below*).

- (b) The fertilizer has been declared as essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As per Section (Penalties) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a punishment for a term which shall not be less than three months but which may extend to 7 years and shall also liable to fine. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) *vide* notification SO No. 654 (E) dated 29.03.2012 declared the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) as special Order under Section 12 A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. For the contravention any order made under section 3 should be tried summarily further under proviso to Section 12 A(2) of Essential Commodities Act, it is stipulated that in case of any conviction in a summary trial under this section, it shall be lawful the Magistrate can pass a sentence of imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Statement-I

State-wise details of follow up action on non standard samples during 2009-10

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Non Std. samples	Administrative Action Taken			Prosecution Cases Launched	Cases Pending for Action	Charging higher Price	Seizure of Stock/ Stop Sale	Disposal allowed under cl.23	Conviction awarded	Cases pending in Court	No. of cases other violation of FCO
			DRC Cancelled	DRC suspended	Other action								
1	Assam	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Bihar	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Jharkhand	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Orissa	124	2	3	60	59	0	3	12	0	0	0	0
5	West Bengal	270	3	0	267	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
6	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	49	0	0	34	8	7	0	3	0	0	339	1
8	Madhya Pradesh	659	30	128	493	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Chhattisgarh	149	11	35	61	3	39	0	0	0	0	0	0

10	Maharashtra	2082	99	231	1136	64	552	100	78	0	28	2454	1058
11	Rajasthan	161	6	2	149	4	0	0	17	0	0	4	0
12	Haryana	85	5	0	69	7	4	0	0	8	0	0	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jammu and Kashmir	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	24	0	0	9	6	9	3	0	0	0	6	27
16	Uttar Pradesh	662	601	12	4	30	15	8	0	7	0	58	0
17	Uttarakhand	30	5	7	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
18	Arunachal Pradesh	264	0	85	0	0	179	0	1013MT	1	0	0	0
19	Karnataka	395	0	0	371	2	22	1	5	0	0	2	0
20	Kerala	105	2	21	82	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
21	Pondicherry	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	594	0	409	175	0	10	52	12	12	0	16	58
TOTAL		5798	768	933	2841	194	837	167	132	28	28	2883	1149

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

[illegible]

10	Maharashtra	2330	117	424	1768	383	525	107	75	0	67	2837	975
11	Rajasthan	291	2	2	0	2	284	1	6	0	0	2	0
12	Haryana	60	3	0	501	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	33	0	0	33	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
14	Jammu and Kashmir	9	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	50	0	0	32	1	18	0	1	0	0	0	0
16	Uttar Pradesh	538	307	3	117	101	10	4	19	71	0	0	0
17	Uttarakhand	12	1	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Arunachal Pradesh	302	0	0	194	0	108	3	12	2	0	3	0
19	Karnataka	307	0	0	302	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
20	Kerala	46	0	0	2	0	44	0	4	1	0	0	0
21	Pondicherry	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	702	14	198	490	2	378	19	2	0	0	0	833
TOTAL		5827	617	997	3389	516	1425	134	204	76	67	3177	1809

State-wise details of follow up action on non standard samples during 2011-12

[illegible]

10	Maharashtra	2297	671	409	1030	261	157	110	1966	0	71	1464	76
11	Raiasthan	197	6	9	0	5	192	0	71	0	0	5	0
12	Haryana	76	3	8	38	16	111	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	38	0	0	37	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jammu and Kashmir	62	0	0	8	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	41	9	0	32	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
16	Uttar Pradesh	705	528	20	101	44	12	2	20	23	0	0	0
17	Uttarakhand	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Arunachal Pradesh	261	4	16	171	5	50	0	0	2	0	5	0
19	Karnataka	329	19	23	287	0	0	0	27	0	0	8	0
20	Kerala	109	0	1	28	0	80	0	7	1	0	0	0
21	Pondicherry	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	535	6	66	157	3	303	7	110	0	0	70	272
TOTAL		6140	1326	748	2795	369	955	120	2548	28	93	1897	370

Statement-IV

*Quality control of pesticides action taken statistics by the
States during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Licence					
		Suspended			Cancelled		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	3	-	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Bihar	-	-	-	6	-	-
5	Chhattisgarh	12	4	-	-	-	-
6	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Gujarat	17	-	-	21	-	-
8	Haryana	6	-	7	4	-	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	2	-	-	2
10	Jammu and Kashmir	-	1	-	-	-	-
11	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Karnataka	12	45	-	-	18	-
13	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	-	32	8	-	39	9
15	Maharashtra	-	-	66	-	-	155
16	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-

[illegible]

Statement-IV

*Quality control of pesticides action taken statistics by the
States during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Licence					
		Suspended			Cancelled		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
20	Odisha	1	-	-	1	-	-
21	Punjab	-	10	-	20	15	14
22	Rajasthan	-	2	-	55	-	-
23	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	3
25	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Uttar Pradesh	100	73	29	633	588	405
27	Uttanchal	-	3	-	-	-	-
28	West Bengal	3	-	-	3	5	-
29	Andman and Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Daman, Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		153	172	112	746	665	590

Statement-IV

*Quality control of pesticides action taken statistics by the
States during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12*

	Procecution					Convicted		
	Launched		Judgement Obtained					
2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	25	5	-	-	1	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	8	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
227	249	181	354	241	-	354	268	-
15	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
376	375	281	381	242	7	371	269	63

Conversion of naphtha based units of RCF to gas based units

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

(a) whether National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) a Central Government PSU spent Rs. 4066 crores in converting three naphtha based urea units to gas based units at Nangal, Bhatinda and Panipat;

(b) if so, unless NFL gets cheap gas quickly the investment is likely to be stranded if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NFL wrote to Petroleum Ministry seeking quantities of gas starting September, 2012. For Nangal unit-1 million metric standard cubic metre per day (mmscmd), for Panipat unit - 0.9 mmscmd and for Bhatinda unit - 0.9 mmscmd;

(d) if so, whether Petroleum Ministry has responded positively to the requirement of NFL; and

(e) if not, whether investment of Rs. 4066 crores in NFL would be a waste for want of required quantity of cheap gas as requested for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) in accordance with policy for conversion of FO/LSHS units to gas based units, notified by the Government on 6th March, 2009 is converting their three units to gas as feedstock at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4066 crores which are expected to be commissioned in the 4th quarter of the current financial year.

(b) and (c) The Department of Fertilizers has requested Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of domestic gas to three units of NFL.

(d) and (e) Decision regarding allocation of domestic natural gas to three units of-NFL is awaited from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas/GAIL. However, NFL has tied up spot gas from M/s. GAIL for the requirement at Nangal and Bathinda and with M/s. IOCL for the requirement at Panipat, in the absence of allocation of domestic gas for these projects. Post commissioning, the total requirement of gas shall be met on spot basis till the allocation of domestic gas is made by the Government and no shortfall with respect to required quantity of gas is anticipated. The present price of spot gas is around USD 16-18MMBTU against the present price of FO/LSHS of around USD 22-24/MMBTU. Thus a positive saving is expected.

Discrepancies in prices of essential medicines

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

(a) whether large scale variations/discrepancies have been observed in the prices of essential medicines in the country;

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

(c) whether the existing policy/campaigns launched by Government have not yielded results so far; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken further by Government to make essential drugs available to the people at reasonable prices?

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

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

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

(c) and (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality as per the medicines as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (348 drugs with specified dosage and strengths), as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM). Based on

the recommendations of the GoM, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy 2012 (NPPP-2012) was formulated and placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications. Further, action to notify NPPP-2012 has been undertaken.

Further, 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. 145 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in different States/UTs in the country as on 31.10.2012.

Differences between production cost and MRP of medicines

†815. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that pricing of medicines is not being done on the basis of their cost but on the basis of Maximum Retail Price (MRP);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the cost of 348 medicines, included in the essential list and the rate at which they have been permitted to be sold by Government; and
- (d) the reasons for a big difference between the cost and the maximum price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The prices of formulations containing 74 bulk drugs specified in the First schedule of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) that presently are under price control regime are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on the basis of formula contained in Para 7 of the DPCO, 1995 which includes material cost, Conversion cost, Packing Material cost, Packing Charges and a maximum allowable post manufacturing expenses of upto 100 per cent and the instant guidelines on the subject. Actual allowable taxes are also added to arrive at the equivalent MRP.

(c) and (d) 348 drugs included in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), other than 74 bulk drugs listed under DPCO, 1995, are presently

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

categorized as non-scheduled drugs. In respect of non-scheduled formulations, which are not covered under price control, manufacturers fix their prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Also, there are no control on the launch price of the non-scheduled drugs/medicines. 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.

Operating NFL plants by RLNG

816. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to reduce Government subsidy outgo, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has converted fuel oil based fertilizer plants at Nangal, Bhatinda and Panipat to RLNG as feedstock at a whopping investment of Rs. 4000 crores;

(b) if so, whether NFL is getting sufficient quantity of RLNG to operate its plants at a cost lower than the cost of operating on fuel oil;

(c) whether a quoted price of RLNG the project has resulted into negative saving; and

(d) if so, the investment of Rs. 4000 crores having gone as waste, what action Government has taken and whether any accountability has been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government has announced on 6th March, 2009 a policy for conversion of FO/LSHS units to gas based units, which is applicable to NFL and GNVFC only. The conversion of plants to gas based will reduce the cost of production of urea which will result in savings in subsidy outgo on indigenous urea.

(b) The Department of Fertilizers has requested Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of domestic gas to three units of NFL. Decision regarding allocation of gas as per decision of EGoM is awaited from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas/GAIL. Meanwhile, NFL has tied up spot gas from M/s GAIL for the requirement at Nangal and Bathinda and with M/s IOCL for the requirement at Panipat, in the absence of allocation of domestic gas for these projects. Post commissioning, the total requirement of gas shall be met on spot basis till the allocation of domestic gas is made by the Government and no shortfall with respect to required quantity of gas is anticipated. The present price of spot gas is around USD 16-18/MMBTU against the present of FO/LSHS of around USD 22-24/MMBTU.

(c) Post conversion to gas, there shall be reduction in energy consumption in the range of 2-2.5 Gcal/MT urea at the respective Units. At the gas price of around USD 16-18/MMBTU against the present of FO/LSHS of around USD 22-24/MMBTU, there would be positive savings.

(d) In view of (b) and (c) above, question does not arise.

Implementation of nutrient based subsidy

817. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, *w.e.f.* 1 April, 2010;

(b) if so, quantify the benefits that have accrued thereof; and

(c) the reaction of farmers thereto?

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

(b) and (c) A formal study of the policy and its impact is yet to be conducted. However, there is a proposal under consideration to get the study done by a reputed consulting firm, which will include consultation with all stake holders including the farmers.

Direct credit of subsidy to bank accounts of farmers

†818. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal to credit the amount directly to the bank accounts of the farmers rather than providing subsidy on urea in the country on an experimental basis;

(b) if so, by when this practice would be started and by when it is targeted to be implemented all over the country;

(c) the amount of fertilizer-wise subsidy being provided by Government per quintal at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise due to the answer given as (a) above.

(c) and (d) The details of amount of fertilizer-wise subsidy provided by the Government per quintal at present is given in Statement.

Statement*Amount of fertilizers subsidy given by Government per quintal*

Sl.No.	P&K Fertilizer grades	Subsidy Per Quintal (Amount in Rs.)
1	2	3
1	DAP: 18-46-0-0	1435.00
2	DAP Lite: 16-44-0-0	1343.40
3	DAP Lite grade II 14:46:0:0	1339.00
4	MAP Lite 11:44:0:0	1223.40
5	MAP: 11-52-0-0	1397.80

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
6	MOP: 0-0-60-0	1440.00
7	AS: 20.6-0-0-23	533.00
8	13:33:0:6	1041.60
9	NPK: 16-16-16-0	1116.90
10	NPK: 10-26-26-0	1430.90
11	NPK: 12-32-16-0	1369.70
12	NPK: 14-35-14-0	1435.10
13	NPK: 15-15-15-0	1047.10
14	NPKS 15-15-15-09	1062.20
15	NPS: 16-20-0-13	841.90
16	NPK: 17-17-17-0	1186.70
17	NPK: 19-19-19-0	1326.30
18	NPK 20-20-0-0	916.10
19	NPS 20-20-0-13	937.90
20	NPK 23-23-0-0	1053.50
21	NPK 24-24-0-0	1099.30
22	NPK 28-28-0-0	1282.50
23	SSP: 0-16-0-11	367.30
24	TSP: 0-46-0-0	1003.00
25	NPK: 14-28-14-0	1282.50
26	NPS 20-20-0-13-0.3	987.90
27	NPK: 15-15-15-0.2	1077.10
28	Urea	536.00

Protection of NFL

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

(a) whether Government has envisaged any alternative plan of action to protect the Mini Navratna company, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) from untimely death;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has been making profits consistently and meeting the eligibility criteria of Mini Ratna category-I status by maintaining consistent Profit before Tax (PBT) and positive net worth. The PBT of the company of last 3 consecutive years is detailed below:

Rs. crore	
Year	Profit (PBT)
2011-12	184
2010-11	204
2010-09	260

The Net Worth of the Company as on 31st March, 2012 was Rs. 1754 crore. In the current Financial year, during the half year ended 30th September, 2012 company incurred a loss of Rs. 68 crore mainly arising due to lower production and higher energy consumption at Vijaipur-I and II units due to shut down taken for hooking up and commissioning activities of the revamp projects.

During the current financial year, the flagship projects of the company shall get commissioned. For Commissioning of urea capacity enhancement projects at Vijaipur-I and II units, both the units took shutdown during April-June, 2012, whereas, Nangal, Panipat and Bathinda units shall take shutdown in the Third/Fourth quarter of the current financial year 2012-13 to commission the changeover of feedstock from FO/LSHS to Gas projects.

In order to sustain and enhance its future growth and improving the profitability, NFL has undertaken/completed the following long term capital schemes as under:

1. The Gas Based Vijaipur Plants of the company have already been revamped with an investment of Rs. 650 crore during April/July, 2012-13.

After revamp, the Capacity of the Vijaipur plants has been increased by 3.37 LMT with saving in Energy Consumption. With the increase in Capacity of the plants and energy saving, the profitability of company shall be increased under new Investment policy of the GoI. The installed capacity of Urea Production has increased from 32.31 Lakh MT to 35.68 Lakh MT *w.e.f* 01-08-2012.

2. The revamp of company's 3 fuel oil based plants at Nangal, Panipat and Bathinda for change over of Feed stock to Natural Gas (NG)/Re-gassified liquid natural gas (RLNG) with a total investment of Rs 4066 crore is under way and expected to be commissioned by end of FY 2012-13. After revamp of these plants, it shall help GoI to reduce subsidy burden, energy consumption and carbon foot prints.

Grameen Dak Sewak in Maharashtra

820. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Grameen Dak Sewaks presently working in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) the monthly stipend being paid to these Sewaks of the State;
- (c) whether Government proposes to increase their stipend in view of steep rise in inflation and also introduce welfare measures for them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) As on 01.12.2011, the actual strength of Grameen Dak Sewaks in Maharashtra State was 20230.

(b) Grameen Dak Sewaks are paid Time-Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) and not stipend as indicated in the question, details of which are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No proposal is pending before the Government regarding revision of Time-Related Continuity Allowance of Grameen Dak Sewaks as this was last revised in 2009. To compensate for price rise, Grameen Dak Sewaks are paid Dearness Allowance. Presently, 20 days' paid leave in a year, Service Discharge Benefits, Maternity Grant/Maternity Leave and financial assistance in case of serious illness are available to Grameen Dak Sewaks.

Statement
Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) of Gramin Dak Sevaks (Implemented w.e.f. 01.01.2006)

Sl. No.	Category of Gramin Dak Sevaks	Existing Time Related Continuity Allowance	Revised Time Related Continuity Allowance w.e.f. 01.01.2006	Work load in hours
1	GDS Sub Postmaster	Rs. 2125-50-3125	Rs.4575-85-7125	4-5 hours.
2	GDS Branch Postmaster	Rs. 1280-35-1980 New TRCA slab	Rs. 2745-50-4245 Rs. 3200-60-5000	Up to 3 hours. work More than 3 hours. up to 3 hrs. 30 min Up to 4 hours.
		Rs. 1600-40-2400 New TRCA slab	Rs. 3660-70-5760 Rs. 4115-75-6365	More than 4 hours. up to 4 hour 30 min
		New TRCA slab	Rs., 4575-85-7125	More than 4 hrs. 30 min up to 5 hours.
3	GDS Mail deliverer/ Stamp vendor	New TRCA slab Rs. 1375-25-2125 Rs. 1740-30-2640	Rs. 2665-50-4165 Rs. 3330-60-5130 Rs. 4220-75-6470	For work up to 3 hrs. for new entrants For Work load Up to 3 hours. 45 minutes More than 3 hours. 45 minutes up to 5 hours.
4	GDS Mail Carrier/ Packer/Mailman	New TRCA slab Rs. 1220-20-1600 Rs. 1545-25-2020	Rs. 2295-45-3695 Rs. 2870-50-4370 Rs. 3635-65-5585	For work up to 3 hrs. for new entrants More than 3 hrs. up to 3 hrs. 45 min More than 3 hours. 45 minutes up to 5 hours.

Consumer complaints regarding weak signals of BSNL and MTNL

†821. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL mobile connection users of rural areas and MTNL mobile connection users of urban areas like Mumbai and Delhi are compelled to surrender their connections due to weak signals from their towers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of lodging of complaints in this regard by the consumers, their complaints are ignored and are not addressed;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to take appropriate action in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) has provided mobile coverage in urban and rural areas based on its techno-commercial considerations. In general, the mobile services of BSNL in rural areas are at par with that in urban areas. Normally, a BTS (Base Transceiver Station) in rural area has a range of 5 kms. and all the villages within this range get good mobile signals. BSNL is, in general, meeting the performance parameters prescribed by TRAI (Telecom Regulator Authority of India). Sometimes, the services are disrupted due to cutting of Optical Fibre Cable owing to developmental activities carried out in various rural areas. Also, the power situation in rural areas is erratic because of which sometimes the services get disrupted. However, BSNL takes action to counter these problems by installing alternate media as well as providing generator sets.

In case of MTNL, the mobile subscribers of urban areas like Mumbai and Delhi sometimes face problems of Quality of Service (QoS). However, MTNL is, in general, meeting the performance parameters prescribed by TRAI.

(c) to (e) For addressing the complaints of subscribers, BSNL and MTNL have established call centres. Complaints of subscribers are attended on priority and these are monitored at all levels. Also, the availability of BTSs is monitored on daily basis.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Demands of employees of postal services in rural areas

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Additional Departmental Rural Post Services Association has been protesting across certain States to get some of its demands met;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of the demands;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to address the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the current status of their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) to (f) Under the Extra Departmental Agents – (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1995, All India Postal Extra Departmental Employees Union (AIPEDU) is the only recognized union of Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS). The Department is neither aware of the existence of any Association named as All India Additional Departmental Rural Postal Services Association nor demands made by the said Association.

Mobile towers in residential areas

823. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

(a) whether Government has given permission for installation of mobile towers in residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh and the reasons therefor and action taken against mobile operating companies so far;

(c) the effect of radiation on the people in residential areas so far; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid installation of mobile towers in residential areas and to ensure mobile towers in commercial areas to protect the people from radiation from these towers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per existing policy, Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issues siting clearance for installation of mobile towers for each and every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. The siting clearance is issued without prejudice to applicable bylaws, rules and regulation of local bodies such as Municipal Corporation/ Gram Panchayat etc. Accordingly, before installation of tower, the telecom service provider has to obtain the necessary permission from the respective local bodies such as Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat etc. As such, there is no bar for installation of mobile towers in the residential area. However, the Telecom Service Providers are required to conform to the prescribed Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) radiation norms.

(c) and (d) World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF Signals from base stations and wireless networks caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by based stations.

WHO has recommended that 'National authorities should adopt international standards to protect their citizens against adverse levels of RF fields. They should restrict access to areas where exposure limits may be exceeded.' WHO has referred to the International Exposure Guidelines developed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in the year 2008, adopted the Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF) norms prescribed by ICNIRP in respect of mobile towers.

Further, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the BTS radiation limits have been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by ICNIRP with effect from 01.09.2012. The TERM Cells of DoT test upto 10% of BTS sites randomly. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell.

Unlawful phone tapping by telecom operators

824. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private telecom operators providing telecom services in the country, circle-wise;
- (b) whether these companies are allowed to tap telephone conversations without Government's permission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the action taken by Government to prevent unlawful phone tapping by telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The Circle-wise list of telecom operators providing telecom services in the country is given in Annexure [See Appendix 227 Annexure No. 8].

(b) to (d) Phone tapping is governed by provisions of the section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the guidelines in this regard are prescribed under Rules 419A of Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2007. No telecom service provider is permitted to intercept/tape the phone without government permission. Illegal tapping of a phone is a punishable act under section 26 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 with imprisonment for a term which may extend up-to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Low cost base stations

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

- (a) whether Reliance Industries Limited is working on ultra low cost base stations, used to transmit signals for telecom services costing just rupees one lakh each;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these low cost towers are part of the strategy of country's largest private sector enterprise as it gears up for its foray into Infotel Broadband; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) M/s Reliance industries Limited is having a license only for provision of Captive Closed User Group (CUG) Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) Service. However, no such information regarding ultra low cost base station is available.

Further, Telecom Services Licensees are to comply with the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement and have to follow the directions/regulations/orders issued from time to time by the licensor/TRAI.

Misuse of social media, internet and SMSs

826. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of misuse/abuse of Twitter, Facebook, internet sites and SMSs they come to the notice of Government;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether there is a need to devise strategies to counter the propaganda that is carried out by these new means; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Instances of misuse/abuse of twitter, facebook, internet sites and SMSs have come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

Recently, Government noticed circulation of provocative clips and photographs on social networking sites and through SMS and MMS, containing morphed images and videos in targeting people of North-East and inciting violence among communities in the country. Several incidents of availability of inflammatory, harmful and hateful contents on the social networking sites hosted outside the country were brought to the notice of Government. In addition, circulation of provocative clips and videos of the movie 'Innocence of Muslim' on Internet particularly on www.youtube.com was also noticed.

(c) and (d) Government has notified a 'Framework and Guidelines' for use of Social Media by its agencies. It will help the Government to interact with the common citizens and disseminate information and at the same time effectively counter the propaganda.

Amendments to international telecommunication access to essential facilities at cable landing stations regulations, 2007

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

(a) whether TRAI has released amendments to International Telecommunication Access to Essential Facilities at Cable Landing Stations Regulations, 2007;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI had issued any consultation paper for seeking comments on issues related to cost-based access facilitation charges and co-location charges before such amendments;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) the extent to which suggestions have been incorporated in the amendments;

(f) whether TRAI also proposes to issue consultation paper on Estimation of Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations; and

(g) if so, details thereof and the comments received so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released "International Telecommunications Access to Essential Facilities at Cable Landing Stations (Amendment) Regulations, 2012, (21 of 2012) on 19th October, 2012. In the amendment, suitable provisions have been made in the regulations so that the TRAI may specify Access Facilities Charges, Co-location Charges and other related charges like Cancellation Charges and Restoration Charges".

(c) to (e) In this regard, TRAI had earlier issued a Consultation on 'Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations' on 22nd

March, 2012. Suggestions given by stakeholders and TRAI's analysis are part of explanatory memorandum to the aid amendment dated 19.10.2012.

(f) and (g) TRAI on 19 October, 2012 had issued a consultation paper on "Estimation of Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations" and requested all the stakeholders to submit their comments by 6th November, 2012 and counter comments by 14th November, 2012.

Comments and counter comments received from the stakeholders are available on TRAI's website.

Cyber security

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

(a) whether cyber warfare has emerged a top threat to India's national security as more than 20 per cent of the cyber attacks both internally and externally are being reported on national security system;

(b) whether India faces a shortfall of 4.7 lakh cyber service experts inspite of the country's reputation of being an I.T. and software powerhouse in the world; and

(c) the details of Union Government's plan to train law enforcement agencies in cyber crimes investigation and cyber forensic including cyber warriors to bolster India's E-Defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) A number of attempts of cyber attacks of various natures are being observed on the Information Technology Infrastructure deployed in various sectors of economy including National Security in the country from different sources.

The cyber warfare is indeed emerging as one of the major challenges for all the nations.

(b) Taking into account the requirement emerging for protection of Information Technology Infrastructure in the country as well as to serve the export market, a demand for 4.7 lakhs cyber security professionals has been estimated by the year 2015.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to train law enforcement agencies in cyber crimes investigation and cyber forensic which includes:

- (i) Under the Cyber Crime Investigation Programme Ministry of Home Affairs is supporting the establishment of Cybercrime Police Station (CCPS) and Cyber Crime Investigations and Forensic Training Facilities (CCIFTF) in each State/Union Territory of India under Police Modernization Scheme. Action also has been taken to set up a National Centre of Excellence exclusively devoted to render cyber forensic services and to act as National Research and Training Centre on Cyber Forensics.
- (ii) A programme has also been initiated for indigenous development of cyber forensic tools and setting up of infrastructure for training of law enforcement agencies and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analyzing and presenting digital evidence.
- (iii) Government has formulated a set of investigation manuals with procedures for Search, Seizure Analysis and Presentation of digital evidence in courts. The manuals have been circulated to Law Enforcement Agencies in all States.

Assistance to IT firms for upgradation of banking services

829. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the growing importance of IT set up in upgrading the financial services industry, especially banking;
- (b) whether Government is also aware of the growing interest of Wipro Technologies in emerging markets, which includes India, with regard to the same;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to assist the IT firms in upgrading the banking services to cope with future regulatory and customer driven online and mobile services;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) the banking, financial services and insurance industry is the 4th largest industry vertical for IT services in India. Total IT spending in this vertical was Rs. 14,700 Crores in FY 2010-11. New forms of banking and push on financial inclusion are key drivers for growing spend in this segment.

(b) Such data is not maintained.

(c) to (e) As per the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, banks are governed by their Board driven policies with regards to their operational matters and are expected to take steps to cope with future regulatory matters and consumer driven online and mobile services.

Investigation in 2G Spectrum allocation

830. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any case to hamper the investigation process of 2G spectrum allocation;

(b) whether Supreme Court has given any instructions regarding this;

(c) if so, the details of these instructions; and

(d) by when Government intends to complete the investigation of allegations in 2G allotment case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) There is no hampering in the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of cases relating to 2G Spectrum allocation.

(b) and (c) Supreme Court of India has been monitoring the investigation of 2G Spectrum cases vide Civil Appeal No. 10660 of 2010 (earlier in SLP Civil No. 24873 of 2010). Supreme Court has passed various orders in this case, including orders dated 16.03.2011 and 11.04.2011, for not interfering with investigation or impeding the trial.

(d) While the investigation has been taken up expeditiously in 2G Spectrum cases, no specific time frame can be laid down for completion of investigation.

Radiation from mobile towers

†831. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environment in the country is getting polluted due to the electro-magnetic radiation emanating from mobile towers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a need to make efforts on priority basis to curb this environmental pollution;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether Government Department empowered for preventing environmental pollution have been advised not to interfere in this matter; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) Sir, World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF Signals from base stations and wireless networks caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by based stations.

WHO has recommended that '*National authorities should adopt international standards to protect their citizens against adverse levels of RF fields. They should restrict access to areas where exposure limits may be exceeded.*' WHO has referred to the International Exposure Guidelines developed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing" Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in the year 2008, adopted the Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF) norms prescribed by ICNIRP in respect of mobile towers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Base Transmitting Station (BTS) radiation limits have been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by ICNIRP with effect from 01.09.2012. The Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT test upto 10% of BTS sites randomly. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell.

(e) and (f) DoT is not interfering with the empowered Department in the matter of prevention of environmental pollution. As the issues relating to the Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) radiation from mobile towers is being dealt by DoT, it has been indicated to Ministry of Environment and Forest that issue of directions on the same subject by different Department/Ministry may have complications and difficulties.

Information technology industry

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

(a) whether it is a fact that information technology industrial institutes of the country are capable of operating successfully in the market, facing international competition;

(b) if so, Government's response thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India ranks eighth among ten such countries in the world which pay minimum wages to the employees of such companies;

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

(e) whether the averages of dividends of these companies have been assessed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the Indian IT-ITES industry has exhibited resilience in the face of growing competition and have grown by 16.3% in FY 2011-12 and is expected to exhibit double digit growth in FY 2012-13.

(c) to (f) No such data is maintained.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Violation of 3G norms

833. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that telecom companies in the country are indulging in violation of 3G norms frequently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such violations noticed by Government;
- (d) the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial steps being taken by Government to curtail such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (e) Violations related to provisioning of 3G services by some of the CMTS/UAS Licensee(s) without specific authorization came to the notice of Government. The licence(s) of these CMTS/UAS Licensee(s) have neither been amended for use of 3G spectrum nor 3G spectrum have been allocated to them. On examination, it came to notice that such licensee(s) are providing 3G services to their customers by entering into a commercial agreement called Intra Service Area Roaming Agreement with such CMTS/UAS Licensee(s) whose licences have been amended for use of 3G spectrum and 3G spectrum has also been allocated to them in that service area(s).

Instructions were issued on 23.12.2011 to such licensee companies who are providing 3G services under the above mentioned so called Intra Service Area Roaming arrangements without any specific authorization/amendment in their license(s) for use of 3G spectrum and without any allocation of 3G spectrum for rollout of the 3G network, in those particular service areas, for immediate stoppage of provisioning of 3G services. The details of such licensee(s) are given in Statement (*See below*).

These companies impugned the instructions issued vide above referred letter dated 23.12.2011 before Hon'ble Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). TDSAT in its interim orders dated 24.12.2011 has *inter-alia* directed that Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is restrained from taking any coercive steps against these companies to enforce the impugned order dated 23.12.2011. The judgment pronounced in the matter by Hon'ble TDSAT is split in the ratio of 1:1. As per judgment, Chairman TDSAT has *inter-alia* concluded that

the impugned orders dated 23.12.2011 are set aside with liberty to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to pass appropriate orders upon giving due opportunity of hearing to these companies. However, Member TDSAT in his judgment has *inter-alia* concluded that the companies who have not got 3G spectrum allotted by the licensor in certain circles, cannot provide 3G services to its customers in those circles by way of making intra circle arrangement with the service providers having 3G spectrum.

As these companies have not submitted the compliance of DoT instructions dated 23.12.2011 even after the pronouncement of split judgment by Hon'ble TDSAT, Show Cause Notice (SCN) to M/s. Bharti Airtel Limited has been issued to show cause within 60 days as to why financial penalty is not imposed for violation of the license conditions and Licences of 7 Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) are not terminated where the company is providing 3G services without any specific authorization. Simultaneously, in the same notice, the company has also been asked again to stop provisioning of 3G services in these 7 LSAs within 3 days from the date of issue of notice.

The company impugned the above said SCN dated 28.09.2012 before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. While disposing of the petition, Hon'ble High Court *inter-alia* ordered that the company would file a reply to the impugned show cause notice dated 28.09.2012. On receipt of the reply, the concerned authority will adjudicate upon the issues raised before it, after according the company, through its representative, a hearing in the matter. Pending the adjudication, the DoT will not take any coercive measures against the company.

Similar SCNs to remaining CMTS/UAS Licensee companies who are in violation of similar license conditions are under consideration for issue, keeping in view, the above mentioned order of Hon'ble High Court in the matter.

Statement

*Company-wise list of Access Service Licensees who are providing
3G services through so called intra service area roaming
arrangements without allocation of 3G spectrum*

Sl. No.	Name of Licensee Comany	Service Area
1	2	3
1	Vodafone Essar South Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
2	Idea Cellular Limited	Assam

1	2	3
3	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Assam
4	Aditya Birla telecom Limited	Bihar
5	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Bihar
6	Idea Cellular Limited	Delhi
7	Aircel Limited	Gujarat
8	Bharti Airtel Limited	Gujarat
9	Bharti Airtel Limited	Haryana
10	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
11	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir
12	Spice communications Ltd.*	Karnataka
13	Vodafone Essar South Ltd.	Karnataka
14	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Kerala
15	Vodafone Essar Cellular Ltd.	Kerala
16	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Kolkata
17	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Kolkata
18	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
19	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
20	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
21	Aircel Ltd.	Maharashtra
22	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Maharashtra
23	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Mumbai
24	Idea Cellular Ltd.	North East
25	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	North East
26	Aircel Ltd.	Rajasthan

1	2	3
27	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Rajasthan
28	Vodafone Essar Digilink Ltd.	Rajasthan
29	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)
30	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)
31	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
32	Vodafone Essar South Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
33	Idea Cellular Limited	West Bengal

Note: M/s. Spice Communications Limited has amalgamated with M/s. Idea Cellular Limited as per orders of respective High Courts. However, the license(s) granted in the name of M/s. Spice Communications Limited are yet to be transferred in the name of M/s. Idea Cellular Limited.

Cyber attacks against ministries

834. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise in cyber attacks against various Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has been able to minimise the damage from these cyber attacks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of steps taken by Government to improve cyber security; and

(g) the details of annual outlay for cyber security in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) With the proliferation of Information Technology in the Government, there has been rise in

attempts of cyber attacks against various Ministries/Departments being noticed during last few years. These attacks are generally in the form of website hacking. A total no. of 201, 303, 308 and 294 websites belonging to various Ministries and Departments in the Government were hacked during the year 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 (till October) respectively. Recently during May-June, 2012 Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks were launched against a number of Government websites by various hacker groups.

(c) and (d) Various proactive and reactive steps are have been taken by the Government to minimize the damage caused by these cyber attacks. These steps include strengthening security of the network infrastructure in the Government, immediate actions to recover from the damage caused due to the cyber attacks, maintaining disaster recovery sites for continuing business operations etc.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Government has taken various steps to improve cyber security, these include implementation of security best practices in the government based on International Standard ISO 27001, establishment of National Watch and Warning System in the form of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Legal framework in the form of Information Technology Act, 2000 to address issues related to cyber crime/attacks, Research and Development (R&D) in the area of cyber security, capacity development in cyber security and trainings for system/network administrators, law enforcement and judicial officials. A "Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism" is under implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Government and all their organizations and critical sectors.

(g) Annual outlay (2012-2013) of Rs. 45.2 crores has been provided for Cyber Security in the budget of Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

Security threat from Chinese telecom equipments

835. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the US Congress report that highlights security threat from China manufactured telecom gear due to Chinese State influence;

- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the details of Government's plan to address these security concerns; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, Government is aware about the Report of Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of US Government titled "Investigative Report on US National security issues posed by Chinese Telecommunications Companies Huawei and ZTE". It is a known fact that in the modern age, telecom equipment and networks used for provisioning of telecom services are prone to spyware/malwares etc, emanating from the equipment itself or embedded software contained in it or from antisocial or anti national individuals or agencies. Such potential threats exist in the network, irrespective of the sources like telecom gear manufactured in China or supplied by some other vendors.

(c) and (d) To address the security concerns related to telecom and telecom Network, comprehensive guidelines in the form of license Amendments have been issued to Telecom service providers on 31.05.2011 in Access Service licenses and on 3rd June' 2011 for other licenses, in consultation with MHA and after due deliberations with Industry.

Vide these amendments, it is mandated that Telecom Service Providers are responsible for the security of their network. It is also mandated that only those network elements shall be inducted into their Telecom Network, which have been tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards *e.g.* IT and IT related elements against ISO/IEC 15408 standards, for Information Security Management System against ISO 27000 series Standards, Telecom and Telecom related elements against 3GP, 3GPP2 security standards etc from any international agency/ labs of the standards *e.g.* Common Criteria Labs in case of ISO/IEC 15408 standards until 31st March, 2013. From 1st April, 2013 the certification shall be got done only from authorized and certified agencies/labs in India. The copies of test results and test certificates shall be kept by the licensee for a period of 10 years from the date of procurement of equipment, which can be audited/demanded any time during this span, by the licensor.

Thus, a framework has already been mandated to deal with potential threats by the induction of Chinese Telecom Equipment or from any other source. So far, no specific issue has arisen due to equipment originating from any specific country. However, as and when any specific issue arises or a report is received, the regime can be further tightened for the equipments coming from a specific country or source or group of countries or companies.

Government continues to examine all new developments related to Telecom Security and regularly reviews the security arrangement in this regard in the light of such developments.

In order to increase the share of telecom equipment manufactured in the country, based on Notification of Department of Electronics and IT vide No. 8(78)/2010-IPHW dated 10th February, 2012, Department of Telecommunications has already issued the Notification vide No. 18-0712010 dated 5th October, 2012 regarding domestic telecom equipment for Government procurement and Government projects.

Eleven digit mobile number

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

- (a) whether ten digit mobile number are soon going to be replaced by eleven digit number;
- (b) if so, since when and whether the reason behind it is the increasing number of users;
- (c) if so, the number of mobile users in the country, so far; and
- (d) the details thereof?

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

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

One-time fee for spectrum

837. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government intends to levy one-time fee on telecom companies holding spectrum beyond a cap set by the telecom regulator;

(b) whether such a move by Government would lead to higher tariffs for consumers; and

(c) if so, whether any mechanism has been put in place to shield the consumers from rise in tariffs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The Government has, *inter alia*, decided the following on levy of one time Spectrum Charges/fee as per the Cabinet decision on 8th November, 2012.

- (i) for spectrum holding upto 4.4 MHz (GSM), no one time charge be levied;
- (ii) for all spectrum holdings beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM), an one time charge be levied prospectively upon the existing operators at 2012 auction determined price. The date of applicability of the charge shall be the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet Decision;
- (iii) for spectrum held above 6.2 (GSM), a one-time charge be levied from July, 2008 onwards. There will be two prices. The price, pro-rated for the period July, 2008 up to the date of applicability of auction determined price, would be in the 2001 entry fee divided by 6.2, duly indexed using State Bank of India Prime Lending Rate (SBI PLR). The auction determined price be levied for spectrum beyond 6.2 (GSM)/with effect from the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet decision;
- (iv) licensees may be given the option to surrender the spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM) if they did not wish to pay this charge.

(b) and (c) Tariffs for mobile services are currently under Regulatory forbearance except for National Roaming Services. The call rates are determined by the service providers based on several factors including input costs, market conditions and other commercial considerations. Any change in the said factors may get reflected in the pricing for mobile services.

Roaming and STD charges

838. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

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

- (a) the roaming charges for mobile subscribers in the country at present;
- (b) whether Government proposes to abolish roaming charges for mobile subscribers from the year 2013;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government would direct the operators not to increase STD tariffs so that consumers get the benefit of doing away of roaming charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has specified ceiling tariff for national roaming services, details of which are as follows:

Outgoing Local Call	-	Rs. 1.40 per minute
Outgoing STD	-	Rs.2.40 per minute
Incoming Call	-	Rs. 1.75 per minute

The roaming tariff currently offered by service providers are below the ceilings prescribed by TRAI. The generally prevailing rates for national roaming services are given below:

Outgoing Local Call	-	Rs. 1/- per minute
Outgoing Long Distance	-	Rs. 1.50 per minute
Incoming Call	-	Rs. 1/- per minute

While the above rates are the standard roaming charges offered by most operators, there are also specific tariff plans, targeted at roaming subscribers, where roaming call charges as low as Rs. 0.60/- per minute are available for Local/STD calls.

(b) and (c) The National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12), approved on 03.05.2012 by the Government, contains, *inter-alia*, the following provisions:

- (i) Achieve One Nation-Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards one Nation-Free Roaming.
- (ii) To review roaming charges with the ultimate objective of removing the roaming charges across the nation.

Further, as per the implementation schedule of the NTP-12, as contained in the Cabinet Note on NTP-12, the Policy will be operationalized by bringing out detailed guidelines, as may be considered appropriate from time to time.

(d) At present, the mobile phone call rates including STD call charges are under regulatory forbearance, except for national roaming service.

Outsourcing jobs for Indian companies

839. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the findings of International Association of Outsourcing Professionals that "as many as 12 Indian Companies were on the list of top 100 outsourcing companies in the world this year (2012) and three Indian firms have found a place in the top 10";

(b) if so, whether such a position has resulted from getting more outsourcing jobs for Indian companies during the year 2011, as compared to 2010 and 2009; and

(c) the increase in the number of new jobs created and the foreign exchange earnings during 2010 and 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) it is not feasible to co-relate the outcome of the survey made by International Association of Outsourcing Professionals (IOAP) 2012 'Global Sourcing 100 data' with the company performance and the increase in outsourcing jobs to India.

(c) The number of jobs added and the foreign exchange earned by Indian IT-ITES industry during the year 2009-10 to 2011-12 is given below:

Year	Exports (In US\$) Billion)	Net Addition in the direct employment (In lakhs) approx.
2009-10	49.7	0.90
2010-11	59.0	2.50
2011-12	68.7	2.60

Source: DeitY.

Mobile services under bilateral investment treaties

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign investors have sent legal notices to Government against the cancellation of mobile services under certain bilateral investment treaties;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has set up a group to look into the claims of the foreign investors; and

(c) the contention of the investors' claims and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), under the chairmanship of Secretary (Telecom) has been constituted in Department of Telecommunications to evolve a coordinated response of the Government to the legal notices to Government from foreign investors against the cancellation of Unified Access Services Licence citing various provisions of bilateral investment treaties.

(c) Consequent to the Supreme Court's decision dated 02.02.2012 that the licences granted to the private respondents on or after 10.1.2008 pursuant to two press releases issued on 10.1.2008 and subsequent allocation of spectrum to the licensees are declared illegal and quashed, Government has received legal notices from foreign investors for conciliation and amicable settlement of the foreign investment disputes under provisions of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPAs) or Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between their country and Government of India. The legal notices are being handled by the IMG for amicable settlement.

Telemarketing calls and SMSs

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

- (a) whether mobile subscribers have to face telemarketing calls and unwanted SMSs daily even after registering their numbers with National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC);
- (b) whether Government has formulated any stringent law in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether Government feels that this law is being followed;
- (d) the number of such complaints received by Government so far and the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (e) Sir, Government is aware that several telemarketing calls and unwanted SMSs are being received by the mobile subscribers even after registering their numbers with National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC).

To address the problem of Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had established National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC) through the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007. TRAI reviewed the framework for addressing the problem of telemarketing calls and unwanted SMSs and issued "The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulation, 2010", which came into force from 27th September, 2011.

As per the said framework, customers can register with National Customer Preference Register (NCPR) for not receiving UCC. TRAI has also issued a number of amendments to these regulations and directions to address implementation issues and to make the regulatory framework effective and stringent. With the implementation of these measures, the number of complaints relating to Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) has reduced considerably. Prior to the coming into force of the regulations from 27.09.2011, on an average 47,454 complaints were received per month (averaged over the period March, 2010 to March, 2011). The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

total number of complaints lodged by telecom consumers with their service providers from 27.09.2011 to 25.07.2012 were only 1,74,258 (17,425 complaints per month).

However, it is seen that a number of telemarketers have violated the regulatory framework for controlling UCC. From the complaints received by Service Providers, it is seen that the majority of complaints of Unsolicited Commercial Communications are those in which calls or SMS have been sent by telecom subscriber who is not registered as a telemarketer with TRAI.

To address this issue, the regulation provided for a restriction of 200 SMS per day per SIM, which has since been struck down by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. After quashing of limit of 200 SMS per Day per SIM by Hon'ble Delhi High Court, 1,47,264 complaints have been lodged from 01.08.2012 to 30.10.2012 by the consumers with their service providers (49,088 complaints per month).

Further, TRAI has recently issued the 10th Amendment Regulations on 5th November, 2012, to prevent unregistered telemarketers from misusing bulk SMS packages or tariff plans, which provide for sending large number of SMSs at nominal charges. A price restraint has been placed on sending of more than one hundred SMS per day per SIM at a concessional rate and a minimum charge of 50 paise has been mandated for SMS sent beyond 100 SMS in a day.

The regulations have also prescribed penal provisions against telemarketers for violations of the provisions of the regulations. In case of violation by a registered telemarketer, amounts will be deducted from the security deposit of such telemarketer by the Access Provider as per the following table and such amount will be deposited with TRAI:

Deduction from Security Deposit of Telemarketer in case of Violation

Sl. No.	No. of Violation by Telemarketer access provider-wise	Deduction from security deposit	Security Deposit	Additional Security Deposit
1	2	3	4	5
	0 Violation	Nil	1,00,000	Nil
1	1st Violation	Rs. 25,000	75,000	2,00,000
2	2nd Violation	Rs. 75,000	2,00,000	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
3	3rd Violation	Rs. 80,000	1,20,000	4,00,000
4	4th Violation	Rs. 1,20,000	4,00,000	Nil
5	5th Violation	Rs. 1,50,000	2,50,000	Nil
6	6th Violation	Rs. 2,50,000	Nil	Nil

The regulations also provide for disconnection of telecom resources of unregistered telemarketers on complaints received on second instance, after issuing a notice on first violation.

Based on above provisions of the TRAI Regulations, the following action has been taken against the violators till date:

- (i) 1,48,095 notices have been sent to subscribers who have not registered as a telemarketer but were doing the telemarketing activities.
- (ii) 1,37,052 telephone numbers (telecom resources) of such subscribers have been disconnected.
- (iii) Rs. 1,08,94,558 has been deducted from the security deposit of registered telemarketers in 195 cases.
- (iv) 13 telemarketers have been Black-listed.

Sensor based instrument developed by C-DAC

842. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), a National Centre of Excellence of the Department of Information Technology has developed two instruments that can mimic the way a tea-taster can detect tea from random samples and come up with over 90 per cent accuracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sensor-based instruments developed by C-DAC can serve almost like skilled human nose, tongue and eyes;

(d) whether these instruments have progressed in commercial terms; and

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. C-DAC has developed two instruments called Integrated Electronic Nose and Vision System (ENOVISION) and Electronic Tongue for tea, based on advanced sensor technology to evaluate the quality of tea in terms of visual appearance, aroma and taste (strength) as the broad based parameters. The results are based on perception of tea tasters. Correlation of tea taster's appraisal with instrument results is approximately 90%.

(c) The sensor-based instruments are not a replacement of the human eye, nose or tongue. After extensive training by the tea tasters with a broad spectrum of samples they mimic the human sensory panels limited to that particular application specific domain.

(d) and (e) The systems have undergone laboratory and field trials, and prototype versions of the systems have been deployed in the tea industries, research/academic Institutions. The process for transfer of technology has been initiated.

Phones for BPL families

843. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the 'Har Hath Mein Phone' (HHMP) scheme;
- (b) the number of BPL families that are going to be benefited through the above scheme, State-wise;
- (c) to what extent the HHMP would empower the BPL families; and
- (d) the amount likely to be incurred on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Department of Telecommunications has not formulated any such scheme.

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

Failure of 3G services of MTNL and BSNL

844. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to find the failure of 3G services both in MTNL and BSNL because of the influence of private operators and non cooperation of employees' union in maintaining best services; and

(b) if so, the road maps laid and pursued for best services in 3G/4G to develop the country's economy by empowering the countrymen in communication facilities even in rural areas to attract FDI in retail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) All the mobile subscribers of BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) having 2G connections, have been enabled with 3G facility and they can start using 3G services by having a 3G enabled hand set. However, the mobile subscribers of BSNL and MTNL sometimes face problems with regard to Quality of Service (QoS) including 3G further improvement of quality of service is an ongoing activity by both BSNL and MTNL. A number of value added services are available through 3G services such as High Speed Broadband, Video Calling, Music and video download, Mobile TV etc. Usage of 3G services is gradually picking-up.

Bidding process for telecom circles

845. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the response to the bidding process of the 22 telecom circles was lukewarm and there were no bidders for Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan and Karnataka circles on the first day of auction; and

(b) if so, the details of the bids received and allocated and the reasons for lukewarm response from the bidders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) In this 1800 MHz auction, there were no bids in the Service Areas of Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan and Karnataka. Both the applicants for 800 MHz auction withdrew their applications.

(b) The Details of the successful bids received and spectrum allocated are given in the Statement.

Statement**1800 MHz Spectrum Auction
Public Report End of day 14-11-2012**

Date :	14-11-2012
Number of Clock Rounds completed today:	7
Total Number of Clock Rounds completed to Date:	14
The Auction ended after 14 Rounds	

Auction Result

The Auction results are provisional and subjected to approval by the Government.

The following table provides the summary of auction results:

1800 MHz Spectrum Auction - Provisional Results

Service Area	Winning Price (in Crores in INR)	Frequency Allocation of Service Areas							
		Company Name	Frequency (In MHz)						
			Block Order	Uplink Start	Uplink Stop	Downlink Start	Downlink Stop		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Andhra Pradesh	286.91	Telewings Communications Services Private Limited	1	1719.20	1720.45	1814.20	1815.45		
			2	1720.45	1721.70	1815.45	1816.70		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Assam	8.67	Bharti Airtel Limited Idea Cellular Ltd.	3	1721.70	1722.95	1816.70	1817.95
			4	1722.92	1724.20	1817.95	1819.20
			7	1725.10	1726.35	1820.10	1821.35
			1	1735.20	1736.45	1830.20	1831.45
			2	1736.45	1737.70	1831.45	1832.70
			3	1737.70	1738.95	1832.70	1833.95
			4	1738.95	1740.20	1833.95	1835.20
			5	1722.60	1723.85	1817.60	1818.85
			8	1726.35	1727.60	1821.35	1822.60
			9	1740.40	1741.65	1835.40	1836.65
Bihar	46.43	Vodafone South Limited Idea Cellular Limited Videocon Telecommunications Limited	1	1735.20	1736.45	1830.20	1831.45
			2	1736.45	1737.70	1831.45	1832.70
			3	1737.70	1738.95	1832.70	1833.95
			4	1738.95	1740.20	1833.95	1835.20
			10	1751.80	1753.05	1843.80	1848.05

Gujarat	224.84	Telewings Communications Services Private Limited	11	1753.05	1754.30	1848.05	1849.30
			5	1724.60	1725.85	1819.60	1820.85
			6	1725.85	1727.10	1820.85	1822.10
			7	1727.10	1728.35	1822.10	1823.35
	224.84	Telewings Communications Services Private Limited	8	1728.35	1729.60	1823.35	1824.60
			5	1738.60	1739.85	1833.60	1834.85
			6	1739.85	1741.10	1834.85	1836.10
			7	1741.10	1742.35	1836.10	1837.35
Haryana	46.52	Videocon Telecommunications Limited	8	1742.35	1743.60	1873.35	1838.60
			1	1710.20	1711.45	1805.20	1806.45
			2	1711.45	1712.70	1806.45	1807.70
			3	1712.70	1713.95	1807.70	1808.95
	46.52	Videocon Telecommunications Limited	4	1713.95	1715.20	1808.95	1810.20
			1	1719.60	1720.85	1814.60	1815.85
			2	1720.85	1722.10	1815.85	1817.10
			3	1722.10	1723.35	1817.10	1818.35
46.52	Videocon Telecommunications Limited	4	1723.35	1724.60	1818.35	1819.60	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Vodafone South Limited	7	1760.50	1761.75	1855.50	1856.75
			8	1761.75	1763.00	1856.75	1858.00
Himachal Pradesh	7.78	Vodafone South Limited	7	1728.90	1730.15	1823.90	1825.15
Jammu & Kashmir	6.33	Vodafone South Limited	5	1761.40	1762.65	1856.40	1857.65
			6	1762.65	1763.90	1857.65	1858.90
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1720.40	1721.65	1815.40	1816.65
			2	1721.65	1722.90	1816.65	1817.90
			3	1722.90	1724.15	1817.90	1819.15
			4	1724.15	1725.40	1819.15	1820.40
Keral	65.30	Vodafone South Limited	4	1722.95	1724.20	1817.95	1819.20
Kolkata	113.72	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1735.80	1737.05	1830.80	1832.05
			2	1737.05	1738.30	1832.05	1833.30
			3	1738.30	1739.55	1833.30	1834.55
			4	1739.55	1740.80	1834.55	1835.80

Madhya Pradesh	53.99	Videocon Telecommunications Limited	1	1718.40	1719.65	1813.40	1814.65
			2	1719.65	1720.90	1814.65	1815.90
			3	1720.90	1722.15	1815.90	1817.15
			4	1722.15	1723.40	1817.15	1818.40
			5	1738.00	1739.25	1833.00	1834.25
			7	1740.50	1741.75	1835.50	1836.75
Maharashtra	262.61	Telewings Communications Services Private Limited	1	1753.80	1755.05	1848.80	1850.05
			2	1755.05	1756.30	1850.05	1851.30
			3	1756.30	1757.55	1851.30	1852.55
			4	1757.55	1758.80	1852.55	1853.80
North East	8.84	Idea Cellular Ltd.	6	1760.05	1761.30	1855.05	1856.30
			1	1734.00	1735.25	1829.00	1830.25
			2	1735.25	1736.50	1830.25	1831.50
			3	1736.50	1737.75	1831.50	1832.75
			4	1737.75	1739.00	1832.75	1834.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Vodafone South Limited	5	1739.00	1740.25	1834.00	1835.25
			8	1742.75	1744.00	1837.75	1839.00
Orissa	20.27	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1710.20	1711.45	1805.20	1806.45
			2	1711.45	1712.70	1806.45	1807.70
			3	1712.70	1713.95	1807.70	1808.95
			4	1713.95	1715.20	1808.95	1810.20
		Vodafone South Ltd.	5	1715.20	1716.45	1810.20	1811.45
			8	1718.95	1720.20	1813.95	1815.20
Punjab	67.28	Vodafone South Limited	2	1755.65	1756.90	1850.65	1851.90
Tamil Nadu	306.09	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1733.40	1734.65	1828.40	1829.65
			2	1734.65	1735.90	1829.65	1830.90
			3	1735.90	1737.15	1830.90	1832.15
			4	1737.15	1738.40	1832.15	1833.40
Uttar Pradesh (East)	76.17	Vodafone South Limited	11	1742.20	1743.45	1837.20	1838.45
		Telewings Communications	1	1723.00	1724.25	1818.00	1819.25

Services Private Limited

2 1724.25 1725.50 1819.25 1820.50

3 1725.50 1726.75 1820.50 1821.75

4 1726.75 1728.00 1821.75 1823.00

5 1728.00 1729.25 1823.00 1824.25

Videocon Telecommunications Limited

6 1729.25 1730.50 1824.25 1825.50

7 1730.50 1731.75 1825.50 1826.75

8 1731.75 1733.00 1826.75 1828.00

9 1719.20 1720.45 1814.20 1815.45

Vodafone South Limited

11 1780.20 1781.45 1875.20 1876.45

Uttar Pradesh (West) 107.41

Videocon Telecommunications Limited

5 1714.00 1715.25 1809.00 1810.25

6 1715.25 1716.50 1810.25 1811.50

7 1716.50 1717.75 1811.50 1812.75

8 1717.75 1719.00 1812.75 1814.00

Telewings Communications Services Private Limited

1 1738.60 1739.85 1833.60 1834.85

2 1739.85 1741.10 1834.85 1836.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			3	1741.10	1742.35	1836.10	1837.35
			4	1742.35	1743.60	1837.35	1838.60
West Bengal	25.84	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1721.20	1722.45	1816.20	1817.45
			2	1722.45	1723.70	1817.45	1818.70
			3	1723.70	1724.95	1818.70	1819.95
			4	1724.95	1726.20	1819.95	1821.20
			5	1759.60	1760.85	1854.60	1855.85
		Vodafone South Limited	7	1762.10	1763.35	1857.10	1858.35
			8	1763.35	1764.60	1858.35	1859.60

Fruit processing facilities

846. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large quantity of fruits is wasted due to non-availability of processing facilities;
- (b) if so, the quantum of fruits wasted annually; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to augment processing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) does not maintain data separately on quantum of wastage of fruits in the country. However, as per the study conducted by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana, the percentage of cumulative wastage of fruits and vegetables had been estimated at 5.8% to 18.0%.

(c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme – National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during 2012-13 of Twelfth Five Year Plan. The salient features of the NMFP are: (i) to realize the Ministry's next leap forward in terms of ensuing requisite growth impetus and value addition to the sector; (ii) decentralized approach; (iii) greater role of State/UTs; (iv) better outreach and (v) effective supervision and monitoring.

NMFP provides flexibility to States/UTs in the selection of beneficiaries, location of projects etc. for the development of food processing sector. This initiative of the Ministry would give an impetus to food processing industries in the country.

Cancelled integrated cold chain projects

847. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for cancellation of 11 Integrated Cold Chain Projects, which were sanctioned during 2008-09 and 2011-12;
- (b) out of the above 11 Projects, how many were proposed in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether any steps are being taken for revival of these cancelled Projects in the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Out of the projects approved during 2011-12, 9 (nine) projects were cancelled as they failed to comply with the conditions of the approval *i.e.* submission of documents for release of the first installment within 9 months of issue of approval letter and 2 (two) projects were cancelled due to forgery of documents/misrepresentation of the facts by the applicants. No project approved during 2008-09 was cancelled.

(b) Out of the 11 projects cancelled during 2011-12, one project was proposed in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to revive the cancelled projects.

Setting up processing industries in Vaishali, Bihar

†848. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vaishali District of Bihar is famous for production of quality lychees, mangoes and bananas; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government for setting up industries based on banana, mango and lychee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) To assist the entrepreneurs and domestic agro-processing industries in the country including Bihar, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme – National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during 2012-13 of Twelfth Five Year Plan. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) implemented the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries during Eleventh Plan. Under the above Scheme, Ministry extended financial assistance to food processing units including fruits and vegetables units in the form of grants-in-aid to the implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas, or @33.33% subject to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas in the country. The aforesaid scheme has been subsumed in the NMFP w.e.f. 01.04.2012 (2012-13).

NMFP provides flexibility to States/UTs in the selection of beneficiaries, location of projects etc. for the development of food processing sector. This initiative of the Ministry would give an impetus to food processing industries in the country including Bihar.

MoFPI has already released grants-in-aid of Rs. 8.565 crores to State of Bihar for implementation of NMFP scheme during 2012-13. The Major Programmes/Schemes covered under NMFP during 2012-13 are:

- (i) Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries.
- (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non Horticultural Products.
- (iii) Scheme for Human Resource Development (HRD)
 - (a) Creation of Infrastructure Facilities for Running Degree/Diploma/Certificate Courses in Food Processing Technology.
 - (b) Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)
 - (c) Food Processing Training Centre (FPTC)
- (iv) Scheme for Promotional Activities
 - a. Organizing Seminar/Workshops
 - b. Conducting Studies/Surveys
 - c. Support to Exhibitions/Fairs
 - d. Advertisement and Publicity

Survey for establishing FPIs

†849. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has recently conducted any survey to identify such States/Union Territories in the country where there is a huge potential for establishment of Food Processing Industries (FPIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to establish FPIs in the hilly and North-Eastern States where there is a huge potential for production of fruits and vegetables;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether steps have been taken by Government for taking help from other countries for making the FPIs in the country competitive at the international level?

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) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) does not setup any food processing units on its own. However, Government had started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern region including Sikkim, 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 implementation of 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. Under the Mini Mission-IV component of this scheme, assistance at 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 in the above States. Further, this scheme is operational during 2012-13 also.

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 above Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries has been subsumed in the NMFP *w.e.f.* 01.04.2012 (2012-13).

(e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has entered into agreements with some developed countries *viz.* Germany and France for bilateral co-operation in the field of food processing which generally include processed food segments including fruits and vegetables. Besides, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has entered into number of umbrella agreements with some developed countries like USA, France, Canada, Netherlands, Argentina, Austria, Brazil for bilateral co-operation in the areas of agriculture and allied sectors which generally include agro and food processing, cold chain etc. Apart from this, MoUs have been entered into by two institutions of the Ministry, namely, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT). The MoUs relate to collaboration in teaching and research in the food processing sector.

Toilets in schools in Maharashtra

850. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey in the State of Maharashtra regarding schools which do not have toilets and the number of Co-educational schools in which there are no separate toilets for girl and boy students;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the present status of implementation of the directive of Supreme Court to provide toilets in all the schools within a stipulated time-frame, in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra has reported that data on school infrastructure is collected every year as part of District Information System for Education (DISE). There are 10,00,084 schools in the State of which 96,601 are co-educational. 97% of the schools have separate toilet facility for girls and boys. 3% schools do not have separate facilities for girls and boys. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all schools to provide toilet facilities within 6 months from 3rd October, 2012.

Eligibility criteria for IIT-JEE exam

851. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether students require 60 per cent marks to become eligible for IIT-JEE exam;

(b) whether there is a proposal to make students eligible for IIT-JEE exam only if they secure top 20 percentile marks in 10+2 examination in their respective State;

(c) whether due to (b) above, students from Andhra Pradesh have to secure 87.2 per cent in 10+2 to become eligible for IIT-JEE exam when compared to other States like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya;

(d) how the Ministry justifies higher percentage of marks for Andhra Pradesh students; and

(e) does it not go against the objective of reducing stress on students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to the undergraduate programmes in engineering would be conducted in two parts. JEE-MAIN and JEE-ADVANCED. The JEE-Advanced examination will be held after JEE-Main with a suitable time gap. Only the top 150,000 candidates (including all categories) in JEE-Main will be qualified to appear in the JEE-Advanced examination. Admissions to IITs will be based only on category-wise

All India Rank (AIR) in JEE-Advanced, subject to the condition that such candidates are in the top 20 percentile of successful candidates in the respective Boards in applicable categories. As one time exception, in respect of those students who passed their Board exams in 2012, the eligibility criteria for joining IITs would be 60% marks in XII Board examination (55% for SC/ST/PD).

(c) and (d) Marks to be secured by a candidate to fall within the top 20 percentile will vary from one Board to another and from one year to another year. The exact cut off of top 20 percentile marks in a Board marks will be known only after the Board results are declared, depending upon the marking pattern of any Board.

(e) No, sir. No two Boards are being equated, instead a candidate would be tested against his peers who have appeared in the same Board examination and whose performance has been evaluated in the same manner as them. The use of percentile ranking assumes that the quality of students is uniformly distributed across the Boards.

Quota for MPs for admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas

852. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Members of Parliament had failed to use Kendriya Vidyalaya admission quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more than 800 seats remained unutilized in the past three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) 9 Rajya Sabha and 67 Lok Sabha Members have not used their full quota of 6 admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya in the academic session 2012-13 at all and some Members have used their Quota partially.

(c) and (d) A total of 1761 seats under this quota remained unutilized in the past three years, *i.e.* 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 as given below:

	Unutilized seats		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Rajya Sabha	74	30	183
Lok Sabha	336	112	1026
TOTAL	410	142	1209
GRAND TOTAL (410+142+1209)	=	1761	

Advanced version of Aakash-2 tablet

853. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched advanced version of low cost Aakash-2 tablet;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that about 22 crore students would get the device across the country in the next five to six years;
- (c) whether the first one lakh devices would be provided to students of engineering colleges and universities and subsequently these would be distributed to others; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes Sir, the advanced version of low cost Aakash 2 tablet was launched by the Hon'ble President of India on the occasion of National Education Day i.e. 11th November, 2012.

- (b) Presently there is no concrete proposal in this regard.

(c) and (d) Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, a project is being implemented by IIT Bombay for achieving the following deliverables after acquiring the LCADs for teacher empowerment:

- (i) Acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and
- (ii) Hardware and software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices.

In the first phase 1,00,000 tablets are being distributed for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions.

Requirement of schools and teachers under RTE Act in Karnataka

854. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the requirement of new schools and additional teachers for implementation of Right to Education in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The States/UTs every year work out their requirements of new schools and additional teachers under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and submit their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP & B) to the Government of India for funding under SSA. Under SSA, till 2012-13, 11,353 schools and 37,316 teachers have been sanctioned to State Government of Karnataka.

Confusion regarding rules under Right to Education Act

855. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the lacunae and confusion in the rules for the Right to Education (RTE) Act that is causing many institutions providing high quality primary and secondary education, to oppose the Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government would undertake further consultations and make efforts to include the concerns of these educational institutions to ensure that they are willing to play a role in enhancing both capacity and quality of education for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) 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 is being implemented by all States/UTs. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2010 notified by the Central Government on 8th April, 2010 is applicable to five UTs without Legislature. All States/UTs have notified the State RTE Rules. The Central Government has held periodic discussions with the State Governments with regard to improvements and clarity in the State RTE Rules so as to improve implementation.

Implementation of SSA and RMSA

†856. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools established/proposed to be established under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) during the past three years and current year, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government is satisfied with the implementation of SSA and RMSA for promoting school education in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some shortcomings/irregularities have been noticed in the implementation of these schemes; and

(e) if so, the corrective action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) State-wise number of schools sanctioned under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in the last three years and current year are given in Statement-I and II respectively (*See below*).

(b) and (c) SSA has to a large extent universalized access to elementary schooling by sanctioning 3,86,537 schools since inception in 2001. RMSA is a newer programme which is incrementally enhancing access to secondary schooling in the country. Under RMSA, opening of 9636 new government secondary schools and strengthening of 34311 existing government secondary schools has been sanctioned.

(d) and (e) The SSA and RMSA both have laid down a Financial and Procurement Manual for their respective programmes, which assists in strengthening of financial management. However, instances of financial irregularities during audits and programmatic deficiencies during monitoring of these schemes have come to light from time to time. Government of India takes up these findings with States and UTs for remedial action and compliance, while at the same time, strengthening of the audit systems with concurrent audit and monitoring of progress in the field with the help of 41 independent monitoring institutions has been undertaken.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I*Opening of new primary and upper primary schools sanctioned under SSA*

Sl. No.	State	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
		PS	UPS	PS	UPS	PS	UPS	PS	UPS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	A and N Island	0	0	0	0	6	11	15	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	26	20	5	13	0	435	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	174	16	194	54	124	42	123	49
4	Assam	1521	0	3533	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	0	3013	821	1720	1756	447	0	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0	7	7	0	4	2	2
7	Chhattisgarh	1	404	319	85	193	140	8	30
8	D and N Haveli	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	27
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	Delhi	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Haryana	6	0	114	177	8	49	15	4
14	Himachal Pradesh	40	0	0	7	40	20	0	0
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0	800	497	863	397	330	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16	Jharkhand	442	185	927	441	42	32	0	0
17	Karnataka	317	130	135	330	0	0	0	10
18	Kerala	0	0	6	0	118	0	0	0
19	Lakshdweep	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	595	386	944	740	0	179	803
21	Maharashtra	1015	39	843	60	0	0	0	219
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	535	158	76	0
23	Meghalaya	208	425	574	302	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	4	0	0	0	21	63	6	0
25	Nagaland	125	50	168	324	0	0	0	0
26	Orissa	2388	928	354	379	0	374	0	0
27	Puducherry	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
28	Punjab	69	599	27	90	0	0	0	21
29	Rajasthan	1700	1864	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Sikkim	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	5	831	228	218	0	0	0	0
32	Tripura	69	167	70	71	0	0	34	1
33	Uttar Pradesh	863	1162	26	1152	10487	1173	0	0
34	Uttarakhand	53	129	7	14	0	0	46	23
35	West Bengal	360	776	15761	1866	0	0	100	415
TOTAL		9404	12145	25021	9109	14481	2843	1041	1613

Statement-II*Opening of new secondary schools (classes IX-X) sanctioned under RMSA*

Sl. No.	State	New secondary schools Approved in the year 2009-10	New-secondary schools Approved in the year 2010-11	New secondary schools Approved in the year 2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	102
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	11	22
4	Assam	0	0	0
5	Bihar	350	447	169
6	Chhattisgarh	218	500	623
7	Chandigarh	0	4	0
8	Daman and Diu	0	2	1
9	Delhi	0	0	0
10	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	0	72	256
13	Haryana	0	32	5
14	Himanchal Pradesh	69	45	22
15	Jammu and Kashmir	69	182	279
16	Jharkhand	300	297	297
17	Karnataka	80	225	0
18	Kerala	60	36	16
19	Lakshadweep	4	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	341	0	603
21	Maharashtra	0	0	0
22	Manipur	44	23	49
23	Meghalaya	0	25	0
24	Mizoram	23	32	26

1	2	3	4	5
25	Nagaland	35	67	45
26	Odisha	300	400	9
27	Puducherry	0	9	2
28	Punjab	70	79	73
29	Rajasthan	0	0	0
30	Sikkim	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	200	344	710
32	Tripura	0	42	41
33	Uttarakhand	23	58	147
34	Uttar Pradesh	254	318	449
35	West Bengal	0	0	0
TOTAL		2440	3250	3946

Standard of universities

857. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 60 per cent universities in the country are sub-standard or below standard;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Out of 612 Universities in the country, only 172 Universities in the country have been accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Out of the Universities accredited, 67 Universities have been placed in Grade A, 99 Universities in Grade B and only 6 Universities in Grade C, based on scores awarded during the process of accreditation. NAAC follows the process of Grade accreditation only and does not undertake threshold accreditation, *i.e.* the Grade is only a relative value assigned to a university and does not denote an absolute attribute of quality.

(c) At present, accreditation is voluntary for Higher Education Institutions in the country. A Legislation namely National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010 has been introduced in Parliament which

proposes to make accreditation mandatory for all Higher Education Institutions. Quality improvement is a continuous process in Universities and University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it has taken several steps to improve quality of universities, which include issuing Regulations on maintenance of standards and quality in all universities, including Private Universities, deemed to be universities, Central Universities and state universities. These regulations are available on www.ugc.ac.in

Restoration of powers to NCMEI

858. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands/requests have of late been made for restoration of administrative and other powers to the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several joint representation/representations from the All India Muslim Majlis Mushawarat, Dr. Mufti Mohd. Mukarram, Shahi Imam of Fatehpuri Masjid & others, Shri Mukhtar Azeem and others, Shri A.A. Jinnah, M.P. and others, Federation for Educational Development, Delhi, Shri Liyakat Ali, National President, Minority Association of Educational Institutions, Lucknow, Coordination Committee of Indian Muslims, New Delhi and Shri Syed Jalaluddin Omari, National President, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, New Delhi have been received in this Ministry against the purported withdrawal of powers of the Chairman, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI).

(c) There has been no change in the financial and quasi-judicial powers of the Chairman, NCMEI or of the Commission. The Chairman, NCMEI in a communication has also informed that there is no governmental interference in the administrative or financial matters of the Commission. Two amendments relating to administrative powers of the Chairman have been made on 28.02.2012, after vetting by the Ministry of Law and Justice, in order to bring the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Financial and Administrative Powers) Rules, 2005 and National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Procedure for Appeal) Rules, 2006 in conformity with the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Provision in NCMEI Act	Rules prior to Amendment	Present Rules i.e. after Amendment
1.	<p>Section 6, Officers and other employees of Commission:</p> <p>(1) The Central Government shall provide the Commission with a Secretary and such other officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the Commission under this Act.</p>	<p>As per Item 1 of Schedule to Rule 3, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Financial and Administrative Powers) the Chairperson shall have the powers in respect of appointments and promotions against vacancy in respect of sanctioned post.</p>	<p>After deletion of item 1 of Schedule to Rule 3 the Central Government shall have the powers in respect of appointments and promotions against vacancy in respect of sanctioned post.</p>
2.	<p>Section 9 (3), Procedure to be regulated by the Commission: All orders and decisions of the Commission shall be authenticated by the Secretary or any other officer of the Commission duly authorized by the Secretary in this behalf.</p>	<p>Rule 28, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Procedure for Appeal) provided that a copy of the order, certified by the Secretary, or such officer as Chairman appoints in this behalf.</p>	<p>Rule 28 now provides that a copy of the order, certified by the Secretary, or such officer as Secretary appoints in this behalf.</p>

UGC website for jobs

859. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether UGC has launched a website to help job providers and seekers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response received so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched an academic job portal at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/jobportal> which helps NET/SET/Ph.D qualified candidates to create their academic profile for the attention of universities/colleges and other potential employers. It also facilitates employers to register and post the job vacancies on the said portal so that candidates can apply directly against the vacancies. Since its launch, 17,088 candidates have registered their profile and 15 jobs in various disciplines have been posted by various Universities/Institutions on this portal.

Learning ability of students

860. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that students' learning ability has not improved even though more Government funds for education has increased student enrolment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to improve the learning ability of students in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the further steps proposed to be taken to improve the standard of education in schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The National Council of

Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, conducts periodic National Learners' Achievement Surveys. Two rounds of the National Learners' Achievement Survey for classes III, V and VIII and the third round of survey for class V have been conducted in 2001-2004, 2005-2008 and 2009-10 respectively, which reveal improvements in the overall learning levels of children in Mathematics and Language subjects in most States.

(c) and (d) To improve the learning levels of children, steps taken under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan include, *inter alia*, sanction of more than 19 lakh teachers to improve the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), sanction of 1,94,574 primary school buildings, 1,07,682 upper primary school buildings, more than 18 lakh additional classrooms to improve school infrastructure, as well as in-service training for teachers, regular academic support to teachers and schools as well as free text books to children.

(e) Further more, under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE), Act, 2009, the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) has notified the minimum qualifications and also made the holding of Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) mandatory to improve the quality standard of teachers.

UGC-NET examination

861. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been received regarding the post-examination criteria change for the UGC-NET examination; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The University Grants Commission (UGC), has informed that it had intimated the candidates in the Notification for UGC-NET, held in June, 2012, that the candidates are required to obtain minimum marks separately in Paper-I, Paper-II and Paper-III as given below:

Category	Minimum Marks (%) to be obtained		
	Paper-I	Paper-II	Paper-III
General	40(40%)	40(40%)	75(50%)
OBC	35(35%)	35(35%)	67.5(45%) rounded off to 68
SC/ST/PWD	35(35%)	35(35%)	60(40%)

It was also mentioned in the notification that only such candidates who obtain the minimum required marks in each paper separately, as mentioned above, will be considered for the final preparation of the results and that the final qualifying criteria for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and eligibility for Lectureship shall be decided by the UGC before the declaration of the results.

Although it was clearly stated in the notification that the final qualifying criteria would be decided by the UGC before the declaration of the results, it was mistakenly taken to be the final qualifying criteria by some candidates. The UGC has received some complaints in this regard, while some other candidates have gone to the extent of filing court cases on this issue.

Meanwhile, the Commission in its meeting held on 22/10/2012, set up a four-member Committee from among the Commission members to examine representations/grievances related to the result of the UGC-NET June, 2012 and revisit the results, if found necessary.

Accordingly, UGC prepared supplementary result, as per the recommendations of the Committee set up by UGC, which was declared on 12/11/2012. This was in addition to the candidates declared as qualified in the original results of June, 2012 that the UGC-NET declared on 18/09/2012.

Education for disaster management

862. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has issued any guidelines for imparting education in Disaster Management Plans to educate the students to face the natural calamity situations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government provides any financial assistance for setting up of infrastructural/logistical facilities to the institutions directly or through State Governments along with the details thereof; and

(c) the provision for States like Andhra Pradesh where the cyclones are frequent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) On the recommendation of 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission contained in its 3rd Report titled "Crisis Management from Despair to Hope" regarding introduction of "Disaster Management" as a subject in 'Management and Public Administration', the University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted an Expert Committee consisting of subject experts in Disaster Management. The Expert Committee framed the syllabus for an optional paper on Disaster Management at the Undergraduate level and syllabus for a short-term training course for UG teachers to be used by Academic Staff Colleges. The Commission considered the report of the Expert Committee on Disaster Management and approved the introduction of an optional paper on Disaster Management at the Undergraduate level across the universities/colleges. The Commission further decided that Disaster Management be introduced as one of the topics in Orientation and Refresher Courses offered by the Academic Staff Colleges. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is also running various courses in Disaster Management at Post Graduate and Doctoral level programmes.

Similarly, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also introduced the topic of Disaster Management as a part of the school curriculum in Social Science.

(b) The UGC has provided financial assistance of Rs. 467.04 lakh to the Pondicherry University for starting M.Sc. course in Coastal Disaster Management at its Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM) Campus, Port Blair. Further, the UGC is also implementing a scheme of providing assistance to universities and colleges for overcoming damages caused by natural calamities/disastrous as a part of the general development assistance. The quantum of assistance under the scheme depends on the nature of calamities and availability of funds. The

damages/losses are ascertained based on the recommendations of the District Magistrate/Commissioner of the affected district. The financial assistance is on sharing basis in the ratio of 75% by UGC and 25% by the concerned State Government. During the XI Plan period, UGC released an amount of Rs.500 lakh to Pondicherry University for the damage caused by the recent Thane Cyclone which hit Pondicherry on 30.12.2011. UGC has also provided grants to the following colleges under the scheme:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|
| 1. ADM College, Nagapattinam (Tamil Nadu) | : | Rs. 33,60,000/- |
| 2. TBML College, Porayar (Tamil Nadu) | : | Rs. 69,20,000/- |
| 3. Periyar Arts College, Cuddalur (Tamil Nadu) | : | Rs. 54,92,000/- |
| 4. Presidency College, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) | : | Rs. 1,42,00,000/- |

(c) No separate provision has been made for the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, the universities and colleges of Andhra Pradesh are also covered under the scheme of providing assistance for overcoming damages caused by natural calamities/disasters.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh

863. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh is pending with Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) 15 proposals have been received till date for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in the State of Andhra Pradesh, out of which, 03 cases have been found feasible so far *i.e.* (i) Mahabubabad, Distt. Warangal (ii) CISF, NISA Hakimpet, Secunderabad and (iii) Miryalguda, Distt. Nalgonda. Opening of new KVs will be subject to necessary approvals and availability of funds. The details and status of the remaining 12 proposals is given in the Statement.

Statement

List of 12 proposals received for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas under civil sector in the State of Andhra Pradesh (As on 22-11-2012)

Sl. No.	Location of proposed KV	Current Status
1	2	3
1	Tenali, Guntur Distt,	The Distt. Collector, Guntur has been requested to remove the discrepancies with reference to the prescribed norms.
2	Naidupet, Distt. Nellore	The Distt. Authority to provide suitable temporary accommodation as per norms.
3	Kalichedu, Distt. Nellore	The Distt. Authority was requested to provide suitable land and the suitable temporary accommodation.
4	Srikalahasti, Distt. Chittoor	The Distt. Authority has been requested to remove discrepancies.
5	Kandukur Town, Distt. Prakasam	Some discrepancies were noticed <i>i.e.</i> approach road to the proposed land is not available. Water connection, electrical service connection work to be completed by the sponsoring authority in the proposed temporary accommodation.
6	West Gudur, Sri Potti, Sriramulu, Distt. Nellore	The DC, KVS, Hyderabad was requested to keep liaison with the Distt. Authority to acquire the proposed land from the Deptt. of Higher Education to transfer to KVS.
7	Gudipala, Distt. Chittoor	The proposal has not been received in the prescribed format.

1	2	3
8	Jangalapalle, Yadamari Mandal, Distt. Chittoor	The Distt. Authority has been requested to remove the discrepancies with reference to the prescribed norms.
9	Jharasangam Village and Mandal, Distt. Medak under Zaheerabad Parliamentary Constituency	The Distt. Authority has been requested to remove the discrepancies with reference to the prescribed norms.
10	Siddipet, Distt. Medak	Feasibility report relating to the proposed land is awaited.
11	Bhongir, Distt. Nalgonda	The proposal has not been received in the prescribed format.
12	Kakinada, Distt. East Godavari	The Distt. Collector, East Godavari Distt. was requested to remove the discrepancies with reference to the prescribed norms.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

864. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether introduction of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has increased the enrolment of students at secondary stage throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) As per Statistics of School Education compiled by this Department, the enrolment of students at secondary stage in 2007-08 was 2.82 crore which has increased to 3.17 crore in 2010-11. The scheme Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was started in 2009, under which 9636 new secondary schools have been approved (classes IX-X), out of which 8139 secondary schools have also become functional.

India's global research share

865. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's global research share was just 3.5 per cent in 2010 as per Thomson Reuters Report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to increase the global research share of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) A bibliometric study on India's research output based on Science Citation Index (SCI) database has been conducted by Thomson Reuters in 2010 and submitted to Department of Science and Technology. The detailed report entitled "India's Research Output Analysis 2001-2010- A Bibliometric Study" is available on www.dst.gov.in. According to the report, India's global share of scientific publication is about 3.5 per cent. Based on relative share, India ranks currently ninth in the world with respect of scientific publications in SCI journals.

(c) The Government has taken various measures for the promotion and growth of scientific research in the country. These measures include successive increase in plan allocations for Scientific Departments, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, establishment of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for Research and Development (R&D) in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, recognition of R&D units and national awards for outstanding R&D for industries etc.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), is implementing the following schemes to promote research in the higher educational institutions : (i) Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE) (ii) Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Area (CPEPA) (iii) College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) (iv) Major Research Projects/Minor Research Project (MRP) (v) Special Assistance Programme (SAP) (vi) Basic Scientific Research (BSR) and (vii) Research Fellowships. The UGC has implemented *various Research Fellowship schemes* for students such as the

Scheme of Junior Research Fellowship, Scheme of Junior Research Fellowship for Technology and Engineering, Scheme of Post Doctoral Fellowship for Women, Scheme of Post Doctoral Fellowship called Research Award, Scheme of Emeritus Fellowship for superannuated university/college teachers, Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST candidates, the scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D and the Scheme of Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST candidates.

In addition to the UGC's scheme, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is also funding research in Social Sciences and Humanities through its research councils, viz., Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI).

Study on learning level of students

866. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any official study is undertaken to assess the learning outcome of students at the level of elementary education, State-wise;
- (b) if so, the findings and details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, conducts periodic National Learners' Achievement Surveys. Two rounds of the National Learners' Achievement Survey for classes III, V and VII/VIII have been conducted by NCERT. The findings of two rounds of achievement surveys are given in the Statement (*See below*) The third round of the National Achievement Survey conducted for class V has revealed improvements in the overall learning levels of children in Mathematics and Language subjects in most States.

Findings of two rounds of achievement surveys

Sl. No.	State/UT	Class III				Class V					
		Maths		Language		Maths		Language		EVS	
		R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2
1	Andaman and N Island					40.69	33.37	54.49	50.57	44.80	39.69
2	Andhra Pradesh					43.53	47.44	54.83	58.61	44.58	46.01
3	Arunachal Pradesh	59.98	66.08	60.34	70.06	53.47	48.44	61.33	52.11	60.40	53.97
4	Assam	68.10	65.51	65.91	65.62	40.03	44.64	49.16	51.90	42.90	45.21
5	Bihar										
6	Chandigarh	50.99	52.90	53.14	54.50	44.98	42.20	55.99	61.09	41.81	44.10
7	Chhattisgarh	41.96	48.98	50.69	56.57	38.36	39.18	49.69	50.30	43.15	46.44
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli						40.84		49.35		45.29
9	Daman and Diu						42.60		58.09		51.12
10	Delhi	68.12	51.21	68.19	60.05	48.20	45.33	63.15	67.32	49.96	49.51
11	Goa	58.08	59.90	63.19	65.07	30.48	38.99	44.68	52.47	35.60	46.25
12	Gujarat	64.24	67.03	58.54	72.56	48.36	56.98	56.18	63.30	52.38	59.56
13	Haryana	55.95	60.49	59.33	63.86	53.33	48.49	60.45	58.26	53.21	46.60
14	Himachal Pradesh	54.42	57.66	61.61	65.19	34.41	47.61	49.99	63.88	34.93	48.51
15	Jammu and Kashmir	56.98	57.20	61.10	62.19	36.30	45.53	47.59	51.72	39.14	46.06
16	Jharkhand	54.67	61.00	59.97	66.74		57.40		63.82		58.41

17	Karnataka	68.45	61.48	69.96	69.19	46.03	57.48	58.63	64.56	51.46	60.34
18	Kerala	51.36	61.43	63.31	70.14	35.09	42.33	54.99	67.34	41.36	46.83
19	Lakshadweep										
20	Madhya Pradesh	36.94	52.12	45.21	61.06	49.03	46.52	58.25	58.82	54.09	56.62
21	Maharashtra	57.77	64.55	64.33	71.30	44.32	48.28	62.12	65.64	52.82	55.93
22	Manipur	72.27	69.17	73.21	60.11	74.46	41.12	73.39	62.09	73.60	55.10
23	Meghalaya	67.45	66.05	68.27	70.56		40.98		54.90		46.49
24	Mizoram	66.89	61.73	81.78	47.84	41.07	42.88	66.91	66.68	49.93	49.49
25	Nagaland	67.56	66.06	76.08	72.30	45.71	47.35	59.55	57.82	50.05	48.81
26	Orissa	62.56	59.72	67.78	64.28	40.95	46.84	60.73	63.77	56.03	50.29
27	Puducherry	57.97	36.67	69.90	56.41	36.59	43.02	59.23	57.78	49.59	48.23
28	Punjab	53.91	58.08	54.29	67.16	49.62	48.43	58.04	57.75	50.18	49.69
29	Rajasthan	56.79	58.19	61.48	64.25	49.37	47.56	60.65	59.72	50.77	50.19
30	Sikkim	51.22	53.89	58.10	63.27	40.66	40.42	50.26	49.70	48.16	48.39
31	Tamil Nadu	53.48	75.20	66.51	79.74	58.37	50.49	71.09	59.79	66.01	59.36
32	Tripura	66.58	67.97	66.85	73.08	52.71	52.84	63.79	61.77	54.50	56.23
33	Uttar Pradesh	58.21	58.19	64.26	64.77	37.81	52.39	50.20	61.77	41.45	56.19
34	Uttarakhand	46.79	53.59	53.95	61.03	38.83	40.90	56.35	55.30	43.27	45.38
35	West Bengal	62.02	69.79	68.36	78.15	60.11	61.02	70.67	69.27	58.65	59.92
	Mean	58.25	61.89	63.12	67.84	46.51	48.46	58.87	60.31	50.30	52.19

R1- Round-1.

R2- Round- 2.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Class VII					
		Maths		Language		Science	
		R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2
1	Andaman and Nicobar Island						
2	Andhra Pradesh	24.95	36.63	62.53	54.02	39.01	39.37
3	Arunachal Pradesh						
4	Assam	45.32	36.60	61.75	55.23	40.46	41.92
5	Bihar						
6	Chandigarh						
7	Chhattisgarh						
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli						
9	Daman and Diu						
10	Delhi						
11	Goa	29.71	35.57	59.21	59.11	39.93	38.89
12	Gujarat	29.39	49.66	49.21	57.73	37.43	44.72
13	Haryana						
14	Himachal Pradesh						
15	Jammu and Kashmir						
16	Jharkhand						
17	Karnataka						
18	Kerala	29.24	38.11	59.70	54.40	42.10	42.26
19	Lakshadweep						
20	Madhya Pradesh						
21	Maharashtra	27.52	43.38	60.41	67.44	41.56	47.77
22	Manipur						
23	Meghalaya	32.94	38.52	57.60	57.22	37.49	42.03
24	Mizoram	35.32	30.91	56.96	47.86	39.01	35.73
25	Nagaland						
26	Orissa	28.12	40.10	34.05	55.48	28.48	41.86
27	Puducherry						
28	Punjab						
29	Rajasthan						
30	Sikkim						
31	Tamil Nadu						
32	Tripura						
33	Uttar Pradesh						
34	Uttarakhand						
35	West Bengal						
MEAN		30.50	40.38	54.24	57.35	37.78	42.86
R1-Round-1		R2-Round-2					

Class VIII									
Soc. Sc.		Maths		Language		Science		Soc. Sc.	
R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2
		36.61	29.27	46.43	35.28	37.70	29.50	42.85	31.69
37.38	45.06								
		43.08	42.44	50.64	54.17	48.04	45.74	50.70	48.04
40.15	38.11								
			58.03		64.88		55.07		55.24
		43.12	45.06	54.63	55.15	42.05	38.23	46.09	43.56
		28.92	35.93	43.13	50.46	34.91	39.21	39.51	45.56
		41.84	35.11	59.48	56.85	41.68	33.36	45.61	38.26
34.00	37.08								
27.33	58.51								
		42.37	42.39	63.63	57.91	41.67	38.42	51.31	46.66
		32.07	40.13	53.16	58.27	39.60	34.98	43.98	46.58
		32.92	39.01	45.66	41.27	36.88	36.38	41.85	38.36
			33.76		51.18		40.11		44.60
		43.30	41.38	63.68	53.54	46.47	41.75	59.96	48.99
40.11	42.69								
		36.24	36.97	50.76	50.80	41.67	38.04	43.56	43.70
35.67	47.24								
		61.24	55.09	61.53	47.91	55.91	46.06	61.11	46.01
36.04	39.00								
36.12	33.42								
		46.98	38.26	65.40	54.02	51.81	37.50	54.17	44.42
27.38	41.66								44.42
			31.57		59.40		38.35		45.39
		32.57	44.08	25.61	62.02	26.51	41.99	22.53	46.28
		31.06	42.52	49.90	56.72	33.15	41.50	41.99	48.42
		36.05	37.82	51.06	57.26	41.52	40.74	48.52	48.80
		41.56	40.83	59.05	65.95	41.80	44.57	41.06	53.11
		39.39	46.51	52.98	55.92	42.11	50.94	47.91	50.82
		33.62	46.39	47.39	55.97	32.58	46.95	38.88	50.13
		34.72	35.36	50.89	51.99	36.49	34.87	43.65	43.22
		59.26	48.48	74.82	65.37	65.48	53.84	66.83	54.78
34.04	44.73	39.17	42.57	53.86	56.49	41.30	42.71	46.19	47.89

Drop-out rate of students in Jharkhand

867. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state?

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the drop-out rates;
- (b) if so, the national average of drop-out rate for boys and girls at the beginning and at the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, separately;
- (c) how far Jharkhand has performed during the above period; and
- (d) the steps taken to reduce the drop-out rates amongst girls in the country as well as in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) There has been a decline in the dropout rate for Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X in the country during 2010-11 (Provisional) as compared to 2009-10. The dropout rate for the Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X during 2007-08, 2009-10 (Provisional) and for the latest year 2010-11 (Provisional) in the country is given below:

Classes	Dropout rate								
	2007-08			2009-10 (Provisional)			2010-11 (Provisional)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
I-V	25.7	24.4	25.1	30.3	27.3	28.9	28.7	25.1	27.0
I-VIII	43.7	41.3	42.7	40.6	44.4	42.4	40.3	41.0	40.6
I-X	56.5	57.3	56.7	53.4	52.0	52.8	50.4	47.9	49.3

(c) and (d) The dropout rate for Classes I-V in Jharkhand has increased from 9.4 during 2007-08 to 28.4 in 2010-11 (Provisional) respectively. The dropout rates for Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X in Jharkhand during 2010-11 (Provisional) are 45.1 and 69.5 respectively. The dropout rate for these classes during 2007-08 is not available for Jharkhand. The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting 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 and to bridge gender gaps in elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted for reducing dropout rates. This includes *inter-alia* strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings for children in habitations not covered by regular schools, provisioning for additional teachers, regular training of teachers, provision for text books and uniforms to children. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme provides for setting up of residential upper primary schools for girls. 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 which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio-economic disparities in access to education.

Shortage of teachers and schools

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

- (a) whether the number of teachers and schools is going down in the country;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to have more teachers and schools in the country for making Right to Education (RTE) a success in real sense;
- (c) whether there is a tremendous shortage of teachers in Delhi and if so, the action taken to meet the shortage;
- (d) whether the quality of education being imparted to students in Government schools in Delhi is very poor and deteriorating; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve the quality of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the District Information System (DISE), the number of Government Schools in the country has increased from 10,02,915 in 2007-08 to 10,79,306 in 2011-12 and the number of teachers in Government Schools from 39,03,643 to 42,96,060 during the

corresponding period. 1,94,938 new Primary Schools and 1,09,174 new Upper Primary Schools and 19.82 lakh teachers have been sanctioned under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) since its inception.

(c) Delhi has a favourable Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 35 at the primary level and 34 at the upper primary level. Under the SSA Programme 7,104 teacher posts have been sanctioned for the State, of which 4,342 have been filled up.

(d) The third cycle of the National Achievement of Survey (NAS) by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for Class-V reveals improvements in the learning achievement levels of the children in Delhi in all subjects.

(e) Steps taken to improve the quality of education in Delhi government schools include sanctioning teacher posts to improve the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), sanction of 300 Additional Class Rooms (ACR) to improve the school infrastructure during 2012-13, as well as induction training, in-service training for teachers, regular academic support to the teachers and free textbooks and supplementary teaching-learning materials to the children.

Drop-out rate of students

†869. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether drop-out rate at the levels of primary and secondary schools has increased in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, gender-wise, class-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the drop-out rate of girls in rural areas is more than the urban areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof State-wise, especially that of Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to contain the dropping-out of studies in the schools mid way along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The dropout rate for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Classes I-V and Classes I-X during 2009-10 (Provisional) and 2010-11 (Provisional) in the country is given below:

Classes	Dropout rate					
	2009-10 (Provisional)			2010-11 (Provisional)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
I-V	30.3	27.3	28.9	28.7	25.1	27.0
I-X	53.4	52.0	52.8	50.4	47.9	49.3

The overall dropout rate has therefore declined. However, the dropout rate for Classes I-X has increased in 2010-11 in Delhi and Lakshadweep and marginally in Uttar Pradesh as compared to 2009-10. The dropout rate for Classes I-V has increased marginally in several States during the same period. State-wise and gender-wise details of dropout rates are given in the Statement-I and II (*See below*). Dropout rates are not maintained separately for rural and urban areas.

(e) The Central 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 and to bridge gender gaps in elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted for reducing dropout 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. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in school. Further, The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio-economic barriers.

Statement-I***Dropout at Primary Stage (Classes I-V)***

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2009-10 (P)			2010-11 (P)		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.3	15.2	15.8	18.1	16.7	17.4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43.1	39.2	41.4	43.8	42.1	43.0
3	Assam	39.0	32.7	35.9	33.2	26.4	29.9
4	Bihar	43.5	41.0	42.5	39.2	30.7	35.7
5	Chhattisgarh	40.9	24.9	34.1	29.7	32.2	31.0
6	Goa	-12.4	-4.3	-8.5	-	2.4	-
7	Gujarat	36.9	6.5	25.7	36.9	6.6	25.7
8	Haryana	-1.1	-2.2	-1.6	9.8	8.9	9.4
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.4	1.2	0.7	3.9	3.6	3.8
10	Jammu and Kashmir	9.8	6.8	8.4	9.8	6.8	8.4
11	Jharkhand	27.6	26.4	27.1	31.0	25.6	28.4
12	Karnataka	11.6	10.6	11.1	9.2	8.5	8.9
13	Kerala	-14.0	-11.0	-12.5	-	-	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	21.8	20.5	21.2	33.5	25.0	29.5
15	Maharashtra	20.2	22.5	21.3	21.4	19.0	20.3
16	Manipur	33.1	40.1	36.5	46.1	45.3	45.7
17	Meghalaya	60.5	54.5	57.6	61.0	55.7	58.4
18	Mizoram	44.7	47.5	46.0	37.1	38.7	37.9
19	Nagaland	40.1	39.8	40.0	40.1	39.8	39.9
20	Odisha	26.7	26.2	26.5	11.0	2.4	7.0
21	Punjab	-24.6	-10.7	-18.0	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Rajasthan	49.1	52.1	50.5	49.9	51.5	50.6
23	Sikkim	24.6	12.0	18.6	24.9	11.0	18.4
24	Tamil Nadu	0.3	0.4	0.4	-	-	-
25	Tripura	26.0	25.0	25.5	31.9	30.3	31.1
26	Uttar Pradesh	42.4	41.7	42.1	33.5	34.8	34.1
27	Uttarakhand	33.8	31.3	32.6	33.5	32.2	32.9
28	West Bengal	24.6	16.2	20.5	29.8	27.0	28.4
29	A and N Islands	6.9	3.0	5.0	8.4	7.1	7.8
30	Chandigarh	-27.1	-18.1	-22.8	-	-	-
31	D and N Haveli	15.2	20.0	17.5	9.1	16.5	12.7
32	Daman and Diu	1.7	4.3	2.9	8.5	8.0	8.3
33	Delhi	9.8	17.1	13.3	3.7	8.5	5.9
34	Lakshadweep	14.3	8.1	11.1	10.8	3.1	7.1
35	Puducherry	-4.0	-3.1	-3.6	-	-	-
	INDIA	30.3	27.3	28.9	28.7	25.1	27.0

(P): stands for Provisional.

Negative dropout is due to lateral entry or repeaters in school.

- means there is no dropout for 2010-11.

Statement-II

Dropout at Secondary Stage (Classes I-X)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2009-10 (P)			2010-11 (P)		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	52.7	54.0	53.4	45.8	46.6	46.2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	65.0	64.7	64.9	62.3	61.0	61.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	Assam	77.4	77.8	77.6	76.8	78.1	77.4
4	Bihar	78.5	76.1	77.6	64.4	58.9	62.2
5	Chhattisgarh ¹	-	-	-	58.4	57.5	58.0
6	Goa	35.9	32.6	34.3	29.3	26.9	28.1
7	Gujarat	60.4	64.4	62.1	61.1	52.4	57.9
8	Haryana	20.2	19.5	19.8	21.2	16.0	18.9
9	Himachal Pradesh	22.3	18.9	20.7	15.2	17.0	16.0
10	Jammu and Kashmir	47.2	40.6	44.3	47.1	38.9	43.6
11	Jharkhand ²	-	-	-	70.6	68.1	69.5
12	Karnataka	46.9	46.3	46.6	44.5	42.1	43.3
13	Kerala	-2.9	-5.2	-4.1	-	-	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	61.0	71.3	65.7	44.3	59.3	51.1
15	Maharashtra	38.6	42.6	40.5	36.5	40.0	38.2
16	Manipur	57.8	55.7	56.8	45.7	44.8	45.3
17	Meghalaya	79.3	76.5	77.9	78.0	76.7	77.4
18	Mizoram	64.8	60.7	62.9	55.0	52.3	53.7
19	Nagaland	75.7	74.0	74.9	75.8	74.4	75.1
20	Odisha	70.0	65.9	68.2	67.2	59.7	64.0
21	Punjab	41.2	39.5	40.4	30.2	30.7	30.5
22	Rajasthan	70.5	73.4	71.6	68.2	69.0	68.5
23	Sikkim	82.1	79.4	80.7	72.4	67.1	69.9
24	Tamil Nadu	37.6	30.3	34.1	28.2	23.6	25.9
25	Tripura	63.4	62.3	62.9	59.1	57.5	58.4
26	Uttar Pradesh	29.2	15.1	23.8	29.8	14.4	24.0
27	Uttarakhand ³	-	-	-	31.8	41.3	36.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28	West Bengal	72.9	70.7	71.8	64.9	63.5	64.2
29	A and N Islands	32.7	27.1	30.1	19.0	23.3	21.1
30	Chandigarh	0.3	7.9	3.8	-	-	-
31	D and N Haveli	54.8	63.5	58.8	51.7	58.3	54.7
32	Daman and Diu	41.2	29.8	35.9	26.7	30.2	28.3
33	Delhi	-5.2	9.2	2.0	19.7	26.3	22.9
34	Lakshadweep	27.6	22.7	25.1	41.1	20.3	31.3
35	Puducherry	12.8	1.4	7.3	10.9	1.4	6.4
	INDIA	53.4	52.0	52.8	50.4	47.9	49.3

(P): stands for Provisional.

1-Included in Madhya Pradesh.

2- Included in Bihar.

3- Included in Uttar Pradesh.

Negative dropout is due to lateral entry or repeaters in school.

- means there is no dropout for 2010-11.

Exemption to SC/ST students from payment of fee

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

(a) whether SC/ST students joining professional courses in colleges including self-financing colleges are exempt from paying fees at the time of admission;

(b) whether any Government instruction has been issued in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Students belonging to the SC/ST Community joining the Indian Institutes of Technology (UTs) are exempted from paying a Tuition Fee. Also, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has a scheme in which the tuition fees of the SC/ST students are being reimbursed. The said scheme is being implemented through the respective State Governments. Further, as per the information given by All India Council for Technical Education

(AICTE), all fees including tuition fees to be charged by Colleges, including self-financed colleges, for particular technical programmes are being fixed by State Level Fee Committees constituted by the respective State Governments under the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the TMA Pai Foundation and Others Vs State of Karnataka and Others WT(C) 317 of 1993. The information from the States is not available with the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A decision has been taken by the Council of the Indian Institutes of Technology under the Chairmanship of Shri K.T. Chandy on 10.2.1973 under which all the SC/ST candidates who get admission against the quota reserved for them, on the basis of their performance in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), are to be given free tuition, exemption of hostel seat rent and scholarships to cover board expenses and a book grant per year.

Hindi Department in Central Universities

†871. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central Universities in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the names of Central Universities not having Hindi Department;
- (c) the names of Central Universities not having Sanskrit Department; and
- (d) whether Government would make efforts to establish Hindi Department in Central Universities not having such Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Sir, there are 40 Central Universities under the purview of Ministry of Human Resource Development. State-wise detail is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The names of Central Universities not having a Department of Hindi is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) The names of Central Universities not having a Department of Sanskrit is given in Statement-III (*See below*).

(d) 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 establish Departments with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the recommendation of their statutory bodies and approval of University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Visitor. As informed by the University Grants Commission, vide its letter No. 14-1/2011 (Official Languages) dated 17.2.2011, UGC has instructed all the universities including Central Universities located in non-Hindi speaking areas to establish Hindi Departments.

Statement-I

Number of Central Universities, State-wise

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Central Universities
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Three
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	One
3.	Assam	Two
4.	Bihar	One
5.	Chhattisgarh	One
6.	Delhi	Four
7.	Gujarat	One
8.	Haryana	One
9.	Himachal Pradesh	One
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Two
11.	Jharkhand	One
12.	Karnataka	One
13.	Kerala	One
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Two
15.	Maharashtra	One
16.	Manipur	One
17.	Meghalaya	One
18.	Mizoram	One

1	2	3
19.	Nagaland	One
20.	Odisha	One
21.	Puducherry	One
22.	Punjab	One
23.	Rajasthan	One
24.	Sikkim	One
25.	Tamil Nadu	One
26.	Tripura	One
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Four
28.	Uttarakhand	One
29.	West Bengal	One
TOTAL		Forty

Statement-II

Names of Central University not having Hindi Department

Sl. No.	Name of Central University
1.	Jawaharlal Nehru University
2.	Nagaland University
3.	Sikkim University
4.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University
5.	Central University of Jammu
6.	Central University of Kashmir
7.	Central University of Jharkhand
8.	Central University of Orissa
9.	Central University of Tamil Nadu
10.	Central University of Punjab

Statement-III*Names of Central Universities not having Sanskrit Department*

Sl.No.	Name of Central Universities
1	2
1.	Rajiv Gandhi University
2.	Tezpur University
3.	Maulana Azad National Urdu University
4.	English & Foreign Language University
5.	Jamia Millia Islamia
6.	Mizoram University
7.	North Eastern Hill University
8.	Manipur University
9.	Nagaland University
10.	Sikkim University
11.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University
12.	Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
13.	Guru Ghasidas University
14.	Central University of Bihar
15.	Central University of Gujarat
16.	Central University of Haryana
17.	Central University of Himachal Pradesh
18.	Central University of Jammu
19.	Central University of Kashmir
20.	Central University of Jharkhand
21.	Central University of Karnataka
22.	Central University of Kerala

1	2
23.	Central University of Orissa
24.	Central University of Punjab
25.	Central University of Rajasthan
26.	Central University of Tamil Nadu
27.	Indira Gandhi National Open University

Opening of campus of BHU in Bihar

872. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has taken decision to open its campus in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time schedule fixed for establishment of its centre in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Private agencies for teacher training

873. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the system and facilities regarding training of school teachers in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that private agencies are being permitted to undertake teacher training in the country;

(c) whether there are any guidelines for the functioning of such private teacher training institutes; and

(d) the mechanism in place to monitor the working of such private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) In-service training to school teachers is provided through the Government institutional structures of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs), Districts Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and the Block Resource Centers (BRCs), etc. For teacher preparation, teacher education programmes are undertaken by institutions recognized by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

(b) and (c) Teacher education programmes are undertaken by both Government and non-government institutions after seeking recognition from the NCTE in accordance with the norms and standards laid down by the NCTE under the NCTE Act and its Regulations.

(d) The NCTE conducts inspections of recognized teacher education institutions under section 13 of the NCTE Act to monitor their quality. It also withdraws recognition in respect of institutions which are found to be violating the NCTE Act and Rules and Regulations made there under.

Implementation of RTE Act in Goa

874. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 is being implemented in the State of Goa;

(b) whether necessary rules have been framed by the State Government and published in the Gazette and displayed on their website; and

(c) the number of students admitted, names of schools and financial assistance given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Goa Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2012 have been duly notified in the official Gazette Series I No. 18, bearing Notification No. DE/PLG/RTE2009/RULES/2010-2011/735 on 2nd August, 2012 and have also been displayed on their website-http://righttoeducation.in/sites/default/files/goa_rte-rules-2012.pdf.

(c) The information regarding the number of children admitted in the various unaided schools of that State, the names of schools and the financial assistance given to them, is not centrally maintained.

Setting up of NTs

†875. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Indian Institutes of Technology which have been established, functioning and are proposed to be established on Government and Public-Private-Partnership model along with the States thereof;

(b) the complete details of policy and meetings in this regard;

(c) whether website of the Ministry has been updated and all the details have been uploaded on it;

(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) The details of 16 Centrally funded Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), established under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, along with the States thereof, are given in Statement (See below). No Indian Institute of Technology has been established on Public-Private-Partnership model.

(b) The IITs are governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 which has declared them as 'Institutions of national importance' and lays down their powers, duties, framework for governance etc.

(c) and (d) The website of the Ministry, as regards Indian Institutes of Technology, has since been updated and the details in respect of each IIT can be accessed on the Ministry's website: <http://mhrd.gov.in> and the links provided therein.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement***List of Centrally Funded Indian Institutes of Technology***

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the State
1	2	3
1.	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Maharashtra
2.	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	Delhi

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
3.	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	West Bengal
5.	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	Tamil Nadu
6.	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	Assam
7.	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	Uttarakhand
8.	Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar	Odisha
9.	Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar	Gujarat
10.	Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Indian Institute of Technology, Patna	Bihar
12.	Indian Institute of Technology, Rajasthan	Rajasthan
13.	Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar	Punjab
14.	Indian Institute of Technology, Indore	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Indian Institute of Technology, Mandii	Himachal Pradesh
16.	Indian Institute of Technology, BHU, Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh

Scientific research on G.M. crops

876. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are various reports saying that the GM crops do not spell increased crop production and also need long term scientific research on these crops impact on human health;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the Government's action in this regard before pushing GM crops seeds into full fledged, market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There are some reports; mainly from activists stating

that Genetically Modified (GM) crops do not necessarily increase production and also that there is a need to increase the duration of bio-safety testing.

(b) The benefits of GM crops need to be viewed necessarily from the perspective of yield enhancement. Several traits provide advantages of pesticide reduction, drought tolerance, salinity tolerance, disease tolerance, nutritional enhancement etc., which result in overall benefits that the GM traits confer to the farming community. Enhancement in production in GM crops is realized indirectly, while reducing the losses due to abiotic and biotic stresses. Globally, various scientific reviews on GM food bio-safety have concluded that GM crops did not have any adverse impact on human health.

(c) The bio-safety testing protocols are being re-examined critically while reviewing the bio-safety regulations being followed in different countries in a scientific perspective for possible refinement. However, Bt cotton only GM crop has been released in India since 2002 and found economically beneficial to farmers and biosafe as well.

University status for women's college of AMU

†877. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to make the women's college of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) an independent University in the Twelfth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Hindi department in State universities

†878. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State-established universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the State-established universities that are not having department of Hindi;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the State-established universities that are not having department of Sanskrit; and

(d) whether efforts would be made to open department of Hindi in such universities that do not have this department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 451 universities in the country, established by state legislatures. As per available data with the UGC, there are 232 State-established universities, which do not have Departments of Hindi, and 239 State-established universities, which do not have Departments of Sanskrit. Details are at given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) Universities have autonomy in academic matters, including opening new Schools and Departments, since they are governed in such matters by their Acts, Statutes and Ordinances. However, the UGC provides financial assistance to a State University to open Hindi Department, on receipt of request from that University. The UGC has provided grants to open Hindi Departments in 13 Universities, in non-Hindi speaking areas, during the XI plan.

Statement

Details regarding number of State established universities, universities not having Hindi Department and Universities not having Sanskrit Department

Code	Name of the Union Territory	No. of State established Universities	Universities not having Hindi Department	Universities not having Sanskrit Department
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	21	24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	-	-
3.	Assam	11	4	3
4.	Bihar	15	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	9	9
6.	Delhi	5	4	4

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Goa	1	-	1
8.	Gujarat	36	20	20
9.	Haryana	19	10	10
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19	9	9
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	5	5
12.	Jharkhand	10	3	3
13.	Karnataka	27	13	14
14.	Kerala	11	3	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	26	9	11
16.	Maharashtra	20	12	13
17.	Manipur	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	8	4	4
19.	Mizoram	1	1	1
20.	Nagaland	2	1	1
21.	Odisha	14	9	8
22.	Punjab	14	6	6
23.	Rajasthan	48	24	25
24.	Sikkim	4	3	3
25.	Tamil Nadu	24	16	17
26.	Tripura	1	1	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	42	22	21
28.	Uttarakhand	12	8	8
29.	West Bengal	21	12	9

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Chandigarh	1	0	0
32.	Puducherry	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL		451	232	239

Railway projects for Odisha

879. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways would consider constructing second railway flyover bridge at Jajpur Road and a road over-bridge at Manapur in Jajpur district of Odisha, underground bridge at Ferro Chrome Plant, Jajpur Road and foot over-bridge on both sides of rail bridge over Baitarani river at Bandalo GP of Korai Block in Jajpur district for the people to cross the river Baitarani?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): **Second railway flyover bridge at Jajpur Road:** Yes, Sir. State Government of Odisha has been requested to submit proposal for second railway flyover bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 142 towards Chennai end of Jajpur-Keonjhar Road station at km 337/15-17.

Road over-bridge at Manapur: The ROB at km 172/7-8 between Sukinda-Jakhapura Junction Railway Stations in lieu of Level Crossing No. 16 has been sanctioned in the year 2009-10. Work is in progress in Railway portion as well as on Approaches and targeted for completion by 31.03.2013.

Road Underground bridge at Ferro Chrome Plant, Jajpur Road: There is no such proposal under consideration.

Foot over-bridge on both sides of rail bridge over Baitarani river at Bandalo GP of Korai Block in Jajpur District: There is no such proposal under consideration.

Complaints regarding cleanliness and water etc.

880. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Ministry from passengers pertaining to cleanliness, defective fittings, pests, rodents, linen and water during last three years, year-wise and Zone wise; and

(b) the corrective measures taken by Railways in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Indian Railways always endeavor to provide good quality services to the passengers in trains. However, some complaints and references are being received on the Railways regarding cleanliness, fittings, pest, rodents, linen and availability of water in coaches.

The number of complaints received by the Ministry from passengers pertaining to cleanliness, defective fittings, pests, rodents, linen and water during the last three years, year-wise and zone wise are as under:

Zonal Railways	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto Oct'12)
Central Railway	151	67	31
Eastern Railway	236	118	93
East Central Railway	213	186	248
East Coast Railway	402	620	283
Northern Railway	85	38	24
North Central Railway	52	61	29
North East Railway	41	63	54
North Frontier Railway	211	76	30
North Western Railway	21	57	14
Southern Railway	74	122	66
South Central Railway	174	129	60
South Eastern Railway	132	318	141
South East Central Railway	22	51	46
South Western Railway	87	33	15
Western Railway	263	291	133
West Central Railway	112	170	73
Indian Railway	2276	2400	1340

Complaints/suggestions, whenever received, are acted upon appropriately by Railways and suitable corrective action is initiated to prevent its recurrence.

Besides, Regular Inspections/checks are also carried out at various levels to monitor the quality of services provided to the passengers.

Doubling of railway tracks in Gujarat

881. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested for doubling of railway tracks including Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Jaipur, Rajkot-Okha, Rajkot-Veraval and Rajkot-Viramgam;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof; and
- (c) by when the request of the State Government is likely to be acceded to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The status of these projects is as under:

- (i) Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Jaipur: On this route, except Ahmedabad-Palanpur section, doubling of Palanpur-Ajmer has been taken up in patches. Survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Mehsana alongwith doubling of Mehshana-Palanpur has been taken up. Banas-Sirohi (10.04 km) of Keshavganj-Swarupganj section is targeted for completion during 2012-13. Doubling of Ajmer-Jaipur section has been completed and commissioned.
- (ii) Rajkot-Okha: Survey has been taken up.
- (iii) Rajkot-Veraval: Doubling has not been considered for this section as it was not justified on account of operational requirements.
- (iv) Rajkot-Viramgam: On this route, doubling of Surendranagar-Viramgam section has been taken up. Survey for Rajkot-Surendranagar has been taken up.

Derailment and accidents involving goods trains

882. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of derailment and accidents involving goods trains and the loss incurred to Railways due to this during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Railways had enquired into the reasons for such accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The number of consequential derailments of goods trains during the last three years *i.e.* 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 were 37, 37 and 28, respectively. Loss to railway property in these derailments have been estimated to Rs. 26.6 crore (approx.), Rs. 47.0 crore (approx.) and Rs. 12.2 crore (approx.), respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Each derailment of goods train has been inquired into by the Inquiry Committee constituted for the purpose and as per the reports of the inquiry committees, cause-wise analysis of the above derailments are as under:

Cause	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Failure of Railway Staff	22	21	20
Failure of other than Railway Staff	2	4	1
Failure of Equipment	4	2	0
Sabotage	7	8	5
Combination of Factors	1	1	1
Incidental	0	1	1
Cause could not be Established Conclusively	1	0	0
TOTAL	37	37	28

High speed trains

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

(a) whether Government has any plans to introduce high speed trains in the country; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof, including any MoUs signed with foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) 7 corridors have been identified for High Speed Corridors. The details and States involved are as under:

Sl. No.	Corridor identified	States involved
1.	Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad	Gujarat and Maharashtra
2.	Howrah-Haldia	West Bengal
3.	Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi -Patna	Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
4.	Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijaywada-Chennai	Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
5.	Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam -Thiruvananthapuram	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala
6.	Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer-Jodhpur	Delhi and Rajasthan
7.	Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar	Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab

"Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)" have been signed between Kingdom of Spain and Government of India for cooperation in Railway related technology developments including High Speed Railway as one of the areas of Cooperation.

National high speed rail authority

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

- (a) whether Government plans to set up National High Speed Rail Authority;
- (b) if so, the proposed time-line for its setting up; 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) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has decided to set up a National High Speed Rail Authority (NHSRA) and a proposal for approval of the Government is under consideration.

Railway projects in Odisha

885. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various railway projects in Odisha; and

(b) by when Railways contemplate setting up a medical college at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar or Rourkela and Rail Coach Factory at Kalahandi and Ganjam in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Railway projects are sanctioned Zone-wise and State-wise; However, 7 new lines, 1 gauge conversion and 15 doubling projects falling fully/partly in Odisha have been taken up. On completion of these projects, a total of 906.70 km of new line will be added to the existing railway network, 90 km will be converted into broad gauge and 1264 km will be doubled. An outlay of Rs. 669.50 crore has been provided for these works for the year 2012-13.

(b) 18 Railway Medical Colleges were announced in Railway Budget 2009-10. To begin with 05 places *viz.* Guwahati, Chennai, Kharagpur, Lucknow and Secunderabad, where Medical Council of India norms with respect to hospitals bed strength etc. are more or less being met, have been identified under Phase-I. Once the Medical Colleges of phase-I are established, the remaining 13 locations including Bhubaneswar shall be taken up. There is no proposal at present to set up a Rail Coach Factory at Kalahandi and Ganjam in Odisha.

Duping by private iron ore exporters

886. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the transportation cost of iron ore domestically and for exports;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that Railways were duped by more than Rs. 700 crore by private iron ore exporters by transporting iron ore meant for export at domestic freight charges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action his Ministry has taken on each of such exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Commodity wise cost data is not maintained. Therefore, transportation cost of iron ore for domestic use and for exports is not available.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some cases of mis-declaration in regard to transportation of Iron Ore have come to notice of Ministry of Railways. The matter was handed over by Central Vigilance Commission to Central Bureau of Investigation for further investigation. Two cases have been registered by Central Bureau of Investigation. The cases are under investigation by them.

(d) In cases where it is post facto established that iron ore originally declared for domestic consumption was diverted for export, action in accordance with extant instructions, which *inter-alia* provide for recovery of differential freight as well as punitive charges, is being taken.

Setting up of Adarsh Stations

887. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when the Ministry would set up Adarsh Stations by upgrading the Banspani, Bolangir, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Khurda Road, Koraput Junction, Rayagada and Titlagarh Junction announced in 2009-10 and Angul, Belpahar, Bobbili, Jakhpura, Jharsuguda, Lanjigarh Road, Lapanga, Meramundali, Rengali, Raghunathpur and Titlagarh stations announced in Railway Budget 2010-11?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Banspani, Bolangir, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Khurda Road, Koraput Junction, Rayagada, Belpahar, Titlagarh Junction, Jharsuguda stations have already been developed under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme and all related works have been completed.

Works for development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme are planned for completion during 2012-13 at Angul, Jakhopura, Lanjigarh Road, Lapanga, Meramandali, Rengali and Raghunathpur railway stations and during 2013-14 at Bobbili Railway Station.

Extending jurisdiction of Sambalpur division

888. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering extending the jurisdiction of Sambalpur Division to include Jharsuguda-Barsuan-Kiriburu, Rourkela-Nuagaon and Jharsuguda-Hemgiri lines, as per the demands submitted by Government of Odisha, to create a new Division with headquarters at Rourkela/Jharsuguda under the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no plan either to change the jurisdiction of Sambalpur Division or to create a new Division with headquarters at Rourkela/Jharsuguda.

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

Railway freight fare scam

889. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive railway freight fare scam amounting to thousands of crores of rupees by several mining companies in transportation of iron ore has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of companies found involved in the scam;

(c) the details of estimated loss to Railways due to this scam;

(d) whether Government has fixed responsibility in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Some cases of misleading declaration of iron ore have come to the notice of Ministry of Railways. The case has been handed over by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further investigation. Two cases have been registered by CBI in the mater. The cases are under investigation by CBI.

Recent train accident in Bihar

890. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of persons died and injured during collision of Bagh Express with a college bus at a railway crossing near Siwan junction in Bihar recently;
- (b) whether Government has paid compensation to kins of the accident victims and those who were injured;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has enquired into the matter and has fixed responsibility;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) On 26.09.2012 at 15.05 hrs., while the train No. 13019 Howrah-Kathgodam Express was on run between Siwan and Pachrukhi stations of Chhapra Kacheri-Gorakhpur section of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway, one Bus dashed against the train engine at Manned Level Crossing Gate No. 90 'A' Special. As a result, 10 persons lost their lives, 6 persons sustained grievous injuries and 2 persons sustained simple injuries (all occupants of the bus).

(b) to (d) Railway has no statutory liability under the Railways Act, 1989 or Claims Tribunal Act, 1987, for payment of compensation in case of accidents at level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users in which railway passengers are not involved. However, the victims or their dependants can claim compensation by moving Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) Courts of law and the compensation is paid if any contributory negligence is proved on the part of the Railway Administration. However, considering the severity of the incident, an ex-gratia relief amounting to Rs. five lakhs each to the next of kin of each deceased, Rs. one lakh to each grievously injured and Rs. 25,000/- to each simple injured person has been announced by the Ministry of Railways as a special case on humanitarian grounds in this incident. Accordingly, a total amount of Rs. 66,75,000/- has been disbursed by the Railways to all the victims, except one grievously injured person who could be paid Rs. 25000/- only and balance amount of Rs. 75000/- could not be paid as he left the hospital without information.

(e) and (f) This accident has been inquired into by a Senior Administrative Grade level Departmental Enquiry Committee. As per report of the Inquiry Committee, the accident was caused due to Loco Pilot (LP) and Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP) not observing the gate signals and Station Master (SM) Siwan not ensuring the closure of the gate. The LP, ALP and SM have been held primarily responsible, and Sectional Junior Engineer/Permanent Way and the Gateman have been held secondarily responsible.

(g) Does not arise.

Manual scavenging in railways

891. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have sought exemption from proposed law for blanket ban on manual scavenging;

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

(c) the details of manual scavengers engaged in Railways, at present, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. On Indian Railways, there are no dry latrines in Railway Stations, offices or residential quarters and there is no manual scavenging in Indian Railways controlled area. Concrete aprons have been provided for the tracks at platforms and mechanized cleaning through high-powered water jets is undertaken. In order to address the problem of open discharge of human waste on tracks, significant efforts have been put in by Railways for elimination of the problem in phased manner by introduction of bio-toilets in Railway coaches.

Clearance for railway over-bridge projects

892. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to take any steps to expedite clearances for railway over-bridge projects;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such steps will sidestep the processes currently in place that ensure due diligence in the entire process of granting clearances;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including steps to address such concerns; 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) Ministry of Railways has already taken various steps to expedite the clearances of ROB.

Procedure for sanction of ROB:

- I. ROB are constructed in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) in a phased manner based on the quantum of traffic density.

Criteria for replacement of LCs by ROB/RUB:

(A) On cost sharing basis:

1. Level crossings with Train Vehicle Units (TVU) more than 1 lakh qualify for replacement by ROB/RUB on cost sharing basis.
2. Level Crossings in the following areas with TVU less than 1 lakh can also be considered for replacement by ROB/RUB on cost sharing basis under following conditions:
 - Suburban sections having high frequency of train services;
 - Near stations where detentions to road traffic are very high on account of either shunting operations or multi directional receipt/despatch of trains or stabling of trains etc. and
 - Wherever Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) running parallel to Indian Railways, all LCs are being eliminated by ROB/RUBs.

- (B) If the quantum of road traffic is less than 1 lakh then such LCs may be replaced by ROB by sponsoring agency on deposit terms *i.e.* the sponsoring agency has to bear the complete cost of construction and maintenance thereof.

- II. While sanctioning the construction of ROB in lieu of LCs on cost sharing basis, State Government has to give consent for:
- closure of LC after commissioning of ROB/RUB,

- sharing of cost
 - Providing encumbrance free land on approaches
 - Undertaking the maintenance, lighting and drainage work after completion of ROB/RUBs
 - Providing diversion route to road traffic to facilitate construction.
- (c) Such procedure will not side step the process currently in place. However, the construction of ROB mainly depends on positive cooperation from the State Government and most of the time progress of ROB/RUB is hampered because of:
- late sanction of corresponding work in the State Budget
 - inadequate fund allocation by the State Government
 - non-submission of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and estimate by the State Government
 - frequent changes in alignment of approaches
 - late finalisation of tender for the work of approaches
 - non-availability of encumbrance free land for construction of approaches
 - not providing undertaking to maintain road and drainage in future for RUBs
 - delay in providing consent of closure of level crossings.
- (d) Railway has taken pro-active measures in close coordination with various stake holders for expeditious clearance of ROB projects:
- joint survey with all concerned including State Government to finalise the tentative GAD.
 - circulation of check list and guidelines for preparation of GAD to State Government to avoid any back reference from Railway to State Government
 - standardization of drawings for various spans to avoid delay in designing
 - nomination of nodal officer for single window clearance of GAD from Railway side
 - use of pre-cast/pre-fabricated components of the bridge.
 - engaging single agency for construction of Railway Bridge as well as the approaches.
- (e) Does not arise.

Emergency quota for railway ticket confirmation

893. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and criteria being adopted in release of emergency quota for railway ticket confirmation;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the requests of Members of Parliament in this regard are not being acceded to; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Emergency quota is released in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. While the requests received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament for their self travel are complied with, in case of requests forwarded by them for other than self travel, at times, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests when the demand exceeds the availability.

Railway connectivity

†894. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Railway Budget 2010-11, the then Minister of Railways had announced construction of Guna-Siroj railway line;

(b) whether progress has been made on the said line;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government has plan to link Panna-Khajuraho by railway line; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a survey for construction of a new line between Guna-Aron-Sironj-Vasoda-Vidisha (120 km) was announced

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by Hon'ble MR in the Railway Budget for the year 2010-11. The survey has been taken up and expected to be completed by March, 2013.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Panna-Khajuraho is a part of ongoing Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho (541 kms) new line project.

Railway line connectivity

†895. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Raisen and Siroj-Guna railway line in Madhya Pradesh has so far not been connected to Bhopal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is planned to link this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A survey for construction of a new line between Guna-Aron-Sironj-Vasoda-Vidisha (120 km) was included in the Railway Budget for the year 2010-11. The survey has been taken up and expected to be completed by March, 2013.

Alignment and alterations of railway tracks

896. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether alignment and alterations of railway tracks is being carried out by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise and State-wise, particularly in the agency areas, from Vizianagaram to Warangal belt in Andhra Pradesh in the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the funds earmarked and spent, so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Alignment and alteration of track structure are being carried out, where necessary, during maintenance and track renewals.

(b) and (c) Zone-wise details of track renewals during the Eleventh and first year of Twelfth Five Year Plan are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(I) Progress of Track Renewals

		[In CTR (Complete Track Renewal) units]						
Railway		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto September, 2012)	
		XI Plan						XII Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Central Railway	405	360	239	253	196	88		
Eastern Railway	218	163	168	190	197	101		
East Central Railway	252	231	226	213	196	96		
East Coast Railway	117	74	48	36	44	30		
Northern Railway	597	541	678	654	714	311		
North Central Railway	376	322	259	286	248	107		
North Eastern Railway	138	138	192	134	117	23		
Northeast Frontier Railway	129	164	149	84	85	14		
North Western Railway	237	143	162	133	59	35		
Southern Railway	171	219	199	155	170	78		
South Central Railway	401	361	406	335	331	158		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
South Eastern Railway	125	260	224	190	190	101
South East Central Railway	80	83	72	81	90	56
South Western Railway	113	126	180	102	127	36
Western Railway	363	338	352	327	278	87
West Central Railway	279	319	285	292	257	95
(II) Funds earmarked						
(Rs. in crores)						
Railway	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 XI Plan	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 XII Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Railway	400.00	540.00	352.30	467.00	375.00	492.00
Eastern Railway	241.52	190.00	223.68	250.00	375.00	374.00
East Central Railway	235.00	225.00	347.68	320.00	270.00	331.00
East Coast Railway	203.19	220.00	187.46	180.00	150.00	201.00
Northern Railway	509.23	600.00	593.47	625.00	625.00	760.00
North Central Railway	347.11	325.00	374.37	470.00	415.00	544.00
North Eastern Railway	170.86	185.00	142.00	110.00	160.00	152.00
Northeast Frontier Railway	220.34	135.00	228.26	160.00	170.00	183.00

North Western Railway	208.15	300.00	252.30	240.00	170.00	135.00
Southern Railway	220.00	260.00	296.73	250.00	250.00	408.00
South Central Railway	328.60	400.00	500.00	425.00	560.00	679.00
South Eastern Railway	229.06	250.00	367.00	280.00	370.00	453.00
South East Central Railway	147.22	150.00	179.71	150.00	195.00	212.00
South Western Railway	125.00	260.00	200.00	150.00	160.00	204.00
Western Railway	359.73	220.00	500.00	473.00	320.00	428.00
West Central Railway	410.00	430.00	380.00	440.00	381.00	429.00
(III) Details of Expenditure						
Railway	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
						(upto October, 2012)
			XI Plan			XII Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Railway	480.69	526.37	318.14	397.89	353.78	124.90
Eastern Railway	243.07	279.51	247.61	325.83	343.13	168.70
East Central Railway	286.18	303.37	150.64	312.79	340.44	164.93
East Coast Railway	177.45	200.50	145.99	182.38	167.45	69.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Railway	436.49	411.28	556.04	738.13	776.17	516.42
North Central Railway	368.34	416.91	224.22	456.17	437.03	235.39
North Eastern Railway	144.05	167.11	136.09	114.58	163.11	92.90
Northeast Frontier Railway	197.33	237.81	194.48	176.16	178.40	111.67
North Western Railway	144.92	240.39	112.85	170.56	151.74	50.39
Southern Railway	250.03	335.10	265.41	227.80	294.17	245.83
South Central Railway	471.94	589.40	449.58	464.41	648.10	282.18
South Eastern Railway	291.16	349.15	364.54	334.64	391.80	206.95
South East Central Railway	160.59	149.65	134.79	143.56	155.31	131.11
South Western Railway	135.71	272.32	129.48	135.19	170.35	118.65
Western Railway	299.29	336.10	384.61	434.29	340.43	261.12
West Central Railway	386.13	426.55	283.36	365.12	364.00	230.21

Centres for railway information systems

897. DR V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of staff/employees posted and working in the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS);

(b) the total number of projects undertaken/completed by CRIS during last three years and the number of projects presently under execution, separately;

(c) whether there are any guidelines/norms/ratio for the staff/employees required *vis-a-vis* the number of projects undertaken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Total number of staff/employees posted and working in CRIS are 822.

(b) 21 projects were undertaken (started) by CRIS in the last three years (*i.e.* 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12), to date. 8 projects were completed in the last three years and 42 projects are currently under execution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) General Guidelines are:

Project Managers and staff are placed in each project group based on the specific requirements of the project. The number and type of human resources required for each project depends on its specific development/implementation model, as well as the stage at which the project is in its lifecycle. The overall number of staff/employees depends on the requirements of each individual project.

Kollam-Nagercoil MEMU service

898. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kollam-Nagercoil MEMU service has started;

(b) if not, by when it would be started;

(c) whether the rakes have been allotted for this service; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) Necessary instructions have been issued to Southern Railway for introduction of 66304/66305 Kollam-Nagercoil MEMU (6 days a week) and one MEMU rake with 2 Motor Coaches+6 Trailer Coaches has been allotted to Southern Railway for this purpose.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

899. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of survey reports for gauge conversion in Gujarat are vetted with Zonal Railway, as on date;

(b) when did Zonal Railway submit these survey reports to Railways and Planning Commission for further action; and

(c) the progress made to provide broad-gauge connectivity to Amreli, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) During the last 3 years, surveys for 7 number of gauge conversion projects falling fully/party in State of Gujarat have been carried out by the concerned Zonal Railway and survey reports submitted to this Ministry. Some of the proposals were sent to Planning Commission for according 'In Principle' approval.

(c) Survey for gauge conversion of Khijadiya-Amreli-Visavadar-Junagarh (146.41 km) has been completed in December' 2011. As per survey report, the cost of conversion of 146.41 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 580.12 crore with rate of return (ROR) of 0.34%. However, concerned Zonal Railway has been advised for re-casting/updating of the project report.

Rail Tariff Authority

900. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Rail Tariff Authority in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the jurisdiction and other powers of the said Authority have been finalized;

(d) if so, the details in this regards; and

(e) the time by which the said Authority would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) The view that an independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority needs to be constituted for *inter alia* regulating tariff setting on Indian Railways has been articulated in various quarters. Its pros and cons as well as the modalities of constituting such a body, including its composition, role, and responsibilities are being evaluated. The exercise is presently at an exploratory stage and does not yet constitute a proposal for or against the setting up such an Authority.

Protection of premises and assets of railways

901. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any stringent measures to prevent crime in and around railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of special powers conferred on the Government Railway Police in order to protect the premises and assets of Railways from anti-social elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Prevention of crime against passengers, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in and around Railway station are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). However, Railway Protection Force supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police by deploying their staff for access control duty at major and sensitive Railway station premises and for escorting of important trains in affected sections.

(c) The Government Railway Police is already vested with legal powers under various Laws/Acts including the Railways Act 1989 to tackle such crimes.

Train ticket booking

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

- (a) the action Railways are proposing to make internet bookings more seamless and comparable with airlines bookings;
- (b) the reasons Railways are not starting booking on mobile phone platform; and
- (c) the reasons Railways are not adopting recharge coupon mode to pay for the tickets through mobile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website has provided increased convenience to passengers in booking of reserved tickets. During the month of October 2012, on an average approximately 3.74 lakh tickets were booked daily online through the website of IRCTC.

The following measures have been taken to improve the performance of the IRCTC website:

- High capacity servers have been installed
- Internet Bandwidth has been increased
- 42 options for online payment have been made available
- For increasing public access to e-ticketing and facilitating load balancing on the IRCTC server, the opening of Tatkal tickets has been shifted from 0800 hours to 1000 hours
- Agents have been restricted from booking tickets on internet between 0800 hours and 1200 hours

These measures are part of a continuous and dynamic process of improving the internet based ticketing system of Indian Railways.

(b) Booking of reserved tickets through Mobile Phone is already available through the IRCTC portal. In the month of October 2012, about 31457 e-tickets were booked by individual users on Mobile phones.

(c) Recharge coupon mode has not been considered as a payment option for internet ticketing at present. For booking tickets through mobile phones, various modes of payment namely Credit Cards, Debit Cards and IMPS (Interbank Mobile Payment System) are available.

Dedicated freight corridors

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

- (a) the status of Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor projects;
- (b) the reasons for their delay;
- (c) the details of the input cost estimated in 2005 and current expected cost; and
- (d) the steps Government has taken to meet the target and their timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The details regarding Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project are as under:

(i) Western DFC

The alignment of entire Western DFC has been finalized. Western DFC is 1499 kms. long and extends from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Tughlakabad/Dadri near Delhi. Construction work of 54 major and important bridges in Vaiterna-Bharuch section of Western DFC has been undertaken through Indian Railways' own resources and is in progress.

On the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) funded portion, Pre-Qualification (PQ) for civil and track works for packages I & II (Rewari - Iqbalgarh, 625 km) of phase I has been completed.

(ii) Eastern DFC

The alignment of entire Eastern DFC has been finalized. 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' own 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) has been 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).

As on 31.10.2012 out of total land of 10667 hectares to be acquired for Eastern and Western DFC, Award under section 20 F of Railway Amendment Act 2008 has been declared for 7724 hectares (72%).

(b) The project was targeted for completion by December 2016. The target has now been shifted to March, 2017 on account of change in alignment which meant fresh efforts for land acquisition. Delay has also occurred on account of environmental and wildlife clearances, not being readily available.

(c) The estimated cost of the project as per RITES Report of January, 2007 was Rs. 28,181 Crores. The cost estimates have been reassessed and the total project completion cost is estimated at about Rs. 96,000 Crores due to increase in cost of land acquisition, scope of work, technical parameters and soft costs like escalation, interest etc.

(d) The project implementation schedule and timelines are being monitored regularly to ensure timely completion of work.

Railway Safety and Services

904. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that when other countries are busy taking their Railway system into the 21st century, our mail and express trains run below 55 Kilometre Per Hour, besides increase in train accidents, fire on trains and high number of collisions, etc.; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry proposes to give top priority to improve railway safety and quality of railway services, particularly on the 120 stations identified for multi-functional complexes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Indian Railways operate various types of services

including passenger services, Mail/Express services, Superfast train services, Rajdhani/Shatabdi services, Duronto services etc. While speed of certain class of train services is below 55 kmph, Rajdhani/Shatabdi services, Duronto services and Superfast services run at much higher speeds.

Consequential train accidents *i.e.* collisions, derailments, Manned Level Crossing accidents, fire in trains and miscellaneous incidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings have consistently declined from 335 in 2001-02 to 269 in 2002-03, 239 in 2003-04, 169 in 2004-05, 169 in 2005-06, 123 in 2006-07, 129 in 2007-08, 115 in 2008-09, 100 in 2009-10, 93 in 2010-11, and further to 77 in 2011-12.

(b) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System/Anti Collision Device (ACD), etc.

Regarding multi functional complexes, 196 stations have been identified for development of Multi Functional Complexes (MFCs) so far. These have been entrusted to different executing agencies *viz.* IRCON International Limited, RITES Limited, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and Zonal Railways for execution. Once completed, MFCs are expected to raise the level of customer satisfaction through provision of enhanced passenger amenities at stations.

Online reservation of train tickets

905. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in case of tickets not being confirmed, online reservations through IRCTC stand cancelled;

(b) whether Government is aware that the website records an average of 4.47 lakh e-tickets per day since the new timing of tatkal tickets came into force on July 7, as against 3.60 lakh it used to record earlier;

(c) whether Government plans to take any action to address the inconvenience and grievances of passengers with cancelled online tickets;

(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) Yes, Sir. In case of fully waitlisted tickets on which all the passengers are waitlisted, the names of all the passengers booked on that ticket are dropped from the reservation charts and refunds are credited to the respective bank accounts.

(b) The change in the timings of Tatkal was made effective from 10.07.2012. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website recorded its highest booking of 4.95 lakh e-tickets in a single day on 13th July, 2012. The average internet ticket booking was around 3.74 lakh per day in the month of October, 2012.

(c) to (e) Refunds of waitlisted e-tickets are processed by the system and the money is credited automatically into the account of the concerned. For expediting the processing of confirmed e-tickets, on which refunds are sought after chart preparation, the following measures have been taken:

- (i) The EDR (Exceptional Data Report) system has been installed to facilitate faster verification of travel details of passengers.
- (ii) Enhanced Coaching Refund system has been developed by CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems) and implemented over the Zonal Railways to enable faster processing of refund cases.

System improvement based on the customer feedback is a continuous process.

Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sevaks

906. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sevaks (JTBS) Scheme introduced by Government is working satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of SC/ST persons who were appointed as Sevaks under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, 975, Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBSs) are functioning over Indian Railways.

(c) 84 JTBSs belong to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category.

Steps to make Railways disabled friendly

907. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trains and railway stations are adequately equipped for the convenience of persons with disability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is taking steps to make Railways disabled friendly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways have manufactured around 2800 coaches which have suitably designed earmarked compartments and toilets for the needs of persons with disabilities/wheelchair borne passengers. Similarly all A1 and A category stations and platforms are also provided with requisite facilities such as ramps with railings, earmarked parking space, signages, and toilets. Instructions also exist for provision of free of cost wheelchair facility at stations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Production of disabled friendly coach for attaching in Mail/Express trains is continuing. Moreover, Zonal Railways have also been advised to provide 'Battery-operated Vehicles for Disabled and Old Age Passengers' at railway stations through commercial publicity route.

Fog safety devices

908. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have adequate fog safety devices to overcome the problem of visibility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is planning to use any better equipment; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Fog Pilot Assistance System for Safety (Fog Pass) device is under extended performance trials.

(b) and (c) There are issues of reliability and effectiveness to be sorted before this device can be universally adopted for fog safety. The device is under extended trials, during which evaluation and improvement is being done. The details for fog safe device is as under:

Railway	Available	Under Procurement
Northern Railway	670	385
North Eastern Railway	190	110
North Western Railway	124	

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) **On Board Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS):** A pilot project of 50 Route Kilometres has already been commissioned on Southern Railway. Another pilot project of 200 Route Kilometres is under progress on Northern/North Central Railway.

Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) Extensive field trials are proposed through Research Designs & Standards Organisation on nominated sections on different type of rolling stock in operation on Indian Railways.

Incomplete projects in Uttar Pradesh

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

(a) whether there is any action plan of Railways to complete the pending and incomplete projects lying since many years in various districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when these incomplete railway projects will be completed; and

(c) since when implementation on the scheme of running trains from Gonda to Chhapra by electricity is in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) All the sanctioned railway projects of Uttar Pradesh are progressing as per availability of resources. For completion of railway projects, steps have been taken to generate funds through extra budgetary resources, such as participation from State Government, beneficiaries, industries, revival of Capital Fund and execution of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). No separate action plan has been devised to complete ongoing railway projects in the State.

(c) Gonda-Chhapra section is non-electrified section. Operation of trains with electric traction is not operationally feasible at present.

Railway projects in Jharkhand

910. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various railway projects like construction of new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, electrification etc. in progress in Jharkhand;

(b) whether any targets have been fixed for completion of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are proposals for undertaking new projects during the Twelfth Five Year Plan in Jharkhand;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

†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) 8 new lines, 1 gauge conversion, 10 doubling and 3 electrification projects falling fully/partly in Jharkhand have been taken up. Completion of these projects will augment railway network by 1353 km. Outlay of Rs. 574 crore has been provided for these projects during 2012-13. 163 km. of new lines and 32 km. of doubling sections are targeted for completion during 2012-13.

(d) to (f) Projects are undertaken railway-wise and not State-wise. Projects are sanctioned every year depending upon requirement/justification. Details of project to be sanctioned for whole of Twelfth Plan have not been firmed up. However, in 2012-13 *i.e* 1st year of Twelfth Plan, Manoharpur-Bondamunda (30 km.) and Rajkharwan-Chakardharpur (20 km.) doublings have been taken up in the State of Jharkhand.

Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited

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

(a) whether it is a fact that no business has been carried out in Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL), Bihar, during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government contemplates to activate BWEL and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings

912. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents at level crossings have gone up from 12,894 in 2010 to 14,611 in 2011 and would cross 16,000 as per the trends shown in the first six months of 2012;

- (b) if so, the reasons that inspite of modern technology and manning of gates, the number of accidents and deaths are going up at level crossings;
- (c) how his Ministry would address this menace effectively; and
- (d) the break-up of 13,500 unmanned level crossings in the country, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users decreased from 65 in 2009-10 to 48 in 2010-11. However, these incidents increased to 54 in 2011-12. In the current year during 1st April to 15th November, 2012, there have been 34 such incidents at unmanned level crossings in comparison to 30 during the corresponding period of the previous year. Loss of lives in the consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings during the last two years *i.e.* 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from 1st April to 15th November, 2012 is 130, 204 and 90, respectively.

(b) Incidents at unmanned level crossings over Indian Railways are caused mainly due to the negligence of road vehicle users in observing precautions laid down in Motor Vehicles Act while negotiating unmanned level crossings.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Railways to prevent incidents at unmanned level crossings which include ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at these level crossings, public awareness and publicity campaigns through electronic and print media, mass messaging (SMSs) to educate the road users, joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to penalise the erring road users, progressive manning, provision of subway at technically feasible locations, construction of diversion road upto adjacent manned gates/grade separators, Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge, closure of such unmanned level crossings which are having negligible rail/road traffic, etc.

(d) Zone-wise number of unmanned level crossings existing on Indian Railways as on 01.04.2012 is as under:

Railway	Number of Unmanned Level Crossings
1	2
Central	271
Eastern	314

1	2
East Central	724
East Coast	641
Northern	1371
North Central	460
North Eastern	1359
Northeast Frontier	743
North Western	1203
Southern	1005
South Central	873
South Eastern	831
South East Central	534
South Western	657
Western	2343
West Central	201
TOTAL	13530

Scarcity of packaged water

913. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarcity of packaged water has added to the miseries of the vendors at railway stations;

(b) whether vendors have complained that IRCTC is not supplying bottles of 'Rail Neer' according to demand;

(c) whether vendors claim that for inadequate supply, they are neither able to meet the demand nor can sell bottles of other companies not allowed by IRCTC;

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to ensure adequate supply of Rail Neer bottles or permit vendors to sell bottles of other brands; and

(e) the steps taken by Railways to curtail price of packaged Rail Neer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) As per extant policy guidelines wherever Rail Neer packaged drinking water bottles (PDW) is not adequately available, other BIS (Bureau of Indian Standard) approved packaged drinking water bottles having requisite laid down standards, are shortlisted by Zonal Railways and permitted for sale over the Railways. To ensure adequate availability of Rail Neer, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has set up three drinking water plants at Nangloi (Delhi) and Danapur (Bihar) and Palur (Tamil Nadu) for production of 1 litre packaged drinking water bottles. Apart from this, six bottling plants are to be set up by IRCTC at Ambala, Amethi, Mal, Nasik, Farakka and Trivandrum as announced in Railway Budget 2010-11.

(e) The sale price of Rail Neer is based on the cost of production and distribution.

Poor condition of railway stations

914. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many railway stations in Maharashtra that are in a dilapidated condition due to poor maintenance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that shelters on the platform are breaking apart and during rains, water leaks and flows onto the platforms;

(c) if so, the corrective measures Railways would take to improve conditions at the stations; and

(d) if so, the names of those railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) No railway station in Maharashtra is in dilapidated condition. However, repair and maintenance of infrastructure including platform shelters is a continuous process. Corrective action is taken for repairs/rectification whenever deficiencies are noticed either as a result of regular inspections or through public complaints.

Disinvestment in PSUs under Railways

915. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to sell its stakes in Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) and Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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.

Railway infrastructure in NER

916. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that its present infrastructure in all States of the North-Eastern Region (NER) is lagging behind in comparison to rest of the country;

(b) if so, whether Railways have taken up any special package to improve the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Railways in this regard; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Except for Assam, Railway network density in all North Eastern States is lower than the National Average rail network density.

(b) to (e) Railways have taken up projects to connect all State capitals of North Eastern States except Sikkim. Presently 13 new lines, 4 gauge conversion and one doubling project have been taken up in North Eastern Region which on completion will augment railway network by 2520 km in N.E. Region. A Dedicated North East Region Rail Development Fund (NERRDF) has also been created for execution of National Projects of NE Region.

Railway projects in Uttarakhand

917. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of railway projects sanctioned by the Ministry for Uttarakhand, during last three years;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and spent thereon, so far, project-wise;
- (c) the details of delay occurred in implementation/completion of these projects and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to complete these projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Rishikesh-Karanprayag new line work has been sanctioned in Railway Budget 2010-11.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 1.0 crore has been incurred on the project till 31.03.2012. An outlay of Rs. 30 crore has been provided to the work for 2012-13.

(c) and (d) Rishikesh-Karanprayag new line project has not been delayed. The work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for its speedy execution.

Crime and safety concerns under SCR

918. SHRI NANDI YELLIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railway Protection Force had alerted South Central Railway (SCR) authorities several months ago about the rising crime and safety concerns on trains running on Delhi-Chennai route; and
- (b) the full details of various actions taken so far and various steps to be undertaken in the immediate future to curb this menace of safety concern in trains, especially running under and through SCR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Railway Protection Force had alerted South Central Railway authorities to coordinate with the Government Railway Police and Local Police authorities to check rising trend of passenger offences in South Central Railway jurisdiction as prevention of crime against travelling 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). However, there is no serious issue of crime and safety concerns on trains running on Delhi-Chennai route.

The following steps are being taken to curb the menace of crime in South Central Railway:

- Vulnerable trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police in the affected section.
- Close surveillance is kept through CCTV networks against the suspected persons at important railway stations.
- Joint teams of Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police are formed to nab the criminals involved.
- Regular coordination meetings with Government Railway Police and Civil Police are being held by Railway administration to review the crime situation and to take further steps to control crime against passengers.

Blackmarketing of Tatkal tickets

†919. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway employees of various Zones have been found guilty of blackmarketing of Tatkal tickets who used to black the tickets in collusion with private agents;

(b) the details of steps taken to check the blackmarketing of Tatkal tickets;

(c) the number of authorized agents against whom action has been taken till date and the number of railway employees found involved in this misdeed during investigation;

(d) whether blackmarketing of Tatkal tickets is possible without involvement of railway employees; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Some cases of irregularities in issuing of Tatkal tickets, with or without connivance of Railway staff, have been reported. However, since, at present, passengers travelling on Tatkal Tickets are required to show the prescribed proof of identity (in original) as indicated on the ticket during the journey, the scope of misuse of Tatkal scheme has been drastically reduced.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) With a view to ensure that genuine passengers get benefit of the Tatkal Scheme, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Tatkal tickets are issued only on production of a self attested photocopy of one of the 9 prescribed proofs of identity mentioned in the scheme and carrying the same proof of identity during the journey is mandatory. In case of tickets booked through internet, the number and type of proof of identity is indicated at the time of booking such ticket.
- (ii) No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets except special circumstances like late running of train by more than three hours, cancellation of trains.
- (iii.) Duplicate Tatkal tickets are not issued except on payment of full fare.
- (iv) Access to Tatkal bookings has been denied to agents both through internet as well as across the computerized PRS counters between 10.00 hrs and 12.00 hrs.
- (v) A maximum of four passengers are permitted per PNR on Tatkal tickets.
- (vi) The timing of opening of reservation of Tatkal tickets has been changed to 10.00 hours on the previous day of journey instead of 0800 hours as per earlier provision in order to reduce the scope of cornering of tickets by touts and also to balance the load on the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) as well as on internet.
- (vii) In addition to the above, extensive publicity campaign has been launched educating the public about the consequences and legal provisions of travelling on tickets booked in others names.

(c) During the Financial Year 2012-13 (upto October, 2012), 23 authorized agents have been taken up under appropriate provisions of Railway Act/Rules. During the same period, 103 Railway employees found involved in irregularities, have been taken up under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

(d) and (e) Since at present, passengers travelling on Tatkal tickets are required to show the prescribed proof of identity (in original) as indicated on the ticket during the journey, the scope of misuse of Tatkal scheme has been drastically reduced. However, whenever any railway official is found in any kind of irregularity, action is taken against the delinquent staff as per Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Safety and security of train passengers

920. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have stepped up security of passengers especially the women, in trains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is lack of coordination between the Railway Protection Force and the Government Railway Police, so far;

(c) whether Government would ensure better coordination between various forces responsible for safety and security of passengers rather than blaming each other; and

(d) the details thereof and the action likely to be taken at the earliest for safety of passengers, especially the women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Railways maintain regular coordination with Government Railway Police and Civil Police at various levels. Coordination meetings are being held with Government Railway Police by Director General/Railway Protection Force, General Managers/Chief Security Commissioners of Railway Protection Force and Divisional Railway Managers/Sr. Divisional Security Commissioners to enhance security of Passengers especially the women in trains. Hence the question of blaming each other does not arise.

However, 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.

Scarcity of passenger coaches

†921. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of passenger coaches and use of defective and old passenger coaches may be risky for passengers and employees;
- (b) if so, the approximate number of passenger coaches falling short in the country, as on date, along with details of such defective passenger coaches which are being used even after expiry of their life term;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is considering to establish any other manufacturing plant for passengers coaches; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the latest status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) There is no shortage of passenger coaches for the scheduled train services. Only coaches fit in all respects after thorough examination are attached in train services.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details of sanctioned new coach factories are as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (i) Diesel Multiple Unit Factory,
Haldia | : | Construction of shed for
manufacturing Diesel
Multiple Unit has been
completed. |
|---|---|--|

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| (ii) Rail Coach Factory,
Palakkad, Kerala | : | Land for the project has been acquired from Government of Kerala. |
| (iii) Rail Coach Factory,
Kanchrapara | : | Required Railway land for the project has been indentified and taken in possession. |

Deaths at unmanned level crossings

922. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that differences on technical and financial issues have delayed construction of rail over bridges at many places in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that as many as 14,611 people were killed at unmanned level crossings and railway tracks during 2011 and the death toll in the current calendar year is more alarming; 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) Differences on technical and financial issues have delayed the construction of some rail over bridges as smooth construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) mainly depends upon sorting out of various issues between Railways and the State Government. Some of the major issues are:

- timely sanction of corresponding work in the State Budget
- proper fund allocation
- timely submission of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and estimate by the State Government
- finalization of approved alignment and finalization of tender for the work of approaches
- making encumbrance free land available for construction of approaches
- undertaking by the State Government to maintain road and drainage in future for RUBs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Number of persons killed on unmanned level crossings and railway tracks during the year 2011-12 and the current year upto September, 2012 is

Year	No. of deaths	
	UMLC	Rly. Track
2011-12	202	14611
2012-13	71	15934

Employment to persons whose land acquired for railway projects

923. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to provide employment to 1400 persons whose land have been acquired for Rail Coach Factory, Raibareilly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the same principle would be applied for all land-losers, whose land has been taken over by Railways; and

(c) if so, the number of persons to be provided with such employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Policy of providing employment to land losers has been in existence since 1.1.1983. This was revised on 16.7.2010. Prior to 16.7.2010, employment was considered on case to case basis. Whereas, in terms of the new policy, all land losers are to be considered for employment. In case of Rail Coach Factory, Raibareilly, the policy of 1983 was applied.

(c) The process of acquisition of land is a continuous process over a long period of time. Therefore, the number of persons in absolute terms cannot be specified.

Tatkal tickets

924. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that touts book Tatkal tickets in the name of fictitious persons and genuine passengers are deprived of this benefit;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that genuine passengers get benefit of this scheme; and

(c) the action taken by Government against touts and railway employees who are indulging in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) At present, passengers travelling on Tatkal Tickets are required to show the prescribed proof of identity (in original) as indicated on the ticket during the journey. This has drastically reduced the scope for misusing the Tatkal Scheme.

(b) With a view to ensure that genuine passengers get benefit of the Tatkal Scheme, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Tatkal tickets are issued only on production of a self attested photocopy of one of the 9 prescribed proofs of identity mentioned in the scheme and carrying the same proof of identity during the journey is mandatory. In case of tickets booked through internet, the number and type of proof of identity is indicated at the time of booking such ticket.
- (ii) No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets except special circumstances like late running of train by more than three hours, cancellation of trains, etc.
- (iii) Duplicate Tatkal tickets are not issued except on payment of full fare.
- (iv) Access to Tatkal bookings has been denied to agents both through internet as well as across the computerized PRS counters between 10.00 hrs. and 12.00 hrs.
- (v) A maximum of four passengers are permitted per PNR on Tatkal tickets.
- (vi) The timing of opening of reservation of Tatkal tickets has been changed to 10.00 hours on the previous day of journey instead of 0800 hours as per earlier provision in order to reduce the scope of cornering of tickets by touts and also to balance the load on the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) as well as on internet.
- (vii) In addition to the above, extensive publicity campaign has been launched educating the public about the consequence and legal provisions of travelling tickets booked in other names.

(c) Railway employees who are indulging in malpractices in reservation offices in connivance with Touts are taken up sternly under Discipline and Appeal Rules. Touts so apprehended are dealt with as per extant provisions of Railway's Act 1989.

Safety standards

925. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Railways are in a poor state with elementary safety standards being neglected;

(b) if so, the details of total train accidents occurred during last three years;

(c) the total compensation given to the families of those killed or injured; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for the safety and development of Railways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Safety standards adopted by Indian Railways are followed rigorously and meticulously.

(b) During the last three years, *i.e.* 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12, there have been 100, 93 and 77 consequential train accidents (excluding cases of trespassing at unmanned level crossings) over Indian Railways, respectively.

(c) The compensation given by the Indian Railways for death/injury in train accidents (under Section 124 of the Indian Railways Act, 1989) during the last three years is as under:

2009-10 - Rs. 265.81 lakhs

2010-11 - Rs. 585.79 lakhs

2011-12 - Rs. 497.71 lakhs

(d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, and inspections at regular

intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System/Anti Collision Device (ACD), etc.

Cost escalation due to delays

926. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects of Railways that have undergone cost escalation due to delay;
- (b) the details of total extra expenditure due to delay in projects;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to reduce delays and control cost escalations;
- (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) to (e) Cost escalation of railway projects is on account of large shelf of ongoing projects having huge throwforward with limited availability of resources. As a result, funds are thinly spread out thus prolonging period of completion. Depending upon their relative priority, projects get completed.

The extra expenditure being incurred by Railways cannot be quantified in real terms as escalation depends on various factors every year. As on 01.04.2012, Railways have 347 ongoing projects under New Lines, Gauge Conversions and Doubling having a throwforward of about Rs.1.47 Lakh Crore. Apart from fund constraints, following factors also contribute to delay in execution of projects:

- (i) Delays in land acquisition and forestry clearances;
- (ii) Adverse law and order condition and other market forces;
- (iii) Failure of contracts;
- (iv) Technological changes, improved standard of construction and other changes in scope of work due to change in traffic pattern etc which could not be anticipated at the time of sanction of project.

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, execution of projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited on SPV basis etc.

Efforts made by Railways have started giving results. On the request of railway, 10 State Governments have come forward for sharing cost of 4760 Km of projects. 5 projects have been taken up with participation of industry/stakeholders.

Besides, to reduce delays on account of land acquisition, security issues and forestry clearances etc, meetings with State Officials at various levels are held from time to time. Field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers and the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management. Security, land acquisition and environment issues are also taken up with State Governments and Ministry of Environment and Forest for early approvals.

Incident of molestation in Yeshwantpur-Mysore Express

927. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 19 year old girl was molested and thrown out of Yeshwantpur-Mysore Express in July, 2012;

(b) if so, the steps Railways have taken for security of passengers in general and particular in this case;

(c) whether any compensation has been given to the victim;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Railways are considering to draft a policy to provide compensation to victims if any incident happens in the train during travelling; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government Railway Police/Mysore has registered a case vide crime no. 43/2012 under section 354, 307 read with 34 Indian Penal Code and 152 the Railways Act and arrested all the four persons involved in the incident.

(b) Prevention of crime, 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 Police, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the state concerned. As such the cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police (GRP) by taking the following measures:

1. 1275 trains are escorted by RPF daily on an average, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States.
2. An Integrated Security System consisting of electronic surveillance of vulnerable stations through CCTV camera network, access control, anti-sabotage checks has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 202 sensitive and vulnerable Railway stations.
3. Regular coordination meetings are held with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by Government Railway Police (GRP).
4. Passenger awareness programmes are organized frequently to sensitize the travelling public about the modus operandi adopted by the criminals to fleece the passengers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Compensation for death/injury in train accidents/untoward incidents as defined under section 124/124-A of the Railways Act, 1989, is paid by the Railways after a claim filed by the claimant in the Railways Claims Tribunal is decreed by the Tribunal in favour of the claimant and decree so awarded is satisfied by the Railways. As no compensation claim case has been reported to be filed by the complainant so far, no compensation has been paid by the Railways.

(e) and (f) The liability of Railways for payment of compensation to the victims of train accidents/untoward incident has already been defined under section 124/124-A of the Railways Act, 1989.

Improvement in railways

928. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government is planning to appoint Rail Tariff Authority to fix tariffs;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is wide scope of improvement in railways; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The view that an independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority needs to be constituted for inter alia regulating tariff setting on Indian Railways has been articulated in various quarters. Its pros and cons as well as the modalities of constituting such a body, including its composition, role, and responsibilities are being evaluated. The exercise is presently at an exploratory stage and does not yet constitute a proposal for or against the setting up such an Authority.

(c) and (d) Improvement/augmentation of infrastructure and amenities for rail users is an ongoing process. Significant network augmentation, operational improvements and provision of passenger amenities besides technological upgradation and modernization is envisaged in the Twelfth plan period.

Amendment in the collection of Statistics Act

929. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the official figures provided by Government seem to have little or no look with the reality;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking for speedy amendments in the Collection of Statistics Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government of India has a well-organized system for collection of data. The system is operated through highly trained and skilled personnel at different levels and uses techniques and built-in checks and balances for ensuring data reliability taking in to account all the factors which are relevant for maintaining quality of data collected, compiled and made available to the public.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 has already been notified on repealing the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953. This Act has been implemented in entire country except Jammu and Kashmir with effect from 11th June, 2010. The Collection of Statistics Rules, 2011 framed under this Act has also been notified for systematic and timely collection of reliable and relevant data. This Act has considerably improved and enhanced the ambit and scope for collection of equality statistics/data as compared to the old Act of 1953. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has also enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Collection of Statistics Act, 2010 on the line of this Central legislation.

Furnishing of utilization certificate regarding MPLADS Fund

930. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any directive for furnishing of a utilization certificate within a stipulated period by the concerned District Magistrate to the Centre after utilization of MPLADS funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) It has been laid down in MPLADS guidelines that on completion of a work, the Implementing Agency shall quickly finalize the accounts for that work and shall furnish a work completion report and utilization certificate and return the un-utilized balance (savings) and interest thereon within 30 days of completion of work to the District Authority concerned. The District Authority is required to furnish a consolidated Utilization Certificate for the constituency/Rajya Sabha MP every year to the State Government and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2011-12) of BCPL, Guwahati and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), Guwahati, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7502/15/12]

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

I Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development

II Reports and Accounts (2010-11) of various Institutions, Schools and Councils and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy), under Section 38 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009:—
 - (1) S.O. 2165 (E), dated the 13th September, 2012, regarding grant of relaxation to the State of Uttar Pradesh in respect of minimum qualification laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education for appointment as a teacher.
 - (2) S.O. 2389 (E), dated the 8th October, 2012, regarding grant of relaxation to the State of Nagaland in respect of minimum qualification laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education for appointment as a teacher.
 - (3) S.O. 2512 (E), dated the 17th October, 2012, regarding grant of relaxation to the State of Uttarakhand in respect of minimum qualification laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education for appointment as a teacher.
 - (4) S.O. 2513 (E), dated the 17th October, 2012, regarding grant of relaxation to the State of Himachal Pradesh in respect of minimum

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

qualification laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education for appointment as a language teacher. [Placed in Library. For Sr. No. (1) to (4) *See* No. L.T. 7642/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna, for the year 2011-12.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7638/15/12]
 - (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Vijayawada, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above School.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7636/15/12]
 - (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7639/15/12]
 - (iv) (a) Annual Report of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, for the year, 2011-12 and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Statement by Government accepting the above Reports mentioned at (iv) (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7637/15/12]
-

...(Interruptions)...

**RE: ALLEGED UNPARLIAMENTARY REMARKS BY A MEMBER
AGAINST OPPOSITION MEMBERS**

[illegible]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will give you time. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give you time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

[illegible]

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, you are also a Member of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

[illegible]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can raise it in a proper way, not this way.
 ...(Interruptions)...

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want, you can raise it in a proper way.
...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member is not here. Why do you raise it now? ...*(Interruptions)*... He is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAI AH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, you just guide the House now.
...(*Interruptions*)...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Rudy, you have made your point. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am only saying ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Minister wishes to say something.

[illegible]

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

AOR: EO "Pau KAWO (XOEO): QOR •OR, +TO oTOO pOOOQO Ou,ü AOOuÖe Aü but you can't
 expect other Members to do that. ...(*Interruptions*)... Then anybody can say any-
 thing about anybody else. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Gupta. ...*(Interruptions)*...

[illegible]

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అంబేద్కర్ గారికి తగిన గౌరవం కల్పించాలి. ...

అంబేద్కర్ "మరిగొట్టిన" అని అంటే అది సరికాదు. ... but how can he blame others? ...*(Interruptions)*...

అంబేద్కర్ గారికి తగిన గౌరవం కల్పించాలి.

అంబేద్కర్ గారికి తగిన గౌరవం కల్పించాలి. ...

అంబేద్కర్ గారికి తగిన గౌరవం కల్పించాలి. ...

అంబేద్కర్ గారికి తగిన గౌరవం కల్పించాలి. ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, with regard to this matter, since many hon. Members have raised this matter and the matter concerns a Member of this House, we should give an opportunity to the Member to have his say before myself making any comment on that. So, if the Members so decide, he could come here and make a statement.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, what if he does not come?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then there is a course of action to be taken.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, you should call him here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already said. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Even you are a part of this House, Sir. He cannot use such derogatory language against Members of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have stated my position. If the Members so desire, he can come and provide an explanation, since all Members have raised concern.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, what would happen if he does not come here?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, as you know, there is a rule to be followed in that case. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, let us continue with Papers to be Laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE - *contd.*...

Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MILIND DEORA): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. G.S.R. 680 (E), dated the 12th September, 2012, publishing the use of low power devices or equipments for indoor applications in the 433 to 434 MHz frequency range (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2012, under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and sub-section (4) of Section 10 of Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7656/15/12]
- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications), under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—
 - (1) No. 416-1/2010-I & FN, dated the 18th September, 2012, publishing the Intelligent Network Services in Multi Operator and Multi Network Scenario (Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
 - (2) F. No. 409-3/2011-I & FN, dated the 18th September, 2012, publishing the Telecommunication Interconnection (Port Charges) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
 - (3) No. 116-15/2012-MN, dated the 19th September, 2012, publishing the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
 - (4) No. 14-07/2012-F & EA, dated the 15th October, 2012, publishing the Reporting System on Accounting Separation (Amendment) Regulations, 2012.

[Shri Milind Deora]

- (5) F. No. 416-3/2010-I & FN, dated the 19th October, 2012, publishing the International Telecommunication Access to Essential Facilities at Cable Landing Stations (Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
- (6) No. 308-5/2011-QOS, dated the 22nd October, 2012, publishing the Telecom Consumers Protection (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2012. [Placed in Library. For Sr. No. (1) to (6) See No. L.T. 7657/15/12]

Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Agriculture Produce Grading and Marking Act, 1937, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation):—

- (1) G.S.R. 711 (E), dated the 24th September, 2012, publishing the Spices Grading and Marking Rules, 2012.
- (2) G.S.R. 771 (E), dated the 18th October, 2012, publishing the Saffron Grading and marking rules, 2012. [Placed in Library. For Sr. No. (1) to (2) See No. L.T. 7621/15/12]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that a letter has been received from Shri S.M. Krishna stating that due to his personal commitments, he is unable to attend the sittings of the House. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence from 29th November to 18th December, 2012 of the current (227th) Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from 29th November to 18th December, 2012 of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth
report of department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Information Technology**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): Sir, I lay a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on "Disbursement of wages to Labourers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act by Post Offices" pertaining to the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the matters to be raised with permission—Zero Hour. Shri K.N. Balagopal; not present. Now, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

**Recent suicides committed by students for formation
of separate Telangana State**

[illegible][illegible]

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Special Mentions. After a long time, we are getting it. Shri Prabhat Jha; not present. Now, Shri M. Rama Jois.

Demand for withdrawing proposal to dispose solid nuclear waste from Kudankulam nuclear plant at K.G.F. in Kolar district of Karnataka

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, the news dated 25th November, 2012, that the Central Government proposes to dispose of solid nuclear waste arising from Kudankulam Nuclear Plant of Tamil Nadu producing electricity at K.G.F. in Kolar District of Karnataka is highly disturbing. The most advanced countries like America, Japan, France, etc., which have established nuclear plants for producing electricity, have not been able to solve this problem as solid waste from nuclear plants remain radioactive for 22 thousand years. I came to know of this while writing a foreword to a book entitled 'Toxic Tibet' in which the horror of depositing solid nuclear waste arising from nuclear plants in China in Tibet was exposed as extremely dangerous. Therefore, I demand from the Central Government to withdraw the proposal forthwith.

Demand for making treatment of cancer economical in the country

[illegible][illegible]

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

میری پرزور مانگ ہے کہ وقف سمپٹی کی رکشا کے لئے الپ-سنکھیک منترالیہ سے الگ ایک سوتنتر سنستھا بنائی جائے۔ وقف سمپٹی کو کرائے داری قانون سے الگ کیا جائے۔ وقف بورڈ کے سی۔ای۔او۔ کے عہدے کے لئے الگ سے ڈپٹی کلکٹر اسٹر کے ادھیکاری، راجیوں میں بدستہ کئے جائیں۔ وقف عدالتوں کے سمے۔بدھ فیصلہ کرنے سمبندھی قانون بنایا جائے۔ اس کے علاوہ وقف سمپٹی پر ناجائز قبضے کے دوارا بنائی گئیں عمارتیں، اگر سرکاری ہیں، تو ان کا کرایہ طے کر کے وقف بورڈ کو دیا جائے۔ ساتھ ہی پرائیویٹ ناجائز قبضہ داروں کو دندٹ کیا جائے اور وقفیہ جائیداد کا اعلان کیا جائے۔ دھنیواد۔

(ختم شد)

श्री सी.एम. रामेश (आंध्र प्रदेश): सर, हाल में चक्रवात निलम ने आंध्र प्रदेश के कई जिलों को तबाह कर दिया है, विशेष रूप से तटीय जिलों में जहाँ बाढ़ के कारण खेती के क्षेत्रों में नुकसान हुआ है। यह तीसरा बार है जब किसानों को प्रकृति की क्रूरता का सामना करना पड़ा है। राज्य सरकार का अनुमान है कि अधिकतम आठ लाख हेक्टेयर की फसल, जिसमें धान, कपास, मिरच, तंबाकू, मक्का, आदि, नINETEEN जिलों में नष्ट हो गई है और लाखों लोगों को बेघर कर दिया है। सरकार का अनुमान है कि नुकसान ₹ 1,710 करोड़ है, जो बहुत कम है। वास्तविक नुकसान लगभग ₹ 10,000 करोड़ है। रिपोर्ट है कि अधिकतम 60 लोग और लाखों पशु मारे गए।

Demand for declaring the catastrophe caused by cyclone Nilam in Andhra Pradesh a national calamity.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the recent Cyclone Nilam has battered several districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly the coastal districts which were inundated by swollen rivulets. This is the third time in as many years that farmers of Andhra Pradesh have to face the fury of nature. As per the State's estimate, more than eight lakh hectares of crop consisting of paddy, cotton, mirch, tobacco, maize, etc., in nineteen districts were destroyed and lakhs of people were rendered homeless. The loss estimated by the Government is Rs. 1,710 crores, which is very low. The actual loss is approximately Rs. 10,000 crores. It is reported that more than 60 people and lakhs of livestock died.

Never in the history of the last thirty years has Andhra Pradesh ever witnessed such a ferocious cyclone. Sir, 31 cm of rain in one day recorded in Narsapuram, 27 cm in Amalapuram, 25 cm in Rajahmundry and Yelamanchili give an indication of nature's fury. It is not only crop but 6,800 kilometers of roads, minor and medium irrigation projects, drinking water sources, etc., have also been damaged badly and many power substations have been submerged.

Since the State Government is in severe financial crunch, it is not able to take up any rehabilitation measures.

[Shri C.M. Ramesh]

Looking at the catastrophe, I also request the Government of India to declare this as a national calamity and come to the rescue of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh as they are haplessly looking towards the Government of India for help.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri K.N. Balagopal, absent. Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, absent. Dr. Prabha Thakur.

Demand for strengthening medical facilities by establishing AIIMS like government medical and diagnostic centres in the country

[illegible][illegible]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, not present Shri Darshan Singh Yadav.

Demand for taking steps to remove the social evil of giving death-feast in the country

[illegible]

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SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: This should not have been allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One of you can speak. Your Deputy Leader is speaking.

[illegible]

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, this must be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*...

[illegible]

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, if you are making this as a precedent.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, please expunge it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The statement will be ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Hinduism cannot be targeted like this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I agree with you. We are not expected to denigrate any religion. All faiths and religions should be respected. That is the position of our Constitution. All of us are for that. Mr. Yadav has actually read a statement which has been permitted. Even though it is permitted, the Chair will re-examine it. If there is anything detrimental to any religion or faith, or, if any statement is incorrect, we will re-examine it and correct it.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, thank you very much for saying that the Constitution respects all the religions and no critical references can be made. But, unfortunately, in Mr. Yadav's statement, this very sentiment of the Constitution has been ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What he said is his personal view. If it denigrates ...(Interruptions)... I already said this. ...(Interruptions)... Punjji, I have already said that it is his personal view. However, if it denigrates any religion, it will be looked into again and corrected. I have said that.

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I am absolutely with you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You know all the rules.

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I am hundred per cent with you on your opinion. The entire House is with you. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नजमा अ. हेपटुल्ला: सर, मैं पूरी तरह से आपके साथ हूँ...

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I am only raising an issue on technical grounds. We are asked to give our Special Mention in writing. Every Member has the right to give it in writing. This Special Mention must have been seen by the people concerned in the Table Office or wherever it is. I am not going to name anybody. I am saying this for future. Any Special Mention, which is admitted, or, any matter, which is admitted in the House, should be in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution. That is the only thing I am saying for future.

Demand to consider alternative methods for interlinking of rivers in the country

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, linking of rivers for transfer of water from surplus to deficit basins and mitigating flood damage in surplus basin was considered feasible in 1970s. But, afterwards, some people declared this project as mission impossible. However, there is a way out to make this project feasible as follows. Firstly, all canal links not having tunnel works can be executed for inland water navigation for sea-going vessels up to 3000 MT. This can be achieved through diversion barrages across rivers with water storage up to possible maximum flood level. Link canals should be wide and deep. This does not involve submergence of villages. Such thing was done in the US, Russia and now in China. Secondly, canals can be converted for carrying large quantities of water from surplus to deficit basins. Thirdly, land

[Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy]

acquisition for link canals is very less when compared to 84 big reservoirs proposed earlier. Fourthly, low submersion of villages and less displacement of people. Fifthly, almost all rivers have flood flows during same period of SW monsoon, hence there is no point of transferring flood water during that period. Sixthly, to transfer water, we need to construct major reservoirs to store flood flows in order to transfer water during non-flood days to deficit basins. Thus, river linking previously envisaged can at best be described aptly as construction of major reservoirs in surplus river basins and not construction of river link canals.

I request the Government of India to consider this alternative feasible method for interlinking of rivers in the country.

**Demand to include people from diverse fields while deciding on
setting up nuclear power stations in the country**

ఆంధ్ర ప్రదేశ్ ప్రభుత్వం (శ్రీ పల్వాయి గోవర్ధన్ రెడ్డి): ప్రధానమంత్రిగారు, ప్రభుత్వం ఇటీవల ఉత్తర్వులు జారీ చేసి ఆంధ్ర ప్రదేశ్ లోని 55 ప్రాంతాలలో న్యూక్లియర్ పవర్ స్టేషన్లు నిర్మించాలని ఆదేశించింది. ఈ ప్రాంతాలను ఎంపిక చేసినప్పుడు ప్రజల అభిప్రాయాలను పరిగణనలోకి తీసుకోవడం అవసరం. ప్రభుత్వం ప్రస్తుతం నిర్మించనున్న న్యూక్లియర్ పవర్ స్టేషన్లలో 55 ప్రాంతాలను ఎంపిక చేసింది. ఈ ప్రాంతాలను ఎంపిక చేసినప్పుడు ప్రజల అభిప్రాయాలను పరిగణనలోకి తీసుకోవడం అవసరం. ప్రభుత్వం ప్రస్తుతం నిర్మించనున్న న్యూక్లియర్ పవర్ స్టేషన్లలో 55 ప్రాంతాలను ఎంపిక చేసింది.

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SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): My Special Mention is in regard to the saving of traditional silk industry in Assam.

[Shri Kumar Deepak Das]

The traditional silk industry, that is, Pat and Muga industry, in Assam is facing acute problem for its existence. The first and foremost problem of the industry, in this regard, is the non-existence of price control. There is no price control board to regulate the price of the commodity. It is also seen that a minor increase has been resulted in the price of traditional silk clothes in the last five years. In this era of inflated economy, we can all comprehend how this non increase in the basic prices of the commodity will hit the producers. Major fall out of the non increase of price is degradation in the quality of clothes. There is a complete lack of financial accounting. In the times of globalisation, financial capital accounts for a major role in the establishment of an industry.

While the price of the Muga clothes has not increased substantially, the price of the raw materials has taken a quantum leap. There is monopoly of those who supply these raw materials to the traders. This particular system of monopoly has been holding the aegis of this trade for years now. As a result, prices of raw materials have increased substantially over the years. This has resulted in further degradation of the quality of clothes with many traders using the "torch" as a mixture to the Muga silk. Torch is undistinguishable from Muga silk and thus save costs. The small traders have to resort to the adulteration of traditional clothes. This cartelisation of raw materials has further impeded the growth of this traditional industry.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary steps to save the traditional Muga and Pat industry of Assam; and also protect it from degradation. Thank you very much.

**Demand for taking effective steps to improve the condition
of sanitation in the country**

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, sanitation is one of the benchmarks of a progressive nation. Unfortunately, we have not fared well in this area, despite earnest efforts to better the situation through flagship schemes such as the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme, the Central Rural Sanitation Programme and the Total Sanitation Campaign, which have not been able to address key capacity issues related to provision of basic services and to fulfil their underlying objectives. In such a situation, we need a comprehensive and sustained approach towards developing solid infrastructure.

There is a direct relationship between sanitation and individual health and hygiene. Improper disposal of human excreta and the lack of environmental sanitation and personal hygiene have been major causes of many diseases in developing countries. India is no exception; high mortality rates are a direct example of this. Regrettably, even when there are facilities, they prove, in many cases, to be inconvenient and unhygienic, with limited access, and not operated or maintained properly. Apart from health outcomes, sanitation has a bearing on education, privacy and dignity of people who are deprived of basic sanitation facilities, the long term consequences of which include lower economic productivity in adults.

It is humbly proposed that the Government must examine and organize the revamping of traditional sewerage networks and augment individual and community toilets, which may be done with the assistance of the Panchayati Raj institutions in rural areas and local municipal bodies in urban areas. It is also requested that private sector participation in this sector be extended for increased efficiency.

Demand for taking strict action against people responsible for death of Indian woman in Ireland and granting adequate compensation to her family

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DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, for having given me this opportunity.

I am here to commend this Resolution wholeheartedly. Shri Bhupender Yadav and our learned friend here have both exposed its various contours in a very elaborate and in a very convincing manner. Sir, the main problem is how to make democracy a real democracy, how to ensure that it is really reflective of people's power; it really represents democratism; it represents authority of the poorest of the poor. That is the real crux of the problem, how to make democracy a genuine democracy, a democracy where every man has equal right, equal playfield for

participating in voting procedure. Democracy can't be without election. Election is the grassroot of democracy. Election cannot be fair and free if it is based on caste, if it is based on money power, if it is based on muscle power, if it is based on regionalism and if it is swayed by liquor or any other temptations. The basic effort of this Resolution is to ensure probity, to ensure transparency in the functioning of democracy, and, for that, a potent vehicle is ensuring political funding in a fair and transparent manner. The crux revolves around funding of the political system, and also ensuring the hallmarks of every political representative. He may be an M.P., he may be an MLA, he may be a *Sarpanch*, he may be a *Pradhan* or he may be ordinary *Panch*; he must have four hallmarks, *i.e.*, unbending rectitude, transparent integrity, avowed concern for public good and commitment to the welfare of the *daridranarayan*. Until and unless these four hallmarks are there in every political representative who is elected through the process of free and fair election based on adult franchise—if that is not ensured—then there won't be real democracy, and, for ensuring that, electoral rolls have to be correct, have to be fair.

Another system is ensuring that elections are held at one time. It will be a great thing. It was there earlier. It was in 1952, and later on also when elections of Lok Sabha and elections of *Vidhan Sabhas* were held together at the same time. It saved expenditure; it saved different kind of maladies which arise when elections take place throughout the year. That is one of the recommendations. Sir, with your permission, I will quote what Mahatma Gandhi said about this state of affairs. Sir, he mentioned that we are suffering from seven sins. It was a writing in one of the magazines. I will just quote. It was in 1922 that Mahatma Gandhi in his 'Young India' wrote an article mentioning seven social evils. Number one is, 'politics without principle'. That is the matter with which we are concerned today as far as this Resolution is concerned. This Resolution aims that politics should be with principles. It should not be principle-less, and, as I have already submitted, those principles are : unbending rectitude, transparent integrity, avowed concern for public good, and commitment to the welfare of *daridranarayan*, the last man in the queue.

If that commitment is not there, then politics will be without principles. He further mentioned, 'wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity and worship without sacrifice'. That is the milieu at present, as far as the social structure of India is concerned and as far as the political structure of this great nation is concerned. This Resolution is aimed at somehow improving the scenario. Public

[Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania]

funding in elections and State funding in elections are two different things. There is funding by corporate units or by private people and funding by the State authority. As for figures, I would just quote some figures for funding which has come to the various major parties during the last five years: Congress - Rs. 1,662 crores, BJP - Rs. 852 crores, BSP-Rs. 424 crores, CPI(M)- Rs. 336 crores, SP - Rs. 202 crores and NCP - Rs. 141 crores. These are authentic figures. With this sort of money coming in, what kind of a link does money have with the freedom of the party? Does this money, which comes into the coffers of the big parties restrict their policies? Does it have a kind of hook on them and does it dictate certain factors to them? Until and unless this problem is probed into and resolved, and there is a systematic pattern by which funding by corporates, funding by State and funding by private people is regulated, there would always be the possibility of black money flowing in and unaccounted money being given under the table to parties. This leads to a very great malady. Now, coming to equal or unequal playing ground, it would be interesting to note that as far as this august Rajya Sabha is concerned, it has got 131 *crorepatis*, which means 58 per cent of the people here are moneyed. Billionaires are also included in this group. Also, among us, there are 128 *udyogpatis*, *vyaparis* and builders.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Pilania, there are poor MPs also!

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: That is what I am saying, Sir. Is this a level playing ground? It is a matter to be thought about. There are 128 *udyogpatis*, *vyaparis* and builders here, which means 52 per cent of the total strength of Rajya Sabha, and 41 people have some kind of criminal cases against themselves. What I wanted to say, Sir, is that money power reflects—everywhere in Lok Sabha, in Rajya Sabha—and these statistics are just an example. How to ensure that the poorest man is also able to come here, particularly, where direct elections are held, like in the Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha? Is he able to come here without money? We must assure that, and if he needs money, the State must provide it to him. How that would be done, what should be the mechanism, etc. are matters of detail which need to be looked into by experts, but the need must be felt and a solution must be found.

Sir, the Supreme Court has, in its various judgements, referred to this. The Inderjit Committee, as pointed out by Shri Yadav, has also made a mention of it long back. Shri Dinesh Goswami, the then Law Minister, had also brought forward an Act on this issue.

The Law Commission's 170th Report has also made a mention about it. So, need is felt. Need is very vital. Need is urgent. Some solution must be found. That is the main crux of this Resolution. And, until and unless we ensure transparency in funding, until and unless we ensure *shuchita* in the working of political system, and until and unless we are able to show that there are real limits on expenditure, we will not find that solution. At present, expenditure limits are laid down but they are not followed at all. The expenditure returns, which are filed, are usually bogus. We all know about it. We know about proliferation of black money in politics. We also know about lack of accountability. But, we are publicly not ready to accept it and we are not ready to find a solution also. So, Sir, the main crux of the problem is how to ensure real grass-root democracy in Panchayati Raj, how to ensure electoral roll reforms and how to ensure that elections are at one time and elections are free, elections are fair and there is internal democracy, *antrik loktantra*, in political parties and we are able to say really that we are the people who have enacted this Constitution, we are the people who have adopted it and we are the people who really justify different things given in its Preamble. So, I very strongly support the Resolution and commend it to the House for further consideration and taking action on this. Thank you, your honour.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I want to congratulate Shri Bhupender Yadav for reminding us that we require to be prudent and honest in public affairs. Sir, the Constitution of India says, "We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic". But, the process by which we elect our representatives all over like Vidhan Sabha, Lok Sabha and other institutions, is such a process that it requires so much of money power which fundamentally negates the basis of socialism in our Constitution. So, Sir, to give credence to the Preamble of the Constitution, the very basis of our democracy, that is, the socialist democracy, we must have an electoral system which does not depend on the money power of a few. Now, the corporate houses give money not out of charity, nor to have a berth in the heaven. They want to give money to have a berth here itself. Against each cent that they give, they expect hundred cents in return. So, the moment we go in for corporate funding of elections, that vitiates the whole concept of fair democracy. I was surprised by the point raised by Dr. Pilonia that we have 131 *crorepati* Members here, but I belong to the same group as you have mentioned that there are poor MPs also. I live on my pension. Of course, now, it is also my allowance that I get here. Beyond that, I have no other means of livelihood. But, the point is that corporate funding of election is something I abhor. Long ago Abraham

[Shri D. Bandyopadhyay]

Lincoln had said that he was concerned that American democracy was being controlled by the corporate houses, and if the corporate houses controlled the elections, then the fundamentals of republicanism would be destroyed. So, he was concerned about it even 150 years ago that corporate funding would be destroying American democracy. And, we see today that it is the corporates that make the Americans fight a war here there and elsewhere. It is they who want to do something in which they want to gain.

So, Sir, I fully support the portion of the Resolution that there should be State funding of elections. In that case, corporate houses will not be able to control elected members or a large number of people, and, get their things done.

Sir, for the last few years, we have been swinging between scams and scandals, scandals and scams. If you look at anything, we have been witnessing only that. These scams and scandals can largely be controlled if we have a very fair and clean election, and, people are not obliged to pay back through means other than the straight means to the corporate benefactors who have paid them money to get elected.

Therefore, I fully support the spirit of Resolution moved by hon. Yadavji, and, I leave it to the Government to have a Commission to look into as to what could be done with regard to election funding. So, I am not saying to immediately go for this or that because this is a very important and complicated matter which requires so much of consideration. So, through you, Sir, I request the Government that if they want to bring in probity and honesty in our public life, the electoral process has to be cleansed, and, for that, let there be a high-powered Commission to tell us as to what way we can move forward. Thank you.

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[illegible]

[illegible]

The House then adjourned at forty-six minutes past three of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 3rd December, 2012.

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RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 30th November, 2012/9th Agrahayana, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have received eight notices of motion from different Members under Rule 168 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha on foreign direct investment in multi brand retail sector. I have to inform the House that I have admitted the motion and will allow discussion on the subject. The date and time of the discussion will be decided.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): We wish to convey our gratefulness to hon. Chairman for accepting our request. We are extremely grateful and we wish to assure that we shall be fully cooperating in the running of the House.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

निर्धारित मूल्य से अधिक मूल्य पर दवाओं की बिक्री

*101. श्री राम जेटमलानी: क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अनेक दवा निर्माता कंपनियों ने उपभोक्ताओं को निर्धारित मूल्यों से अधिक मूल्य पर दवाओं की बिक्री की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन कंपनियों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं और प्रत्येक कंपनी कितने समय से अधिक मूल्य वसूल रही है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार इन कंपनियों द्वारा ली गई उक्त अतिरिक्त राशि जुर्माने के साथ वसूल करेगी;

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की है; और

(ङ) उपभोक्ताओं को हुए नुकसान की क्षतिपूर्ति किस प्रकार की जाएगी?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री श्रीकांत जेना): (क) से (ङ) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) जी, हां। अगस्त, 1997 में राष्ट्रीय औषध मूल्य निर्धारण प्राधिकरण (एनपीपीए) की स्थापना से दिनांक 31 अक्टूबर, 2012 की स्थिति के अनुसार ऐसे 885 मामले हैं जिनमें एनपीपीए द्वारा निर्धारित मूल्यों से अधिक मूल्यों पर दवाइयां बेचने के लिए एनपीपीए द्वारा औषधि कंपनियों को 2577.28 करोड़ रुपए की राशि के मांग नोटिस जारी किए गए हैं। अधिक मूल्य वसूल करने के 885 मामलों की कई पृष्ठों वाली भारी-भरकम सूची है। अतः यह सूची (31-10-2012 तक अद्यतन) एनपीपीए की वेबसाइट अर्थात् www.nppaindia.nic.in पर उपलब्ध कराई गई है।

(ग) और (घ) अधिक मूल्य वसूल करने के पुष्ट मामलों में एनपीपीए द्वारा निर्धारित मूल्य से अधिक मूल्य पर दवाइयां बेचकर ली गई अतिरिक्त रकम की वसूली कंपनियों से औषधि (कीमत नियंत्रण) आदेश, 1995 (डीपीसीओ, 1995) के पैरा 13 के अधीन की जाती है। अधिक वसूल की गई रकम पर आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के पैरा 7क के प्रावधानों के अनुसार ब्याज भी वसूली योग्य है। दिनांक 31-10-2012 तक 2577.28 करोड़ रुपए (ब्याज सहित अधिक वसूल की गई रकम) की वसूली के लिए मांग नोटिस जारी किए गए हैं जिसमें से 232.52 करोड़ रुपए की रकम वसूल हो चुकी है और 2260.80 करोड़ रुपए की रकम अभियोजन के अधीन है तथा ये अभियोजन विभिन्न न्यायालयों में विचाराधीन हैं, 16.26 करोड़ रुपए की रकम विभिन्न राज्यों के कलेक्टरों के पास वसूली हेतु लंबित है तथा 67.70 करोड़ रुपए की शेष रकम प्रक्रिया के अधीन है।

(ङ) अधिक मूल्य वसूल करने के परिणामस्वरूप औषधि कंपनियों से वसूल हुई राशि को भारत की समेकित निधि में जमा किया जाता है। अधिक मूल्य वसूल करने के मामलों का पता लगाने की कार्रवाई औषधि कंपनियों को उपभोक्ता से अधिक मूल्य वसूल करने से रोकती है और उपभोक्ताओं के लिए उचित मूल्यों पर दवाइयों की उपलब्धता को सुनिश्चित करती है।

Sale of medicines at prices higher than the fixed price

*101. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many pharmaceutical companies have sold medicines to consumers on much higher prices than their fixed prices;

(b) if so, the names of those companies and the time since when each of them is overcharging;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government would recover excess money charged by these companies along with penalty;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the manner in which consumers would be compensated for the loss they have suffered?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since inception of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in August, 1997, there are 885 cases as on 31.10.2012 where demand notices have been issued by NPPA to the pharmaceutical companies amounting to Rs. 2577.28 Crore for selling the medicines at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. The hard copy of the list of 885 overcharging cases will be very voluminous running into several pages and hence the same (updated upto 31.10.2012) has been made available on the website of NPPA *i.e.* www.nppaindia.nic.in.

(c) and (d) In confirmed cases of overcharging, the excess amount charged by selling medicines at higher price than the price fixed by NPPA is recovered from the pharmaceutical companies under paragraph 13 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). Interest on the overcharged amount is also recoverable as per the provisions of para 7 A of Essential Commodities Act. Till 31.10.2012, demand notice has been issued for Rs. 2577.28 Crore (overcharging along with interest), out of which, Rs. 232.52 Crore has been realized, 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 amount of Rs. 67.70 Crore is under process.

(e) The amount recovered from the pharmaceuticals companies for overcharging is deposited to the consolidated fund of India. The detection of overcharging cases acts as a deterrent to the pharmaceutical companies to charge higher prices from the consumer and it ensures availability of medicines to the consumers at reasonable price.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, will the hon. Minister tell us whether the Department has set up any mechanism for detection of these cases or does it depend upon rare complaints either from customers or some social activists? And if there is a mechanism, kindly describe it to us briefly. Let us see how efficacious it is.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, normally, the NPPA used to get the information from different State Drug Controllers. The NPPA also often goes to the market to purchase the sample copy and the MRP and apart from that, the NPPA also used to get information from any citizen at any time and on the basis of that information, the NPPA acts.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I believe that overcharging is also a criminal offence. Have you prosecuted any one so far?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, I have said in the statement itself that we have charged nearly Rs. 2,577 crore and realisation is up to Rs. 232 crore.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: That is your recovery by settlement, I also want to know that. Did you prosecute anybody and then settled the matter or did you just settle them?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: No prosecution; it is recovery. That is available in the DPCO. On the basis of the Essential Commodities Act, we charge them and ultimately the recovery takes place. And if recovery is late, then 15 per cent interest is also charged and on the basis of that, we recover the amount that is overdue on them.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Minister, I would really appreciate if you appreciate the spirit of this question. It is not a question of overcharging simpliciter. The larger issue is availability of cheap drugs to poor people who keep on suffering. In view of the opening up of the economy, what is very important is the insistence upon patenting. It will have a cascading effect as far as availability of drugs is concerned. What steps is the Government taking to ensure that cheap life-saving drugs are indeed available to patients in the country?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, there are two things. One issue is, the drugs which are under price control are available to the patients at the price that is determined and fixed by NPPA. Sometimes, the companies do charge more than the prescribed MRP. There comes the NPPA. It prosecutes and charges them. The second aspect is availability of drugs. Availability is more important.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I asked about patent and consequences thereof. Please respond to that.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The patent law is totally different because there are certain norms on which the patented drugs are sold in the market. Any patented drugs being imported to India, the landing cost and the MRP are determined by the companies. There, the landing cost price is determined by the companies which are bringing in the patented drugs. Therefore, we have very little role in the price of patented drugs. The policy is, landed cost will be calculated on the price they fix themselves. They don't disclose it to us, what exactly the price is. Now, under the new policy we are hoping that 33 life saving cancer drugs will be brought under this policy which is not under the patented drugs, but those drugs are half patented; and those could be brought under the price control. We have taken that action.

DR K.P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, most of the life-saving medicines pertaining to heart diseases and renal failure are highly priced which are beyond the reach of the poor and middle class people. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has any plan to reduce the price of life saving drugs; if so, which are the medicines going to be subsidised.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: in fact, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has given a list of 348 bulk drugs. They have notified that these are NLEM drugs which need to be brought under price control. There, these kinds of essential drugs are also included. On the basis of that, 614 formulations are brought under the price control. Recently, the Cabinet has taken a decision approving the New Pricing Policy which I hope will be placed before the House once it comes to the Department. Most probably, we will be laying it in the House next week. There we have taken care of drugs which are essential and notified by the Health Ministry. Those drugs will come under the price control.

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: सर, अभी मंत्री जी ने यह कहा कि फार्मस्यूटिकल कंपनियां जो ड्रग्स इम्पोर्ट करती हैं, वे उनकी price declare नहीं करती हैं। How is that possible? What is the Government doing? How could you say that they don't disclose the cost price? What is the problem? How could you give an answer like that?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: In fact, that is the problem we are facing because they are protected under the patented law. When we posed this question, "Why don't you tell us your cost price?"

MR. CHAIRMAN: It can't be a discussion.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: How are you allowing a drug company to come into the country, which is patented? If the Government asks for the cost price, you come and say that they are not disclosing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a wider discussion.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: As the House knows, the patented drugs are mostly imported. Under the Patents Act, they are protected. The NPPA is regularly in touch with them and are negotiating with them that they should bring down the price. Some times they have brought down the price.

प्रो. एस.पी. सिंह बघेल: सर, दवा की फॉर्मूला के बारे में प्रश्न नहीं पूछा जा रहा है, बल्कि लागत के बारे में पूछा जा रहा है।

श्री श्रीकांत जेना: लागत के बारे में भी पेटेंटेड ड्रग्स का दाम protected है।

श्री सभापति: कृपया बैठ जाइए।

*102. [प्रश्नकर्ता (श्री रशीद मसूद) अनुपस्थित थे।]

ग्रामीण भंडारण योजना के अंतर्गत बनाए गए भंडार-गृह

*102. श्री रशीद मसूद : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मंत्रालय की 'ग्रामीण भंडारण योजना' के अंतर्गत राज्य-वार और वर्ष-वार कितनी-कितनी क्षमता के भंडार-गृह बनाए गए हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने भंडार-गृहों की निर्माण लागत को पच्चीस सौ रुपए प्रति टन से बढ़ाकर पैंतीस सौ रुपए प्रति टन कर दिया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या सरकार ने भंडार-गृहों की निर्माण-लागत में की गई वृद्धि के अनुपात में राजसहायता की राशि में भी संशोधन किया है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार इस पर विचार करेगी और कब तक?

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

विवरण

(क) वर्ष 2001-02 से 2011-12 तक 'ग्रामीण भंडारण योजना' (ग्रामीण गोदाम स्कीम) के अंतर्गत संस्वीकृत गोदामों का राज्यवार और वर्षवार ब्यौरा संलग्न विवरण-1 में दिया गया है। (नीचे देखिए)।

(ख) से (ङ) जी, हां। स्कीम के अंतर्गत गोदामों के निर्माण की लागत को दिनांक 20-10-2011 में संशोधित कर दिया गया है जो 1000 मीट्रिक टन तक की क्षमता वाले गोदामों हेतु 2500 रुपए से बढ़ाकर 3500 रुपए प्रति मीट्रिक टन और 1000 मीट्रिक टन की क्षमता से अधिक वाले गोदामों के लिए 1875 रुपए से बढ़ाकर 3000 रुपए प्रति मीट्रिक टन किया गया है। पूर्वोत्तर सिक्किम और पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के लिए निर्माण की लागत 4000 रुपए प्रति मीट्रिक टन तब बढ़ा दी गई है।

महिला किसानों/अ.जा./अ.ज.जा. उद्यमियों और उनके स्व-सहायता समूहों/सहकारी समितियों के लिए प्रति परियोजना राजसहायता की सीमा को 62.50 लाख रुपए से बढ़ाकर 3.00 करोड़ रुपए कर दिया गया है। इसी प्रकार किसानों, कृषि स्नातकों, सहकारी समितियों एवं केन्द्रीय वेयर-हाउसिंग निगम/राज्य वेयर-हाउसिंग निगमों के लिए प्रति परियोजना राजसहायता को 46.87 लाख रुपए से बढ़ाकर 2.25 करोड़ रुपए कर दिया गया है। अन्य सभी श्रेणियों के लिए प्रति परियोजना राजसहायता की सीमा को 28.12 लाख रुपए से बढ़ाकर 1.35 करोड़ रुपए कर दिया गया है। पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों, सिक्किम और पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के लिए प्रति परियोजना राजसहायता की सीमा को 62.50 लाख रुपए से बढ़ाकर 3.33 करोड़ रुपए कर दिया गया है।

विवरण-I

वर्ष 2001-2002 से 2011-12 की अवधि में ग्रामीण गोदाम स्कीम के अंतर्गत संस्वीकृत क्षमता

(क्षमता मीट्रिक टन में)

क्रम सं.	राज्य	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*	कुल
		क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	क्षमता	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	आन्ध्र प्रदेश	7600	1316450	820510	148913	114450	180836	372461	95845	271983	642382	437253	32982	4441665
2	अरुणाचल प्रदेश	0	0	0	0	0	945	0	0	0	0	0	0	945
3	असम	0	10339	34840	28252	22099	52808	41086	64397	62761	10527	20468	94402	441979
4	बिहार	10100	5450	2100	0	10000	49867	22033	69362	0	18590	105559	72406	365467
5	छत्तीसगढ़	0	393793	147655	230766	47448	0	80488	24096	53990	65550	115586	142292	1301664
6	गोवा	0	0	0	0	0	0	290	0	0	0	0	0	290
7	गुजरात	0	89514	42519	160293	90888	315929	351589	323718	310104	350839	437822	170525	2643740
8	हरियाणा	3100	1118839	39433	258530	70220	26952	166284	293087	452687	396299	565071	623409	4013911
9	हिमाचल प्रदेश	600	2400	0	600	0	0	1364	508	1931	719	0	201	8323
10	जम्मू और कश्मीर	0	0	2050	0	0	0	0	0	200	6451	0	0	8701
11	झारखंड	0	0	0	0	0	0	5848	0	2683	0	67	0	8598
12	कर्नाटक	4850	174925	298855	149193	186650	167134	318943	225887	45619	289731	188496	134355	2184638
13	केरल	4450	4510	3547	2930	9747	3132	21464	6904	7950	0	6291	0	70925

Oral Answers

[30 November, 2012]

to Questions

7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	मध्य प्रदेश	3100	119949	471776	734674	347181	243844	988769	719229	13099	95068	63911	166169	3966769
15	महाराष्ट्र	61000	71199	689922	521330	367249	181452	720127	43584	339488	64801	762601	64453	3887206
16	मेघालय	3000	0	7983	750	1617	0	0	0	0	2764	8083	0	24197
17	मिजोरम	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	756	0	0	0	756
18	नागालैंड	0	0	4000	0	0	700	0	0	0	0	0	0	4700
19	उड़ीसा	0	186284	55609	22927	55417	54816	62732	63894	43594	14061	0	229868	789202
20	पंजाब	1500	2464710	67604	964628	440347	0	0	77256	15990	137091	290568	398688	4858382
21	राजस्थान	5900	1200	15356	36242	122876	94146	139795	90307	54528	116535	17500	91270	785655
22	तमिलनाडु	1900	6725	23622	63750	91572	5780	188340	108427	34055	162578	97673	39264	823686
23	उत्तर प्रदेश	3500	449081	1160761	88553	249502	158641	148756	25941	310099	128731	63412	789844	3576821
24	उत्तराखंड	1450	9000	2500	24762	33643	62642	59633	11531	21872	82808	150874	44125	504840
25	पश्चिम बंगाल	0	14725	131433	43657	172698	97170	438408	166419	0	83719	60405	30017	1238651
26	त्रिपुरा	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	996	0	996
27	संघ शासित प्रदेश	0	0	1000	400	0	2600	0	0	0	0	0	0	4000
28	नैफेड	0	0	0	0	27500	3300	0	0	0	0	0	0	30800
29	एनसीसीएफ	0	0	0	0	0	10000	0	0	0	0	0	0	10000
कुल		112050	6439093	4023075	3481150	2461104	1712694	4128410	2410392	2043389	2669244	3392636	3124270	35997507

मंजूरी समाप्त करने के बाद * 31.10.2012 तक।

8

Oral Answers

[RAJYA SABHA]

to Questions

[*102. The questioner Shri Rasheed Masood was absent.]

Godowns under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana

†*102. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise and capacity-wise details of godowns constructed under the Grameen Bhandaran Yojana of the Ministry along with year-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has increased the construction cost of godowns from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3500 per tonne;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has revised the subsidy amount commensurate with the increase in the construction cost of godowns;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, whether Government would consider the same and by when?

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

Statement

(a) State-wise and year-wise details of godowns sanctioned under the 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' (Rural Godown Scheme) from 2001-02 to 2012-13 are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. The cost of construction of godowns under the scheme has been revised with effect from 20.10.2011 from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- per MT for godowns up to the capacity of 1000 MT, and from Rs. 1875/- to Rs. 3000/- per MT for godowns exceeding the capacity of 1000 MT. For the North East, Sikkim and Hilly areas, the cost of construction has been increased to Rs. 4000/- per MT.

The ceiling of subsidy per project for Women Farmers/ SC/ST entrepreneurs and their Self Help Groups/Co-operatives has been increased from Rs. 62.50 lakhs to Rs.3.00 crore. Similarly, for farmers, agriculture graduates, cooperatives & Central Warehousing Corporation/ State Warehousing Corporations, the ceiling on subsidy per project has been increased from Rs. 46.87 lakhs to Rs. 2.25 crore. For all other categories, ceiling on subsidy per project has been increased from Rs. 28.12 lakhs to Rs.1.35 crore. For the North East, Sikkim and Hilly areas, the ceiling on subsidy per project has been increased from Rs. 62.50 lakhs to Rs. 3.33 crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Capacity Sanctioned Under Rural Godown Scheme period from 2001-2002 to 2012-13

(Capacity in MT)														
Sl. No.	State	2001-02 capacity	2002-03 capacity	2003-04 capacity	2004-05 capacity	2005-06 capacity	2006-07 capacity	2007-08 capacity	2008-09 capacity	2009-10 capacity	2010-11 capacity	2011-12 capacity	2012-13* capacity	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	7600	1316450	820510	148913	114450	180836	372461	95845	271983	642382	437253	32982	4441665
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	945	0	0	0	0	0	0	945
3	Assam	0	10339	34840	28252	22099	52808	41086	64397	62761	10527	20468	94402	441979
4	Bihar	10100	5450	2100	0	10000	49867	22033	69362	0	18590	105559	72406	365467
5	Chhattisgarh	0	393793	147655	230766	47448	0	80488	24096	53990	65550	115586	142292	1301664
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	290	0	0	0	0	0	290
7	Gujarat	0	89514	42519	160293	90888	315929	351589	323718	310104	350839	437822	170525	2643740
8	Haryana	3100	1118839	39433	258530	70220	26952	166284	293087	452687	396299	565071	623409	4013911
9	Himachal Pradesh	600	2400	0	600	0	0	1364	508	1931	719	0	201	8323
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	2050	0	0	0	0	0	200	6451	0	0	8701
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	5848	0	2683	0	67	0	8598
12	Karnataka	4850	174925	298855	149193	186650	167134	318943	225887	45619	289731	188496	134355	2184638
13	Kerala	4450	4510	3547	2930	9747	3132	21464	6904	7950	0	6291	0	70925

10 Oral Answers

[RAJYA SABHA]

to Questions

14	Madhya Pradesh	3100	119949	471776	734674	347181	243844	988769	719229	13099	95068	63911	166169	3966769
15	Maharashtra	61000	71199	689922	521330	367249	181452	720127	43584	339488	64801	762601	64453	3887206
16	Meghalaya	3000	0	7983	750	1617	0	0	0	0	2764	8083	0	24197
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	756	0	0	0	756
18	Nagaland	0	0	4000	0	0	700	0	0	0	0	0	0	4700
19	Odisha	0	186284	55609	22927	55417	54816	62732	63894	43594	14061	0	229868	789202
20	Punjab	1500	2464710	67604	964628	440347	0	0	77256	15990	137091	290568	398688	4858382
21	Rajasthan	5900	1200	15356	36242	122876	94146	139795	90307	54528	116535	17500	91270	785655
22	Tamil Nadu	1900	6725	23622	63750	91572	5780	188340	108427	34055	162578	97673	39264	823686
23	Uttar Pradesh	3500	449081	1160761	88553	249502	158641	148756	25941	310099	128731	63412	789844	3576821
24	Uttarakhand	1450	9000	2500	24762	33643	62642	59633	11531	21872	82808	150874	44125	504840
25	West Bengal	0	14725	131433	43657	172698	97170	438408	166419	0	83719	60405	30017	1238651
26	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	996	0	996
27	UTs	0	0	1000	400	0	2600	0	0	0	0	0	0	4000
28	NAFED	0	0	0	0	27500	3300	0	0	0	0	0	0	30800
29	NCCF	0	0	0	0	0	10000	0	0	0	0	0	0	10000
TOTAL		112050	6439093	4023075	3481150	2461104	1712694	4128410	2410392	2043389	2669244	3392636	3124270	35997507

After desanction * upto 31.10.2012.

Oral Answers

[30 November, 2012]

to Questions

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any supplementaries on this?

श्री ईश्वर सिंह: चेयरमैन साहब, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में गोदाम की क्षमता के बारे में बताया है, लेकिन उसके हिसाब से एक शर्त भी है कि 8-9 किलोमीटर के दायरे में रेलवे स्टेशन के पास ही गोदाम की व्यवस्था होगी। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि चूँकि अब तो हमारे पास फास्ट साधन हैं, इसलिए क्या 8-9 किलोमीटर पर एक गोदाम बनाने की जो लिमिट है, उसको बढ़ाने के बारे में सरकार विचार करेगी?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, under Rural Godown Scheme, one scheme is from the Ministry of Agriculture. The question is related to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Member is referring to a scheme which comes under the Food Ministry, and under the Food Ministry there are some criteria that such and such distance from railway station should be there, such and such distance from main road should be there. But in the case of Rural Godown Scheme, this type of criteria is not applicable. The Rural Godown Scheme is a demand-driven Scheme. Anybody can select any place where he would like to construct godown. There is no restriction about anything except that the godown should be out of Municipal Corporation. Otherwise, other than Municipal Corporation towns, godowns are allowed anywhere in India.

श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर: ऑनरेबल चेयरमैन साहब, आपके जरिए मैं एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई ऐसी स्कीम है जिससे गवर्नमेंट अपने नुकसान और खर्चे से बच सके और वह मेन गोडाउन के फार्मर को 50 टन, 100 टन और 200 टन तक 100 परसेंट सब्सिडी दे सके, ताकि गवर्नमेंट का जो नुकसान होता है, वह न हो और किसान को ऑफ सीज़न में फायदा हो जाए?

श्री शरद पवार: इसमें सब्सिडी देने की जो सीमा है, वह प्रोजेक्ट कॉस्ट के 25 परसेंट तक है।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना: सर, ग्रामीण भंडार योजना के तहत देश भर में कितने गोडाउंस बनाए गए हैं और उनकी मेंटेनेंस का जो खर्चा है, वह कौन bear करता है?

श्री शरद पवार: यह जो स्कीम है, इसे गवर्नमेंट खुद चलाती है और गवर्नमेंट खुद गोडाउंस मेंटेन करती है। गोडाउंस बनाने के लिए जो eligible लोग हैं, वे हैं – महिला किसान, महिलाओं के सेल्फ हेल्प ग्रुप्स, महिलाओं की को-ऑपरेटिव सोसायटीज़, individual male farmers, agriculture graduates, agriculture produce market committee, village cooperative societies. So, these types of organisations are coming forward; they are

taking advantage from Government and they are constructing and maintaining warehouses. The total number of projects which are sanctioned till recently is 29,715. Out of that, 16,567 godowns are already completed and others are under construction.

Use of MPLADS fund for setting up of porta cabins

*103. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether MPLADS fund can be used for setting up of porta cabins for operating grocery and consumer stores on public land by co-operative societies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether MPLADS fund can also be used for setting up of porta cabins for operating grocery and consumer stores on public land by disabled persons;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of the purposes for which MPLADS fund can be used; and
- (f) the details of MPs who have used their funds for the above stated purposes?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) No, sir. MPLADS funds cannot be used for creating any assets for commercial use. Further, moveable assets like Porta Cabins are not allowed for any purpose under MPLAD Scheme.

(e) and (f) The MPLADS funds can be used for creation of durable community assets of developmental nature in priority Sectors viz., drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. and the MPLAD funds are being utilized by the MPs for these purposes.

प्रो. अनिल कुमार साहनी: सभापति महोदय, मेरे द्वारा जो प्रश्न पूछा गया है, उसका उत्तर सही नहीं आया है। उसका गोलमटोल उत्तर दिया गया है, जबकि मैंने सवाल किया था कि सरकारी समितियों द्वारा सरकारी भूमि पर किराया वसूलने के लिए MPLADS का उपयोग

किया जा रहा है। इसको कौन लोग कर रहे हैं, उनकी सूची भी इसमें उपलब्ध नहीं है। हमने जो प्रश्न किया है, उस पर मंत्री महोदय विस्तारपूर्वक उत्तर देने की कृपा करें।

श्री श्रीकांत जेना: सर, MPLADS में पोर्टा केबिन हो सकता है या नहीं, मूल प्रश्न यही था। उसमें मैंने बताया कि जो पोर्टा केबिन है, वह नहीं हो सकता है। वह इसलिए नहीं हो सकता है, क्योंकि पोर्टा केबिन टेम्परेरी होता है, आज वह यहां है, तो कल वह कहीं दूसरी जगह चला जाएगा, चाहे वह कोऑपरेटिव सोसायटी का हो या किसी अन्य का हो। इसमें एक और चीज़ यह है कि वह कॉमर्शियली यूज़ नहीं हो सकता है।

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, there is a Committee in both the Houses which decides this issue. The Ministry does not decide this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, quite right.

श्री श्रीकांत जेना: मैं मैडम का interjection समझ नहीं पाया, लेकिन गाइडलाइन में जो व्यवस्था है, उसके तहत आपके प्रश्न में पूछी गयी बात नहीं हो सकती है, यही मैंने बताया है।

श्री सभापति: दूसरा प्रश्न।

प्रो. अनिल कुमार साहनी: महोदय, यह खर्च एम.पी.लैड से किया जाता है, लेकिन यह पार्टी के अंतर्गत किया गया। मैंने अपने प्रश्न में उसकी सूची मांगी थी, लेकिन आपने उसकी सूची भी नहीं दी है कि किस एम.पी. फंड से उन्होंने कितना खर्च किया है। इसका भी आपने जवाब नहीं दिया है। आप इस बारे में विस्तारपूर्वक जवाब दें ताकि एम.पी.लैड का सही उपयोग हो सके। साथ ही उसके माध्यम से सहकारी समितियों द्वारा जो किराया वसूल किया जाता है, निःशक्त व्यक्तियों के लिए जो किराया वसूला जाता है, उन लोगों के लिए इनका निर्माण करने की हम व्यवस्था कर सकते हैं या नहीं? इस बारे में आप अपनी गाइडलाइंस के हिसाब से दूसरा काम कर रहे हैं, उसके संबंध में भी बताइए।

श्री श्रीकांत जेना: सर, यह जो प्रश्न था, उसमें पोर्टा केबिन के बारे में इतना ही था कि हम पोर्टा केबिन लगा सकते हैं या नहीं? हम as per the guideline पोर्टा केबिन नहीं लगा सकते हैं। अगर उसमें detailed expenditure के बारे में ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज, जवाब सुन लीजिए।

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Part (f) is, "the details of MPs who have used their funds for the above stated purposes?" Sir, the MPs cannot use their funds for the above stated purposes, for setting up of porta cabins. So, it takes care of parts (a) to (f).

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many aided schools in many of the big cities which are centuries old, but they have no sanction building plans. These are aided schools. Now there is a difficulty in sanctioning funds under the MPLAD Scheme to these aided schools. I have requested many times to the Ministry for formulating a policy so that on the basis of structural certificates—there are structural certificates available with them—MPLADS funds can be sanctioned to the century-old aided schools. Even in a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, such a resolution was passed. I would like to know whether the Minister would like to consider this issue.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, there is absolutely no problem. Government aid can be provided to any school. There is absolutely no problem. In the guidelines itself ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: But it is not being done.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: You can recommend it. If any Collector or any Government says, 'No', we will take care of that.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: We have been raising it for the last three-four years, but it has not yet been done. What do you have to say?

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, the hon. Minister in the answer has admitted that drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation, etc. are the priority sectors. I think the most important sector among all these is primary education all over the country. We are glad that earlier we had been allowed to give funds to schools. But two years back, the Ministry had imposed a limit of Rs. 50 lakhs a year. Now, Rs. 50 lakhs is a very small amount. Many Members of Parliament have requested that this limit of Rs. 50 lakhs should be removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question should relate to the question under discussion.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, my question relates to Parts (e) and (f). Once you allow me to give funds under the MPLADS, why should there be a limit of Rs. 50 lakhs? There is an overall limit of Rs. 10 lakhs or Rs. 20 lakhs. I want to know from the hon. Minister when they are going to remove this limit of Rs. 50 lakhs.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Sir, for Government aided schools, there is no limit. The limit has been imposed, in the guidelines, on schools being run by an NGO or a private trust. There the maximum limit is Rs. 50 lakhs a year and up to Rs. 25 lakhs for a school or an educational institution. ...(Interruptions)... Let me complete. Please allow me to complete.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete his answer.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: So, the restriction is that the maximum ceiling is Rs.50 lakhs in a year and up to Rs.25 lakhs for a particular school or college, but this is only in respect of private trusts or NGOs. But, in the case of Government schools, there is no limit. You can give the entire amount of Rs. 5 crores, if you wish to. Therefore, there is no restriction on schools run by the Government. At the same time, I must say that both the Parliamentary Committees have recommended that this ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs should be enhanced to Rs. 1 crore and that Rs. 25 lakhs should be enhanced to Rs. 50 lakhs. Apart from the recommendation of both the Parliamentary Committees, I have also received a recommendation letter signed by 150 Members of Parliament on this issue. We are considering that and, very soon, we will take a call on that.

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप: महोदय, पूरे देश के अंदर आज सांसदों को विकास कार्य कराने में बहुत कठिनाई पैदा हो रही है और उसकी सबसे बड़ी मूल वजह जनपदीय जिलाधिकारियों के द्वारा प्रस्ताव पर समय से एस्टीमेट न बनाया जाना और कार्य की मंजूरी न होना है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से तमाम प्रदेशों के एम.एल.एज., एम.एल.सीज. को यह पावर्स दी गई हैं कि वह किसी भी उचित अच्छा कार्य करने वाली संस्थाओं से अपने एम.पी. लेड से विकास कार्य कराने की संस्तुति कर सकते हैं। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस पर विचार करेंगे कि माननीय सदस्यों को यह अधिकार मिल जाए कि वे कम से कम अपने जनपद में अच्छा कार्य करने वाली कार्यदाय संस्था से विकास करा सकें, एक तो मेरा आपसे यह अनुरोध है? दूसरा ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: एक सवाल, प्लीज़...

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप: महोदय, इसी से जुड़ा हुआ है। मान्यवर, आज पूरे भारतवर्ष में सबसे बड़ी समस्या एजुकेशन की है। खास तौर से जो वीकर सैक्शन के लोग हैं, उनको आज भी बैठने के लिए ठीक से स्कूल नहीं मिलते। जो आपने 10 प्रतिशत आवंटन की प्रक्रिया रखी है, खास तौर से जो गैर सहायता प्राप्त विद्यालय हैं, क्या इस शर्त को हटाकर आप देश के गरीब बच्चों को शिक्षा देने में माननीय सांसदों को यह अधिकार देने पर विचार करेंगे?

श्री श्रीकांत जेना: सर, जहां तक पहला सवाल है, एम.पी.लैड. का रिकमंडेशन जाने के बाद 45 डेज के अंदर वह एक्सेप्टेड होगा या रिजेक्शन होगा, और 75 डेज के अंदर उसको सैक्शन आर्डर मिलना चाहिए। लेकिन बहुत सारी स्टेट्स में यह नहीं हो रहा है और ऐसी शिकायतें माननीय सदस्य मेरी दृष्टि में लाए हैं और पार्लियामेंट्री कमेटी ने भी हमको लिखकर

दिया है। इसके तहत हम मुख्यमंत्रियों को और चीफ सैक्रेटरीज़ को बार-बार पत्र लिख रहे हैं कि एम.पी.लैंड का सही इस्तेमाल होना चाहिए और गाइड लाइन के तहत कोई भी रिकमंडेशन एम.पी.जे. ने दी और अगर उसका रिजेक्शन हो रहा है तो आप तुरन्त उनको बतला दीजिए कि आप अन्य कोई दूसरा प्रोजेक्टर लगा दीजिए। लेकिन यह सच है कि इसमें डिले हो रहा है जिसके तहत जितना टाइम पर खर्चा होना चाहिए वह नहीं हो रहा है। दूसरा जो बिन्दु है कि आपने MLALAD Fund और MPLAD Fund में मान लीजिए हमने गाइड लाइन में दिया है कि राज्य सरकार का जो प्रोसीजर है, उसे प्रोसीजर के तहत MPLAD का खर्चा करिए और बहुत सारी राज्य सरकारों में MLALAD का एक तरीके से खर्चा कर रहे हैं और एम.पी.लैंड का दूसरे तरीके से खर्चा कर रहे हैं। तो बहुत से एम.पी.जे. ने भी ये शिकायतें दी हैं। हम राज्य सरकारों को लिख रहे हैं कि public fund, whether it is MPLAD fund or MLALAD fund, when it is being quickly done in the case of MLALAD fund, then why it is not possible in the case of MPLAD fund. And there has to be transparency on that issue. Therefore, I have been writing about this, and I would also take the support of both the Committees. I shall also write to both the Committees suggesting to them as to whether we can bring about changes in the guidelines. The third one was about the ten per cent restriction. That is the minimum thing, and you can go up to any level. There is no restriction on that.

*104. [The questioner (Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan was absent.)]

Construction of jetty linking Rameswaram with Talaimannar

*104.DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the laying of new railway lines in various parts of Sri Lanka, more specifically towards Northern Province, connecting Talaimannar and Jaffna has been completed and further construction of jetty in Talaimannar seashore to park the ferry service to Rameswaram is also complete?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Railway line work in Northern Province of Sri Lanka, from Medawachchiya to Talaimannar pier and Omanthai to Kankesanthurai as well as the construction work of Jetty at Talaimannar Pier to park the ferry services are entrusted by Government of Sri Lanka to Ircon International Limited (Ircon), Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways and these works are in progress.

The railway line between Galle-Matara and Kaluthara- Galle also entrusted by Government of Sri Lanka to Ircon International Limited have been completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any supplementaries to be put? There are no supplementaries.

*105. [The questioner (Shri Prabhat Jha) was absent.]

Rise in cost of production

*105. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that cost of production in farm sector has drastically increased due to 150 to 300 percent rise in prices of fertilizers during the last two years and recent steep rise in price of diesel;

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

(c) whether Government is also aware that due to this rise in prices of fertilizers and diesel, agriculture has become depressingly unprofitable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) The cost of production of agricultural commodities depends upon their yields as well as prices of various inputs like labour, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation charges, mechanization, etc. As per data used by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the average cost of production of two major crops viz. paddy and wheat during the last few years is given below:

(Rs. per Quintal)

Crops	Cost of production		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Paddy	742	888	1152
Wheat	826	927	1128

The rise in cost of production, taking into account the increase in cost of various inputs including fertilizers and diesel, is addressed through the mechanism of Minimum Support Prices (MSP). MSPs are announced by Government for major agricultural commodities to ensure remunerative prices to growers with a view to encourage higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy.

Profitability from agriculture depends upon several factors including productivity (yields), price realization, input use efficiency, etc. Government has taken several steps to revitalize the agriculture sector by improving the availability of farm credit, expanding the coverage of agricultural insurance, implementing a massive programme of debt waiver, increasing investment and implementing a large number of schemes to improve infrastructure and increase productivity.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, this is a very important issue. The hon. Minister himself being a person who has a background of agriculture knows it better. As per the reply given by the hon. Minister, the cost of production of paddy, per quintal, is Rs. 1152 and wheat is Rs. 1128. This is the cost of production. What is the variation between the Minimum Support Price and cost of production? Can the Minister enlighten the House? This is my first question. My second question is this. Keeping this issue in mind, because the cost of production is going up day-by-day because of fertilizer, because of diesel, because of pesticides, because of wages, because of all other things, and then natural calamities, I would like to know whether the Government is seriously considering to implement the recommendation of Dr. Swaminathan Committee on Agriculture to fix the Minimum Support Price, cost of production, plus 50 per cent. What is the response of the Government in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The recommendation made by Dr. Swaminathan Committee for giving cost of production plus 50 per cent remunerative price was not accepted by the Government. There are many reasons why it has not been accepted. But one thing is absolutely clear. In the last two-three years, there is an increase in the price of some of the items, particularly inputs, which are required for agricultural production. Wholesale price indicates with the base of 2004-05, the farm inputs, during the period of 2009-10 and 2010-11, show an increase in price of fertilizer by 25 per cent, organic manure, by 20 per cent, electricity—some of the States are supplying free—by 16 per cent, pesticides by 4 per cent, tractors by 12 per cent, lubricants by 32 per cent, diesel oil (LDO) by 50 per cent and diesel oil

HSD by 22 per cent. So, this is the information we got and the same has also been collected by the CACP, the Expert Committee, which is going in-depth about the cost of cultivation and other factors and recommending to the Government the prices. Here the cost of production has been given. Hon. Member was asking what exactly the MSP was given. With regard to paddy, in 2010-11, the cost of cultivation was Rs. 742 per quintal and MSP was Rs. 1000 per quintal. In 2011-12, the cost of production was Rs. 888 and MSP was Rs. 1080. In 2012-13, the cost of production was Rs. 1152 per quintal and MSP was Rs. 1250. Similarly, with regard to wheat, in 2010-11, the cost of production was Rs. 826 and MSP was Rs. 1120. In 2011-12, Rs. 927 was the cost of production. The price recommended by CACP was Rs. 1285. And, in 2012-13, the cost of production per quintal was Rs. 1128 and CACP's recommendation is to continue last year's price, *i.e.* Rs. 1285. In fact, this year's CACP recommendation has not been accepted by us. We have not accepted that. Again, we have sent all these details to CACP with a request that CACP has to go in-depth about the prices of fertilizers, oil, labour charges and other factors. It has to go in-depth into all these and submit its revised proposal. Whatever recommendation was made by the CACP, that last year's support price should continue this year as well, is not accepted. That is not approved.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am not asking question. I seek your protection. It is a larger issue. Hundreds of farmers are committing suicides across the country, because of lack of support price.

I request, in view of the reply given by the hon. Minister, the Chair to please allow a two-hour discussion, because many Members in the House are interested in the discussion on the remunerative price for agriculture produce.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give notice on this. There is no problem on this.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I would say, in continuation of what Shri Venkaiahji has said, that the same question I had in my mind.

The hon. Minister has said in his reply and I quote. He says, "MSPs are announced by Government for major agricultural commodities to ensure remunerative prices to growers with a view to encourage higher investment and production and safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy." And, in another reply given earlier, the hon. Minister said, "it is clear that as far as MSP is concerned, it is nowhere remunerative."

Now, the Government has rejected the Swaminathan Commission's recommendation of paying cost of production +50 per cent as remunerative price. Will the hon. Minister, at least, accept cost of production +30 per cent of the remunerative price as the minimum price? This is number one.

The second one is : By when are you planning to make this study completed and then announce a proper price, because the agrarian distress continues? We have given separate notices for it. Now that the House resumed its normal functioning, we will beseech you to allow a Short Duration Discussion on that. We can discuss on that in detail. But, by when is the Government is planning to take a call on this issue? By when are you expecting the CACP's recommendations to come on the basis of all the inputs that you are taking about? Sir, the agrarian distress not only in terms of farmers' suicides, but it is continuing in a much larger sense. Farmers' suicides itself is unbearable. It just cannot be permissible in a country like ours. But, why is the Government not showing urgency required on this issue?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the prices of paddy and other crops have already been declared. It is only the price of wheat which is pending. The CACP did send, as I said, its recommendations. But, we have not accepted those recommendations. I can assure the House that in the next fifteen days time, we will announce the final price.

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, I listened carefully to Sitaramji.

Three objectives have been set down for this policy. The first one is to get farmer a good price which is acceptable and sensible for him and his family. But, the second one is to give consumer a cheap rate, so that he does not have to pay much for his family. And, the third one is the overall economy must be served by this. Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister: Is it not a contradiction that, actually, objectives 2 and 3 are overriding the objective 1.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, generally the factors which are considered by the CACP are : (1) Cost of production. Under the cost of production, it consider changes in input prices, change in market price, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, affect on industrial cost structure, affect on general price level, affect on cost of living, international market price situation and parity between price paid and price received by farmer. These are the items which come under the cost of production. So, this is one.

It is true, when the CACP has to recommend, it has to consider the overall situation. It is also true that farmer's interest has to be protected. And, that has been protected. In fact, if you look at the prices of last five years, and prices prior to that, every year, including this year, except in the case of wheat, have definitely been improved. We have seen the overall impact of those decisions in the market.

In fact, the last year was one of the years where we had produced more than 267 MT of wheat and rice. And this was, practically, the highest production in the last sixty years. Also, even though there was drought in certain States like north Karnataka, parts of Maharashtra, Saurashtra, Gujarat, and some districts of Rajasthan, and there were not enough rains in Punjab and Haryana, still, I am confident that even this year, our total production would surely go beyond 250 MT.

Then, Sir, our export of foodgrains was maximum the last year. In fact, more than 80 lakh tonnes of rice, 2.5 MT of wheat, 2.5 MT of sugar and 80 million bales of cotton had been exported. This shows that our production had certainly improved, and the farmers were definitely happy about this. However, it is true that there has been this serious issue of rise in the fertilizer and diesel prices. We will certainly take a call on this and take corrective action to protect the interests of our farmers.

Railway projects in Rajasthan

*106.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various railway projects in Rajasthan;
- (b) the status thereof, project-wise;
- (c) the number of projects getting delayed and the reasons therefor, project-wise;
- (d) the cost over-run for each delayed project, project-wise; and
- (e) the efforts made by Railways to complete the projects within the time-schedule or extended time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a), (b) and (d) The details of ongoing projects falling fully or partly in Rajasthan indicating original sanctioned cost and latest anticipated cost are given as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the project & length (kms.)	Original Sanctioned Cost	Latest Anticipated cost	Expenditure on 31.03.2012	Outlay 2012-13	Status & Target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Bangurgram-Ras new line (27.8)	99.09	144.67	13.38	5.00	Earthwork and bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -33%.
2	Dausa-Gangapur City new line (92.67)	151.84	410.08	196.89	35.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -50%. Dausa-Didwana (35km) targeted for completion during 2013-14.
3	Ratlam-Dungarpur via Banswara new line (176.47)	2082.75	2082.75	0	30.00	Land acquisition taken up. Overall physical progress -1%.
4	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal new line (262)	424.6	1225.9	217.1	15.00	Ramganjmandi-Jhalawar (27 km) completed. Work taken up beyond Jhalawar.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	Abu Road-Sarotra Road doubling (23.12)	103.94	131.54	6.58	20.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -5%.
6	Ajmer-Bangurgram doubling (48.43)	213.39	251.99	0	33.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
7	Bangurgram-Guriya doubling (47)	246.08	246.08	0	0.10	Preliminary activities taken up.
8	Bhagat ki Kothi-Luni doubling (28.12)	97.36	98.16	9.17	25.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -23%.
9	Guriya-Marwar (43.50 km) & Karjoda-Palanpur doubling (5.40 km)	239.73	274.34	0.01	33.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
10	Keshav Ganj-Swaroopganj doubling (26.48)	92.3	118.57	45.45	35.00	Overall physical progress -90%. Project targeted for completion in 2012-13.
11	Rani-Keshavganj doubling (59.50)	273.74	277.67	0	1.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -23%.
12	Rani-Marwar doubling (54.5)	288.95	288.97	0	0.10	Preliminary activities taken up.

13	Rewari-Manheru doubling (69.02)	251.91	251.91	0	1.50	Preliminary activities taken up.
14	Sarotra Road-Karjoda doubling (23.59)	115	156.64	4.83	25.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -5%.
15	Swaroopganj-Abu Road doubling (25.36)	105.68	133.36	4.1	15.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -3%.
16	Bina-Kota doubling (283)	1125.07	1125	1.00	4.00	Work started on major bridges.
17	Jaipur-Ringus-Churu & Sikar-Loharu gauge conversion (320.04)	602.45	653.46	95.65	100.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Sikar-Loharu (122 km) targeted for completion in 2012-13. Overall physical progress -40%.
18	Suratpura-Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar gauge conversion (240.95)	402.57	516.23	172.9	100.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar part (18 km) targeted for completion in 2012-13. Overall physical progress -60%.
19	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion (299.2)	742.88	798.85	73.78	35.00	Earth work & bridges taken up. Overall physical progress -3%.

Oral Answers

[30 November, 2012]

to Questions 25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20	Dholpur-Sirmutra gauge conversion with ext. up to Gangapur City (144.6)	622.41	622.41	2.00	20.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
21	Gwalior-Sheopurkalan gauge conversion ext. up to Kota (284)	1176.09	1176.1	2.00	5.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
22	Alwar-Rewari Railway Electrification (82)	97.68	97.68	0.2	5.00	Preliminary activities taken up.
23	Mathura-Alwar Railway Electrification (121)	99.71	119.69	1.53	25.00	Work taken up.

(c) The ongoing projects falling fully/partly in Rajasthan are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(e) Funds have been provided yearly as per the availability of resources for completion of projects. Steps have been taken to generate extra budgetary resources through State participation, Public Private Partnership, defence funding, declaring some projects as National Projects and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for the incomplete reply which hides more than what it reveals! My intention was to highlight the endemic delay in the completion of railway projects, the consequent escalation of costs and also the consequent lack of accountability of persons who were expected to complete the projects in time. He should have, actually, given the following statistics : (1) announcement of a particular project in the Budget; (2) date of initiation of the project; (3) anticipated date of completion; (4) the delay that has been caused in each project. He has not given these details in his reply. Until and unless these details are given, railway projects will neither run nor move; they will only crawl.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it shall be my endeavour to try to satisfy the hon. Member in all possible ways. But, before that, I would seek his indulgence only to say that Railways is one department where we have been making various announcements for new projects in response to vociferous demands raised by hon. Members from time to time. That has landed us in a situation, we must all admit today, where there is a humongous throw-forward of projects, both in physical terms and, concomitantly, in financial terms. Sir, I am sure the hon. Member, with his vast experience, knows that with the large number of projects that we have, the financial spread-over of the projects has, indeed, been very thin, the reasons for which are known to the hon. Member and other hon. Members in the House. As a result, we have found it extremely difficult to complete the projects at the pace at which we would want them to be completed.

But, Sir, having said that, I would like to give the hon. Member just a brief synopsis of the various projects which have been completed during the Eleventh Plan in Rajasthan alone. The length in kilometres.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: I am not interested in that, Sir. That is not my question. My question is about accountability regarding completion of projects.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the question of accountability should always be there. That is the right of the Members of the House, as also that of the general public, to be enforced on the Government. I would admit that. But, Sir, that would arise when assured allocation has been made for a particular project for a particular year. Only then should we look at the reasons, if any, for the delays, and not otherwise. So, the procedure has been that when a project is announced, the first step is to work out a rough estimate of the amount pertaining to a project. Then, a demand is made, after, a preliminary survey, and that is brought before the House.

Thereafter, Sir, in-principle clearance is given and that is the second stage which could be a year and-a-half or two years; after that the actual amount is worked out. This would be only after the alignment is worked out; only after that it can be said that this would be the cost which would be incurred on a particular project. Thereafter, the work begins. It invariably happens. For example, I have these examples which are given in the answer and I do not know how the hon. Member rushed to a conclusion that the information was kept back from him. I mentioned as many as 23 projects here, where I have given the original cost, the anticipated cost, the expenditure as on 31st March, 2012, the outlay for the current year and the status. I wish to refer to this only for the reason that the question of accountability can arise if the amount allocated for a particular year has not been spent and no work has been initiated in that year and that has led to cost overrun.

Sir, in my humble opinion – I am sorry to say that my reply is a little stretched one—the concept of time and cost overrun is not technically correct. Sir, cost and time overrun question would arise if there is an assured allocation for a particular year and if it is not made, then that leads to cost overrun; otherwise, there is no cost overrun. Therefore, there is no question of accountability. What I would like to submit with all humility is, Sir, that the work is going on strictly according to the allocations made.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, with regard to my second supplementary, whatever the new Railway Minister has pointed out, does he promise this House that in future he would not sell lollipops in the form of projects which he would not be able to complete according to the schedule? And, would he announce

projects only when there is sufficient Budget, not maintaining them as promises only? As far as statistics in the reply are concerned, Sir, not even a single statistic has been mentioned as to when a project was started, what the scheduled date of completion was, and what the date of completion because of the delayed allocation structure would be. These have not been mentioned here, at all; otherwise, I would not have asked them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, on his first observation, I would seek the cooperation and indulgence of the hon. Members not to seek or ask for lollipops.

Sir, about the question, I reiterate that the work is going on according to allocations made for each year and he did not want me to read out the list. In addition to what is there, there are six projects entailing a cost of Rs. 338.71 crores relating to Rajasthan which would be completed in the current year. The six projects are Dausa-Deedwana new line, Sikar-Loharu gauge conversion, Hanumangrh Srinagar (Part) gauge conversion, Ratangarh-Sardarshahar gauge conversion, Banas-Sirohi doubling, and Mathura-Alwar railway electrification. We expect that these projects would be completed during this year. But, there could be a little difficulty in one of these projects.

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: धन्यवाद सभापति जी। मैं सबसे पहले पवन बंसल साहब को बधाई देता हूँ कि वह पहली बार राज्य सभा में रेल के बारे में सवालों का जवाब दे रहे हैं। महोदय, अगर आप इस लिस्ट को देखेंगे, जो कि सिर्फ राजस्थान के बारे में है कि डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपये का प्रोजेक्ट और anticipated cost of project is now Rs. 450 crores. ऐसा तो तब है जब प्रोजेक्ट पेपर पर है, उसके बाद जब वह कम्पलीट होगा, तो उसकी क्या कॉस्ट होगी, उसके बारे में पूरा हाऊस सोच सकता है। मंत्री जी, अगर आप दो-दो, पांच-पांच करोड़ रुपया एक प्रोजेक्ट के लिए रिलीज़ करते हैं, तो कितने साल में दो हजार करोड़ रुपये का प्रोजेक्ट कम्पलीट होगा? आपने कहा कि माननीय सांसदों का प्रेशर होता है और आप प्रोजेक्ट सेंक्शन कर देते हैं। यह तो सिर्फ राजस्थान की लिस्ट है, पूरे देश की लिस्ट का क्या हाल होगा, यह हमें देखने और समझने की आवश्यकता है। फिर, आपने कहा कि फाइनेंसिंग को देखते हुए, रिसोर्सिंग की availability को देखते हुए, हम फंड्स रिलीज़ करते हैं।

मान्यवर, पिछले कुछ समय से, पिछले दो-तीन साल से रेलवे की फाइनेंस के मामले में जो दुर्दशा हुई है, क्या आप इसके बारे में कुछ highlight करेंगे?

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य का बहुत धन्यवाद करता हूँ कि जो मैंने लिस्ट दी है, उसमें से जो उन्होंने एक बहुत अहम रूट उठाया है। सही मायने में वह यही बात दर्शाता है, मैंने जिसका जिक्र करने की पहले कोशिश की थी।

मान्यवर, इन्होंने जिस एक प्रोजेक्ट का जिक्र किया है, वह दौसा-गंगापुर न्यू लाइन का है। यह 92.6 किलोमीटर का प्रोजेक्ट है। इतिहास से इस प्रोजेक्ट का 1996-1997 में तकरीबन 16 साल पहले इसका ऐलान हुआ था। इसी के कारण कीमत में फर्क आता है। मैंने पहले पार्ट के बारे में बताया था कि इसमें प्रक्रिया यह होती है कि पहले हम उसकी एलोकेशन का एक रफ आइडिया लगाते हैं और वैसे ही हम उसको पार्लियामेंट में लेकर आते हैं। जब उसका बिल्कुल सही सर्वे पूरा हो जाता है, फिर उसकी कॉस्ट दूसरी बार में वर्क आउट होती है। अभी तक इसका एलोकेशन कभी पूरा नहीं हुआ, इसी कारण से यह 151 करोड़ का प्रोजेक्ट अब 410 करोड़ का हो गया है। मैंने माननीय श्री पिलानिया जी के प्रश्न के जवाब में जो उत्तर दिया था, वह उसी का एक पार्ट था। हम समझते हैं कि वह बीस किलोमीटर का प्रोजेक्ट इस वर्ष पूरा हो जाएगा। इसी कारण हमने मार्च 2012 तक जो इसका खर्च बताया है, यह दौसा-गंगापुर का प्रोजेक्ट है, इसी में throw forward अभी तक इसका 213 करोड़ स्वीकृत हुआ पड़ा है। अभी इसके लिए 213 करोड़ की और जरूरत है। अब सवाल यह आएगा कि क्या हम इस साल 213 करोड़ देने के लिए तैयार हैं? क्या हमारे पास वे साधन हैं? अगर नहीं होंगे तो फिर यह आगे और बढ़ेगा तथा और बढ़ता ही रहेगा। इसी के कारण हमें कुछ प्रोजेक्ट्स को लेने की जरूरत है, ताकि हम उनको पूरा कर पाएं, and, Sir, keeping that in view, I have had discussions with the officers of the Board, and we have discussed that we must really work out a priority of the projects which are complete to the extent of more than 50 per cent, and we should concentrate more on those projects first, and come to the other projects thereafter.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: श्रीमन्, पहले तो मैं बधाई दूंगा कि रेल विभाग बंधन मुक्त हुआ है। यह बहुत सालों से बंधक था।

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

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय मंत्री जी, एक प्रथा बन गई है कि जिसको परम्परा भी कहते हैं कि जो रेल मंत्री बजट पेश करता है, वह तमाम नई घोषणाएं कर देता है जबकि उनके लिए बजट नहीं होता है। आप स्वयं ही बता रहे हैं कि इतनी घोषणाएं राजस्थान के लिए हुई हैं। अगर हम कंट्री को देखें तो इसमें भी बहुत सी घोषणाएं ऐसी ही होंगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो आपने सदन में घोषणाएं की हैं, उन घोषणाओं को पूरा करने के लिए कितने रुपयों की जरूरत है और कितना धन आपके पास उपलब्ध है? दूसरा यह कि आप उन घोषणाओं को पूरा करने के लिए धन कहां से लाएंगे? मैं कल-परसों ही आपका

स्टेटमेंट पढ़ रहा था, जिसमें आपने किराया बढ़ाने की बात की है, तो इसके लिए आप वह रुपया कहां से लाएंगे? आप उन घोषणाओं को पूरा करेंगे या नहीं करेंगे, कृपया यह स्पष्टीकरण कर दें।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: मान्यवर, इस वर्ष के शुरुआत में 1 अप्रैल, 2012 से जब से यह नया वित्त वर्ष शुरू होता है, उस वक्त से तीन categories न्यू लाइन्स, गेज कन्वर्जन और डबलिंग, ये तीनों अहम हैं, मैं पहले इनका जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ। इन तीनों के लिए 347 प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं। जो throw forward हैं, जो इनके लिए खर्चा हो चुका है, उसके बाद जो खर्चा होना बाकी है, वह खर्चा 1,47,187 करोड़ होने की जरूरत है। यह आगे के लिए है, इस साल के लिए नहीं है। अभी तक हमने देखा कि प्रतिवर्ष तकरीबन दस हजार करोड़ से ज्यादा सभी प्रोजेक्ट्स पर खर्चे के लिए नहीं मिलता है। इस वक्त उसके बारे में बताने का समय नहीं है। मैं किसी और समय में उसके बारे में विस्तारपूर्वक बता सकता हूँ कि इनके क्या-क्या वित्तीय मसले हैं, कितनी हमारी आमदनी है, कितना खर्च है और क्या ऑपरेटिंग रेश्यो है। मैं अभी इन बातों का जिक्र नहीं करना चाहूँगा। आपका जो सवाल है, मैं अपने आपको उस तक सीमित रखते हुए, यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि इनके लिए इतने पैसों की जरूरत है। हमने पिछले वर्ष में सिर्फ पांच नई लाइनें, दो गेज कन्वर्जन, 23 डबलिंग के लिए डाली थीं, जिनकी एक लेंथ 1167 किलोमीटर बनती है, वह इसके बीच में शामिल है।

आने वाले समय में, उसके लिए, 9400 करोड़ रुपये का एक नया प्रोजेक्ट ऐड हुआ है। हमें देखना होगा कि आने वाले वर्ष में क्या हम अपने आपको यहां तक सीमित रख सकते हैं या इसमें अतिरिक्त बढ़ोतरी करते हैं।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I must congratulate the hon. Minister for giving a detailed account of the projects in Rajasthan. The hon. Minister has rightly said, the taking up of projects depends on many factors, viz., the backwardness of the area, the rate of return, etc., etc. Of course, the allotment of funds also depends on a formula. It is not that the Minister can allot on his own. It depends on the rail density, the amount of efforts made by the State Governments, etc., etc. In the light of these details, there are certain initiatives taken by the State Governments. Some State Governments, like, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, etc. have prioritized certain projects and they have come forward for sharing 50 per cent of the project cost. Is there any proposal before the Government for the State of Rajasthan, which is a very vital and progressive State, requesting the State Government to augment the funds as has been done by other States, like, Andhra Pradesh, so that certain projects, which are vital for the economic linkage, not only for Rajasthan, but for the Railways in total as the Railways get benefited because

of the linkage? So, keeping that in view, is there any proposal before the Ministry of Railways to request the Government of Rajasthan to prioritize and also to augment the finance of the Railways in this connection?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: As the hon. Member has said, the State Governments are requested, from time to time, for sharing the cost of the projects, which they consider essential, but which we consider to be unremunerative. And, it is particularly the State of Karnataka which has come forward in this matter. Even in the case of pending projects, Karnataka has come forward to share the cost. This is the standing invitation to all. And, I would like to reiterate that request, today, to all the States again. I have also written a good many letters to some of the Chief Ministers, requesting them that in such cases, they should bear the cost of land and 50 per cent of the total cost construction. Very recently, the State of Haryana has come forward for one project. And, I would certainly welcome, and would also be grateful to the hon. Member if he can also persuade the Government of Rajasthan to share the cost that way so that our work can be expedited at a much faster speed in that direction.

*107. [The questioner (Shri Ram Kripal Yadav) was absent.]

Setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas

*107. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) on Public Private-Partnership model in Bihar;

(b) if so, how many such KVs would be set up in the State and also all over the country; and

(c) the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are sponsored by one of the following:

(i) Ministries or Departments of the Government of India.

(ii) State Governments.

(iii) Union Territories' Administrations.

(iv) Organization of employees belonging to the eligible categories.

The sponsoring authority is to provide free of cost, land for the school and temporary accommodation till such time the KV is constructed. Government of India bears all other recurring and non-recurring expenditure of running the school.

Public Sector Undertakings/Institutes of Higher Learning can also sponsor the KVs. The recurring and non-recurring expenditure for such KVs are met by the concerned Public Sector Undertaking/Institute of Higher Learning.

A proposal for opening of KVs under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode was considered by the Board of Governors (BOG), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), in its meeting held on 19th January, 2012. However, BOG decided not to introduce the scheme of opening of new KVs under the PPP Mode. Presently there is no plan to set up KVs on PPP Mode in Bihar or any other part of the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any supplementaries?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that in a meeting held on 19th January, 2012, the Board of Governors had not decided to introduce the scheme of opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas under the PPP mode. Even if you do not want PPP mode, we have sufficient funds to have more and more Kendriya Vidyalayas in different parts of the country. So, what are your future plans in this regard? How are you going to expand Kendriya Vidyalayas in different parts of the country?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, a total number of 107 Kendriya Vidyalayas for 2010-11 onwards have been sanctioned. They are in various stages of construction. In the Twelfth Five Year Plan, additional 500 Kendriya Vidyalayas are planned to be constructed.

प्रो. अनिल कुमार साहनी: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानकारी लेना चाहता हूँ कि आपने 19 जनवरी, 2012 को आयोजित बैठक के उपरान्त सरकारी, गैर-सरकारी भागीदारी प्रणाली के अंतर्गत नए केन्द्रीय विद्यालय खोले जाने की स्कीम बंद करने का निर्णय लिया था,

मगर जिन ज़िलों में अभी तक केंद्रीय विद्यालय नहीं खुला है, वहां के जो सांसद होते हैं, वे दूसरे जिलों में रिकमेंडेशन भेजते हैं, क्या आपके पास उनको प्राथमिकता देने का कोई प्रस्ताव है या नहीं है? सुदूर क्षेत्र में जो गरीब छात्र या बच्चे होते हैं, उनको केन्द्रीय विद्यालय में पढ़ने का मौका मिलेगा या नहीं मिलेगा, और आप उन ज़िलों में कब तक केंद्रीय विद्यालय बनाने का प्रस्ताव रखते हैं, हमें इसकी जानकारी दें?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, right now, there are 135 districts in the country where there are no Kendriya Vidyalayas. Definitely, we will consider those districts, on a priority basis, which do not have any Kendriya Vidyalaya.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, first of all, I congratulate the hon. Minister. Sir, the Government has decided to establish a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Barpeta. But building for that has not been sanctioned as yet. All the MLAs and MPs, contributing from their LAD Fund, have developed something. We have also provided the requisite land. I would like to know whether the Government will take necessary action to release the funds for construction of a permanent building for Kendriya Vidyalaya at Barpeta.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, if all the criteria have been met including the land, I do not see any reason why they should not go ahead with the construction. Right now, there are about 60 Kendriya Vidyalayas which are in progress, as far as construction is concerned. I am not sure if Barpeta is one of them. But if it is not there, I will check the reason and I will expedite it.

रतलाम मंडल के अंतर्गत रेल लाइनों का बिछाया जाना

*108. श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पश्चिम रेलवे के रतलाम मंडल के अंतर्गत नई रेल लाइनें बिछाए जाने हेतु कौन-कौन सी कार्य योजनाएं स्वीकृत की गई हैं;

(ख) अक्टूबर, 2012 तक उक्त स्वीकृत रेल लाइनों पर हुए व्यय की आर्थिक एवं भौतिक उपलब्धियों का ब्यौरा क्या-क्या है; और

(ग) उक्त परियोजनाओं का कार्य निर्धारित लक्ष्य से काफी पीछे रहने के मुख्य कारण क्या हैं?

रेल मंत्री (श्री पवन कुमार बंसल): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) परियोजनाएं मंडल-वार स्वीकृत नहीं की जाती हैं। बहरहाल, अक्टूबर, 2012 तक पश्चिम रेलवे के रतलाम मंडल में आंशिक/पूर्णतः आने वाली चालू परियोजनाओं की वित्तीय स्थिति और वास्तविक प्रगति का ब्योरा निम्नानुसार है:

(करोड़ रुपये में)

क्रम सं.	परियोजना का नाम	कि.मी.	अक्टूबर, 2012 तक किया गया व्यय	वास्तविक प्रगति (%)
1	छोटा उदयपुर-धार	157	104.87	10%
2	सरदारपुर, झाबुआ और धार के रास्ते दाहोद-इंदौर	200.97	131.90	12%
3	बांसवाड़ा के रास्ते रतलाम-झुंजरपुर	176.00	3.45	1%

(ग) इन परियोजनाओं के लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किए गए हैं। प्रत्येक परियोजनाओं पर लक्ष्य संसाधनों की उपलब्धता और उन पर हुई प्रगति के आधार पर वार्षिक रूप से निर्धारित किए जाते हैं। ये परियोजनाएं संसाधनों की उपलब्धता के अनुसार प्रगति पर हैं।

Laying of railway lines under Ratlam division

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

(a) the work plans approved for laying new railway lines under Ratlam Division of Western Railway;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred and physical achievements of said approved railway lines, till October, 2012; and

(c) the main reasons for the projects lagging far behind the set target?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

(a) and (b) Projects are not sanctioned Division-wise. However, the details of ongoing projects falling partly/fully in Ratlam Division of Western Railway, their financial and physical progress made upto October, 2012 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Km.	Expenditure incurred upto October' 2012	Physical progress (%age)
1	Chhotaudepur-Dhar	157	104.87	10%
2	Dahod-Indore via Sardarpur, Jhabua & Dhar	200.97	131.90	12%
3.	Ratlam-Dungarpur via Banswara	176.00	3.45	1%

(c) Target for these projects have not been fixed. Targets are fixed annually depending upon availability of resources and progress made on individual projects. These projects are progressing as per availability of resources.

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: सभापति महोदय, ये जो तीन परियोजनाएं स्वीकृत हुई हैं, अगर माननीय मंत्री जी इनकी स्वीकृति के वर्ष और स्वीकृति के बाद अभी तक वर्षवार इनकी आर्थिक और भौतिक उपलब्धि की जानकारी देंगे, तो उपयुक्त होगा।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: सर, किस वर्ष इनकी स्वीकृति हुई, इसके बारे में आपको अलग से लिख कर भेज दूंगा, लेकिन इस साल का इनका जो व्यय है, मुझे वह सूचना मिली है। छोटा उदयपुर-धार परियोजना, 157 किलोमीटर, इसको 2007-2008 में प्रोजेक्ट बनाने का ऐलान हुआ था। दाहोद-इंदौर, जो दूसरी परियोजना है, वह 2007-2008 में रतलाम-डूंगरपुर वाया बांसवाड़ा परियोजना 2011-2012 में स्वीकृत हुई थी। पहले की anticipated cost 2007 में 1347 करोड़ रुपए थी, उसमें अब तक 104 करोड़ रुपए खर्च हो चुके हैं। दाहोद-इंदौर वाली परियोजना के 2007 में 1642 करोड़ रुपए के against इस वक्त तक 131 करोड़ रुपए खर्च हो चुके हैं और तीसरी परियोजना, जो 2011-2012 में स्वीकृत हुई थी, उसमें 2000 करोड़ रुपए के against 3.45 करोड़ रुपए खर्च हुए हैं।

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत: सभापति महोदय, भौतिक उपलब्धि की जानकारी मंत्री जी नहीं दे रहे हैं। मौके पर कुछ नहीं हो रहा है, जबकि कागजों में खर्च दिखाया जा रहा है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि मौके पर क्या-क्या काम हुआ है? अगर आप इसका जवाब अभी नहीं दे सकते हैं, तो बाद में लिखित में भिजवा दें।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: सर, इस सवाल के जवाब में मैंने इनका जो percentage है, वह दिया है, क्योंकि मैं अनुमान लगा सकता हूँ कि अगर 10 फीसदी खर्च हुआ है, तो शायद वे जरूरी काम, जो आगे के काम को बढ़ाने के लिए होने होते हैं, वे आपकी नजर में नहीं आए होंगे, लेकिन वहां 10 फीसदी काम हुआ है, **physically progress** भी हो चुकी है। मैं इसे विस्तारपूर्वक आपको भेज सकता हूँ, जिसे आप जाकर देख सकते हैं कि यह हुआ। मैं इसे आपको भेजूंगा और कृपया उसके बाद आप उसे देख कर मुझे बताइए कि आपने उसे देखा है या नहीं।

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधो: सभापति महोदय, चूंकि इंदौर, मध्य प्रदेश की व्यावसायिक राजधानी है, उसे देखते हुए इसमें इंदौर-मनमाड़ रेल लाइन की जो परियोजना प्रस्तावित थी, उसका जिक्र होना चाहिए था, लेकिन इसमें उसका कहीं जिक्र नहीं किया गया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इसकी वास्तविकता जानना चाहती हूँ कि इंदौर-मनमाड़ रेल लाइन की क्या स्थिति है, क्योंकि वह इसी रेल मंडल के अंतर्गत आती है।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: सर, मैं माननीय सदस्या को यह सूचना बाद में भिजवा दूंगा।

श्री सभापति: क्वेश्चन नं. 109

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, 12 बज गए हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Verification of mobile SIM cards

*109. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the updated status of action taken by the Ministry, in coordination with State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs, on a large number of mobile SIM cards obtained by using bogus documents and being used for anti-national activities;

(b) whether police personnel are facing great difficulty in capturing such antinational elements due to lack of proper verification as Central Government has recently announced strict verification norms only for new mobile subscribers; and

(c) whether no major action has been taken against mobile SIM cards which have been obtained by using bogus documents and are already in use?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Sir, Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells carry out monthly sample verification of Customer Acquisition Form/Customer Application Form (CAF)/Subscriber Acquisition Form (SAF) along with supporting documents to cross check the compliance on Photo, Identity, Address (PIA) basis. Penalties are imposed on non-compliant cases. In order to deal with the issue of forged documents for obtaining mobile connections, provisions to lodge complaints/FIR with the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) under law of the land, have been made. These provisions have been made stricter *vide* letter dated 09.08.12 and at present below mentioned procedures are in effect since 09.11.12:

- (i) In cases where forged documents are submitted by the subscriber and originals are also forged, police complaint/ FIR shall be lodged by the Point of Sale (PoS)/ Franchisee against the subscriber within fifteen days of bringing it to the notice of the franchisee.
- (ii) In case PoS/Franchisee fails to lodge complaint/FIR as above, Licensee shall lodge complaint/FIR against the subscriber and Franchisee/PoS within further three days.
- (iii) In case where it is found that the forgery has been done by point of sale, the Licensee' shall lodge the complaint/FIR against the Franchisee/ point of sale within one week and financial penalty shall be imposed.
- (iv) In case no action is taken by the Licensee as above or the Licensee itself is involved in forgery, TERM Cell shall lodge complaint/FIR against Licensee. Penalty shall be imposed on all such forged cases also.
- (v) In cases where it is found that the act of issuing connections were done by point of sale using the document of some other subscriber or any person without knowledge of the subscriber or the person, or the documents were forged by the franchisee/PoS of Licensee, the concerned PoS/franchisee may be terminated by the Licensee under intimation to the Licensor (concerned TERM Cell of DoT) and the designated security agencies, in addition to the actions mentioned above. The same may be intimated to all other Licensee(s) in that Service Area by TERM Cell. The other Licensee after getting any such intimation shall terminate/ not appoint any such point of sale.

Besides, LEAs can *suo-motto* register a case/FIR in case they find that forged documents have been submitted for obtaining mobile SIM under relevant provisions of CrPC/IPC etc.

(b) Cases have been reported wherein Law Enforcement Agencies/Police have faced difficulties in tracing out the actual user due to lack of proper verification. However, as per directions contained in the judgment and order dated 27.04.12 by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, DoT has issued new guidelines for verification of new mobile subscribers (Prepaid and Postpaid) *vide* its communication No 800-09/2010-VAS dated 09th August, 2012 which are in effect since 09.11.12.

(c) Approximately, 10714 complaints/FIRs have been lodged with Police till 31.10.12 in respect of cases wherein forged documents have been found. Out of these 8786 cases are against subscribers who were found to be involved in forgery. During periodic sample audit in respect of calendar years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 more than 2.4 Crore, CAFs have been audited during monthly sample audit and penalties amounting to more than Rs. 2757 Crores have been imposed on Telecom Service Providers.

Courses offered by CBSE

*110. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the courses being offered by CBSE for the students of Class 12 are not recognized by most of the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the justification for continuing such courses; and

(c) whether Government proposes to issue instructions to such Universities to accept those courses for already passed out students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has informed that, as per information available with the Board, all the academic subjects offered by it are recognized by Indian Universities for the purpose of granting admission. However, six new vocational subjects namely; Financial Market Management, Healthcare Sciences, Geospatial Technology, Food Production, Food

and Beverage Services and Mass Media Studies and Media Production were not treated at par with the other subjects by the University of Delhi for granting admission to its Honours courses. The University of Delhi has since conveyed to CBSE, approval of all the new vocational subjects for admissions to its undergraduate courses with effect from the Academic Session 2012-13.

(c) Does not arise.

New policy of fertilizer subsidy

*111.DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy has been put in place that will subsidize companies supplying fertilizers, conditional to them producing receipts of sale of fertilizers to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the UID project has been integrated within this policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The Department of Fertilizers is following a phased approach to direct cash transfer in the following manner:

- Phase I: Implemented with effect from 1st November, 2012, Phase I of the project gives information on availability of fertilizers at the last point of retail sales to the farmer.
 - All the 640 districts in the country have been linked to the Mobile Fertilizer Monitoring System (mFMS).
 - Therefore, the farmer can have real-time information on fertilizer availability at the neighborhood retail shop.
 - A part of the subsidy is transferred to the companies after the retailer acknowledges the receipt of the fertilizers. This will ensure that the fertilizer reaches the last point of sale to the farmer.

- Phase II: The Department is not doing the Phase II on transfer of subsidy to the retailer as it was only an interim measure, and it was decided to move to the phase of transfer of direct subsidy.
- Phase III: Transfer of subsidy directly to the farmer will be done in the following phased manner as the Department does not have a data base of farmers and each stage in the approach will serve as the platform for moving to the next stage. The stages are:
 - Phase III A: Capture of information on sale of fertilizers to the farmer.
 - Using the Aadhar and core bank account/Kisan credit card, the farmer will be identified and data base created for the subsequent phases.
 - A part of the subsidy may be disbursed to the companies only after the sale of fertilizer to the farmer is recorded and for the quantum of fertilizer sold.
 - The Government has decided to carry out a Pilot implementation of this stage of the mFMS to precede the nationwide implementation. For the pilot implementation, the Department has identified the following 11 districts on the basis of fertilizer consumption, Aadhaar rollout, dealer network and Phase I implementation status;
 - Tumkur, Karnataka
 - Mysore, Karnataka
 - Sonapat, Haryana
 - Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh
 - Nawanshahar, Punjab
 - East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
 - Dhalai, Tripura
 - Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh
 - Ajmer, Rajasthan
 - Wardha, Maharashtra

- Madurai, Tamil Nadu
 - It has been decided to launch the pilot of Phase III (Stage A & B) in the aforementioned 11 districts by the end of this year.
- Phase III B: Transfer of subsidy to the end beneficiary.
 - When once the credible database is complete, Aadhaar numbers and bank accounts have been linked to the database, fund transfer to the beneficiary can be considered through a strong ICT enabled system.
- Phase III C: Defining entitlements for purchase of fertilizers.
 - Can be done only when the complete database of all farmers across the country, along with the farm holding size etc is made available for defining eligibility for fertilizer subsidy.

Scrapping of one-time spectrum fee

*112.DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India has urged Government to scrap the proposal of Department of Telecom pertaining to charging of a one-time fee from existing telecom players for the spectrum they hold;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of Government on such request?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India has written a letter on 01.10.2012 urging the Government to drop the proposal of Department of Telecom (DoT) pertaining to charging of a one-time fee from existing telecom players for the spectrum they hold.

(b) Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) has stated in their letter that the existing players have already paid entry fee for the contracted spectrum held by them while acquiring the licenses and the DoT's proposal to charge one-time fee by amending the existing license is not permissible in law.

- (i) AUSPI has stated in their letter that Hon'ble Supreme Court has not touched the licenses older than 2008 and the Dual Technology Licenses in their judgment dated 02.02.2012. Hence, not charging the one-time fee will not be in conflict with the judgment. AUSPI has further stated that one-time fee up to 5/6.2 MHz will be favorable to the early entrants and will further vitiate the already distorted level playing field.
 - (ii) AUSPI has enclosed with their letter, copies of opinions from legal luminaries in the matter in support for their stand to drop the one-time charge for spectrum.
 - (iii) AUSPI in their letter also stated that the proposal of the DoT to charge for all the existing spectrum for the balance period of the license at Auction discovered prices by altering the terms and conditions of the licenses unilaterally is illegal, violative of the license conditions and create more inequalities and discriminations among the existing operators.
- (c) The Government has, *inter-alia*, decided the following on levy of onetime Spectrum Charges, except those relating to pricing of CDMA spectrum
- (i) for spectrum holding up to 4.4 MHz (GSM), no one time charge be levied;
 - (ii) for all spectrum holdings beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM), an one time charge be levied prospectively upon the existing operators at 2012 auction determined price. The date of applicability of the charge shall be the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet Decision;
 - (iii) for spectrum held above 6.2 MHz (GSM), a one-time charge be levied from July, 2008 onwards. There will be two prices. The price, pro-rated for the period July, 2008 up to the date of applicability of auction determined price, would be in the 2001 entry fee divided by 6.2, duly indexed using State Bank of India Prime Lending Rate (SBI PLR). The auction determined price be levied for spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz (GSM) with effect from the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet decision;
 - (iv) licensees may be given the option to surrender the spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM) if they did not wish to pay this charge.

Double stack container trains

*113. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sections on which Railways run double stack containers in the country;

(b) whether in view of the tremendous development of ports in Gujarat, Government plans to run special double stack container trains connecting Kandla and Mundra Ports with rest of the country; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) On the following sections Indian Railways run double stack container trains operated by Container Train Operators:

1. Between Garhi Harsaru (Near Gurgaon) and Mundra Port via Rewari, Ringus, Phulera, Palanpur, Gandhidham and Adhipur.
2. Between Garhi Harsaru (Near Gurgaon) and Pipavav Port via Rewari, Ringus, Phulera, Palanpur, Viramgam and Surendranagar.
3. Between Kanakpura (Near Jaipur) and Mundra Port via Phulera, Palanpur, Gandhidham and Adhipur.
4. Between Kanakpura (Near Jaipur) and Pipavav port via Phulera, Palanpur, Viramgam and Surendranagar.

(b) and (c) Double stack container trains operated by Container Train Operators are being run regularly from Mundra Port and Pipavav port situated in State of Gujarat to destinations situated in State of Rajasthan and Haryana. Double Stack operation is presently restricted on the sections which are on diesel traction. Due to physical infringement with Over-Head Equipments, running of double stack container train is not possible in existing electrified territory. However, to overcome this constraint, special arrangement has been planned in Over Head Equipment design to make it possible to run double stack container trains in electrified Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. Movement of Double Stack container train from and to Kandla Port has not been started by Container Train Operators due to lack of necessary port infrastructure and also for want of container traffic.

Check on hate mails

*114. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the action plan to counter hate mails that are spreading fast in the country and had led to exodus of North-East people to their own region;
- (b) whether Government has worked out certain kind of strategy in the matter;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some of the threats relating to cyber terror had originated from across the border; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The action plan and strategy of the Government to deal with the issue include the following:

- (i) Use of social media for dissemination of information on Government policies and programmes, as well as countering false information.
- (ii) Issuing advisory to all intermediaries including national and international social networking sites, advising them to take necessary action to disable inflammatory and hateful content hosted on their websites on priority basis.
- (iii) Maintaining regular dialogue with the intermediaries.
- (iv) Awareness campaign on the issue.
- (v) Use of existing legal provisions as contained in the Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000 to block such information for public access under certain circumstances.
- (vi) Using the provisions of Section 79 of the Information Technology Act 2000 to require the intermediaries to follow due diligence and guidelines with regard to malicious information hosted and posted on their infrastructure.

- (vii) Building/updating both legal and technical safeguards to prevent the misuse of Internet.

In addition, Government has notified a 'Framework and Guidelines' for use of Social Media by its agencies. It will help the Government to interact with the common citizens and disseminate information and at the same time effectively counter the spread of hate mails and malicious information.

(d) and (e) Cyber space by its very nature is borderless and anonymous. Anyone can exploit vulnerabilities in any system connected to the Internet and attack it from anywhere in the world without being identified. With the growing sophistication in technology, it is very difficult and challenging to positively attribute the origin of attack and to ascertain the identity of the perpetrator. As such, even though some of the cyber threats in the form of cyber attacks have been observed to be emanating from cyber space from across the border, conclusive attack attribution is very difficult.

Spectrum allocation

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has not taken any decision on spectrum allocation;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay in this regard; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government would consider the grievances of operators and consumers while taking a decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Government has taken decision on spectrum allocation.

(b) Pursuant to Supreme Court judgment dated 02-02-2012 Government has decided that administrative allotment of spectrum in the various categories *i.e.* [CMRTS, PMRTS, Commercial VSATs, Wide Area Paging service providers, All Captive users, which include Govt. Ministries/ Departments, PSU and Private users] be made, pending response of the Supreme Court on the Presidential Reference, in the following cases:

- (i) All Government and public sector applicants; and
- (ii) such of those private users who either hold or acquire a valid service licence or wireless operating licence rendering them eligible for allotment of spectrum and in which case auction of spectrum is not practicable and whose requirement is of such nature and urgency that decision regarding allotment has to be taken urgently and cannot wait till the end of September, 2012 by which time the decision on Presidential Reference is expected, may be allotted spectrum administratively on provisional basis at administrative charges subject to obtaining undertaking from the applicant that they would agree for assignment of frequencies with certain conditions.

The decision on administrative allotment of spectrum beyond Sept, 2012 is under consideration by the government;

However, allotment of spectrum for GSM/CDMA/3G & BWA services are made based on auction process.

- (c) Yes, Sir. Government makes consultation with operators and spectrum users before taking decision for allocation of spectrum.

Imparting of primary education in mother tongue

*116.DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to launch a time-bound programme for imparting free and compulsory primary education to each and every child of the country in his/her mother tongue; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof, as on date, and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 stipulates under section 29 that the academic authority specified by the appropriate government, while laying down the curriculum and evaluation procedure shall take into consideration *inter alia* that the medium of instruction is, as far as practicable, in the child's mother tongue. It is for the specified academic authority in relation to the schools within the territory of the State Governments and Union Territories having a legislature, to take a view in the matter.

Subsidy for establishing food parks

†*117. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring some changes in the existing rules related to subsidy being provided by the Ministry for establishment of Food Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of the beneficiaries getting existing subsidy, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The subsidy pattern of Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Processing: Mega Food Parks is proposed to be revised during the remaining years' of Twelfth Plan.

(b) (i) As per the proposed revised pattern there will be two types of projects: (1) Mega Food Parks, with a minimum of 50 acres and (2) Mini Food Parks, with a minimum of 30 acres.

(ii) As per the proposed revised pattern, up-front subsidy has been proposed at 35% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 25.00 crore and Rs. 10.00 crores as interest subvention in five years on the term loan availed from the banks/financial institutions in general areas and at 50% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 25.00 crores as upfront subsidy and Rs. 15.00 crores as interest subvention in seven years for the term loan availed from banks/financial institutions in NE region including Sikkim, difficult and other hilly areas (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) and notified ITDP areas for a Mega Food Park Project.

(iii) In case of Mini Food Parks, the capital grant is proposed to be at 35% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 crore as upfront subsidy and Rs. 6.00 crore as interest subvention in five years in general areas and at 50% of the eligible project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 crore as upfront subsidy and Rs.9.00 crore as interest subvention in seven years for the term loan availed from banks/financial institutions in NE, difficult areas and notified ITDP areas.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bio-toilets in trains

*118. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has installed bio-toilets in all the trains being operated by South Central Railway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) So far nine trains are provided with 504 bio toilets for in-service trials. Based on the experience gained and outcome of these trials, it is planned to induct bio-toilets progressively in the trains. No separate plan for South Central Railway has been worked out. No Railway-wise introduction of bio-toilets is planned yet.

Recommendations of the Sam Pitroda and the Anil Kakodkar Committees

*119. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is mulling to consider the recommendations of the Sam Pitroda and the Anil Kakodkar Committees on modernization and safety of Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how many recommendations of these Committees have been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Expert Group for modernization of Indian Railways chaired by Sam Pitroda and of the High level Safety Review Committee chaired by Dr. Anil Kakodkar have been received.

The recommendations of the Expert Group for Modernisation of Indian Railways include those 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. It has also provided a blue print for next five years for modernization of Indian Railways.

The High Level Safety Review Committee has made recommendations including general safety matters, organizational structure, empowerment at working level, safety related works and issues, manpower planning issues, shortage of critical safety spares, external interference-encroachment and sabotage, signalling, telecommunication and train protection, modernisation of rolling stock, tracks and bridges, level crossings, fire prevention of trains, road and level crossings and funding issues, human resource development with emphasis on education and training, training institutes on Indian Railways, research eco-system on Indian Railways and safety architecture on Indian Railways.

Both sets of recommendations are under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

Consideration for giving DMS units to GCMMF on lease

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

(a) whether Government is contemplating to give processing and distribution units of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) to Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Limited, (GCMMF), (Amul) on lease;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether GCMMF would employ the staff of DMS; and

(d) if not, Government's reaction in this regard and the steps being taken to save the staff of DMS from unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to give processing and distribution units of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) on lease to Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF). However, the Chairman, GCMMF has written to Government proposing to take up the operation of DMS. GCMMF has been requested to submit a comprehensive and detailed proposal covering various aspects of the matter. Such proposal has not been received from GCMMF.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Organic farming**

776. SHRI N. BALAGANGA:

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the area under organic farming has increased in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of area under organic farming along with the estimated production and value of organic cash and food crops grown in the country during last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to promote organic food in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The area under organic farming has increased in the country. The data related to the area under Organic Certification for the past three years available with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is given as below:

Year	Area (Million Hectares) Cultivated & wild area	Production (Million MT)
2009-10	4.55	1.70
2010-11	4.43	3.88
2011-12	5.55	0.69

Source: Data Provided by Certification Bodies under NOPF in Tracenet.

Further, data on agriculture export which includes food crops, cotton and processed products for past three years available with APEDA is as below:

Year of Production	Volume in MT	Value (Rs. in Crores)
2009-10	58408	526
2010-11	69837	699
2011-12	115417	839

(c) and (d) Government is providing incentives to cultivators of organic food products under the "National Horticulture Mission" (NHM) @ Rs. 10,000/- per hectare for maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary, setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary and organic farming certification @ Rs. 5.00 lakh for group of farmers covering an area of 50 hectare. Assistance for organic food promotion is also available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) for projects formulated and approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.

Annual income on farmers

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

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the average annual income of farmers working in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when such study would be conducted;

(d) whether the income of farmers at annual growth rate in the country has marginally increased since 2000; and

(e) if so, what has been the annual rate of increase during the decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) At the request of Ministry of Agriculture, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted a comprehensive 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' during 2003 in the rural areas collecting information, *inter-alia*, on receipts and expenses relating to cultivation, farming of animals, non-farm business and wages. The average monthly income per farmer household at all India level during the year 2002-03 was Rs. 2115.

(d) and (e) The next 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' is scheduled for 2013.

Modernization of production of vegetables

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

(a) whether in view of the shortage of vegetables in hilly areas and their high cost, Government proposes to modernize the methods of production of vegetables with lesser cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to bring such production activities under Agro-Industries to take up production in large scale in all the hilly areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) In order to enhance production and productivity of horticulture crops in the country including vegetables in hilly areas to meet the growing demand for these produce, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Under these schemes, assistance is provided for establishment of Hi-tech nurseries to produce nucleus seed and quality seedlings, covering more areas under Fl hybrids, promotion of protected cultivation of high value and off season vegetables, adoption of modern production system and management like micro irrigation mulching, mechanization, etc.

All these programmes are implemented through State Government Departments dealing with agriculture and horticulture.

Disposal of straw after harvest

779. PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice straw, after harvest, is being burnt in the field of farmers in the Punjab-Haryana region, thereby causing both atmospheric pollution and the loss of valuable organic matter; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to help farmers with appropriate implements to plough the straw into the soil, thereby enriching the organic matter content of the soil and the growth of earthworms?

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

(b) The Government is promoting the following technology for better management of straw by farmers by providing assistance upto 40% of the cost of the machine subject to maximum limit of Rs.20,000 under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme.

- (i) **Straw combine** - used for collecting straw from combine harvested fields.
- (ii) **Straw Balers** - effective for collection and compaction of straw in the form of bales for ease of transportation.
- (iii) **Rotavator** - an effective implement for incorporating straw into the soil.
- (iv) **Happy seeder/Zero till seed Drill** - These machines enable the farmers to sow second crop in straw/stubble laden fields and saving energy while simultaneously contributing much for water conservation.

Government of India is also providing assistance for organizing frontline demonstration on these equipments through the State Governments/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for the awareness of farmers.

Rising incidence of suicide by farmers

780. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of suicide committed by farmers during last three months till date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of suicide by farmers during last six months till date in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, district-wise;
- (c) whether Government has failed to check the rising incidence of suicide by farmers; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Details of suicide committed by farmers are

reported at State level from time to time by respective State Governments. During 2012, suicides committed by farmers due to agrarian reasons have been reported in Andhra Pradesh (25) and Maharashtra (118) in the calendar year and Karnataka (2) in the financial year by respective State Governments. Government of Tamil Nadu has not informed of cases of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons in 2012 in the State.

(c) and (d) Government has taken various effective measures including implementation of Rehabilitation Package in identified districts to revitalize agriculture sector, improve condition of farmers and check incidents of suicides among them. As reported by respective State Governments, the number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons has not increased in 2012 as compared to the previous year.

Effect of global warming

781. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of alternate sources of food, Government has envisaged, to make up for the diminishing availability of major grain crops, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that while India will be adversely affected by global warming phenomenon, China will actually experience a surge in crop yield by up to 20 per cent; and

(c) whether any plans have been conceptualized for procurement and storage of foodgrains in case of massive scarcity caused by rise in temperature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Presently there has not been any diminishing availability of food grains in the country. However, the Government is emphasizing the production of alternate sources of food such as coarse cereals, fruits and vegetables which may supplement the food and nutritional security of the country. The Government accordingly, is implementing schemes namely National Security through Intensive Millets Promotion, National Horticulture Mission, Rastriya Krishi Vigyan Yojana and National Food Security Mission in this regard.

(b) Generally, most countries in Asia will be adversely affected by global warming, the effects being moderate (upto 5-6%) in the short term (upto 2030) and

significant (upto 25%) in the medium to long term (2050 and beyond). However, China being a temperate country most models predict that cereals crops like rice in some regions of China (North East, North West and South East coastal Provinces) might increase by 15-20% (IPCC). While in India, most of the modeling work done by ICAR indicate 4-6% adverse impacts on yields in the short term (upto 2030). However, the existing adaptation technologies like tolerant varieties and improved crop management can neutralize the short term impacts.

(c) here is no massive scarcity of food grains foreseen. However, for contingency requirement, Government of India has in place system for food grain procurement, storage and distribution.

Achievements of Gramneen Bhandaran Yojana

782. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how far has the Grameen Bhandaran Yojana, launched in April 2011, and aimed at creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas been able to meet its targets;

(b) in the event of drought or other contingencies, what precaution has been taken, by both the Centre and States, to ensure supply of foodgrain for the country's population; and

(c) the steps taken to refurbish the capacity steps of existing storage facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) The central sector scheme 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana' was launched with effect from 1.4.2001, with major objectives of creation of scientific storage capacity in rural areas for storing farm produce, prevention of distress sale and reduction of post-harvest losses. As per the report (2006) of independent evaluation of the scheme, carried out by Global Agri System Pvt. Ltd., principal objectives of the scheme have been met. As per the report, about 95% of godowns are used to store agriculture output, while 5% store both input and output. Commodities stored, are mainly local produce with major commodities being rice, wheat and pulses. During X Plan Period, storage capacity of 182.17 lakh MT

has been sanctioned against the target of 121.00 lakh MT, while storage capacity of 135.01 lakh MT has been sanctioned against the target of 90.00 lakh MT during XI Plan period.

(b) As per existing policy, Government makes allocation of food grains to States and Union Territories over and above the normal quotas for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for relief in case of natural calamities including droughts. The Government maintains sufficient stocks of foodgrains for this purpose.

(c) Under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana, assistance is provided to cooperatives through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for renovation of rural godowns. Assistance under the scheme has been provided for renovation of godowns of total capacity of 23.73 lakh MT in cooperative sector since inception. With effect from 20.10.2012, the normative cost of renovation of godowns in cooperative sector has been enhanced from Rs. 625 per MT to Rs. 750 per MT.

Loss of fruits and vegetables

783. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of fruits and vegetables are destroyed due to their perishable nature, every year;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of fruits and vegetables destroyed during last two years fruit/vegetable-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to stop this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The extent of damage of fruits and vegetables depends on various factors such as seasonality, perishability of the produce, post harvest handling, transport and storage. As per survey conducted by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), harvest and post harvest losses of fruits and vegetables are in the, range of 5.77 to 18.05 per cent. The details are given in Statement (*See below*).

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture extends financial assistance for integrated post harvest management, setting up of processing units and establishment of market infrastructure under various programmes namely Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Horticulture Board (NHB) to reduce the losses of fruits and vegetables. In addition, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides assistance for setting up of cold chain facilities.

Statement

*Estimate of Harvest and Post Harvest Losses of Fruits
and Vegetables (%)*

Sl. No.	Commodity	Loss (%)
1	2	3
A.	Fruits	
1.	Apple	12.26
2.	Banana	6.60
3.	Citrus	6.38
4.	Grapes	8.30
5.	Guava	18.05
6.	Mango	12.74
7.	Papaya	7.36
8.	Sapota	5.77
B.	Vegetables	
1.	Cabbage	6.94
2.	Cauliflower	6.88
3.	Green Pea	10.28
4.	Mushroom	12.54
5.	Onion	7.51

1	2	3
6.	Potato	8.99
7.	Tomato	12.98
8.	Tapioca	9.19

Share of agriculture in GDP

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

(a) whether dependence of population on agriculture has increased over a period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has decreased recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the comprehensive measures taken by Government to increase the agricultural share in GDP as prevalent in developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) quinquennial, Employment and Unemployment Surveys; the estimated number of workers employed in agriculture per 1000 persons declined from 580 in 2005-06 to 532 in 2009-10 on account of comparatively higher employment opportunities in the non-agriculture sectors.

(c) to (e) As per the latest estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) the share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in GDP of the country at 2004-05 prices was at 14% in 2011-12. The share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in GDP of the country declined from 15.8 % in 2008-09, to 14.7 % in 2009-10, and further to 14.5 % in 2010-11. The decline in the share of Agriculture and Allied Sectors in GDP of the country is on account of comparatively higher growth in GDP of non-agriculture sectors. However, the Government of India has launched several schemes to boost 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. in the country.

MSP for wheat

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

(a) whether Government has proposed no change in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat at Rs. 1285 per quintal for 2013-14 season but has suggested a bonus of Rs. 130 per quintal over and above MSP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Food Ministry has opposed the proposal and suggested to go with the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and retain MSP for wheat at the last years level of Rs. 1285/-; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments and other relevant factors.

MSP for wheat for 2012-13 has not yet been finalized.

Spread of bird flu

786. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that bird flu is causing worry to poultry farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that export of Indian poultry products is banned; and

(d) if so, how many countries have banned Indian poultry products and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Bird flu is a highly contagious disease resulting in huge economic losses in terms of high mortality of birds, culling of birds, fall in production and disruption of trade of poultry and poultry products, thus is a cause of worry to poultry farmers. However, the number of cases of bird flu in the country during the current financial year has not increased in comparison to the ones 5 reported during last financial year. The State Governments are in the state of preparedness, also well equipped and well experienced in carrying out the control and containment operations. In past 12 occurrences, including the last one at CPDO, Hessarghatta, Bangalore, the disease was contained and controlled at the source itself.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Industry and the Indian Embassies, countries such as Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia had imposed ban on import of poultry products from India due to bird flu. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), had taken up the matter with Indian Missions in these countries with a request to take up the issue with the respective authorities for lifting up the ban.

Use of bull in agriculture

787. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the ratio of man and animal in 1947 and at present;
- (b) the policy of Government regarding use of bull in agriculture; and
- (c) whether Government encourage use of bull in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The man and animal ratio (livestock) in 1947 and at present is presented in the following table:

(in million)

Year	Man	Animal (Livestock)	Man - Animal Ratio	Remark
1951	361.09	292.80	100 : 81	No population and livestock census was conducted in 1947
2007	1138	529.70	100 : 47	Livestock population as per Livestock Census 2007. Estimated human population for the year 2007.

Source: Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2012, Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Formulation of policy on development of bovine population including draught animals is a State subject and most of the States have a formulated policy for development of bovine population including draught animals. In order to supplement and complement the efforts made by the States the Government is implementing 'National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding' which has focus on development and conservation of indigenous breeds. One of the achievements of the project would be increasing the availability of improved draught animals for farm sector. Selective breeding and multiplication of the important draught breeds of cattle in their breeding tract, through both artificial insemination (AI) as well as natural service, will establish regular and continuous supply of high quality draught animals greatly improving the overall draught animal economy in the country.

APMC Act

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

(a) whether Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act, supposed to contain farm-produce volatility, has degenerated into a cartel system;

(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) As agriculture marketing is a state subject, various State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) have enacted legislation (Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act) to provide for regulation of marketing of wholesale agricultural produce through a network of regulated wholesale markets with the objective of ensuring better prices and timely payment to farmers for their produce. In order to bring reforms in agricultural marketing, a model Agriculture Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act was circulated in 2003, for adoption by States/UTs in their respective state legislations. The Model Act provides for alternative competitive marketing channels to farmers such as direct marketing, contract farming, farmers/consumers markets, setting up of markets in private and cooperative sector and e-trading, etc., which aim at facilitating better remuneration to farmers for their produce through reduction in intermediation and transparency while preventing cartelization. The status of agricultural marketing reforms in States/UTs is given in Statement.

Statement

Progress of Reforms in Agricultural Markets (APMC Act) as on 30.10.2012

Sl. No.	Stage of Reforms	Name of States/ Union Territories
1	2	3
1.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done for Direct Marketing; Contract Farming and Markets in Private/ Coop Sectors	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Tripura.
2.	States/UTs where reforms to APMC Act has been done partially	(a) Direct Marketing: NCT of Delhi. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh) (b) Contract 'Farming: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh.
3.	States/UTs where there is no APMC Act and hence not requiring reforms	Bihar*, Kerala, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Lakshadweep.

1	2	3
4.	States/UTs where APMC Act already provides for the reforms	Tamil Nadu
5.	States/UTs where reforms are yet to be initiated	Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir West Bengal, Puducherry, and Uttar Pradesh.

* APMC Act is repealed w.e.f. 1.9.2006.

Per capita availability of foodgrains

789. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita foodgrains availability in our country has decreased during last ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for last ten years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of per capita foodgrain availability in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The per capita availability of cereal, pulses and foodgrains since 2002 is given below:

(Grams per day)			
Year	Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains
1	2	3	4
2002	458.7	35.4	494.1
2003	408.5	29.1	437.6
2004	426.9	35.8	462.7
2005	390.9	31.5	422.4
2006	412.8	32.5	445.3
2007	407.4	35.5	442.8
2008	394.2	41.8	436.0

1	2	3	4
2009	407.0	37.0	444.0
2010	401.7	35.4	437.1
2011(P)	423.5	39.4	462.9

(P) - Provisional.

The fluctuations in per capita availability are mainly due to fluctuations in production on account of variations in weather conditions, increasing population etc.

Need for revolutionary improvement in agriculture sector

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a need of new revolutionary improvement in the Agricultural sector in the country;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that priority must be given for making per hectare production rate competitive to International level instead of increasing capital investment in Agricultural sector of the country;
- (d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and
- (e) the perspective plan of Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (e) 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. The need for accelerating agricultural growth to 4% per annum to achieve equitable and inclusive growth and make farming viable, led to various initiatives for revitalization of agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan. The results have been satisfactory. All-time record production was witnessed in rice, wheat, sugar cane and cotton, as the average annual growth rate in the agriculture and allied sector during Eleventh Plan improved to 3.3% as opposed to 2.4% in the Tenth Plan. These initiatives will continue in the 12th Five Year Plan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Increasing capital investment in agriculture is necessary to, *inter-alia*, create required infrastructure, which is key to increasing productivity. The Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in Agriculture and Allied sector at constant (2004-05) prices has increased from Rs. 92,057 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 142,254 crore in 2010-11. The impact of this increased investment is clearly visible in the above mentioned results.

Export of Beef

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

(a) whether a Working Group of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has submitted a report to Planning Commission of India for Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) in which under para 12.3.1 of chapter 12 titled 'Meat and abattoir', it is mentioned that 'export of beef is banned at present that's why after making required amendments in export-import policy, export of beef be permitted';

(b) whether Government would like to ignore this report keeping in mind sentiments of majority of Indian masses; and

(c) if so, by when Government will take decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Planning Commission has informed that it had set up a Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairying for formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan and the cited recommendation of the Working Group under Para 12.3.1 of Chapter 12 has already been deleted. The final version of Para 12.3.1 reads as follows:

"Since slaughter is a state subject, the actual processing of meat for exports as well as for domestic demand follow the laws of the individual states, which are at variance with each other. The new regulations notified in May, 2011 under Food Safety and Standards Act call for complete modernization of the industry to produce quality and safe meat. There is a need to improve awareness among the stake holders on Food Safety and quality aspects of meat for effective implementation of the newly proposed Food Safety Rules."

(b) and (c) does not arise in view of reply at (a).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Failure of monsoon in Tamil Nadu

792. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu has approached the Centre for financial assistance in view of the failure of monsoon in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of Tamil Nadu has not sent any memorandum to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in 2012 seeking financial assistance for failure of monsoon.

Measures to tackle debt incurred by farmers

793. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government intends to take to tackle the increasing debt incurred by farmers, in view of the escalating input prices;

(b) whether Government intends to extend the reach of agricultural cooperatives and banks in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Government announces each season minimum support prices for major agriculture commodities to ensure remunerative prices to the growers taking into consideration the relevant factors including the cost of production and changes in the input prices and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. Besides, to raise farm income and to improve agriculture production and productivity, Government has formulated various schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Agriculture Credit Initiatives, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), Crop Insurance etc.

(b) and (c) A package for revival and strengthening of Short-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) in the country formulated on the basis of

recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee is presently under implementation with an estimated total financial outlay of Rs. 13596 crore. Under multi-pronged strategy to extend banking facilities in the unbanked rural areas, all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) have been advised to allocate 25 per cent of the total number of branches to be opened during a year in unbanked rural centres. Monetary Policy Statement of April, 2010, the roadmap to provide banking services in every village having population above 2000 was finalized by State Level Banking Committees (SLBCs). 74,414 villages with population above 2,000 were identified as unbanked, which were allocated to various banks, including RRBs for providing banking services by March, 2012. Banks have covered 74,199 (99.7 per cent) of these unbanked villages.

Contingency plan for States receiving scanty rainfall

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

(a) whether Government has prepared a contingency plan that focuses on alternative or short duration crops in the States receiving scanty rainfall;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether plan prepared by ICAR does not include any change in the cropping pattern for the key paddy growing States, where monsoon rainfall is adequate so far;

(d) whether the farmers have been urged to avoid long duration rice varieties and go for medium duration varieties for dealing with 36 per cent deficiency in rainfall; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has so far prepared 374 district contingency plans to address weather aberrations in the country mainly due to delay in onset of monsoon leading to drought, breaks in monsoon, floods, cyclone, excess and unseasonal rains and other extreme weather events such as heat wave, cold wave, frost and hailstorm.

Contingency strategies cover monsoon delays upto 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks and include changes in crop and/or variety preferably of short or medium duration based on length of growing season and cropping sequence followed in the district.

(c) The plans do contain changes in cropping pattern/varieties even in paddy growing states if there is a significant delay in monsoon rains or delay in release of irrigation water. These changes are highly location specific depending on the cropping pattern in the district. But in some states/districts with transplanted paddy as the main crop, only change in varieties is suggested as change in cropping pattern is not possible in that situation except for rabi.

(d) and (e) In all the agro-advisories issued by the Agricultural Universities, the details of short duration varieties to be grown due to deficit rainfall are provided in their websites and also through local media and television channels particularly in deficit rainfall states.

Measures to control suicide by farmers

795. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to work out certain measures to control suicide among farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action plan to grant interest-free loans to the poor farmers; and
- (d) the action plan to provide other kinds of help to poor marginalized farmers to help them financially or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Measures taken by Government to control suicide among farmers include, *inter-alia*, implementation of Rehabilitation Package in identified districts, provision of various inputs and support services, increase in credit flow to agriculture sector, interest subvention on crop loan, debt waiver, debt relief, enhancement in Minimum Support Price of agricultural commodities, development of storage and marketing infrastructure etc., as per guidelines under the relevant scheme(s).

National Policy for Farmers (NPF) 2007, acknowledges the preponderance of small and marginal holdings in the country. NPF envisages farming activity becoming more viable and the economic condition of farmers improving on a sustainable basis. Major provisions of NPF comprise various asset reforms (land, water, livestock etc.) to empower farmers, development of support services (credit, insurance, extension, prices and marketing etc.) and creation of opportunities for non-farm employment for farm households. Accordingly, specific steps have been identified and incorporated in the plan of action for operationalization of NPF.

Loan at lower interest rate for dairy profession

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provides agro loans at 3 per cent interest rate to farmers for agricultural purposes whereas there is no concession in the interest on loans for dairy profession even though it is complementary to agriculture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide loans at lower interest rate to farmers especially in Madhya Pradesh for purchasing cattle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Government of India provides interest subvention at 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on their own funds used for short term crop loan upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per farmer provided the lending institutions make available short term credit at the ground level at 7% per annum to farmers. An additional interest subvention at 3% is available to the prompt paying, farmers. Thus, the prompt paying borrower/farmer would get short term crop loans at 4% per annum. However, this benefit of interest subvention is not available for Dairy even though it is complementary to agriculture.

(c) The Department of Animals Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries does not have any scheme to provide loans at lower interest rate to farmers for purchasing cattle. However, the Department is implementing "Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme" (DEDS) through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Development (NABARD) in which back ended capital subsidy (25% of the project cost for General Category and 33.33% for SC & ST beneficiaries) is provided through eligible financial institutions, subject to the norms of the scheme. One of the components of DEDS is establishment of small dairy unit of 2 to 10 crossbreed cows, indigenous descript milch cows and graded buffaloes. The scheme is available throughout the country including Madhya Pradesh.

Impact of deficient monsoon on foodgrains production

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of deficient monsoon in 2012 on foodgrains production, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to assess and expeditiously mitigate the impact of deficient rainfall/drought like situation in many parts of the country on farmers and in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per First Advance Estimates 2012-13, Kharif foodgrain production is estimated at 117.18 million tones which is 12.76 million tones less compared to that of 2011-12. This is mainly due to delayed/deficient monsoon. State-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) An empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) had been constituted to review the situation and take quick and timely decisions on policy issues as well as on other issues for effective management of drought and related matters. Important decisions of EGoM include implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme for providing protective irrigation in the rainfall deficient districts, enhancement of ceiling on seeds subsidy to partially recompense farmer for re-sowing and/or purchasing drought tolerant variety of seeds, interest subvention/restructuring of crop loans, additional wage employment upto 50 days per household, additional budget allocation of Rs. 100 crore under Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP), additional budget allocation of Rs. 50.00 crore under Central Sector Scheme on Fodder and Feed, fast tracking of fund releases under the major schemes of Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, waiver of import duty on oil cakes etc.

Statement

*State-wise first advance estimates of production of foodgrains
during 2012-13. (As on 24-09-2012)*

('000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	Kharif Foodgrains
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8403.7
2.	Assam	3817.0
3.	Bihar	6495.0
4.	Chhattisgarh	6065.7
5.	Gujarat	2793.1
6.	Haryana	3939.0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	851.0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1056.9
9.	Jharkhand	4813.6
10.	Karnataka	7566.3
11.	Kerala	449.0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4811.3
13.	Maharashtra	6698.0
14.	Orissa	6013.7
15.	Punjab	11458.8
16.	Rajasthan	5808.4
17.	Tamil Nadu	6085.2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	17197.0
19.	Uttarakhand	948.0

1	2	3
20.	West Bengal	9410.8
21.	Others	2494.5
22.	ALL-INDIA	117176.1

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Development in agriculture sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that for development of agriculture sector in the country, Government has been taking policy decision to give boost to the development of agriculture sector by increasing prices for last one decade;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this move, the quantum of capital investment in the agriculture sector has increased but it did not increase the dividend of the producer; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) The Minimum Support Prices(MSPs) for the major crops covered under the MSP increased by 127% for paddy, 104% for wheat, 183% for Arhar, 221% for Moong, 87% for Rapeseed/Mustard, 156% for Jute, etc since 2003-04.

The MSP fixed by Government is based on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the concerned State Governments and the 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.

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

Gross Capital Formation (investment) in agriculture relative to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in this sector has increased from 16.1 % in 2004-05 to 20.1 % in 2010-11 at 2004-05 prices. Government is implementing various programmes/schemes, *inter-alia*, with the objective of improving productivity, profitability and economic viability of farming, namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) etc.

Awareness programme on sustainable use of groundwater

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

- (a) whether Government has recently launched an awareness programme to educate farmers on sustainable use of groundwater resources in rainfed area of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has launched this programme through print/electronic media for the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been conducting mass awareness programme for promoting rain water harvesting, artificial recharge and water conservation in different parts of the country involving Central/State agencies, Non-Government voluntary/Resident-Welfare Organizations, educational institutions, industries, farmers, individuals etc. for sustainable use of groundwater resources. So far 455 mass awareness campaigns have been organized by CGWB.

Central Ground Water Authority organizes campaigns on rain water harvesting, ground water pollution, water conservation etc. through Doordarshan/All India Radio/print media, release of postage-stamp/post-cards/booklets, display of hoardings on water conservation/rain water harvesting at prominent public places.

(e) These efforts have led to overall improvement in ground water use and also an increase in ground water development from 58% in 2004 to 61% in 2009. During the same period percentage of Blocks/Mandals/Talukas categorized as overexploited, critical and semi critical has gone down from 29% to 26%.

Availability of fertilizers DAP and urea to farmers

†800. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fertilizers, DAP and Urea 20:20:0 and 15:15:0 were made available to the farmers as per their demands in all states in the year, 2012;
- (b) if so, the details of fertilizers supplied to each state, district-wise;
- (c) whether farmers are not able to get sufficient supply of fertilizers every year despite it being utmost essential and necessary for them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether new fertilizers units have been opened in the country during the last three years; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The demand (requirement) assessed by Department of Agriculture (DAC) and availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK in all the state in the year 2012 (April, 2012 to October, 2012) are given in Statement (*See below*).

As can be seen from the Annexure, the availability of all the Fertilizers during the year is comfortable. Department of Fertilizers (DOF) does not monitor the grade-wise requirement *vis-a-vis* availability of NPK fertilizer. However, as can be seen from the Annexure that availability of NPK fertilizer is quite comfortable.

The Department of Fertilizers monitors the availability of Fertilizer at State level. The monitoring within state is the responsibility of the respective state Government.

(e) and (f) No, new Fertilizer unit has been opened in the country during last three years. However, one Greenfield project *viz.* Matix Fertilizers and Chemical Ltd. is being established at Panagarh (Distt. Burdwan, West Bengal).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

*State-wise Requirement, Availability and Sales of Urea, DAP, NPK and MOP Fertilizers
during the year 2012-13 [April 2012 to October 2012]*

(Figures in 000' MT)

States	Urea			DAP			NPK			MOP		
	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	1950.00	1795.46	1750.69	830.00	595.15	372.96	1300.00	1435.92	1017.55	400.00	259.52	178.44
Karnataka	940.00	881.29	858.50	675.00	457.12	195.42	865.00	787.84	492.34	347.00	237.36	164.58
Kerala	126.00	82.14	81.19	32.00	24.36	16.64	170.00	125.35	104.93	115.00	77.67	55.28
Tamil Nadu	623.00	489.08	487.20	295.00	179.32	151.70	396.76	465.34	346.14	295.00	144.69	125.17
Gujarat	1420.00	1115.57	1074.24	590.00	272.97	150.52	348.70	399.20	209.77	118.00	51.61	42.88
Madhya Pradesh	990.99	1047.28	903.02	873.80	1119.02	687.96	309.46	250.85	174.39	111.52	99.72	64.67
Chhattisgarh	520.00	539.16	436.74	231.84	212.07	115.99	130.00	110.22	86.56	89.00	88.92	42.83
Maharashtra	1745.00	1533.80	1483.25	1086.00	633.61	330.41	1155.00	1138.09	747.46	373.00	297.01	181.32
Rajasthan	852.10	844.10	819.97	492.36	526.36	381.44	124.49	72.66	66.28	36.97	15.50	10.15

Haryana	1125.00	1079.57	984.21	545.00	643.94	375.91	65.00	21.13	16.12	45.00	21.46	18.36
Punjab	1625.00	1743.83	1520.49	705.00	811.13	608.15	85.00	36.20	29.84	71.00	43.39	25.61
Himachal Pradesh	40.00	38.54	34.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	14.85	9.34	0.30	4.22	1.81
Jammu and Kashmir	81.20	99.76	61.42	47.79	39.00	22.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.38	6.41	3.47
Uttar Pradesh	3100.00	3630.04	3170.42	1300.00	1846.96	1171.54	750.00	657.66	478.99	165.00	125.50	109.27
Uttarakhand	140.00	156.56	144.66	21.00	27.64	17.47	31.00	30.83	23.32	5.00	4.54	3.04
Bihar	1180.00	1129.25	1094.97	305.00	467.03	318.39	215.00	226.01	145.58	120.00	96.42	58.08
Jharkhand	191.25	149.33	133.79	91.50	51.91	29.54	60.00	25.10	21.43	22.50	6.88	2.36
Orissa	490.00	419.77	398.94	185.00	92.94	82.31	213.51	175.39	117.69	125.00	62.34	51.07
West Bengal	578.00	754.33	602.21	274.53	296.89	187.45	456.74	534.15	417.70	174.84	190.63	114.41
ALL INDIA	17996.71	17728.01	16235.58	8717.01	8324.73	5239.97	6733.64	6522.06	4517.16	2730.29	1879.07	1274.09

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

77

Availability of fertilizers at reasonable prices

†801. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large scale anomalies have been found in the prices of essential fertilizers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the campaign started by Government under the present policy has given any results so far; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken further by Government to provide fertilizers to farmers at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No anomalies regarding prices of fertilizers have come to the notice of the Department.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) Prior to the implementation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy, the MRP of P&K fertilizers were fixed by the Government, which was much lower than its delivered cost and difference in delivered cost and its MRP was paid as subsidy. This led to increase in consumption of fertilizers but also near stagnation in agricultural productivity. The fertilizer sector worked in a highly regulated environment and the fertilizer industry suffered from low profitability as compared to other sectors. The industry lacked innovation and had no incentive to invest towards modernization and increase efficiency. The subsidy outgo of Government had also increased exponentially.

It was, thus, observed that subsidy regime prior to NBS Policy had been proving to be a losing proposition for all the stake holders viz. farmers, industry and the Government. Considering all the issues relating to agriculture productivity, balanced fertilization and growth of indigenous fertilizer industry, competitiveness amongst the fertilizer companies and to overcome the deficiency of concession scheme, the Government decided to introduce Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for P&K fertilizers w.e.f 1.4.2010.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Since, NBS Policy has been under implementation for last 2½ years only, a formal study is yet to be conducted on its impact. However, there is a proposal under consideration to get the study done by a reputed consulting firm.

(d) Urea is made available to the farmers at a price fixed by the Government, which is much below the delivered price. The difference in the cost of delivered price and MRP is provided as subsidy. Government also provides a fixed subsidy on 21 grades of P&K fertilizers, depending on their nutrient content, to make them available to the farmers at subsidised rates. The MRPs of P&K fertilizers are, however, fixed by the companies.

Availability of rakes for transportation of urea

†802. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the demand of Uttar Pradesh, adequate number of rakes are being provided by Government for transportation of urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy to establish a new system for this purpose; 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. 4.9 railway rakes per day were loaded as against a target of 4.8 railway rakes per day, to achieve target of availability of Urea during the current Rabi season 2012-13 (October, 2012). The demand (requirement) assessed by Department of Agriculture (DAC) and availability of Urea in the State of Uttar Pradesh during current season in Rabi 2012-13 (October, 2012) is as below:

(Figures in 000 MTS)

Availability of Fertilizers during Rabi 2012-13 October, 2012			
Urea	Requirement	Availability	Sale
	500.00	542.30	469.66

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As can be seen from the table above, the availability of Urea during the current Rabi season 2012-13 (October, 2012) was more than the requirement.

(c) and (d) No need has been felt for a new system.

Sitting up of integrated petrochemical unit in Tamil Nadu

803. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any integrated Petroleum, Plastic, Chemical and Petrochemical unit in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Environmental Ministry's approval has been obtained and conveyed to the State Government; and

(d) if not, the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved a proposal of the State Government of Tamil Nadu to set up a Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) in the Cuddalore and Nagapatinam districts covering an area of 256.83 sq. kms.

(b) The proposal seeks to attract Rs. 92,160 crore as investment and create infrastructure worth Rs. 13,354 crore. The project is expected to generate employment for around 7.5 lakh persons.

(c) The State Government is required to obtain the necessary environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (M/o E & F) based on a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment as per the guidelines issued by the M/o E & F from time to time.

(d) No fixed time frames are set in this regard and the approval is based on satisfactory completion of prescribed procedures as per M/o E & F guidelines.

Need to control prices of medicines

804. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether out of the medicines sold in the country presently, only 20 to 30 percent medicines are covered under price control;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the domestic market prices of medicines covered under the price control constitutes a very less portion of the market price of the total medicines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is a need to control prices of medicines in the country;
- (f) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard; and
- (g) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. 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, 95. 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.

The prices of formulations containing 74 bulk drugs specified in the First schedule of the DPCO, 1995 that presently are under price control regime are fixed/ revised by NPPA on the basis of formula contained in Para 7 of the DPCO, 1995 which includes Material cost, Conversion cost, Packing Material cost, Packing Charges and a maximum allowable post manufacturing expenses of upto 100 per cent and the instant guidelines on the subject. Actual allowable taxes are also added to arrive at the equivalent MRP.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. The prices of non scheduled formulations are not fixed by NPPA. There is no control on the launch price of the non scheduled formulations. 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.

(e) to (g) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality as per the medicines as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (348 drugs with specified dosage and strengths), as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM). Based on the recommendations of the GoM, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy 2012 (NPPP-2012) was formulated and placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications. Further, action to notify NPPP-2012 has been undertaken.

Investment policy for urea sector

805. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any new investment policy for the urea sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Department of Fertilizers has suggested any changes in the eligibility criteria for plants to qualify for Greenfield, Brownfield and revamped plants categories;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) New Investment Policy 2012 is under consideration of the Government.

Revival of fertilizer factory at Gorakhpur

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether there was any announcement of Government for revival of fertilizer factory of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the initiatives being taken by Government for implementing this announcement;

(c) whether the fertilizer factory of Gorakhpur would be made operational this year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in its meeting held on 4.8.2011 approved the proposal for revival of closed units of Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL) including Gorakhpur unit of FCIL with the stipulation that Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR) proceedings be expedited and thereafter, the matter including changes, if any, required in bid parameters, be placed before the Committee for a final decision. Accordingly, the Draft Rehabilitation Schemes (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. At present, the matter is with BIFR. In view of this, it is not possible, at this stage, to give a time limit for operationalization of the Gorakhpur unit.

Spiralling prices of fertilizers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of fertilizers have increased 12 times in two years in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to this rise in prices, the farming community in Andhra Pradesh has been affected very badly; and

(c) if so, the reasons that Government does not have control on the prices of fertilizers as we have in the case of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)

Policy is being implemented *w.e.f.* 1.4.2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, which are non-Urea fertilizers. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on annual basis is provided on each grade of subsidized P&K fertilizers, depending upon its nutrient content. Maximum Retail Prices (MRP) of P&K fertilizers is fixed by fertilizer companies.

India is completely dependent on imports for Potassic Fertilizers and to the extent of 90% in Phosphatic fertilizers. Subsidy being fixed, the international prices of these fertilizers and their raw materials has direct bearing on the domestic retail prices. The prices of fertilizers and their inputs are highly volatile in the international market, therefore, the fertilizer companies keep adjusting MRPs of their fertilizers in line with international cost of fertilizers. The exchange rate fluctuations also affect the cost of acquisition of fertilizers and, consequently, result in change in the MRPs. Thus, the MRPs of P&K fertilizers keep changing throughout the country including in Andhra Pradesh.

The prices of P&K fertilizers have increased due to fluctuations in international prices, which is beyond the control of the Government and also on account of depreciation of Indian Rupee. Rise in prices of fertilizers have affected all farmers including those in Andhra Pradesh.

Revival of closed urea plants

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

- (a) whether Government has decided to revive closed urea plants in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is applicable to Fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in its meeting held on 4.8.2011, approved the proposal for revival of closed units of Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (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. At present, the matter is with BIFR.

(c) No, Sir.

Price control of essential medicines

†809. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a final decision to bring the prices of essential medicines in the country under its control;

(b) if so, whether Government has proposed any mechanism for fixing prices of these medicines;

(c) if so, the criteria of fixing prices of these medicines; and

(d) the criteria on which the prices of medicines under control, are being fixed till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality as per the medicines as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (348 drugs with specified dosage and strengths), as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM). Based on the recommendations of the GoM, National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy-2012 (NPPP-2012) was formulated and placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications. Further action to notify NPPP-2012 has been undertaken.

(d) The drugs in which there is price control at present, viz. drugs under Schedule-I of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO-95) are based on the criteria of market share of the drugs/monopoly of its manufacturers in the market.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Inclusion of cancer drugs under essential medicines list

810. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to include many cancer drugs under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order as part of the new list of essential medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure affordability of cancer drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM), National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP-2012) which also contains anti-cancer drugs was placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications. Further action to notify NPPP-2012 has been undertaken.

(c) Besides formulating NPPP-2012, 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.

Investment in fertilizer sector

811. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government is taking to boost investment in the fertiliser sector as per the recommendations of the Working Group of Fertilizer Industry for the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether reduction of fertilizer subsidies is complementary to increasing public investment; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Government of India is considering to formulate New Investment Policy 2012 to boost indigenous production of urea in the country which would reduce subsidies on Urea in a long run.

Sale and distribution of sub-standard fertilizers, pesticides etc.

812. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the action taken under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 and Insecticides Act, 1968 for sale and distribution of sub-standard fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides and fungicides, during last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

- (b) whether the penal provision include prosecution of offenders with upto seven years imprisonment under ECA,1955;and

- (c) if so, the action taken during last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The State Governments are adequately empowered under Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 to take both administrative action as well as legal action such as filing of cases in the court of law. The details showing the action taken by the State Governments on Non Standard fertilizers, for preceding last 3 year given in Statement-I to III (*See below*). Action taken during last three years in case of Pesticides is given in Statement-IV (*See below*).

- (b) The fertilizer has been declared as essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As per Section (Penalties) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a punishment for a term which shall not be less than three months but which may extend to 7 years and shall also liable to fine. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) *vide* notification SO No. 654 (E) dated 29.03.2012 declared the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) as special Order under Section 12 A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. For the contravention any order made under section 3 should be tried summarily further under proviso to Section 12 A(2) of Essential Commodities Act, it is stipulated that in case of any conviction in a summary trial under this section, it shall be lawful the Magistrate can pass a sentence of imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Statement-I

State-wise details of follow up action on non standard samples during 2009-10

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Non Std. samples	Administrative Action Taken			Prosecution Launched	Cases Pending for Action	Charging higher Price	Seizure of Stock/ Stop Sale	Disposal allowed under cl.23	Conviction awarded	Cases pending in Court	No. of cases other violation of FCO
			DRC Cancelled	DRC suspended	Other action								
1	Assam	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Bihar	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Jharkhand	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Orissa	124	2	3	60	59	0	3	12	0	0	0	0
5	West Bengal	270	3	0	267	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
6	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	49	0	0	34	8	7	0	3	0	0	339	1
8	Madhya Pradesh	659	30	128	493	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Chhattisgarh	149	11	35	61	3	39	0	0	0	0	0	0

88

Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

10	Maharashtra	2082	99	231	1136	64	552	100	78	0	28	2454	1058
11	Rajasthan	161	6	2	149	4	0	0	17	0	0	4	0
12	Haryana	85	5	0	69	7	4	0	0	8	0	0	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jammu and Kashmir	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	24	0	0	9	6	9	3	0	0	0	6	27
16	Uttar Pradesh	662	601	12	4	30	15	8	0	7	0	58	0
17	Uttarakhand	30	5	7	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
18	Arunachal Pradesh	264	0	85	0	0	179	0	1013MT	1	0	0	0
19	Karnataka	395	0	0	371	2	22	1	5	0	0	2	0
20	Kerala	105	2	21	82	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
21	Pondicherry	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	594	0	409	175	0	10	52	12	12	0	16	58
TOTAL		5798	768	933	2841	194	837	167	132	28	28	2883	1149

Statement-II

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

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Non Std. samples	Administrative Action Taken			Prosecution Cases Launched	Cases Pending for Action	Charging higher Price	Seizure of Stock/ Stop Sale	Disposal allowed under cl.23	Conviction awarded	Cases pending in Court	No. of cases other violation of FCO
			DRC Cancelled	DRC suspended	Other action								
1	Assam	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
2	Bihar	59											
3	Jharkhand	4	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Orissa	65	12	11	7	5	30	0	74	2	0	0	0
5	West Bengal	262	0	1	261	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	30	5	0	25	9	21	0	7	0	0	329	1
8	Madhya Pradesh	596	156	355	84	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
9	Chhattisgarh	118											

90

Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

10	Maharashtra	2330	117	424	1768	383	525	107	75	0	67	2837	975
11	Rajasthan	291	2	2	0	2	284	1	6	0	0	2	0
12	Haryana	60	3	0	501	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	33	0	0	33	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
14	Jammu and Kashmir	9	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	50	0	0	32	1	18	0	1	0	0	0	0
16	Uttar Pradesh	538	307	3	117	101	10	4	19	71	0	0	0
17	Uttarakhand	12	1	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Arunachal Pradesh	302	0	0	194	0	108	3	12	2	0	3	0
19	Karnataka	307	0	0	302	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
20	Kerala	46	0	0	2	0	44	0	4	1	0	0	0
21	Pondicherry	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	702	14	198	490	2	378	19	2	0	0	0	833
TOTAL		5827	617	997	3389	516	1425	134	204	76	67	3177	1809

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

92

Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

10	Maharashtra	2297	671	409	1030	261	157	110	1966	0	71	1464	76
11	Raiasthan	197	6	9	0	5	192	0	71	0	0	5	0
12	Haryana	76	3	8	38	16	111	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	38	0	0	37	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jammu and Kashmir	62	0	0	8	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	41	9	0	32	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
16	Uttar Pradesh	705	528	20	101	44	12	2	20	23	0	0	0
17	Uttarakhand	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Arunachal Pradesh	261	4	16	171	5	50	0	0	2	0	5	0
19	Karnataka	329	19	23	287	0	0	0	27	0	0	8	0
20	Kerala	109	0	1	28	0	80	0	7	1	0	0	0
21	Pondicherry	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	535	6	66	157	3	303	7	110	0	0	70	272
TOTAL		6140	1326	748	2795	369	955	120	2548	28	93	1897	370

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

93

Statement-IV

*Quality control of pesticides action taken statistics by the
States during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Licence					
		Suspended			Cancelled		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	3	-	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Bihar	-	-	-	6	-	-
5	Chhattisgarh	12	4	-	-	-	-
6	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Gujarat	17	-	-	21	-	-
8	Haryana	6	-	7	4	-	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	2	-	-	2
10	Jammu and Kashmir	-	1	-	-	-	-
11	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Karnataka	12	45	-	-	18	-
13	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	-	32	8	-	39	9
15	Maharashtra	-	-	66	-	-	155
16	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement-IV

*Quality control of pesticides action taken statistics by the
States during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Licence					
		Suspended			Cancelled		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
20	Odisha	1	-	-	1	-	-
21	Punjab	-	10	-	20	15	14
22	Rajasthan	-	2	-	55	-	-
23	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	-	3
25	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Uttar Pradesh	100	73	29	633	588	405
27	Uttanchal	-	3	-	-	-	-
28	West Bengal	3	-	-	3	5	-
29	Andman and Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Daman, Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		153	172	112	746	665	590

Statement-IV

*Quality control of pesticides action taken statistics by the
States during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12*

	Procecuton			Convicted		
	Launched	Judgement Obtained				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	25	5	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	8	-	4	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
227	249	181	354	241	-	354
15	7	-	-	-	-	-
3	5	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
376	375	281	381	242	7	371
						269
						63

Conversion of naphtha based units of RCF to gas based units

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

(a) whether National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) a Central Government PSU spent Rs. 4066 crores in converting three naphtha based urea units to gas based units at Nangal, Bhatinda and Panipat;

(b) if so, unless NFL gets cheap gas quickly the investment is likely to be stranded if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NFL wrote to Petroleum Ministry seeking quantities of gas starting September, 2012. For Nangal unit-1 million metric standard cubic metre per day (mmscmd), for Panipat unit - 0.9 mmscmd and for Bhatinda unit - 0.9 mmscmd;

(d) if so, whether Petroleum Ministry has responded positively to the requirement of NFL; and

(e) if not, whether investment of Rs. 4066 crores in NFL would be a waste for want of required quantity of cheap gas as requested for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) in accordance with policy for conversion of FO/LSHS units to gas based units, notified by the Government on 6th March, 2009 is converting their three units to gas as feedstock at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4066 crores which are expected to be commissioned in the 4th quarter of the current financial year.

(b) and (c) The Department of Fertilizers has requested Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of domestic gas to three units of NFL.

(d) and (e) Decision regarding allocation of domestic natural gas to three units of-NFL is awaited from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas/GAIL. However, NFL has tied up spot gas from M/s. GAIL for the requirement at Nangal and Bathinda and with M/s. IOCL for the requirement at Panipat, in the absence of allocation of domestic gas for these projects. Post commissioning, the total requirement of gas shall be met on spot basis till the allocation of domestic gas is made by the Government and no shortfall with respect to required quantity of gas is anticipated. The present price of spot gas is around USD 16-18/MMBTU against the present price of FO/LSHS of around USD 22-24/MMBTU. Thus a positive saving is expected.

Discrepancies in prices of essential medicines

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

(a) whether large scale variations/discrepancies have been observed in the prices of essential medicines in the country;

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

(c) whether the existing policy/campaigns launched by Government have not yielded results so far; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken further by Government to make essential drugs available to the people at reasonable prices?

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

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

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

(c) and (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality as per the medicines as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011 (348 drugs with specified dosage and strengths), as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM). Based on

the recommendations of the GoM, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy 2012 (NPPP-2012) was formulated and placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered NPPP-2012 in its meeting held on 22.11.2012 and approved the same with certain modifications. Further, action to notify NPPP-2012 has been undertaken.

Further, 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. 145 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in different States/UTs in the country as on 31.10.2012.

Differences between production cost and MRP of medicines

†815. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that pricing of medicines is not being done on the basis of their cost but on the basis of Maximum Retail Price (MRP);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the cost of 348 medicines, included in the essential list and the rate at which they have been permitted to be sold by Government; and
- (d) the reasons for a big difference between the cost and the maximum price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The prices of formulations containing 74 bulk drugs specified in the First schedule of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) that presently are under price control regime are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on the basis of formula contained in Para 7 of the DPCO, 1995 which includes material cost, Conversion cost, Packing Material cost, Packing Charges and a maximum allowable post manufacturing expenses of upto 100 per cent and the instant guidelines on the subject. Actual allowable taxes are also added to arrive at the equivalent MRP.

(c) and (d) 348 drugs included in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), other than 74 bulk drugs listed under DPCO, 1995, are presently

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

categorized as non-scheduled drugs. In respect of non-scheduled formulations, which are not covered under price control, manufacturers fix their prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Also, there are no control on the launch price of the non-scheduled drugs/medicines. 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.

Operating NFL plants by RLNG

816. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to reduce Government subsidy outgo, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has converted fuel oil based fertilizer plants at Nangal, Bhatinda and Panipat to RLNG as feedstock at a hooping investment of Rs. 4000 crores;

(b) if so, whether NFL is getting sufficient quantity of RLNG to operate its plants at a cost lower than the cost of operating on fuel oil;

(c) whether a quoted price of RLNG the project has resulted into negative saving; and

(d) if so, the investment of Rs. 4000 crores having gone as waste, what action Government has taken and whether any accountability has been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government has announced on 6th March, 2009 a policy for conversion of FO/LSHS units to gas based units, which is applicable to NFL and GNVFC only. The conversion of plants to gas based will reduce the cost of production of urea which will result in savings in subsidy outgo on indigenous urea.

(b) The Department of Fertilizers has requested Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of domestic gas to three units of NFL. Decision regarding allocation of gas as per decision of EGoM is awaited from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas/GAIL. Meanwhile, NFL has tied up spot gas from M/s GAIL for the requirement at Nangal and Bathinda and with M/s IOCL for the requirement at Panipat, in the absence of allocation of domestic gas for these projects. Post commissioning, the total requirement of gas shall be met on spot basis till the allocation of domestic gas is made by the Government and no shortfall with respect to required quantity of gas is anticipated. The present price of spot gas is around USD 16-18/MMBTU against the present of FO/LSHS of around USD 22-24/MMBTU.

(c) Post conversion to gas, there shall be reduction in energy consumption in the range of 2-2.5 Gcal/MT urea at the respective Units. At the gas price of around USD 16-18/MMBTU against the present of FO/LSHS of around USD 22-24/MMBTU, there would be positive savings.

(d) In view of (b) and (c) above, question does not arise.

Implementation of nutrient based subsidy

817. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy for decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, *w.e.f.* 1 April, 2010;

(b) if so, quantify the benefits that have accrued thereof; and

(c) the reaction of farmers thereto?

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

(b) and (c) A formal study of the policy and its impact is yet to be conducted. However, there is a proposal under consideration to get the study done by a reputed consulting firm, which will include consultation with all stake holders including the farmers.

Direct credit of subsidy to bank accounts of farmers

†818. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal to credit the amount directly to the bank accounts of the farmers rather than providing subsidy on urea in the country on an experimental basis;

(b) if so, by when this practice would be started and by when it is targeted to be implemented all over the country;

(c) the amount of fertilizer-wise subsidy being provided by Government per quintal at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise due to the answer given as (a) above.

(c) and (d) The details of amount of fertilizer-wise subsidy provided by the Government per quintal at present is given in Statement.

Statement*Amount of fertilizers subsidy given by Government per quintal*

Sl.No.	P&K Fertilizer grades	Subsidy Per Quintal (Amount in Rs.)
1	2	3
1	DAP: 18-46-0-0	1435.00
2	DAP Lite: 16-44-0-0	1343.40
3	DAP Lite grade II 14:46:0:0	1339.00
4	MAP Lite 11:44:0:0	1223.40
5	MAP: 11-52-0-0	1397.80

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
6	MOP: 0-0-60-0	1440.00
7	AS: 20.6-0-0-23	533.00
8	13:33:0:6	1041.60
9	NPK: 16-16-16-0	1116.90
10	NPK: 10-26-26-0	1430.90
11	NPK: 12-32-16-0	1369.70
12	NPK: 14-35-14-0	1435.10
13	NPK: 15-15-15-0	1047.10
14	NPKS 15-15-15-09	1062.20
15	NPS: 16-20-0-13	841.90
16	NPK: 17-17-17-0	1186.70
17	NPK: 19-19-19-0	1326.30
18	NPK 20-20-0-0	916.10
19	NPS 20-20-0-13	937.90
20	NPK 23-23-0-0	1053.50
21	NPK 24-24-0-0	1099.30
22	NPK 28-28-0-0	1282.50
23	SSP: 0-16-0-11	367.30
24	TSP: 0-46-0-0	1003.00
25	NPK: 14-28-14-0	1282.50
26	NPS 20-20-0-13-0.3	987.90
27	NPK: 15-15-15-0.2	1077.10
28	Urea	536.00

Protection of NFL

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

(a) whether Government has envisaged any alternative plan of action to protect the Mini Navratna company, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) from untimely death;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has been making profits consistently and meeting the eligibility criteria of Mini Ratna category-I status by maintaining consistent Profit before Tax (PBT) and positive net worth. The PBT of the company of last 3 consecutive years is detailed below:

Rs. crore	
Year	Profit (PBT)
2011-12	184
2010-11	204
2010-09	260

The Net Worth of the Company as on 31st March, 2012 was Rs. 1754 crore. In the current Financial year, during the half year ended 30th September, 2012 company incurred a loss of Rs. 68 crore mainly arising due to lower production and higher energy consumption at Vijaipur-I and II units due to shut down taken for hooking up and commissioning activities of the revamp projects.

During the current financial year, the flagship projects of the company shall get commissioned. For Commissioning of urea capacity enhancement projects at Vijaipur-I and II units, both the units took shutdown during April-June, 2012, whereas, Nangal, Panipat and Bathinda units shall take shutdown in the Third/ Fourth quarter of the current financial year 2012-13 to commission the changeover of feedstock from FO/LSHS to Gas projects.

In order to sustain and enhance its future growth and improving the profitability, NFL has undertaken/completed the following long term capital schemes as under:

1. The Gas Based Vijaipur Plants of the company have already been revamped with an investment of Rs. 650 crore during April/July, 2012-13.

After revamp, the Capacity of the Vijaipur plants has been increased by 3.37 LMT with saving in Energy Consumption. With the increase in Capacity of the plants and energy saving, the profitability of company shall be increased under new Investment policy of the GoI. The installed capacity of Urea Production has increased from 32.31 Lakh MT to 35.68 Lakh MT *w.e.f* 01-08-2012.

2. The revamp of company's 3 fuel oil based plants at Nangal, Panipat and Bathinda for change over of Feed stock to Natural Gas (NG)/Re-gassified liquid natural gas (RLNG) with a total investment of Rs 4066 crore is under way and expected to be commissioned by end of FY 2012-13. After revamp of these plants, it shall help GoI to reduce subsidy burden, energy consumption and carbon foot prints.

Grameen Dak Sewak in Maharashtra

820. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Grameen Dak Sewaks presently working in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) the monthly stipend being paid to these Sewaks of the State;
- (c) whether Government proposes to increase their stipend in view of steep rise in inflation and also introduce welfare measures for them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) As on 01.12.2011, the actual strength of Grameen Dak Sewaks in Maharashtra State was 20230.

(b) Grameen Dak Sewaks are paid Time-Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) and not stipend as indicated in the question, details of which are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No proposal is pending before the Government regarding revision of Time-Related Continuity Allowance of Grameen Dak Sewaks as this was last revised in 2009. To compensate for price rise, Grameen Dak Sewaks are paid Dearness Allowance. Presently, 20 days' paid leave in a year, Service Discharge Benefits, Maternity Grant/Maternity Leave and financial assistance in case of serious illness are available to Grameen Dak Sewaks.

Statement*Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) of Gramin Dak Sevaks (Implemented w.e.f. 01.01.2006)*

Sl. No.	Category of Gramin Dak Sevaks	Existing Time Related Continuity Allowance	Revised Time Related Continuity Allowance w.e.f. 01.01.2006	Work load in hours
1	GDS Sub Postmaster	Rs. 2125-50-3125	Rs.4575-85-7125	4-5 hours.
2	GDS Branch Postmaster	Rs. 1280-35-1980	Rs. 2745-50-4245	Up to 3 hours. work
		New TRCA slab	Rs. 3200-60-5000	More than 3 hours. up to 3 hrs. 30 min
		Rs. 1600-40-2400	Rs. 3660-70-5760	Up to 4 hours.
		New TRCA slab	Rs. 4115-75-6365	More than 4 hours. up to 4 hour 30 min
		New TRCA slab	Rs.. 4575-85-7125	More than 4 hrs. 30 min up to 5 hours.
3	GDS Mail deliverer/	New TRCA slab	Rs. 2665-50-4165	For work up to 3 hrs. for new entrants
	Stamp	Rs. 1375-25-2125	Rs. 3330-60-5130	For Work load Up to 3 hours. 45 minutes
	vendor	Rs. 1740-30-2640	Rs. 4220-75-6470	More than 3 hours. 45 minutes up to 5 hours.
4	GDS Mail Carrier/	New TRCA slab	Rs. 2295-45-3695	For work up to 3 hrs. for new entrants
	Packer/Mailman	Rs. 1220-20-1600	Rs. 2870-50-4370	More than 3 hrs. up to 3 hrs. 45 min
		Rs. 1545-25-2020	Rs. 3635-65-5585	More than 3 hours. 45 minutes up to 5 hours.

Consumer complaints regarding weak signals of BSNL and MTNL

†821. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL mobile connection users of rural areas and MTNL mobile connection users of urban areas like Mumbai and Delhi are compelled to surrender their connections due to weak signals from their towers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of lodging of complaints in this regard by the consumers, their complaints are ignored and are not addressed;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to take appropriate action in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) has provided mobile coverage in urban and rural areas based on its techno-commercial considerations. In general, the mobile services of BSNL in rural areas are at par with that in urban areas. Normally, a BTS (Base Transceiver Station) in rural area has a range of 5 kms. and all the villages within this range get good mobile signals. BSNL is, in general, meeting the performance parameters prescribed by TRAI (Telecom Regulator Authority of India). Sometimes, the services are disrupted due to cutting of Optical Fibre Cable owing to developmental activities carried out in various rural areas. Also, the power situation in rural areas is erratic because of which sometimes the services get disrupted. However, BSNL takes action to counter these problems by installing alternate media as well as providing generator sets.

In case of MTNL, the mobile subscribers of urban areas like Mumbai and Delhi sometimes face problems of Quality of Service (QoS). However, MTNL is, in general, meeting the performance parameters prescribed by TRAI.

(c) to (e) For addressing the complaints of subscribers, BSNL and MTNL have established call centres. Complaints of subscribers are attended on priority and these are monitored at all levels. Also, the availability of BTSs is monitored on daily basis.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Demands of employees of postal services in rural areas

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Additional Departmental Rural Post Services Association has been protesting across certain States to get some of its demands met;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the details of the demands;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to address the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the current status of their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) to (f) Under the Extra Departmental Agents – (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1995, All India Postal Extra Departmental Employees Union (AIPEDU) is the only recognized union of Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS). The Department is neither aware of the existence of any Association named as All India Additional Departmental Rural Postal Services Association nor demands made by the said Association.

Mobile towers in residential areas

823. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

(a) whether Government has given permission for installation of mobile towers in residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh and the reasons therefor and action taken against mobile operating companies so far;

(c) the effect of radiation on the people in residential areas so far; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid installation of mobile towers in residential areas and to ensure mobile towers in commercial areas to protect the people from radiation from these towers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per existing policy, Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issues siting clearance for installation of mobile towers for each and every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. The siting clearance is issued without prejudice to applicable bylaws, rules and regulation of local bodies such as Municipal Corporation/ Gram Panchayat etc. Accordingly, before installation of tower, the telecom service provider has to obtain the necessary permission from the respective local bodies such as Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat etc. As such, there is no bar for installation of mobile towers in the residential area. However, the Telecom Service Providers are required to conform to the prescribed Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) radiation norms.

(c) and (d) World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF Signals from base stations and wireless networks caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by based stations.

WHO has recommended that 'National authorities should adopt international standards to protect their citizens against adverse levels of RF fields. They should restrict access to areas where exposure limits may be exceeded.' WHO has referred to the International Exposure Guidelines developed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in the year 2008, adopted the Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF) norms prescribed by ICNIRP in respect of mobile towers.

Further, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the BTS radiation limits have been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by ICNIRP with effect from 01.09.2012. The TERM Cells of DoT test upto 10% of BTS sites randomly. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell.

Unlawful phone tapping by telecom operators

824. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private telecom operators providing telecom services in the country, circle-wise;
- (b) whether these companies are allowed to tap telephone conversations without Government's permission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the action taken by Government to prevent unlawful phone tapping by telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The Circle-wise list of telecom operators providing telecom services in the country is given in Annexure [See Appendix 227 Annexure No. 8].

(b) to (d) Phone tapping is governed by provisions of the section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the guidelines in this regard are prescribed under Rules 419A of Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2007. No telecom service provider is permitted to intercept/tape the phone without government permission. Illegal tapping of a phone is a punishable act under section 26 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 with imprisonment for a term which may extend up-to three years, or with fine, or with both.

Low cost base stations

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

- (a) whether Reliance Industries Limited is working on ultra low cost base stations, used to transmit signals for telecom services costing just rupees one lakh each;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these low cost towers are part of the strategy of country's largest private sector enterprise as it gears up for its foray into Infotel Broadband; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) M/s Reliance industries Limited is having a license only for provision of Captive Closed User Group (CUG) Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) Service. However, no such information regarding ultra low cost base station is available.

Further, Telecom Services Licensees are to comply with the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement and have to follow the directions/regulations/orders issued from time to time by the licensor/TRAI.

Misuse of social media, internet and SMSs

826. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of misuse/abuse of Twitter, Facebook, internet sites and SMSs they come to the notice of Government;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether there is a need to devise strategies to counter the propaganda that is carried out by these new means; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Instances of misuse/abuse of twitter, facebook, internet sites and SMSs have come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

Recently, Government noticed circulation of provocative clips and photographs on social networking sites and through SMS and MMS, containing morphed images and videos in targeting people of North-East and inciting violence among communities in the country. Several incidents of availability of inflammatory, harmful and hateful contents on the social networking sites hosted outside the country were brought to the notice of Government. In addition, circulation of provocative clips and videos of the movie 'Innocence of Muslim' on Internet particularly on www.youtube.com was also noticed.

(c) and (d) Government has notified a 'Framework and Guidelines' for use of Social Media by its agencies. It will help the Government to interact with the common citizens and disseminate information and at the same time effectively counter the propaganda.

Amendments to international telecommunication access to essential facilities at cable landing stations regulations, 2007

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

(a) whether TRAI has released amendments to International Telecommunication Access to Essential Facilities at Cable Landing Stations Regulations, 2007;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI had issued any consultation paper for seeking comments on issues related to cost-based access facilitation charges and co-location charges before such amendments;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) the extent to which suggestions have been incorporated in the amendments;

(f) whether TRAI also proposes to issue consultation paper on Estimation of Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations; and

(g) if so, details thereof and the comments received so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released "International Telecommunications Access to Essential Facilities at Cable Landing Stations (Amendment) Regulations, 2012, (21 of 2012) on 19th October, 2012. In the amendment, suitable provisions have been made in the regulations so that the TRAI may specify Access Facilities Charges, Co-location Charges and other related charges like Cancellation Charges and Restoration Charges".

(c) to (e) In this regard, TRAI had earlier issued a Consultation on 'Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations' on 22nd

March, 2012. Suggestions given by stakeholders and TRAI's analysis are part of explanatory memorandum to the aid amendment dated 19.10.2012.

(f) and (g) TRAI on 19 October, 2012 had issued a consultation paper on "Estimation of Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges at Cable Landing Stations" and requested all the stakeholders to submit their comments by 6th November, 2012 and counter comments by 14th November, 2012.

Comments and counter comments received from the stakeholders are available on TRAI's website.

Cyber security

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

(a) whether cyber warfare has emerged a top threat to India's national security as more than 20 per cent of the cyber attacks both internally and externally are being reported on national security system;

(b) whether India faces a shortfall of 4.7 lakh cyber service experts inspite of the country's reputation of being an I.T. and software powerhouse in the world; and

(c) the details of Union Government's plan to train law enforcement agencies in cyber crimes investigation and cyber forensic including cyber warriors to bolster India's E-Defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) A number of attempts of cyber attacks of various natures are being observed on the Information Technology Infrastructure deployed in various sectors of economy including National Security in the country from different sources.

The cyber warfare is indeed emerging as one of the major challenges for all the nations.

(b) Taking into account the requirement emerging for protection of Information Technology Infrastructure in the country as well as to serve the export market, a demand for 4.7 lakhs cyber security professionals has been estimated by the year 2015.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to train law enforcement agencies in cyber crimes investigation and cyber forensic which includes:

- (i) Under the Cyber Crime Investigation Programme Ministry of Home Affairs is supporting the establishment of Cybercrime Police Station (CCPS) and Cyber Crime Investigations and Forensic Training Facilities (CCIFTF) in each State/Union Territory of India under Police Modernization Scheme. Action also has been taken to set up a National Centre of Excellence exclusively devoted to render cyber forensic services and to act as National Research and Training Centre on Cyber Forensics.
- (ii) A programme has also been initiated for indigenous development of cyber forensic tools and setting up of infrastructure for training of law enforcement agencies and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analyzing and presenting digital evidence.
- (iii) Government has formulated a set of investigation manuals with procedures for Search, Seizure Analysis and Presentation of digital evidence in courts. The manuals have been circulated to Law Enforcement Agencies in all States.

Assistance to IT firms for upgradation of banking services

829. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the growing importance of IT set up in upgrading the financial services industry, especially banking;
- (b) whether Government is also aware of the growing interest of Wipro Technologies in emerging markets, which includes India, with regard to the same;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to assist the IT firms in upgrading the banking services to cope with future regulatory and customer driven online and mobile services;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) the banking, financial services and insurance industry is the 4th largest industry vertical for IT services in India. Total IT spending in this vertical was Rs. 14,700 Crores in FY 2010-11. New forms of banking and push on financial inclusion are key drivers for growing spend in this segment.

(b) Such data is not maintained.

(c) to (e) As per the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, banks are governed by their Board driven policies with regards to their operational matters and are expected to take steps to cope with future regulatory matters and consumer driven online and mobile services.

Investigation in 2G Spectrum allocation

830. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any case to hamper the investigation process of 2G spectrum allocation;

(b) whether Supreme Court has given any instructions regarding this;

(c) if so, the details of these instructions; and

(d) by when Government intends to complete the investigation of allegations in 2G allotment case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) There is no hampering in the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of cases relating to 2G Spectrum allocation.

(b) and (c) Supreme Court of India has been monitoring the investigation of 2G Spectrum cases vide Civil Appeal No. 10660 of 2010 (earlier in SLP Civil No. 24873 of 2010). Supreme Court has passed various orders in this case, including orders dated 16.03.2011 and 11.04.2011, for not interfering with investigation or impeding the trial.

(d) While the investigation has been taken up expeditiously in 2G Spectrum cases, no specific time frame can be laid down for completion of investigation.

Radiation from mobile towers

†831. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environment in the country is getting polluted due to the electro-magnetic radiation emanating from mobile towers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a need to make efforts on priority basis to curb this environmental pollution;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether Government Department empowered for preventing environmental pollution have been advised not to interfere in this matter; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) Sir, World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May 2006 on Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF Signals from base stations and wireless networks caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by based stations.

WHO has recommended that '*National authorities should adopt international standards to protect their citizens against adverse levels of RF fields. They should restrict access to areas where exposure limits may be exceeded.*' WHO has referred to the International Exposure Guidelines developed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing" Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in the year 2008, adopted the Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF) norms prescribed by ICNIRP in respect of mobile towers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Base Transmitting Station (BTS) radiation limits have been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by ICNIRP with effect from 01.09.2012. The Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT test upto 10% of BTS sites randomly. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell.

(e) and (f) DoT is not interfering with the empowered Department in the matter of prevention of environmental pollution. As the issues relating to the Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) radiation from mobile towers is being dealt by DoT, it has been indicated to Ministry of Environment and Forest that issue of directions on the same subject by different Department/Ministry may have complications and difficulties.

Information technology industry

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

(a) whether it is a fact that information technology industrial institutes of the country are capable of operating successfully in the market, facing international competition;

(b) if so, Government's response thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India ranks eighth among ten such countries in the world which pay minimum wages to the employees of such companies;

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

(e) whether the averages of dividends of these companies have been assessed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the Indian IT-ITES industry has exhibited resilience in the face of growing competition and have grown by 16.3% in FY 2011-12 and is expected to exhibit double digit growth in FY 2012-13.

(c) to (f) No such data is maintained.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Violation of 3G norms

833. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that telecom companies in the country are indulging in violation of 3G norms frequently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such violations noticed by Government;
- (d) the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial steps being taken by Government to curtail such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (e) Violations related to provisioning of 3G services by some of the CMTS/UAS Licensee(s) without specific authorization came to the notice of Government. The licence(s) of these CMTS/UAS Licensee(s) have neither been amended for use of 3G spectrum nor 3G spectrum have been allocated to them. On examination, it came to notice that such licensee(s) are providing 3G services to their customers by entering into a commercial agreement called Intra Service Area Roaming Agreement with such CMTS/UAS Licensee(s) whose licences have been amended for use of 3G spectrum and 3G spectrum has also been allocated to them in that service area(s).

Instructions were issued on 23.12.2011 to such licensee companies who are providing 3G services under the above mentioned so called Intra Service Area Roaming arrangements without any specific authorization/amendment in their license(s) for use of 3G spectrum and without any allocation of 3G spectrum for rollout of the 3G network, in those particular service areas, for immediate stoppage of provisioning of 3G services. The details of such licensee(s) are given in Statement (*See below*).

These companies impugned the instructions issued vide above referred letter dated 23.12.2011 before Hon'ble Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). TDSAT in its interim orders dated 24.12.2011 has *inter-alia* directed that Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is restrained from taking any coercive steps against these companies to enforce the impugned order dated 23.12.2011. The judgment pronounced in the matter by Hon'ble TDSAT is split in the ratio of 1:1. As per judgment, Chairman TDSAT has *inter-alia* concluded that

the impugned orders dated 23.12.2011 are set aside with liberty to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to pass appropriate orders upon giving due opportunity of hearing to these companies. However, Member TDSAT in his judgment has *inter-alia* concluded that the companies who have not got 3G spectrum allotted by the licensor in certain circles, cannot provide 3G services to its customers in those circles by way of making intra circle arrangement with the service providers having 3G spectrum.

As these companies have not submitted the compliance of DoT instructions dated 23.12.2011 even after the pronouncement of split judgment by Hon'ble TDSAT, Show Cause Notice (SCN) to M/s. Bharti Airtel Limited has been issued to show cause within 60 days as to why financial penalty is not imposed for violation of the license conditions and Licences of 7 Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) are not terminated where the company is providing 3G services without any specific authorization. Simultaneously, in the same notice, the company has also been asked again to stop provisioning of 3G services in these 7 LSAs within 3 days from the date of issue of notice.

The company impugned the above said SCN dated 28.09.2012 before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. While disposing of the petition, Hon'ble High Court *inter-alia* ordered that the company would file a reply to the impugned show cause notice dated 28.09.2012. On receipt of the reply, the concerned authority will adjudicate upon the issues raised before it, after according the company, through its representative, a hearing in the matter. Pending the adjudication, the DoT will not take any coercive measures against the company.

Similar SCNs to remaining CMTS/UAS Licensee companies who are in violation of similar license conditions are under consideration for issue, keeping in view, the above mentioned order of Hon'ble High Court in the matter.

Statement

*Company-wise list of Access Service Licensees who are providing
3G services through so called intra service area roaming
arrangements without allocation of 3G spectrum*

Sl. No.	Name of Licensee Comany	Service Area
1	2	3
1	Vodafone Essar South Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
2	Idea Cellular Limited	Assam

1	2	3
3	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Assam
4	Aditya Birla telecom Limited	Bihar
5	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Bihar
6	Idea Cellular Limited	Delhi
7	Aircel Limited	Gujarat
8	Bharti Airtel Limited	Gujarat
9	Bharti Airtel Limted	Haryana
10	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
11	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Jammu and Kashmir
12	Spice communications Ltd.*	Karnataka
13	Vodafone Essar South Ltd.	Karnataka
14	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Kerala
15	Vodafone Essar Cellular Ltd.	Kerala
16	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Kolkata
17	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Kolkata
18	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
19	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
20	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
21	Aircel Ltd.	Maharashtra
22	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Maharashtra
23	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Mumbai
24	Idea Cellular Ltd.	North East
25	Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.	North East
26	Aircel Ltd.	Rajasthan

1	2	3
27	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Rajasthan
28	Vodafone Essar Digilink Ltd.	Rajasthan
29	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)
30	Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)
31	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
32	Vodafone Essar South Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)
33	Idea Cellular Limited	West Bengal

Note: M/s. Spice Communications Limited has amalgamated with M/s. Idea Cellular Limited as per orders of respective High Courts. However, the license(s) granted in the name of M/s. Spice Communications Limited are yet to be transferred in the name of M/s. Idea Cellular Limited.

Cyber attacks against ministries

834. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise in cyber attacks against various Ministries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has been able to minimise the damage from these cyber attacks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the details of steps taken by Government to improve cyber security; and
- (g) the details of annual outlay for cyber security in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) With the proliferation of Information Technology in the Government, there has been rise in

attempts of cyber attacks against various Ministries/Departments being noticed during last few years. These attacks are generally in the form of website hacking. A total no. of 201, 303, 308 and 294 websites belonging to various Ministries and Departments in the Government were hacked during the year 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 (till October) respectively. Recently during May-June, 2012 Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks were launched against a number of Government websites by various hacker groups.

(c) and (d) Various proactive and reactive steps are have been taken by the Government to minimize the damage caused by these cyber attacks. These steps include strengthening security of the network infrastructure in the Government, immediate actions to recover from the damage caused due to the cyber attacks, maintaining disaster recovery sites for continuing business operations etc.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Government has taken various steps to improve cyber security, these include implementation of security best practices in the government based on International Standard ISO 27001, establishment of National Watch and Warning System in the form of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Legal framework in the form of Information Technology Act, 2000 to address issues related to cyber crime/attacks, Research and Development (R&D) in the area of cyber security, capacity development in cyber security and trainings for system/network administrators, law enforcement and judicial officials. A "Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism" is under implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Government and all their organizations and critical sectors.

(g) Annual outlay (2012-2013) of Rs. 45.2 crores has been provided for Cyber Security in the budget of Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

Security threat from Chinese telecom equipments

835. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the US Congress report that highlights security threat from China manufactured telecom gear due to Chinese State influence;

- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the details of Government's plan to address these security concerns; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, Government is aware about the Report of Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of US Government titled "Investigative Report on US National security issues posed by Chinese Telecommunications Companies Huawei and ZTE". It is a known fact that in the modern age, telecom equipment and networks used for provisioning of telecom services are prone to spyware/malwares etc, emanating from the equipment itself or embedded software contained in it or from antisocial or anti national individuals or agencies. Such potential threats exist in the network, irrespective of the sources like telecom gear manufactured in China or supplied by some other vendors.

(c) and (d) To address the security concerns related to telecom and telecom Network, comprehensive guidelines in the form of license Amendments have been issued to Telecom service providers on 31.05.2011 in Access Service licenses and on 3rd June' 2011 for other licenses, in consultation with MHA and after due deliberations with Industry.

Vide these amendments, it is mandated that Telecom Service Providers are responsible for the security of their network. It is also mandated that only those network elements shall be inducted into their Telecom Network, which have been tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards *e.g.* IT and IT related elements against ISO/IEC 15408 standards, for Information Security Management System against ISO 27000 series Standards, Telecom and Telecom related elements against 3GP, 3GPP2 security standards etc from any international agency/ labs of the standards *e.g.* Common Criteria Labs in case of ISO/IEC 15408 standards until 31st March, 2013. From 1st April, 2013 the certification shall be got done only from authorized and certified agencies/labs in India. The copies of test results and test certificates shall be kept by the licensee for a period of 10 years from the date of procurement of equipment, which can be audited/demanded any time during this span, by the licensor.

Thus, a framework has already been mandated to deal with potential threats by the induction of Chinese Telecom Equipment or from any other source. So far, no specific issue has arisen due to equipment originating from any specific country. However, as and when any specific issue arises or a report is received, the regime can be further tightened for the equipments coming from a specific country or source or group of countries or companies.

Government continues to examine all new developments related to Telecom Security and regularly reviews the security arrangement in this regard in the light of such developments.

In order to increase the share of telecom equipment manufactured in the country, based on Notification of Department of Electronics and IT vide No. 8(78)/2010-IPHW dated 10th February, 2012, Department of Telecommunications has already issued the Notification vide No. 18-0712010 dated 5th October, 2012 regarding domestic telecom equipment for Government procurement and Government projects.

Eleven digit mobile number

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

- (a) whether ten digit mobile number are soon going to be replaced by eleven digit number;
- (b) if so, since when and whether the reason behind it is the increasing number of users;
- (c) if so, the number of mobile users in the country, so far; and
- (d) the details thereof?

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

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

One-time fee for spectrum

837. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government intends to levy one-time fee on telecom companies holding spectrum beyond a cap set by the telecom regulator;

(b) whether such a move by Government would lead to higher tariffs for consumers; and

(c) if so, whether any mechanism has been put in place to shield the consumers from rise in tariffs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The Government has, *inter alia*, decided the following on levy of one time Spectrum Charges/fee as per the Cabinet decision on 8th November, 2012.

(i) for spectrum holding upto 4.4 MHz (GSM), no one time charge be levied;

(ii) for all spectrum holdings beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM), an one time charge be levied prospectively upon the existing operators at 2012 auction determined price. The date of applicability of the charge shall be the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet Decision;

(iii) for spectrum held above 6.2 (GSM), a one-time charge be levied from July, 2008 onwards. There will be two prices. The price, pro-rated for the period July, 2008 up to the date of applicability of auction determined price, would be in the 2001 entry fee divided by 6.2, duly indexed using State Bank of India Prime Lending Rate (SBI PLR). The auction determined price be levied for spectrum beyond 6.2 (GSM)/with effect from the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Cabinet decision;

(iv) licensees may be given the option to surrender the spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz (GSM) if they did not wish to pay this charge.

(b) and (c) Tariffs for mobile services are currently under Regulatory forbearance except for National Roaming Services. The call rates are determined by the service providers based on several factors including input costs, market conditions and other commercial considerations. Any change in the said factors may get reflected in the pricing for mobile services.

Roaming and STD charges

838. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

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

- (a) the roaming charges for mobile subscribers in the country at present;
- (b) whether Government proposes to abolish roaming charges for mobile subscribers from the year 2013;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government would direct the operators not to increase STD tariffs so that consumers get the benefit of doing away of roaming charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has specified ceiling tariff for national roaming services, details of which are as follows:

Outgoing Local Call	-	Rs. 1.40 per minute
Outgoing STD	-	Rs.2.40 per minute
Incoming Call	-	Rs. 1.75 per minute

The roaming tariff currently offered by service providers are below the ceilings prescribed by TRAI. The generally prevailing rates for national roaming services are given below:

Outgoing Local Call	-	Rs. 1/- per minute
Outgoing Long Distance	-	Rs. 1.50 per minute
Incoming Call	-	Rs. 1/- per minute

While the above rates are the standard roaming charges offered by most operators, there are also specific tariff plans, targeted at roaming subscribers, where roaming call charges as low as Rs. 0.60/- per minute are available for Local/STD calls.

(b) and (c) The National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12), approved on 03.05.2012 by the Government, contains, *inter-alia*, the following provisions:

- (i) Achieve One Nation-Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards one Nation-Free Roaming.
- (ii) To review roaming charges with the ultimate objective of removing the roaming charges across the nation.

Further, as per the implementation schedule of the NTP-12, as contained in the Cabinet Note on NTP-12, the Policy will be operationalized by bringing out detailed guidelines, as may be considered appropriate from time to time.

(d) At present, the mobile phone call rates including STD call charges are under regulatory forbearance, except for national roaming service.

Outsourcing jobs for Indian companies

839. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the findings of International Association of Outsourcing Professionals that "as many as 12 Indian Companies were on the list of top 100 outsourcing companies in the world this year (2012) and three Indian firms have found a place in the top 10";

(b) if so, whether such a position has resulted from getting more outsourcing jobs for Indian companies during the year 2011, as compared to 2010 and 2009; and

(c) the increase in the number of new jobs created and the foreign exchange earnings during 2010 and 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) it is not feasible to co-relate the outcome of the survey made by International Association of Outsourcing Professionals (IOAP) 2012 'Global Sourcing 100 data' with the company performance and the increase in outsourcing jobs to India.

(c) The number of jobs added and the foreign exchange earned by Indian IT-ITES industry during the year 2009-10 to 2011-12 is given below:

Year	Exports (In US\$) Billion)	Net Addition in the direct employment (In lakhs) approx.
2009-10	49.7	0.90
2010-11	59.0	2.50
2011-12	68.7	2.60

Source: DeitY.

Mobile services under bilateral investment treaties

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign investors have sent legal notices to Government against the cancellation of mobile services under certain bilateral investment treaties;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has set up a group to look into the claims of the foreign investors; and

(c) the contention of the investors' claims and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), under the chairmanship of Secretary (Telecom) has been constituted in Department of Telecommunications to evolve a coordinated response of the Government to the legal notices to Government from foreign investors against the cancellation of Unified Access Services Licence citing various provisions of bilateral investment treaties.

(c) Consequent to the Supreme Court's decision dated 02.02.2012 that the licences granted to the private respondents on or after 10.1.2008 pursuant to two press releases issued on 10.1.2008 and subsequent allocation of spectrum to the licensees are declared illegal and quashed, Government has received legal notices from foreign investors for conciliation and amicable settlement of the foreign investment disputes under provisions of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPAs) or Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between their country and Government of India. The legal notices are being handled by the IMG for amicable settlement.

Telemarketing calls and SMSs

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

- (a) whether mobile subscribers have to face telemarketing calls and unwanted SMSs daily even after registering their numbers with National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC);
- (b) whether Government has formulated any stringent law in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether Government feels that this law is being followed;
- (d) the number of such complaints received by Government so far and the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (e) Sir, Government is aware that several telemarketing calls and unwanted SMSs are being received by the mobile subscribers even after registering their numbers with National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC).

To address the problem of Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had established National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC) through the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007. TRAI reviewed the framework for addressing the problem of telemarketing calls and unwanted SMSs and issued "The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulation, 2010", which came into force from 27th September, 2011.

As per the said framework, customers can register with National Customer Preference Register (NCPR) for not receiving UCC. TRAI has also issued a number of amendments to these regulations and directions to address implementation issues and to make the regulatory framework effective and stringent. With the implementation of these measures, the number of complaints relating to Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) has reduced considerably. Prior to the coming into force of the regulations from 27.09.2011, on an average 47,454 complaints were received per month (averaged over the period March, 2010 to March, 2011). The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

total number of complaints lodged by telecom consumers with their service providers from 27.09.2011 to 25.07.2012 were only 1,74,258 (17,425 complaints per month).

However, it is seen that a number of telemarketers have violated the regulatory framework for controlling UCC. From the complaints received by Service Providers, it is seen that the majority of complaints of Unsolicited Commercial Communications are those in which calls or SMS have been sent by telecom subscriber who is not registered as a telemarketer with TRAI.

To address this issue, the regulation provided for a restriction of 200 SMS per day per SIM, which has since been struck down by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. After quashing of limit of 200 SMS per Day per SIM by Hon'ble Delhi High Court, 1,47,264 complaints have been lodged from 01.08.2012 to 30.10.2012 by the consumers with their service providers (49,088 complaints per month).

Further, TRAI has recently issued the 10th Amendment Regulations on 5th November, 2012, to prevent unregistered telemarketers from misusing bulk SMS packages or tariff plans, which provide for sending large number of SMSs at nominal charges. A price restraint has been placed on sending of more than one hundred SMS per day per SIM at a concessional rate and a minimum charge of 50 paise has been mandated for SMS sent beyond 100 SMS in a day.

The regulations have also prescribed penal provisions against telemarketers for violations of the provisions of the regulations. In case of violation by a registered telemarketer, amounts will be deducted from the security deposit of such telemarketer by the Access Provider as per the following table and such amount will be deposited with TRAI:

Deduction from Security Deposit of Telemarketer in case of Violation

Sl. No.	No. of Violation by Telemarketer access provider-wise	Deduction from security deposit	Security Deposit	Additional Security Deposit
1	2	3	4	5
	0 Violation	Nil	1,00,000	Nil
1	1st Violation	Rs. 25,000	75,000	2,00,000
2	2nd Violation	Rs. 75,000	2,00,000	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
3	3rd Violation	Rs. 80,000	1,20,000	4,00,000
4	4th Violation	Rs. 1,20,000	4,00,000	Nil
5	5th Violation	Rs. 1,50,000	2,50,000	Nil
6	6th Violation	Rs. 2,50,000	Nil	Nil

The regulations also provide for disconnection of telecom resources of unregistered telemarketers on complaints received on second instance, after issuing a notice on first violation.

Based on above provisions of the TRAI Regulations, the following action has been taken against the violators till date:

- (i) 1,48,095 notices have been sent to subscribers who have not registered as a telemarketer but were doing the telemarketing activities.
- (ii) 1,37,052 telephone numbers (telecom resources) of such subscribers have been disconnected.
- (iii) Rs. 1,08,94,558 has been deducted from the security deposit of registered telemarketers in 195 cases.
- (iv) 13 telemarketers have been Black-listed.

Sensor based instrument developed by C-DAC

842. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), a National Centre of Excellence of the Department of Information Technology has developed two instruments that can mimic the way a tea-taster can detect tea from random samples and come up with over 90 per cent accuracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sensor-based instruments developed by C-DAC can serve almost like skilled human nose, tongue and eyes;

(d) whether these instruments have progressed in commercial terms; and

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. C-DAC has developed two instruments called Integrated Electronic Nose and Vision System (ENOVISION) and Electronic Tongue for tea, based on advanced sensor technology to evaluate the quality of tea in terms of visual appearance, aroma and taste (strength) as the broad based parameters. The results are based on perception of tea tasters. Correlation of tea taster's appraisal with instrument results is approximately 90%.

(c) The sensor-based instruments are not a replacement of the human eye, nose or tongue. After extensive training by the tea tasters with a broad spectrum of samples they mimic the human sensory panels limited to that particular application specific domain.

(d) and (e) The systems have undergone laboratory and field trials, and prototype versions of the systems have been deployed in the tea industries, research/academic Institutions. The process for transfer of technology has been initiated.

Phones for BPL families

843. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the 'Har Hath Mein Phone' (HHMP) scheme;
- (b) the number of BPL families that are going to be benefited through the above scheme, State-wise;
- (c) to what extent the HHMP would empower the BPL families; and
- (d) the amount likely to be incurred on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Department of Telecommunications has not formulated any such scheme.

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

Failure of 3G services of MTNL and BSNL

844. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study to find the failure of 3G services both in MTNL and BSNL because of the influence of private operators and non cooperation of employees' union in maintaining best services; and

(b) if so, the road maps laid and pursued for best services in 3G/4G to develop the country's economy by empowering the countrymen in communication facilities even in rural areas to attract FDI in retail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) All the mobile subscribers of BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) having 2G connections, have been enabled with 3G facility and they can start using 3G services by having a 3G enabled hand set. However, the mobile subscribers of BSNL and MTNL sometimes face problems with regard to Quality of Service (QoS) including 3G further improvement of quality of service is an ongoing activity by both BSNL and MTNL. A number of value added services are available through 3G services such as High Speed Broadband, Video Calling, Music and video download, Mobile TV etc. Usage of 3G services is gradually picking-up.

Bidding process for telecom circles

845. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the response to the bidding process of the 22 telecom circles was lukewarm and there were no bidders for Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan and Karnataka circles on the first day of auction; and

(b) if so, the details of the bids received and allocated and the reasons for lukewarm response from the bidders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) In this 1800 MHz auction, there were no bids in the Service Areas of Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan and Karnataka. Both the applicants for 800 MHz auction withdrew their applications.

(b) The Details of the successful bids received and spectrum allocated are given in the Statement.

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

135

135

135

135

135

135

135

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	136
			3	1721.70	1722.95	1816.70	1817.95	Written Answers to [RAJYA SABHA]
			4	1722.92	1724.20	1817.95	1819.20	
Assam	8.67	Bharti Airtel Limited	7	1725.10	1726.35	1820.10	1821.35	
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1735.20	1736.45	1830.20	1831.45	
			2	1736.45	1737.70	1831.45	1832.70	
			3	1737.70	1738.95	1832.70	1833.95	
			4	1738.95	1740.20	1833.95	1835.20	
		Vodafone South Limited	5	1722.60	1723.85	1817.60	1818.85	
			8	1726.35	1727.60	1821.35	1822.60	
		Idea Cellular Limited	9	1740.40	1741.65	1835.40	1836.65	
		Videocon Telecommunications Limited	1	1735.20	1736.45	1830.20	1831.45	Unstarred Questions
			2	1736.45	1737.70	1831.45	1832.70	
			3	1737.70	1738.95	1832.70	1833.95	
			4	1738.95	1740.20	1833.95	1835.20	
Bihar	46.43	Vodafone South Limited	10	1751.80	1753.05	1843.80	1848.05	

			11	1753.05	1754.30	1848.05	1849.30
		Telewings Communications	5	1724.60	1725.85	1819.60	1820.85
		Services Private Limited	6	1725.85	1727.10	1820.85	1822.10
			7	1727.10	1728.35	1822.10	1823.35
			8	1728.35	1729.60	1823.35	1824.60
Gujarat	224.84	Telewings Communications	5	1738.60	1739.85	1833.60	1834.85
		Services Private Limited	6	1739.85	1741.10	1834.85	1836.10
			7	1741.10	1742.35	1836.10	1837.35
			8	1742.35	1743.60	1873.35	1838.60
		Videocon Telecommunications	1	1710.20	1711.45	1805.20	1806.45
		Limited	2	1711.45	1712.70	1806.45	1807.70
			3	1712.70	1713.95	1807.70	1808.95
			4	1713.95	1715.20	1808.95	1810.20
Haryana	46.52	Videocon Telecommunications	1	1719.60	1720.85	1814.60	1815.85
		Limited	2	1720.85	1722.10	1815.85	1817.10
			3	1722.10	1723.35	1817.10	1818.35
			4	1723.35	1724.60	1818.35	1819.60

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

137

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Vodafone South Limited	7	1760.50	1761.75	1855.50	1856.75
			8	1761.75	1763.00	1856.75	1858.00
Himachal Pradesh	7.78	Vodafone South Limited	7	1728.90	1730.15	1823.90	1825.15
Jammu & Kashmir	6.33	Vodafone South Limited	5	1761.40	1762.65	1856.40	1857.65
			6	1762.65	1763.90	1857.65	1858.90
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1720.40	1721.65	1815.40	1816.65
			2	1721.65	1722.90	1816.65	1817.90
			3	1722.90	1724.15	1817.90	1819.15
			4	1724.15	1725.40	1819.15	1820.40
Keral	65.30	Vodafone South Limited	4	1722.95	1724.20	1817.95	1819.20
Kolkata	113.72	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1735.80	1737.05	1830.80	1832.05
			2	1737.05	1738.30	1832.05	1833.30
			3	1738.30	1739.55	1833.30	1834.55
			4	1739.55	1740.80	1834.55	1835.80

138

Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Madhya Pradesh	53.99	Videocon Telecommunications Limited	1	1718.40	1719.65	1813.40	1814.65
			2	1719.65	1720.90	1814.65	1815.90
			3	1720.90	1722.15	1815.90	1817.15
			4	1722.15	1723.40	1817.15	1818.40
		Vodafone South Limited	5	1738.00	1739.25	1833.00	1834.25
			7	1740.50	1741.75	1835.50	1836.75
Maharashtra	262.61	Telewings Communications Services Private Limited	1	1753.80	1755.05	1848.80	1850.05
			2	1755.05	1756.30	1850.05	1851.30
			3	1756.30	1757.55	1851.30	1852.55
			4	1757.55	1758.80	1852.55	1853.80
		Vodafone South Limited	6	1760.05	1761.30	1855.05	1856.30
North East	8.84	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1734.00	1735.25	1829.00	1830.25
			2	1735.25	1736.50	1830.25	1831.50
			3	1736.50	1737.75	1831.50	1832.75
			4	1737.75	1739.00	1832.75	1834.00

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

139

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Vodafone South Limited	5	1739.00	1740.25	1834.00	1835.25
			8	1742.75	1744.00	1837.75	1839.00
Orissa	20.27	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1710.20	1711.45	1805.20	1806.45
			2	1711.45	1712.70	1806.45	1807.70
			3	1712.70	1713.95	1807.70	1808.95
			4	1713.95	1715.20	1808.95	1810.20
		Vodafone South Ltd.	5	1715.20	1716.45	1810.20	1811.45
			8	1718.95	1720.20	1813.95	1815.20
Punjab	67.28	Vodafone South Limited	2	1755.65	1756.90	1850.65	1851.90
Tamil Nadu	306.09	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1733.40	1734.65	1828.40	1829.65
			2	1734.65	1735.90	1829.65	1830.90
			3	1735.90	1737.15	1830.90	1832.15
			4	1737.15	1738.40	1832.15	1833.40
Uttar Pradesh (East)	76.17	Vodafone South Limited	11	1742.20	1743.45	1837.20	1838.45
		Telewings Communications	1	1723.00	1724.25	1818.00	1819.25

140 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Uttar Pradesh (West) 107.41	Services Private Limited	2	1724.25	1725.50	1819.25	1820.50
		3	1725.50	1726.75	1820.50	1821.75
		4	1726.75	1728.00	1821.75	1823.00
		5	1728.00	1729.25	1823.00	1824.25
		6	1729.25	1730.50	1824.25	1825.50
		7	1730.50	1731.75	1825.50	1826.75
		8	1731.75	1733.00	1826.75	1828.00
		9	1719.20	1720.45	1814.20	1815.45
	Vodafone South Limited	11	1780.20	1781.45	1875.20	1876.45
		5	1714.00	1715.25	1809.00	1810.25
	Videocon Telecommunications Limited	6	1715.25	1716.50	1810.25	1811.50
		7	1716.50	1717.75	1811.50	1812.75
		8	1717.75	1719.00	1812.75	1814.00
	Telewings Communications Services Private Limited	1	1738.60	1739.85	1833.60	1834.85
		2	1739.85	1741.10	1834.85	1836.10

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

141

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			3	1741.10	1742.35	1836.10	1837.35
			4	1742.35	1743.60	1837.35	1838.60
West Bengal	25.84	Idea Cellular Ltd.	1	1721.20	1722.45	1816.20	1817.45
			2	1722.45	1723.70	1817.45	1818.70
			3	1723.70	1724.95	1818.70	1819.95
			4	1724.95	1726.20	1819.95	1821.20
			5	1759.60	1760.85	1854.60	1855.85
	Vodafone South Limited		7	1762.10	1763.35	1857.10	1858.35
			8	1763.35	1764.60	1858.35	1859.60

142 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Fruit processing facilities

846. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large quantity of fruits is wasted due to non-availability of processing facilities;
- (b) if so, the quantum of fruits wasted annually; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to augment processing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) does not maintain data separately on quantum of wastage of fruits in the country. However, as per the study conducted by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana, the percentage of cumulative wastage of fruits and vegetables had been estimated at 5.8% to 18.0%.

(c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme – National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during 2012-13 of Twelfth Five Year Plan. The salient features of the NMFP are: (i) to realize the Ministry's next leap forward in terms of ensuing requisite growth impetus and value addition to the sector; (ii) decentralized approach; (iii) greater role of State/UTs; (iv) better outreach and (v) effective supervision and monitoring.

NMFP provides flexibility to States/UTs in the selection of beneficiaries, location of projects etc. for the development of food processing sector. This initiative of the Ministry would give an impetus to food processing industries in the country.

Cancelled integrated cold chain projects

847. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for cancellation of 11 Integrated Cold Chain Projects, which were sanctioned during 2008-09 and 2011-12;
- (b) out of the above 11 Projects, how many were proposed in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether any steps are being taken for revival of these cancelled Projects in the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Out of the projects approved during 2011-12, 9 (nine) projects were cancelled as they failed to comply with the conditions of the approval *i.e.* submission of documents for release of the first installment within 9 months of issue of approval letter and 2 (two) projects were cancelled due to forgery of documents/misrepresentation of the facts by the applicants. No project approved during 2008-09 was cancelled.

(b) Out of the 11 projects cancelled during 2011-12, one project was proposed in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to revive the cancelled projects.

Setting up processing industries in Vaishali, Bihar

†848. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vaishali District of Bihar is famous for production of quality lychees, mangoes and bananas; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government for setting up industries based on banana, mango and lychee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) To assist the entrepreneurs and domestic agro-processing industries in the country including Bihar, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme – National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during 2012-13 of Twelfth Five Year Plan. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) implemented the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries during Eleventh Plan. Under the above Scheme, Ministry extended financial assistance to food processing units including fruits and vegetables units in the form of grants-in-aid to the implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas, or @33.33% subject to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas in the country. The aforesaid scheme has been subsumed in the NMFP w.e.f. 01.04.2012 (2012-13).

NMFP provides flexibility to States/UTs in the selection of beneficiaries, location of projects etc. for the development of food processing sector. This initiative of the Ministry would give an impetus to food processing industries in the country including Bihar.

MoFPI has already released grants-in-aid of Rs. 8.565 crores to State of Bihar for implementation of NMFP scheme during 2012-13. The Major Programmes/Schemes covered under NMFP during 2012-13 are:

- (i) Scheme for Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries.
- (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non Horticultural Products.
- (iii) Scheme for Human Resource Development (HRD)
 - (a) Creation of Infrastructure Facilities for Running Degree/Diploma/Certificate Courses in Food Processing Technology.
 - (b) Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)
 - (c) Food Processing Training Centre (FPTC)
- (iv) Scheme for Promotional Activities
 - a. Organizing Seminar/Workshops
 - b. Conducting Studies/Surveys
 - c. Support to Exhibitions/Fairs
 - d. Advertisement and Publicity

Survey for establishing FPIs

†849. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has recently conducted any survey to identify such States/Union Territories in the country where there is a huge potential for establishment of Food Processing Industries (FPIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to establish FPIs in the hilly and North-Eastern States where there is a huge potential for production of fruits and vegetables;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether steps have been taken by Government for taking help from other countries for making the FPIs in the country competitive at the international level?

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) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) does not setup any food processing units on its own. However, Government had started a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern region including Sikkim, 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 implementation of 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. Under the Mini Mission-IV component of this scheme, assistance at 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 in the above States. Further, this scheme is operational during 2012-13 also.

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 above Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries has been subsumed in the NMFP *w.e.f.* 01.04.2012 (2012-13).

(e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has entered into agreements with some developed countries *viz.* Germany and France for bilateral co-operation in the field of food processing which generally include processed food segments including fruits and vegetables. Besides, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has entered into number of umbrella agreements with some developed countries like USA, France, Canada, Netherlands, Argentina, Austria, Brazil for bilateral co-operation in the areas of agriculture and allied sectors which generally include agro and food processing, cold chain etc. Apart from this, MoUs have been entered into by two institutions of the Ministry, namely, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT). The MoUs relate to collaboration in teaching and research in the food processing sector.

Toilets in schools in Maharashtra

850. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey in the State of Maharashtra regarding schools which do not have toilets and the number of Co-educational schools in which there are no separate toilets for girl and boy students;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the present status of implementation of the directive of Supreme Court to provide toilets in all the schools within a stipulated time-frame, in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra has reported that data on school infrastructure is collected every year as part of District Information System for Education (DISE). There are 10,00,084 schools in the State of which 96,601 are co-educational. 97% of the schools have separate toilet facility for girls and boys. 3% schools do not have separate facilities for girls and boys. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all schools to provide toilet facilities within 6 months from 3rd October, 2012.

Eligibility criteria for IIT-JEE exam

851. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether students require 60 per cent marks to become eligible for IIT-JEE exam;

(b) whether there is a proposal to make students eligible for IIT-JEE exam only if they secure top 20 percentile marks in 10+2 examination in their respective State;

(c) whether due to (b) above, students from Andhra Pradesh have to secure 87.2 per cent in 10+2 to become eligible for IIT-JEE exam when compared to other States like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya;

(d) how the Ministry justifies higher percentage of marks for Andhra Pradesh students; and

(e) does it not go against the objective of reducing stress on students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to the undergraduate programmes in engineering would be conducted in two parts. JEE-MAIN and JEE-ADVANCED. The JEE-Advanced examination will be held after JEE-Main with a suitable time gap. Only the top 150,000 candidates (including all categories) in JEE-Main will be qualified to appear in the JEE-Advanced examination. Admissions to IITs will be based only on category-wise

All India Rank (AIR) in JEE-Advanced, subject to the condition that such candidates are in the top 20 percentile of successful candidates in the respective Boards in applicable categories. As one time exception, in respect of those students who passed their Board exams in 2012, the eligibility criteria for joining IITs would be 60% marks in XII Board examination (55% for SC/ST/PD).

(c) and (d) Marks to be secured by a candidate to fall within the top 20 percentile will vary from one Board to another and from one year to another year. The exact cut off of top 20 percentile marks in a Board marks will be known only after the Board results are declared, depending upon the marking pattern of any Board.

(e) No, sir. No two Boards are being equated, instead a candidate would be tested against his peers who have appeared in the same Board examination and whose performance has been evaluated in the same manner as them. The use of percentile ranking assumes that the quality of students is uniformly distributed across the Boards.

Quota for MPs for admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas

852. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Members of Parliament had failed to use Kendriya Vidyalaya admission quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more than 800 seats remained unutilized in the past three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) 9 Rajya Sabha and 67 Lok Sabha Members have not used their full quota of 6 admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya in the academic session 2012-13 at all and some Members have used their Quota partially.

(c) and (d) A total of 1761 seats under this quota remained unutilized in the past three years, *i.e.* 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 as given below:

	Unutilized seats		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Rajya Sabha	74	30	183
Lok Sabha	336	112	1026
TOTAL	410	142	1209
GRAND TOTAL (410+142+1209)	=	1761	

Advanced version of Aakash-2 tablet

853. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched advanced version of low cost Aakash-2 tablet;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that about 22 crore students would get the device across the country in the next five to six years;
- (c) whether the first one lakh devices would be provided to students of engineering colleges and universities and subsequently these would be distributed to others; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes Sir, the advanced version of low cost Aakash 2 tablet was launched by the Hon'ble President of India on the occasion of National Education Day i.e. 11th November, 2012.

- (b) Presently there is no concrete proposal in this regard.

(c) and (d) Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, a project is being implemented by IIT Bombay for achieving the following deliverables after acquiring the LCADs for teacher empowerment:

- (i) Acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and
- (ii) Hardware and software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices.

In the first phase 1,00,000 tablets are being distributed for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions.

Requirement of schools and teachers under RTE Act in Karnataka

854. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the requirement of new schools and additional teachers for implementation of Right to Education in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The States/UTs every year work out their requirements of new schools and additional teachers under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and submit their Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP & B) to the Government of India for funding under SSA. Under SSA, till 2012-13, 11,353 schools and 37,316 teachers have been sanctioned to State Government of Karnataka.

Confusion regarding rules under Right to Education Act

855. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the lacunae and confusion in the rules for the Right to Education (RTE) Act that is causing many institutions providing high quality primary and secondary education, to oppose the Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government would undertake further consultations and make efforts to include the concerns of these educational institutions to ensure that they are willing to play a role in enhancing both capacity and quality of education for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) 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 is being implemented by all States/UTs. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2010 notified by the Central Government on 8th April, 2010 is applicable to five UTs without Legislature. All States/UTs have notified the State RTE Rules. The Central Government has held periodic discussions with the State Governments with regard to improvements and clarity in the State RTE Rules so as to improve implementation.

Implementation of SSA and RMSA

†856. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools established/proposed to be established under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) during the past three years and current year, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government is satisfied with the implementation of SSA and RMSA for promoting school education in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some shortcomings/irregularities have been noticed in the implementation of these schemes; and

(e) if so, the corrective action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) State-wise number of schools sanctioned under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) in the last three years and current year are given in Statement-I and II respectively (*See* below).

(b) and (c) SSA has to a large extent universalized access to elementary schooling by sanctioning 3,86,537 schools since inception in 2001. RMSA is a newer programme which is incrementally enhancing access to secondary schooling in the country. Under RMSA, opening of 9636 new government secondary schools and strengthening of 34311 existing government secondary schools has been sanctioned.

(d) and (e) The SSA and RMSA both have laid down a Financial and Procurement Manual for their respective programmes, which assists in strengthening of financial management. However, instances of financial irregularities during audits and programmatic deficiencies during monitoring of these schemes have come to light from time to time. Government of India takes up these findings with States and UTs for remedial action and compliance, while at the same time, strengthening of the audit systems with concurrent audit and monitoring of progress in the field with the help of 41 independent monitoring institutions has been undertaken.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I*Opening of new primary and upper primary schools sanctioned under SSA*

Sl. No.	State	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
		PS	UPS	PS	UPS	PS	UPS	PS	UPS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	A and N Island	0	0	0	0	6	11	15	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	26	20	5	13	0	435	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	174	16	194	54	124	42	123	49
4	Assam	1521	0	3533	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	0	3013	821	1720	1756	447	0	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0	7	7	0	4	2	2
7	Chhattisgarh	1	404	319	85	193	140	8	30
8	D and N Haveli	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	27
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	Delhi	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Haryana	6	0	114	177	8	49	15	4
14	Himachal Pradesh	40	0	0	7	40	20	0	0
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0	800	497	863	397	330	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16	Jharkhand	442	185	927	441	42	32	0	0
17	Karnataka	317	130	135	330	0	0	0	10
18	Kerala	0	0	6	0	118	0	0	0
19	Lakshdweep	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	595	386	944	740	0	179	803
21	Maharashtra	1015	39	843	60	0	0	0	219
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	535	158	76	0
23	Meghalaya	208	425	574	302	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	4	0	0	0	21	63	6	0
25	Nagaland	125	50	168	324	0	0	0	0
26	Orissa	2388	928	354	379	0	374	0	0
27	Puducherry	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
28	Punjab	69	599	27	90	0	0	0	21
29	Rajasthan	1700	1864	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Sikkim	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	5	831	228	218	0	0	0	0
32	Tripura	69	167	70	71	0	0	34	1
33	Uttar Pradesh	863	1162	26	1152	10487	1173	0	0
34	Uttrakhand	53	129	7	14	0	0	46	23
35	West Bengal	360	776	15761	1866	0	0	100	415
TOTAL		9404	12145	25021	9109	14481	2843	1041	1613

154 Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Statement-II*Opening of new secondary schools (classes IX-X) sanctioned under RMSA*

Sl. No.	State	New secondary schools Approved in the year 2009-10	New-secondary schools Approved in the year 2010-11	New secondary schools Approved in the year 2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	102
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	11	22
4	Assam	0	0	0
5	Bihar	350	447	169
6	Chhattisgarh	218	500	623
7	Chandigarh	0	4	0
8	Daman and Diu	0	2	1
9	Delhi	0	0	0
10	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	0	72	256
13	Haryana	0	32	5
14	Himanchal Pradesh	69	45	22
15	Jammu and Kashmir	69	182	279
16	Jharkhand	300	297	297
17	Karnataka	80	225	0
18	Kerala	60	36	16
19	Lakshadweep	4	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	341	0	603
21	Maharashtra	0	0	0
22	Manipur	44	23	49
23	Meghalaya	0	25	0
24	Mizoram	23	32	26

1	2	3	4	5
25	Nagaland	35	67	45
26	Odisha	300	400	9
27	Puducherry	0	9	2
28	Punjab	70	79	73
29	Rajasthan	0	0	0
30	Sikkim	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	200	344	710
32	Tripura	0	42	41
33	Uttarakhand	23	58	147
34	Uttar Pradesh	254	318	449
35	West Bengal	0	0	0
TOTAL		2440	3250	3946

Standard of universities

857. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 60 per cent universities in the country are sub-standard or below standard;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Out of 612 Universities in the country, only 172 Universities in the country have been accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Out of the Universities accredited, 67 Universities have been placed in Grade A, 99 Universities in Grade B and only 6 Universities in Grade C, based on scores awarded during the process of accreditation. NAAC follows the process of Grade accreditation only and does not undertake threshold accreditation, *i.e.* the Grade is only a relative value assigned to a university and does not denote an absolute attribute of quality.

(c) At present, accreditation is voluntary for Higher Education Institutions in the country. A Legislation namely National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010 has been introduced in Parliament which

proposes to make accreditation mandatory for all Higher Education Institutions. Quality improvement is a continuous process in Universities and University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it has taken several steps to improve quality of universities, which include issuing Regulations on maintenance of standards and quality in all universities, including Private Universities, deemed to be universities, Central Universities and state universities. These regulations are available on www.uqc.ac.in

Restoration of powers to NCMEI

858. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands/requests have of late been made for restoration of administrative and other powers to the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several joint representation/representations from the All India Muslim Majlis Mushawarat, Dr. Mufti Mohd. Mukarram, Shahi Imam of Fatehpuri Masjid & others, Shri Mukhtar Azeem and others, Shri A.A. Jinnah, M.P. and others, Federation for Educational Development, Delhi, Shri Liyakat Ali, National President, Minority Association of Educational Institutions, Lucknow, Coordination Committee of Indian Muslims, New Delhi and Shri Syed Jalaluddin Omari, National President, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, New Delhi have been received in this Ministry against the purported withdrawal of powers of the Chairman, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI).

(c) There has been no change in the financial and quasi-judicial powers of the Chairman, NCMEI or of the Commission. The Chairman, NCMEI in a communication has also informed that there is no governmental interference in the administrative or financial matters of the Commission. Two amendments relating to administrative powers of the Chairman have been made on 28.02.2012, after vetting by the Ministry of Law and Justice, in order to bring the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Financial and Administrative Powers) Rules, 2005 and National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Procedure for Appeal) Rules, 2006 in conformity with the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Provision in NCMEI Act	Rules prior to Amendment	Present Rules i.e. after Amendment
1.	Section 6, Officers and other employees of Commission: (1) The Central Government shall provide the Commission with a Secretary and such other officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the Commission under this Act.	As per Item 1 of Schedule to Rule 3, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Financial and Administrative Powers) the Chairperson shall have the powers in respect of appointments and promotions against vacancy in respect of sanctioned post.	After deletion of item 1 of Schedule to Rule 3 the Central Government shall have the powers in respect of appointments and promotions against vacancy in respect of sanctioned post.
2.	Section 9 (3), Procedure to be regulated by the Commission: All orders and decisions of the Commission shall be authenticated by the Secretary or any other officer of the Commission duly authorized by the Secretary in this behalf.	Rule 28, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Procedure for Appeal) provided that a copy of the order, certified by the Secretary, or such officer as Chairman appoints in this behalf.	Rule 28 now provides that a copy of the order, certified by the Secretary, or such officer as Secretary appoints in this behalf.

UGC website for jobs

859. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether UGC has launched a website to help job providers and seekers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response received so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched an academic job portal at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/jobportal> which helps NET/SET/Ph.D qualified candidates to create their academic profile for the attention of universities/colleges and other potential employers. It also facilitates employers to register and post the job vacancies on the said portal so that candidates can apply directly against the vacancies. Since its launch, 17,088 candidates have registered their profile and 15 jobs in various disciplines have been posted by various Universities/Institutions on this portal.

Learning ability of students

860. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that students' learning ability has not improved even though more Government funds for education has increased student enrolment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to improve the learning ability of students in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the further steps proposed to be taken to improve the standard of education in schools in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The National Council of

Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, conducts periodic National Learners' Achievement Surveys. Two rounds of the National Learners' Achievement Survey for classes III, V and VIII and the third round of survey for class V have been conducted in 2001-2004, 2005-2008 and 2009-10 respectively, which reveal improvements in the overall learning levels of children in Mathematics and Language subjects in most States.

(c) and (d) To improve the learning levels of children, steps taken under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan include, *inter alia*, sanction of more than 19 lakh teachers to improve the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), sanction of 1,94,574 primary school buildings, 1,07,682 upper primary school buildings, more than 18 lakh additional classrooms to improve school infrastructure, as well as in-service training for teachers, regular academic support to teachers and schools as well as free text books to children.

(e) Further more, under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE), Act, 2009, the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) has notified the minimum qualifications and also made the holding of Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) mandatory to improve the quality standard of teachers.

UGC-NET examination

861. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been received regarding the post-examination criteria change for the UGC-NET examination; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The University Grants Commission (UGC), has informed that it had intimated the candidates in the Notification for UGC-NET, held in June, 2012, that the candidates are required to obtain minimum marks separately in Paper-I, Paper-II and Paper-III as given below:

Category	Minimum Marks (%) to be obtained		
	Paper-I	Paper-II	Paper-III
General	40(40%)	40(40%)	75(50%)
OBC	35(35%)	35(35%)	67.5(45%) rounded off to 68
SC/ST/PWD	35(35%)	35(35%)	60(40%)

It was also mentioned in the notification that only such candidates who obtain the minimum required marks in each paper separately, as mentioned above, will be considered for the final preparation of the results and that the final qualifying criteria for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and eligibility for Lectureship shall be decided by the UGC before the declaration of the results.

Although it was clearly stated in the notification that the final qualifying criteria would be decided by the UGC before the declaration of the results, it was mistakenly taken to be the final qualifying criteria by some candidates. The UGC has received some complaints in this regard, while some other candidates have gone to the extent of filing court cases on this issue.

Meanwhile, the Commission in its meeting held on 22/10/2012, set up a four-member Committee from among the Commission members to examine representations/grievances related to the result of the UGC-NET June, 2012 and revisit the results, if found necessary.

Accordingly, UGC prepared supplementary result, as per the recommendations of the Committee set up by UGC, which was declared on 12/11/2012. This was in addition to the candidates declared as qualified in the original results of June, 2012 that the UGC-NET declared on 18/09/2012.

Education for disaster management

862. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has issued any guidelines for imparting education in Disaster Management Plans to educate the students to face the natural calamity situations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government provides any financial assistance for setting up of infrastructural/logistical facilities to the institutions directly or through State Governments along with the details thereof; and

(c) the provision for States like Andhra Pradesh where the cyclones are frequent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) On the recommendation of 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission contained in its 3rd Report titled "Crisis Management from Despair to Hope" regarding introduction of "Disaster Management" as a subject in 'Management and Public Administration', the University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted an Expert Committee consisting of subject experts in Disaster Management. The Expert Committee framed the syllabus for an optional paper on Disaster Management at the Undergraduate level and syllabus for a short-term training course for UG teachers to be used by Academic Staff Colleges. The Commission considered the report of the Expert Committee on Disaster Management and approved the introduction of an optional paper on Disaster Management at the Undergraduate level across the universities/colleges. The Commission further decided that Disaster Management be introduced as one of the topics in Orientation and Refresher Courses offered by the Academic Staff Colleges. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is also running various courses in Disaster Management at Post Graduate and Doctoral level programmes.

Similarly, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also introduced the topic of Disaster Management as a part of the school curriculum in Social Science.

(b) The UGC has provided financial assistance of Rs. 467.04 lakh to the Pondicherry University for starting M.Sc. course in Coastal Disaster Management at its Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM) Campus, Port Blair. Further, the UGC is also implementing a scheme of providing assistance to universities and colleges for overcoming damages caused by natural calamities/disastrous as a part of the general development assistance. The quantum of assistance under the scheme depends on the nature of calamities and availability of funds. The

damages/losses are ascertained based on the recommendations of the District Magistrate/Commissioner of the affected district. The financial assistance is on sharing basis in the ratio of 75% by UGC and 25% by the concerned State Government. During the XI Plan period, UGC released an amount of Rs.500 lakh to Pondicherry University for the damage caused by the recent Thane Cyclone which hit Pondicherry on 30.12.2011. UGC has also provided grants to the following colleges under the scheme:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|
| 1. ADM College, Nagapattinam (Tamil Nadu) | : | Rs. 33,60,000/- |
| 2. TBML College, Porayar (Tamil Nadu) | : | Rs. 69,20,000/- |
| 3. Periyar Arts College, Cuddalur (Tamil Nadu) | : | Rs. 54,92,000/- |
| 4. Presidency College, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) | : | Rs. 1,42,00,000/- |

(c) No separate provision has been made for the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, the universities and colleges of Andhra Pradesh are also covered under the scheme of providing assistance for overcoming damages caused by natural calamities/disasters.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh

863. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh is pending with Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) 15 proposals have been received till date for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in the State of Andhra Pradesh, out of which, 03 cases have been found feasible so far *i.e.* (i) Mahabubabad, Distt. Warangal (ii) CISF, NISA Hakimpet, Secunderabad and (iii) Miryalguda, Distt. Nalgonda. Opening of new KVs will be subject to necessary approvals and availability of funds. The details and status of the remaining 12 proposals is given in the Statement.

Statement

List of 12 proposals received for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas under civil sector in the State of Andhra Pradesh (As on 22-11-2012)

Sl. No.	Location of proposed KV	Current Status
1	2	3
1	Tenali, Guntur Distt,	The Distt. Collector, Guntur has been requested to remove the discrepancies with reference to the prescribed norms.
2	Naidupet, Distt. Nellore	The Distt. Authority to provide suitable temporary accommodation as per norms.
3	Kalichedu, Distt. Nellore	The Distt. Authority was requested to provide suitable land and the suitable temporary accommodation.
4	Srikalahasti, Distt. Chittoor	The Distt. Authority has been requested to remove discrepancies.
5	Kandukur Town, Distt. Prakasam	Some discrepancies were noticed <i>i.e.</i> approach road to the proposed land is not available. Water connection, electrical service connection work to be completed by the sponsoring authority in the proposed temporary accommodation.
6	West Gudur, Sri Potti, Sriramulu, Distt. Nellore	The DC, KVS, Hyderabad was requested to keep liaison with the Distt. Authority to acquire the proposed land from the Deptt. of Higher Education to transfer to KVS.
7	Gudipala, Distt. Chittoor	The proposal has not been received in the prescribed format.

1	2	3
8	Jangalapalle, Yadamari Mandal, Distt. Chittoor	The Distt. Authority has been requested to remove the discrepancies with reference to the prescribed norms.
9	Jharasangam Village and Mandal, Distt. Medak under Zaheerabad Parliamentary Constituency	The Distt. Authority has been requested to remove the discrepancies with reference to the prescribed norms.
10	Siddipet, Distt. Medak	Feasibility report relating to the proposed land is awaited.
11	Bhongir, Distt. Nalgonda	The proposal has not been received in the prescribed format.
12	Kakinada, Distt. East Godavari	The Distt. Collector, East Godavari Distt. was requested to remove the discrepancies with reference to the prescribed norms.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

864. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether introduction of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has increased the enrolment of students at secondary stage throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) As per Statistics of School Education compiled by this Department, the enrolment of students at secondary stage in 2007-08 was 2.82 crore which has increased to 3.17 crore in 2010-11. The scheme Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was started in 2009, under which 9636 new secondary schools have been approved (classes IX-X), out of which 8139 secondary schools have also become functional.

India's global research share

865. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's global research share was just 3.5 per cent in 2010 as per Thomson Reuters Report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to increase the global research share of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) A bibliometric study on India's research output based on Science Citation Index (SCI) database has been conducted by Thomson Reuters in 2010 and submitted to Department of Science and Technology. The detailed report entitled "India's Research Output Analysis 2001-2010- A Bibliometric Study" is available on www.dst.gov.in. According to the report, India's global share of scientific publication is about 3.5 per cent. Based on relative share, India ranks currently ninth in the world with respect of scientific publications in SCI journals.

(c) The Government has taken various measures for the promotion and growth of scientific research in the country. These measures include successive increase in plan allocations for Scientific Departments, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, establishment of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for Research and Development (R&D) in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, recognition of R&D units and national awards for outstanding R&D for industries etc.

The University Grants Commission (UGC), is implementing the following schemes to promote research in the higher educational institutions : (i) Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE) (ii) Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Area (CPEPA) (iii) College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) (iv) Major Research Projects/Minor Research Project (MRP) (v) Special Assistance Programme (SAP) (vi) Basic Scientific Research (BSR) and (vii) Research Fellowships. The UGC has implemented *various Research Fellowship schemes* for students such as the

Scheme of Junior Research Fellowship, Scheme of Junior Research Fellowship for Technology and Engineering, Scheme of Post Doctoral Fellowship for Women, Scheme of Post Doctoral Fellowship called Research Award, Scheme of Emeritus Fellowship for superannuated university/college teachers, Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST candidates, the scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D and the Scheme of Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST candidates.

In addition to the UGC's scheme, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is also funding research in Social Sciences and Humanities through its research councils, viz., Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI).

Study on learning level of students

866. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any official study is undertaken to assess the learning outcome of students at the level of elementary education, State-wise;
- (b) if so, the findings and details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, conducts periodic National Learners' Achievement Surveys. Two rounds of the National Learners' Achievement Survey for classes III, V and VII/VIII have been conducted by NCERT. The findings of two rounds of achievement surveys are given in the Statement (*See below*) The third round of the National Achievement Survey conducted for class V has revealed improvements in the overall learning levels of children in Mathematics and Language subjects in most States.

Statement											
Findings of two rounds of achivement surveys											
Sl. No.	State/UT	Class III				Class V					
		Maths		Language		Maths		Language		EVS	
		R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2
1	Andaman and N Island					40.69	33.37	54.49	50.57	44.80	39.69
2	Andhra Pradesh					43.53	47.44	54.83	58.61	44.58	46.01
3	Arunanchal Pradesh	59.98	66.08	60.34	70.06	53.47	48.44	61.33	52.11	60.40	53.97
4	Assam	68.10	65.51	65.91	65.62	40.03	44.64	49.16	51.90	42.90	45.21
5	Bihar										
6	Chandigarh	50.99	52.90	53.14	54.50	44.98	42.20	55.99	61.09	41.81	44.10
7	Chhattisgarh	41.96	48.98	50.69	56.57	38.36	39.18	49.69	50.30	43.15	46.44
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli						40.84		49.35		45.29
9	Daman and Diu						42.60		58.09		51.12
10	Delhi	68.12	51.21	68.19	60.05	48.20	45.33	63.15	67.32	49.96	49.51
11	Goa	58.08	59.90	63.19	65.07	30.48	38.99	44.68	52.47	35.60	46.25
12	Gujarat	64.24	67.03	58.54	72.56	48.36	56.98	56.18	63.30	52.38	59.56
13	Haryana	55.95	60.49	59.33	63.86	53.33	48.49	60.45	58.26	53.21	46.60
14	Himachal Pradesh	54.42	57.66	61.61	65.19	34.41	47.61	49.99	63.88	34.93	48.51
15	Jammu and Kashmir	56.98	57.20	61.10	62.19	36.30	45.53	47.59	51.72	39.14	46.06
16	Jharkhand	54.67	61.00	59.97	66.74		57.40		63.82		58.41

17	Karnataka	68.45	61.48	69.96	69.19	46.03	57.48	58.63	64.56	51.46	60.34
18	Kerala	51.36	61.43	63.31	70.14	35.09	42.33	54.99	67.34	41.36	46.83
19	Lakshadweep										
20	Madhya Pradesh	36.94	52.12	45.21	61.06	49.03	46.52	58.25	58.82	54.09	56.62
21	Maharashtra	57.77	64.55	64.33	71.30	44.32	48.28	62.12	65.64	52.82	55.93
22	Manipur	72.27	69.17	73.21	60.11	74.46	41.12	73.39	62.09	73.60	55.10
23	Meghalaya	67.45	66.05	68.27	70.56		40.98		54.90		46.49
24	Mizoram	66.89	61.73	81.78	47.84	41.07	42.88	66.91	66.68	49.93	49.49
25	Nagaland	67.56	66.06	76.08	72.30	45.71	47.35	59.55	57.82	50.05	48.81
26	Orissa	62.56	59.72	67.78	64.28	40.95	46.84	60.73	63.77	56.03	50.29
27	Puducherry	57.97	36.67	69.90	56.41	36.59	43.02	59.23	57.78	49.59	48.23
28	Punjab	53.91	58.08	54.29	67.16	49.62	48.43	58.04	57.75	50.18	49.69
29	Rajasthan	56.79	58.19	61.48	64.25	49.37	47.56	60.65	59.72	50.77	50.19
30	Sikkim	51.22	53.89	58.10	63.27	40.66	40.42	50.26	49.70	48.16	48.39
31	Tamil Nadu	53.48	75.20	66.51	79.74	58.37	50.49	71.09	59.79	66.01	59.36
32	Tripura	66.58	67.97	66.85	73.08	52.71	52.84	63.79	61.77	54.50	56.23
33	Uttar Pradesh	58.21	58.19	64.26	64.77	37.81	52.39	50.20	61.77	41.45	56.19
34	Uttarakhand	46.79	53.59	53.95	61.03	38.83	40.90	56.35	55.30	43.27	45.38
35	West Bengal	62.02	69.79	68.36	78.15	60.11	61.02	70.67	69.27	58.65	59.92
	Mean	58.25	61.89	63.12	67.84	46.51	48.46	58.87	60.31	50.30	52.19

R1- Round-1.

R2- Round- 2.

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

169

Sl. No.	State/UT	Class VII					
		Maths		Language		Science	
		R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2
1	Andaman and Nicobar Island						
2	Andhra Pradesh	24.95	36.63	62.53	54.02	39.01	39.37
3	Arunachal Pradesh						
4	Assam	45.32	36.60	61.75	55.23	40.46	41.92
5	Bihar						
6	Chandigarh						
7	Chhattisgarh						
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli						
9	Daman and Diu						
10	Delhi						
11	Goa	29.71	35.57	59.21	59.11	39.93	38.89
12	Gujarat	29.39	49.66	49.21	57.73	37.43	44.72
13	Haryana						
14	Himachal Pradesh						
15	Jammu and Kashmir						
16	Jharkhand						
17	Karnataka						
18	Kerala	29.24	38.11	59.70	54.40	42.10	42.26
19	Lakshadweep						
20	Madhya Pradesh						
21	Maharashtra	27.52	43.38	60.41	67.44	41.56	47.77
22	Manipur						
23	Meghalaya	32.94	38.52	57.60	57.22	37.49	42.03
24	Mizoram	35.32	30.91	56.96	47.86	39.01	35.73
25	Nagaland						
26	Orissa	28.12	40.10	34.05	55.48	28.48	41.86
27	Puducherry						
28	Punjab						
29	Rajasthan						
30	Sikkim						
31	Tamil Nadu						
32	Tripura						
33	Uttar Pradesh						
34	Uttarakhand						
35	West Bengal						
MEAN		30.50	40.38	54.24	57.35	37.78	42.86

R1-Round-1

R2-Round-2

Class VIII									
Soc. Sc.		Maths		Language		Science		Soc. Sc.	
R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2
		36.61	29.27	46.43	35.28	37.70	29.50	42.85	31.69
37.38	45.06								
		43.08	42.44	50.64	54.17	48.04	45.74	50.70	48.04
40.15	38.11								
			58.03		64.88		55.07		55.24
		43.12	45.06	54.63	55.15	42.05	38.23	46.09	43.56
		28.92	35.93	43.13	50.46	34.91	39.21	39.51	45.56
		41.84	35.11	59.48	56.85	41.68	33.36	45.61	38.26
34.00	37.08								
27.33	58.51								
		42.37	42.39	63.63	57.91	41.67	38.42	51.31	46.66
		32.07	40.13	53.16	58.27	39.60	34.98	43.98	46.58
		32.92	39.01	45.66	41.27	36.88	36.38	41.85	38.36
			33.76		51.18		40.11		44.60
		43.30	41.38	63.68	53.54	46.47	41.75	59.96	48.99
40.11	42.69								
		36.24	36.97	50.76	50.80	41.67	38.04	43.56	43.70
35.67	47.24								
		61.24	55.09	61.53	47.91	55.91	46.06	61.11	46.01
36.04	39.00								
36.12	33.42								
		46.98	38.26	65.40	54.02	51.81	37.50	54.17	44.42
27.38	41.66								44.42
			31.57		59.40		38.35		45.39
		32.57	44.08	25.61	62.02	26.51	41.99	22.53	46.28
		31.06	42.52	49.90	56.72	33.15	41.50	41.99	48.42
		36.05	37.82	51.06	57.26	41.52	40.74	48.52	48.80
		41.56	40.83	59.05	65.95	41.80	44.57	41.06	53.11
		39.39	46.51	52.98	55.92	42.11	50.94	47.91	50.82
		33.62	46.39	47.39	55.97	32.58	46.95	38.88	50.13
		34.72	35.36	50.89	51.99	36.49	34.87	43.65	43.22
		59.26	48.48	74.82	65.37	65.48	53.84	66.83	54.78
34.04	44.73	39.17	42.57	53.86	56.49	41.30	42.71	46.19	47.89

Drop-out rate of students in Jharkhand

867. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state?

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the drop-out rates;
- (b) if so, the national average of drop-out rate for boys and girls at the beginning and at the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, separately;
- (c) how far Jharkhand has performed during the above period; and
- (d) the steps taken to reduce the drop-out rates amongst girls in the country as well as in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) There has been a decline in the dropout rate for Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X in the country during 2010-11 (Provisional) as compared to 2009-10. The dropout rate for the Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X during 2007-08, 2009-10 (Provisional) and for the latest year 2010-11 (Provisional) in the country is given below:

Classes	Dropout rate								
	2007-08			2009-10 (Provisional)			2010-11 (Provisional)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
I-V	25.7	24.4	25.1	30.3	27.3	28.9	28.7	25.1	27.0
I-VIII	43.7	41.3	42.7	40.6	44.4	42.4	40.3	41.0	40.6
I-X	56.5	57.3	56.7	53.4	52.0	52.8	50.4	47.9	49.3

(c) and (d) The dropout rate for Classes I-V in Jharkhand has increased from 9.4 during 2007-08 to 28.4 in 2010-11 (Provisional) respectively. The dropout rates for Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X in Jharkhand during 2010-11 (Provisional) are 45.1 and 69.5 respectively. The dropout rate for these classes during 2007-08 is not available for Jharkhand. The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting 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 and to bridge gender gaps in elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted for reducing dropout rates. This includes *inter-alia* strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings for children in habitations not covered by regular schools, provisioning for additional teachers, regular training of teachers, provision for text books and uniforms to children. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme provides for setting up of residential upper primary schools for girls. 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 which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio-economic disparities in access to education.

Shortage of teachers and schools

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

- (a) whether the number of teachers and schools is going down in the country;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to have more teachers and schools in the country for making Right to Education (RTE) a success in real sense;
- (c) whether there is a tremendous shortage of teachers in Delhi and if so, the action taken to meet the shortage;
- (d) whether the quality of education being imparted to students in Government schools in Delhi is very poor and deteriorating; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve the quality of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the District Information System (DISE), the number of Government Schools in the country has increased from 10,02,915 in 2007-08 to 10,79,306 in 2011-12 and the number of teachers in Government Schools from 39,03,643 to 42,96,060 during the

corresponding period. 1,94,938 new Primary Schools and 1,09,174 new Upper Primary Schools and 19.82 lakh teachers have been sanctioned under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) since its inception.

(c) Delhi has a favourable Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 35 at the primary level and 34 at the upper primary level. Under the SSA Programme 7,104 teacher posts have been sanctioned for the State, of which 4,342 have been filled up.

(d) The third cycle of the National Achievement of Survey (NAS) by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for Class-V reveals improvements in the learning achievement levels of the children in Delhi in all subjects.

(e) Steps taken to improve the quality of education in Delhi government schools include sanctioning teacher posts to improve the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), sanction of 300 Additional Class Rooms (ACR) to improve the school infrastructure during 2012-13, as well as induction training, in-service training for teachers, regular academic support to the teachers and free textbooks and supplementary teaching-learning materials to the children.

Drop-out rate of students

†869. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether drop-out rate at the levels of primary and secondary schools has increased in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, gender-wise, class-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the drop-out rate of girls in rural areas is more than the urban areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof State-wise, especially that of Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to contain the dropping-out of studies in the schools mid way along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The dropout rate for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Classes I-V and Classes I-X during 2009-10 (Provisional) and 2010-11 (Provisional) in the country is given below:

Classes	Dropout rate					
	2009-10 (Provisional)			2010-11 (Provisional)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
I-V	30.3	27.3	28.9	28.7	25.1	27.0
I-X	53.4	52.0	52.8	50.4	47.9	49.3

The overall dropout rate has therefore declined. However, the dropout rate for Classes I-X has increased in 2010-11 in Delhi and Lakshadweep and marginally in Uttar Pradesh as compared to 2009-10. The dropout rate for Classes I-V has increased marginally in several States during the same period. State-wise and gender-wise details of dropout rates are given in the Statement-I and II (*See below*). Dropout rates are not maintained separately for rural and urban areas.

(e) The Central 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 and to bridge gender gaps in elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted for reducing dropout 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. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in school. Further, The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio-economic barriers.

Statement-I***Dropout at Primary Stage (Classes I-V)***

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2009-10 (P)			2010-11 (P)		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.3	15.2	15.8	18.1	16.7	17.4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	43.1	39.2	41.4	43.8	42.1	43.0
3	Assam	39.0	32.7	35.9	33.2	26.4	29.9
4	Bihar	43.5	41.0	42.5	39.2	30.7	35.7
5	Chhattisgarh	40.9	24.9	34.1	29.7	32.2	31.0
6	Goa	-12.4	-4.3	-8.5	-	2.4	-
7	Gujarat	36.9	6.5	25.7	36.9	6.6	25.7
8	Haryana	-1.1	-2.2	-1.6	9.8	8.9	9.4
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.4	1.2	0.7	3.9	3.6	3.8
10	Jammu and Kashmir	9.8	6.8	8.4	9.8	6.8	8.4
11	Jharkhand	27.6	26.4	27.1	31.0	25.6	28.4
12	Karnataka	11.6	10.6	11.1	9.2	8.5	8.9
13	Kerala	-14.0	-11.0	-12.5	-	-	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	21.8	20.5	21.2	33.5	25.0	29.5
15	Maharashtra	20.2	22.5	21.3	21.4	19.0	20.3
16	Manipur	33.1	40.1	36.5	46.1	45.3	45.7
17	Meghalaya	60.5	54.5	57.6	61.0	55.7	58.4
18	Mizoram	44.7	47.5	46.0	37.1	38.7	37.9
19	Nagaland	40.1	39.8	40.0	40.1	39.8	39.9
20	Odisha	26.7	26.2	26.5	11.0	2.4	7.0
21	Punjab	-24.6	-10.7	-18.0	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Rajasthan	49.1	52.1	50.5	49.9	51.5	50.6
23	Sikkim	24.6	12.0	18.6	24.9	11.0	18.4
24	Tamil Nadu	0.3	0.4	0.4	-	-	-
25	Tripura	26.0	25.0	25.5	31.9	30.3	31.1
26	Uttar Pradesh	42.4	41.7	42.1	33.5	34.8	34.1
27	Uttarakhand	33.8	31.3	32.6	33.5	32.2	32.9
28	West Bengal	24.6	16.2	20.5	29.8	27.0	28.4
29	A and N Islands	6.9	3.0	5.0	8.4	7.1	7.8
30	Chandigarh	-27.1	-18.1	-22.8	-	-	-
31	D and N Haveli	15.2	20.0	17.5	9.1	16.5	12.7
32	Daman and Diu	1.7	4.3	2.9	8.5	8.0	8.3
33	Delhi	9.8	17.1	13.3	3.7	8.5	5.9
34	Lakshadweep	14.3	8.1	11.1	10.8	3.1	7.1
35	Puducherry	-4.0	-3.1	-3.6	-	-	-
	INDIA	30.3	27.3	28.9	28.7	25.1	27.0

(P): stands for Provisional.

Negative dropout is due to lateral entry or repeaters in school.

- means there is no dropout for 2010-11.

Statement-II

Dropout at Secondary Stage (Classes I-X)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2009-10 (P)			2010-11 (P)		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	52.7	54.0	53.4	45.8	46.6	46.2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	65.0	64.7	64.9	62.3	61.0	61.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	Assam	77.4	77.8	77.6	76.8	78.1	77.4
4	Bihar	78.5	76.1	77.6	64.4	58.9	62.2
5	Chhattisgarh ¹	-	-	-	58.4	57.5	58.0
6	Goa	35.9	32.6	34.3	29.3	26.9	28.1
7	Gujarat	60.4	64.4	62.1	61.1	52.4	57.9
8	Haryana	20.2	19.5	19.8	21.2	16.0	18.9
9	Himachal Pradesh	22.3	18.9	20.7	15.2	17.0	16.0
10	Jammu and Kashmir	47.2	40.6	44.3	47.1	38.9	43.6
11	Jharkhand ²	-	-	-	70.6	68.1	69.5
12	Karnataka	46.9	46.3	46.6	44.5	42.1	43.3
13	Kerala	-2.9	-5.2	-4.1	-	-	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	61.0	71.3	65.7	44.3	59.3	51.1
15	Maharashtra	38.6	42.6	40.5	36.5	40.0	38.2
16	Manipur	57.8	55.7	56.8	45.7	44.8	45.3
17	Meghalaya	79.3	76.5	77.9	78.0	76.7	77.4
18	Mizoram	64.8	60.7	62.9	55.0	52.3	53.7
19	Nagaland	75.7	74.0	74.9	75.8	74.4	75.1
20	Odisha	70.0	65.9	68.2	67.2	59.7	64.0
21	Punjab	41.2	39.5	40.4	30.2	30.7	30.5
22	Rajasthan	70.5	73.4	71.6	68.2	69.0	68.5
23	Sikkim	82.1	79.4	80.7	72.4	67.1	69.9
24	Tamil Nadu	37.6	30.3	34.1	28.2	23.6	25.9
25	Tripura	63.4	62.3	62.9	59.1	57.5	58.4
26	Uttar Pradesh	29.2	15.1	23.8	29.8	14.4	24.0
27	Uttarakhand ³	-	-	-	31.8	41.3	36.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28	West Bengal	72.9	70.7	71.8	64.9	63.5	64.2
29	A and N Islands	32.7	27.1	30.1	19.0	23.3	21.1
30	Chandigarh	0.3	7.9	3.8	-	-	-
31	D and N Haveli	54.8	63.5	58.8	51.7	58.3	54.7
32	Daman and Diu	41.2	29.8	35.9	26.7	30.2	28.3
33	Delhi	-5.2	9.2	2.0	19.7	26.3	22.9
34	Lakshadweep	27.6	22.7	25.1	41.1	20.3	31.3
35	Puducherry	12.8	1.4	7.3	10.9	1.4	6.4
	INDIA	53.4	52.0	52.8	50.4	47.9	49.3

(P): stands for Provisional.

1-Included in Madhya Pradesh.

2- Included in Bihar.

3- Included in Uttar Pradesh.

Negative dropout is due to lateral entry or repeaters in school.

- means there is no dropout for 2010-11.

Exemption to SC/ST students from payment of fee

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

(a) whether SC/ST students joining professional courses in colleges including self-financing colleges are exempt from paying fees at the time of admission;

(b) whether any Government instruction has been issued in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Students belonging to the SC/ST Community joining the Indian Institutes of Technology (UTs) are exempted from paying a Tuition Fee. Also, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has a scheme in which the tuition fees of the SC/ST students are being reimbursed. The said scheme is being implemented through the respective State Governments. Further, as per the information given by All India Council for Technical Education

(AICTE), all fees including tuition fees to be charged by Colleges, including self-financed colleges, for particular technical programmes are being fixed by State Level Fee Committees constituted by the respective State Governments under the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the TMA Pai Foundation and Others Vs State of Karnataka and Others WT(C) 317 of 1993. The information from the States is not available with the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A decision has been taken by the Council of the Indian Institutes of Technology under the Chairmanship of Shri K.T. Chandy on 10.2.1973 under which all the SC/ST candidates who get admission against the quota reserved for them, on the basis of their performance in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), are to be given free tuition, exemption of hostel seat rent and scholarships to cover board expenses and a book grant per year.

Hindi Department in Central Universities

†871.DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central Universities in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the names of Central Universities not having Hindi Department;
- (c) the names of Central Universities not having Sanskrit Department; and
- (d) whether Government would make efforts to establish Hindi Department in Central Universities not having such Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Sir, there are 40 Central Universities under the purview of Ministry of Human Resource Development. State-wise detail is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The names of Central Universities not having a Department of Hindi is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) The names of Central Universities not having a Department of Sanskrit is given in Statement-III (*See below*).

(d) 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 establish Departments with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the recommendation of their statutory bodies and approval of University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Visitor. As informed by the University Grants Commission, vide its letter No. 14-1/2011 (Official Languages) dated 17.2.2011, UGC has instructed all the universities including Central Universities located in non-Hindi speaking areas to establish Hindi Departments.

Statement-I

Number of Central Universities, State-wise

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Central Universities
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Three
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	One
3.	Assam	Two
4.	Bihar	One
5.	Chhattisgarh	One
6.	Delhi	Four
7.	Gujarat	One
8.	Haryana	One
9.	Himachal Pradesh	One
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Two
11.	Jharkhand	One
12.	Karnataka	One
13.	Kerala	One
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Two
15.	Maharashtra	One
16.	Manipur	One
17.	Meghalaya	One
18.	Mizoram	One

1	2	3
19.	Nagaland	One
20.	Odisha	One
21.	Puducherry	One
22.	Punjab	One
23.	Rajasthan	One
24.	Sikkim	One
25.	Tamil Nadu	One
26.	Tripura	One
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Four
28.	Uttarakhand	One
29.	West Bengal	One
TOTAL		Forty

Statement-II

Names of Central University not having Hindi Department

Sl. No.	Name of Central University
1.	Jawaharlal Nehru University
2.	Nagaland University
3.	Sikkim University
4.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University
5.	Central University of Jammu
6.	Central University of Kashmir
7.	Central University of Jharkhand
8.	Central University of Orissa
9.	Central University of Tamil Nadu
10.	Central University of Punjab

Statement-III*Names of Central Universities not having Sanskrit Department*

Sl.No.	Name of Central Universities
1	2
1.	Rajiv Gandhi University
2.	Tezpur University
3.	Maulana Azad National Urdu University
4.	English & Foreign Language University
5.	Jamia Millia Islamia
6.	Mizoram University
7.	North Eastern Hill University
8.	Manipur University
9.	Nagaland University
10.	Sikkim University
11.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University
12.	Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
13.	Guru Ghasidas University
14.	Central University of Bihar
15.	Central University of Gujarat
16.	Central University of Haryana
17.	Central University of Himachal Pradesh
18.	Central University of Jammu
19.	Central University of Kashmir
20.	Central University of Jharkhand
21.	Central University of Karnataka
22.	Central University of Kerala

1	2
23.	Central University of Orissa
24.	Central University of Punjab
25.	Central University of Rajasthan
26.	Central University of Tamil Nadu
27.	Indira Gandhi National Open University

Opening of campus of BHU in Bihar

872. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has taken decision to open its campus in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time schedule fixed for establishment of its centre in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Private agencies for teacher training

873. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the system and facilities regarding training of school teachers in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that private agencies are being permitted to undertake teacher training in the country;

(c) whether there are any guidelines for the functioning of such private teacher training institutes; and

(d) the mechanism in place to monitor the working of such private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) In-service training to school teachers is provided through the Government institutional structures of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs), Districts Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and the Block Resource Centers (BRCs), etc. For teacher preparation, teacher education programmes are undertaken by institutions recognized by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

(b) and (c) Teacher education programmes are undertaken by both Government and non-government institutions after seeking recognition from the NCTE in accordance with the norms and standards laid down by the NCTE under the NCTE Act and its Regulations.

(d) The NCTE conducts inspections of recognized teacher education institutions under section 13 of the NCTE Act to monitor their quality. It also withdraws recognition in respect of institutions which are found to be violating the NCTE Act and Rules and Regulations made there under.

Implementation of RTE Act in Goa

874. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 is being implemented in the State of Goa;

(b) whether necessary rules have been framed by the State Government and published in the Gazette and displayed on their website; and

(c) the number of students admitted, names of schools and financial assistance given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Goa Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2012 have been duly notified in the official Gazette Series I No. 18, bearing Notification No. DE/PLG/RTE2009/RULES/2010-2011/735 on 2nd August, 2012 and have also been displayed on their website-http://righttoeducation.in/sites/default/files/goa_rte-rules-2012.pdf.

(c) The information regarding the number of children admitted in the various unaided schools of that State, the names of schools and the financial assistance given to them, is not centrally maintained.

Setting up of NTs

†875. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Indian Institutes of Technology which have been established, functioning and are proposed to be established on Government and Public-Private-Partnership model along with the States thereof;

(b) the complete details of policy and meetings in this regard;

(c) whether website of the Ministry has been updated and all the details have been uploaded on it;

(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) The details of 16 Centrally funded Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), established under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, along with the States thereof, are given in Statement (See below). No Indian Institute of Technology has been established on Public-Private-Partnership model.

(b) The IITs are governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 which has declared them as 'Institutions of national importance' and lays down their powers, duties, framework for governance etc.

(c) and (d) The website of the Ministry, as regards Indian Institutes of Technology, has since been updated and the details in respect of each IIT can be accessed on the Ministry's website: <http://mhrd.gov.in> and the links provided therein.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement***List of Centrally Funded Indian Institutes of Technology***

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute	Name of the State
1	2	3
1.	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Maharashtra
2.	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	Delhi

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
3.	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	West Bengal
5.	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	Tamil Nadu
6.	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	Assam
7.	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	Uttarakhand
8.	Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar	Odisha
9.	Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar	Gujarat
10.	Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Indian Institute of Technology, Patna	Bihar
12.	Indian Institute of Technology, Rajasthan	Rajasthan
13.	Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar	Punjab
14.	Indian Institute of Technology, Indore	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Indian Institute of Technology, Mandii	Himachal Pradesh
16.	Indian Institute of Technology, BHU, Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh

Scientific research on G.M. crops

876. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are various reports saying that the GM crops do not spell increased crop production and also need long term scientific research on these crops impact on human health;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the Government's action in this regard before pushing GM crops seeds into full fledged, market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There are some reports; mainly from activists stating

that Genetically Modified (GM) crops do not necessarily increase production and also that there is a need to increase the duration of bio-safety testing.

(b) The benefits of GM crops need to be viewed necessarily from the perspective of yield enhancement. Several traits provide advantages of pesticide reduction, drought tolerance, salinity tolerance, disease tolerance, nutritional enhancement etc., which result in overall benefits that the GM traits confer to the farming community. Enhancement in production in GM crops is realized indirectly, while reducing the losses due to abiotic and biotic stresses. Globally, various scientific reviews on GM food bio-safety have concluded that GM crops did not have any adverse impact on human health.

(c) The bio-safety testing protocols are being re-examined critically while reviewing the bio-safety regulations being followed in different countries in a scientific perspective for possible refinement. However, Bt cotton only GM crop has been released in India since 2002 and found economically beneficial to farmers and biosafe as well.

University status for women's college of AMU

†877. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to make the women's college of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) an independent University in the Twelfth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, by when?

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

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Hindi department in State universities

†878. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State-established universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the State-established universities that are not having department of Hindi;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the State-established universities that are not having department of Sanskrit; and

(d) whether efforts would be made to open department of Hindi in such universities that do not have this department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 451 universities in the country, established by state legislatures. As per available data with the UGC, there are 232 State-established universities, which do not have Departments of Hindi, and 239 State-established universities, which do not have Departments of Sanskrit. Details are at given in the Statement (*See below*).

(d) Universities have autonomy in academic matters, including opening new Schools and Departments, since they are governed in such matters by their Acts, Statutes and Ordinances. However, the UGC provides financial assistance to a State University to open Hindi Department, on receipt of request from that University. The UGC has provided grants to open Hindi Departments in 13 Universities, in non-Hindi speaking areas, during the XI plan.

Statement

Details regarding number of State established universities, universities not having Hindi Department and Universities not having Sanskrit Department

Code	Name of the Union Territory	No. of State established Universities	Universities not having Hindi Department	Universities not having Sanskrit Department
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	21	24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	-	-
3.	Assam	11	4	3
4.	Bihar	15	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	9	9
6.	Delhi	5	4	4

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Goa	1	-	1
8.	Gujarat	36	20	20
9.	Haryana	19	10	10
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19	9	9
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	5	5
12.	Jharkhand	10	3	3
13.	Karnataka	27	13	14
14.	Kerala	11	3	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	26	9	11
16.	Maharashtra	20	12	13
17.	Manipur	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	8	4	4
19.	Mizoram	1	1	1
20.	Nagaland	2	1	1
21.	Odisha	14	9	8
22.	Punjab	14	6	6
23.	Rajasthan	48	24	25
24.	Sikkim	4	3	3
25.	Tamil Nadu	24	16	17
26.	Tripura	1	1	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	42	22	21
28.	Uttarakhand	12	8	8
29.	West Bengal	21	12	9

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Chandigarh	1	0	0
32.	Puducherry	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL		451	232	239

Railway projects for Odisha

879. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways would consider constructing second railway flyover bridge at Jajpur Road and a road over-bridge at Manapur in Jajpur district of Odisha, underground bridge at Ferro Chrome Plant, Jajpur Road and foot over-bridge on both sides of rail bridge over Baitarani river at Bandalo GP of Korai Block in Jajpur district for the people to cross the river Baitarani?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): **Second railway flyover bridge at Jajpur Road:** Yes, Sir. State Government of Odisha has been requested to submit proposal for second railway flyover bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 142 towards Chennai end of Jajpur-Keonjhar Road station at km 337/15-17.

Road over-bridge at Manapur: The ROB at km 172/7-8 between Sukinda-Jakhapura Junction Railway Stations in lieu of Level Crossing No. 16 has been sanctioned in the year 2009-10. Work is in progress in Railway portion as well as on Approaches and targeted for completion by 31.03.2013.

Road Underground bridge at Ferro Chrome Plant, Jajpur Road: There is no such proposal under consideration.

Foot over-bridge on both sides of rail bridge over Baitarani river at Bandalo GP of Korai Block in Jajpur District: There is no such proposal under consideration.

Complaints regarding cleanliness and water etc.

880. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Ministry from passengers pertaining to cleanliness, defective fittings, pests, rodents, linen and water during last three years, year-wise and Zone wise; and

(b) the corrective measures taken by Railways in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Indian Railways always endeavor to provide good quality services to the passengers in trains. However, some complaints and references are being received on the Railways regarding cleanliness, fittings, pest, rodents, linen and availability of water in coaches.

The number of complaints received by the Ministry from passengers pertaining to cleanliness, defective fittings, pests, rodents, linen and water during the last three years, year-wise and zone wise are as under:

Zonal Railways	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto Oct'12)
Central Railway	151	67	31
Eastern Railway	236	118	93
East Central Railway	213	186	248
East Coast Railway	402	620	283
Northern Railway	85	38	24
North Central Railway	52	61	29
North East Railway	41	63	54
North Frontier Railway	211	76	30
North Western Railway	21	57	14
Southern Railway	74	122	66
South Central Railway	174	129	60
South Eastern Railway	132	318	141
South East Central Railway	22	51	46
South Western Railway	87	33	15
Western Railway	263	291	133
West Central Railway	112	170	73
Indian Railway	2276	2400	1340

Complaints/suggestions, whenever received, are acted upon appropriately by Railways and suitable corrective action is initiated to prevent its recurrence.

Besides, Regular Inspections/checks are also carried out at various levels to monitor the quality of services provided to the passengers.

Doubling of railway tracks in Gujarat

881. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested for doubling of railway tracks including Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Jaipur, Rajkot-Okha, Rajkot-Veraval and Rajkot-Viramgam;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof; and
- (c) by when the request of the State Government is likely to be acceded to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The status of these projects is as under:

- (i) Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Jaipur: On this route, except Ahmedabad-Palanpur section, doubling of Palanpur-Ajmer has been taken up in patches. Survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Mehsana alongwith doubling of Mehshana-Palanpur has been taken up. Banas-Sirohi (10.04 km) of Keshavganj-Swarupganj section is targeted for completion during 2012-13. Doubling of Ajmer-Jaipur section has been completed and commissioned.
- (ii) Rajkot-Okha: Survey has been taken up.
- (iii) Rajkot-Veraval: Doubling has not been considered for this section as it was not justified on account of operational requirements.
- (iv) Rajkot-Viramgam: On this route, doubling of Surendranagar-Viramgam section has been taken up. Survey for Rajkot-Surendranagar has been taken up.

Derailment and accidents involving goods trains

882. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of derailment and accidents involving goods trains and the loss incurred to Railways due to this during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Railways had enquired into the reasons for such accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The number of consequential derailments of goods trains during the last three years *i.e.* 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 were 37, 37 and 28, respectively. Loss to railway property in these derailments have been estimated to Rs. 26.6 crore (approx.), Rs. 47.0 crore (approx.) and Rs. 12.2 crore (approx.), respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Each derailment of goods train has been inquired into by the Inquiry Committee constituted for the purpose and as per the reports of the inquiry committees, cause-wise analysis of the above derailments are as under:

Cause	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Failure of Railway Staff	22	21	20
Failure of other than Railway Staff	2	4	1
Failure of Equipment	4	2	0
Sabotage	7	8	5
Combination of Factors	1	1	1
Incidental	0	1	1
Cause could not be Established Conclusively	1	0	0
TOTAL	37	37	28

High speed trains

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

(a) whether Government has any plans to introduce high speed trains in the country; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof, including any MoUs signed with foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) 7 corridors have been identified for High Speed Corridors. The details and States involved are as under:

Sl. No.	Corridor identified	States involved
1.	Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad	Gujarat and Maharashtra
2.	Howrah-Haldia	West Bengal
3.	Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi -Patna	Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
4.	Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijaywada-Chennai	Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
5.	Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam -Thiruvananthapuram	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala
6.	Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer-Jodhpur	Delhi and Rajasthan
7.	Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar	Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana and Punjab

"Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)" have been signed between Kingdom of Spain and Government of India for cooperation in Railway related technology developments including High Speed Railway as one of the areas of Cooperation.

National high speed rail authority

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

- (a) whether Government plans to set up National High Speed Rail Authority;
- (b) if so, the proposed time-line for its setting up; 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) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has decided to set up a National High Speed Rail Authority (NHSRA) and a proposal for approval of the Government is under consideration.

Railway projects in Odisha

885. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various railway projects in Odisha; and

(b) by when Railways contemplate setting up a medical college at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar or Rourkela and Rail Coach Factory at Kalahandi and Ganjam in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Railway projects are sanctioned Zone-wise and not State-wise; However, 7 new lines, 1 gauge conversion and 15 doubling projects falling fully/partly in Odisha have been taken up. On completion of these projects, a total of 906.70 km of new line will be added to the existing railway network, 90 km will be converted into broad gauge and 1264 km will be doubled. An outlay of Rs. 669.50 crore has been provided for these works for the year 2012-13.

(b) 18 Railway Medical Colleges were announced in Railway Budget 2009-10. To begin with 05 places viz. Guwahati, Chennai, Kharagpur, Lucknow and Secunderabad, where Medical Council of India norms with respect to hospitals bed strength etc. are more or less being met, have been identified under Phase-I. Once the Medical Colleges of phase-I are established, the remaining 13 locations including Bhubaneswar shall be taken up. There is no proposal at present to set up a Rail Coach Factory at Kalahandi and Ganjam in Odisha.

Duping by private iron ore exporters

886. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the transportation cost of iron ore domestically and for exports;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that Railways were duped by more than Rs. 700 crore by private iron ore exporters by transporting iron ore meant for export at domestic freight charges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action his Ministry has taken on each of such exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Commodity wise cost data is not maintained. Therefore, transportation cost of iron ore for domestic use and for exports is not available.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some cases of mis-declaration in regard to transportation of Iron Ore have come to notice of Ministry of Railways. The matter was handed over by Central Vigilance Commission to Central Bureau of Investigation for further investigation. Two cases have been registered by Central Bureau of Investigation. The cases are under investigation by them.

(d) In cases where it is post facto established that iron ore originally declared for domestic consumption was diverted for export, action in accordance with extant instructions, which *inter-alia* provide for recovery of differential freight as well as punitive charges, is being taken.

Setting up of Adarsh Stations

887. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when the Ministry would set up Adarsh Stations by upgrading the Banspani, Bolangir, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Khurda Road, Koraput Junction, Rayagada and Titlagarh Junction announced in 2009-10 and Angul, Belpahar, Bobbili, Jakhpura, Jharsuguda, Lanjigarh Road, Lapanga, Meramundali, Rengali, Raghunathpur and Titlagarh stations announced in Railway Budget 2010-11?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Banspani, Bolangir, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Khurda Road, Koraput Junction, Rayagada, Belpahar, Titlagarh Junction, Jharsuguda stations have already been developed under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme and all related works have been completed.

Works for development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme are planned for completion during 2012-13 at Angul, Jakhopura, Lanjigarh Road, Lapanga, Meramandali, Rengali and Raghunathpur railway stations and during 2013-14 at Bobbili Railway Station.

Extending jurisdiction of Sambalpur division

888. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering extending the jurisdiction of Sambalpur Division to include Jharsuguda-Barsuan-Kiriburu, Rourkela-Nuagaon and Jharsuguda-Hemgiri lines, as per the demands submitted by Government of Odisha, to create a new Division with headquarters at Rourkela/Jharsuguda under the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no plan either to change the jurisdiction of Sambalpur Division or to create a new Division with headquarters at Rourkela/Jharsuguda.

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

Railway freight fare scam

889. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive railway freight fare scam amounting to thousands of crores of rupees by several mining companies in transportation of iron ore has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of companies found involved in the scam;

(c) the details of estimated loss to Railways due to this scam;

(d) whether Government has fixed responsibility in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Some cases of misleading declaration of iron ore have come to the notice of Ministry of Railways. The case has been handed over by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for further investigation. Two cases have been registered by CBI in the mater. The cases are under investigation by CBI.

Recent train accident in Bihar

890. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of persons died and injured during collision of Bagh Express with a college bus at a railway crossing near Siwan junction in Bihar recently;
- (b) whether Government has paid compensation to kins of the accident victims and those who were injured;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has enquired into the matter and has fixed responsibility;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) On 26.09.2012 at 15.05 hrs., while the train No. 13019 Howrah-Kathgodam Express was on run between Siwan and Pachrukhi stations of Chhapra Kacheri-Gorakhpur section of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway, one Bus dashed against the train engine at Manned Level Crossing Gate No. 90 'A' Special. As a result, 10 persons lost their lives, 6 persons sustained grievous injuries and 2 persons sustained simple injuries (all occupants of the bus).

(b) to (d) Railway has no statutory liability under the Railways Act, 1989 or Claims Tribunal Act, 1987, for payment of compensation in case of accidents at level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users in which railway passengers are not involved. However, the victims or their dependants can claim compensation by moving Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) Courts of law and the compensation is paid if any contributory negligence is proved on the part of the Railway Administration. However, considering the severity of the incident, an ex-gratia relief amounting to Rs. five lakhs each to the next of kin of each deceased, Rs. one lakh to each grievously injured and Rs. 25,000/- to each simple injured person has been announced by the Ministry of Railways as a special case on humanitarian grounds in this incident. Accordingly, a total amount of Rs. 66,75,000/- has been disbursed by the Railways to all the victims, except one grievously injured person who could be paid Rs. 25000/- only and balance amount of Rs. 75000/- could not be paid as he left the hospital without information.

(e) and (f) This accident has been inquired into by a Senior Administrative Grade level Departmental Enquiry Committee. As per report of the Inquiry Committee, the accident was caused due to Loco Pilot (LP) and Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP) not observing the gate signals and Station Master (SM) Siwan not ensuring the closure of the gate. The LP, ALP and SM have been held primarily responsible, and Sectional Junior Engineer/Permanent Way and the Gateman have been held secondarily responsible.

(g) Does not arise.

Manual scavenging in railways

891. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have sought exemption from proposed law for blanket ban on manual scavenging;

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

(c) the details of manual scavengers engaged in Railways, at present, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. On Indian Railways, there are no dry latrines in Railway Stations, offices or residential quarters and there is no manual scavenging in Indian Railways controlled area. Concrete aprons have been provided for the tracks at platforms and mechanized cleaning through high-powered water jets is undertaken. In order to address the problem of open discharge of human waste on tracks, significant efforts have been put in by Railways for elimination of the problem in phased manner by introduction of bio-toilets in Railway coaches.

Clearance for railway over-bridge projects

892. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to take any steps to expedite clearances for railway over-bridge projects;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such steps will sidestep the processes currently in place that ensure due diligence in the entire process of granting clearances;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including steps to address such concerns; 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) Ministry of Railways has already taken various steps to expedite the clearances of ROB.

Procedure for sanction of ROB:

- I. ROB are constructed in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) in a phased manner based on the quantum of traffic density.

Criteria for replacement of LCs by ROB/RUB:

(A) On cost sharing basis:

1. Level crossings with Train Vehicle Units (TVU) more than 1 lakh qualify for replacement by ROB/RUB on cost sharing basis.
2. Level Crossings in the following areas with TVU less than 1 lakh can also be considered for replacement by ROB/RUB on cost sharing basis under following conditions:
 - Suburban sections having high frequency of train services;
 - Near stations where detentions to road traffic are very high on account of either shunting operations or multi directional receipt/despatch of trains or stabling of trains etc. and
 - Wherever Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) running parallel to Indian Railways, all LCs are being eliminated by ROB/RUBs.

- (B) If the quantum of road traffic is less than 1 lakh then such LCs may be replaced by ROB by sponsoring agency on deposit terms *i.e.* the sponsoring agency has to bear the complete cost of construction and maintenance thereof.

- II. While sanctioning the construction of ROB in lieu of LCs on cost sharing basis, State Government has to give consent for:
- closure of LC after commissioning of ROB/RUB,

- sharing of cost
 - Providing encumbrance free land on approaches
 - Undertaking the maintenance, lighting and drainage work after completion of ROB/RUBs
 - Providing diversion route to road traffic to facilitate construction.
- (c) Such procedure will not side step the process currently in place. However, the construction of ROB mainly depends on positive cooperation from the State Government and most of the time progress of ROB/RUB is hampered because of:
- late sanction of corresponding work in the State Budget
 - inadequate fund allocation by the State Government
 - non-submission of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and estimate by the State Government
 - frequent changes in alignment of approaches
 - late finalisation of tender for the work of approaches
 - non-availability of encumbrance free land for construction of approaches
 - not providing undertaking to maintain road and drainage in future for RUBs
 - delay in providing consent of closure of level crossings.
- (d) Railway has taken pro-active measures in close coordination with various stake holders for expeditious clearance of ROB projects:
- joint survey with all concerned including State Government to finalise the tentative GAD.
 - circulation of check list and guidelines for preparation of GAD to State Government to avoid any back reference from Railway to State Government
 - standardization of drawings for various spans to avoid delay in designing
 - nomination of nodal officer for single window clearance of GAD from Railway side
 - use of pre-cast/pre-fabricated components of the bridge.
 - engaging single agency for construction of Railway Bridge as well as the approaches.
- (e) Does not arise.

Emergency quota for railway ticket confirmation

893. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and criteria being adopted in release of emergency quota for railway ticket confirmation;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the requests of Members of Parliament in this regard are not being acceded to; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Emergency quota is released in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. While the requests received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament for their self travel are complied with, in case of requests forwarded by them for other than self travel, at times, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests when the demand exceeds the availability.

Railway connectivity

†894. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Railway Budget 2010-11, the then Minister of Railways had announced construction of Guna-Siroj railway line;

(b) whether progress has been made on the said line;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government has plan to link Panna-Khajuraho by railway line; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a survey for construction of a new line between Guna-Aron-Sironj-Vasoda-Vidisha (120 km) was announced

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by Hon'ble MR in the Railway Budget for the year 2010-11. The survey has been taken up and expected to be completed by March, 2013.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Panna-Khajuraho is a part of ongoing Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho (541 kms) new line project.

Railway line connectivity

†895. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Raisen and Siroj-Guna railway line in Madhya Pradesh has so far not been connected to Bhopal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is planned to link this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A survey for construction of a new line between Guna-Aron-Sironj-Vasoda-Vidisha (120 km) was included in the Railway Budget for the year 2010-11. The survey has been taken up and expected to be completed by March, 2013.

Alignment and alterations of railway tracks

896. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether alignment and alterations of railway tracks is being carried out by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise and State-wise, particularly in the agency areas, from Vizianagaram to Warangal belt in Andhra Pradesh in the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the funds earmarked and spent, so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Alignment and alteration of track structure are being carried out, where necessary, during maintenance and track renewals.

(b) and (c) Zone-wise details of track renewals during the Eleventh and first year of Twelfth Five Year Plan are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(I) Progress of Track Renewals

[In CTR (Complete Track Renewal) units]						
Railway	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto September, 2012)
	XI Plan					XII Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Railway	405	360	239	253	196	88
Eastern Railway	218	163	168	190	197	101
East Central Railway	252	231	226	213	196	96
East Coast Railway	117	74	48	36	44	30
Northern Railway	597	541	678	654	714	311
North Central Railway	376	322	259	286	248	107
North Eastern Railway	138	138	192	134	117	23
Northeast Frontier Railway	129	164	149	84	85	14
North Western Railway	237	143	162	133	59	35
Southern Railway	171	219	199	155	170	78
South Central Railway	401	361	406	335	331	158

*Written Answers to**[30 November, 2012]**Unstarred Questions**205*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
South Eastern Railway	125	260	224	190	190	101
South East Central Railway	80	83	72	81	90	56
South Western Railway	113	126	180	102	127	36
Western Railway	363	338	352	327	278	87
West Central Railway	279	319	285	292	257	95
(II) Funds earmarked						(Rs. in crores)
Railway	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 XI Plan	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 XII Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Railway	400.00	540.00	352.30	467.00	375.00	492.00
Eastern Railway	241.52	190.00	223.68	250.00	375.00	374.00
East Central Railway	235.00	225.00	347.68	320.00	270.00	331.00
East Coast Railway	203.19	220.00	187.46	180.00	150.00	201.00
Northern Railway	509.23	600.00	593.47	625.00	625.00	760.00
North Central Railway	347.11	325.00	374.37	470.00	415.00	544.00
North Eastern Railway	170.86	185.00	142.00	110.00	160.00	152.00
Northeast Frontier Railway	220.34	135.00	228.26	160.00	170.00	183.00

North Western Railway	208.15	300.00	252.30	240.00	170.00	135.00
Southern Railway	220.00	260.00	296.73	250.00	250.00	408.00
South Central Railway	328.60	400.00	500.00	425.00	560.00	679.00
South Eastern Railway	229.06	250.00	367.00	280.00	370.00	453.00
South East Central Railway	147.22	150.00	179.71	150.00	195.00	212.00
South Western Railway	125.00	260.00	200.00	150.00	160.00	204.00
Western Railway	359.73	220.00	500.00	473.00	320.00	428.00
West Central Railway	410.00	430.00	380.00	440.00	381.00	429.00

(III) Details of Expenditure

(Rs. in crores)

Railway	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto October, 2012)
	XI Plan					XII Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Railway	480.69	526.37	318.14	397.89	353.78	124.90
Eastern Railway	243.07	279.51	247.61	325.83	343.13	168.70
East Central Railway	286.18	303.37	150.64	312.79	340.44	164.93
East Coast Railway	177.45	200.50	145.99	182.38	167.45	69.30

Written Answers to

[30 November, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

207

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Railway	436.49	411.28	556.04	738.13	776.17	516.42
North Central Railway	368.34	416.91	224.22	456.17	437.03	235.39
North Eastern Railway	144.05	167.11	136.09	114.58	163.11	92.90
Northeast Frontier Railway	197.33	237.81	194.48	176.16	178.40	111.67
North Western Railway	144.92	240.39	112.85	170.56	151.74	50.39
Southern Railway	250.03	335.10	265.41	227.80	294.17	245.83
South Central Railway	471.94	589.40	449.58	464.41	648.10	282.18
South Eastern Railway	291.16	349.15	364.54	334.64	391.80	206.95
South East Central Railway	160.59	149.65	134.79	143.56	155.31	131.11
South Western Railway	135.71	272.32	129.48	135.19	170.35	118.65
Western Railway	299.29	336.10	384.61	434.29	340.43	261.12
West Central Railway	386.13	426.55	283.36	365.12	364.00	230.21

Centres for railway information systems

897. DR V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of staff/employees posted and working in the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS);

(b) the total number of projects undertaken/completed by CRIS during last three years and the number of projects presently under execution, separately;

(c) whether there are any guidelines/norms/ratio for the staff/employees required *vis-a-vis* the number of projects undertaken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Total number of staff/employees posted and working in CRIS are 822.

(b) 21 projects were undertaken (started) by CRIS in the last three years (*i.e.* 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12), to date. 8 projects were completed in the last three years and 42 projects are currently under execution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) General Guidelines are:

Project Managers and staff are placed in each project group based on the specific requirements of the project. The number and type of human resources required for each project depends on its specific development/implementation model, as well as the stage at which the project is in its lifecycle. The overall number of staff/employees depends on the requirements of each individual project.

Kollam-Nagercoil MEMU service

898. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kollam-Nagercoil MEMU service has started;

(b) if not, by when it would be started;

(c) whether the rakes have been allotted for this service; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) Necessary instructions have been issued to Southern Railway for introduction of 66304/66305 Kollam-Nagercoil MEMU (6 days a week) and one MEMU rake with 2 Motor Coaches+6 Trailer Coaches has been allotted to Southern Railway for this purpose.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

899. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of survey reports for gauge conversion in Gujarat are vetted with Zonal Railway, as on date;

(b) when did Zonal Railway submit these survey reports to Railways and Planning Commission for further action; and

(c) the progress made to provide broad-gauge connectivity to Amreli, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) During the last 3 years, surveys for 7 number of gauge conversion projects falling fully/party in State of Gujarat have been carried out by the concerned Zonal Railway and survey reports submitted to this Ministry. Some of the proposals were sent to Planning Commission for according 'In Principle' approval.

(c) Survey for gauge conversion of Khijadiya-Amreli-Visavadar-Junagarh (146.41 km) has been completed in December' 2011. As per survey report, the cost of conversion of 146.41 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 580.12 crore with rate of return (ROR) of 0.34%. However, concerned Zonal Railway has been advised for re-casting/updating of the project report.

Rail Tariff Authority

900. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Rail Tariff Authority in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the jurisdiction and other powers of the said Authority have been finalized;

(d) if so, the details in this regards; and

(e) the time by which the said Authority would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) The view that an independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority needs to be constituted for *inter alia* regulating tariff setting on Indian Railways has been articulated in various quarters. Its pros and cons as well as the modalities of constituting such a body, including its composition, role, and responsibilities are being evaluated. The exercise is presently at an exploratory stage and does not yet constitute a proposal for or against the setting up such an Authority.

Protection of premises and assets of railways

901. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any stringent measures to prevent crime in and around railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of special powers conferred on the Government Railway Police in order to protect the premises and assets of Railways from anti-social elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Prevention of crime against passengers, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in and around Railway station are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). However, Railway Protection Force supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police by deploying their staff for access control duty at major and sensitive Railway station premises and for escorting of important trains in affected sections.

(c) The Government Railway Police is already vested with legal powers under various Laws/Acts including the Railways Act 1989 to tackle such crimes.

Train ticket booking

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

- (a) the action Railways are proposing to make internet bookings more seamless and comparable with airlines bookings;
- (b) the reasons Railways are not starting booking on mobile phone platform; and
- (c) the reasons Railways are not adopting recharge coupon mode to pay for the tickets through mobile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website has provided increased convenience to passengers in booking of reserved tickets. During the month of October 2012, on an average approximately 3.74 lakh tickets were booked daily online through the website of IRCTC.

The following measures have been taken to improve the performance of the IRCTC website:

- High capacity servers have been installed
- Internet Bandwidth has been increased
- 42 options for online payment have been made available
- For increasing public access to e-ticketing and facilitating load balancing on the IRCTC server, the opening of Tatkal tickets has been shifted from 0800 hours to 1000 hours
- Agents have been restricted from booking tickets on internet between 0800 hours and 1200 hours

These measures are part of a continuous and dynamic process of improving the internet based ticketing system of Indian Railways.

- (b) Booking of reserved tickets through Mobile Phone is already available through the IRCTC portal. In the month of October 2012, about 31457 e-tickets were booked by individual users on Mobile phones.

(c) Recharge coupon mode has not been considered as a payment option for internet ticketing at present. For booking tickets through mobile phones, various modes of payment namely Credit Cards, Debit Cards and IMPS (Interbank Mobile Payment System) are available.

Dedicated freight corridors

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

- (a) the status of Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor projects;
- (b) the reasons for their delay;
- (c) the details of the input cost estimated in 2005 and current expected cost; and
- (d) the steps Government has taken to meet the target and their timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The details regarding Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project are as under:

(i) Western DFC

The alignment of entire Western DFC has been finalized. Western DFC is 1499 kms. long and extends from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Tughlakabad/Dadri near Delhi. Construction work of 54 major and important bridges in Vaiterna-Bharuch section of Western DFC has been undertaken through Indian Railways' own resources and is in progress.

On the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) funded portion, Pre-Qualification (PQ) for civil and track works for packages I & II (Rewari - Iqbalgarh, 625 km) of phase I has been completed.

(ii) Eastern DFC

The alignment of entire Eastern DFC has been finalized. 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' own 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) has been 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).

As on 31.10.2012 out of total land of 10667 hectares to be acquired for Eastern and Western DFC, Award under section 20 F of Railway Amendment Act 2008 has been declared for 7724 hectares (72%).

(b) The project was targeted for completion by December 2016. The target has now been shifted to March, 2017 on account of change in alignment which meant fresh efforts for land acquisition. Delay has also occurred on account of environmental and wildlife clearances, not being readily available.

(c) The estimated cost of the project as per RITES Report of January, 2007 was Rs. 28,181 Crores. The cost estimates have been reassessed and the total project completion cost is estimated at about Rs. 96,000 Crores due to increase in cost of land acquisition, scope of work, technical parameters and soft costs like escalation, interest etc.

(d) The project implementation schedule and timelines are being monitored regularly to ensure timely completion of work.

Railway Safety and Services

904. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that when other countries are busy taking their Railway system into the 21st century, our mail and express trains run below 55 Kilometre Per Hour, besides increase in train accidents, fire on trains and high number of collisions, etc.; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry proposes to give top priority to improve railway safety and quality of railway services, particularly on the 120 stations identified for multi-functional complexes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Indian Railways operate various types of services

including passenger services, Mail/Express services, Superfast train services, Rajdhani/Shatabdi services, Duronto services etc. While speed of certain class of train services is below 55 kmph, Rajdhani/Shatabdi services, Duronto services and Superfast services run at much higher speeds.

Consequential train accidents *i.e.* collisions, derailments, Manned Level Crossing accidents, fire in trains and miscellaneous incidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings have consistently declined from 335 in 2001-02 to 269 in 2002-03, 239 in 2003-04, 169 in 2004-05, 169 in 2005-06, 123 in 2006-07, 129 in 2007-08, 115 in 2008-09, 100 in 2009-10, 93 in 2010-11, and further to 77 in 2011-12.

(b) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System/Anti Collision Device (ACD), etc.

Regarding multi functional complexes, 196 stations have been identified for development of Multi Functional Complexes (MFCs) so far. These have been entrusted to different executing agencies *viz.* IRCON International Limited, RITES Limited, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and Zonal Railways for execution. Once completed, MFCs are expected to raise the level of customer satisfaction through provision of enhanced passenger amenities at stations.

Online reservation of train tickets

905. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in case of tickets not being confirmed, online reservations through IRCTC stand cancelled;

(b) whether Government is aware that the website records an average of 4.47 lakh e-tickets per day since the new timing of tatkal tickets came into force on July 7, as against 3.60 lakh it used to record earlier;

(c) whether Government plans to take any action to address the inconvenience and grievances of passengers with cancelled online tickets;

(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) Yes, Sir. In case of fully waitlisted tickets on which all the passengers are waitlisted, the names of all the passengers booked on that ticket are dropped from the reservation charts and refunds are credited to the respective bank accounts.

(b) The change in the timings of Tatkal was made effective from 10.07.2012. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website recorded its highest booking of 4.95 lakh e-tickets in a single day on 13th July, 2012. The average internet ticket booking was around 3.74 lakh per day in the month of October, 2012.

(c) to (e) Refunds of waitlisted e-tickets are processed by the system and the money is credited automatically into the account of the concerned. For expediting the processing of confirmed e-tickets, on which refunds are sought after chart preparation, the following measures have been taken:

- (i) The EDR (Exceptional Data Report) system has been installed to facilitate faster verification of travel details of passengers.
- (ii) Enhanced Coaching Refund system has been developed by CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems) and implemented over the Zonal Railways to enable faster processing of refund cases.

System improvement based on the customer feedback is a continuous process.

Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sevaks

906. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sevaks (JTBS) Scheme introduced by Government is working satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of SC/ST persons who were appointed as Sevaks under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, 975, Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBSs) are functioning over Indian Railways.

(c) 84 JTBSs belong to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category.

Steps to make Railways disabled friendly

907. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trains and railway stations are adequately equipped for the convenience of persons with disability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is taking steps to make Railways disabled friendly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways have manufactured around 2800 coaches which have suitably designed earmarked compartments and toilets for the needs of persons with disabilities/wheelchair borne passengers. Similarly all A1 and A category stations and platforms are also provided with requisite facilities such as ramps with railings, earmarked parking space, signages, and toilets. Instructions also exist for provision of free of cost wheelchair facility at stations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Production of disabled friendly coach for attaching in Mail/Express trains is continuing. Moreover, Zonal Railways have also been advised to provide 'Battery-operated Vehicles for Disabled and Old Age Passengers' at railway stations through commercial publicity route.

Fog safety devices

908. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have adequate fog safety devices to overcome the problem of visibility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is planning to use any better equipment; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Fog Pilot Assistance System for Safety (Fog Pass) device is under extended performance trials.

(b) and (c) There are issues of reliability and effectiveness to be sorted before this device can be universally adopted for fog safety. The device is under extended trials, during which evaluation and improvement is being done. The details for fog safe device is as under:

Railway	Available	Under Procurement
Northern Railway	670	385
North Eastern Railway	190	110
North Western Railway	124	

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) **On Board Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS):** A pilot project of 50 Route Kilometres has already been commissioned on Southern Railway. Another pilot project of 200 Route Kilometres is under progress on Northern/North Central Railway.

Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) Extensive field trials are proposed through Research Designs & Standards Organisation on nominated sections on different type of rolling stock in operation on Indian Railways.

Incomplete projects in Uttar Pradesh

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

(a) whether there is any action plan of Railways to complete the pending and incomplete projects lying since many years in various districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when these incomplete railway projects will be completed; and

(c) since when implementation on the scheme of running trains from Gonda to Chhapra by electricity is in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) All the sanctioned railway projects of Uttar Pradesh are progressing as per availability of resources. For completion of railway projects, steps have been taken to generate funds through extra budgetary resources, such as participation from State Government, beneficiaries, industries, revival of Capital Fund and execution of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). No separate action plan has been devised to complete ongoing railway projects in the State.

(c) Gonda-Chhapra section is non-electrified section. Operation of trains with electric traction is not operationally feasible at present.

Railway projects in Jharkhand

910. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various railway projects like construction of new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, electrification etc. in progress in Jharkhand;

(b) whether any targets have been fixed for completion of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are proposals for undertaking new projects during the Twelfth Five Year Plan in Jharkhand;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

†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) 8 new lines, 1 gauge conversion, 10 doubling and 3 electrification projects falling fully/partly in Jharkhand have been taken up. Completion of these projects will augment railway network by 1353 km. Outlay of Rs. 574 crore has been provided for these projects during 2012-13. 163 km. of new lines and 32 km. of doubling sections are targeted for completion during 2012-13.

(d) to (f) Projects are undertaken railway-wise and not State-wise. Projects are sanctioned every year depending upon requirement/justification. Details of project to be sanctioned for whole of Twelfth Plan have not been firmed up. However, in 2012-13 *i.e* 1st year of Twelfth Plan, Manoharpur-Bondamunda (30 km.) and Rajkharswan-Chakardharpur (20 km.) doublings have been taken up in the State of Jharkhand.

Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited

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

(a) whether it is a fact that no business has been carried out in Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL), Bihar, during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government contemplates to activate BWEL and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings

912. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents at level crossings have gone up from 12,894 in 2010 to 14,611 in 2011 and would cross 16,000 as per the trends shown in the first six months of 2012;

- (b) if so, the reasons that inspite of modern technology and manning of gates, the number of accidents and deaths are going up at level crossings;
- (c) how his Ministry would address this menace effectively; and
- (d) the break-up of 13,500 unmanned level crossings in the country, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users decreased from 65 in 2009-10 to 48 in 2010-11. However, these incidents increased to 54 in 2011-12. In the current year during 1st April to 15th November, 2012, there have been 34 such incidents at unmanned level crossings in comparison to 30 during the corresponding period of the previous year. Loss of lives in the consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings during the last two years *i.e.* 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from 1st April to 15th November, 2012 is 130, 204 and 90, respectively.

(b) Incidents at unmanned level crossings over Indian Railways are caused mainly due to the negligence of road vehicle users in observing precautions laid down in Motor Vehicles Act while negotiating unmanned level crossings.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Railways to prevent incidents at unmanned level crossings which include ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at these level crossings, public awareness and publicity campaigns through electronic and print media, mass messaging (SMSs) to educate the road users, joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to penalise the erring road users, progressive manning, provision of subway at technically feasible locations, construction of diversion road upto adjacent manned gates/grade separators, Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge, closure of such unmanned level crossings which are having negligible rail/road traffic, etc.

(d) Zone-wise number of unmanned level crossings existing on Indian Railways as on 01.04.2012 is as under:

Railway	Number of Unmanned Level Crossings
1	2
Central	271
Eastern	314

1	2
East Central	724
East Coast	641
Northern	1371
North Central	460
North Eastern	1359
Northeast Frontier	743
North Western	1203
Southern	1005
South Central	873
South Eastern	831
South East Central	534
South Western	657
Western	2343
West Central	201
TOTAL	13530

Scarcity of packaged water

913. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarcity of packaged water has added to the miseries of the vendors at railway stations;

(b) whether vendors have complained that IRCTC is not supplying bottles of 'Rail Neer' according to demand;

(c) whether vendors claim that for inadequate supply, they are neither able to meet the demand nor can sell bottles of other companies not allowed by IRCTC;

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to ensure adequate supply of Rail Neer bottles or permit vendors to sell bottles of other brands; and

(e) the steps taken by Railways to curtail price of packaged Rail Neer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) As per extant policy guidelines wherever Rail Neer packaged drinking water bottles (PDW) is not adequately available, other BIS (Bureau of Indian Standard) approved packaged drinking water bottles having requisite laid down standards, are shortlisted by Zonal Railways and permitted for sale over the Railways. To ensure adequate availability of Rail Neer, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has set up three drinking water plants at Nangloi (Delhi) and Danapur (Bihar) and Palur (Tamil Nadu) for production of 1 litre packaged drinking water bottles. Apart from this, six bottling plants are to be set up by IRCTC at Ambala, Amethi, Mal, Nasik, Farakka and Trivandrum as announced in Railway Budget 2010-11.

(e) The sale price of Rail Neer is based on the cost of production and distribution.

Poor condition of railway stations

914. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many railway stations in Maharashtra that are in a dilapidated condition due to poor maintenance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that shelters on the platform are breaking apart and during rains, water leaks and flows onto the platforms;

(c) if so, the corrective measures Railways would take to improve conditions at the stations; and

(d) if so, the names of those railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) No railway station in Maharashtra is in dilapidated condition. However, repair and maintenance of infrastructure including platform shelters is a continuous process. Corrective action is taken for repairs/rectification whenever deficiencies are noticed either as a result of regular inspections or through public complaints.

Disinvestment in PSUs under Railways

915. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to sell its stakes in Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) and Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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.

Railway infrastructure in NER

916. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that its present infrastructure in all States of the North-Eastern Region (NER) is lagging behind in comparison to rest of the country;

(b) if so, whether Railways have taken up any special package to improve the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Railways in this regard; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Except for Assam, Railway network density in all North Eastern States is lower than the National Average rail network density.

(b) to (e) Railways have taken up projects to connect all State capitals of North Eastern States except Sikkim. Presently 13 new lines, 4 gauge conversion and one doubling project have been taken up in North Eastern Region which on completion will augment railway network by 2520 km in N.E. Region. A Dedicated North East Region Rail Development Fund (NERRDF) has also been created for execution of National Projects of NE Region.

Railway projects in Uttarakhand

917. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of railway projects sanctioned by the Ministry for Uttarakhand, during last three years;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and spent thereon, so far, project-wise;
- (c) the details of delay occurred in implementation/completion of these projects and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to complete these projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Rishikesh-Karanprayag new line work has been sanctioned in Railway Budget 2010-11.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 1.0 crore has been incurred on the project till 31.03.2012. An outlay of Rs. 30 crore has been provided to the work for 2012-13.

(c) and (d) Rishikesh-Karanprayag new line project has not been delayed. The work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for its speedy execution.

Crime and safety concerns under SCR

918. SHRI NANDI YELLIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railway Protection Force had alerted South Central Railway (SCR) authorities several months ago about the rising crime and safety concerns on trains running on Delhi-Chennai route; and
- (b) the full details of various actions taken so far and various steps to be undertaken in the immediate future to curb this menace of safety concern in trains, especially running under and through SCR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Railway Protection Force had alerted South Central Railway authorities to coordinate with the Government Railway Police and Local Police authorities to check rising trend of passenger offences in South Central Railway jurisdiction as prevention of crime against travelling 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). However, there is no serious issue of crime and safety concerns on trains running on Delhi-Chennai route.

The following steps are being taken to curb the menace of crime in South Central Railway:

- Vulnerable trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police in the affected section.
- Close surveillance is kept through CCTV networks against the suspected persons at important railway stations.
- Joint teams of Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police are formed to nab the criminals involved.
- Regular coordination meetings with Government Railway Police and Civil Police are being held by Railway administration to review the crime situation and to take further steps to control crime against passengers.

Blackmarketing of Tatkal tickets

†919. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway employees of various Zones have been found guilty of blackmarketing of Tatkal tickets who used to black the tickets in collusion with private agents;

(b) the details of steps taken to check the blackmarketing of Tatkal tickets;

(c) the number of authorized agents against whom action has been taken till date and the number of railway employees found involved in this misdeed during investigation;

(d) whether blackmarketing of Tatkal tickets is possible without involvement of railway employees; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Some cases of irregularities in issuing of Tatkal tickets, with or without connivance of Railway staff, have been reported. However, since, at present, passengers travelling on Tatkal Tickets are required to show the prescribed proof of identity (in original) as indicated on the ticket during the journey, the scope of misuse of Tatkal scheme has been drastically reduced.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) With a view to ensure that genuine passengers get benefit of the Tatkal Scheme, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Tatkal tickets are issued only on production of a self attested photocopy of one of the 9 prescribed proofs of identity mentioned in the scheme and carrying the same proof of identity during the journey is mandatory. In case of tickets booked through internet, the number and type of proof of identity is indicated at the time of booking such ticket.
- (ii) No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets except special circumstances like late running of train by more than three hours, cancellation of trains.
- (iii) Duplicate Tatkal tickets are not issued except on payment of full fare.
- (iv) Access to Tatkal bookings has been denied to agents both through internet as well as across the computerized PRS counters between 10.00 hrs and 12.00 hrs.
- (v) A maximum of four passengers are permitted per PNR on Tatkal tickets.
- (vi) The timing of opening of reservation of Tatkal tickets has been changed to 10.00 hours on the previous day of journey instead of 0800 hours as per earlier provision in order to reduce the scope of cornering of tickets by touts and also to balance the load on the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) as well as on internet.
- (vii) In addition to the above, extensive publicity campaign has been launched educating the public about the consequences and legal provisions of travelling on tickets booked in others names.

(c) During the Financial Year 2012-13 (upto October, 2012), 23 authorized agents have been taken up under appropriate provisions of Railway Act/Rules. During the same period, 103 Railway employees found involved in irregularities, have been taken up under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

(d) and (e) Since at present, passengers travelling on Tatkal tickets are required to show the prescribed proof of identity (in original) as indicated on the ticket during the journey, the scope of misuse of Tatkal scheme has been drastically reduced. However, whenever any railway official is found in any kind of irregularity, action is taken against the delinquent staff as per Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Safety and security of train passengers

920. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have stepped up security of passengers especially the women, in trains;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is lack of coordination between the Railway Protection Force and the Government Railway Police, so far;
- (c) whether Government would ensure better coordination between various forces responsible for safety and security of passengers rather than blaming each other; and
- (d) the details thereof and the action likely to be taken at the earliest for safety of passengers, especially the women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Railways maintain regular coordination with Government Railway Police and Civil Police at various levels. Coordination meetings are being held with Government Railway Police by Director General/Railway Protection Force, General Managers/Chief Security Commissioners of Railway Protection Force and Divisional Railway Managers/Sr. Divisional Security Commissioners to enhance security of Passengers especially the women in trains. Hence the question of blaming each other does not arise.

However, 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.

Scarcity of passenger coaches

†921. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of passenger coaches and use of defective and old passenger coaches may be risky for passengers and employees;
- (b) if so, the approximate number of passenger coaches falling short in the country, as on date, along with details of such defective passenger coaches which are being used even after expiry of their life term;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is considering to establish any other manufacturing plant for passenger coaches; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the latest status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) There is no shortage of passenger coaches for the scheduled train services. Only coaches fit in all respects after thorough examination are attached in train services.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details of sanctioned new coach factories are as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (i) Diesel Multiple Unit Factory,
Haldia | : | Construction of shed for
manufacturing Diesel
Multiple Unit has been
completed. |
|---|---|--|

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| (ii) Rail Coach Factory,
Palakkad, Kerela | : | Land for the project has been acquired from Government of Kerala. |
| (iii) Rail Coach Factory,
Kanchrapara | : | Required Railway land for the project has been indentified and taken in possession. |

Deaths at unmanned level crossings

922. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that differences on technical and financial issues have delayed construction of rail over bridges at many places in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that as many as 14,611 people were killed at unmanned level crossings and railway tracks during 2011 and the death toll in the current calendar year is more alarming; 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) Differences on technical and financial issues have delayed the construction of some rail over bridges as smooth construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) mainly depends upon sorting out of various issues between Railways and the State Government. Some of the major issues are:

- timely sanction of corresponding work in the State Budget
- proper fund allocation
- timely submission of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and estimate by the State Government
- finalization of approved alignment and finalization of tender for the work of approaches
- making encumbrance free land available for construction of approaches
- undertaking by the State Government to maintain road and drainage in future for RUBs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Number of persons killed on unmanned level crossings and railway tracks during the year 2011-12 and the current year upto September, 2012 is

Year	No. of deaths	
	UMLC	Rly. Track
2011-12	202	14611
2012-13	71	15934

Employment to persons whose land acquired for railway projects

923. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to provide employment to 1400 persons whose land have been acquired for Rail Coach Factory, Raibareilly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the same principle would be applied for all land-losers, whose land has been taken over by Railways; and

(c) if so, the number of persons to be provided with such employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Policy of providing employment to land losers has been in existence since 1.1.1983. This was revised on 16.7.2010. Prior to 16.7.2010, employment was considered on case to case basis. Whereas, in terms of the new policy, all land losers are to be considered for employment. In case of Rail Coach Factory, Raibareilly, the policy of 1983 was applied.

(c) The process of acquisition of land is a continuous process over a long period of time. Therefore, the number of persons in absolute terms cannot be specified.

Tatkal tickets

924. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that touts book Tatkal tickets in the name of fictitious persons and genuine passengers are deprived of this benefit;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that genuine passengers get benefit of this scheme; and

(c) the action taken by Government against touts and railway employees who are indulging in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) At present, passengers travelling on Tatkal Tickets are required to show the prescribed proof of identity (in original) as indicated on the ticket during the journey. This has drastically reduced the scope for misusing the Tatkal Scheme.

(b) With a view to ensure that genuine passengers get benefit of the Tatkal Scheme, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Tatkal tickets are issued only on production of a self attested photocopy of one of the 9 prescribed proofs of identity mentioned in the scheme and carrying the same proof of identity during the journey is mandatory. In case of tickets booked through internet, the number and type of proof of identity is indicated at the time of booking such ticket.
- (ii) No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets except special circumstances like late running of train by more than three hours, cancellation of trains, etc.
- (iii) Duplicate Tatkal tickets are not issued except on payment of full fare.
- (iv) Access to Tatkal bookings has been denied to agents both through internet as well as across the computerized PRS counters between 10.00 hrs. and 12.00 hrs.
- (v) A maximum of four passengers are permitted per PNR on Tatkal tickets.
- (vi) The timing of opening of reservation of Tatkal tickets has been changed to 10.00 hours on the previous day of journey instead of 0800 hours as per earlier provision in order to reduce the scope of cornering of tickets by touts and also to balance the load on the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) as well as on internet.
- (vii) In addition to the above, extensive publicity campaign has been launched educating the public about the consequence and legal provisions of travelling tickets booked in other names.

(c) Railway employees who are indulging in malpractices in reservation offices in connivance with Touts are taken up sternly under Discipline and Appeal Rules. Touts so apprehended are dealt with as per extant provisions of Railway's Act 1989.

Safety standards

925. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Railways are in a poor state with elementary safety standards being neglected;

(b) if so, the details of total train accidents occurred during last three years;

(c) the total compensation given to the families of those killed or injured; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for the safety and development of Railways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Safety standards adopted by Indian Railways are followed rigorously and meticulously.

(b) During the last three years, *i.e.* 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12, there have been 100, 93 and 77 consequential train accidents (excluding cases of trespassing at unmanned level crossings) over Indian Railways, respectively.

(c) The compensation given by the Indian Railways for death/injury in train accidents (under Section 124 of the Indian Railways Act, 1989) during the last three years is as under:

2009-10 - Rs. 265.81 lakhs

2010-11 - Rs. 585.79 lakhs

2011-12 - Rs. 497.71 lakhs

(d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, and inspections at regular

intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System/Anti Collision Device (ACD), etc.

Cost escalation due to delays

926. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects of Railways that have undergone cost escalation due to delay;
- (b) the details of total extra expenditure due to delay in projects;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to reduce delays and control cost escalations;
- (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) to (e) Cost escalation of railway projects is on account of large shelf of ongoing projects having huge throwforward with limited availability of resources. As a result, funds are thinly spread out thus prolonging period of completion. Depending upon their relative priority, projects get completed.

The extra expenditure being incurred by Railways cannot be quantified in real terms as escalation depends on various factors every year. As on 01.04.2012, Railways have 347 ongoing projects under New Lines, Gauge Conversions and Doubling having a throwforward of about Rs.1.47 Lakh Crore. Apart from fund constraints, following factors also contribute to delay in execution of projects:

- (i) Delays in land acquisition and forestry clearances;
- (ii) Adverse law and order condition and other market forces;
- (iii) Failure of contracts;
- (iv) Technological changes, improved standard of construction and other changes in scope of work due to change in traffic pattern etc which could not be anticipated at the time of sanction of project.

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, execution of projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited on SPV basis etc.

Efforts made by Railways have started giving results. On the request of railway, 10 State Governments have come forward for sharing cost of 4760 Km of projects. 5 projects have been taken up with participation of industry/stakeholders.

Besides, to reduce delays on account of land acquisition, security issues and forestry clearances etc, meetings with State Officials at various levels are held from time to time. Field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers and the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management. Security, land acquisition and environment issues are also taken up with State Governments and Ministry of Environment and Forest for early approvals.

Incident of molestation in Yeshwantpur-Mysore Express

927. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 19 year old girl was molested and thrown out of Yeshwantpur-Mysore Express in July, 2012;

(b) if so, the steps Railways have taken for security of passengers in general and particular in this case;

(c) whether any compensation has been given to the victim;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Railways are considering to draft a policy to provide compensation to victims if any incident happens in the train during travelling; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government Railway Police/Mysore has registered a case vide crime no. 43/2012 under section 354, 307 read with 34 Indian Penal Code and 152 the Railways Act and arrested all the four persons involved in the incident.

(b) Prevention of crime, 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 Police, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the state concerned. As such the cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police (GRP) by taking the following measures:

1. 1275 trains are escorted by RPF daily on an average, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States.
2. An Integrated Security System consisting of electronic surveillance of vulnerable stations through CCTV camera network, access control, anti-sabotage checks has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 202 sensitive and vulnerable Railway stations.
3. Regular coordination meetings are held with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by Government Railway Police (GRP).
4. Passenger awareness programmes are organized frequently to sensitize the travelling public about the modus operandi adopted by the criminals to fleece the passengers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Compensation for death/injury in train accidents/untoward incidents as defined under section 124/124-A of the Railways Act, 1989, is paid by the Railways after a claim filed by the claimant in the Railways Claims Tribunal is decreed by the Tribunal in favour of the claimant and decree so awarded is satisfied by the Railways. As no compensation claim case has been reported to be filed by the complainant so far, no compensation has been paid by the Railways.

(e) and (f) The liability of Railways for payment of compensation to the victims of train accidents/untoward incident has already been defined under section 124/124-A of the Railways Act, 1989.

Improvement in railways

928. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government is planning to appoint Rail Tariff Authority to fix tariffs;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is wide scope of improvement in railways; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The view that an independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority needs to be constituted for inter alia regulating tariff setting on Indian Railways has been articulated in various quarters. Its pros and cons as well as the modalities of constituting such a body, including its composition, role, and responsibilities are being evaluated. The exercise is presently at an exploratory stage and does not yet constitute a proposal for or against the setting up such an Authority.

(c) and (d) Improvement/augmentation of infrastructure and amenities for rail users is an ongoing process. Significant network augmentation, operational improvements and provision of passenger amenities besides technological upgradation and modernization is envisaged in the Twelfth plan period.

Amendment in the collection of Statistics Act

929. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the official figures provided by Government seem to have little or no look with the reality;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking for speedy amendments in the Collection of Statistics Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government of India has a well-organized system for collection of data. The system is operated through highly trained and skilled personnel at different levels and uses techniques and built-in checks and balances for ensuring data reliability taking in to account all the factors which are relevant for maintaining quality of data collected, compiled and made available to the public.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 has already been notified on repealing the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953. This Act has been implemented in entire country except Jammu and Kashmir with effect from 11th June, 2010. The Collection of Statistics Rules, 2011 framed under this Act has also been notified for systematic and timely collection of reliable and relevant data. This Act has considerably improved and enhanced the ambit and scope for collection of equality statistics/data as compared to the old Act of 1953. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has also enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Collection of Statistics Act, 2010 on the line of this Central legislation.

Furnishing of utilization certificate regarding MPLADS Fund

930. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any directive for furnishing of a utilization certificate within a stipulated period by the concerned District Magistrate to the Centre after utilization of MPLADS funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) It has been laid down in MPLADS guidelines that on completion of a work, the Implementing Agency shall quickly finalize the accounts for that work and shall furnish a work completion report and utilization certificate and return the un-utilized balance (savings) and interest thereon within 30 days of completion of work to the District Authority concerned. The District Authority is required to furnish a consolidated Utilization Certificate for the constituency/Rajya Sabha MP every year to the State Government and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2011-12) of BCPL, Guwahati and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), Guwahati, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7502/15/12]

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

I Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development

II Reports and Accounts (2010-11) of various Institutions, Schools and Councils and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy), under Section 38 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009:—
 - (1) S.O. 2165 (E), dated the 13th September, 2012, regarding grant of relaxation to the State of Uttar Pradesh in respect of minimum qualification laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education for appointment as a teacher.
 - (2) S.O. 2389 (E), dated the 8th October, 2012, regarding grant of relaxation to the State of Nagaland in respect of minimum qualification laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education for appointment as a teacher.
 - (3) S.O. 2512 (E), dated the 17th October, 2012, regarding grant of relaxation to the State of Uttarakhand in respect of minimum qualification laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education for appointment as a teacher.
 - (4) S.O. 2513 (E), dated the 17th October, 2012, regarding grant of relaxation to the State of Himachal Pradesh in respect of minimum

[Dr. Shashi Tharoor]

qualification laid down by the National Council for Teacher Education for appointment as a language teacher. [Placed in Library. For Sr. No. (1) to (4) *See* No. L.T. 7642/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna, for the year 2011-12.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7638/15/12]
 - (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Vijayawada, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above School.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7636/15/12]
 - (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7639/15/12]
 - (iv) (a) Annual Report of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi, for the year, 2011-12 and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Statement by Government accepting the above Reports mentioned at (iv) (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7637/15/12]
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...(Interruptions)...

**RE: ALLEGED UNPARLIAMENTARY REMARKS BY A MEMBER
AGAINST OPPOSITION MEMBERS**

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी, कल इस सदन के एक सदस्य ने मीडिया में संसद सदस्यों को * कहा। यह बहुत शर्म की बात है ...(व्यवधान)... सर, यह बहुत जरूरी बात है, पेपर तो बाद में भी ले हो जाएंगे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will give you time. ...(Interruptions)... I will give you time. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: श्रीमन्, एक परम्परा बन गई है, सत्ता पक्ष के एक मंत्री ने पूरी जनता को ...(व्यवधान)... यह माननीय सदन की अवमानना है, यह हमारा प्रिविलेज है ...(व्यवधान)... हमको कोई * कह दे, इस सदन के सदस्य क्या * हैं? श्रीमन्, मैं तो कहता हूँ कि सब कार्यवाही रोक कर कम से कम वह सदस्य माफी मांगें ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, you are also a Member of this House. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: इस तरीके का व्यवहार उचित नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)... वह सदन में आकर माफी मांगें, नहीं तो हम प्रिविलेज मूव करने का नोटिस देते हैं ...(व्यवधान)... हम प्रिविलेज मूव करेंगे ...(व्यवधान)... उन्होंने इस तरीके की बात कैसे कह दी? ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can raise it in a proper way, not this way. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय सदस्य को बुलाया जाए, वह सार्वजनिक रूप से माफी मांगें ...(व्यवधान)... श्रीमन्, उन पर कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want, you can raise it in a proper way. ...(Interruptions)... Please. ...(Interruptions)...

एक माननीय सदस्य: गवर्नमेंट स्टेटमेंट इश्यू कर दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार): वह स्वयं भी इसी हाउस के मेम्बर हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member is not here. Why do you raise it now? ...(Interruptions)... He is not here. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, you just guide the House now. ...(Interruptions)...

privilege, but a matter of how this should be taken up. ...(Interruptions)... He should be asked whether he has ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Rudy, you have made your point. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Member has insulted Members of Parliament. Under the Constitution ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am only saying ...(Interruptions)... Hon. Minister wishes to say something.

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजीव शुक्ल): चेयरमैन साहब, जैसा कि माननीय सदस्यों ने मुद्दा उठाया है और अगर उन्होंने ऐसा बोला है, तो मेरे ख्याल से यह पूरी तरह से अनुचित बात है। सदन के सदस्यों के संबंध में इस तरह की बात नहीं करनी चाहिए। मणि शंकर अय्यर जी से मैं बात करूंगा और उनसे पूछूंगा कि अगर वह सदन के सदस्यों से इस मामले में क्षमा याचना करें, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: हम लोग उनकी मर्सी पर नहीं हैं ...(व्यवधान)... आप उनसे पूछेंगे, हाथ जोड़ेंगे ...(व्यवधान)... आप यह मत कहिए कि हम पूछेंगे, कहेंगे ...(व्यवधान)... सदन उनकी कृपा पर नहीं चलता है। वह कुछ भी करे, कुछ भी कहे ...(व्यवधान)... आप यह मत कहिए कि हम पूछेंगे, कहेंगे ...(व्यवधान)... सदन उनकी कृपा पर नहीं चलता है।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: मुझे अपनी पूरी बात तो कहने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

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

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता (बिहार): मंत्री जी, आप क्षमा याचना कर सकते हैं, but you can't expect other Members to do that. ...(Interruptions)... Then anybody can say anything about anybody else. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Gupta. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: सबसे पहले तो मैं क्षमा याचना करता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: कृपया आप लोग बैठ जाइए।

श्री बलवीर पुंज (ओडिशा): जो भी सदन के सदस्य हैं, वे अपना परिचय दें, उससे हमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है, परंतु दूसरे के बारे में कुछ कहे ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव शक्ल: मुझे अपनी बात तो कहने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: वह कुछ भी बोले, कुछ भी कहे ...*(व्यवधान)*... but how can he blame others? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: कृपया आप लोग बैठिए।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: अगर उन्होंने इस तरह की बात कही है, तो सबसे पहले तो मैं क्षमा याचना करता हूँ और इसके बाद उनका पक्ष भी उनसे जान लेता हूँ और उनसे बात करता हूँ। मैं उनसे कहूंगा कि वे सदन में आकर सदस्यों से माफी मांगें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री बलबीर पुंज: सर, वे अपना परिचय दें, उससे हमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है।
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: मुझे अपनी पूरी बात तो कहने दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)... इसके बाद जो येचुरी जी ने कहा, वे सारे प्रावधान हैं। आपके हाथ में सारे प्रावधान हैं, फिर आप क्यों परेशान हैं?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, with regard to this matter, since many hon. Members have raised this matter and the matter concerns a Member of this House, we should give an opportunity to the Member to have his say before myself making any comment on that. So, if the Members so decide, he could come here and make a statement.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, what if he does not come?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then there is a course of action to be taken.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, you should call him here.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already said. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Even you are a part of this House, Sir. He cannot use such derogatory language against Members of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have stated my position. If the Members so desire, he can come and provide an explanation, since all Members have raised concern.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, what would happen if he does not come here?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, as you know, there is a rule to be followed in that case. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, let us continue with Papers to be Laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE - *contd....*

Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MILIND DEORA): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) Notification No. G.S.R. 680 (E), dated the 12th September, 2012, publishing the use of low power devices or equipments for indoor applications in the 433 to 434 MHz frequency range (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2012, under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and sub-section (4) of Section 10 of Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7656/15/12]
- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications), under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—
 - (1) No. 416-1/2010-I & FN, dated the 18th September, 2012, publishing the Intelligent Network Services in Multi Operator and Multi Network Scenario (Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
 - (2) F. No. 409-3/2011-I & FN, dated the 18th September, 2012, publishing the Telecommunication Interconnection (Port Charges) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
 - (3) No. 116-15/2012-MN, dated the 19th September, 2012, publishing the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
 - (4) No. 14-07/2012-F & EA, dated the 15th October, 2012, publishing the Reporting System on Accounting Separation (Amendment) Regulations, 2012.

[Shri Milind Deora]

- (5) F. No. 416-3/2010-I & FN, dated the 19th October, 2012, publishing the International Telecommunication Access to Essential Facilities at Cable Landing Stations (Amendment) Regulations, 2012.
- (6) No. 308-5/2011-QOS, dated the 22nd October, 2012, publishing the Telecom Consumers Protection (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2012. [Placed in Library. For Sr. No. (1) to (6) See No. L.T. 7657/15/12]

Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Agriculture Produce Grading and Marking Act, 1937, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation):—

- (1) G.S.R. 711 (E), dated the 24th September, 2012, publishing the Spices Grading and Marking Rules, 2012.
- (2) G.S.R. 771 (E), dated the 18th October, 2012, publishing the Saffron Grading and marking rules, 2012. [Placed in Library. For Sr. No. (1) to (2) See No. L.T. 7621/15/12]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that a letter has been received from Shri S.M. Krishna stating that due to his personal commitments, he is unable to attend the sittings of the House. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence from 29th November to 18th December, 2012 of the current (227th) Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from 29th November to 18th December, 2012 of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth
report of department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Information Technology**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): Sir, I lay a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on "Disbursement of wages to Labourers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act by Post Offices" pertaining to the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the matters to be raised with permission—Zero Hour. Shri K.N. Balagopal; not present. Now, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

**Recent suicides committed by students for formation
of separate Telangana State**

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र): सर, नवम्बर महीने में तेलंगाना क्षेत्र के एक जिले में तेलंगाना की मांग के लिए दो छात्रों ने आत्महत्या की है। आत्महत्याओं का यह दौर लगातार बढ़तूर जारी है। सर, वहां पिछले तीन सालों में लगभग 50 से ज्यादा आत्महत्याएं हुई हैं। आपको पता है, तेलंगाना का आन्दोलन 40 सालों से चल रहा है, उस आन्दोलन में 700 से ज्यादा लोग या तो पुलिस की गोली के शिकार हुए हैं या उन्होंने आत्महत्याएं की हैं। तेलंगाना के क्षेत्र के लोगों ने बहुत बड़ा बलिदान दिया है, वहां बहुत बड़ा आन्दोलन चला है। वहां के लोगों ने लोकतंत्र के माध्यम से जनभावनाओं का प्रकटीकरण जितना भी हो सकता है, वह किया है, लेकिन यह कांग्रेस-नीत यूपीए की सरकार है जो उनकी आवाज नहीं सुनती है।

इन 40 सालों तक चले आन्दोलन में से केवल 3 साल का उल्लेख मैं कर रहा हूं। पिछले तीन सालों में इन 50 युवकों ने जो आत्महत्याएं की हैं, उसके लिए पूरी तरह से यूपीए सरकार जिम्मेवार है, क्योंकि 9 दिसम्बर, 2009 को उस समय के गृह मंत्री पी. चिदम्बरम जी ने यह कहा "That a process of formation of separate State of

[श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर]

Telangana has begun". सरकार की तरफ से ऐसी घोषणा निरपवाद रीति से की गयी थी कि "that a proces of formation of separate State of Telangana has begun". सर, तीन साल हुए और ये तीन साल तेलंगाना के इतिहास में * के साल होंगे। तेलंगाना के साथ * हुआ है।

आप एक तरफ घोषणा करते हैं और दूसरी तरफ उस पर अमल न करते हुए ऑल पार्टी मीटिंग का बहाना बनाते हैं, नये-नये बहाने ढूंढते हैं, नयी-नयी कमेटियां नियुक्त करते हैं, नयी-नयी रिपोर्ट लाते हैं, लेकिन तेलंगाना नहीं देते हैं। आज वहां कांग्रेस का भी सूपड़ा साफ हो गया है, फिर भी वह खुद के राजनीतिक हित को नहीं समझ रही है। तेलंगाना देना, यह फर्स्ट स्टेट रिऑर्गेनाइजेशन कमीशन के रेकमेंडेशन का आधार है और वह नहीं दिया गया है।

इसलिए आज मैं मांग करता हूं कि जैसा आपने 9 दिसम्बर को कहा है कि तेलंगाना का प्रोसेस शुरू हुआ है, उस पर तुरन्त अमल होना चाहिए। यही इन मासूम छात्रों, जिन्होंने निराशा और आक्रोश में आत्महत्याएं की हैं, उनको श्रद्धांजलि होगी। कांग्रेस ने तेलंगाना के साथ जो * किया है, इसका जवाब उसको तेलंगाना की जनता देगी। तेलंगाना को न्याय चाहिए और तेलंगाना होना चाहिए, यह हमारी मांग है।

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, we all associate ourselves with the matter raised by Shri Prakash Javadekar.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, the names of those, who are associating, may be noted.

SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Prakash Javadekar.

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूं।

डा. नज़मा ए. हेपतुल्ला (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूं।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Special Mentions. After a long time, we are getting it. Shri Prabhat Jha; not present. Now, Shri M. Rama Jois.

**Demand for withdrawing proposal to dispose solid nuclear waste from
Kudankulam nuclear plant at K.G.F. in Kolar district of Karnataka**

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Sir, the news dated 25th November, 2012, that the Central Government proposes to dispose of solid nuclear waste arising from Kudankulam Nuclear Plant of Tamil Nadu producing electricity at K.G.F. in Kolar District of Karnataka is highly disturbing. The most advanced countries like America, Japan, France, etc., which have established nuclear plants for producing electricity, have not been able to solve this problem as solid waste from nuclear plants remain radioactive for 22 thousand years. I came to know of this while writing a foreword to a book entitled 'Toxic Tibet' in which the horror of depositing solid nuclear waste arising from nuclear plants in China in Tibet was exposed as extremely dangerous. Therefore, I demand from the Central Government to withdraw the proposal forthwith.

Demand for making treatment of cancer economical in the country

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, देश में कैंसर के मामले तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं। अन्य रोगों के इलाज की तुलना में कैंसर का इलाज व इसकी दवाएं बहुत महंगी हैं, आम आदमी की पहुंच में नहीं हैं। गरीब आदमी तो खेर कैंसर के इलाज के बारे में सोच भी नहीं सकता। महिलाओं में स्तन कैंसर के इलाज में दिया जाने वाला एक इंजेक्शन 'हरसेप्टिन' बाजार में 80 हजार से 90 हजार रुपए में बेचा जा रहा है। इसे एक विदेशी कम्पनी 'रोश' लाभ कमाने हेतु और एकाधिकार तथा पेटेन्ट के चलते बेच रही है। बड़े दुख की बात है कि भारत जैसे गरीब देश में कैंसर का इलाज गरीब लोग तो दूर मध्यम वर्ग और आम लोग भी वहन नहीं कर सकते। इसी प्रकार फेफड़ों के कैंसर, हड्डियों, आंतों आदि के कैंसर की दवाएं भी लाखों रुपए में मिल रही हैं। कैंसर में रेडियोथिरेपी भी आम तौर से की जाती है, जिसकी लागत 3 से 4 लाख रुपए तक आती है। महोदय, कैंसर या कोई अन्य बीमारी व्यक्ति की गरीबी या अमीरी देखकर नहीं आती। अमीर व्यक्ति तो किसी तरह अपना इलाज करा लेता है, परन्तु गरीब और मध्यम वर्ग कैंसर का इतना महंगा इलाज नहीं करा पाता।

महोदय, मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि कैंसर की दवाओं की कीमतों को एक विशेष नीति बनाकर आम आदमी की पहुंच तक किया जाए, विशेषकर 'हरसेप्टिन' तथा फेफड़ों के कैंसर की दवाओं को 50-70 फीसदी तक कम किया जाए। साथ ही कैंसर पीड़ितों के लिए रेडियो थिरेपी इत्यादि प्रक्रियाओं की लागत में भारी कमी की जाए, ताकि आम कैंसर रोगियों को बचाया जा सके। धन्यवाद।

**Demand for taking steps to protect Wakf property from encroachment
and illegal possession in the country**

चौधरी मुनब्वर सलीम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़ी हुई मुस्लिम आबादी को तरक्की के रास्तों से जोड़ने के लिए मुस्लिम आवाज की अपनी वक्फिया मिलकियत पर बहस और निराकरण चाहता हूँ। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान की योम-ए-आज़ादी के दिन मुसलमानों की वक्फिया जायदाद जो उनकी अपनी मिलकियत थी, कितनी थी और आज कितनी है? वक्फिया जायदाद पर सरकारी और गैर सरकारी कब्जेदारों का हुकूमत के पास क्या कोई ब्यौरा है? जायदाद पर जो लोग नाजायज़ कब्जा किए हुए हैं, उनके खिलाफ क्या कोई कानूनी कार्यवाही का विचार सरकार रखती है?

मेरी पुरजोर मांग है कि वक्फ सम्पत्ति की रक्षा के लिए अल्पसंख्यक मंत्रालय से अलग एक स्वतंत्र संस्था बनाई जाए। वक्फ सम्पत्ति को किरायेदारी कानून से अलग किया जाए। वक्फ बोर्ड के सी.ई.ओ. के पद के लिए अलग से डिप्टी कलेक्टर स्तर के अधिकारी राज्यों में पदस्थ किए जाएं। वक्फ अदालतों को समयबद्ध फैसला करने संबंधी कानून बनाया जाए। इसके अलावा वक्फ सम्पत्ति पर नाजायज़ कब्जे के द्वारा बनायी गई इमारतें यदि सरकारी हैं, तो उनका किराया तय करके वक्फ बोर्ड को दिया जाए। साथ ही प्राइवेट नाजायज़ कब्जेदारों को दंडित किया जाए और वक्फिया जायदाद का ऐलान किया जाए। धन्यवाद।

† چودھری منور سلیم (اتر پردیش): مہودے، میں آرتھک روپ سے پچھڑی ہوئی

مسلم آبادی کو ترقی کے راستوں سے جوڑنے کے لئے مسلم عوام کی اپنی وقفہ

ملکیت پر بحث اور نراکرن چاہتا ہوں۔ میں جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہندوستان کی یوم

آزادی کے دن مسلمانوں کی وقفہ جائیداد جو ان کی اپنی ملکیت تھی، کتنی تھی اور

آج کتنی ہے؟ وقفہ جائیداد پر سرکاری اور غیر سرکاری قبضہ داروں کا حکومت

کے پاس کیا کوئی بیورا ہے؟ جائیداد پر جو لوگ ناجائز قبضہ کئے ہوئے ہیں، ان

کے خلاف کیا کوئی کارروائی کا وچار سرکار رکھتی ہے؟

میری پرزور مانگ ہے کہ وقف سمیٹی کی رکشا کے لئے الپ-سنکھیک منترالیہ سے الگ ایک سوتنتر سنستھا بنائی جائے۔ وقف سمیٹی کو کرائے داری قانون سے الگ کیا جائے۔ وقف بورڈ کے سی۔ای۔او۔ کے عہدے کے لئے الگ سے ڈپٹی کلکٹر اسٹر کے ادھیکاری، راجیوں میں بدستہ کئے جائیں۔ وقف عدالتوں کے سمے-بدھ فیصلہ کرنے سمبندھی قانون بنایا جائے۔ اس کے علاوہ وقف سمیٹی پر ناجائز قبضے کے دوارا بنائی گئیں عمارتیں، اگر سرکاری ہیں، تو ان کا کرایہ طے کر کے وقف بورڈ کو دیا جائے۔ ساتھ ہی پرائیویٹ ناجائز قبضہ داروں کو دنڈت کیا جائے اور وقفیہ جائیداد کا اعلان کیا جائے۔ دھنیواد۔

(ختم شد)

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

Demand for declaring the catastrophe caused by cyclone Nilam in Andhra Pradesh a national calamity.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the recent Cyclone Nilam has battered several districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly the coastal districts which were inundated by swollen rivulets. This is the third time in as many years that farmers of Andhra Pradesh have to face the fury of nature. As per the State's estimate, more than eight lakh hectares of crop consisting of paddy, cotton, mirch, tobacco, maize, etc., in nineteen districts were destroyed and lakhs of people were rendered homeless. The loss estimated by the Government is Rs. 1,710 crores, which is very low. The actual loss is approximately Rs. 10,000 crores. It is reported that more than 60 people and lakhs of livestock died.

Never in the history of the last thirty years has Andhra Pradesh ever witnessed such a ferocious cyclone. Sir, 31 cm of rain in one day recorded in Narsapuram, 27 cm in Amalapuram, 25 cm in Rajahmundry and Yelamanchili give an indication of nature's fury. It is not only crop but 6,800 kilometers of roads, minor and medium irrigation projects, drinking water sources, etc., have also been damaged badly and many power substations have been submerged.

Since the State Government is in severe financial crunch, it is not able to take up any rehabilitation measures.

[Shri C.M. Ramesh]

Looking at the catastrophe, I also request the Government of India to declare this as a national calamity and come to the rescue of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh as they are haplessly looking towards the Government of India for help.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri K.N. Balagopal, absent. Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, absent. Dr. Prabha Thakur.

Demand for strengthening medical facilities by establishing AIIMS like government medical and diagnostic centres in the country

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): महोदय, सरकार अनेक उपयोगी दवाओं की कीमतें कम कर के आम आदमी को राहत पहुंचा रही है। चिकित्सा बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय है। बीमारी के दर्द से तड़पता व्यक्ति ही जानता है कि तकलीफ का एक-एक क्षण निकालना कितना कठिन होता है। सरकारी अस्पतालों की कमी और लम्बी प्रतीक्षा सूचियां तथा अक्सर खराब पड़ी एक्सरे एवं जांच सम्बन्धी मशीनों के कारण मजबूरन लोगों को भी इलाज के लिए निजी अस्पतालों का सहारा लेना पड़ता है, जहां महंगे स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण एवं चिकित्सा के कारण कई लोगों के सामने अपना घर, जमीन, जेवर तक गिरवी रखने या बेचने की नौबत आ जाती है।

इन स्थितियों को देखते हुए यदि सरकार निजी क्लिनिकों एवं अस्पतालों में स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण तथा चिकित्सा एवं ऑपरेशन आदि की फीस पर भी जनहित में नियंत्रित फीस संबंधी प्रणाली लागू कर सके तो इससे देश के लाखों साधारण वर्ग के रोगी सीमित फीस देकर लाभान्वित हो सकेंगे तथा सामान्य हैसियत के लोग कर्ज, बिक्री अथवा गिरवी रखने की स्थितियों से मुक्त होकर चिकित्सा का वाजिब लाभ प्राप्त करके स्वस्थ हो सकेंगे। इसके साथ ही स्वास्थ्य को प्राथमिकता देते हुए पूरे देश में अधिकाधिक सरकारी अस्पताल, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण केन्द्र तथा एम्स जैसे अस्पताल बनाए जाने की भी सख्त आवश्यकता और मांग है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, not present Shri Darshan Singh Yadav.

Demand for taking steps to remove the social evil of giving death-feast in the country

श्री दर्शन सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, जन-साधारण मृत्यु भोज को एक जरूरी और पुनीत कर्तव्य समझता है। इस संबंध में जन-साधारण की कई मान्यताएं हैं। प्रथम मान्यता यह है कि जो व्यक्ति दिवंगत हो गया है, उसको मुखाग्नि देने वाले का उद्धार तभी होगा जबकि वह भोज करे। दूसरी मान्यता यह भी है कि मृतक के लिए सुख, शांति एवं स्वर्ग की कामना

से भोज एवं दान जरूरी है। एक अन्य मान्यता यह भी है कि हम जो कुछ यहां कर देंगे, वह स्वर्गीय मृतक को मिल जाएगा। यह सभी भ्रामक एवं मिथ्या धारणाएं हैं। वास्तविकता तो यह है कि मृत्यु भोज पुनीत कर्तव्य नहीं है और न ही दिवंगत आत्मा को इससे सुख शांति मिलती है तथा न ही अग्नि लगाने वाले व्यक्ति को कोई पाप लगता है और जब पाप लगता ही नहीं तो फिर मुक्ति कैसी?

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Odisha): These are matters of faith. ...(Interruptions)... I am sorry, Sir, these are matters of faith. ...(Interruptions)... These are matters of faith. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, it is permitted. ...(Interruptions)... You can differ on that, no problem. But that is permitted. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री दर्शन सिंह यादव: वास्तव में मृत्यु भोज एक सामाजिक कुरीति है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Parliament cannot pass judgement on such issues. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री दर्शन सिंह यादव: इस कुरीति के चलते ऐसे व्यक्ति जो मृत्यु भोज देने में सक्षम नहीं हैं, ऋण लेकर इस क्रिया को निभाते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nobody is passing any judgement...(Interruptions)... It is only his view. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री दर्शन सिंह यादव: जिससे वे आर्थिक जंजाल में फंस जाते हैं। इसलिए मृत्यु भोज का निषेध सामाजिक उत्थान के लिए नितांत आवश्यक है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is permitted. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री बलबीर पुंज: सर, सभी धर्मों में अपने इस तरह के रीति-रिवाज हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

आप किसी एक मजहब के ऊपर इस तरह से बात नहीं कर सकते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री दर्शन सिंह यादव: मान्यवर, अतः मेरा केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह मृत्यु भोज जैसी सामाजिक कुरीति को दूर किए जाने हेतु आवश्यक पहल करे ...(व्यवधान)...

सर, इस संबंध में मैं बहुत तर्क देना चाहता हूं और यह स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूं कि आप इसको वैज्ञानिक कसौटी पर कस लीजिए। यह इतना भ्रामक प्रचार है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is his view. ...(Interruptions)... Don't say anything else. दर्शन सिंह जी, जो लिखा हुआ है, उसे पढ़ना है, ज्यादा नहीं बोलना है। ...(व्यवधान)...

बैठिए, बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री दर्शन सिंह यादव: धन्यवाद, महोदय।

श्री उपसभापति: श्री पलवई गोवर्धन रेड्डी।

श्री पलवई गोवर्धन रेड्डी (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार): उपसभापति जी, यह एक बहुत गंभीर विषय है। हर आस्था में रीति-रिवाज होते हैं, जिनको सब मानते हैं और भारत का संविधान उनका सम्मान करता है, अगर वे गैर-कानूनी नहीं हैं। अगर मरने के बाद अपने पूर्वजों के बारे में कुछ कार्यक्रम लिखे हुए हैं, तो उसको सदन के पटल पर भ्रामक कहना, गलत कहना, यह बहुत दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: This should not have been allowed. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One of you can speak. Your Deputy Leader is speaking.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, यह हाउस का फोरम आस्थाओं के अपमान का प्लेटफार्म नहीं बनना चाहिए। उन्होंने जो कहा है, आप उस पर विचार करिए और अगर ऐसा लगता है तो उसको एक्सपंज करिए। यह मेरा आपसे आग्रह है।

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, this must be expunged. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, करोड़ों की संख्या में हिन्दू अपने बड़ों के मरने के बाद इस तरह के कार्यक्रम करते हैं। यह हजारों वर्षों से कर रहे हैं, हम भी लोग करते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, if you are making this as a precedent. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, please expunge it. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The statement will be ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Hinduism cannot be targeted like this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. ...(Interruptions)... आप बैठिए, बैठिए। ...(Interruptions)... I agree with you. We are not expected to denigrate any religion. All faiths and religions should be respected. That is the position of our Constitution. All of us are for that. Mr. Yadav has actually read a statement which has been permitted. Even though it is permitted, the Chair will re-examine it. If there is anything detrimental to any religion or faith, or, if any statement is incorrect, we will re-examine it and correct it.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, thank you very much for saying that the Constitution respects all the religions and no critical references can be made. But, unfortunately, in Mr. Yadav's statement, this very sentiment of the Constitution has been ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What he said is his personal view. If it denigrates ...(Interruptions)... I already said this. ...(Interruptions)... Punjji, I have already said that it is his personal view. However, if it denigrates any religion, it will be looked into again and corrected. I have said that.

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I am absolutely with you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You know all the rules.

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I am hundred per cent with you on your opinion. The entire House is with you. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री उपसभापति: बैठिए, बैठिए।

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, I am only raising an issue on technical grounds. We are asked to give our Special Mention in writing. Every Member has the right to give it in writing. This Special Mention must have been seen by the people concerned in the Table Office or wherever it is. I am not going to name anybody. I am saying this for future. Any Special Mention, which is admitted, or, any matter, which is admitted in the House, should be in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution. That is the only thing I am saying for future.

**Demand to consider alternative methods for interlinking
of rivers in the country**

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, linking of rivers for transfer of water from surplus to deficit basins and mitigating flood damage in surplus basin was considered feasible in 1970s. But, afterwards, some people declared this project as mission impossible. However, there is a way out to make this project feasible as follows. Firstly, all canal links not having tunnel works can be executed for inland water navigation for sea-going vessels up to 3000 MT. This can be achieved through diversion barrages across rivers with water storage up to possible maximum flood level. Link canals should be wide and deep. This does not involve submergence of villages. Such thing was done in the US, Russia and now in China. Secondly, canals can be converted for carrying large quantities of water from surplus to deficit basins. Thirdly, land

[Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy]

acquisition for link canals is very less when compared to 84 big reservoirs proposed earlier. Fourthly, low submersion of villages and less displacement of people. Fifthly, almost all rivers have flood flows during same period of SW monsoon, hence there is no point of transferring flood water during that period. Sixthly, to transfer water, we need to construct major reservoirs to store flood flows in order to transfer water during non-flood days to deficit basins. Thus, river linking previously envisaged can at best be described aptly as construction of major reservoirs in surplus river basins and not construction of river link canals.

I request the Government of India to consider this alternative feasible method for interlinking of rivers in the country.

**Demand to include people from diverse fields while deciding on
setting up nuclear power stations in the country**

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदय, फुकुशिमा दुर्घटना के बाद प्रधानमंत्री के इस वायदे के बावजूद कि भारत के नाभिकीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं को लोगों की सहमति के बगैर लागू नहीं किया जाएगा, कूडनकुलम में सरकारी समितियां आंदोलनरत लोगों से मिली तक नहीं और स्थानीय लोगों को संयंत्र की सुरक्षा और पर्यावरणीय प्रभावों से संबंधित दस्तावेज़ तथा जानकारी भी मुहैया नहीं कराई गई। कूडनकुलम में बड़े पैमाने पर गिरफ्तारियां हुई हैं और शांतिपूर्ण आंदोलन तथा अभिव्यक्ति की आज़ादी की अवहेलना हुई है। 55 हज़ार से ज्यादा प्राथमिकियां दर्ज हैं और हज़ारों लोगों पर देशद्रोह का मुकदमा चल रहा है।

महोदय, सरकार, परमाणु ऊर्जा कॉरपोरेशन और विभाग नाभिकीय ऊर्जा में निहित खतरों की अनदेखी करते रहे हैं। इसमें कैंसर जैसी घातक बीमारियां, चेरनोबिल और फुकुशिमा जैसे हादसों की संभावना और हज़ारों सालों तक ज़हरीले रहने वाले परमाणु कचरे जैसे मुद्दे शामिल हैं।

महोदय, कूडनकुलम संयंत्र में इलाके की भूगर्भीय हलचलों, आपातकालीन स्थिति के लिए अपर्याप्त कूलिंग सिस्टम तथा शीतल जल की स्वतंत्र आपूर्ति का अभाव जैसी गहरी स्थानीय समस्याएं हैं। अणु ऊर्जा कॉरपोरेशन ने खुद अणु ऊर्जा नियमन बोर्ड के नियमों जैसे 1.5 कि.मी. का शून्य जनसंख्या क्षेत्र और 16 कि.मी. के दायरे में ज़रूरी आपातकालीन निकासी ड्रिल इत्यादि का खुला उल्लंघन किया है।

महोदय, ऊर्जा नीति के सवाल पर जलवायु परिवर्तन, आर्थिक, पर्यावरणीय व सामाजिक कीमत और बिजली के न्यायपूर्ण बंटवारे की नज़र से देश में कोई स्वतंत्र और समेकित चर्चा नहीं हुई है। सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी विशेषज्ञों, नागरिक समूहों और जनप्रतिनिधियों को एक

साथ लाकर भारत की ऊर्जा ज़रूरतों और इसमें नाभिकीय ऊर्जा की प्रासंगिकता पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए।

**Need to ban the release of industrial effluents and polluted water
from villages and cities into the river Ganga**

डा. राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा): महोदय, गंगा नदी का शुद्ध जल अपनी निर्मलता एवं पवित्रता के लिए विश्वप्रसिद्ध है, परन्तु गंगा के तट पर बसे शहरों में चल रहे उद्योग-धंधों और गांवों तथा शहरों के गंदे पानी ने इसे पूर्णतया दूषित कर दिया है। इस कारण 1985 में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी ने गंगा को बचाए रखने के लिए गंगा सफाई योजना की शुरुआत की थी, लेकिन सैकड़ों-करोड़ों रुपए खर्च करने पर भी अभी तक कोई सफलता प्राप्त नहीं हुई है। गंगा के पानी में औद्योगिक कचरे के जरिए लगातार आर्सेनिक, फ्लोराइड, क्लोराइड और अन्य भारी धातुएं बहाई जा रही हैं जो इसके पानी में लगातार घुलती जा रही हैं। इस वजह से गंगा का पानी जहरीला और खतरनाक होता जा रहा है। भारतीय चिकित्सा अनुसंधान परिषद् (आईसीएमआर) के एक अध्ययन से यह निष्कर्ष सामने आया है कि गंगा में इतनी ज्यादा भारी धातुएं और घातक रसायन डाल दिए गए हैं कि गंगाजल के सम्पर्क में रहने वाले लोग कैंसर से पीड़ित होने लगे हैं। गंगा के तटीय क्षेत्रों में कैंसर से पीड़ित लोगों की संख्या सामान्य से अधिक है। इस अध्ययन से यह तथ्य भी सामने आया है कि उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार तथा पश्चिमी बंगाल के वे क्षेत्र सर्वाधिक प्रभावित हुए हैं जहां गंगा में बाढ़ आती है। वहां पर प्रायः एक लाख आबादी में लगभग 20-25 प्रतिशत लोगों को कैंसर है। यह संख्या राष्ट्रीय औसत से अधिक है। बाढ़ ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में लोग पित्ताशय, गुर्दा, भोजन नली, प्रोस्टेट, जिगर, मूत्र नली और त्वचा के कैंसर से पीड़ित हैं। कई विकसित देशों ने, जहां औद्योगिक क्रान्ति हमसे काफी पहले आई, अपने प्राकृतिक वरदानों एवं पर्यावरण की उचित देखभाल करते हुए उन्हें तबाही से बचाए रखा है, लेकिन हमारे यहां कहानी उलटी है। किसी भी पानी को purify किए बिना गंगा में नहीं डाला जाना चाहिए। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि शहरों, गांवों तथा उद्योग-धंधों से निकलने वाले गंदे पानी और कचरे को गंगा में डालने पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध लगाया जाए और इसे दण्डनीय अपराध घोषित किया जाए। धन्यवाद।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के वक्तव्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूं।

**Demand for taking effective steps to protect traditional silk
industry of Assam from degradation**

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): My Special Mention is in regard to the saving of traditional silk industry in Assam.

[Shri Kumar Deepak Das]

The traditional silk industry, that is, Pat and Muga industry, in Assam is facing acute problem for its existence. The first and foremost problem of the industry, in this regard, is the non-existence of price control. There is no price control board to regulate the price of the commodity. It is also seen that a minor increase has been resulted in the price of traditional silk clothes in the last five years. In this era of inflated economy, we can all comprehend how this non increase in the basic prices of the commodity will hit the producers. Major fall out of the non increase of price is degradation in the quality of clothes. There is a complete lack of financial accounting. In the times of globalisation, financial capital accounts for a major role in the establishment of an industry.

While the price of the Muga clothes has not increased substantially, the price of the raw materials has taken a quantum leap. There is monopoly of those who supply these raw materials to the traders. This particular system of monopoly has been holding the aegis of this trade for years now. As a result, prices of raw materials have increased substantially over the years. This has resulted in further degradation of the quality of clothes with many traders using the "torch" as a mixture to the Muga silk. Torch is undistinguishable from Muga silk and thus save costs. The small traders have to resort to the adulteration of traditional clothes. This cartelisation of raw materials has further impeded the growth of this traditional industry.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary steps to save the traditional Muga and Pat industry of Assam; and also protect it from degradation. Thank you very much.

**Demand for taking effective steps to improve the condition
of sanitation in the country**

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, sanitation is one of the benchmarks of a progressive nation. Unfortunately, we have not fared well in this area, despite earnest efforts to better the situation through flagship schemes such as the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme, the Central Rural Sanitation Programme and the Total Sanitation Campaign, which have not been able to address key capacity issues related to provision of basic services and to fulfil their underlying objectives. In such a situation, we need a comprehensive and sustained approach towards developing solid infrastructure.

There is a direct relationship between sanitation and individual health and hygiene. Improper disposal of human excreta and the lack of environmental sanitation and personal hygiene have been major causes of many diseases in developing countries. India is no exception; high mortality rates are a direct example of this. Regrettably, even when there are facilities, they prove, in many cases, to be inconvenient and unhygienic, with limited access, and not operated or maintained properly. Apart from health outcomes, sanitation has a bearing on education, privacy and dignity of people who are deprived of basic sanitation facilities, the long term consequences of which include lower economic productivity in adults.

It is humbly proposed that the Government must examine and organize the revamping of traditional sewerage networks and augment individual and community toilets, which may be done with the assistance of the Panchayati Raj institutions in rural areas and local municipal bodies in urban areas. It is also requested that private sector participation in this sector be extended for increased efficiency.

Demand for taking strict action against people responsible for death of Indian woman in Ireland and granting adequate compensation to her family

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, हाल ही में एक भारतीय महिला के साथ आयरलैंड के वेस्ट पोर्ट में घटित घटना की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहती हूँ। यह मामला बहुत ही गंभीर और संवेदनशील है। एक महिला गर्भावस्था में हुई समस्या के कारण चिकित्सा के लिए आयरलैंड के एक अस्पताल में भर्ती हुई, लेकिन वहाँ के डाक्टरों ने आयरलैंड के कानून का गलत सहारा लेकर 31 वर्षीय दंतचिकित्सक सविता हलापनावर के खराब हुए भ्रूण को समय से निकालने में असमर्थता जताई थी, जिसके कारण शरीर में ज़हर फैलने से सविता की मौत हो गई।

उपसभापति महोदय, भारतीय संस्कृति में विवाहित महिला के लिए गर्भधारण करना किसी पर्व से कम नहीं माना जाता है। जिस पेशे में जीवन रक्षा को सर्वोपरि माना जाता है और जिसका आधार ही जीवन रक्षा है, उस पेशे की यह एक घृणित घटना है। अपने देश के कानून की गलत व्याख्या करके समय पर पीड़ित महिला का गर्भपात न कर, उसको मौत के मुँह में धकेल देना सरासर अमानवीय है। 21वीं शताब्दी के इस आधुनिक युग में जहाँ क्रिटिकल से क्रिटिकल अवस्था में भी समय पर इलाज मुहैया कराकर लोगों की जान बचा ली जाती है, वहाँ समय पर इलाज न मिलने से असमय मौत हो जाना दुखद और निंदनीय है।

मेरी मांग है कि सरकार आयरलैंड में घटित इस घटना पर उचित कदम उठाए, सविता के परिवार को उचित मुआवजा दिलवाए और दोषी लोगों के खिलाफ कठोर कार्यवाही सुनिश्चित करे, जिससे किसी और महिला को इस दर्दनाक दौर से न गुजरना पड़े।

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती बिमला कश्यप सूद (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री बलबीर पुंज (ओडिशा): महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, we all associate ourselves with this issue. Since the Minister of External Affairs is sitting in the House, I would request him to tell us if anything is being done in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, would you like to say something?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, this has been noted. But it would not be fair for me to give an immediate response.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is an issue with which all of us are concerned.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: I do realize it. This is not an issue on which there is a divide.

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, the reason for mentioning this is, it is a matter of other country. The Minister of External Affairs will have to use the Embassy staff to find out the real facts about it. Sir, we can reach those people only through this Ministry. That is why I have requested him.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Members and it has been noted.

**Need for building international pressure to tackle the threat to
Talibani terrorists to harm Indian people**

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): महोदय, 26/11 मुम्बई आक्रमण के आतंकवादी (कसाब) को फांसी देकर सरकार ने एक साहसिक एवं सराहनीय काम किया है। इसकी देश व विदेशों में काफी प्रशंसा हुई है, लेकिन तालिबान आतंकवादी संगठन ने धमकी दी है कि जहां कहीं भी भारतीय मिलेगा, उसे मौत के घाट उतार दिया जाएगा। इसके कारण विदेशों में रह रहे भारतीयों के मन में काफी चिंता है और अफसोस भी है कि अभी तक केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से न कोई टिप्पणी की गई, न कोई आश्वासन आया और न ही विदेश में रह रहे

भारतीयों की सुरक्षा के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाएगी, इसके बारे में कोई जानकारी दी गई है। हम सब जानते हैं कि हर देश में भारतीय रह रहे हैं और कई देशों में भारत के विद्यार्थी पढ़ाई के लिए गए हैं। कई देशों में भारतीय रोजी-रोटी कमाने के लिए अपने परिवारों को भारत में छोड़कर विदेशों में गए हैं। उन सभी के मन में तालिबानी आतंकवादियों की धमकी का कहीं न कहीं डर है और भारत में उनके परिवार के सदस्यों के मन में हर समय दहशत का माहौल है। सरकार की कोई प्रतिक्रिया न आने के कारण इन लोगों के मन में रोष भी है। भारत सरकार को इस तालिबानी धमकी के खिलाफ दृढ़ता से पेश आते हुए एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय दबाव बनाना चाहिए और यह साफ करना चाहिए कि अगर किसी भारतीय को कोई भी नुकसान पहुंचा तो उस नुकसान पहुंचाने वाले से सख्ती से निपटा जाएगा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tarun Vijay. Not present. Shri Y.S. Chowdary. Not present. Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda. Not present.

Now, I adjourn the House for lunch, and we will re-assemble at 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at forty-seven minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-seven minutes past two of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Private Members' Business. Resolution to be moved by Shri Bhupender Yadav.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Amendment of election laws for having transparency in funding and regulation of expenditure

श्री भुपेन्द्र यादव (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित संकल्प उपस्थित करता हूँ:-

"इस तथ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि-

लोकतंत्र को सशक्त बनाने के उद्देश्य से, राजनीतिक वित्त-पोषण में और अधिक पारदर्शिता लाना आवश्यक है, और उसके लिए कुछ सुधार जरूरी हैं;

विभिन्न देशों में चुनावों के लिए ऐसे सार्वजनिक वित्त-पोषण का प्रयोग कम या अधिक सफलतापूर्वक किया गया है, किंतु ऐसे परिवर्तन हमारे देश में अपनी विशिष्ट लोकतंत्र तथा निर्वाचन सम्बन्धी विशेषताओं को ध्यान में रख कर ही किए जा सकते हैं और इन्हें बड़े पैमाने पर नहीं अपनाया जा सकता है, अतः यह जानना आवश्यक है कि किस जगह सुधार किए जाने की जरूरत है;

[श्री भुपेन्द्र यादव]

चुनाव की प्रकृति के आधार पर इसके प्रचार के लिए कुछ राशि पर सीमा तय की जाती है, किंतु ऐसी उच्चतम सीमाएं तय करने से स्वतः ही अपवंचन की संभावनाएं बनी रहती हैं और चुनाव अभियान चलाने की वास्तविक लागत अक्सर विहित व्यय सीमा से कहीं अधिक होती है, तथा 2003 के निर्वाचन और अन्य संबंधित विधि (संशोधन) अधिनियम, जिसके माध्यम से व्यक्तियों के समर्थन में दल और उम्मीदवार के व्यय को नियंत्रणाधीन किया गया, को पारित किए जाने के बाद भी तंत्र में अभी भी पारदर्शिता की कमी है;

विधिक रूप से स्वीकार्य सार्वजनिक निधियों को उपबंध करने वाले विधान की कमी का अर्थ है कि उम्मीदवारों को अपने-अपने चुनाव प्रचार को जारी रखने को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए किसी निरन्तर सहायता के बिना प्रत्येक चुनाव के दौरान स्वयं के लिए धन की व्यवस्था करनी होगी, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप राजनीति में स्पष्ट रूप से काले धन का प्रसार होगा तथा भ्रष्टाचार का संस्थानीकरण होगा;

1985 में कंपनी अधिनियम के संशोधन के फलस्वरूप इसकी धारा 293क के तहत केवल निश्चित प्रतिबंधात्मक शर्तों के अंतर्गत ही राजनीतिक दलों को कारपोरेट चंदा दिए जाने की अनुमति दी गई है, तथापि इसमें अभी भी और अधिक सुधारों की आवश्यकता है; राजनीतिक दलों का वित्त-पोषण करने, पारदर्शिता तथा जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रभावी उपायों के न होने से ऐसे दबंग शक्तिशाली ढांचे सृजित हो जाने पर यह स्थिति और बिगड़ जाती है, जिन्हें छोड़ना उन लोगों के लिए मुश्किल हो सकता है जो उनके फायदे उठा रहे होते हैं, और साथ ही वे राष्ट्रीय राजनीति की स्कीम में स्वयं को अधिरोपित कर लेते हैं; और

चुनावों की उच्च लागत, कम वित्तीय संसाधनों वाले लोगों को चुनाव लड़ने से रोकती है तथा पक्षपातपूर्ण नीतिगत निर्णय अपरिहार्य हो जाते हैं, अगर ऐसे निर्णय करने वाले व्यक्तियों को निधियों के बहु स्रोतों का सहारा लेना पड़ जाए,

यह सभा सरकार से आग्रह करती है कि

और अधिक पारदर्शिता लाने के उद्देश्यार्थ निर्वाचन और अन्य सम्बन्धित विधियों में और संशोधन किया जाए;

चुनावों में सरकार द्वारा वित्त-पोषण को उपयुक्त रूप से अपना लिया जाए;

और अधिक पारदर्शी वित्त-पोषण के लिए कारपोरेट घरानों द्वारा राजनीतिक अंशदानों की वर्तमान सीमाओं को बढ़ाया जाए; और

राजनीतिक दल द्वारा निधियों के उपयोग को विनियमित करने के लिए विधि को अधिनियमित किया जाए या उसमें उपयुक्त रूप से संशोधन किया जाए।"

सम्माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इस प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स संकल्प के माध्यम से एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय सदन के सम्मुख रखना चाहता हूँ। इस समय देश का जो राजनीतिक वातावरण चल रहा है, उस राजनीतिक वातावरण में राजनीतिक पार्टियों और राजनीतिक व्यवस्था पर कई तरह के प्रश्न चिन्ह उठ रहे हैं। हमारे देश की संसदीय परम्परा में हमारी राजनीतिक पार्टियों का बहुत योगदान रहा है। राजनीति में समाज के विभिन्न विचारों को प्रतिनिधित्व देने के लिए, देश की अनेकानेक क्षेत्रीय, भौगोलिक भावनाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए, देश में विभिन्न समाजों, वर्गों और सांस्कृतिक विचारों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए हमारे देश में राजनीतिक दलों ने काफी सजगता के साथ कार्य किया है, लेकिन संसदीय परम्परा में जो हमारे राजनीतिक दल हैं, उन राजनीतिक दलों में वर्तमान व्यवस्था में दो विषयों के ऊपर, जिनके ऊपर लॉ कमीशन की रिपोर्ट भी आई, उससे पहले इंड्रजीत गुप्ता कमेटी की रिपोर्ट भी आई, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय भी आए, लेकिन उन विषयों का अभी तक जो कोई और ज्यादा जवाबदेह और पारदर्शी तरीका ढूँढ़ने की आवश्यकता है, उसका भी समाधान नहीं किया जा सका है।

सबसे पहले विषय यह है कि पॉलिटिकल पार्टियों का जो रजिस्ट्रेशन है, वह तो हम लोगों ने रिप्रिजेंटेशन ऑफ पीपुल एक्ट के माध्यम से किया है, लेकिन राजनीतिक दलों में आन्तरिक लोकतंत्र कैसे बने और उन राजनीतिक दलों के आन्तरिक लोकतंत्र को हम किस तरीके से रेगुलेशन के माध्यम से ज्यादा प्रभावी कानून के अंतर्गत लेकर आएँ, यह एक बहुत बड़ा विषय इस देश के सामने है। अनेक राजनीतिक दलों में आन्तरिक लोकतंत्र होते हुए भी, इस बात में कोई बुराई नहीं है कि एक परिवार के दो व्यक्ति या तीन व्यक्ति राजनीति में कार्य करें, लेकिन राजनीतिक दल अपनी कार्यप्रणाली में परिवारवाद और वंशवाद के पोषक न बनें, उनकी छवि इस प्रकार से न जाए कि राजनीतिक दल कोई स्वतंत्र लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया का पालन किए बिना केवल वंशवाद के आधार पर अगर राजनीतिक दल को चलाएंगे, तो देश में लोकतांत्रिक पद्धति का क्षरण होगा।

इसलिए आन्तरिक लोकतंत्र में जो सबसे बड़ी बात है, वह यह है कि राजनैतिक दलों के संचालन के लिए, रेगुलेशन के लिए हमें Representation of the People Act में अलग से एक कानून लाना चाहिए।

इसके साथ-साथ राजनैतिक दलों में जमीन से जुड़ी हुई राजनैतिक प्रतिभाएं भी आती हैं। चूंकि धन के, जाति के बहुत बड़े प्रभाव के कारण अथवा क्षेत्रीय आकांक्षाओं के कारण कई बार महाविद्यालयों में अच्छे नौजवान, अच्छे प्रोफेशनल्स राजनैतिक क्षेत्र में आते हैं, लेकिन स्वस्थ लोकतांत्रिक पद्धति के कारण उनको उचित अवसर नहीं मिलता है। राजनैतिक दलों को यह स्वतंत्रता है कि वे अपनी विचारधारा का प्रतिनिधित्व करें, अपने ध्येय के लिए कार्य करें। राजनैतिक दलों के लिए जो फंडिंग इकट्टी की जाती है, उसको लेकर 2003 में आपने Representation of the People Act में अमेंडमेंट किया। कॉर्पोरेट्स के द्वारा राजनैतिक दलों

[श्री भुपेन्द्र यादव]

को चंदा देने के लिए हम लोगों ने उसमें परिवर्तन किया, लेकिन हम लोगों ने उसके ऊपर जो कैप लगाई है, मेरे ख्याल से अब उस कैप को हटाया जाना चाहिए, क्योंकि राजनैतिक पार्टियों का धन लेने का जो तरीका है, उसमें पारदर्शिता लाई जानी बहुत आवश्यक है। पारदर्शिता इसलिए भी लाई जानी चाहिए क्योंकि इलेक्शन फंडिंग में जो एक्सपेंसिज़ होते हैं, उनको खर्च किए जाने का जो तरीका है, उसके अंतर्गत कैंडिडेट को अपने खर्च का सबसे ज्यादा हिस्सा खुद इकट्ठा करना पड़ता है।

अपने देश में हमने एक ऐसी राजनैतिक प्रणाली विकसित की है, जिसमें स्टेट फंडिंग का अभाव है। हमारे इलेक्शन कमिशन ने समय-समय पर इस प्रकार के आदेश निकाले हैं और इलेक्शन प्रोसेस को रेगुलराइज़ करने के लिए हमने भी समय-समय पर इलेक्शन कमिशन को स्वतंत्रता दी है। इसके बावजूद एक बहुत बड़ा सच यह भी है कि हमारी राजनैतिक व्यवस्था में जो एक *same level playing field* होना चाहिए, उसका अभाव है। एक आदमी, जिसके मन में देश के लोकतंत्र में सांसद, विधायक, सरपंच अथवा नगर पालिका के प्रधान के इलेक्शन में भाग लेने की आकांक्षा है, चाहे वह किसी भी राजनैतिक व्यवस्था में हो, क्या हम लोगों ने उसके लिए *same level playing field* को तैयार किया है? इसके लिए हमने कहा है कि राजनैतिक दलों को अपना चंदा देते समय ज्यादा पारदर्शिता का पालन करना चाहिए। हमें यह देखना होगा कि वे राजनैतिक दल और राजनैतिक समूह, जो देश में स्वच्छता के साथ आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं, कर्मठता के साथ आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं, ऐसे सभी समूहों को एक साथ, एक *same level playing field* पर ला कर *state funding* के माध्यम से हम कौन-कौन से तरीके अपना सकते हैं। साथ ही हमें यह भी देखना होगा चुनाव प्रचार करते समय, नामांकन करते समय, अपने राजनैतिक दल के कार्यों को करते समय, अपने राजनैतिक विचारों को जनता के पास पहुंचाते समय *State funding* के माध्यम से हम कौन-कौन से साधन दे सकें ताकि अच्छे प्रतिभावान और पैसे वाले लोग, अच्छे विचारों को फैलाने वाले लोग, मसल पावर वाले लोग अथवा जाति के आधार पर राजनीति करने वाले लोग, चाहे कोई किसी का भी प्रतिनिधित्व करता हो, लेकिन जहां मूल मैदानी क्षेत्र में जा करके राजनीतिक कार्य करना है, वहां सबको *same level playing field* मिलना चाहिए। इसमें राजनैतिक दलों को जो चंदा मिलता है, मेरा कहना है कि उस कॉर्पोरेट फंडिंग में पारदर्शिता आनी चाहिए। राजनैतिक कार्यों को लेकर *State funding* के बारे में हमें विचार करना चाहिए। इसके साथ-साथ राजनैतिक दलों का जो चंदा एकत्रित किया जाता है, उसका पॉलिटिकल परपज़ भी तय होना चाहिए। पॉलिटिकल परपज़ में उसका उपयोग शुद्ध रूप से कॉमर्शियल इंस्टीट्यूशंस के लिए नहीं होना चाहिए यानी किसी भी व्यावसायिक उपयोग के लिए राजनैतिक पैसे का उपयोग नहीं होना चाहिए। राजनैतिक दलों के ऊपर एक तरीके का यह अनुबंध भी होना चाहिए कि केवल और केवल प्रचार के लिए, केवल और केवल वाहन के लिए अथवा एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव खर्च के लिए अपने पैसे का उपयोग न करें।

यह उनके ऊपर बाध्यता होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि इस पैसे को हमने टैक्स से exempt किया है। उनकी बाध्यता इस बात में होनी चाहिए कि राजनीतिक दलों में अच्छे लोग आएँ, इसके लिए ट्रेनिंग की व्यवस्था के लिए, कुछ विषयों के रिसर्च के लिए, कुछ अच्छे विषयों के लिए पब्लिकेशन के लिए, इस प्रकार से भी राजनीतिक दलों को अपने चंदे का उपयोग करना आवश्यक होना चाहिए। अगर हम इस प्रकार से एक आवश्यकता इस देश की राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में खड़ी करेंगे, तो देश की नीतियों के संबंध में, देश के विचारों के संबंध में हम एक नई प्रकार की जागृति का निर्माण करेंगे। जब राजनीतिक दलों के ऊपर यह compulsion होगा कि उनको जो पैसा आ रहा है, उसका एक भाग निश्चित रूप से, चूंकि वह टैक्स exemption का पैसा है, ट्रेनिंग के लिए, रिसर्च के लिए, पब्लिकेशन के लिए, अच्छे लोगों को राजनीति में स्थान देने के लिए भी अगर खर्च होगा, तो हम लोग राज्य के द्वारा राजनीतिक दलों की जो फंडिंग की व्यवस्था है, उस व्यवस्था को ज्यादा अच्छे तरीके से कर सकते हैं।

आज के समय में जब एक बहुत बड़ा विषय आ रहा है, जब लॉ कमीशन की 170वीं रिपोर्ट आई थी और उससे पहले जब इन्द्रजीत गुप्ता कमीशन की जो रिपोर्ट आई थी, उस समय राजनीतिक माहौल में एक बहुत बड़ा अंतर था, तब शायद टीवी चैनल इतने प्रभावी नहीं थे, तब शायद सोशल मीडिया भी इतना प्रभावी नहीं था। आज के समय में हम देखते हैं कि सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से भी काफी हद तक राजनीतिक विचारों का प्रचार और प्रसार किया जाता है और यह प्रचार और प्रसार किस प्रकार से होता है, इसके संबंध में भी सोचने की जरूरत है। इसमें कोई दुष्प्रचार न हो, दुष्प्रेरणा के माध्यम से किसी प्रकार का कार्य न हो। इस समय हम बहुत ज्यादा देख रहे हैं कि वैश्वीकरण के इस दौर में बहुत सारी लॉबियां राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में विचारों को प्रभावित करती हैं। वह नीतियों को भी प्रभावित करने का कार्य करती हैं और जब हम लोग बड़े पैमाने पर नीतियों को प्रभावित करने का कार्य करते हैं, तब marginalized level पर, जमीनी स्तर पर जो व्यक्ति हैं, जिसकी कोई आवाज नहीं बन पाती है, जिसकी कोई बड़े प्रचार माध्यमों में आवाज़ नहीं बन पाती है, उसकी आवाज को किस प्रकार से पहुंचाया जाए, इसके लिए केवल विचारों के प्रसार के आधार पर जब कोई जनमत बनाया जाता है और अगर उसमें कोई निहित स्वार्थ होते हैं, तो उसके बारे में भी regulation करने की, check and balance करने की बहुत आवश्यकता है।

इस देश का लोकतंत्र 60 साल में जो मजबूत हुआ है, उसका एक बहुत बड़ा कारण यह है कि हमने अपनी लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में गांव, देहातों तक अधिकतर विषयों पर सत्ता का विकेंद्रीकरण किया है। उस सत्ता के विकेंद्रीकरण करने पर हर गांव, पंचायत स्तर पर आप देखेंगे कि एक हजार की आबादी और दो हजार की आबादी पर सरपंच से लेकर पंच तक का चुनाव होता है। वहां से लेकर देश की संसद तक चुनाव की एक बहुत बड़ी प्रक्रिया है। इस चुनाव की प्रक्रिया में नीचे के स्तर पर आज हम देखते हैं, तो हमें लगता

[श्री भुपेन्द्र यादव]

है कि ऊपर के स्तर का चुनाव बहुत खर्चीला होता है, लेकिन नीचे के स्तर पर भी जो पंचायतों के indirect elections हैं, उनमें किस प्रकार का जोड़-तोड़ किया जाता है और इसमें किस प्रकार से धन को खर्च किया जाता है। स्टेट्स के चुनाव आयोग के द्वारा उसको पूरी तरीके से regularize नहीं किया जा रहा है।

इस समय सारी राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या और चुनाव सुधार में एक विषय जो हमारे सामने और आता है, वह यह है कि अगर आप स्टेट फंडिंग के माध्यम से यह चाहेंगे कि सारी चुनावों की जो लिस्टें हैं, मतदाताओं की जो सूचियां हैं, वे पंचायत स्तर पर अलग हैं, नगर पालिका स्तर पर अलग हैं, विधान सभा में अलग हैं और संसद में अलग हैं। इसके कारण राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में बार-बार दिक्कतें आती हैं। मतदाता सूचियों का जो स्थाईकरण होना चाहिए, यह राज्य की ड्यूटी है। अभी यह विषय काफी हद तक शुरू हुआ है, लेकिन उसको regularize करने की काफी आवश्यकता है, जिससे देश के मतदाता को यह ध्यान में हो कि जब भी चुनाव होंगे, तो उसमें मेरा अमुक मतदान नंबर है। उसको अगर हमने एक बार स्थाई रूप से दे दिया, तो बहुत बड़े स्तर पर राजनीतिक चुनाव और चुनाव व्यवस्था में हम जो वोट की रैगिंग देखते हैं, जो फर्जी मतदाताओं को देखते हैं, उस पर हम बहुत हद तक नियंत्रण कर सकेंगे। इसलिए, स्टेट फंडिंग के माध्यम से आज इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि एक ओर राजनीतिक व्यवस्थाओं में जो राजनीतिक विषयों का प्रचार करना चाहते हैं, उन लोगों को प्रचार करने के लिए जहां स्टेट की तरफ से level playing field तैयार किया जाए, वहीं पर यह जरूरी नहीं है कि समाज में सभी व्यक्ति राजनीति करें, लेकिन समाज में एक जागरूक नागरिक होने के नाते, अपने विषयों और अधिकारों को पहचानने के नाते अगर कोई भी व्यक्ति अपने मताधिकार का प्रयोग करना चाहता है, तो मताधिकार का प्रयोग करने वाले व्यक्ति को उसकी मतदाता सूची की आश्वस्त और स्पष्टता सही रूप में होनी चाहिए।

जब हम देश में राजनीतिक फंडिंग की बात करते हैं, तो हमारे देश में चुनाव की जो प्रणाली है, उसमें कई बार ऐसा लगता है कि इस देश में हर महीना चुनाव का महीना रहता है। जब इस देश में हर महीना चुनाव का महीना रहता है, तो उसमें इस देश के विकास का काम तथा बाकी सारे विषय बाद में आते हैं। इसलिए जब स्टेट फंडिंग के माध्यम से चुनाव की बात आती है, तो स्टेट फंडिंग के माध्यम से इस बात की भी बड़ी आवश्यकता है कि देश में विधान सभाओं से लेकर संसद के चुनाव एक साथ होने चाहिए। जब चुनाव एक साथ होंगे, तो राजनीतिक दलों के ऊपर खर्चा कम आएगा, राजनीतिक दलों को चुनने वाली जो जनता है, वह भी एक ही समय में चुनाव कर सकेगी तथा फिक्स टर्म होने के कारण हम देश में एक बहुत ही सकारात्मक वातावरण को निर्मित कर सकेंगे।

संसदीय दल और व्यवस्था होने के कारण बार-बार एक विषय यह उठाया जाता है कि

अगर बीच में विधान सभा भंग हो जाएगी तो उसका समाधान कैसे होगा? मेरा मानना है कि जिस प्रकार से राज्य सभा की टर्म खत्म होने के पहले बचे हुए टर्म के लिए चुनाव होते हैं, उसी प्रकार से विधान सभाएं कर सकती हैं कि बचे हुए टर्म के लिए चुनाव हों, लेकिन अगर हम पांच साल को स्थायी रूप से करेंगे तो राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में हम एक ज्यादा अच्छा भाव पैदा कर सकेंगे।

इसलिए अपने संकल्प के माध्यम से मैं इस सदन से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय देश में दो विषय हैं, एक हमारी चुनावी प्रक्रिया और दूसरा दलों का आंतरिक लोकतंत्र तथा दलों में नियमन की प्रक्रिया। इसके साथ ही, दलों में चंदा लेने में पारदर्शिता की प्रक्रिया तथा दलों की अपने चंदे को जनता के हित में अपने अकाउंट्स के प्रति पारदर्शिता रखने की जो प्रक्रिया है, इन दोनों प्रक्रियाओं को हम Representation of People Act, जो इस समय हमने बना रखा है, के माध्यम से एक साथ लागू नहीं कर सकते। पिछले 15-20 सालों से देश का जो प्रबुद्ध वर्ग है, देश का जो सर्वोच्च न्यायालय है, देश के जो बुद्धिजीवी हैं और देश में लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं को सुदृढ़ीकरण करने वाले जनमत का इस समय यह मन है कि देश में जो चुनाव सुधार का कार्य है, राजनीतिक दलों के आंतरिक लोकतंत्र का जो कार्य है, राजनीतिक दलों के आर्थिक विषयों को लेकर जो पारदर्शिता का कार्य है, वह जल्द होना चाहिए। जो कॉरपोरेट्स राजनीतिक दलों को चंदा देना चाहते हैं, उनको कई बार इस बात का डर लगा रहता है कि अगर हम विपक्षी दल को चंदा देंगे, तो जो सरकार है, जो दल सत्ता में बैठा है, वह कल को हमारी इंटिग्रिटी पर, हमारे कार्य में अनेकानेक अवरोध पैदा करेगा। इसलिए उसकी गोपनीयता को बरकरार रखने के साथ ही हमें राजनीतिक दलों की पारदर्शिता बना कर रखते हुए एक नयी व्यवस्था का निर्माण करना होगा। इसलिए इस सदन में अपने इस गैर-सरकारी संकल्प के माध्यम से मैं यह आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि राजनीतिक दलों में अधिक पारदर्शिता लाने के उद्देश्य से निर्वाचन और अन्य संबंधित विषयों में संशोधन किया जाए।

चुनाव में सरकार द्वारा फाइनेंस की जो उपयुक्त व्यवस्था है, उस व्यवस्था में सरकार को इस देश के लोकतंत्र के हिसाब से, इस देश की लोकतांत्रिक परम्पराओं के हिसाब से आवश्यक संशोधन करने चाहिए। हमारा जो राजनैतिक तंत्र है, उसको अधिक पारदर्शी बनाने के लिए कॉरपोरेट जगत के द्वारा जो राजनीतिक अंशदान आता है, उसमें उनको स्वायत्तता और स्वतंत्रता भी मिलनी चाहिए, लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा अकाउंटेबल भी बनाना चाहिए। इस समय राजनीतिक दलों को जो चंदा मिलता है, उसका जो पब्लिक परपज है, उसका जो राजनीतिक उद्देश्य है, उसका जो पॉलिटिकल परपज है, वह ज्यादा स्पष्ट रूप से हम लोगों को बनाना चाहिए। इस दृष्टि से मैं इस संकल्प के माध्यम से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय देश में जो राजनीतिक हवा बह रही है, उसको देखते हुए हमें उसकी किसी प्रकार की चिंता करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है, लेकिन हम

[श्री भुपेन्द्र यादव]

निश्चित रूप से देश की जनता का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं और जब हम उनका प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं तो हमसे पारदर्शिता की मांग भी ज्यादा की जाती है, इसलिए हम राजनीतिक दलों के आंतरिक लोकतंत्र को ज्यादा पारदर्शी बनाने के लिए कोई रेगुलेशन लेकर आएंगे। गांधी जी कहा करते थे कि लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति के लिए साधन की शुद्धता का होना आवश्यक है और राजनीतिक दल संसदीय लोकतंत्र में लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति के लिए एक प्रकार के साधन होते हैं। अगर यहां राजनीतिक दल साधन बने हैं, तो उस साधन की शुद्धता को बनाने के लिए ज्यादा पारदर्शी नियमों की और उनका नियमन करके ज्यादा अच्छी और सशक्त प्रणाली बनाने की बहुत आवश्यकता है। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इस मामले को हमें ज्यादा गंभीरता के साथ लेना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह विषय किसी एक राजनीतिक दल और किसी एक व्यक्ति के साथ जुड़ा हुआ विषय नहीं हो सकता है।

इस मामले पर अभी हाल में समाचारपत्रों में जो विषय आए हैं उनका ध्येय अलग हो सकता है, लेकिन इस सदन में बैठा हुआ जो प्रबुद्ध वर्ग है, जो इस देश के राजनैतिक जनमानस का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, जो इस देश की सर्वोच्च पंचायत के ऊपर बैठे हुए हैं, मेरा मानना है कि उनको इस प्रकार का नियमन लाना चाहिए कि देश की विकेन्द्रीकरण की स्थिति में जो निचली पंचायत हैं, उससे लेकर संसद में आने वाले और उस प्रक्रिया को बनाने वाले जो राजनीतिक दल कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं, उनके कार्य में ज्यादा पारदर्शिता आए, ज्यादा शुचिता आए, ज्यादा सजगता के साथ हम इस कार्य को करें। हमारी जो पहली लॉ कमीशन की रिपोर्ट है, हमारे जो इन्द्रजीत गुप्ता जी की जो रिपोर्ट है, लेकिन मेरे को लगता है कि वह 1990 के दशक में है। अब हम 2010 में बहुत आगे बढ़े हैं और इसमें सरकार को पर्याप्त अध्ययन के लिए कोई एक विशेष कमेटी का गठन करना चाहिए, ताकि ज्यादा सकारात्मक सुझाव आएँ और ज्यादा सहभागिता के साथ हम ज्यादा सजग तरीके से अपने लोकतंत्र को मजबूत बना सकें। धन्यवाद।

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, श्री भुपेन्द्र यादव जी के द्वारा महत्वपूर्ण विषय सदन में लाया गया है। महोदय, डा. बाबासाहेब अम्बेडकर ने संविधान की संरचना के उपरांत संविधान भारत को सौंपते हुए इस बात की प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की थी कि आज भारतीय लोकतंत्र के लिए मैं वह काम कर चुका हूँ जिस काम के जरिए भारतीय लोकतंत्र में अमीर से लेकर गरीब तक अपने मत की अभिव्यक्ति समान रूप से कर सकेगा। वन मैन, वन वोट, वन वेल्यू का अधिकार भारतीय संविधान में देने के पीछे शायद यह सबसे बड़ी मंशा रही होगी कि भारतीय लोकतंत्र में ऐसी व्यवस्था, ऐसा वातावरण पैदा होना चाहिए, जिसके माध्यम से हमारा देश दुनिया का सशक्त और विकसित देश बन सके, लेकिन आजादी के 64 वर्षों के उपरान्त आज जब चुनावी प्रक्रिया और नतीजों पर हम लोग तफसील से विश्लेषण करते हैं तो कहीं-न-कहीं भारतीय लोकतंत्र और चुनावी प्रक्रिया किसी न किसी प्रभाव में प्रभावित होती

3.00 P.M.

हुई नज़र आती है। हम भुपेन्द्र यादव जी की बात से बहुत सहमति व्यक्त करते हैं कि हमारे यहां डेमोक्रेसी है और डेमोक्रेसी का आधार मतदान बनाया गया और मतदान के पीछे बहुत सीधी-सीधी परिकल्पना यह थी कि देश का हर व्यक्ति अपने मन अपने विचार की अभिव्यक्ति को रखते हुए अपनी पसंद का नेता चुनकर इस देश की एकता में, अखंडता में अपनी सहभागिता जरूर व्यक्त करेगा लेकिन आज की परिस्थितियां ऐसी प्रतीत होती हैं कि बाबा साहेब का वह सपना अभी पूरा होता नजर नहीं आ रहा है। महोदय, सच्चाई से मुंह नहीं मोड़ा जा सकता। आज भ्रष्टाचार के मुद्दे पर बहुत सारी बहस, बहुत सारी चर्चा उधर भी होती है, इधर भी होती है। तमाम देश और दुनिया के लोग भारतीय नेताओं पर आरोप-प्रत्यारोप करके कहीं-न-कहीं लोकतंत्र पर चोट करने की कोशिश करते हैं, लेकिन हमारा यह मानना है और यह जमीनी सच्चाई है कि आज भ्रष्टाचार की शुरुआत या भ्रष्टाचार का जन्म अगर प्रबलता के साथ होते हुए हमें कहीं प्रतीत होता है तो वह मतदान की प्रक्रिया से होता है। हालांकि यह मसला चुनाव आयोग का है लेकिन कहीं-न-कहीं सरकार और तमाम राजनीतिक दलों को भी इस पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता जरूर महसूस होगी। मतदान की प्रक्रिया आज मंडी और वोटों की खरीद-फरोख्त का जरिया बनकर रह गई है। यह बात सही है कि स्टेट फंडिंग के होने से कहीं-न-कहीं वोटों की खरीद-फरोख्त पर अंकुश लगाया जा सकता है। भ्रष्टाचार पर लगाम लगाकर या काले धन के मुद्दे पर सरकार के सशक्त निर्णय के बाद कहीं-न-कहीं भ्रष्टाचार और व्यवस्था में बदलाव लाया जा सकता है।

लेकिन मेरा यह मानना है कि भारतीय लोकतंत्र की मजबूती और भारतीय चुनाव प्रक्रिया को सार्थक बनाने के लिए हमें कुछ ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लेने पड़ेंगे जिन के जरिए इस देश में मतदान की प्रक्रिया निष्पक्ष रूप से सम्पन्न हो सके।

महोदय, शराब के बल पर वोटों की खरीद-फरोख्त होती है, पैसों के बल पर वोटों को प्रभावित किया जाता है। सत्ता, साधन व सुविधाओं के आधार पर वोटों की अभिव्यक्ति को अपनी मर्जी से अभिव्यक्त करने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है। हमारे देश में आज ऐसी बहुत सी विषमताएं पैदा हो गयी हैं जिनके चलते चुनाव प्रक्रिया में कहीं-न-कहीं परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता है। महोदय, चाहे पार्लियामेंट का चुनाव हो या एसेम्बली का चुनाव हो, आज बहुत सी बातें सामने आती हैं, जहां भारतीय नेताओं की कार्य-शैली पर कहीं-न-कहीं प्रश्न चिह्न लगता है कि अगर हमें इन विषमताओं से उबरना है तो हमें चुनाव प्रक्रिया में सुधारवादी नीति को अपनाना पड़ेगा। महोदय, मैं इस बात से सहमत हूं और चुनाव की सुधारवादी व्यवस्था में अपने आपको शामिल करते हुए मैं इस बात का पक्षधर हूं कि भारतीय लोकतंत्र को मजबूत करने के लिए, भारतीय चुनाव प्रक्रिया को सशक्त और निष्पक्ष बनाने के लिए अगर स्टेट फंडिंग पर अंतिम रूप से फैसला कर लिया जाए तो आज पैसों के आदान-प्रदान से वोटों की खरीद-फरोख्त का सिलसिला जो पूरे देश में चल रहा है, इस पर कहीं-न-कहीं विराम लगाया जा सकता है।

[श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप]

महोदय, अनेको बार मीडिया के संदर्भ में भी बहुत सी बातें उठी हैं। खास तौर से चुनाव के दौरान बहुत सी बातें आयी हैं कि गरीब, मजदूर वर्ग के लोग भारतीय लोकतंत्र में अपने आपको चुनाव के काबिल ही नहीं समझ पाते और वे इसलिए नहीं बन पाते क्योंकि आज चुनाव की प्रक्रिया इतनी costly हो गयी है कि आम आदमी इस democratic system में अपने आपको शामिल नहीं कर पाता है। इसमें हमें कहीं-न-कहीं मीडिया की भूमिका भी नजर आती है। इस बात को बहुत बार सदन में और Election Commission के सामने भी उठाया गया है कि paid news का सिलसिला पूरे देश में इस कदर हावी हो गया है कि कहीं-न-कहीं जो गरीबों को represent करने वाले लोग हैं, वे अपनी बात को आम आदमी तक नहीं पहुंचा पाते हैं। इसलिए इस बारे में भी हमें प्रभावी कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है।

महोदय, मेम्बर पार्लियामेंट के चुनाव, एम.एल.ए. के चुनाव अलग-अलग समय पर होना देश के सामने आर्थिक संकट भी पैदा करता है और इससे समय की बर्बादी भी होती है। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगा कि हमें देश के अंदर ऐसी व्यवस्था develop करनी होगी, ताकि देश की पार्लियामेंट के चुनाव के साथ-साथ प्रदेशों की एसेम्बली के चुनाव कराने की प्रक्रिया पर अमल करने की कोशिश की जाए तो निश्चित तौर से देश को भी इसका फायदा मिलेगा और आम जन-मानस जो डेमोक्रेसी में भरोसा रखता है, उनको भी आगे बढ़ने का मौका मिलेगा।

महोदय, मैं इस प्राइवेट संकल्प के माध्यम से भूपेन्द्र यादव जी की भावनाओं और विचारों का समर्थन करते हुए इस बात की उम्मीद करता हूँ कि सरकार समय रहते भारतीय लोकतंत्र को मजबूत बनाने के लिए चुनावी प्रक्रिया में आमूल-चूल परिवर्तन करके एक बेहतर व्यवस्था कायम करने की कोशिश करेगी। धन्यवाद।

श्री उपसभापति: धन्यवाद, कश्यप जी। डा. ज्ञान प्रकाश पिलानिया।

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, for having given me this opportunity.

I am here to commend this Resolution wholeheartedly. Shri Bhupender Yadav and our learned friend here have both exposed its various contours in a very elaborate and in a very convincing manner. Sir, the main problem is how to make democracy a real democracy, how to ensure that it is really reflective of people's power; it really represents democratia; it represents authority of the poorest of the poor. That is the real crux of the problem, how to make democracy a genuine democracy, a democracy where every man has equal right, equal playfield for

participating in voting procedure. Democracy can't be without election. Election is the grassroot of democracy. Election cannot be fair and free if it is based on caste, if it is based on money power, if it is based on muscle power, if it is based on regionalism and if it is swayed by liquor or any other temptations. The basic effort of this Resolution is to ensure probity, to ensure transparency in the functioning of democracy, and, for that, a potent vehicle is ensuring political funding in a fair and transparent manner. The crux revolves around funding of the political system, and also ensuring the hallmarks of every political representative. He may be an M.P., he may be an MLA, he may be a *Sarpanch*, he may be a *Pradhan* or he may be ordinary *Panch*; he must have four hallmarks, *i.e.*, unbending rectitude, transparent integrity, avowed concern for public good and commitment to the welfare of the *daridranarayan*. Until and unless these four hallmarks are there in every political representative who is elected through the process of free and fair election based on adult franchise—if that is not ensured—then there won't be real democracy, and, for ensuring that, electoral rolls have to be correct, have to be fair.

Another system is ensuring that elections are held at one time. It will be a great thing. It was there earlier. It was in 1952, and later on also when elections of Lok Sabha and elections of *Vidhan Sabhas* were held together at the same time. It saved expenditure; it saved different kind of maladies which arise when elections take place throughout the year. That is one of the recommendations. Sir, with your permission, I will quote what Mahatma Gandhi said about this state of affairs. Sir, he mentioned that we are suffering from seven sins. It was a writing in one of the magazines. I will just quote. It was in 1922 that Mahatma Gandhi in his 'Young India' wrote an article mentioning seven social evils. Number one is, 'politics without principle'. That is the matter with which we are concerned today as far as this Resolution is concerned. This Resolution aims that politics should be with principles. It should not be principle-less, and, as I have already submitted, those principles are : unbending rectitude, transparent integrity, avowed concern for public good, and commitment to the welfare of *daridranarayan*, the last man in the queue.

If that commitment is not there, then politics will be without principles. He further mentioned, 'wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity and worship without sacrifice'. That is the milieu at present, as far as the social structure of India is concerned and as far as the political structure of this great nation is concerned. This Resolution is aimed at somehow improving the scenario. Public

[Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania]

funding in elections and State funding in elections are two different things. There is funding by corporate units or by private people and funding by the State authority. As for figures, I would just quote some figures for funding which has come to the various major parties during the last five years: Congress - Rs. 1,662 crores, BJP - Rs. 852 crores, BSP-Rs. 424 crores, CPI(M)- Rs. 336 crores, SP - Rs. 202 crores and NCP - Rs. 141 crores. These are authentic figures. With this sort of money coming in, what kind of a link does money have with the freedom of the party? Does this money, which comes into the coffers of the big parties restrict their policies? Does it have a kind of hook on them and does it dictate certain factors to them? Until and unless this problem is probed into and resolved, and there is a systematic pattern by which funding by corporates, funding by State and funding by private people is regulated, there would always be the possibility of black money flowing in and unaccounted money being given under the table to parties. This leads to a very great malady. Now, coming to equal or unequal playing ground, it would be interesting to note that as far as this august Rajya Sabha is concerned, it has got 131 *crorepatis*, which means 58 per cent of the people here are moneyed. Billionaires are also included in this group. Also, among us, there are 128 *udyogpatis*, *vyaparis* and builders.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Pilania, there are poor MPs also!

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: That is what I am saying, Sir. Is this a level playing ground? It is a matter to be thought about. There are 128 *udyogpatis*, *vyaparis* and builders here, which means 52 per cent of the total strength of Rajya Sabha, and 41 people have some kind of criminal cases against themselves. What I wanted to say, Sir, is that money power reflects—everywhere in Lok Sabha, in Rajya Sabha—and these statistics are just an example. How to ensure that the poorest man is also able to come here, particularly, where direct elections are held, like in the Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha? Is he able to come here without money? We must assure that, and if he needs money, the State must provide it to him. How that would be done, what should be the mechanism, etc. are matters of detail which need to be looked into by experts, but the need must be felt and a solution must be found.

Sir, the Supreme Court has, in its various judgements, referred to this. The Inderjit Committee, as pointed out by Shri Yadav, has also made a mention of it long back. Shri Dinesh Goswami, the then Law Minister, had also brought forward an Act on this issue.

The Law Commission's 170th Report has also made a mention about it. So, need is felt. Need is very vital. Need is urgent. Some solution must be found. That is the main crux of this Resolution. And, until and unless we ensure transparency in funding, until and unless we ensure *shuchita* in the working of political system, and until and unless we are able to show that there are real limits on expenditure, we will not find that solution. At present, expenditure limits are laid down but they are not followed at all. The expenditure returns, which are filed, are usually bogus. We all know about it. We know about proliferation of black money in politics. We also know about lack of accountability. But, we are publicly not ready to accept it and we are not ready to find a solution also. So, Sir, the main crux of the problem is how to ensure real grass-root democracy in Panchayati Raj, how to ensure electoral roll reforms and how to ensure that elections are at one time and elections are free, elections are fair and there is internal democracy, *antrik loktantra*, in political parties and we are able to say really that we are the people who have enacted this Constitution, we are the people who have adopted it and we are the people who really justify different things given in its Preamble. So, I very strongly support the Resolution and commend it to the House for further consideration and taking action on this. Thank you, your honour.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I want to congratulate Shri Bhupender Yadav for reminding us that we require to be prudent and honest in public affairs. Sir, the Constitution of India says, "We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic". But, the process by which we elect our representatives all over like Vidhan Sabha, Lok Sabha and other institutions, is such a process that it requires so much of money power which fundamentally negates the basis of socialism in our Constitution. So, Sir, to give credence to the Preamble of the Constitution, the very basis of our democracy, that is, the socialist democracy, we must have an electoral system which does not depend on the money power of a few. Now, the corporate houses give money not out of charity, nor to have a berth in the heaven. They want to give money to have a berth here itself. Against each cent that they give, they expect hundred cents in return. So, the moment we go in for corporate funding of elections, that vitiates the whole concept of fair democracy. I was surprised by the point raised by Dr. Pilonia that we have 131 *crorepati* Members here, but I belong to the same group as you have mentioned that there are poor MPs also. I live on my pension. Of course, now, it is also my allowance that I get here. Beyond that, I have no other means of livelihood. But, the point is that corporate funding of election is something I abhor. Long ago Abraham

[Shri D. Bandyopadhyay]

Lincoln had said that he was concerned that American democracy was being controlled by the corporate houses, and if the corporate houses controlled the elections, then the fundamentals of republicanism would be destroyed. So, he was concerned about it even 150 years ago that corporate funding would be destroying American democracy. And, we see today that it is the corporates that make the Americans fight a war here there and elsewhere. It is they who want to do something in which they want to gain.

So, Sir, I fully support the portion of the Resolution that there should be State funding of elections. In that case, corporate houses will not be able to control elected members or a large number of people, and, get their things done.

Sir, for the last few years, we have been swinging between scams and scandals, scandals and scams. If you look at anything, we have been witnessing only that. These scams and scandals can largely be controlled if we have a very fair and clean election, and, people are not obliged to pay back through means other than the straight means to the corporate benefactors who have paid them money to get elected.

Therefore, I fully support the spirit of Resolution moved by hon. Yadavji, and, I leave it to the Government to have a Commission to look into as to what could be done with regard to election funding. So, I am not saying to immediately go for this or that because this is a very important and complicated matter which requires so much of consideration. So, through you, Sir, I request the Government that if they want to bring in probity and honesty in our public life, the electoral process has to be cleansed, and, for that, let there be a high-powered Commission to tell us as to what way we can move forward. Thank you.

श्री अरविन्द कुमार सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ कि आपने मुझे इस महत्वपूर्ण बिन्दु पर बोलने का मौका दिया है। साथ ही, मैं भाई भुपेन्द्र यादव जी का आभारी हूँ जिन्होंने चुनाव प्रणाली में सुधार का मुद्दा उठाया है। हिन्दुस्तान दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा लोकतांत्रिक देश है। यहां का राजा आम मतदाताओं द्वारा चुना जाता है। लेकिन बहुत अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि कुछ क्षेत्रों को और कुछ राज्यों को छोड़ दिया जाए, तो बहुत-सी ऐसी constituencies हैं, बहुत से ऐसे जिले हैं, जहां पर 30 परसेंट, 35 परसेंट, 40 परसेंट वोट पड़ते हैं। आखिर यह चिंता का विषय है कि आम मतदाता मतदान में भाग क्यों नहीं लेता?

मैं सदन के माध्यम से आग्रह करता हूँ कि देश के आम मतदाता को कानूनी रूप से

मत डालने की अनिवार्यता कर देनी चाहिए। आम मतदाताओं के मत की अनिवार्यता से 100 फीसदी मतदान होगा और हकीकत यह है कि जब तक सभी मतदाता मतदान में हिस्सा नहीं लेंगे, तब तक लोकतंत्र मजबूत नहीं होगा। वास्तव में 30 परसेंट, 28 परसेंट वोट पड़ता है। आखिर यह चिंता का विषय है कि बाकी लोग मतदान में भाग क्यों नहीं लेते हैं। चुनावों में बहुत-सी विकृतियां हैं। पहले मतदान के समय या चुनाव के दौरान प्रत्याशी हैंडबिल बांटते थे, पर्चा बांटते थे, अपने-अपने क्रिया-कलापों को, अपनी उपलब्धियों को बताते थे, विकास के कार्यों का प्रचार पर्चों के माध्यम से करते थे, लेकिन अब चुनाव में धन का इस्तेमाल प्रमुखता से हो रहा है। आयोग ने विधान सभा का चुनाव लड़ने के लिए 15 लाख रुपया निर्धारित किया है और लोक सभा का चुनाव लड़ने के लिए 25 लाख रुपया निर्धारित किया है, लेकिन लोक सभा के चुनाव में कई प्रत्याशी हैं, जो करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करते हैं। आखिर इतना रुपया आता कहाँ से है? यह बहुत ही चिंता और खेद का विषय है।

जो भी राजनीतिक दल व राजनीतिक पार्टियां चुनाव में उद्योगपतियों से पैसा लेती हैं, वे उनकी आभारी रहती हैं। वे कहीं न कहीं अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से उनको *oblige* करने का प्रयास करती हैं। इसलिए मान्यवर, मेरा आपके माध्यम से और इस सदन से आग्रह है, निवेदन है कि चुनावों को पारदर्शी करने की आवश्यकता है। इसके साथ ही चुनाव में ऐसी प्रणाली लागू की जाए, ऐसी व्यवस्था लागू की जाए ताकि जो गरीब परिवार में पैदा हुआ है, जो झोंपड़ी में पैदा हुआ है और जिसके पास पैसा नहीं है, वह भी चुनाव जीत कर देश की पंचायत में आ सके।

मान्यवर, होता यह है कि धन बल के प्रभाव में विद्वता का ह्रास होता है। अब बहुत से ऐसे राजनीतिक दल हैं, जो टिकट देते समय यह पूछते हैं कि क्या आपके पास पैसा है? सर, मैं आपके और इस सदन के माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस व्यक्ति में क्षमता है, योग्यता है, काबिलियत है और यदि उसके पास पैसा नहीं है तो क्या वह किसी सदन में चुनकर नहीं आ सकता है? मैं आप से यह आग्रह करता हूँ कि जब तक इस धन बल पर रोक नहीं लगाई जाएगी, तब तक आम आदमी सदन में चुनकर नहीं आ सकता है।

उपसभापति जी, संविधान की कल्पना थी कि पांच सालों में सभी चुनाव एक साथ करा लिए जाएं। अब हर साल, बल्कि मैं कहूँ कि हर महीने कोई न कोई चुनाव होता रहता है। अब यह कोशिश होनी चाहिए कि लोक सभा के चुनाव और विधान सभा के चुनाव एक साथ हों। मान्यवर, मैं दावे के साथ कहता हूँ कि यदि लोक सभा का चुनाव और विधान सभा के चुनाव एक साथ कराए जाएं तो काफी विकृतियां दूर हो सकती हैं। पता नहीं क्यों विधान सभा के चुनाव अलग और लोक सभा के चुनाव अलग कराए जाते हैं। अभी भाई भुपेन्द्र यादव ने कहा था कि जिस तरह राज्य सभा या लोक सभा के सदस्य का कार्यकाल पूरा न होने पर उपचुनाव की व्यवस्था है, उसी तरह से यह व्यवस्था राज्यों में भी लागू करके पूरे देश में, प्रदेश की विधान सभाओं के साथ चुनाव कराए जाने चाहिए।

[श्री अरविन्द कुमार सिंह]

मान्यवर, आपने देखा होगा कि राज्य सभा, विधान परिषद्, जिला परिषद् और ब्लॉक प्रमुख का जब चुनाव होता है तो इसमें इतना पैसा चलता है कि साधारण आदमी यह चुनाव नहीं लड़ सकता। मेरा विशेषकर यह आग्रह है कि राज्य सभा, विधान परिषद्, जिला परिषद् और ब्लॉक प्रमुख का चुनाव खुले मतदान द्वारा होना चाहिए। इससे धनबल पर खरीदे जाने वाले मत रोके जा सकते हैं। महोदय, मैं आपके और इस सदन के माध्यम से यह आग्रह करता हूँ कि इसमें व्यापक सुधार की आवश्यकता है, ताकि सदन में गरीब का बेटा भी एक सदस्य के रूप में आ सके और अपनी भावना व्यक्त कर सके। मैं भुपेन्द्र सिंह जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ और उनका आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ कि वे बहुत अच्छा बिल लेकर आए हैं। मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ और पूरा सहयोग करता हूँ, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। जय हिन्द, जय समाजवाद।

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक): उपसभापति महोदय, आदरणीय भुपेन्द्र यादव जी ने एक संकल्प यहां प्रस्तुत किया है। भारत विश्व का एक प्रजातांत्रिक देश है। आज हम लगभग साठ-बासठ साल के बाद अपने देश की प्रजातांत्रिक व्यवस्था के बारे में सोचने के लिए मजबूर हुए हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में यह एक निर्णय या एक संकल्प आदरणीय भुपेन्द्र यादव जी ने सदन में प्रस्तुत किया है। जब हम विश्व में यह बात कहते हैं कि भारत विश्व में प्रजातंत्र का सबसे बड़ा देश है, भले ही हमारा प्रजातंत्र कैसा भी है, लेकिन एक क्षण के लिए हमारा सिर गर्व से ऊपर उठता है।

वैसी ही चर्चा यहां पर भी चलती है। जैसे अभी थोड़ी देर पहले चर्चा चली कि सदन में इतने लोग अमीर हैं, माननीय उपसभापति जी ने कहा कि यहां पर कुछ गरीब भी हैं, उनकी भी संख्या है, वैसे ही जब कभी हम पेपर में पढ़ते हैं कि दुनिया के करोड़पतियों के पहले सौ नामों की सूची में भारत के करोड़पतियों की संख्या बढ़ी है, तो उस समय हमारे मन में भी थोड़ा संतोष होता है। अमीर बनना अपराध नहीं है और गरीब बनना अभिशाप भी नहीं है, लेकिन प्रजातंत्रीय व्यवस्था के द्वारा हम जिस मूल्य को जन हित के, अंतिम आदमी के हित के लिए, जिस संकल्प को लेकर एक संविधान को स्वीकार करते हुए, प्रजातंत्रीय व्यवस्था के अंदर काम कर रहे हैं, उसमें हमें अपने आपको देखना होगा। अभी अन्य सदस्यों ने बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात रखी है, मैं उन सभी बातों की ओर नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि तुरंत ऐसा कोई कमीशन बनाकर हमारी इस प्रजातंत्रीय व्यवस्था को बनाए रखने का प्रयास होना चाहिए। आज विशेषकर पैसे के कारण प्रजातंत्र के प्रति लोगों की जो श्रद्धा और भक्ति समाप्त हो रही है, उसको देखना होगा। अगर प्रजातंत्र के प्रति या आज की व्यवस्था के प्रति श्रद्धा कम होगी, तो इसका अर्थ अराजकता होता है। हो सकता है कि भारत जैसे बड़े देश में इस अराजकता को फैलने में देर लगे, लेकिन यह सत्य है कि अराजकता बहुत खतरनाक होती है। उसे रोकने की हम सभी सदस्यों की, सरकार की

एक बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी बनती है और हमें उसके प्रति प्रतिबद्ध होकर चलना है। इस प्रजातंत्रीय व्यवस्था में, हमने अपने देश में पैसे को इतना महत्व दे दिया है कि आज हम इसके कारण स्वयं कटघरे में खड़े हैं। मूल्य, वैल्यूज, जिसको हम एथिक्स कहते हैं, जो सबसे महत्वपूर्ण होते हैं, उन चीजों को लाने की दृष्टि से मैं सरकार से यह अपेक्षा करता हूँ कि वह कुछ ऐसा प्रावधान बनाए कि आज जो चुनाव कमीशन है, वह अपने बजट के अंदर एक धनराशि निश्चित करे। इस प्रजातंत्रीय गौरवमयी व्यवस्था के प्रति श्रद्धा उत्पन्न करने के लिए समाज, कॉलेज, विश्वविद्यालय, सभी को पूरे देश में लगातार कोई न कोई कार्यक्रम करते रहना चाहिए। एक कहावत है, "मर्धना गुणवर्धना", अगर समाज के सिर पर इसके बार-बार प्रहार होते हैं, तो निश्चित रूप से उसमें से फलकारी गुण निकलते हैं। इसीलिए चुनाव कमीशन को इस प्रकार का एक अधिकार और धन का प्रावधान देकर व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। सामान्य समाज को विविध स्तर के शिक्षा क्षेत्रों में, इस प्रजातंत्रीय व्यवस्था के बारे में, मूल्यों के बारे में, संविधान के अंदर अंतिम आदमी से लेकर हर आदमी के मानवीय सम्बन्धों को ठीक रखते हुए, लोग एक अच्छी व्यवस्था के अंदर जीते रहें, इसके लिए फंडिंग के बारे में कुछ सलाह दी गई है, इसके लिए खर्च के बारे में भी कुछ सलाह दी गई है और इस सलाह के अंतर्गत मेरा यह विचार है कि चुनाव में प्राथमिक प्रचार के लिए जो कुछ धन होता है, यदि उनको स्वयं चुनाव कमीशन ही कराए तो ठीक रहेगा। हर कैंडीडेट, जो चुनाव में खड़ा होता है, एक निश्चित पृष्ठ के अंदर अपना बायो-डाटा, अपना पहचान-पत्र, अपने पूर्व कर्मों के बारे में लिखकर दे, पार्टी भी सब लिखकर दे। सभी मतदाताओं को कुछ दो या चार सीमित पेजों के अंदर यह जानकारी पहुंचाने का काम चुनाव कमीशन की तरफ से हो। इस अनावश्यक प्रचार की परम्परा के द्वारा एक तरफ तो पोस्टर, बैनर्स कम हुए हैं, लेकिन चुनाव का खर्च कम नहीं हुआ है। मैं कई बार ऐसा सोचता हूँ कि पिछले दरवाजे से कई प्रकार के अनपेक्षित खर्च बढ़ गए हैं, लेकिन कुछ लोग ऐसे भी होते हैं जो चुनाव कब आएगा, इसका इंतजार करते रहते हैं। अगर एक विधान सभा में चुनाव पर खर्च होता है, तो यह भी दृष्टि में रखना चाहिए कि कम से कम 2000 परिवार ऐसे भी होते हैं, जो साल, दो साल का अपना खर्च निकाल लेते हैं। वे लोग जाति के नाम पर निकाल लेते हैं, दबाव के नाम पर निकाल लेते हैं, गांव में अपनी सुप्रीमसी के नाम पर निकाल लेते हैं, इसलिए इन सब चीजों को रोकने की दृष्टि से "prevention is better than cure" सबसे सुन्दर पहलू है। रोग तो भयानक हुआ है, लेकिन शिक्षा क्षेत्र के द्वारा और इलेक्शन कमीशन के प्रयासों के द्वारा इसे रोका जा सकता है। जैसे जितनी भी अंडरटेकिंग्स हैं, वे उद्योग-धंधा करती हैं, हम उनके लिए प्रोविजन्स बनाते हैं कि आपको अपनी कमाई का 1 परसेंट समाज सेवा पर खर्च करना चाहिए।

वैसे ही विश्व का सबसे बड़ा प्रजातंत्रीय देश कहलाने वाले इस भारत देश की कीर्ति अक्षुण्ण बनी रहे। अनंत काल तक, दीर्घ काल तक इस सृष्टि के लाखों जीवियों को ही नहीं, केवल मनुष्यों को ही नहीं, क्योंकि निसर्ग के बिना मनुष्य नहीं जीता है, इसलिए पशु, पक्षी, जल, इन सबकी पवित्रता बनाए रखते हुए, अच्छे अनाज मिलने चाहिए, अच्छी चीज़

[श्री बसावाराज पाटिल]

मिलनी चाहिए, यह सब होना है, तो सबसे पहले इंसान का मन अच्छा होना चाहिए। अगर अच्छे जन प्रतिनिधि चुन कर आएंगे, तो बाकी सब चीजें अच्छी बनेंगी। इसलिए इस दिशा में आदरणीय भुपेन्द्र यादव जी जो संकल्प लाए हैं, उसमें उन्होंने तो धन शायद पैसे के रूप में कहा होगा, लेकिन एक धन ऐसा होता है, जिसको हम गुण कहते हैं और जिसको दुनिया में कोई छीन नहीं सकता है। आज भी दुनिया में गुण की पूजा होती है। कई बार राजकीय क्षेत्र में बहुत पहले काम करते समय मैंने अनुभव किया है कि जब एक बड़े नेता आते हैं, तो उनके ऊपर कितना खर्च होता है, लेकिन मैंने ऐसे भी संत-महापुरुष देखे हैं, जिनके आने पर कोई पैसा खर्च नहीं होता है। लोग अपने पैसे खर्च करके आते हैं और अपनी भक्ति-श्रद्धा से सवरे-सवरे आकर महीनों भर उनके विचार सुनने के लिए बैठते हैं। इस देश के अन्दर हमेशा गुणों की पूजा हुई है। इसलिए आज चुनाव प्रक्रिया के द्वारा जो एक विशिष्ट, सामाजिक, भयानक स्थिति का निर्माण हुआ है, वहां सिर्फ पैसे का बल ही नहीं, बल्कि शक्ति का भी बल है। चुनावों में वाम मार्ग से, अन्याय मार्ग से जीतने की जो व्यवस्थाएं हैं, उन्हें रोकने की दृष्टि से हमें अपने कानूनों में आवश्यक संशोधन करना होगा। वह पैसे का आवंटन हो सकता है, सरकार के द्वारा हो सकता है, अलग-अलग कम्पनियों और व्यक्तियों के द्वारा हो सकता है या फिर वह चुनाव की प्रक्रिया चलाने की नीति और नियमन का हो सकता है। इन सबकी पवित्रता बनाए रखने के लिए हम जितनी ताकत लगाएंगे, उतनी चुनाव व्यवस्था अपने आप सुधरेगी।

इसलिए केवल बाहरी ढांचे के बारे में न कहते हुए मेरा कहना यह है कि हमें मूल से ही समस्या के निराकरण के बारे में सोचना चाहिए। इसलिए प्रारम्भ से ही हमारी एथिक्स के द्वारा, नीति के द्वारा, मूल्य के द्वारा एक सुन्दर प्रजातंत्रीय व्यवस्था उभर कर आए, अच्छे लोग चुनाव में जीत कर आए, वे अमीर रहें या गरीब रहें, लेकिन अपने भारत के सर्वजन के हित सोचने वाले व्यक्ति बनें, इस दृष्टि से मैंने दो-चार सलाह देते हुए माननीय उपसभापति जी के द्वारा सरकार से विनती की है। सरकार इन चीजों को ध्यान में रख कर जल्दी-से-जल्दी कोई ऐसा प्रावधान बनाए, ताकि आज जो हम अपने प्रजातंत्र के बारे में दुनिया में गर्व से कहते हैं कि यह विश्व का सबसे बड़ा प्रजातंत्र है, इसके प्रति श्रद्धा बढ़े और पैसा ही सर्वश्रेष्ठ नहीं है, बल्कि हमारे देश का प्रजातंत्र उससे भी बढ़ कर कुछ मूल्यों के लिए समर्पित है, इसको दिखाने की दृष्टि से मैं इस संशोधन का समर्थन करते हुए यह विनती करता हूँ कि सरकार इस दिशा में एक ठोस पहल करे। धन्यवाद।

विधि और न्याय मंत्री (श्री अश्विनी कुमार): माननीय उपसभापति जी, सबसे पहले तो मैं आपके माध्यम से भाई भुपेन्द्र यादव जी और सभी सदस्यों का धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय को प्राइवेट मैम्बर्स बिल के माध्यम से इस सदन में उठाया है। मेरा मानना है कि आजाद हिन्दुस्तान की अगर कोई सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि है, तो वह है हमारा लोकतंत्र, हमारा प्रजातंत्र। मेरा यह भी मानना है कि पिछले कुछ सालों में इस

लोकतंत्र में, खास तौर पर चुनावी प्रक्रिया में कुछ त्रुटियाँ आई हैं, कुछ कमियाँ आई हैं और इन त्रुटियों का सीधा सम्बन्ध धन और बल के दुरुपयोग से है। यह हम सभी का विचार है और इसमें आम राय है। जहाँ तक चुनावी कानून हैं, जहाँ तक चुनावों में धन और बल के इस्तेमाल का मामला है, हमको मिल कर एक ऐसी स्थिति बनानी चाहिए, ऐसा कानून बनाना चाहिए, कानून में ऐसा सार्थक संशोधन लाना चाहिए, जिससे हमारे लोकतंत्र की जो गंगोत्री है, वह दूषित न रह कर, इस देश में निर्मल जल की धारा की तरह बहे। यह हमारे संविधान के निर्माताओं का, हमारे आजादी के सिपाहियों का ही सपना नहीं था, मैं समझता हूँ कि आने वाली पीढ़ियों की भी हमसे यही अपेक्षा है। अगर आज हम सब लोग मिल कर इस ओर कदम नहीं बढ़ाते तो कल हमें भी कटघरे में खड़ा किया जाएगा और मैं मानता हूँ कि आने वाली नस्लें हमसे यह पूछने की हकदार होंगी कि हमने जो मौका आपको दिया था, हमने जो ताकत आपको दी थी, आपने उस ताकत का सार्थक इस्तेमाल किया या नहीं?

जहाँ तक बुनियादी मुद्दों का सवाल है, मैं पूरी तौर से सरकार की ओर से यह स्वीकार करता हूँ कि आज आम राय बनाने की जरूरत है ताकि जो चुनावी रिफॉर्म्स हैं, उनकी ओर हम सार्थक कदम बढ़ा सकें। इस बात की पुष्टि इससे भी होती है कि इस मुद्दे पर यह जो डिबेट है, कम से कम मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार 1972 से यह चल रही है। 1972 में हमने Joint Parliamentary Committee का गठन किया, जिसके मुख्य Terms of Reference थे कि election laws में कैसे संशोधन किया जाए, ताकि चुनावी प्रक्रिया स्वच्छ हो सके और हमारा लोकतंत्र सशक्त हो सके। उसके बाद 1978 में तारकुंडे कमेटी बनी, फिर 1990 में दिनेश गोस्वामी कमेटी बनी, 1998 में भारत सरकार ने State Funding of Elections पर Specifically एक कमेटी का गठन किया। 1999 में Law Commission ने अपना एक पेपर निकाला, जिस पर election laws और उसके reform की बात हुई। 2001 में National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution बना, उसमें भी इस मुद्दे को उठाया गया, फिर इन्द्रजीत गुप्ता की रिपोर्ट आई, जिसका जिक्र आपने अपने भाषण में भी किया। ये सभी कमेटियाँ इस विषय को लेकर बनीं और बहुत से सक्षम और अच्छे सुझाव इन कमेटियों ने दिए। विडम्बना यह है कि इस बात को सब स्वीकार करते हैं कि कानून में परिवर्तन आए, इस बात को सब स्वीकार करते हैं कि आम राय बने और एक तरह से ये सभी निष्पक्ष कमेटियाँ थीं, bipartisan committees थीं, इनमें दलगत राजनीति का कोई सवाल नहीं था।

सभी माननीय सदस्य, सभी दल इस बात को स्वीकार करते हैं कि आज यह एक राष्ट्रीय जरूरत है। हमने भी इसी प्रक्रिया को आगे चलाया और 2005 में कैबिनेट ने फैसला किया ताकि आम राय बन सके। इसके बाद फरवरी, 2006 में All-party meeting हुई और 2010 में एक Core Committee बनी, जिसका मुख्य मकसद यह था कि इस चुनावी प्रक्रिया को आगे ले जाया जाए।

मैं आज आपकी भावनाओं से अपने आपको जोड़ते हुए आपको आश्वस्त करता हूँ कि इस कार्यक्रम को हम आगे बढ़ाएंगे, चुनाव की प्रक्रिया में सुधार लाएंगे, कानून का संशोधन

[श्री अश्विनी कुमार]

करेंगे, लेकिन इसके लिए आम राय बनानी जरूरी है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपसे निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप अपना यह बिल वापस लें। मैं आपको आश्वासन देता हूँ। हम सब मिलजुल कर इस देश में लोकतंत्र की जड़ों को कैसे मजबूत करना है, इस पर काम करेंगे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं सारे सदन का और आप सभी सांसदों का धन्यवाद करता हूँ। अभी कुछ खास परिस्थितियाँ हैं, जिनके बारे में होम मिनिस्टर साहब आपको बताएंगे।

श्री भुपेन्द्र यादव: माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने बड़े विस्तार से इस विषय पर अपनी गंभीरता जाहिर की है और उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया है। मैं इतना ही कहना चाहूँगा कि वह इस विषय पर सरकार की तरफ से कोई सार्थक कार्रवाई तुरंत करेंगे, इस प्रकार का आश्वासन दें, तो ज्यादा ठीक रहेगा। मैं इस आशा के साथ इस संकल्प को वापस लेता हूँ।

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

INFORMATION TO THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am deeply grieved to inform the august House about the sad demise of Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, former Prime Minister of India at 3.31 P.M. at Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As a mark of respect to late Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, former Prime Minister of India, the House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 A.M. on Monday, the 3rd December, 2012.

The House then adjourned at forty-six minutes past three of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 3rd December, 2012.