

Vol. 228
No. 11



Friday
8 March, 2013
17 Phalguna, 1934 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT
CONTENTS

Reference by the Chair—

Felicitations on International Women's Day (page 1-20)

Written Answers to Starred Questions (page 20-62)

Written Answers to Unstarred Questions (page 63-325)

Short Notice Question (page 62-63 and page 325-30)

Papers Laid on the Table (page 330-36)

Statement of Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Urban Development — *Laid on the Table* (page 337)

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2012-2013 — *Laid on the
Table* (page 337)

Statement regarding Government Business (page 337-38)

Motion of Thanks on the President's Address (page 338-47)

Private Member's Bills—

The Youth (Development and Welfare) Bill, 2012 — *Introduced*
(page 347-48)

The Special Financial Assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh Bill, 2012
— *Introduced* (page 348)

The Financial Assistance to Girl Child Belonging to Parents Living Below
Poverty Line Bill, 2012 — *Introduced* (page 348)

[P.T.O.]

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NEW DELHI

PRICE : **Rs. 50.00**

The Ban on Obscene Advertisements Bill, 2013 — *Introduced* (page 349)

The Prevention of Begging and Rehabilitation of Beggars Bill, 2013 —
Introduced (page 349)

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill,
2013 — *Introduced* (page 349)

The Official Languages Bill, 2012 — *Under Consideration* (page 350-92)

Special Mentions—

Need to set up CBI of Judicial Inquiry into the alleged irregularities in
debt waiver scheme for farmers in the country (page 393)

Concern over poor Government spending on healthcare — *Laid on the
Table* (page 394)

Need to take strict and necessary steps to curb menace of begging in the
country — *Laid on the Table* (page 395)

Need to re-frame rules to make medical education cheaper in the country
(page 395-96)

Need to prepare a vision document for railway connectivity of the country
to neighbouring countries (page 396-97)

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<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>
E-mail Address: rsedit-e@sansad.nic.in

PUBLISHED UNDER RULE 260 OR RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF
BUSINESS IN THE COUNCIL OF STATES (RAJYA SABHA) AND PRINTED BY
THE INDIAN PRESS, AZAD PUR, DELHI-110033

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 8th March, 2013/17th Phalguna, 1934 (Saka)

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

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

Felicitations on International Women's Day

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today, March 8, 2013, is International Women's Day, a day to celebrate and honour the untiring commitment and persistent efforts of women in India and throughout the world to achieve equality, justice and development. The UN theme for International Women's Day this year is "A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women".

Our Constitution has enshrined the ideals of gender equality and women's empowerment as fundamental to achieving equal rights and dignity for all. Today, though women have made remarkable progress in economic, political and social spheres, gender equality remains a distant dream and women's plight is gaining momentum throughout the country. Female foeticide, honour killing of girls, growing violence against women is a cause of concern to all of us. There is an urgent need to make self-introspection and shape public opinion and perceptions so that women can achieve their potential and live a dignified life.

On this occasion, I am sure all Members will join me in rededicating ourselves collectively towards making the cherished goal of women empowerment a living reality and to ensure progress and sustainable development of the country.

I have received requests from a number of Members who want to associate themselves on this very special occasion. I will take up the names as they have come and then any other Member who may wish to speak. *...(Interruptions)...* Shrimati Jaya Bachchan *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, आज सभी महिला सदस्यों को पहले बोलने का मौका दीजिए। *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up the Question Hour after we finish this. *...(Interruptions)...* This is a special occasion. *...(Interruptions)...* I have called another

Member. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mrs. Bachchan. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please make it as brief as possible so that we can have other Members also who wish to associate themselves.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, thank you very much. It is a pity that when we are to talk about women, we have to be brief. But, I am going to try. ...(*Interruptions*)... Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please proceed. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA (Bihar): More time should be allotted for this so that all of us can participate. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री सभापति : गुप्ता जी, आप बैठ जाइए।...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, article 14 of the Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality before the law. The Father of the Nation famously said, "Intellectually, mentally and spiritually, woman is equivalent to a male and she can participate in every activity." Gurudev Tagore said, "For women are not only the deities of the household fire, but the flame of the soul itself." Subramanya Bharathi in one of his poems, Marasu, said, "Out of the two eyes, if you pierce and destroy one, are you not spoiling your own vision?" Sarojini Naidu said long back, "Oh, we want a new breed of men before India can be cleansed of her disease." It sounds so apt today. These are quotes of progressive minds. सर, बचपन से हम निडर होकर घूमते थे, किसी प्रकार के भय का आभास नहीं था। आजादी का अहसास था। जिंदगी के मूल्यों के बारे में हम शिक्षित थे। आज इस उम्र में मन में डर है। अकेले बाहर जाने से पहले सोचना पड़ता है। लगता है कि हम आज की पीढ़ी को जिंदगी के मूल्यों के बारे में ढंग से शिक्षित नहीं कर पाये। Events in the recent past have put us all to shame. In the 21st century instead of being progressive, we are getting regressive. The UN declares, as you have just said, the theme for International Women's Day 2013 and it is, "A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women."

What is there to celebrate? If we are able to change the mindset and instill respect for the girl child and women and ensure their security and dignity, then, in the true sense, every day shall be a Women's Day, rather than observing one single day. Delivering lofty speeches and, then, read in the next day newspapers the incidents of rape, molestation, harassment, humiliation, and to top it all, public thrashing of women by protectors of law. सर, हमें ऐसा निडर वातावरण बनाना पड़ेगा, जिसमें महिलाएं और बच्चे आजादी के साथ जी सकें। यदि ऐसा हो जाए, तो मुझे महिला दिवस मनाने की इच्छा और खुशी होगी। तब तक नहीं

सर, मैं बच्चन जी की कविता से दो लाइनें पढ़ना चाहती हूँ। मैं सोचती हूँ कि ये महिलाओं के ऊपर लागू होती हैं।

वह किसे दोषी बताए और किसको दुख सुनाए।
जबकि मिट्टी साथ, मिट्टी के करे अन्याय।
मिट्टी दीन, कितनी हाय।

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं आज के इस महिला दिवस पर आपको तथा सभी सांसदों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं देना चाहती हूँ। इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी बताना चाहती हूँ कि जो महिला आरक्षण विधेयक लोक सभा और राज्य सभा में 1996 में रखा गया था और जिसका अभी तक कोई हल नहीं निकला है, मैं यहां उस बिल का जिक्क करना चाहती हूँ। हमारे भूतपूर्व नेता राजीव गांधी जी ने हिन्दुस्तान की महिलाओं को 33 परसेंट रिजर्वेशन दिया और हिन्दुस्तान में पंचायती राज के माध्यम से तीस लाख लोग चुनकर आते थे, जिनमें से दस लाख महिलाएं चुनकर आने लगीं। सामाजिक कार्यों में भी महिलाओं को साथ लेने का काम राजीव जी ने ही शुरू किया था। आगे चलकर कांग्रेस पार्टी और हमारी नेता सोनिया गांधी ने 33 परसेंट का 50 परसेंट रिजर्वेशन अन्य राज्यों में लागू किया है। मैं इस सदन में अनुरोध करना चाहती हूँ कि अगर आज हम सही मायनों इस महिला दिवस को मनाना चाहते हैं, तो लोक सभा में जो हमारा महिला रिजर्वेशन बिल पेंडिंग है, इस महिला दिवस के अवसर पर उसे पारित किया जाए और महिलाओं को राज्य सभा, लोक सभा, विधान सभा और विधान परिषदों में 33 परसेंट रिजर्वेशन दिया जाए। सर, अभी माननीय सदस्या ने जो बातें कहीं हैं, ये बातें तय करने के लिए महिलाओं का साथ होना जरूरी है। अगर इस हाउस में 33 परसेंट महिलाएं आती हैं, अगर महिलाओं का सहयोग मिलता है, तो महिलाओं के लिए जो कायदे-कानून बनाए जाते हैं, उनको बनाने में ज्यादा आसानी होगी।

सर, इस वर्ष के बजट में जो विषय दिए गए हैं, उनमें निर्भया स्कीम है, महिला बैंक है, इनसे पता चलता है कि अगर किसी ने महिलाओं के बारे में सोचने का काम किया है, तो सिर्फ कांग्रेस पार्टी ने किया है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please confine to your subject. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल : जो महिलाओं के लिए कानून बनाए गए हैं, वे कांग्रेस ने ही बनाए हैं। धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, taking advantage of this opportunity on International Women's Day, I would say that my heart goes to Nirbhaya who was given International Women Courage Award by the USA recently and salute Malala who is, I think, going to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Both of them have shown exemplary courage and became icons of inspiration for

women and girls all over the world. I want that every woman in this country should be as courageous as they are. And, I would not hesitate to say that the time has come that every girl and woman in this country to become *Mata Kali* and punish all those brutal creatures who try to molest or abuse them.

Sir, many of my friends have spoken the endless agonies and plight of women in this country. Where do you want me to start from? Do you want me to start from rape cases in this country, which have gone up from 16,300 in 2002 to 25,000 now; or from the cases of molestation which have gone from 34,000 in 2002 to more than 43,000 now; or, from the cases of dowry deaths, which have gone up from 6,800 in 2002 to nearly 9,000 now; or, from the cases of cruelty by relatives which have gone up from 49,200 in 2002 to more than a lakh now? Take any kind of atrocity on women, they are always at the receiving end. As per the NCRB, there is an increase of more than 70 per cent of all crimes against women between 2002 and now. The Government is saying that it is bringing the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill to curb these.

I would say it is good. But, I strongly feel that unless and until there is a change in the mindset of male towards female, this agony will continue. I am not asking you to show any magnanimity. I am not asking you to give us any equal status. I am only asking you to treat us as your fellow human beings. Sir, the successive Governments have been chanting about passing of the Women's Reservation Bill. I am very grateful to the hon. Chairman that we have passed this Bill in this very House. But it is still languishing in Lok Sabha. I urge the Government to pass this Bill in Lok Sabha and give women the real empowerment. I also request for giving 33 per cent reservation to women in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils as well. It is only then the present situation can be changed.

Lastly, Sir, I conclude by quoting what Mahatma Gandhi said. He said:

“To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman. If by strength is meant brute strength, then, indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior... Without her, man could not be. If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with woman. Who can make a more effective appeal to the heart than woman?”

Thank you, Sir.

श्रीमती स्मृति जुबिन ईरानी (गुजरात) : सर, गुजराती में एक कहावत है, “नारी ने निन्दो नहीं, नारी नर नी खान, नारी थी नर नीपजे, ध्रुव प्रह्लाद समान।” वह नारी, जो ध्रुव और प्रह्लाद जैसे महापुरुषों को जन्म देती है, आज इस सदन की ओर से मैं उस महिला को सदन में, संसद में और पूरे देश में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अवसर पर साधुवाद देती हूँ और शुभकामनाएँ देती हूँ। आज इस सदन में हमारी कई महिला सांसद महिलाओं की चुनौतियों के बारे में बोलेंगी। अभी-अभी रेप कितने हुए हैं, कानूनी प्रक्रिया में महिलाओं के सामने कितनी चुनौती है, उस पर चर्चा हुई है। आज सुबह अखबार में सुर्खियों में पढ़ने में आया है कि किस प्रकार के कॉरपोरेट जगत में जो सीनियर मैनेजमेंट लेवल है, जो डायरेक्टर्स हैं, उनमें महिलाओं की भूमिका मात्र 7 प्रतिशत है, लेकिन आज हमारे देश में असंगठित क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की भूमिका और योगदान 90 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच गया है। ऐसे वातावरण में, जहां माना जाता है कि अगर महिला को कम वेतन दोगे, तो भी महिला काम करेगी, अगर महिला को मैटरनिटी बेनिफिट नहीं दोगे, तो भी महिला काम करेगी, अगर आप महिला को इंश्योरेंस नहीं दोगे, तो भी महिला काम करेगी, क्योंकि महंगाई के इस माहौल में महिला ऐसे वातावरण में काम करने के लिए मजबूर होती है। मुझे लगता है कि अगर सरकार को इस देश की महिला की चिंता है और महिला सुरक्षा उसकी प्राथमिकता है, तो सबसे पहले महिला की आर्थिक असुरक्षा को हटाना होगा, महंगाई को घटाना होगा और उसकी रसोई में एलपीजी के कैप को हटा कर एलपीजी के सिलिंडर्स को बढ़ाना होगा। आज इस सदन के माध्यम से मैं देश भर की महिलाओं से कहना चाहती हूँ कि सदन में, संसद में या फिर टीवी डिबेट में हम सब राजनीतिक पार्टियों के बीच में राजनीतिक मतभेद तो होता है, लेकिन कम-से-कम हमारा यह प्रयास होगा कि इस सदन में जब महिला का विषय आए, तो मतभेद कभी न हो। आज इस सदन के माध्यम से मैं महिला के धैर्य को, महिला के साहस को और महिला के सामर्थ्य को पंडित अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की कुछ पंक्तियां समर्पित करती हूँ, जिन्होंने कहा, “न हार में, न जीत में, किंचित नहीं भयभीत में, संघर्ष पथ पर जो मिले, यह भी सही, वह भी सही, हार मानूंगी नहीं।” A very happy women’s day to all of you. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI (Punjab): Sir, on International Women’s Day, I congratulate all my colleagues in this House, in the other House and all over the country. Sir, you have rightly made the appropriate announcement of the UN motto for this day, that is, “A promise is a promise. Time for action to end violence against women.” I think we could not, in today’s day and time, have a more appropriate invocation to mankind, women and men, for ending violence on, at least, 50 per cent of our population. I have always been convinced that women are an economic entity. We may or may not put value to the work they do, but they enable their husbands, their sons and their brothers to go out and work and make a country go forward.

I would be the last person to try and score any political points on this subject because I do feel that the Women's Reservation Bill may have got held up or how we passed it in this House we remember very well, it is not quite the way we would like to see the Women's Reservation Bill passed. I would appeal to all our Members in the Lok Sabha that they rise above their political commitments and look at women as an entity to make the country go forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is better not to refer to the other House.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: All right. I won't. Sir, 33 per cent women have been given reservation in the local body elections. It was such a success story that today the country is saying, 50 per cent reservation; and I feel convinced that it is that reservation enabling and empowering women at the grassroots level, which has today made you talk of a 'Nirbhaya'; it is that empowerment, at the very grassroots level, of women we don't recognize that you have a *dalit* woman stand up and say, 'I will not sit down till I get justice'; a young Muslim widow stands up and says that 'I will not rest till I get justice.' It is that empowerment which we all have given to women at the grassroots level. This should encourage us, all of us, all across the country, pan politics, to give women that empowerment in the *Vidhan Sabhas* and the Parliament. Thank you.

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): Thank you, Sir, for giving us this opportunity. आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया। 1975 में जब यूनाइटेड नेशंस की तरफ से अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला वर्ष की घोषणा हुई थी, उसके तीन मोटो थे – Equality, Development and Peace. इन 38 बरसों में हमारे देश में महिलाओं के लिए बहुत कुछ हुआ है। उन्हें 33% रिज़र्वेशन मिला, अभी अम्बिका जी ने इसका जिक्र भी किया। इसी हाऊस ने, इसी पार्लियामेंट ने उसे सर्वसम्मति से पास किया। इसके साथ-साथ आज 50% महिलाएं लोकल बॉडीज़ में काम कर रही हैं।

सर, Equality की तरफ कदम बढ़े, Development की तरफ भी कदम बढ़े, लेकिन Peace की तरफ कदम रुक गए। आज अखबार पढ़ते हैं तो देख कर दुःख होता है कि हम Equality की बात करते हैं, Development की बात करते हैं, लेकिन Peace की बात नहीं करते। आज महिला के दिमाग में Peace नहीं है। सर, आज मैं आपके माध्यम से यहां अपने साथियों से और सरकार से यह पूछना चाहूंगी कि आखिर महिलाओं के साथ इतने अत्याचार और दरिंदगी का बर्ताव क्यों किया जा रहा है? मैं एक निर्भया की बात नहीं करती, मैं दूसरी ओर लड़कियों की बात भी करती हूँ कि जिनकी खबर तक हमको नहीं आती। छोटे शहरों, गांवों और गालियों में तो क्या आज महिला अपनी मां के पेट में भी स्वयं को सुरक्षित नहीं समझती। उसकी

हदें बढ़ गई हैं। पहले उसकी मां का womb था, उसके बाद उसकी मां के दरवाजे की दहलीज़ थी, फिर घर की दहलीज़ थी और फिर वह वहीं तक सीमित रह गई। उसकी जमीन भी चौकोर थी और उसका आसमान भी चौकोर था।

हमारे देश में देवियों को पूजने की बहुत पुरानी परम्परा है। शक्ति की देवी, शिक्षा की देवी और धन की देवी की पूजा की जाती है, फिर हमारे देश में ऐसी मानसिकता क्यों आई? वही लोग, जो उन देवियों की पूजा करते हैं, वे लक्ष्मी, सरस्वती या दुर्गा के नाम की लड़की के साथ बलात्कार कैसे कर सकते हैं? सर, यहां पर लेजिस्लेशन लाने का सवाल नहीं है, सवाल मानसिकता को बदलने का है। **There has to be a holistic approach to it.** क्या हमारी एजुकेशन प्रणाली में कमी है या क्या हमारे टेलीविज़न और मीडिया में कोई कमी है, यह चीज़ सरकार को सोचनी चाहिए। जहां तक मानसिकता को बदलने की बात है, वह किसी कानून के जरिए नहीं बदली जा सकती। यह काम सब लोगों की मदद से हो सकता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

डा. नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : मैं अपने भाइयों से कहती हूँ, बहुत मेहरबानी है कि चेयरमैन साहब ने महिलाओं को रिकगनाइज़ किया। सर, हमारे पुरुषों को भी थोड़ा recognition मिले..

श्री सभापति : पहले आप अपनी बात खत्म कर लीजिए, तभी तो..

डा. नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : सर, मैं अपनी बात जरूर खत्म कर दूंगी। आज की लड़की तो पेट में ही खत्म कर दी जाती है। अब आप हाउस में भी हमारी ज़बान पर...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : नहीं, be fair to other Members, who are waiting to speak.

डा. नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : मैं जानती हूँ, सर!...(व्यवधान).... समय भी है, वेटिंग का सवाल नहीं है।

सर, यहां पर 33 परसेंट रिजर्वेशन की बात की गई। इस हाउस में सबसे पहले मैंने यह मामला उठाया था, जिस पर सारे पुरुषों ने मदद की थी। आज मैं सोचती हूँ कि जो हमारे हाउस ने पास किया है, वह पार्लियामेंट को भी पास कर देना चाहिए, तो वह बिल पारित हो जाएगा, सर, महिलाओं को कहीं सत्ता में भागीदारी दिखाने को तो मिल जाए। इन्हीं सब शब्दों के साथ, मैं आप सब लोगों का शुक्रिया अदा करती हूँ।

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहती हूँ कि आपने प्रश्न काल की शुरुआत में ही इस अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अवसर पर हम सब को बोलने का मौका दिया। मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से देश की सभी बहनों को इस अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अवसर पर बधाई देती हूँ। मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि आज हम सब महिलाओं के प्रति सम्मान प्रदर्शित करने की सिर्फ औपचारिकताएँ ही न निभाएँ। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस समाज में महिलाओं को पुरुषों के समान अधिकार, सम्मान और सुरक्षा दिलाने के हमारे प्रयास

और हमारी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रतीक है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ हर वर्ष इसके लिए एक थीम निर्धारित करता है। जैसा जया जी ने और अम्बिका सोनी जी ने बताया कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ की इस बार की थीम है: “A promise is a promise. Time for action to end violence against women.” भारत के परिप्रेक्ष्य में यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। स्वतंत्रता के पश्चात् भारतीय महिलाओं की स्थिति में बहुत ही सुधार आया है, इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है। महिलाओं ने हर क्षेत्र में अपनी क्षमताओं और योग्यताओं के अनुसार अपना स्थान बनाया है, जगह बनाई है। लेकिन, इसके बावजूद भी सब से भयानक पक्ष यह है कि आज भी देश में निरंतर पग-पग पर महिलाएँ प्रताड़ित हो रही हैं, चाहे वह कन्या भ्रूण हत्या का मसला हो, दहेज की बात हो, बाल-विवाह की बात हो अथवा अशिक्षा, घरेलू हिंसा, हत्या, अपहरण या बलात्कार की घटनाएँ हों। हाल ही में हुए दामिनी जैसे जघन्य अपराध ने तो पूरे देश को हिला कर रख दिया है। इसके बाद कई ऐसे राजनीतिक, सामाजिक और कानूनी प्रावधानों पर नज़र दौड़ाई गई और कानूनों को और अधिक सख्त करने, कठोर बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही है, लेकिन इन सब के बावजूद ऐसी घटनाओं पर कहीं रोक लगती नहीं दिख रही है। यह हमारे लिए चिन्ता का विषय है। मैं तो यह कहना चाहूंगी कि हम कानूनों में कठोर प्रावधान करें, लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ हमारी पैनी नज़र इस पर भी होनी चाहिए कि उन सब का क्रियान्वयन भी सही ढंग से हो।

सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूंगी कि देश की महिलाओं का धीरज टूट रहा है, क्योंकि 33 परसेंट आरक्षण का बिल राज्य सभा में तो पास हो चुका है, लेकिन...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No reference to the other House, please.

श्रीमती माया सिंह : सर, मैं सदन के माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगी कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस की सार्थकता हम तभी सिद्ध कर पाएँगे, जब यह बिल पास हो जाए और इसका लाभ महिलाएँ जल्दी-से-जल्दी ले सकें। अब सिर्फ नियम और कानून बनाने से गुजारा नहीं चलेगा और न ही इससे सरकार, प्रशासन और समाज के कर्तव्य की इतिश्री होगी, बल्कि हमें यह संकल्प लेना होगा कि कोई भी बच्ची, महिला और बुजुर्ग महिला हो, सब को सम्मानजनक और सुरक्षित जीवन देने की हम सब की प्रतिबद्धता हो और हम सब यहां ऐसा संकल्प लें। इसके साथ ही साथ मैं युवाओं से भी कहना चाहूंगी कि नवयुवक भी भारतीय संस्कृति और गरिमा को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह प्रण करें कि वे किसी महिला की अस्मिता पर आँच नहीं आने देंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please conclude now.

श्रीमती माया सिंह : सर, मैं स्वामी विवेकानन्द जी की 150वीं जयंती के अवसर पर उनकी कुछ पंक्तियाँ सिर्फ महिलाओं के परिप्रेक्ष्य में कहना चाहूंगी कि ‘वर्तमान गढ़ो रे, अतीत पढो रे..!’ हमारा अतीत बहुत ही गौरवशाली रहा है। भारतीय संस्कृति में महिलाओं को बहुत सम्मान मिला है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mayaji, please conclude.

श्रीमती माया सिंह : इसलिए-

‘वर्तमान गढ़ो रे, अतीत पढ़ो रे।
यत्नों की चौखट में भाग्य मढ़ो रे।
जागो, उठो, आगे बढ़ो रे।’

धन्यवाद।

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I am doubly delighted today to speak because after all those ladies I am the first gentleman to get an opportunity. Sir, we all know that today is Women's Day, but if you ask somebody when is Men's Day, none of us may really know. Men's Day is actually on November the 19th. But the way the men have dominated the other 364 days, we only remember March the 8th. But officially Men's Day is November the 19th. Sir, before we get to legislation or before we get to the big issues, in our homes — I just think, in a small way — all of us, Members of Parliament here, need to first be better husbands to our wives; we need to be better children to our mothers; we need to be better brothers to our sisters. It starts with small things in our life. And, I think, majority of MPs here will agree that bosses as in lady *netas* make better bosses than male *netas*, as in AIADMK, as in BSP, as in TMC, as in Congress and in so many parties. ...(*Interruptions*)... Today, in Bengal, a historic Bill is being passed by the Assembly. It is *Kanya Shree* Bill. Because of time constraint, I don't want to get into the details of the Bill, but I request the States across to read this *Kanya Shree* Bill and see how we can take it further. Sir, Bengal believes in *Ma Mati Manush* and the beautiful thing about *Ma Mati Manush* is the word 'Ma', which is a part of *Ma*, which is a part of *Mati* and which is also a part of *Manush*. So, we can get woman out of everything in Bengal. Sir, when we were young — and I am still young, I believe — we would give flowers to our loved ones on Women's Day. So, hope, we can still give flowers to all our loved ones on Women's Day. Now, instead of giving flowers on Women's Day, we have to offer them pepper spray.

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद, सभापति महोदय। महोदय, आपने मुझे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के मौके पर अपनी बात रखने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं हृदय से आपका आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, साथ ही साथ अपने देश के सभी महिलाओं को श्रद्धा के साथ हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ। सर, हमारी नेता बहन कुमार मायावती जी का मानना है कि इस देश के अंदर शहरों में रहने वाली माताएं तथा बहनें तो बड़ी संख्या में आगे बढ़ रही हैं, उनको जीवन के हर पहलू में आगे बढ़ने का मौका मिला है, लेकिन गांवों और करबों में रहने वाली

हमारी माताएं एवं बहनें अभी भी बड़ी बुरी हालत में जिंदगी व्यतीत कर रही हैं। उनको अभी भी जीवन के हर पहलू में आगे बढ़ने का मौका नहीं मिला है। जीवन के लिए दैनिक उपयोग की जो वस्तुएं हैं, वे आज भी उन्हें बड़ी मुसीबत से मिल पाती हैं। वह अपने बच्चों का, अपने पति की किस ढंग से परवरिश करती है, उसके बारे में हमें सोचना होगा। हम इस देश के अंदर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस को तभी सफल बना सकते हैं, जब कि हम शहरों के साथ-साथ गांवों को लेकर चलें। गांव की उन माताओं-बहनों को साथ लेकर चलें, जो फूस की झोंपड़ी में अपने बच्चों का पेट भरने के लिए, बरसात के दिनों में, जाड़े के दिनों में अपने बच्चे को अपने आंचल से छिपा कर, अपनी आधी धोती को उसे ओढ़ा कर उसके जीवन को आगे बढ़ाने का काम करती हैं। हम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस को तभी सार्थक कर पाएंगे, जब उनके बारे में मूल रूप से यहां से कोई कानून बना कर गांवों की महिलाओं को आगे बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे।

सर, महिला आरक्षण बिल की चर्चा चल रही थी, यह राज्य सभा से पारित हो चुका है और यह दूसरे सदन में लंबित है। इस संबंध में हम यह कहना चाहेंगे कि महिला आरक्षण बिल पास हो, लेकिन हमारी वे महिलाएं, जो दलित समाज से आती हैं, बैकवर्ड समाज से आती हैं, आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर महिलाएं, जो फारवर्ड क्लास से आती हैं, अल्पसंख्यक समाज से आती हैं, उनके बारे में भी अलग से सोचना होगा। कहीं ऐसा न हो कि उनकी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित न हो पाए। सर, मैं ज्यादा वक्त न लेते हुए आपसे सिर्फ यही कहना चाहूंगा कि गांवों में रहने वाली उन माताओं और बहनों के बारे में हमें गहन रूप से विचार कर उनके लिए सीधे कोई कानून बनाना होगा, तभी यह अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस सार्थक हो सकेगा। धन्यवाद, जय भीम, जय भारत।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. On behalf of the DMK Party, we are very happy to extend the bouquet of wishes to the woman community who form the axis of our society. Sir, I am proud to be a member of this movement because of basic principle of our movement is to uplift the suppressed and depressed classes in the society socially and also fight for the causes of women. Sir, our mentor, *Thanthai Periyar*, used to say, "As you cannot differentiate between the right hand and the left hand of a person, you cannot also discriminate between men and women in the society." So also, we have always fought for the causes of women and we were the first advocates for the remarriage of widows in this society. When women were married at an early stage and if they happened to become widows, their entire rest of the life was deserted and our foremost advocacy at that period was that those women should not be deserted and they should get a second life in their future. So also, I am proud to say, as Shrimati Ambika Soni has said, that reservation for women in Assemblies and Parliament is necessary, there is also a very big necessity for reservation in employment opportunities for the women.

Sir, when we were ruling in Tamil Nadu, we had reserved 33 per cent of job opportunities to women and our leader, Dr. Kalaignar, had taken a step at that time that up to primary school levels, only women would be employed as teachers, for only they can teach the children in the right manner. So, all through these days, we have advocated for the causes of women. Even this 50 per cent of reservation to women in local bodies and 33 per cent reservation was first brought in Tamil Nadu when we were ruling the State. So, I am saying this because whenever we have been in power, we have done, through legislation, and whenever we have not been in power, we have fought for the causes of women. We feel and we realise that without women, the society is not complete and our great Bharathiar has written that means, "There is equality between men and women and whoever tries to insult women should be brought to the dust". It is the motto of Tamil Nadu and on behalf of Tamil Nadu and our leader, Dr. Kalaignar, and the DMK Party, I extend warm wishes to the woman community at large once again. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, today, we are observing the Women's Day internationally. We are observing it with an aim to protect and further extend women's rights for the equal share in the nation building. But, what do we see, Sir? What is the reality today? Violence against women all over the country, including the capital, Delhi, is increasing. Equal pay for equal work is still a night dream. Sir, the activities of *khap panchayat* have worried us. We have very recently discussed harassment of women at the workplace. All of us should take oath to stop this violence against women. Sir, yes, we have achieved women's share in the local bodies. The Bill relating to women's reservation has been passed here, but it is still pending, and on this day, we hope that it will get the approval of the Parliament. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, we are observing the International Women's Day today with a very mixed feeling. On the one side, we see that the Indian woman has been empowered to a great extent. The Indian Constitution has mandated that men and women are equal and that, in fact, proactively, the legislation and policies could be made in favour of women.

On the other side, there have been several laws which have been legislated to abate the atrocities against women. We have ratified several international conventions and India has been proudly taking steps in that direction.

Fifty per cent reservation at Local Self-Government has been absolutely a great step taken by our Government. On the other side, from the Five Year Plans, we

see that our country has moved forward from a welfare approach to a developmental approach, and, then, to an empowerment approach, and, now looking at women as agents of change certainly means coming a long way. Sir, we have to admit that on the other side, ray of development has still not reached all the women in our country; in fact, a major chunk still remains in the dark four walls. Therefore, I think, on this date, all of us, not just the women but every citizen in this country, need to dedicate ourselves to make sure that every woman is treated as not just a single entity, and, that a woman's right is a human right. Therefore, if we really have to uplift the society, we have to make sure that women are made a part of the entire process. I think, it is certainly a challenge for us to change the mindset of everybody in this country. We have certainly come a long way.

Just last week, we passed the Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention) Bill. We have to make sure that several such legislation, several such policies and programmes are made to make sure that the women are really looked after and women are made actual agents of change in this process.

I would like to bring to notice of this House that even before the Parliament passed the 74th amendment, the Government of Maharashtra under the leadership of the then Chief Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, mandated that thirty per cent reservation may be made at Local Self Government. It was a women's policy, the first of its kind to be drafted in the whole country, and, therefore, such steps have really taken us a long way. Initially, the mark sheet of our children carried only the name of the father, and, now it carries the name of the mother. These are the steps which make us feel that we are definitely being looked after as equal partners in the society. But, I think, we need to do much more and go a long way. Thank you.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, my Party, the Communist Party of India, joins you as also the entire House in greeting our women, the women who are toiling in the fields, who are working in the factories, who are working in offices, and, who are the house-makers at large.

Thanks to Dr. Ambedkar and the galaxy of leaders, we have a Constitution, which is a Republican Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar said, "Democracy is a way of life". The democracy in our country started its glorious journey having parliamentary democratic system, giving adult franchise irrespective of gender but the journey of our democracy continues to be turbulent and the primary cause for this turbulence is the continuous denial of equality and dignity to our women.

Parliament, being the law-making body of the country, and, being the supreme forum of democracy in our country, should take all steps to ensure political empowerment, economic empowerment, social empowerment and educational empowerment of women. To begin with, the Women Reservation Bill, which is pending before the Parliament, must be taken up with a sense of urgency and the Parliament must pass that Bill. That will be a concrete step in the direction in which we will have to go forward, and, our democracy will be more matured enough, otherwise, our nation cannot claim to be a civilized nation and our society cannot claim to be a civilized society as long as we deny equality and dignity to our women, and, faster it is done the better it is. Thank you very much.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir. India is one ancient land that has acknowledged feminine divinity. It has been worshipping women as *matrushakti*. In spite of the serious differences, serious deviations in the recent past, the Indian model of preserving a space for women in the society by providing her respect instead of rights is the singular distinction between our society and the western society. I am proud and privileged to be led by an illustrious, bold and patriotic national woman leader of the nation. It was my leadership, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, who initiated the 'Cradle Baby Scheme' to prevent female infanticide, the all-women police stations to handle cases relating to the offences against women, the women commando battalion, the women self-help groups and *mahila* courts. Last month, we have inaugurated the subsidy canteens all over Chennai where you get *idli* for one rupee and it is run essentially by the women self-help group of the city. Three years ago, we had passed the Women's Reservation Bill. On this occasion, my only wish is that we face the 2014 Lok Sabha elections with 33 per cent women reservation. Thank you, Sir.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार) : सभापति महोदय, अभी पंचायतों और नगर निकाओं में महिलाओं के 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण की चर्चा की गई, मुझे इस बात का फख है कि मैं यहां जिस राज्य का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहा हूं, वहां पहली दफा इस देश में नीतीश कुमार जी के नेतृत्व में हमारी सरकार ने इस 33 प्रतिशत के आरक्षण को बढ़ाकर 50 प्रतिशत किया है। उसका नतीजा यह है कि आज अन्य राज्यों में भी पंचायतों और नगर निकायों में 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण मिल रहा है, और तो और भारत सरकार ने भी इस 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण को माना है और अब भारत सरकार भी पंचायतों और नगर निकायों में 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण देने जा रही है।

सभापति महोदय, हम लोग हिन्दुस्तान में मर्दों के व्यवहार में एक अजीब अंतर्विरोध देखते हैं। हमने देखा है कि इस देश में जब इंदिरा गांधी जी प्रधानमंत्री थीं, तो हमें याद है कि

किसी अखबार वाले ने अंग्रेजी में लिखा था कि उस एंटायर कैबिनेट में वहीं अकेले एक मर्द थी।

डा. कर्ण सिंह (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली) : उस में हम भी थे।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : सर, आज के दिन भी हम देख रहे हैं कि जय ललिता जी, जिनके बारे में मैत्रेयन जी ने चर्चा की, वहां जब जय ललिता जी की तस्वीरें उनकी पार्टी के मंत्रिमंडल के सदस्यों के साथ छपती हैं, तो किस मुद्रा में मर्द नजर आते हैं, यह भी हम लोग देखते हैं। वहीं नहीं, यहां हम लोग रोज देखते हैं कि मायावती जी जब आती हैं तो उनके सामने क्या व्यवहार रहता है। ममता जी भी जैसे पश्चिमी बंगाल में हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सुखेन्दु शेखर राय (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : कांग्रेस का भी बोलिए।

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : तो यह अंतर्विरोध जो है, वह हम देखते हैं।

सभापति जी, हम एक बात की गुजारिश करना चाहेंगे और वह यह कि हम लोग जो अपने आपको बहुत सभ्य लोग मानते हैं और जिनको हम असभ्य मानते हैं, उस आदिवासी समाज से हमें कुछ सीखना चाहिए। रांची में जब हम विद्यार्थी थे, तो वहां हमने देखा था कि आदिवासी समाज में औरतों और मर्दों के बीच में एक सहज रिश्ता है। उस आदिवासी समाज से हम सीख सकते हैं। हमने देखा है कि ट्रकों में, ट्रेक्टर की ट्रॉली में महिला और पुरुष एक साथ काम की तलाश में जा रहे हैं, अलग-बगल में बैठे हैं, जवान लड़के-लड़कियां साथ बैठे हैं, एक पुरुष की पत्नी दूसरे पुरुष के साथ सहज भाव से बैठी हुई है, कहीं उनमें कोई विकृति नहीं है। हमारे आधुनिक समाज में क्या है? जब किसी लड़की के साथ, किसी औरत के साथ बलात्कार हो जाता है तो हम उसको अछूत मान लेते हैं, उस औरत को कोढ़ी मान लेते हैं, उसको हेय दृष्टि से देखते हैं, मगर आदिवासी समाज में किसी महिला के साथ बलात्कार होती है तो समाज में उसको कहीं से कलंकित नहीं माना जाता है और यदि कोई अविवाहित लड़की मां बन जाती है उसके बच्चे का समाज पूरा लालन-पालन करता है, उसका शादी-ब्याह होता है। तो जिनको हम असभ्य मानते हैं, वह समाज औरत और मर्द के बीच के संबंध का एक आदर्श हमारे सामने उपस्थित करता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : सर, हमें आज के दिन इस बात की तलाश करनी चाहिए कि जो तथाकथित हम सभ्य लोग हैं, उनको महिलाओं के साथ किस तरह का व्यवहार करना चाहिए? इसका आज तक हमें पता नहीं चला है। दूसरा, जिनको हम असभ्य मानते हैं उनके यहां जो औरत और मर्द के बीच एक आदर्श रिश्ता है, उसका क्या कारण है? इसका पता लगाना चाहिए और उसको अपने आचरण में उतारना चाहिए। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Kumar Deepak Das.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to speak a few words on the International Women's Day. Sir, on this day I wish not a single woman faces crime as prevailed in the uncivilised society. They should be free from inequality that they have faced in the previous years. We also wish that not a single woman is killed in the name of 'Dayani' or witch. Let us legislate to provide equal rights to the women as men are enjoying. I wish a very happy International Women's Day to every woman and mother in this country. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Shri Prem Chand Gupta.

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता : सभापति जी, आपने मुझे आज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के मौके पर यहां बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के संदर्भ में डा. राम मनोहर लोहिया को याद करना बड़ा आवश्यक है और आपको ध्यान होगा कि सबसे पहले उन्होंने ही नर-नारी समता समाज का विचार रखा था। उन्होंने कहा था कि जब तक किसी समाज में नर और नारी को समान अधिकार नहीं दिया जाएगा, समान स्थान नहीं दिया जाएगा, तब तक वह समाज आगे नहीं बढ़ सकता है। आज हमें उनको याद करना चाहिए और इस समानता को खाली बातों तक सीमित न रखकर, इसे वास्तविक रूप देना ही उनके प्रति सबसे बड़ी श्रद्धा का द्योतक होगा।

सभापति जी, केरल में आज जिस प्रकार से तरक्की हो रही है, उसका मुख्य कारण यह है कि वहां महिलाओं को शिक्षा दी गई, उसके बाद उनको जिस ढंग से opportunities मिलीं, वह पूरे देश और दुनिया के सामने है। तभी पार्टियों में आपस में बात होती है कि women reservation का issue आना चाहिए, लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि किस पार्टी ने लोक सभा में, राज्य सभा में, विधान सभा में या विधान परिषद् में 33 परसेंट, 30 परसेंट, 35 परसेंट या 50 परसेंट महिलाओं को रिज़र्वेशन दिया है? किसने उन्हें रोका है? आज कुछ पार्टियां कहती हैं कि यह होना चाहिए और हम लोगों को उसमें villain बनाया जाता है, लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि किस पार्टी ने दिया है? टिकट देना तो उनकी अपनी लीडरशिप के हाथ में है, वे अपनी पार्टी की ओर से क्यों नहीं 30 प्रतिशत या 35 प्रतिशत सीटें महिलाओं को देते हैं?

सभापति जी, इस समाज को समतामूलक समाज बनाने के लिए आवश्यक है कि महिलाओं को उनका उच्च स्थान दिया जाए। इसके लिए मैं आपको एक बार फिर धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं यह निवेदन करता हूँ कि हमें एक hypocritical approach न अपनाकर एक practical approach अपनानी चाहिए। हमारी पार्टी कभी भी इस Women's Reservation Bill के खिलाफ नहीं थी, न है और न होगी, लेकिन हम चाहते हैं कि एक practical approach अपनाई जाए, ताकि जो दलित महिलाएं हैं, जो अल्पसंख्यक महिलाएं हैं, उनको उसमें पूरा स्थान मिल सके।

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today is the International Women's Day. On behalf of the Biju Janata Dal Party, on this day, in honour of women in this world; wish my sisters in this House, I also wish a happy International Women's Day. I want to say that women are still lagging behind when compared to men in this male-dominated society. Though in some parts of the world, women are empowered but still in our country we are not able to empower them.

In India, though we have woman Rashtrapati, woman Prime Minister, woman Speaker, the former woman Deputy Chairman, who is sitting here with us, and several women Chief Ministers, yet, this is not sufficient to give political power to women. Although this House has passed the Women's Bill, the other House is yet...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not refer to the other House.

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA: I am not referring to them. What I meant is that we are yet to pass it in Parliament. Even though in our country, we are proud of our mythology, and we are worshipping Goddess Durga, Goddess Lakshmi, Goddess Parvathi, and in Odisha, we are especially proud that Lord Jagannath is worshipped with his sister Subhadra, yet, this is not sufficient to bring women power in the society.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA: Sir, in Odisha, we have done a lot for women. Still whatever incidents, we come across in Delhi, occur in all States as well. We have given reservations to women in Panchayati Raj and we have resolved to give 50 per cent reservation for them in urban elections. In spite of all these things, I hope that we will bring forward some more laws in favour of women, for their rights, for their equality and for their dignity. So, I expect that this House will move forward in this direction.

डा. भारतकुमार राऊत (महाराष्ट्र) : सभापति महोदय, आज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अवसर पर मैं समूचे महिला वर्ग को इस हाउस में आपके माध्यम से प्रणाम करता हूँ। Whatever I had to say, my colleagues have spoken about them. I am really overwhelmed by the feelings that have been expressed. I only hope that the feelings, which have been expressed, really come into action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just associate yourself with it. We are running out of time.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: I just want to make one point. When we talk about power and respect to women, with which I also agree, there is also a responsibility of Members, particularly, our lady colleagues, और बाहर जो हमारी कन्याएं, बहनें हैं, सबकी, to ensure that whenever such an atrocity happens, they should also stand up. Particularly, I am giving reference to T.V. advertisements and T.V. programmes. In most of these advertisements and programmes, women are not only presented to sell a product but they are also often used as products. This has to be denounced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please conclude.

डा. भारतकुमार राऊत : सर, “बेटे की शिक्षा के लिए, बेटे के ब्याह के लिए आप बचत कीजिए” — ऐसा advertisement दिखाया जाता है और कोई महिला इस पर आपत्ति नहीं जताती है। मुझे लगता है कि जिस तरह से महिलाओं को television में, सिनेमा में present किया जाता है, उसके खिलाफ महिलाओं को आवाज़ उठानी चाहिए, लेकिन कोई भी महिला आवाज़ नहीं उठाती है, यह मेरा दर्द है। इसके लिए सरकार को प्रयत्न करने चाहिए, लेकिन महिलाओं के द्वारा, बाहर से अगर आपके ऊपर फोर्स आएगा तो, **definitely, this will be stopped.** And if this stops, then, that will be a major achievement for the womanhood. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Balwinder Singh Bhunder. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री साविर अली (बिहार): सर, अगर सिर्फ भीष्म पितामह बोलेंगे, तो करण-अर्जुन कहां जाएंगे?

श्री सभापति : एक मिनट... ठहर जाइए, ठहर जाइए।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री साविर अली : सर, यह ऐसा मौका है कि हम लोगों को भी बोलने का मौका मिलना चाहिए।

श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर (पंजाब) : सर, आज महिला दिवस के अवसर पर मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि श्री गुरु नानक देव जी ने आज से 600 साल पहले यह कहा था-

“सो क्यों मंदा आखिये, जित जम्मे राजान”

यह नारा श्री गुरु नानक देव जी ने 600 साल पहले दिया था और हमारे पंजाब में इसी को मुख्य रखते हुए, जो हमारी सबसे प्रमुख धार्मिक संस्था है एस.जी.पी.सी., उसमें 33 परसेंट रिज़र्वेशन already किया हुआ है।

जो हमारी पार्लियामेंट है, उसमें लोक सभा में हमारे चार मेंबर हैं, दो लेडी मेंबर हैं। “नन्हीं छाँव” के ज़रिए पंजाब में जो सेक्स रेश्यो बहुत नीचे चला गया था, उसको दुरुस्त करने के लिए हम यत्न कर रहे हैं। इस प्रकार हम सभी यत्न कर रहे हैं कि इसको कैसे दुरुस्त करें और हमारे महापुरुषों का पहले से जो नारा है, उस पर कैसे अमल करें।

महोदय, मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा हो क्यों रहा है, यह चेंज क्यों आया है? इसका एक कारण यह है, जिस पर हम सबको विचार करना चाहिए कि आज हमारे कल्चर में बहुत चेंज आ गया है। जैसे आज हम मां, बहन, चाची, ताई की बजाय आंटी, अंकल कहने लगे हैं। यह आंटी-अंकल बुलाने का क्या मतलब है? मां कहते हैं तो प्यार आता है, बहन कहते हैं तो प्यार झलकता है। चाची, ताई, बुआ — इन लफ्ज़ों में प्यार था, affection था, लेकिन आज कल्चर में चेंज आ गया और सबको आंटी बुलाने लगे हैं। किसी को पता नहीं कि बुआ कौन होती है, चाचा या ताऊ कौन होता है। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम सभी को यत्न करना चाहिए और हमारे महापुरुषों के जो विचार थे, उनको अडॉप्ट करना चाहिए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

श्री सभापति : श्री जी.एन. रतनपुरी।

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): सर...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : लिस्ट में आपका नाम नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)... प्रभा जी, आप बैठ जाइए। आपने नाम नहीं दिया है।

श्री जी.एन. रतनपुरी (जम्मू और कश्मीर): सर, जम्मू और कश्मीर में पिछले 22-25 साल से लेडीज़ continuously disempower होती जा रही हैं, dehumanise की जा रही हैं। मुझे खुशी है कि बाकी मुल्क में जो oppressive societies हैं, वहां भी महिलाएं आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता empower की जा रही हैं, लेकिन जम्मू और कश्मीर में सूत-ए-हाल बिल्कुल मुख्तलिफ़ हैं। वहां पर पिछले 20-22 वर्षों के दौरान तकरीबन एक लाख लोग मारे गए, जिनमें से ज्यादातर मर्द थे। वे मर्द अपने पीछे छोड़ गए, बहनें, माएं, बीवियां और बेटियां, जो उम्र भर के लिए तड़पती रहेंगी, परेशानी होंगी। हमारी रियासत में इस वक्त destitute ladies का जो proportion है, जो तनासुब है, वह पूरे मुल्क में सबसे ज्यादा होगा। इसकी तरफ तवज्जह देने की जरूरत है। अभी हमारे एक साथी श्री देरेक ओब्राइन ने pepper spray का ज़िक्र किया। मुझे लगता है कि पूरे मुल्क में इसका ज़िक्र इसलिए होता है कि ladies अपनी हिफाज़त के लिए इसका इस्तेमाल करें, लेकिन मेरी रियासत में ladies के खिलाफ pepper grenade इस्तेमाल होते हैं। खबरें आयी हैं कि कुछ elderly ladies जो asthma में मुबतला थीं, वे मारी गयी हैं, because they cannot breathe. यह सूत-ए-हाल इतिहाई परेशानकुन है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता है कि अगर जिस्म के किसी छोटे से हिस्से में सुई चुभ जाए तो दर्द होता है, लेकिन अगर अटूट अंग bleed कर रहा हो तो बाकी मुल्क को यह दर्द महसूस क्यों नहीं होता? मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह ऐवान, इस ऐवान में बैठे हुए gentlemen और ladies हमारा दर्द महसूस करें और पूरे मुल्क को दिखाएं कि सही सूत-ए-हाल क्या है। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि दिल्ली में एक influential तबका establishment का है, जिसके personal scores हैं, जो जम्मू और कश्मीर में सेटल करने हैं। उन्हें जम्मू और कश्मीर का एजेंडा तय न करने दिया जाए। जब भी कश्मीर में लोग आते हैं, वे दिल्ली की तरफ उम्मीद के साथ देखते हैं, आशा के साथ देखते हैं तो कुछ ऐसा होता है कि process

reverse हो जाता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि जो लोग आज तक ये पॉलिसी बनाते रहे हैं, उन्हें कुछ देर के लिए तजुर्बाती तौर पर, experimental base पर हटा दिया जाए और उनकी जगह उन लोगों को रखा जाए...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

श्री जी.एन. रतनपुरी : जिनके वहां पर personal interests नहीं हैं। उन्हें देखने दिया जाए कि कश्मीर को कैसे सही मायनों में देश का एक हिस्सा, इंसानी जम्हूरियत का हिस्सा बनाया जा सकता है और कश्मीर के लोगों को, उनके दिलों को कैसे जीता जा सकता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

श्री जी.एन. रतनपुरी : सर, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम जब विदेशी travelers के travelogue देखते हैं तो उनमें पढ़ते हैं, विदेशी हुक्मरानों की जो तारीख हैं, उनमें पढ़ते हैं कि कश्मीरियों को जितना पीटो, उतना नरम हो जाते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

श्री जी.एन. रतनपुरी : लेकिन आज यह पॉलिसी नहीं चलनी चाहिए। आज हम कालोनी नहीं हैं, आज हम जम्हूरियत का हिस्सा हैं...(व्यवधान)... दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी जम्हूरियत का हिस्सा हैं। इसलिए हमारे साथ वही सलूक होना चाहिए, जो मुल्क के किसी और हिस्से में किसी भी हिन्दुस्तानी शहरी के साथ होता है। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री संजीव कुमार (झारखंड) : श्रद्धेय सभापति महोदय, आज अगर राजा राममोहन राय को याद नहीं किया जाए तो अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस अधूरा रहेगा। ये वे शख्स हैं जिन्होंने सबसे पहले सती प्रथा के खिलाफ आवाज़ उठायी थी। महोदय, आज बहुत कुछ कहा गया, लेकिन एक बात नहीं कही गयी कि बहुत से ऐसे राज्य हैं जहां लड़कियों या औरतों की संख्या मर्दों से कम है। उसका सिर्फ एक ही कारण है कि prenatal test किया जाता है और जन्म लेने से पहले ही लड़कियों को मार दिया जाता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

श्री संजीव कुमार : सभापति महोदय, मैं झारखंड से अकेला सदस्य बोल रहा हूँ, इसलिए मुझे बोलने दिया जाए।

श्री सभापति : आप जल्दी बोलिए, क्योंकि समय खत्म हो रहा है। Please don't waste time. Conclude.

श्री संजीव कुमार : सभापति महोदय, मैं आज भी देखता हूँ कि लड़कियों को जन्म देने से पहले ही मार दिया जाता है। इसके लिए mindset बदलने की जरूरत है और कानून को मजबूत करने की जरूरत है।...(व्यवधान)... मैं एक चीज़ और बता देना चाहता हूँ कि मैं एक lawyer हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt.

श्री संजीव कुमार : मैं कोर्ट में ज्यादा से ज्यादा केस महिला अत्याचार के खिलाफ लड़ता हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि कानून में बदलाव हो और लोगों का **mindset** बदलना चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, thank you.

श्री संजीव कुमार : सभापति महोदय, अभी माननीय सदस्य श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी ने एक चीज़ बताई कि आदिवासी समाज में यह बहुत आम है कि महिलाएं शादी से पहले बच्चा पैदा करती हैं, यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है। मैं झारखंड से आता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

श्री संजीव कुमार : झारखंड में 26.9 प्रतिशत **population** आदिवासियों की है। वहां पर ऐसा कोई केस नहीं होता है। यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है और मैं चाहता हूँ कि इतिहास को सुधारा जाए। धन्यवाद।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Pathankot-Joginder Nagar-Leh railway line

*161. SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start construction of strategically important Pathankot-Joginder Nagar-Leh railway line; and

(b) if so, by when the construction work on this line would start?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Gauge conversion of Pathankot-Joginder Nagar narrow gauge section with its extension upto Leh *via* Mandi is not a sanctioned railway project. The following surveys have been completed in this regard:—

Survey	Completed in	Cost (Rs. in cr.)	ROR	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Pathankot-Joginder Nagar gauge conversion (181 km.)	2010-11	2888.14 (Diesel) 3279.64 (Electrical)	(-) 6.08% (Diesel) (-) 7.99% (Electrical)	State Government of Himachal Pradesh and Ministry of Defence were approached with cost sharing proposals for the gauge

1	2	3	4	5
Joginder Nagar — Mandi new line (48 km.)	2009-10	1301.36	(-) 5.46%	conversion project. State Government declined the proposal and no response was received from Ministry of Defence.
Bilaspur-Manali-Leh new line (498 km.)	2009-10	22831.58	(-) 4.26%	Project proposal was sent to Planning Commission for taking up the project as a “National Project” with full funding from Ministry of Finance as an additionality. No positive response has so far been received from Planning Commission in this regard.

Proposal for construction of strategically important Bilaspur-Manali-Leh new line is under active consideration. As announced in the Budget Speech 2013-14, Ministry of Railways will pursue for approval of this project as a “National Project” with full funding from Ministry of Finance as an additionality.

Scarcity of fertilizers

†*162. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a scarcity of fertilizers when the crops need fertilizers and farmers are not able to procure it;
- (b) whether Government supplies fertilizers according to the demand and requirement of farmers in Bihar;
- (c) if so, the details of the demand and supply during the last three years; and
- (d) the details of the steps Government would take to protect farmers from the difficulties faced at the time of demand of fertilizers?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of fertilizers in the country. The month-wise demand is assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season. Accordingly, month-wise, State-wise supply plan is made and monitored upto State level by the Department of Fertilizers. The concerned State Governments are responsible for monitoring the availability intra-state. State-wise statement showing requirement availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers during the current year (April, 2012 to February, 2013) (estimated) including Bihar is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Yes. Department of Fertilizers supplies fertilizers according to the demand and requirement of Bihar State Government, as projected by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) The details of State-wise requirement, availability and sales for the last three years from 2009-10 to 2011-12 for Urea, DAP, MOP and complex fertilizers is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) On the basis of month-wise and State-wise projection given by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/adequate fertilizers to the States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability through following system:—

- (i) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
- (ii) The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their State institutional agencies like Markfed etc.
- (iii) Regular weekly Video conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicted by the State Governments.
- (iv) The gap in the demand and domestic production of fertilizer is met through imports.

Statement-I

*Requirement, availability and sales of fertilizers during the year 2012 [April'12 to February'13] (estimated)
along with stock pre-positioned]*

(Figures in LMT)

States	Urea			DAP			MOP			NPK		
	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	31.50	27.39	26.36	11.80	7.49	5.52	6.45	3.65	2.60	21.75	19.96	15.82
Karnataka	14.20	13.04	12.53	8.50	5.72	3.15	5.25	2.88	2.27	13.40	10.74	7.64
Kerala	1.97	1.29	1.27	0.44	0.29	0.21	1.84	1.00	0.84	2.44	1.67	1.47
Tamil Nadu	10.99	8.79	8.57	4.36	2.33	2.10	5.17	2.29	2.09	6.49	6.39	5.16
Gujarat	22.65	18.07	17.40	8.40	4.93	3.02	1.90	0.81	0.73	5.25	5.55	3.71
Madhya Pradesh	18.42	19.55	17.95	11.48	13.73	9.02	1.40	1.01	0.72	4.34	2.90	2.09
Chhattisgarh	6.80	6.60	5.49	3.07	2.98	1.87	1.18	0.98	0.60	1.70	1.32	0.93
Maharashtra	26.25	21.36	20.39	14.87	8.73	5.93	5.85	3.45	2.77	18.01	14.92	10.91

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rajasthan	16.61	17.82	17.21	7.18	7.08	5.42	0.48	0.15	0.12	1.55	0.85	0.80	
Haryana	19.75	20.32	18.64	7.00	8.62	6.09	0.71	0.21	0.19	0.93	0.26	0.24	
Punjab	25.70	28.71	25.45	7.95	10.19	8.39	1.01	0.43	0.33	1.45	0.48	0.37	
Himachal Pradesh	0.63	0.68	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.45	0.23	0.17	
Jammu and Kashmir	1.42	1.28	0.90	0.83	0.58	0.40	0.34	0.15	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Uttar Pradesh	59.00	62.05	56.20	18.05	24.99	19.05	3.40	1.54	1.23	11.28	7.70	6.34	
Uttarakhand	2.36	2.39	2.28	0.33	0.33	0.24	0.08	0.05	0.04	0.55	0.39	0.31	
Bihar	20.60	19.39	18.72	4.90	5.93	4.80	2.25	1.51	1.01	3.60	3.47	2.60	
Jharkhand	2.64	1.94	1.78	1.23	0.59	0.46	0.32	0.07	0.03	1.24	0.26	0.26	
Odisha	6.00	4.97	4.63	2.70	1.35	1.22	1.88	0.75	0.66	3.89	2.40	1.87	
West Bengal	12.28	13.17	11.21	4.93	4.60	3.63	3.63	2.85	1.85	7.61	8.35	7.40	
Assam	2.94	2.37	2.31	0.60	0.30	0.24	1.36	0.71	0.48	0.21	0.06	0.05	
ALL INDIA:	304.30	291.91	270.58	119.83	110.83	80.84	45.03	24.66	18.84	106.69	88.06	68.30	

Statement-II

State-wise sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers during the year 2009-10 to 2011-12

(Figures in lakh MT)

Name of State	Year	Urea			DAP			MOP			Complex		
		Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales	Require- ment	Avail- ability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh	2009-10	27.50	26.16	25.95	9.75	8.89	8.85	6.60	6.07	6.01	20.50	18.69	18.15
	2010-11	28.50	31.73	31.30	11.00	10.40	10.30	6.60	6.09	6.04	20.50	22.12	21.88
	2011-12	31.00	29.87	29.34	12.30	10.93	10.39	6.60	4.44	3.82	22.30	25.73	23.58
Karnataka	2009-10	13.75	13.77	13.77	8.20	8.46	8.46	5.15	6.12	6.08	11.20	10.95	10.76
	2010-11	14.00	14.28	14.28	8.60	8.46	8.42	5.65	4.24	4.14	11.20	13.78	13.51
	2011-12	14.60	14.53	14.45	8.75	9.40	9.06	5.65	3.82	3.64	13.10	17.34	16.40
Kerala	2009-10	1.63	1.53	1.53	0.35	0.30	0.30	1.54	1.57	1.54	1.90	2.12	2.05
	2010-11	1.90	1.44	1.44	0.35	0.42	0.41	1.55	1.58	1.56	2.50	2.28	2.22
	2011-12	1.90	1.50	1.49	0.47	0.44	0.41	1.80	1.51	1.42	2.55	2.20	1.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Tamil Nadu	2009-10	11.50	9.98	9.98	4.25	2.94	2.94	5.84	5.14	5.12	4.00	6.18	6.13
	2010-11	11.50	10.23	10.15	4.25	3.20	3.19	5.84	4.74	4.72	4.25	6.91	6.83
	2011-12	11.50	10.47	10.45	4.30	3.84	3.71	5.31	4.27	4.16	6.61	8.75	7.56
Gujarat	2009-10	18.75	18.21	18.12	8.00	7.64	7.62	2.30	2.86	2.69	4.72	4.20	4.01
	2010-11	19.50	21.26	21.19	8.40	8.11	8.09	2.30	2.02	2.02	4.83	6.62	6.55
	2011-12	22.75	21.26	21.18	8.80	6.99	6.80	2.30	1.75	1.72	5.10	7.32	7.08
Madhya Pradesh	2009-10	15.25	16.00	15.93	8.50	9.52	9.47	1.20	1.67	1.43	3.55	2.48	2.43
	2010-11	16.75	17.05	16.92	10.00	10.94	10.92	1.45	1.36	1.33	3.69	3.55	3.52
	2011-12	17.50	18.16	17.86	10.95	11.89	10.57	1.65	0.93	0.75	4.05	5.33	4.66
Chhattisgarh	2009-10	5.48	5.27	5.27	1.77	2.65	2.65	0.84	0.96	0.90	1.42	1.04	1.04
	2010-11	5.70	5.56	5.54	2.84	2.41	2.41	1.06	0.96	0.94	1.40	1.32	1.32
	2011-12	6.25	6.30	6.30	2.90	2.71	2.58	1.15	0.85	0.83	1.54	2.21	197.00
Maharashtra	2009-10	24.75	22.87	22.87	12.50	13.83	13.82	5.60	7.07	7.06	14.00	11.25	11.13
	2010-11	25.25	25.52	25.51	16.70	14.35	14.31	6.75	6.52	6.37	14.80	17.98	17.92
	2011-12	27.50	25.67	25.43	17.25	12.69	12.22	6.40	4.26	3.99	18.30	20.86	19.74

Rajasthan	2009-10	15.10	13.37	13.15	6.50	5.86	5.85	0.35	0.55	0.42	1.37	0.78	0.78
	2010-11	15.60	15.73	15.70	7.00	7.20	7.16	0.55	0.35	0.28	1.18	1.40	1.37
	2011-12	16.25	17.58	16.90	7.30	7.33	7.07	0.50	0.25	0.23	1.76	1.54	1.40
Haryana	2009-10	19.65	18.05	17.95	7.00	6.66	6.66	0.52	0.90	0.90	0.45	0.48	0.48
	2010-11	19.65	18.75	18.38	7.20	7.40	7.37	0.70	0.66	0.66	0.55	0.69	0.69
	2011-12	19.75	19.45	19.15	7.20	8.45	8.32	0.75	0.48	0.46	0.85	0.79	0.71
Punjab	2009-10	25.50	24.65	24.46	8.50	8.08	8.06	0.91	1.00	1.08	0.55	0.57	0.55
	2010-11	26.00	27.61	27.17	9.25	9.04	9.01	1.06	1.06	0.96	0.70	1.05	1.03
	2011-12	26.00	28.50	28.25	10.15	10.08	9.66	1.06	0.73	0.69	1.00	1.30	1.19
Uttar Pradesh	2009-10	55.00	53.64	53.08	17.00	16.51	16.49	2.85	3.47	3.43	8.50	9.47	9.40
	2010-11	57.60	55.08	54.51	19.60	17.71	17.64	3.70	2.17	1.92	9.45	10.61	10.30
	2011-12	58.00	59.12	58.05	19.65	18.76	18.15	4.00	1.82	1.80	11.25	12.86	11.26
Uttarakhand	2009-10	2.15	2.33	2.33	0.40	0.38	0.38	0.13	0.04	0.04	0.45	0.41	0.40
	2010-11	2.20	2.24	2.23	0.40	0.28	0.28	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.50	0.57	0.57
	2011-12	2.40	2.51	2.50	0.33	0.39	0.38	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.71	0.53	0.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Jammu and Kashmir	2009-10	1.40	1.22	1.22	0.78	0.48	0.48	0.26	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2010-11	1.50	1.28	1.27	0.85	0.81	0.81	0.36	0.19	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2011-12	1.45	1.20	1.19	0.85	0.67	0.65	0.35	0.09	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bihar	2009-10	19.00	17.04	17.03	4.50	3.98	3.97	2.10	2.26	2.26	3.10	2.68	2.68
	2010-11	19.50	16.96	16.94	4.75	4.60	4.59	2.30	2.00	1.97	3.35	3.14	3.11
	2011-12	20.75	18.16	18.11	5.00	4.72	4.41	2.45	1.29	1.26	3.75	4.03	3.56
Jharkhand	2009-10	2.05	1.50	1.50	1.15	0.82	0.82	0.15	0.17	0.17	0.50	0.69	0.68
	2010-11	2.10	1.36	1.35	1.10	0.66	0.65	0.15	0.08	0.06	0.85	0.36	0.36
	2011-12	2.60	2.19	2.16	1.25	0.71	0.68	0.34	0.06	0.06	1.08	0.52	0.47
Odisha	2009-10	5.75	4.61	4.59	2.25	2.24	2.21	1.70	1.31	1.27	3.00	2.28	2.24
	2010-11	5.75	4.74	4.57	2.50	2.20	2.19	1.90	1.36	1.32	3.00	2.33	2.31
	2011-12	6.40	5.28	5.10	2.60	1.90	1.73	2.05	0.92	0.83	3.14	3.46	3.12
West Bengal	2009-10	13.00	11.71	11.71	4.80	4.56	4.55	4.15	4.97	4.97	7.50	8.39	8.39

2010-11	13.00	11.26	11.26	5.10	4.64	4.62	4.00	3.29	3.23	8.25	8.95	8.76
2011-12	13.25	12.76	12.74	5.10	5.05	4.76	4.00	3.08	3.01	9.00	8.96	8.13
Assam	2009-10	2.60	2.56	2.56	0.35	0.22	1.26	0.97	0.97	0.06	0.06	0.06
	2010-11	2.60	2.50	2.50	0.60	0.27	1.30	0.96	0.96	0.05	0.11	0.11
	2011-12	3.00	2.68	2.68	0.60	0.28	1.40	0.94	0.91	0.27	0.07	0.05
ALL INDIA:	2009-10	281	265.97	264.48	106.98	104.09	43.85	47.60	46.74	87.73	83.38	82.03
	2010-11	290.79	284.62	282.23	120.92	113.09	47.80	39.83	38.91	92.00	104.39	102.98
	2011-12	305.16	298.65	294.77	126.16	117.44	48.27	31.64	29.91	107.36	124.27	113.93

Losses suffered by Railways

*163. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of losses suffered by Railways; and
- (b) the remedial measures Government proposes to take to improve the economic health of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAN BANSAL): (a) Indian Railways did not suffer any losses and generated internal resources of Rs. 7,676 crore in 2011-12 and is expected to generate Rs. 17,469 crore in 2012-13 as per the Revised Estimates.

(b) Indian Railways have taken both non-tariff related measures and tariff related measures to improve its economic health as indicated below:—

Non-tariff Measures:

They include extension of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) facilities to more and more locations, speeding up of trains, review of trains with low patronage, deployment of additional coaches in well patronized trains, vigorous checking of ticket less travelling, additional leasing of parcel space in certain nominated trains, leasing of vacant compartment of guard in front SLR coach etc. In addition, efforts to improve staff productivity by better man power planning, better asset utilization, improvement in inventory management, optimizing fuel consumption etc. and controlling expenditure through number of austerity/economy measures are continuously being pursued.

Tariff Measures:

They include simplification and rationalization of freight/fare structure besides several other measures like introduction of Freight Incentive Schemes etc.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in Jammu and Kashmir

*164. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the districts in Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir)

in which Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) are functioning and the districts where these are yet to be established;

(b) the JNVs in Jammu and Kashmir with inadequate infrastructure and lesser than normally approved admissions;

(c) the JNVs in Jammu and Kashmir with inadequate infrastructure for more than six years along with the reasons therefor and plans to address this problem; and

(d) the reasons for delay in approval of JNVs for the districts where they do not exist in the State?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) A Statement indicating the 17 districts of Jammu and Kashmir where Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) are functional is given in the Statement (*See* below). No JNV has yet been sanctioned for the districts of Srinagar, Bandipura, Ramban, Kishtwar and Phulwama.

(b) The intake of students is less than the approved norms due to shortage of infrastructure in JNVs located in 9 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, *viz.* Badgam, Doda, Jammu, Kargil, Kupwara, Poonch, Shopian, Kulgam and Reasi.

(c) Seven JNVs at Baramulla, Doda, Kargil (Part-II), Kupwara, Poonch, Shopian and Ganderbad are having inadequate infrastructure for more than six years. The projects for these JNVs were entrusted to M/s. Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Limited, a State Public Sector Undertaking of Government of Jammu and Kashmir with the expectation that the Corporation would be able to cope with the local problems and also complete the projects within the scheduled time. However, the projects have, till date, been completed partially which are being put to use for running these JNVs. All efforts have been made to impress upon M/s. Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Limited to finish these projects at the earliest in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed upon.

(d) The Government plans to open additional JNVs during the Twelfth Five Year Plan for uncovered districts of the country. All these proposals will be considered subject to approval by the competent authority and the availability of funds.

Statement

*Districts of Jammu and Kashmir in which Jawahar Navodaya
Vidyalayas have been sanctioned and are functional*

Sl.No.	Districts
1.	Anantnag
2.	Baramulla
3.	Badgam
4.	Doda
5.	Jammu
6.	Kargil
7.	Kathua
8.	Kupwara
9.	Leh
10.	Poonch
11.	Shopian
12.	Rajouri
13.	Ganderbal
14.	Udhampur
15.	Samba
16.	Kulgam
17.	Reasi

Restarting of UPC service

*165. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that letters were used to be sent through Under Postal Certificate (UPC);

- (b) if so, the annual income of the Department that was earned through UPC;
- (c) whether this facility has been withdrawn;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government is planning to restart this service; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not available as the fee for Certificates of Posting was paid in postage stamps on Certificate of Posting itself and no separate account is maintained.

(c) Yes, Sir. This facility has been withdrawn *vide* Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 58(E) dated 31.01.2011.

(d) Rule 195 of the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 on Certificates of posting was deleted *vide* G.S.R. 58(E) dated 31.01.2011. Rule 195 of the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 provided for grant of Certificates of Posting in respect of any postal article for which a receipt was not given. The intention behind this facility was to provide a proof of posting in respect of letters entrusted to servants or messengers on request from the sender for a small fee. But the Certificate of Posting was not a proof of delivery. It did not guarantee expedited transmission of mail either. The service was therefore discontinued.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) As stated in (d) above.

Funds under SSA for construction of toilets

*166. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and disbursed in the last five years for construction of toilets in schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the proposed status of setting up toilets in the remaining schools, particularly girl schools, in the country under SSA, State-wise and the details thereof;

(c) whether absence of the above facilities in these schools has forced girl students, especially in the country-side, to abandon pursuing studies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with an action plan to bridge such gaps?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Central funds under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are released to the States/Union Territories for the implementation of interventions approved under the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) of that State. The State SSA programme then further disburses funds to the districts for specific activities under SSA including construction of toilets. A State-wise statement showing the number of toilets sanctioned and Central share of funds released for implementation of SSA activities, including toilets, during the last five years is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) All new school buildings under SSA are sanctioned as composite buildings with toilets for girls and boys and funds are also provided for existing urban schools which do not have toilets. Under SSA a total of 8.53 lakh toilets have been sanctioned so far, of which, 4.49 lakh are girls' toilets. In existing rural schools/lacking toilets, such facilities are provided in convergence with the schemes of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The State-wise status of elementary schools without toilets upto September, 2011 is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) and (d) From data available in the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12 it is clear that share of girls' enrolment at primary and upper primary level has risen from 43.7% and 40.9% in 2000-01 to 48.35% and 48.63 % in 2011-12 which is in consonance with their share in population. Opening of schools in the neighbourhood has improved the access of girls to schools, and provisions *inter-alia*, of free textbooks, free uniforms, separate toilets for girls, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas residential upper primary schools and the Mid-Day-Meal programme have further encouraged participation of girls in elementary education.

Statement-I

Statement showing the details of toilets sanctioned and total Central funds releases in the last five years under SSA, including toilets.

Sl. No.	State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		(Rs. in lakhs)
		Toilet sanctioned	Total funds released	Toilet sanctioned	Total funds released	Toilet sanctioned	Total funds released	Toilet sanctioned	Total funds released	Toilet sanctioned	Total funds released	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	187.10	0	780.54	8	412.44	0	357.78	12	907.36	
	2. Andhra Pradesh	2478	28100.00	0	71031.78	1296	38569.9	11464	81000.00	15660	183551.72	
	3. Arunachal Pradesh	0	11043.55	74	13683.64	241	11427.95	530	20401.77	626	23880.10	
	4. Assam	0	28903.62	2799	42740.91	1845	47480	10010	76854.35	8219	106921.15	
	5. Bihar	0	135417.64	1054	186158.47	1015	121739.06	17800	204789.63	17420	185108.20	
	6. Chandigarh	0	934.95	0	820.52	0	1100.72	5	2155.89	0	1611.21	
	7. Chhattisgarh	0	46787.76	0	51853.86	2691	55592.82	7266	87863.00	24208	69870.22	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	69	418.54	81	104.63	0	350.18	0	413.78	0	564.35
9.	Daman and Diu	0		0	0	0	169	13	162.99	6	257.06
10.	Delhi	0	1671.55	0	1529.01	0	3088.62	161	3552.71	95	3783.29
11.	Goa	68	899.57	56	804.41	120	550.58	220	671.27	120	1079.14
12.	Gujarat	0	22658.26	210	25432.47	1021	20031.73	395	44065.01	1990	88027.79
13.	Haryana	2754	14220.00	1840	20546.87	2940	27600	1748	32786.11	715	40461.41
14.	Himachal Pradesh	500	7638.30	1865	8552.99	3650	8608	3431	13786.66	373	14192.78
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	20063.27	0	20532.59	0	37363.27	2036	40348.79	7939	30070.50
16.	Jharkhand	0	80748.99	0	69041.09	1771	70940.22	6931	89562.26	1410	57903.46
17.	Karnataka	6562	40604.78	1937	51578.19	9925	44220.6	9720	66903.00	2922	62788.35
18.	Kerala	1574	8323.42	1395	10854.04	984	11989.5	3157	19660.73	595	17021.85
19.	Lakshadweep	0		0	70	0	143.8	20	127.39	0	127.86
20.	Madhya Pradesh	10301	86769.94	0	85569.35	7731	113249	7262	176783.00	20648	190427.12

21. Maharashtra	906	45729.96	451	67386.02	737	56432	4226	85537.00	1043	117962.58
22. Manipur	0	1850.95	0	321.21	2358	1500	1600	13253.77	0	3940.55
23. Mizoram	619	4212.02	971	5112.59	869	6617.75	846	10115.31	0	10814.05
24. Nagaland	940	4596.00	329	2867.87	145	4913	375	8636.83	90	9798.33
25. Odisha	0	62853.68	0	49080.9	1789	63061.6	2197	73177.85	1534	92719.98
26. Puducherry	58	577.07	9	638.59	3	669.96	103	485.38	0	757.62
27. Punjab	0	10493.88	250	13808.1	256	20044	1103	39612.74	2666	48112.44
28. Rajasthan	0	101307.2	0	108326.8	16088	127124	2881	146182.29	1634	148580.86
29. Sikkim	0	1036.25	0	1075.31	80	1736	359	4469.19	44	4022.84
30. Tamil Nadu	0	53125.09	0	45414.47	3871	48366	12102	69068.57	6986	68141.96
31. Tripura	620	4178.49	361	6464.12	50	7473	123	17121.48	2171	17493.76
32. Uttar Pradesh	0	204758.0	0	212884.89	0	196011.9	415	310462.88	0	263682.61
33. Uttarakhand	2127	13162.80	1029	11444.45	2438	16006.29	6683	25793.94	2000	20892.49
34. West Bengal	6508	90571.68	1725	65169.37	7103	104142	4922	174703.17	8170	177652.74

Statement-II

*A State-wise status of elementary schools without toilets
upto September, 2011*

State/UT	Schools without girls' toilets	Schools without boys' toilets
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	59	45
Andhra Pradesh	40328	18167
Arunachal Pradesh	2711	1933
Assam	19797	6246
Bihar	33853	18182
Chhattisgarh	26582	15335
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	101	69
Daman and Diu	4	1
Delhi	15	0
Goa	325	82
Gujarat	9279	52
Haryana	1595	439
Himachal Pradesh	2675	407
Jammu and Kashmir	17223	12406
Jharkhand	12896	8432
Karnataka	982	248
Kerala	647	256
Lakshadweep	10	5
Madhya Pradesh	30495	3894

1	2	3
Maharashtra	19692	3367
Manipur	1	0
Meghalaya	4911	2975
Mizoram	1076	309
Nagaland	762	201
Odisha	35566	10602
Puducherry	15	1
Punjab	2653	58
Rajasthan	19056	2687
Sikkim	145	15
Tamil Nadu	13063	2639
Tripura	2257	775
Uttar Pradesh	28956	12157
Uttarakhand	3581	560
West Bengal	38678	7582
TOTAL:	369989	130127

Source: District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12 (provisional).

Falling mobile subscriptions of BSNL and MTNL

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

(a) whether many complaints have been registered regarding the quality and service of BSNL and MTNL mobile connections and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether growth rate of new mobile subscriptions of BSNL and MTNL has gone down during the last four years;

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether a large number of BSNL and MTNL subscribers have stopped using their mobile connections during the last four years;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by Government to address the issue?

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

(b) to (f) During the last four years of 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12, BSNL and MTNL have achieved a continuous increase in their mobile subscribers base. The details are as follows:—

As on	No. of Mobile Subscribers (in million)	
	BSNL	MTNL
31.03.2009	46.71	4.18
31.03.2010	63.31	4.78
31.03.2011	86.27	5.20
31.03.2012	94.51	5.59

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the senior management of both PSUs review the performance of BSNL and MTNL regularly. However, some of the Steps taken by BSNL and MTNL to increase their subscriber base are as follows:—

BSNL

- Strengthening of sales and distribution system.
- Special consumer retention camps.
- Monitoring of Quality of Service (QoS) parameters to adhere to the benchmarks stipulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

- Continuous improvement in customer care through Project smile.
- Introduction of various attractive tariff plans and improved marketing strategies.
- Provision of Value Added Services including broadband services, Intelligent Network Service and broadband based value added services like Video/Games/Music on demand etc.

MTNL

- Plan to commission Convergent billing. This system will provide on bill for all services to a subscriber and address customer request for services, tariff etc.
- Reviewing of tariff for various products and services.
- Measures to facilitate easy payment of telephone bills.
- Online system for booking of different services and complaints for landline and mobile.
- MTNL is having Sanchar Haats in Delhi and Customer Service Centers (CSCs) at Mumbai, for customers to get various services like registration or new service, duplicate bills of cellular connection, bill payment, Virtual Calling Cards etc.

School buildings under SSA

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

- (a) whether allocation for school buildings under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is made in lump-sum to the State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of allocation for school buildings under SSA this year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Central funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are released to the States/Union Territories for implementation of interventions approved under the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) of those States/Union Territories,

which in turn disburse programme funds to the districts for specific activities, including construction of school buildings.

(c) A Statement of school buildings approved for 2012-13 under SSA and Central share of funds released to the States/Union Territories till January, 2013 for SSA implementation including school buildings, is given in the Statement.

Statement

Statement of school buildings approved for 2012-13 under SSA and Central share of funds released to the States/UTs till January, 2013 for SSA

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Total school buildings sanctioned in 2012-13	Central share release under SSA till January, 2013 (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	435	111049.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	123	17984.73
3.	Chhattisgarh	45	85015.73
4.	Haryana	12	29910.35
5.	Himachal Pradesh	15	7052.93
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	253	40805.85
7.	Karnataka	15	39936.69
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1076	135343.30
9.	Maharashtra	760	99574.30
10.	Manipur	521	15862.44
11.	Meghalaya	27	13670.78
12.	Mizoram	168	7820.60
13.	Nagaland	138	7791.12
14.	Punjab	21	41972.68

1	2	3	4
15.	Rajasthan	126	143520.11
16.	Tripura	34	8010.11
17.	Uttarakhand	323	17941.10
18.	West Bengal	515	258056.58
19.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32	589.28
20.	Chandigarh	2	972.64
21.	Daman and Diu	2	233.12
22.	Delhi	1	3251.90

Standard of education in primary schools

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

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of spending huge amount of money on primary schools by Government, the standard of these schools has not improved, especially in villages and remote areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any plan to involve private sector to improve the standard of education in primary schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The Government has been steadily investing in primary education to ensure access to all children in the 6-11 years age group, for which educational data reveals a favourable achievement in a Gross Enrolment Ratio of 116. Furthermore, in order to retain children in schools, the Government has introduced several interventions which have contributed in some measure to a sharp reduction in drop-out rates from 40.7% in 2000-01 to 27% in 2010-11. The rapid expansion of primary education and introduction of a large number of first generation learners

in the school system has posed a major challenge for learning outcomes. Teachers and educational administrators have been trained to handle diversity in classrooms, adopt child centric teaching methods and put in place a system of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) so that the learning needs of all children are addressed.

The national sample studies on learning outcomes conducted periodically by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for classes III and V, have revealed a slight improvement in student learning levels, even though overall levels of achievement are low.

(c) and (d) As per the educational data for 2011-12, 74.5% of children in the 6-11 years age group are enrolled in Government/Government-aided schools, while 25.5% are in private schools. Thus bulk of the enrolment is in the Government/aided schools in the country. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF, 2005) which lays down the broad principles of curriculum and learning processes in schools applies to all school managements. Good practices of quality education in Government and non-governmental sectors are often shared in workshops/seminars, which strengthen efforts to improve the quality of education.

Problems faced by minorities in getting admission in educational institutions

*170. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that minorities, especially Muslims, are facing problems in getting admission of their wards in schools/colleges and universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Government is aware of low participation of Muslim minorities at various levels of education. The literacy rate of the Muslims, as per 2001 census is 59.1 per cent, as compared to country's literacy of 64.8 per cent. Further, the data of 2001 census also reveals that the gap between the male and female literacy of the Muslims is 17.5 per cent against the national gender gap of 11 per cent. Factors attributed to low literacy levels and lower enrolment ratios

amongst Muslims as identified by the various Reports and studies, are problems of accessibility, preference to carry on traditional/family profession and financial constraints.

(c) Government of India has undertaken a number of initiatives for educational development of minorities, particularly Muslim minorities, at all levels of elementary, secondary and higher education and in all sectors including vocational, professional and technical education. Apart from the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships, Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme and Maulana Azad Fellowship Programme, which are being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs; Ministry of Human Resource Development is also implementing the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasa (SPQEM) and Infrastructure Development in Minority Institutes (IDMI) exclusively for the benefit of the minorities. While implementing other Schemes, *inter-alia*, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Saakshar Bharat, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, Women's Hostels, Block Institutes of Teacher Education, 374 degree colleges, polytechnics, etc., special focus is given to the 90 Minority Concentration Districts.

**Shortage of academic and administrative
staff in universities**

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

- (a) whether universities in the country are facing staff shortage both in academic and administrative field;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has discussed the issue of shortage of human resources in the university system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Many higher educational institutions are facing a shortage of qualified and experienced permanent faculty. The Government had constituted a Task Force under the chairmanship of Prof. Sanjay G. Dhande to make appropriate recommendations for alleviating shortage of quality faculty. As per the report of the Task Force submitted in July, 2011, State Universities, Central

Universities, Deemed to be Universities and affiliated colleges are short of qualified faculty to the extent of approximately 40%, 35%, 25% and 40% respectively.

The teaching and non-teaching posts are to be maintained in the ratio of 1:1.1. Accordingly, out of 33,133 sanctioned non-teaching posts in Central Universities, 8,106 non-teaching posts are lying vacant. The Central Government does not maintain data of non-teaching staff of State Universities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The issue of faculty shortages remains one of the most important items of discussion in all the meetings conducted with Vice-Chancellors. This issue is being discussed in Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) meeting from time to time. The issue was discussed in VCs conferences held on 22.06.2012 and retreat of Central Universities VCs held on 5-6 August, 2012. These issues were discussed during the meeting of Council of Vice Chancellors of Central Universities held on 25.10.2012 and the meeting of VCs of Central Universities with the Hon'ble President of India held on 05.02.2013.

The main reasons for shortage of faculty are sanction of additional teaching posts in view of the expansion in the Eleventh Plan period; increase in intake capacity of students pursuant to reservation of 27% for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs); non-availability of suitable candidates; ban imposed by some States on recruitment etc.

In order to meet the shortage of teachers, the age of superannuation for teachers in Central Educational Institutions has been enhanced to sixty five years and the conditions governing mobility of academic staff have been relaxed. University Grants Commission (UGC) has advised all the Central Universities to fill up the teaching positions at the earliest. Teachers' re-employment on contract basis beyond the age of sixty five years upto the age of seventy years is also permitted subject to availability of vacant posts and fitness. Para 12.2 of the UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education 2010 clearly mentions that all the sanctioned/approved posts in the university system shall be filled up on an urgent basis.

Per capita availability of foodgrains

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

(a) whether there has been a declining trend in production and per capita availability of foodgrains in the country, during the last three years; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The production of foodgrains was 218.11 million tonnes in 2009-10, 244.49 million tonnes in 2010-11, and 259.32 million tonnes in 2011-12. The per capita net availability of foodgrains was 444 grams per day in 2009, 437.1 grams per day in 2010 and 462.9 (provisional) grams per day in 2011.

Bio-toilets

*173. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have installed bio-toilets based on aerobic bacteria and anaerobic bacteria in some passenger trains;

- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the results in this regard, train-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to install environment friendly bio-toilets in all its passenger coaches; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost of such toilets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Based on the technology jointly developed by Indian Railways (IR) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Railways have installed bio-toilets with anaerobic bacteria in coaches of some passenger trains.

So far, 5384 J-bracket sets for fitment of bio-toilet tanks in coaches have been provided. Further, 1296 bio-toilets have been fitted in coaches. Out of these, 780 bio-toilets are running in 49 trains. These trains are being progressively augmented with such coaches.

Results of initial trials with these bio-toilets were encouraging leading to decision to further proliferate this technology over Indian Railways. Most of the problems being faced are due to misuse of toilets by passengers as garbage bin-polythene/plastic/napkins/bottles etc. are thrown into the toilets which causes their failure due to clogging.

- (c) and (d) Based on the experience gained and outcome of the trials, it is

planned to progressively install bio-toilets in the other trains. While it would be Indian Railways' endeavor to install environment friendly bio-toilets in all its passenger coaches at the earliest, the time frame for their full scale deployment and investment required will depend upon the changes and modifications necessitated from time to time based on the feedback on its performance and outcome of the fitment trials. The retro-fitment of these bio-toilet tanks requires precision welding of high quality as any fitment failure can compromise safety of the train during run.

It is planned to induct all new coaches fitted only with bio-toilets from 2016-17 onwards and cover the entire fleet by 2021-22 provided that there is no major technical or operational setback.

However, the time frame for full scale adoption of bio-toilets will depend upon the changes necessitated from time to time due to the exigencies of their usage pattern and other service conditions as the technology development cycle has not matured as yet. On new coaches being built, the cost of fitting IR-DRDO bio-toilet is approximately Rs. 3.6 lakhs per coach.

On existing in-service coaches, it is likely to be about Rs. 15.64 lakhs per coach (as retro-fitment involves removal of corroded portion of headstock of the under frame of the coach and fitment of new headstock assembly and mounting brackets involving highly specialized precision welding of high quality).

Model Railway Stations in Punjab

*174. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down by Government to select a railway station for development as a Model Railway Station;
- (b) how many stations in Punjab have been taken up for development as Model Railway Station; and
- (c) the status of development in each case?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The 'Model Station' scheme was in vogue between June, 1999 and November, 2008. Initially, one station per Division of Indian Railways was selected under the scheme. In the year 2006, the criteria was revised to include all 'A' and 'B' category stations,

on the basis of the annual passenger earnings, under the scheme. The 'Model Station Scheme' (June, 1999 to November, 2008) has since been discontinued. At present, development of stations is taken up under the Adarsh Station scheme which was launched in the year 2009. Selection of railway stations as 'Adarsh Stations' is based on an identified need for upgradation of amenities at such stations.

(b) 18 stations from the State of Punjab were identified under the 'Model Station Scheme' namely, Abohar, Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib, Bathinda Jn., Beas, Chakki Bank, Dhuri Jn., Firozpur Cantt., Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar Cantt, Jalandhar City, Ludhiana, Pathankot, Patiala, Phagwara, Rajpura Jn. and Sirhind Jn. Similarly, 18 stations of Punjab were identified earlier under Adarsh Station Scheme (in vogue since 2009) namely, Abohar, Barnala, Dhuri, Faridkot, Fazilka, Giddarbaha, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Moga, Lehragaga, Malerkotla, Maur, Muktsar, Phagwara, Sangrur, Sunam, Tapa and Tarntaran are identified in the State of Punjab. In addition, 7 more stations namely Anandpur Sahib, Bareta, Bathinda, Dera Baba Nanak, Khanna, Mansa and Rajpura in Punjab have been announced for development under this scheme in the Railway Budget 2013-14.

(c) 18 stations identified earlier under Model Station Scheme in the State of Punjab have already been developed. 7 stations namely, Abohar, Dhuri, Faridkot, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Moga, and Tarantaran have been developed under 'Adarsh' station scheme.

Safety audit at New Delhi Railway Station

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

(a) whether a safety audit, conducted by Northern Railway at New Delhi Railway Station, has found a lot of loopholes, such as, defective fire extinguishers, CCTV cameras, baggage scanners etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the safety audit and the defects found by the audit team; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Ministry on these deficiencies detected by the audit team?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have constituted 2 separate Fire Safety

Audit Teams A and B to identify areas requiring further upgradation to match the latest fire safety norms to international standards and to conduct checks in few select Railways at stations, coaching depots, workshops etc., for assessment of compliance of RDSO and Board's instructions regarding fire safety. In this direction, Fire Safety Audit Team B conducted an inspection at New Delhi Railway Station on 08.01.2013 and found a few of total fire extinguishers, CCTV Cameras and baggage scanners had some problems. Immediate corrective action has already been taken by Delhi Division.

Mapping of radiation from mobile phone towers

†*176. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether radiation emitting from mobile phone towers is mapped;
- (b) whether the Department of Telecommunications has given direction to mobile companies to reduce radiation levels upto 10 per cent of the present level; and
- (c) if so, whether any time-limit has been fixed for implementing this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Presently, the radiation emitting from mobile phone towers is not mapped. However, as per the directions issued by Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the telecom service providers are submitting compliance of radiation norms by way of submission of self certification to respective Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cell of DoT.

The TERM Cell tests upto 10% of Base Transmitting Station (BTS) sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell. If a site fails to meet the Electro Magnetic Radiation criterion, there is a provision of levy of a penalty of Rs. 5 lakh per BTS.

(b) and (c) In respect of BTS, norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with effect from 01.09.2012.

Strict monitoring and enforcement of revised radiation norms has been initiated by DoT. In 102 cases, where the Base Station Emissions were found to be more than the prescribed limits, corrective actions have been taken immediately.

Shortage of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete step to meet the shortage of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that the production of crops and the financial condition of farmers are getting badly affected due to the shortage of fertilizers in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) There has not been any shortage of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh State during current Financial Year 2012-13. A cumulative season-wise statement of all fertilizers showing requirement, supply plan, availability and sale for Uttar Pradesh State is given as under:—

Kharif [(April to September, 2012) along with stock pre-positioned]

(Figures in 000'MTs)

Product	Requirement	Supply Plan	Availability	Sales
Urea	2600.00	3393.65	3130.65	2700.75
DAP	900.00	1458.44	1409.03	804.20
MOP	100.00	172.44	109.14	97.95
NPK	575.00	433.30	549.07	402.91

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rabi (October, 2012 to February, 2013)

(Figures in 000'MTs)

Product	Requirement	Supply Plan	Availability	Sales
Urea	3300.00	4197.09	3117.21	2919.25
DAP	905.00	1859.38	1259.37	1101.07
MOP	240.00	213.69	49.11	25.52
NPK	552.50	469.65	261.90	231.41

As can be seen from the above tables that availability during both seasons (Kharif and Rabi — upto February, 2013) of all the fertilizers for Uttar Pradesh State has been adequate and comfortable.

(c) and (d) As there has been no shortage of fertilizers, question does not arise.

Utilisation of maximum land area for agricultural purposes in Uttar Pradesh

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for preparing a time-bound programme for utilisation of the maximum land for agricultural purposes in the interest of the increasing population of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the quantum of land available in the State which would be earmarked for optimum agricultural usage;

(c) the quantum of land under cultivation and also the portion thereof which is subjected to erosion, particularly in backward areas; and

(d) whether Government has made or proposes to make any assessment regarding loss of cultivable land due to soil erosion during the next ten years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, matter related to land comes under the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

purview of State Governments. Therefore, it is for the State Governments to prepare plans for optimum utilization of land for agricultural purposes for meeting the demands of increasing population. With a view to prevent soil erosion and land degradation Government is implementing various programmes, namely; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil conservation in Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils (RADAS), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). Land developed under these programmes are put to cultivation, leading to net sown area remaining largely unchanged in last two decades.

(b) As per available estimates, about 19.39 million hectare land in Uttar Pradesh is cultivable, of which 17.82 million hectare is cultivated.*

(c) and (d) Ministry of Agriculture has no specific plan for assessment of loss of cultivable land due to soil erosion in the next ten years.

*Source: Directorate of Economic and Statistics of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Status of railway projects under NFR

*179. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures being taken by Government to emphasize on ongoing National Projects as well as other projects of Railways in the North-Eastern region for their timely completion, project-wise; and

(b) the details of present status of the Railway Budget announcements made in 2010-11 and 2011-12, particularly for setting up of wagon factory at Guwahati, establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tertiary-Level Multi-Speciality Hospital as well as new trains between Kamakhya and Tezpur *via* Rangia, Rangapara under the North-east Frontier Railway (NFR)?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) A dedicated Non-Lapsable North Eastern Region Rail Development Fund has been created for ensuring assured cash flow for execution of National Projects of N.E. Region. Minimum 10% of funds to projects of North East Region are provided for ensuring adequate cash flow for projects of N.E. Region.

The details of railway projects including National Projects in NE Region are as under

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Latest anticipated cost	Outlay 2012-13	Expenditure upto March, 2013	Proposed outlay 2013-14	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

New line

1.	Agartala-Sabroom	1141.75	180.00	327.8	140.00	This is a 'National Project'. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works taken up. Target — December, 2015
2.	Teteliya-Byrnihat	385.2	70.00	93.11	50.00	This is a 'National Project'. Teteliya-Byrnihat was examined as an alternative alignment to Azara-Byrnihat. Entire land acquired in Assam portion. Earthwork and bridges taken up. Target — March, 2015.
3.	Bhairabi-Sairang	2393.48	80.00	4.41	77.10	This project has been declared as 'National Project'. Estimate sanctioned and tender for earthwork and bridges called. Target — March, 2015.

4. Bogibeel Bridge with link lines on North and South Banks	3230.02	330.00	2380.64	340.00	The project has been declared as 'National Project'. The work of construction of embankment, major and minor bridges completed in North and South Bank of the bridge. Moranhat-Chalkhowa (44 km.) in South Bank completed and commissioned. Contract for main bridge superstructure awarded. Target — December, 2015.
5. Dimapur-Kohima (Zubza)	850.00	7.00	8.97	1.00	The project has been declared as 'National Project'. Final Location Survey completed in the entire length. Project held up for want of approval of alignment by State Government and exorbitant land rates. TDC: Not fixed.
6. Dudhnoi-Mendipathar	178.47	20.00	45.64	40.00	Earthwork, bridges and track work in advance stages of execution. 10 km. targeted for completion in 2012-13 and rest in 2013-14.
7. Harmuti-Naharlagun	415.73	50.00	232.34	60.00	Track linking for 20 kms completed in 2011-12. Commissioning is linked with completion of Rangpara North — North Lakhimpur gauge conversion. Project targeted for completion in 2013-14.
8. Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal	4444	450.00	681.94	453.90	Progress of this 'National Project' badly hampered due to prevailing security scenario and frequent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						bands etc. Bad condition of NH-53 and weak/damaged bridges. Earthwork, formation, minor and major bridges taken up. Work taken up in 18 tunnels out of 35 Nos. Jiribam-Tupul targeted for completion by March, 2015 and Tupul-Imphal by March, 2017.
9.	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	1655.81	225.00	1056.22	140.00	Work is planned to be executed in 4 phases. Golakganj to Gauripur completed. New Coochbehar-Golakganj (58.0 km.) completed. Gauripur-New Changrabandha-New Coochbehar targeted for 2012-13.
10.	Sivok-Rangpo	3380.58	38.00	52.63	25.00	This is a 'National Project' which has been entrusted to M/s IRCON for execution. Project held up for environmental clearance.
11.	Byrnihat-Shillong	4083.02	30.00	1.5	1.00	Final Location Survey from Byrnihat to Lailad (20 km.) completed. Work stopped in November, 2010 by Khasi Students Union for their pending demands. Matter taken up with State Government.

12. Murkongselek-Pasighat	165.82	10.00	0.15	1.00	Final Location Survey taken up. Target: March, 2015
13. Agartala-Akhaura	252.00	1.00	0	10.00	
Gauge Conversion					
1. Katakhal-Bhairabi	223.01	15.00	103.48	15.00	The work planned for completion alongwith gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar in March, 2014. Overall progress: 51.42%
2. Lumding-Silchar including alignment between Migrendisa-Ditokcherra and extension from Badarpur to Baraigram	4255.37	400.00	3013.49	—	The project has been declared as 'National Project'. Progress of work affected due to militant activities. Earthwork, bridge works and tunneling taken up all along the alignment. Target — March, 2015. Overall physical progress: 75.90%
3. New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon branch lines	1308.9	10.00	1023.41	—	New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon main line fully commissioned. Alipurduar-Bamanhat and Fakiragram-Dhubri branch line completed and commissioned.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Rangiya-Murkong-selek along with linked fingers	1717.29	380.00	1107.75	425.00	Mega block taken up for entire section. Rangiya-Rangpara North section completed and engine rolled. Rangpara North-North Lakhimpur (172 km.) targeted for March, 2013 North Lakhimpur-Murkongselek section targeted in 2013-14.
Doubling						
1.	Lumding-Hojai Patch Doubling	246.07	1.00	0	2.00	Work included in Budget 2012-13.
(b) (i) The details of wagon factories are as under:—						
1.	Wagon Manufacturing factory at Guwahati	188.50 (PPP)	20.00 (PPP)	Nil	2.00	The project has been sanctioned under Public Private Partnership mode. M/s IRCON has been appointed as consultant for bid process management. The process is under progress.
2.	EMD loco shed for homing 50 locos at Mariani	48.11	2.00	Nil	1.94	Detailed plans and estimates of the project have been sanctioned. The work is in progress.

- (ii) The details about Kendriya Vidyalaya are as under:—

In the Rail Budget 2010-11, it was announced that 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas will be set up on the Railways for benefit of Railway wards. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) for setting up said 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas on the Railways. Pursuant thereto 50 locations on the Railways were suggested to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan which included 05 locations on NF Railway namely at Rangiya, Rangapara, North Lakhimpur, New Jalpaiguri and New Coochbehar. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has since sanctioned one Kendriya Vidyalaya at Railway Campus, Rangiya (Assam) and the school has started functioning on temporary basis. Ministry of HRD has been requested to consider opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas at remaining 43 locations including 04 on NF Railway.

- (iii) The details of Multi-Specialty Hospital are as under:—

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to set up health care infrastructure on vacant Railway land which is not immediately operationally required. Consequent to signing of MoU, in the Budget 2010-11 it was announced to set up 522 health care infrastructures consisting of OPD and Diagnostic Centre, Secondary Level General Specialty Hospitals and Tertiary Care Hospitals. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal Ministry for setting up of these healthcare projects Guwahati, Katihar, New Bongaigaon, New Jalpaiguri, New Mal, Rangapara North and Siliguri Jn have been identified for setting up of Tertiary Level Multi-Specialty Hospitals. To operationalize the MoU, 91 locations have been identified for a pilot project by the High Power Working Group consisting of the senior officials from both the Ministries. New Bongaigaon and Ranagapara North are included in this pilot project. Further, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has appointed M/s IL & FS as Transaction Advisor for this project.

- (iv) New trains between Kamakhya-Tezpur:—

In Rangiya-Rangapara North — Tezpur section, track linking works had been completed in March, 2012. Commissioner of Railway Safety is expected to inspect the section in March, 2013 end. After getting clearance from Commissioner of Railway Safety, the passenger/mail Express trains can be introduced in the section.

Criteria for opening Kendriya Vidyalayas

*180. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken till date, by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas in various States along with the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Ministry to relax the norms to provide rent free temporary accommodation for setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas in various districts, as it takes a long time to create such infrastructure facilities and no one is coming forward to provide such accommodation, particularly in tribal districts; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) At present 1087 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are functioning in the country. The State/Union Territories-wise details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to relax the norms for opening of new KV. As per prescribed norms for the opening of new KVs under Civil/Defence sector, the sponsoring agency is liable to provide suitable and sufficient rent free temporary accommodation for setting up of a newly sanctioned KVs to make the school functional till the construction of permanent Vidyalaya building by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) on the land to be provided by the sponsoring agency, free of cost, to KVS.

Statement

Details of State/UT-wise number of functional Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country (as on 1.03.2013)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Civil	Defence	Project	I.H.L.*	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	01	01	00	00	02
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29	19	05	00	53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	01	00	01	14
4.	Assam	24	14	14	03	55
5.	Bihar	37	06	02	00	45
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	00	05	00	00	05
7.	Chhattisgarh	19	00	07	00	26
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	01	00	00	00	01
9.	Daman and Diu (UT)	01	00	00	00	01
10.	Delhi	32	08	02	01	43
11.	Goa	00	05	00	00	05
12.	Gujarat	18	16	09	01	44
13.	Haryana	17	10	01	00	28
14.	Himachal Pradesh	12	08	03	00	23
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	20	15	03	00	38
16.	Jharkhand	23	04	05	00	32
17.	Karnataka	22	10	06	01	39
18.	Kerala	25	08	02	00	35
19.	Lakshadweep (UT)	01	00	00	00	01
20.	Madhya Pradesh	62	19	11	00	92
21.	Maharashtra	13	38	03	02	56
22.	Manipur	05	01	01	00	07
23.	Meghalaya	02	04	00	01	07
24.	Mizoram	03	00	00	01	04
25.	Nagaland	03	02	00	00	05

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Odisha	44	05	04	00	53
27.	Puducherry (UT)	03	00	00	01	04
28.	Punjab	13	34	01	00	48
29.	Rajasthan	37	22	05	00	64
30.	Sikkim	01	00	01	00	02
31.	Tamil Nadu	19	15	03	03	40
32.	Tripura	07	00	01	01	09
33.	Uttar Pradesh	48	44	10	03	105
34.	Uttarakhand	23	13	05	02	43
35.	West Bengal	27	24	05	02	58
TOTAL:		604	351	109	23	1087

I.H.L. = Institute of Higher Learning.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Assessment of drought affected regions of Maharashtra

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

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment of the situation in the drought affected regions of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether any help and relief has been provided by Government for the drought affected regions of Maharashtra;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) During Kharif – 2012, Government of Maharashtra declared drought in 125 talukas.

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the State and assessed the situation. Based on the report of IMCT and recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), Government of India approved Rs. 778.09 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Maharashtra.

During Rabi – 2012-13, Government of Maharashtra has reported that 3905 villages in 9 districts have suffered crop loss of 50% and above on account of deficit rainfall. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team has visited the State and assessed the situation. An Empowered Group of Ministers has also been constituted to assess and monitor the situation arising out of drought/deficient rainfall on a regular basis; to take decisions on policy issues and approve new and innovative schemes for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues; and to examine the existing schemes of the Government of India and take decisions on any suitable modifications/relaxations that may be required for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Production of mangoes in Uttar Pradesh

1241. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of mangoes;
- (b) whether Central Government has organized any buyer-seller meet on procurement of mangoes from Uttar Pradesh farmers;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is providing any incentives to farmers of Uttar Pradesh for research and development in the field of producing large varieties of mangoes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Buyer-seller meet is one of the activities of mango promotion

programmes organized by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to increase export of mango from various States of the country including Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) offers technical and scientific support to State Governments for Research and Development. Through Biodiversity International, ICAR is also supporting custodian farmers in preserving valuable, rare and endangered mango germplasm.

MSP for agricultural produces

‡1242. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices takes note of the Minimum Support Price proposed by the State Governments;

(b) whether Government intends to announce the Minimum Support Price of various agricultural produces particularly of paddy this year as per the proposals of State Governments; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) while formulating its recommendations on price policy considers a number of important factors including the views of the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops including paddy on the recommendations of the CACP, the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments.

Promotion of organic fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh

‡1243. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any corrective measures for reclamation of waste land into fertile land so that it can be converted into arable land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government to promote organic fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Under Ministry of Agriculture, there are no specific programmes/schemes for reclamation and development of wasteland into fertile land. However, under Ministry of Rural Development, three area development programmes namely, Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) are implemented on watershed basis. These three programmes have been integrated and consolidated into a single modified programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas *w.e.f.* 26.2.2009.

(c) Although promotion of organic fertilizer is not State specific, but Government is already promoting use of organic fertilizers through following scheme:—

- (i) Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), financial assistance and encouragement of production and use of organic inputs through Capital Investment Subsidy for setting up of Fruits and Vegetables Wastes/Agro Wastes Compost Production Units is provided through NABARD in the form of credit-linked back ended subsidy @ 33% of total financial outlay or Rs. 60.00 lakh, whichever is less.
- (ii) Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) financial assistance is provided for setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary.

Need to improve soil health and nutrient value

1244. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the increasing desertification and its impact on agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to improve the soil health and its nutrient value;
- (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) Yes, Sir. As per the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India published by Department of Space, Government of India (2007), about 25% of the geographical area of the country is affected by desertification in the country which directly impacts the people in terms of vulnerability to food shortage, natural disasters and depletion of natural resources. Government of India is aware of such an impact and, therefore, with a view to mitigate adverse impact of land degradation/desertification, increasing the productivity of agricultural land and sustaining foodgrain production, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Schemes/Programmes namely; National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSH&F), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) etc. for promotion of organic farming and integrated nutrient management through judicious use of chemical fertilizer, organic manure and bio-fertilizer for improving soil health and its fertility across the country.

Remunerative price for onion growers

1245. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently prices of onion increased abnormally resulting in panic reaction from Central and State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Central Government is aware that the abnormal rise in prices of onion was due to speculations and the onion growers did not get remunerative prices; and
- (d) if so, the remedial measures Government proposes to take to ensure that onion growers get remunerative prices for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base Year 2004-05=100) for onion for the period January, 2012 to January, 2013 indicates that there is a mixed trend from January, 2012 to September, 2012 thereafter a sharp

increase from October, 2012 to January, 2013. A Statement showing variations in the monthly WPI of onion over the last one year is given below:—

Monthly WPI for Onion (Base Year: 2004-05=100)

Month	Onion
January, 12	151.0
February, 12	133.8
March, 12	136.0
April, 12	139.6
May, 12	138.2
June, 12	157.9
July, 12	180.7
August, 12	194.1
September, 12	194.0
October, 12	210.2
November, 12	259.8
December, 12	304.8
January, 13	319.4

Prices of vegetables such as onion are mainly governed by the market forces of demand and supply, cost of transportation, cost of storage and rising demand due to increasing income, wholesalers and retailers margin, role of middlemen, urbanization etc. The untimely rains in different onion growing areas, which has affected the crop and its supply chain, has contributed to sharp increase in its prices.

(d) In order to facilitate the farmers to sell their produce to direct consumers with a view to reduce intermediations, marketing costs and to improve farmers' share in the consumer price, several States have promoted farmers-consumers markets. These include Apni mandi in Punjab, and Haryana, Kissan Mandi in Rajasthan, Rythu Bazar in Andhra Pradesh, Uzhavar Sandai in Tamil Nadu, Shetkari Bazar in Maharashtra,

Raithara Santhe in Karnataka and Krushak Bazar in Odisha. These markets are beneficial to both farmers and consumers.

Government has launched the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) from 2005-06 for holistic development of horticulture sector. Under NHM, financial assistance is provided for taking up various activities relating to horticulture crops including onion. Government has also launched a scheme on Vegetables Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) during 2011-12 within the overall Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme.

The Scheme cover all aspects relating to formation of farmer's association/groups, training/capacity building of farmers, linking farmers group with aggregators/markets, vegetable production under supply to urban centers starting from planting material to marketing to retail level.

Negative impact of chemical farming

1246. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the negative impact of chemical farming in Punjab;
- (b) the manner in which Government has reacted to this impact;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to reduce the negative impact of chemicals and fertilizers in farming;
- (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) and (b) As per information provided by Punjab Government and ICAR, no negative impact of chemical fertilizers on farming in Punjab have been noticed. As per Punjab Agricultural University research, nutrient removal is greater than the addition, so the State is not overusing chemical fertilizers.

Recently, nitrate contamination in ground water in Punjab has been reported which was generally less than the permissible limit (10 mg. per litre).

Due to indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides, instances of emergence of certain pests like Boll worm, White fly resurgence due to use of synthetic pyrethroids and Mealy Bug in cotton crop, White Backed Plant Hopper in rice, Diamond Back Moth

on cole crops and Shoot and Fruit Borer in Brinjal crops have been reported in Punjab.

(c) to (e) Although there is no negative impact of chemical fertilizers on farming in Punjab, the farmers are advised for balanced and judicious use of chemicals and fertilizers as per recommendations and soil test basis.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also recommends soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients. In addition, split application and placement of fertilizers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of resource conservation technologies are advocated.

Government of India is implementing a scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest management Approach in India" by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory.

The Non-Chemical measures like cultural, mechanical, and biological control are being popularized under IPM Scheme among the farming community to reduce the use of chemical pesticides.

Under the Human Resource Development programme of IPM, Farmers Field Schools, long and short duration training programmes are being held to empower the farmers and State Extension Functionaries about IPM.

Pest and Disease Surveillance and Monitoring programmes are undertaken to forewarn likely pest and disease build up in different crops.

Development of horticulture

1247. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned Rs. 863 crore to the Department of Horticulture and allocated separate funds under the NHM;

(b) whether this allocation helped the Department in improving horticulture, the details thereof;

(c) the new schemes undertaken by the Department to develop horticulture in the country; and

(d) how helpful have the schemes been in bringing about a change in growth of horticulture crops and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The Central Sector Scheme of National Horticulture Mission is under implementation since 2005-06 and during 2012-13 an amount of Rs. 1104.40 crore has been allocated under the scheme. The scheme is aimed towards providing holistic growth of horticulture sector through adopting end-to-end approach covering production, post harvest management, primary processing and marketing.

(c) A new scheme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) has been initiated since 2011-12 as a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for addressing all concerns related to vegetable sector. The scheme is being implemented in one major urban centre in each State which is either the State capital or any other city having a population of one million or above, except Jammu and Kashmir where Jammu and Srinagar have been taken up under the scheme. Besides, Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Horticulture Board (NHB) are ongoing schemes for development of horticulture in the country.

(d) Various horticulture schemes have enhanced horticulture production from 170 million MT in 2004-05 to 257 million MT in 2011-12, registering an annual growth rate of about 7%.

Remunerative price for cotton

†1248. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cotton price was lower this year in comparison to last year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether one of the major reasons behind the suicides by farmers was not getting fair price for the cotton produce; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure that farmers get remunerative price for cotton?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Prices of seed cotton in domestic market are influenced to a greater extent by International demand of cotton, mainly from China. As per reports of Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) around 129 lakh cotton bales were exported from India out of which major quantity was exported to China during last year *i.e.* 2011-12. During current year *i.e.* 2012-13 China is reportedly not importing largest quantity of cotton due to having sufficient inventory of cotton from last year's imports. Therefore, prices of seed cotton in domestic market during current season *i.e.* 2012-13 remained lower as compared to last year.

(c) Reasons for suicide by farmers, as reported by State Governments are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal.

(d) To ensure remunerative prices to the cotton farmers, Government during the cotton season 2012-13 has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for medium staple and long staple varieties of cotton (Kapas) to Rs. 3600 per quintal and Rs. 3900 per quintal, respectively for these varieties which is higher by 28.6% and 18.2% respectively over the previous year's MSP.

The Government organizes purchase operations through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) under Price Support Scheme (PSS). During 2012-13 season under Price Support Operations, NAFED, as on 27th February, 2013 has procured 3.62 lakh bales of cotton and CCI, the other procurement agency, as on 25th February, 2013 has procured 222.56 lakh bales of cotton.

Measures to mitigate farmers' plight

1249. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of various ongoing schemes for promotion of agriculture, more than 33 per cent farmers are living below poverty line and another 20 per cent under debts, leading them to commit suicides;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any remedial measures to mitigate the farmers' plight during the last five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to restructure and improve upon such schemes to make them more useful; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Reasons of suicide by farmers, as reported by State Governments and mentioned in various studies, are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socioeconomic and personal reasons. Government approved National Policy for farmers 2007, which places emphasis on increased productivity, profitability, institutional support, improvement of land, water and support services, appropriate price policy, risk mitigation etc., for the benefit of farmers in the country. Various programmes/schemes viz., Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation etc., are being implemented by Government in accordance with this policy with a view to increasing investment, productivity, production and income in agriculture and allied sectors.

(d) and (e) The existing 51 schemes for development of agriculture are proposed to be restructured into 5 Missions, 5 Central Sector Schemes and 1 State Plan Scheme for implementation during Twelfth Five Year Plan in order to have focused approach and avoid overlap.

Debt-burden on farmers

1250. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per NSSO Report No. 498 on "Indebtedness of Farmer Household", as part of Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers-59th Round, of the 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million viz. 48.6 per cent were reported to be indebted to either formal or informal or both sources of credit, resulting in suicides;

(b) whether, as per the finding of NSSO Report No. 498, the average debt-burden per farmer household was Rs. 12,585 as against per capita Net National Product of Rs. 20,871 during 2003-2004 Rs. 18,301 at constant (1999-2000) prices; and

(c) how alarming is the above scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) report No. 498 on the "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" (as part of Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers — 59th Round), of the 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted to either formal or informal or both sources of credit. Further, the average debt-burden per farmer household was Rs. 12,585 as against per capita Net National Product of Rs. 20,871 during 2003-04 (Rs. 18,301 at constant (1999-2000) prices).

(c) Farmers are indebted to both institutional and non-institutional sources of credit. However, borrowing from non-institutional sources is the major reason for debt related farmers distress which is one of the reported reasons for farmers' suicide in the country. In order to reduce the dependence of farmers on private money lenders for meeting their credit needs and for providing relief to the indebted farmers, Government has taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow and bringing more and more farmers including small and marginal farmers within the institutional credit fold. These measures, *inter-alia*, includes fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh @ 4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of interest subvention scheme to small and marginal farmers having Kissan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, collateral free loan upto Rs. 1.00 lakh, scheme for financing of Joint Liability Group (JLGs) etc.

Protection of small and marginal farmers

1251. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of small and marginal farmers in the country as per the recent agriculture census, State-wise;
- (b) whether the number of small and marginal farmers has decreased during recent years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise with particular reference to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab for each of the last five years;

(d) the reasons identified behind decrease in number of small and marginal farmers;

(e) whether Government has taken concrete steps to protect small and marginal farmers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) A statement giving State-wise number of marginal (below 1.00 ha.) and small (1.00-2.00 ha.) operational holdings as per results (provisional) of latest Agriculture Census 2010-11 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Does Not arise.

(e) to (g) The Government provides financial incentives, grants, concessions to the farmers, with special emphasis on holdings of small and marginal farmers, through various schemes such as National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Revised Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize, Modified Agricultural Technology Management Agency Scheme etc. Government has also taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow to the farmers, including small and marginal farmers, for reducing their dependence on non-institutional sources of credit.

Statement

Details of State-wise number of marginal and small operational holdings in India as per results (provisional) of Agriculture Census 2010-11

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Marginal holding (below 1.00 ha.)	Small holding (1.00 – 2.00 ha.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8424698	2918374
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21456	19333

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	1831115	496574
4.	Bihar	14744098	948016
5.	Chhattisgarh	2182834	831118
6.	Goa	45396	6428
7.	Gujarat	1747977	1379896
8.	Haryana	778142	314818
9.	Himachal Pradesh	669660	175167
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1206612	167130
11.	Jharkhand	1848324	428861
12.	Karnataka	3848834	2138208
13.	Kerala	6579692	180171
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3891016	2448652
15.	Maharashtra	6709118	4049335
16.	Manipur	76735	48850
17.	Meghalaya	109390	61031
18.	Mizoram	50210	29753
19.	Nagaland	7626	20388
20.	Odisha	3368296	918647
21.	Punjab	164431	195439
22.	Rajasthan	2511512	1511068
23.	Sikkim	40476	16941
24.	Tamil Nadu	6266372	1181797
25.	Tripura	469809	53783

1	2	3	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	18167072	3013634
27.	Uttarakhand	672138	157330
28.	West Bengal	5852681	979833
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4626	2415
30.	Chandigarh	453	133
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8177	3903
32.	Daman and Diu	7716	458
33.	Delhi	11308	4517
34.	Lakshadweep	9854	267
35.	Puducherry	28481	2779
TOTAL HOLDINGS:		92356335	24705047

Bumper crop of potato

1252. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the bumper crop of potato during the current season in various potato growing States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that potato growing farmers are compelled to sell their produce below the cost of their production;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the response of Government thereto;

- (f) whether Government would take measures to protect farmers;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (h) As per present estimates, production of potato during 2012-13 is 424.78 lakh metric tonnes as against 414.83 lakh metric tonnes last year. A statement showing State-wise production of potato is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The prices of potato are governed by market forces of demand and supply and depends upon a host of factors which influence production and arrivals in the market.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, upon receipt of proposals from State Governments implements Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities including potato, under which losses, if any, are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50 basis.

Assistance is provided under National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States for development of infrastructure for post harvest management such as cold storages, terminal markets, wholesale markets, rural primary market, apni mandies, etc., to ensure adequate supply of horticulture produce including potato to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers.

Statement

Details of State-wise production of potato (000' MT)

State	2011-12	2012-13*
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	98.38	101.34
Arunachal Pradesh	40.00	40.00
Assam	783.40	799.07

1	2	3
Bihar	6101.69	6308.00
Chhattisgarh	579.18	602.96
Delhi	16.75	6.50
Gujarat	2395.54	2395.54
Haryana	618.85	582.88
Himachal Pradesh	206.22	206.22
Jammu and Kashmir	127.24	127.24
Jharkhand	652.79	652.79
Karnataka	483.00	504.10
Kerala	5.44	5.44
Madhya Pradesh	1816.68	1998.35
Maharashtra	360.00	322.00
Meghalaya	164.75	172.96
Mizoram	2.52	3.15
Nagaland	20.15	20.15
Odisha	201.05	201.06
Punjab	2103.97	2129.79
Rajasthan	178.02	178.02
Sikkim	47.09	49.40
Tamil Nadu	104.89	125.87
Tripura	122.96	122.96
Uttar Pradesh	14125.08	14695.72
Uttarakhand	433.82	433.82

1	2	3
West Bengal	9693.33	9693.33
TOTAL:	41482.79	42478.66

*1st estimate.

Source: Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Self sustained integrated farming

1253. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps for self sustained integrated farming system model wherein 90 per cent of nutrient requirement is met through farm level processing of waste bio-mass produced in the farm itself, which is one of the basic principles of organic farming practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan being prepared in this regard for the Twelfth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Integrated Farming System is already being promoted through Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP) under RKVY. Government is also promoting organic Farming through various schemes viz. National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). For promotion of on-farm and off-farm inputs production, Financial assistance is provided under NHM for setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary; funds are also provided @ 50% of the cost subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per hectare for a maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary for adoption of organic farming. Similar norms of assistance are applicable for assistance given under RKVY. Under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), financial assistance is also provided as back ended subsidy through NABARD for setting up/strengthening of existing Bio-fertilizer and/or Bio-pesticide Production Units, @ 25% of total financial outlay or Rs. 40.00 lakh whichever is less; and for setting up of Fruit and Vegetables Wastes/Agro-wastes Compost Production

Units @ 33% of total financial outlay or Rs. 60.00 lakh, whichever is less. The Government is implementing these schemes during Twelfth Plan period also.

Production and demand of foodgrains

1254. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane etc. in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, crop-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether agricultural production in the country has remained stagnant or has declined during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the current level of production of foodgrains is adequate to meet the existing demand in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the strategy adopted and the schemes formulated by Government to increase production and meet the futuristic requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The crop-wise and State-wise details of production of foodgrains, oilseeds and sugarcane in the country during each of the last three years and the current year are given in the Statement (*See* below). It may be observed that production of major crops during 2012-13 is significantly higher than their production during 2009-10.

(d) Foodgrains comprises of cereals and pulses. While the domestic production of cereals is more than its domestic requirements, in pulses the country is short of its requirements, and the shortfall of pulses is met through imports.

(e) With a view to increase the production and productivity of the agriculture sector, Government is implementing various schemes/programmes such as the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize (ISOPOM), besides others. Under these schemes emphasis is given to easy and reliable access to inputs such as quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, suitable technology, extension services, support infrastructure, etc.

Statement*Details of State-wise estimates of production of major crops during 2009-10 to 2012-13*

States	(Thousand tonnes)												
	Foodgrains						Oilseeds						Sugarcane
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Andhra Pradesh	15295.0	20315.0	18363.1	17078.0	1500.0	1995.6	1264.7	1546.0	11708.0	14964.0	16686.0	15583.6	
Arunachal Pradesh	308.9	333.7	362.5	#	28.3	29.1	33.0	#	27.1	29.0	30.0	#	
Assam	4481.2	4876.5	4663.3	4951.6	144.7	153.6	149.5	154.0	1059.0	1075.0	993.5	1065.0	
Bihar	10150.6	9221.9	14047.2	14015.6	144.6	136.3	139.5	178.1	5032.6	12763.6	11288.6	12354.3	
Chhattisgarh	4902.8	7055.2	6870.5	7080.2	200.4	217.2	169.5	216.0	29.2	21.8	24.4	51.3	
Goa	109.9	123.1	130.2	#	8.1	8.3	8.0	#	52.3	49.1	46.6	#	
Gujarat	5761.0	8341.6	8874.3	7137.0	3097.0	4896.1	5035.0	3385.8	12400.0	13760.0	12750.0	12750.0	
Haryana	15357.0	16629.5	17958.7	16763.0	877.5	963.8	771.0	941.0	5335.0	6042.0	6959.0	7490.0	
Himachal Pradesh	1017.2	1421.1	1510.3	1450.1	3.8	7.7	8.6	8.1	45.6	38.3	28.3	29.1	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jammu and Kashmir	1314.2	1521.6	1586.3	1477.0	49.7	53.0	53.4	51.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jharkhand	2152.2	1876.6	4175.3	4741.5	79.5	113.7	155.5	178.8	447.0	457.3	457.3	460.8
Karnataka	10955.0	13877.3	12095.1	10824.8	1005.0	1270.0	942.0	950.0	30443.0	39657.0	38808.0	32239.0
Kerala	610.8	527.1	572.1	524.8	1.2	2.1	2.4	0.9	285.0	271.8	263.0	158.4
Madhya Pradesh	16016.4	14952.1	20394.8	21815.0	7636.2	8035.4	7727.8	8290.9	2535.0	2667.0	2677.0	2391.0
Maharashtra	12586.3	15420.4	12544.0	10297.9	2814.0	5040.0	4485.0	4128.8	64159.0	81895.7	86733.1	60489.9
Manipur	338.9	592.7	669.1	#	0.7	26.7	28.3	#	21.3	301.3	333.0	#
Meghalaya	239.2	239.0	249.1	#	7.0	7.1	7.6	#	0.2	0.2	0.2	#
Mizoram	62.3	66.9	68.0	#	3.0	3.8	2.4	#	12.4	7.9	7.5	#
Nagaland	354.2	568.3	566.5	#	84.6	66.3	66.8	#	152.9	184.9	186.7	#
Odisha	7552.9	7619.3	6412.3	8249.5	172.2	179.8	165.8	183.8	489.9	902.7	884.7	784.5
Punjab	26950.1	27866.3	28389.1	27983.4	83.4	71.5	68.0	81.9	3700.0	4170.0	5653.0	6532.0
Rajasthan	12350.1	18832.2	19469.7	17825.9	44072	6604.8	5744.5	6062.2	344.5	367.9	451.3	181.8
Sikkim	117.3	110.3	103.2	#	9.4	7.9	7.8	#	NA	NA	NA	#

Tamil Nadu	7511.4	7594.9	10151.8	8350.8	939.6	933.1	1113.7	1162.5	29745.6	34251.8	38575.7	42221.1
Tripura	647.9	712.4	729.9	#	2.5	3.4	3.5	#	44.9	46.5	45.0	NA
Uttar Pradesh	43195.3	47247.6	50283.6	49698.3	816.0	919.4	935.0	949.8	117140.0	120545.0	128819.0	130508.0
Uttarakhand	1796.0	1815.5	1852.0	1894.0	33.0	27.5	32.5	36.0	5842.0	6497.6	6311.0	6716.0
West Bengal	15741.5	14466.9	15985.7	14776.9	727.1	703.6	672.4	774.4	1000.8	1134.1	1681.4	1625.0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27.1	25.5	25.3	#	#	#	#	#	2.0	2.3	2.5	#
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21.3	29.9	24.6	#	0.1	0.1	0.1	#	NA	NA	53.2	#
Delhi	125.8	153.3	149.2	#	4.9	1.3	4.9	#	NA	NA	NA	#
Daman and Diu	4.9	4.8	3.3	#	#	#	#	#	NA	NA	NA	#
Puducherry	52.9	53.4	43.2	#	1.1	0.9	0.5	#	247.3	277.7	287.8	#
Others	NA	NA	NA	3207.5	NA	NA	NA	185.6	NA	NA	NA	909.8
ALL INDIA:	218107.4	244491.8	259323.2	250142.6	24881.6	32479.0	29798.7	29465.3	292301.6	342381.6	361036.6	334540.5

Included in others,

NA: Not Applicable,

*2nd advance estimates released on 08.02.2013.

Investment in agricultural Sector

1255. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present level of investment being made in agriculture sector is inadequate;

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

(c) whether any scheme has been contemplated for public/private investment in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The details of present level of investment in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF)/Investment, made in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan at constant (2004-05) prices as per the latest estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 31st January, 2013 are as follows:—

Year	Gross Capital Formation in agriculture and allied sectors (in Rs. crore)			GDP agriculture and allied sector (in Rs. crore)	Share of GCF in GDP of agriculture and allied sectors (%)		
	Public	Private	Total		Public	Private	Total
2007-08	23257	82484	105741	655080	3.5	12.6	16.1
2008-09	20572	106555	127127	655689	3.1	16.3	19.4
2009-10	22693	110469	133162	660987	3.4	16.7	20.1
2010-11	19918	111306	131224	713477	2.8	15.6	18.4
2011-12	22095	124483	146578	739495	3.0	16.8	19.8

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO)

As per the draft Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) document, the plan will aim to realize public investment in agriculture to 4 per cent agricultural GDP.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has launched several schemes to increase investments in agriculture sector, 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 addition, Government has substantially improved the availability of farm credit; implemented a rehabilitation package for areas with higher agrarian stress; implemented a massive programme of debt waiver; introduced better crop insurance schemes; increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) to improve investment in the farm sector.

Implementation of RKVY

1256. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any target has been set under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY);
- (b) if so, the details of the target set for the country in general and for various States in particular including Uttar Pradesh, State-wise;
- (c) the details of achievements made therein;
- (d) the details of funds sanctioned, released and utilized thereunder during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (e) whether Government provides flexibility under this project to States to come up with need based programme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (f) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) aims at achieving 4% annual growth in agriculture sector by ensuring holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors. Towards that end, States have been given complete flexibility to choose projects for achieving the desired growth in these sectors. Implementation of RKVY has resulted in enhancing allocation for agriculture and allied sectors by the States from Rs. 8770.16 crore (4.88%) in 2006-07 to Rs. 29413.12 crore (6.82%) in 2011-12 (RE).

Details indicating the State-wise funds allocated, released and expenditure reported by the States during the last three years and current year as on 28th February is given in the Statement.

Statement

Details showing State-wise funds allocated, released and expenditure reported by the States during the last 3 years and current year

(Rs. in crore as on 28.02.2013)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2009-10			2010-11			2011-12			2012-13		
		Allocation	Release	UC Recd.	Allocation	Release	UC Recd.	Allocation	Release	UC Recd.	Allocation	Release	UC Recd.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	410.00	410.00	410.00	393.45	432.29	432.29	727.74	734.20	734.20	601.98	577.79	181.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.10	15.98	15.98	39.08	28.95	28.95	8.26	10.68	10.68	40.31	20.37	0.00
3.	Assam	79.86	79.86	79.86	256.87	216.87	216.87	227.77	227.77	227.77	399.57	399.57	233.31
4.	Bihar	110.79	110.79	110.79	380.94	415.10	415.10	506.82	506.82	469.74	724.01	687.39	346.70
5.	Chhattisgarh	131.78	136.14	136.14	461.00	503.42	503.42	230.57	212.61	202.71	581.12	480.44	206.56
6.	Goa	11.87	0.00		11.31	7.07	7.07	49.55	24.78	24.78	62.43	35.27	0.00
7.	Gujarat	386.19	386.19	386.19	353.45	388.63	388.63	515.48	515.48	515.48	586.87	*564.24	463.63
8.	Haryana	112.77	112.77	112.75	204.74	226.80	225.63	168.92	176.87	157.26	199.49	*118.23	55.11

9. Himachal Pradesh	33.02	33.03	33.03	94.85	94.85	94.85	94.85	99.93	99.93	97.54	73.48	45.06	27.60
10. Jammu and Kashmir	42.05	42.85	42.85	96.42	96.28	103.03	63.03	54.18	112.08	95.77	35.25		
11. Jharkhand	70.13	70.13	70.13	160.96	96.90	91.37	168.56	174.56	174.56	241.55	185.84	57.80	
12. Karnataka	410.00	410.00	410.00	284.03	284.03	284.03	595.90	595.90	574.06	586.52	*360.27	0.00	
13. Kerala	110.92	110.92	110.92	192.35	149.65	149.65	173.93	182.89	175.48	282.26	253.03	94.13	
14. Madhya Pradesh	247.44	247.44	247.44	589.09	559.18	559.18	398.37	398.37	366.08	448.13	348.13	197.77	
15. Maharashtra	407.24	404.39	404.39	653.00	653.00	653.00	727.67	735.44	735.44	1025.81	*1050.81	421.64	
16. Manipur	5.86	5.86	5.86	24.81	15.50	15.50	22.25	22.25	22.25	52.94	31.85	0.00	
17. Meghalaya	24.68	24.68	24.68	46.12	46.12	46.12	14.66	20.44	20.44	105.34	22.68	0.00	
18. Mizoram	4.15	0.00	0.00	7.49	3.75	3.75	34.61	36.63	30.36	200.91	181.16	96.89	
19. Nagaland	20.38	20.38	20.38	13.24	13.25	13.25	37.54	37.54	37.54	85.75	85.75	51.75	
20. Odisha	121.49	121.49	121.49	274.40	274.40	274.40	356.96	356.96	345.95	503.10	374.99	215.05	
21. Punjab	43.23	43.23	43.23	179.12	179.12	179.12	138.87	145.87	106.66	146.93	*45.73	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
22. Rajasthan	186.12	186.12	186.12	572.47	628.01	628.01	685.04	692.08	692.08	363.09	305.37	152.39
23. Sikkim	15.29	15.29	15.29	6.56	6.56	6.56	20.08	24.64	19.91	29.47	15.21	0.00
24. Tamil Nadu	127.90	127.90	127.90	225.71	250.03	250.03	333.06	333.06	276.65	659.68	*413.79	212.48
25. Tripura	31.28	31.28	31.28	116.86	116.48	116.48	17.99	25.63	25.63	56.43	49.86	16.50
26. Uttar Pradesh	390.97	390.97	390.97	635.92	695.36	695.36	757.26	762.83	762.83	432.26	241.77	0.00
27. Uttarakhand	71.36	71.46	71.46	2.61	1.31	1.31	131.77	128.84	48.73	44.36	8.21	0.00
28. West Bengal	147.38	147.38	147.38	476.15	335.98	335.98	476.65	486.65	486.65	464.81	369.99	134.50
TOTAL STATES:	3770.25	3756.53	3756.51	6662.00	6719.03	6712.15	7729.24	7732.75	7395.61	9110.68	7368.5	3200.32

*Including Rs. 100.00 crore additional allocation and release under the AFDP for the Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu approved by the EGoM for 2012-13.

Sharp decline in agricultural production

1257. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural production has declined sharply during last year, compared to the previous five years;

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

(c) whether wrong use of fertilizer-mix is one of the reasons for such a decline in production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As indicated in the table below, except coarse cereals, production of all major agricultural crops during 2012-13 has been higher than their average production during the last five years *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2011-12:—

Crop	Production (Million Tonnes)	
	Average (2007-08 to 2011-12)	2012-13#
Rice	97.25	101.80
Wheat	84.36	92.30
Coarse Cereals	39.96	38.47
Pulses	15.86	17.58
Foodgrains	237.43	250.14
Oilseeds	28.93	29.47
Sugarcane	325.79	334.54
Cotton*	28.08	33.80

#2nd advance estimates,

*Million bales of 170 kg. each.

(c) and (d) Though production during 2012-13 has been higher than the average production, imbalance in use of fertilizers adversely affects soil health and productivity which may lead to decline in production in the long run.

Per-capita availability of foodgrains

1258. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that production of foodgrains has increased during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether it is reflected in the per capita foodgrains availability; and
- (d) the per capita foodgrains availability during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) The production of foodgrains since 2009-10 is given in the Table below:—

(Million tonnes)

Year	Production of foodgrains
2009-10	218.11
2010-11	244.49
2011-12	259.32

State-wise production of foodgrains is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The per capita net availability of foodgrains since 2009 is given below:—

(Grams per day)

Year	Per capita availability of foodgrains
2009	444.0
2010	437.1
2011(P)	462.9

P: Provisional

Statement*Details of State-wise production of foodgrains*

(In 000 tonnes)

State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	15295.0	20315.0	18363.1
Arunachal Pradesh	308.9	333.7	362.5
Assam	4481.2	4876.5	4663.3
Bihar	10150.6	9221.9	14047.2
Chhattisgarh	4902.8	7055.2	6870.5
Goa	109.9	123.1	130.2
Gujarat	5761.0	8341.6	8874.3
Haryana	15357.0	16629.5	17958.7
Himachal Pradesh	1017.2	1421.1	1510.3
Jammu and Kashmir	1314.2	1521.6	1586.3
Jharkhand	2152.2	1876.6	4175.3
Karnataka	10955.0	13877.3	12095.1
Kerala	610.8	527.1	572.1
Madhya Pradesh	16016.4	14952.1	20394.8
Maharashtra	12586.3	15420.4	12544.0
Manipur	338.9	592.7	669.1
Meghalaya	239.2	239.0	249.1
Mizoram	62.3	66.9	68.0
Nagaland	354.2	568.3	566.5

1	2	3	4
Odisha	7552.9	7619.3	6412.3
Punjab	26950.1	27866.3	28389.1
Rajasthan	12350.1	18832.2	19469.7
Sikkim	117.3	110.3	103.2
Tamil Nadu	7511.4	7594.9	10151.8
Tripura	647.9	712.4	729.9
Uttar Pradesh	43195.3	47247.6	50283.6
Uttarakhand	1796.0	1815.5	1852.0
West Bengal	15741.5	14466.9	15985.7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27.1	25.5	25.3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21.3	29.9	24.6
Delhi	125.8	153.3	149.2
Daman and Diu	4.9	4.8	3.3
Puducherry	52.9	53.4	43.2
ALL INDIA:	218107.4	244491.8	259323.2

Legislation on compassion for all living creatures

1259. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to bring in any new legislation which empathize on compassion for all living creatures to fulfil duties Article 51A of the Constitution of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India, Ministry of

Environment and Forests, has enacted the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 which aims to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals. This legislation attempts to fulfill a part of the fundamental duties mentioned under Article 51(A) of the Constitution of India.

Inclusion of oil palm in the list of crops for giving MSP

1260. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of States which are cultivating oil palm and producing palm oil in the country during the last ten years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry for inclusion of oil palm in the list of crops for giving MSP;
- (c) if so, the details of the proposal sent by the State Government; and
- (d) the action Ministry has taken on the above request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) The State-wise and year-wise details of area under oil palm cultivation and production of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) are given at Annexure. [See Appendix 228 Annexure No. 17] and Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) Government of Andhra Pradesh had earlier requested for including oil palm in the list of crops identified for announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP). Under the MSP Scheme those commodities are covered which are mostly items of mass consumption of all India nature with fairly long shelf life and/or necessary for food/nutrition security. Since oil palm is a perishable commodity, it is not covered under MSP. However, it is covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), which is implemented on the requests of State Governments, for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of fall in market prices. The above position has been communicated to Government of Andhra Pradesh.

On the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh, Ministry of Agriculture has sanctioned Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of 90,000 MT of Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) at the Market Intervention Price (MIP) of Rs. 5720/- per MT with overhead expenses of Rs. 100/- per MT or actual whichever is less from 1.01.2013 to 31.03.2013 in the State.

Statement

Details of State-wise, year-wise quantity of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) obtained under Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) under ISOPOM during last ten years

Sl.No	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18960.00	21457.00	23905.00	43500.00	35509.00	38000.00	43593.00	57402.00	63487.00	97987.00
2.	Karnataka	606.64	646.00	681.01	793.00	974.00	1037.46	1170.00	1118.00	1459.00	1739.59
3.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	NR	110.49	178.26	248.66	272.70	365.50	364.60	485.80	758.80
4.	Gujarat	2.94	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Odisha	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	476.00	589.00	87.1.00	2162.00
6.	Goa	330.85	324.00	348.93	379.00	345.00	342.45	392.76	279.48	329.35	394.45
7.	Tripura	0.00	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
8.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
9.	Kerala	6572.00	6387.00	5792.94	6478.00	6888.00	5750.00	7400.00	6600.00	6900.00	7500.00
10.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1696.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NR	NR	NR	0.00	0.00
11.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL:	28168.43	28817.00	30838.37	51328.26	43964.66	45402.61	53397.26	66353.08	73532.15	110541.84

Note: Data/Information based on inputs provided by State Government and Dte of Oilseeds Development Hyderabad.

The production of CPO is based on the production of oil extraction ratio; i.e. 16%-17% of total Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) produced.

Grant-in-aid to Bihar for agricultural schemes

‡1261. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the names of those schemes and the amount of grant-in-aid provided?

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

(b) An amount of Rs. 912.64 crore has been released by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to the State Government of Bihar during 2012-13 (upto 31.1.2013) under Major schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana; National Food Security Mission; Macro Management of Agriculture; National Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro Irrigation; Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize; Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms; National Bamboo Mission etc., which are being implemented in the State for increasing the production and productivity in the agriculture sector.

Judicious use of pesticides

1262. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise data for last three years for high level of pesticide residues found in rice, wheat, vegetables and fruits;

(b) the remedial steps taken by Government to combat high level of pesticide residues as mentioned in part (a) above;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure usage of pesticides in prescribed dosages and as per methodology mentioned on label and leaflets so that they do not pose any risk or hazard to human beings; and

(d) the statistical outcome of Government's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme to ensure judicious usage of pesticides in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme “Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level” under which samples of various food commodities including rice, wheat, vegetables, fruits and water are analyzed for the presence of pesticides residues. The pesticide residue data generated under the scheme are shared with State Governments and concerned Ministries/Organizations to initiate the corrective action for judicious and proper use of pesticides on crops with an Integrated Pest Management approach and to generate awareness amongst farmers. Government of India is also promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Farmers Field School focusing on safe, judicious and need based use of approved pesticides and other pest management practices.

(c) As per the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 and rules framed thereunder, manufacturers of pesticides are required to provide a label and leaflet with each pack having details of directions for use, dose, dilution, waiting period and safety precautions. In the Farmers Field Schools conducted under Integrated Pest Management farmers are advised to adhere to the directions given in label and leaflets. Pesticide manufacturers/associations also provide guidance to farmers on safe and judicious use of pesticides.

(d) At national level, impact of IPM has been observed through the following indicators:—

- Use of bio-pesticides/neem based pesticides increased from 123 MT during 1994-95 to 8,110 MT during 2011-12.
- Over all consumption of chemical pesticide in the country has reduced from 75,033 MT (Tech. Grade) during 1990-91 to 50,583 MT (T.G.) during 2011-12.

Statement

State-wise data for the pesticide residues found above Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) in rice, wheat, vegetables and fruits for the period from 2009-12

(Number of samples)

States	Vegetable	Fruits	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	35	4	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	40	Nil	Nil	6
West Bengal	13	Nil	5	Nil
Karnataka	38	15	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	30	6	6	12
Haryana	27	1	Nil	7
Tamil Nadu	36	5	Nil	Nil
Punjab	13	Nil	1	11
Delhi	37	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rajasthan	31	Nil	6	8
Himachal Pradesh	28	Nil	Nil	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	8	Nil	2	Nil
Kerala	Nil	Nil	15	6
Madhya Pradesh	2	Nil	Nil	2
Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10	Nil	Nil	Nil

Nil means no sample contained residues above MRL.

Setting up of Centre for Cotton Excellence in Gujarat

1263. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts of Government to start good cotton practices in the country and particularly in Gujarat;
- (b) the vision of Government to increase cotton production during next five years;
- (c) the technological, financial and institutional help extended by Government for the purpose; and

(d) whether Government would approve setting up of Centre for Cotton Excellence in Gujarat to boost cotton production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) under which technological, financial and institutional assistance is being provided for increasing cotton production in the country including Gujarat. Under Mini Mission-II of TMC assistance is being provided to the farmers on various inputs like seeds, agriculture implements, water-saving devices, bio-agents/bio-pesticides, integrated pest management, transfer of crop production and plant protection technologies through demonstrations, and training of farmers under farmers field schools, etc., to promote good cotton practices in the country including in Gujarat. Under the Eleventh Plan an amount of Rs. 2644 crore has been allocated under MM-I by Department of Agricultural Research Education (DARE) for research and Rs. 207.19 crore (Central share) released under MM-II by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for cotton development in the country including Gujarat, respectively.

(d) To boost cotton production in Gujarat, the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur and All India coordinated Cotton Improvement Project (AICCIP), Coimbatore of ICAR through Navasari Agricultural University and Junagarh Agricultural University are conducting basic, strategic and applied research for development of cotton. Besides, Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also engaged in disseminating scientific cotton production technologies in the State.

Fall in production

1264. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for a considerable fall in production from 3.88 million tones to 0.69 million tones inspite of an increase in the cultivable area from 4.43 million hectares in 2010-11 to 5.55 million hectares in 2011-12; and

(b) the details of cultivable area and production under organic farming in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the recorded fall in certified organic production is on account of transitional period

from system of manual collection of information from the Certification Bodies (CBs) to a web based software for traceability in organic products “Tracenet”, which was introduced in June, 2010.

The details of cultivable area and production under organic farming in Andhra Pradesh during last three years is as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Area in ha. including the wild harvest	44395.67	14350.72	47456.77
Production in MT including wild collection	11129.24	59470.76	3658.43

Source: (Data provided by Certification Bodies in Tracenet).

District-wise details are not available.

Shortage of life saving drugs

1265. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that due to shortage of supply, life-saving drugs are being sold at high prices;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether there is any mechanism through which the information of stock with sellers of life-saving drugs is received from time-to-time; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) “Life saving drugs” are not defined in the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995). National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) monitors shortages and availability of drugs on the basis of monthly reports received from State Drugs Control Administration and also complaints, if any, received from individuals etc. On receipt of such reports, NPPA immediately takes up the matter with the concerned manufacturer and advise them to rush the stock in the affected area. NPPA has not received any specific report that due to shortage of supply, life-saving drugs are being sold at high prices.

Under the provisions of the DPCO, 1995 the prices of 74 scheduled bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. 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.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Also 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. 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.

(c) and (d) Information of stock with sellers of life-saving drugs is not being maintained centrally.

Opening of more Jan Aushadhi stores

1266. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: 289

(a) whether Government has opened retail stores "Jan Aushadhi" which sell generic drugs in certain States as one of the measures to curb unethical marketing practices followed by pharmaceutical companies and the use of branded drugs;

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

(c) whether there is a proposal to open more such stores in other States including Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) In order to provide relief to the common man in the area of healthcare, a countrywide campaign in the name of 'Jan Aushadhi Campaign' was initiated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, in collaboration with the State Governments, by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi Generic Drug Stores in the Government Hospitals by way of supply of generic medicines through the Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all.

In order to enable a focused and empowered structure to implement the Jan Aushadhi campaign, a Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India (BPPI) was formed under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals. BPPI *inter-alia* is required to coordinate with all the stake-holders including the Health and Family Welfare Departments of the State Governments in connection with the opening of Jan Aushadhi stores in their States and also to ensure supply of generic medicines to all such stores through the CPSUs. So far, 149 Jan Aushadhi stores have been opened (upto 28.02.2013) in the country, spread over in twelve States, namely, Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, including UT of Chandigarh. The details of the Jan Aushadhi Stores opened upto 28.02.2013 is given in the Statement (*See below*). Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has from time to time issued circulars/instructions to all Government Hospitals, CGHS dispensaries as well as the State Governments to promote prescription of generic medicines by their doctors to the maximum extent possible.

(c) So far as the process of opening of more Jan Aushadhi stores is concerned, efforts are on to open more stores in other States including Jharkhand in the country. The Government proposes to open, with the collaboration of State Governments, atleast five stores in each district so as to have 3150 stores by the end of the Twelfth plan. However, much depends upon the prevailing health policy or the health programme being followed by the respective State Governments, in order to determine the feasibility and the viability for opening/managing such stores and also the extent of support and cooperation the State Governments provide in allotting the space in more number of places including identification of the agency to manage such stores, besides ensuring the cooperation of the Government Doctors in prescribing generic medicines.

Statement

List of Jan Aushadhi stores opened so far (as on 28.02.2013)

Sl. No.	State	District	Date of opening
1	2	3	4
1.	Punjab (23)	Amritsar	25.11.08
2.		Mohali	23.02.09

1	2	3	4
3.		Bhatinda	02.03.09
4.		Ludhiana	17.06.09/08.09.11
5.		Jalandhar	17.06-09
6.		Patiala	29.06.09
7.		Moga	30.06.09
8.		Faridkot	30.06.09
9.		Ferozpur	04.09.09
10.		Mansa	12.09.09
11.		Sangrur	01.10.09
12.		Barnala	01.10.09
13.		Fatehgarh Sahib*	28.10.09
14.		Roop Nagar (Ropar)*	03.12.09
15.		Nava Sahar (Sahid Bhagat Singh Nagar)	03.12.09
16.		Hoshiarpur	11.12.09
17.		Taran Taran	13.12.09
18.		Muktsar	18.12.09/re-opened on 05.09.2011
19.		Gurdaspur	29.12.09
20.		Kapurthala	31.12.09
21.		Civil Hospital, Pathankot	09.05.11
22.		Civil Hospital, Abohar	30.11.11
23.		Civil Hospital, Nabha District, Patiala	03.04.12

1	2	3	4
24.	Delhi (3)	Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi	05.02.09
25.		Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Shahdara	13.11.09
26.		Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Hari Nagar	11.02.10
27.	Haryana (4)	Gurgaon**	20.02.09
28.		Punchkula	23.02.09
29.		Faridabad**	05.08.09
30.		Yamuna Nagar**	29.08.09
31.	Rajasthan (53)@	Kanwatia Hospital, Jaipur	27.02.09
32.		Jaipuriya Hospital, Jaipur	01.06.09
33.		Alwar	05.06.09
34.		Sawai Madhopur	25.08.09
35.		Sriganganagar-I	26.03.10
36.		Sriganganagar-II	26.03.10
37.		Udaipur	28.03.10
38.		Banswara	05.04.10
39.		Jhalawad	15.04.10
40.		Keshorao Patan	20.04.10
41.		Bundi	30.04.10
42.		Bhawani Mandi	01.05.10
43.		Jalore	01.05.10
44.		Khanpur (Jhalawad)	02.05.10
45.		Churu	03.05.10
46.		Jhujhunu	04.05.10

1	2	3	4
47.		Rajgarh (Alwar)	06.05.10
48.		Byawar	08.05.10
49.		Hanumangarh	14.05.10
50.		Sunel (Jhalawad)	16.05.10
51.		Rampura (Kota-1)	25.05.10
52.		MBM Hospital (Kota-2)	25.05.10
53.		Rajsamand	27.05.10
54.		Bhilwara	01.06.10
55.		Pali	02.06.10
56.		Onsiya (Jodhpur)	05.06.10
57.		Dungarpur	06.06.10
58.		Mandore, Jodhpur	06.06.10
59.		Sagwara	06.06.10
60.		Tonk-1	12.06.10
61.		Niwahi (Tonk-2)	12.06.10
62.		Bikaner	21.06.10
63.		Partapgarh	06.07.10
64.		Bijay Nagar	07.07.10
65.		Barmer (Ajmer)	09.07.10
66.		Dausa	10.07.10
67.		Hanumangarh	13.07.10
68.		Bharatpur	20.08.10
69.		Malpura (Tonk)	28.08.10
70.		Lalsoth	01.09.10

1	2	3	4
71.		Sirohi	14.09.10
72.		Sikar-1	18.10.10
73.		Sikar-2	18.10.10
74.		Bandi Kui	14.11.10
75.		Medical College, Kota-3	01.12.10
76.		Neem Ka Thana	04.12.10
77.		Jaisalmer	15.12.10
78.		Sojat City-1	12.01.11
79.		Sojat City-2	12.01.11
80.		Ajmer	28.02.11
81.		Bhindar	28.02.11
82.		Dholpur	15.06.11
83.		Baran	13.07.11
84.	Andhra Pradesh (3)	Visakhapatnam Port Trust Hospital	12.12.09
85.		Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, (NIMS) Hyderabad**	05.03.10
86.		Uppal Industrial Employees Healthcare Centre, Uppal**	29.07.10
87.	Odisha (18)	Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar	06.03.10
88.		Red Cross Bhavan, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar	06.03.10
89.		District HQ Hospital, Khordha	06.03.10
90.		District HQ Hospital, Dhenkanal	25.03.10
91.		District HQ Hospital, Koraput	11.06.10
92.		District HQ Hospital, Angul	09.07.10

1	2	3	4
93.		District HQ Hospital, Nabrangpur	15.08.10
94.		District HQ Hospital, Baragarh	03.10.10
95.		District HQ Hospital, Nayagarh	26.03.11
96.		District HQ Hospital, Berhampur	11.04.11
97.		District HQ Hospital, Jajpur	13.04.11
98.		District HQ Hospital, Puri	19.04.11
99.		District HQ Hospital, Naupada	30.04.11
100.		District HQ Hospital, Baripada Mayurbhanj	12.05.11
101.		District HQ Hospital, Balasore	28.04.12
102.		District HQ Hospital, Jeypore	15.09.12
103.		District HQ Hospital, Bhawanipatana	01.12.12
104.		District HQ Hospital, Phulbani	22.02.13
105.	West Bengal (3)	M.R. Bangar Hospital, Kolkata#	25.08.10
106.		N.R.S. Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata#	25.08.10
107.		Howrah District Hospital, Howrah#	10.08.11
108.	Uttarakhand (2)	Dehradun	09.11.09
109.		Roorkee	27.11.09
110.	Chandigarh (3)	PGIMER, Chandigarh	16.11.09
111.		Government Medical College Hospital, Sector-32	04.08.10
112.		Multi Specialty Hospital, Sector-16	02.02.11
113.	Jammu and Kashmir (3)	Red Cross Building, Exchange Road, Srinagar	09.05.11

1	2	3	4
114.		District Hospital, Leh	09.01.12
115.		MMAB hospital, Anantnag	01.05.12
116.	Himachal Pradesh (10)	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla	18.05.11
117.		Zonal Hospital, Mandi	18.06.11
118.		Civil Hospital, Una	25.07.11
119.		Zonal Hospital, Tanda	19.08.11
120.		Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala	30.08.11
121.		Civil Hospital, Solan	09.11.11
122.		Regional Hospital, Chamba	18.11.11
123.		DDU Zonal Hospital, Shimla	07.12.11
124.		Regional Hospital, Hamirpur	01.04.12
125.		Zonal Hospital, Kullu	19.03.2012/ 09.05.2012
126.	Jharkhand (24)	District Hospital, Sahibganj	15.08.2012
127.		District Hospital, Latehar	15.08.2012
128.		District Hospital, Jamtara	15.08.2012
129.		District Hospital, RIIMS Ranchi	22.08.2012
130.		District Hospital, Simdega	23.08.2012
131.		District Hospital, Gumla	29.08.2012
132.		District Hospital, Chatra	15.08.2012
133.		District Hospital, Godda	16.08.2012
134.		District Hospital, Ranchi	22.08.2012
135.		District Hospital, Dhanbad	31.08.2012
136.		District Hospital, Bokaro	15.08.2012
137.		District Hospital, Saraikela	15.08.2012

1	2	3	4
138.		District Hospital, Dumka	21.08.2012
139.		District Hospital, Lohardaga	31.08.2012
140.		District Hospital, Chaibasa	25.09.2012
141.		District Hospital, Giridih	09.09.2012
142.		District Hospital, Khuti	28.08.2012
143.		District Hospital, Ramgarh	31.08.2012
144.		District Hospital, Palamu	21.09.2012
145.		District Hospital, Deogarh	15.08.2012
146.		District Hospital, Hazaribagh	31.08.2012
147.		District Hospital, Pakur	05.10.2012
148.		District Hospital, Garhwa	15.10.2012
149.		District Hospital, Koderma	09.01.2013

* In Punjab, two stores at Fatehgarh Sahib and Roop Nagar are non-functional due to administrative reasons.

** In Haryana, three Jan Aushadhi Stores at Faridabad, Gurgaon and Yamuna Nagar and also Jan Aushadhi Store at NIMS and UPPAL, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh are non-functional due to administrative reasons,

@ In the case of Rajasthan, as per the latest Health Policy of the Government of Rajasthan, free medicines are being given to all the in-patients as well as outpatients visiting the State Government Hospitals for treatment *w.e.f.* 2nd October, 2011. Accordingly, the State Government has since converted all the existing 53 JASs in the State, besides opening new outlets for free distribution centers for medicines. The matter regarding functioning of JASs in the State has been taken up with the MD, Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation, Government of Rajasthan.

In the case of West Bengal, as per the latest message received from the operating agencies, the State Government has directed them to close the Jan Aushadhi sales from there and are contemplating to run fair price stores for sale of medicines from such outlets.

Closure of Urea plants

1267. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that eight fertilizer plants in the country are closed for many years and not producing Urea due to non-supply of natural gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to operationalise those fertilizer plants and to ensure supply of Urea to farmers at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Eight fertilizer units, five of Fertilizer Corporation of India limited (FCIL) and three units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) are lying closed since the year 2002, due to variety of reasons such as vintage of plants, technological obsolescence, design and equipment deficiencies and lack of investment on upgradation/modernization. None of these units were gas-based.

Based on the recommendation of Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS), Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 4.8.2011 approved the proposal for revival of closed units of FCIL and HFCL with the stipulation that 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. The BIFR has appointed State Bank of India as Operating Agency for examining the DRS of HFCL & FCIL.

In a recent hearing, the Bench advised the Department of Fertilizers to explore the possibility of company's net worth becoming positive and directed to work out the way to repay the dues of creditors of the FCIL and HFCL to enable the company to come out of purview of BIFR. A meeting of ECOS was held on 23.1.2013 to discuss the various issues concerning revival of HFCL/FCIL along with recent direction of BIFR. The ECOS recommended that matter be placed before CCEA. A Cabinet note has been circulated to all stake holder ministries for inter-ministerial consultation.

In addition, Kanpur Fertilizers and Cement Limited, a private owned unit, presently

closed naphtha based unit is expected to restart its urea production on natural gas/LNG by July, 2013.

Requirement of gas for fertilizer sector

1268. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest estimate of extra gas requirement of the fertilizer sector put forward by the Department of Fertilizers for the Twelfth Plan period;
- (b) whether it has been accepted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;
- (c) if so, at what price it will be supplied to consumers;
- (d) if not, how the requirement of fertilizer sector be fulfilled;
- (e) whether infrastructure facilities to supply gas at the door steps of the units have already been completed; and
- (f) if not, the schedule of completing the pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The addition requirement of natural gas communicated to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas by the Department of Fertilizers for urea units is as under:

Name of units	Year-wise/Plant-wise Additional requirement of Natural Gas (mmscmd)		
	January-March, 2013	November, 2013	June, 2016
1	2	3	4

Conversion of FO/LSHS units

NFL-Nangal	1.0
NFL-Bhatinda	0.90
NFL-Panipat	0.90
GNFC-Bharauch	0.95

1	2	3	4
Conversion of Naphtha units			
ZIL-Goa	1.28		
MCFL-Mangalore		1.00	
MFL-Manali		1.54	
SPIC-Tuticorin		1.66	
FACT-Udyogmandal		0.94	
KFCPL-Kanpur		1.7	
Green field/Brownfield Projects			
Matix Fertilizer and Chemical Burdwan	2.4(0.5 CBM and 1.9 NG)		
8 Expansion units			8*2.4=19.2
TOTAL:	7.43	6.84	19.2

(b) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of coal based ammonia-urea complex in Odisha

1269. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Coal Chemicals Ltd., a Chennai based Shriram Group Company has proposed to set up a coal-based ammonia-urea complex at Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) M/s Bharat Coal and Chemicals Ltd. of the Shriram group, Chennai has intimated to set up a coal based 1500 TPD Urea plant based on coal gasification at Paradip in Odisha State with an investment of Rs. 3000 crores.

Commissioning of BCPL

1270. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the construction of gas cracker project of Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) is progressing very slowly;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the expected date of commissioning of the project;
- (c) the details of posts created, category-wise and appointments made;
- (d) whether BCPL has any policy of reservation of post for the local youth of Assam;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) As on 15.2.2013, the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) has achieved the overall physical progress of 89% as per targeted mechanical completion by July, 2013 and commissioning by December, 2013.

(c) The category-wise details of sanctioned posts and appointment made is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) to (f) BCPL is a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSE) and all recruitment including reservation for various categories, are done as per the Presidential directives and guidelines of Government of India.

Statement*The details of posts created category-wise and appointments made*

(As on 04/03/2013)

Sl. Discipline No.	GRADE														Total		
	Non-Exe.		E-2		E-3		E-4		E-5		E-6		E-7		S	A	
	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Chemical	56	0	90	23	27	5	11	5	5	2	1	1	1	0	191	36
2.	Mechanical	26	0	34	20	14	10	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	81	35
3.	Electrical	25	0	20	20	7	6	3	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	59	30
4.	Instrument	26	0	21	19	5	4	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	57	24
5.	Civil	0	0	5	4	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	12	9
6.	IT	0	0	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	10	5
7.	HR	9	0	13	10	7	2	2	0	4	1	2	0	1	0	38	13

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8. Law	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
9. F&A	5	0	18	11	9	3	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	0	1	0	41	17
10. F&S	40	0	13	4	1	4	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	58	4
11. C&P	6	0	12	8	4	8	4	3	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	27	11
12. CS	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	2
13. PR&CC	0	0	3	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2
14. Marketing	0	0	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	2
15. Telecom	0	0	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4
16. Laboratory	0	0	6	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	11	0
17. Security	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
18. Environment	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
19. OL	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
TOTAL:	194	0	249	128	88	128	88	40	40	17	27	9	15	2	7	0	620	196

S — Sanctioned, A — Appointed

Awarding of Honorary Doctorate degrees by NIPER

1271. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons, status and basis on which Honorary Doctorate degrees were awarded by various National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) during the last three years;

(b) whether awarding of such Honorary degrees were approved by the Board of Governors (BOG) of the Institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action the Board of Governors of NIPER has taken against the persons responsible for such lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) have reported that during the last three years Honorary Doctorate degrees were not awarded.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pharmaceutical MNCs in the country

1272. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of MNCs that have set up pharmaceutical companies in the country, during last two years, year-wise and company-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that prices of medicines have been hiked after their entry and their subsequent actions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As per the information from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), six MNCs have set up pharmaceutical units as per table below:

Sl.No.	Name of MNC	Year
1	2	3
1.	Abbott Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.	2011

1	2	3
2.	Fresenius Kabi Oncology Ltd.	2011
3.	Mylan Laboratories Ltd.	2011
4.	Vascular Concepts Pvt. Ltd.	2011
5.	Shantha Biotechnics Ltd.	2011
6.	Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. (Daichi-Sankyo Group)	2012

(b) and (c) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, the prices of 74 scheduled bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA/Government 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/Government

In respect of drugs not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* “non-scheduled drugs”, manufacturers are at liberty to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government/NPPA. Also 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.

Measures to meet demand of Urea

1273. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of Urea in the country by the end of Twelfth Five Year Plan will be around 360 lakh MT; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/likely to be taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As assessed by the XII Working Group for the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the projected demand for urea in the country by the end of Twelfth Five Year Plan is expected at around 336.77 LMT.

(b) The steps taken by the Government of India in making availability of fertilizers are as under:—

- (i) The gap between requirement and indigenous production is met through imports.
- (ii) The Government has notified the New Investment Policy, 2012 on 2nd January, 2012 to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector, increase domestic production of urea and to reduce India's import dependency in urea production.

Import of fertilizers

1274. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an increase in the import of fertilizers during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details of the fertilizers imported during last five years, year-wise;
- (c) the reasons for import of fertilizers;
- (d) whether Indian fertilizer industry, both in the public and private sector is not in a position to produce enough fertilizers of the required quantity and quality;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Import of urea in the country is restricted and its import for direct agriculture use is made on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous availability. The import of other fertilizers is free and the importers are importing these fertilizers as per their commercial decision depending upon the demand-availability situation in the Country. The year-wise imports of fertilizers during the last 5 years are as under:

Year	Urea	DAP	TSP	NPK	MOP	MAP
2007-08	69.28	26.96	0.00	0.00	44.32	1.50
2008-09	56.67	61.92	1.73	0.00	43.46	2.67
2009-10	52.09	58.89	0.87	0.00	41.62	1.93
2010-11	66.10	74.11	0.98	9.81	45.00	1.88
2011-12	78.34	69.05	1.60	36.73	26.93	4.94

(d) and (e) The fertilizers like Urea, Di Ammonium Phosphate, various grades of complex fertilizers, Single Super Phosphate (SSP) etc. are being produced in the country. However, the production of fertilizers in the country is not adequate to meet the demand due to raw material availability constrains in the country. Accordingly, the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production is being met through imports. Muriate of Potash (MoP) is the only fertilizer, whose demand is fully met through imports as there are no economically viable sources of Potash in the country.

(f) Government is always encouraging production of urea in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government has notified the New Investment Policy, 2012 on 2nd January, 2013 to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector and to reduce India's import dependency. In case of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers the Country is almost dependent on imports either by way of imports of finished fertilizers or by importing raw material/intermediates for manufacturing of these fertilizers in the Country. Government has taken initiatives to encourage indigenous production in P&K sector by allowing import parity price to the indigenous manufacturers of DAP and complex fertilizers under Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of finished fertilizers and fertilizer inputs to P&K sector. The production of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) in the country has increased from 25.34 LMT in 2008-09 to 43.24 LMT in 2011-12.

National Mission on Food Processing

1275. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started National Mission on Food Processing with a view to promote food processing in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether, as a part of this, any food processing centre has been established or being planned to be established in the country, particularly in Jharkhand; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 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 basic objective of NMFP is decentralization of implementation of the schemes, leading to substantial participation of State Governments/UTs. The NMFP will significantly enhance Ministry's outreach in terms of planning, supervision and monitoring of assistance through this scheme. 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

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not setup any food processing centres on its own. Under the National Mission on Food Processing

(NMFP), the State Governments have been empowered to receive the applications, sanction and release the grants-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries. Mission also provides flexibility to States/UTs in the selection of beneficiaries, location of projects etc. for the development of food processing sector. The entrepreneurs desirous to set up food processing centres may submit their proposals/applications to the Mission Directors of NMFP in the respective States as per guidelines of the Mission.

National Telecom Policy

1276. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved National Telecom Policy-2012 to address the vision, strategic direction and various medium and long term issues related to telecom sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the salient features of the National Telecom Policy-2012;

(c) whether the issues related to manufacturing of Telecom Equipments have also been incorporated in the said policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the objectives of Telecom Equipment Manufacturing sector incorporated in the said policy?

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

(b) National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12) has been approved by the Government on 31.5.2012. Salient features of NTP-12 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The NTP-12, *inter-alia*, has following Objectives on promoting R&D, Telecom Equipment Manufacturing and standardization of Telecommunication Equipment:—

- Promote innovation, indigenous R&D and manufacturing to serve domestic and global markets, by increasing skills and competencies.
- Create a corpus to promote indigenous R&D, IPR creation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, commercialisation and deployment of state-of-the-art telecom products and services during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period.

- Promote the ecosystem for design, Research and Development, IPR creation, testing, standardization and manufacturing *i.e.* complete value chain for domestic production of telecommunication equipment to meet Indian telecom sector demand to the extent of 60% and 80% with a minimum value addition of 45% and 65% by the year 2017 and 2020 respectively.
- Provide preference to domestically manufactured telecommunication products, in procurement of those telecommunication products which have security implications for the country and in Government procurement for its own use, consistent with our World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments.
- Develop and establish standards to meet national requirements, generate IPRs, and participate in international standardization bodies to contribute in formulation of global standards, thereby making India a leading nation in the area of international telecom standardization.
- Put in place appropriate fiscal and financial incentives required for indigenous manufacturers of telecom products and R&D institutions.

Statement

Salient features of National Telecom Policy-2012

Licensing, Convergence and Value Added Services

- Strive to create ***One Nation — One License*** across services and service areas.
- Achieve ***One Nation — Full Mobile Number Portability*** and work towards ***One Nation — Free Roaming***.
- To orient, review and harmonise the legal, regulatory and licensing framework in a time bound manner to enable seamless delivery of converged services in technology and service neutral environment. Convergence would cover:—
 - Convergence of services *i.e.* convergence of voice, data, Video, Internet Telephony (VoIP), value added services and broadcasting services.
 - Convergence of networks *i.e.* convergence of access network, carriage network (NLD/ILD) and broadcast network.
 - Convergence of devices *i.e.* telephone, Personal Computer, Television, Radio, set top boxes and other connected devices.

- To *move towards Unified License regime* to exploit the attendant benefits of convergence, spectrum liberalisation and facilitate *delinking of the licensing of Networks from the delivery of Services to the end users* to enable operators to optimally and efficiently utilise their networks and spectrum by sharing active and passive infrastructure.
- Put in place a simplified Merger and Acquisition regime in telecom service sector while ensuring adequate competition.
- To *facilitate resale at the service level* under the proposed licensing regime — both wholesale and retail.
- To *delink spectrum in respect of all future licences*. Spectrum shall be made available at a price determined through market related processes.
- To *frame appropriate Policies* for new licensing framework, migration of existing licensees to new framework, exit policy, measures for ensuring adequate competition etc. in consultation with TRAI.
- To facilitate *convergence of local cable TV* networks post digitalisation.
- To put in place an appropriate regulatory framework for delivery of *VAS at affordable price* to fuel growth in entrepreneurship, innovation and provision of *region specific content in regional languages*.
- To put in place a framework to regulate the carriage charges, which are content *neutral and based on the bandwidth utilisation*.
- *Reposition the mobile phone* from a mere communication device to an *instrument of empowerment* that combines communication with proof of identity, fully secure financial and other transaction capability, multi-lingual services and a whole range of other capabilities that ride on them and transcend the literacy barrier.

Spectrum Management

- Ensure adequate availability of spectrum and its allocation in a transparent manner through market related processes. *Make available additional 300 MHz spectrum for IMT services by the year 2017 and another 200 MHz by 2020.*
- To move at the earliest towards liberalisation of spectrum to enable use of spectrum in any band to provide any service in any technology as well as to permit spectrum pooling, sharing and later, trading to enable optimal utilisation of *spectrum through appropriate regulatory framework*.

- To undertake *periodic audit* of spectrum utilisation to ensure its efficient use.
- To refarm spectrum and allot alternative frequency bands or media to service providers from time to time to make spectrum available for introduction of new technologies for telecom applications.
- To *prepare a roadmap* for availability of additional spectrum every 5 years.

Broadband and Rural Telephony

- *Increase rural teledensity from the current level of around 39 to 70 by the year 2017 and 100 by the year 2020.*
- To recognise telecom, including broadband connectivity as a basic necessity like education and health and work towards '*Right to Broadband*'.
- Provide affordable and reliable broadband-on-demand by the year 2015 and to *achieve 175 million broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed and making available higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps on demand.*
- *Provide high speed and high quality broadband access to all village panchayats through a combination of technologies by the year 2014 and progressively to all villages and habitations by 2020.*

R&D, Manufacturing and Standardization of Telecommunication Equipment

- Promote the ecosystem for design, Research and Development, IPR creation, testing, standardization and manufacturing *i.e.* complete value chain for domestic production of telecommunication equipment to *meet Indian telecom sector* demand to the extent of 60% and 80% with a minimum value addition of 45% and 65% by the year 2017 and 2020 respectively.
- *Create a corpus to promote indigenous R&D, IPR creation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, commercialisation and deployment of state-of-the-art telecom products and services during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period.*
- To promote *setting up of Telecommunications Standard Development Organisation (TSDO) as an* autonomous body with effective participation of the government, industry, R&D centres, service providers, and academia to drive consensus regarding standards to meet national requirements including security needs.

- ***Provide preference*** to domestically manufactured telecommunication products, in procurement of those telecommunication products which have security implications for the country and in Government procurement for its own use, consistent with our World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments.

Telecom Infrastructure/Row issues, Green Telecom, Clear Skyline, Mitigation efforts during Disasters and Emergencies

- To work towards ***recognition of telecom as Infrastructure Sector for both wireline and wireless*** and extension of the benefits available to infrastructure sectors to telecom sector also, to realize true potential of ICT for development.
- To facilitate increased use of alternative sources (Renewable Energy Technologies) of energy for powering telecom networks through active participation of all the stakeholders — the Government, the telecom industry and the consumer for green telecommunications. Sector specific schemes and targets for promotion of green technologies will be finalised in consultation with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and other stakeholders.

Quality of Service and Protection of Consumer Interest

- To strengthen the regulator for ensuring compliance of the prescribed performance standards and Quality of Service (QoS) parameters by the Telecom Service Providers.
- To formulate a ***Code of Practice for Sales and Marketing Communications*** to improve transparency as well as address security issues relating to Customer Acquisition.
- To ***undertake legislative measures*** to bring disputes between telecom consumers and service providers ***within the jurisdiction of Consumer Forums established*** under Consumer Protection Act.

Security

- To create an institutional framework through regulatory measures to ensure that ***safe-to-connect*** devices are inducted into the Telecom Network and service providers take measures for ensuring the security of the network.
- To ensure security in an increasingly insecure cyber space, indigenously manufactured multi-functional SIM cards with indigenously designed chips incorporating specific laid down standards are considered critical.

Skill Development and Public Sector

- To *assess the manpower requirement at different skill and expertise levels by partnering* with *National Skill Development Council* and *industry* to identify the relevant needs of the sector and prepare a roadmap.

Cloud Services

- To recognise that cloud computing will significantly speed up design and roll out of services, enable social networking and participative governance and e-Commerce on a scale which was not possible with traditional technology solutions.
- To take new policy initiatives to ensure rapid expansion of new services and technologies at globally competitive prices by addressing the concerns of cloud users and other stakeholders including specific steps that need to be taken for lowering the cost of service delivery.

Telecom Enterprise Services, Data Use New Technologies and IPV6 Compliant Networks

- To facilitate the role of new technologies in furthering public welfare and enhanced customer choices through affordable access and efficient service delivery. The emergence of new service formats such as Machine-to-Machine (*M2M communications* (e.g. remotely operated irrigation pumps, smart grid etc.) represent tremendous opportunities, especially as their roll-out becomes more widespread.
- To recognize the importance of the new Internet Protocol IPV6 to start offering new IP based services on the new protocol and to encourage new and innovative IPV6 based applications in different sectors of the economy by enabling participatory approach of all stake holders.

Financing of Telecom Sector

- To create a *Telecom Finance Corporation* as a vehicle to mobilize and channelize financing for telecom projects in order to facilitate investment in the telecom sector.
- *To rationalize taxes, duties and levies affecting the sector and work towards providing a stable fiscal regime* to stimulate investments and making services more affordable.

Role of Regulator, Changes in Legislation

- To review the TRAI Act with a view to addressing regulatory inadequacies/ impediments in effective discharge of its functions.
- To undertake a comprehensive review of Indian Telegraph Act and its rules and other allied legislations with a view to making them consistent with and in furtherance of the above policy objectives.

Operationalisation of the Policy

- To take suitable facilitatory measures to encourage existing service providers to rapidly migrate to the new regime in a uniformly liberalised environment with a level playing field.
- Policy will be operationalized by bringing out detailed guidelines, as may be considered appropriate, from time to time.

Guidelines for PCO holders

1277. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

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

(a) whether Government has issued compulsory guidelines for cyber cafe holders to maintain the brief details of cyber cafe users to avoid misuse; if so, when;

(b) whether Government is not serious enough to issue similar guidelines to PCO holders to maintain brief details of callers who use Public Telephone Booths to avoid hoax calls;

(c) whether the Ministry has communicated with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Governments in this regard so that criminals who make a hoax calls from PCOs can be captured and punished; and

(d) whether Railways and airport agencies are receiving such hoax calls frequently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Sir. The Government has notified the Information Technology (Guidelines for cyber Cafe Rules 2011). The

Rules provide the detailed guidelines for cyber cafe holders *inter-alia* for registration of cyber cafe and preserving the records in respect of the users or any person who uses the services at such cyber café.

(b) and (c) After taking a considered view in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs and Telecom Service Providers, it has been decided that issuing the directives to obtain documents of identification and maintaining brief details of the caller before he makes a call from Public Telephone booths, may not be appropriate at present as besides the privacy issue and potential misuse of documents/information of the calluses, this arrangement may deprive a section of the society to make a call as photo identity roof currently may not be available with every citizen. By mandating such directions, even general public may not be able to contact their families in emergency situations. Further, this solution is not practicable as beside the Village Panchayat Telephones (VPT), out of total 33.68 lakhs (approximate) Public Call Offices, nearly eight lakhs are unmanned Coin Collection Box (CCB) Type. As such mandating such instructions may create more problems to the common citizens instead of helping to security agencies in tracing the hoax calls.

(d) Airport Authority of India has reported two incidences of Hoax calls one each at Calicut and Patna during last one year and no incidence has been reported by Ministry of Railways.

Penalty for violation of MNP regulations

†1278. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and amount of penalty fixed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the violations of regulations by the service providers under the telecom Mobile Number Portability;

(b) the details of the penalty imposed on the service providing companies till date along with the names of such companies, as per the penalty/fine fixed by TRAI, so that the uniformity of regulations in providing services to the consumers may be ensured; and

(c) whether the consumers are charged for number portability and location portability?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued Telecommunications Mobile Number Portability (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2012, dated 19th September, 2012, for levying financial disincentives @ Rs. 10,000/- on the Telecom Service Providers where contravention is established in rejection of porting request and @ Rs. 5,000/- for violation of timelines specified in the MNP regulations.

(b) Under these regulations, till date no penalty/fine have been imposed on any of the service providers by TRAI.

(c) In the present framework, only mobile number portability is allowed, under which a subscriber can port his mobile number within the same licensed service area. TRAI has specified that the porting charge *i.e.* the amount to be paid by a subscriber for availing Mobile Number Portability, shall not be more than the per port transaction charge *i.e.* Rs. 19/-. The service provider is free to charge any amount less than or equal to this porting charge.

Problem of weak signals of MTNL and BSNL

†1279. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of the country including NCR from where complaints of weak signal of MTNL/BSNL have been received and the time taken for addressing the aforesaid complaints;

(b) whether consumers have to face the problem of weak signal at many places in the periphery of four kilometres of Parliament in Delhi also;

(c) the number of mobile subscribers who have surrendered the connections or have switched over to another service provider under MNP due to this problem during last three years; and

(d) whether anyone has been penalized for not resolving such problems in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) and (b) As per information provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), complaints from customers are received from time to time regarding weak signals in their service areas including National Capital Region (NCR) and areas around Parliament where the services are provided by MTNL. Quality of Service (QoS) is monitored on a regular basis by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI has indicated, from time to time, some deficiencies on specified parameters of service in specific service areas. Improvement in service delivery is a continuous process.

Since the problem of weak signals arise due to several reasons which may require different levels of intervention, it is difficult to indicate a specific time limit for addressing the problem.

(c) and (d) Mobile Number Portability (MNP) was introduced in November, 2010. After implementation of MNP, the net porting-out of mobile subscribers is 853191 for BSNL and 125763 for MTNL till 31.12.2012.

Effect of radiation from mobile towers

†1280. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that radiation from mobile towers installed on houses/buildings pose threat to human health and these can cause dangerous diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any report on radiation from such mobile towers, if so the details thereof;

(d) the details of the norms laid down by Government keeping in view the protective aspect; and

(e) the details of standards being adopted by other countries to avoid ill effects of mobile towers on human body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Sir, there are no conclusive data available so far on this issue. The review of literature does not establish any conclusive evidence on the safety or risk of Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) emitted from mobile phone towers. World Health Organization (WHO) in its

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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”.

Further, Department of Science and Technology (DST) has constituted a committee on 01.10.2012, under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Former Director General (ICMR), having representative from IIT Chennai, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Environment and Forest, ICMR and DST to examine the harmful effects from Cell towers on the population living in the vicinity and for developing the frame of reference for calling out request for proposals for scientific assessment of health hazards and adverse impact on ecology.

(d) and (e) Based on the recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Committee, Department of Telecommunications, as a precautionary measure, has modified the Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Radiation Standards in India and reduced it to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with effect from 01.09.2012.

Most of the countries are following the radiation limits prescribed by the ICNIRP. However, few countries including India have adopted the limits lower than that of the ICNIRP.

Delay in delivery of mail

†1281. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which normal mails sent through post offices take upto a month's time to reach their destination;

(b) whether this delay is being caused due to shortage of staff or because of the sacks containing mails not reaching in time;

(c) if there is no dearth of staff then the reasons for which mails are not being delivered to recipients in time;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether there is an apprehension that people might lose their faith in Government machinery if they don't get their important mails through post offices in time; and

(e) if so, details of the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) It does not take a month to deliver ordinary mail. The norms for delivery of ordinary mail are 2 days for local (area within municipal limits) and between metro cities (area within municipal limits); and 2 to 6 days for "Rest of India." A majority of articles are delivered within prescribed norms.

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

(c) A majority of mail gets delivered within prescribed delivery norms. However, occasional delays occur due to the following reasons:—

(i) Late running or cancellation of trains/flights/buses used for carriage of mail;

(ii) Incomplete address written on the article;

(iii) Change of address without intimation to the post office concerned;

(iv) Non-use of PIN Code; and

(v) Mis-sending of mail.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Bringing improvement in the quality of mail delivery is a continuous activity and measures are taken from time to time to improve mail operations. The operational network has been restructured and the processes have been streamlined. An online monitoring system has been developed for Speed Post and Registered Post. Track and trace facility has been introduced for Registered mail.

Imposition of fine for violation of TRAI's guidelines

1282. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has imposed fine on telecom service providers for violation of TRAI's guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of fine collected from each service provider during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of amount spent by TRAI for various purposes for the benefit of subscribers during the above said period; and

(d) the number of schemes formulated by Government towards awareness and capacity building of subscribers in telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir, TRAI has imposed financial disincentives on service providers for violation of the provisions of regulations.

(b) TRAI had imposed financial disincentives on various service providers for violation of the provisions of the regulations, as per the details given below:—

Year	Name of service provider	Amount of penalty	Violation
1	2	3	4
2009-10	M/s Vodafone	Rs. 15,000/-	Under Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) Regulations, 2007 (4 of 2007) dated 5th June, 2007
	M/s Reliance	Rs. 11,000/-	
	M/s Bharti	Rs. 10,000/-	
	M/s Tata	Rs. 1,000/-	
	M/s Spice	Rs. 9,000/-	
	M/s BPL	Rs. 1,000/-	
	M/s MTNL	Rs. 1,000/-	
	M/s BSNL	Rs. 1,000/-	
2010-11	Nil	Nil	Not applicable
2011-12	Nil	Nil	Not applicable

1	2	3	4
2012-13	M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd.	Rs. 1,00,000/-	Of the provisions of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2010 dated 1st December, 2010

(c) and (d) TRAI undertakes consumer awareness programs. The details of amount spent for various purposes for the benefit of subscribers during the last three years and current year are given below:—

Sl. No.	Items	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Current year (upto January, 2013)
1.	Conducting Workshops/ Consumer Education Programmes and Publication of Consumer Handbooks/ CDs	Rs. 9,99,594	Rs. 43,74,305	Rs. 1,17,30,318	Rs. 6,54,206
2.	Publication of Key Performance Indicators in Newspapers	Rs. 11,53,623	Rs. 53,11,403	Rs. 12,76,559	Nil
3.	Publication of Information relating to measures taken for curbing Unsolicited Commercial Communications	Nil	Nil	Rs. 2,55,11,674	Nil

Details of schemes formulated by TRAI for awareness and capacity building are as under:—

- (i) Registration of Consumer Organizations with TRAI for enrolling more consumer organizations so as to widen the outreach to consumers through these organizations and also to enhance the effectiveness of interaction with these organizations.

- (ii) Publication of consumer handbooks and CDs in the English, Hindi and regional languages.
- (iii) Organization of Consumer Outreach Programmes.
- (iv) Organization of Consumer Education Workshops by service providers, at least one workshop in each district in a quarter.
- (v) Publication of quarterly Performance Indicator Reports, including quality of service performed by various service providers, for information of stakeholders through TRAI website.

Implementation of MNP scheme

†1283. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone subscribers who have requested for porting out and porting in under the Mobile Number Portability (MNP) scheme, cellular operator-wise;

(b) whether some private cellular operators are not fully complying with the MNP scheme and are keeping the subscribers' request pending;

(c) if so, the details of the complaints received in this regard and the number of requests cancelled/kept pending by each of the operators under the MNP scheme; and

(d) the reasons for this pendency and the action taken/being taken against the guilty operators by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The number of mobile phone subscribers who have requested for porting out and porting in under the Mobile Number Portability scheme till 25th February, 2013 is as follows:—

Service provider	Port out	Port in
1	2	3
Aircel (GSM)	6124565	4159474

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
Bharti Airtel (GSM)	18414968	23841468
BPL/Loop (GSM)	265205	224712
BSNL (CDMA)	5286	1438
BSNL (GSM)	3804926	2539903
Etisalat DB (GSM)	1166042	8825
HFCL (CDMA)	38076	50
HFCL (GSM)	63354	45193
Idea/Spice (GSM)	12141789	19282567
MTNL (GSM)	221044	60887
MTS (CDMA)	407995	301992
Reliance Com (CDMA)	2770149	337962
Reliance Com (GSM)	6458352	2848577
Reliance Tel (GSM)	1631929	1383161
S. Tel (GSM)	303584	17323
TATA Teleservices (CDMA)	2053418	190178
TATA Teleservices (GSM)	7344592	6446365
Uninor (GSM)	4685961	968043
Videocon (GSM)	629750	75501
Vodafone (GSM)	16872206	23790578

(b) to (d) In the existing MNP process, there is no provision for keeping the MNP requests pending and as such no data in this regard is available. However, there is a provision in the MNP process, for the service provider acting as Donor operator to reject porting request under certain grounds mentioned in the Telecommunications Mobile Number Portability Regulations, 2009. The details of cumulative rejections since November, 2010 done by service providers till 25th February, 2013 are as follows:—

Service Provider	Number of rejections
Aircel (GSM)	821917
Bharti Airtel (GSM)	3716966
BPL/Loop (GSM)	131989
BSNL (CDMA)	662
BSNL (GSM)	772306
Etisalat DB (GSM)	15591
HFCL (CDMA)	9635
HFCL (GSM)	6970
Idea/Spice (GSM)	2105882
MTNL (GSM)	36660
MTS (CDMA)	72837
Reliance Com (CDMA)	425477
Reliance Com (GSM)	800567
Reliance Tel (GSM)	217733
S. Tel (GSM)	11889
TATA Teleservices (CDMA)	262953
TATA Teleservices (GSM)	874468
Uninor (GSM)	660305
Videocon (GSM)	65240
Vodafone (GSM)	2763957

After implementation of the MNP Regulations, the Authority had received a number of complaints wherein the subscribers have reported that their porting requests have been rejected by the donor operators on various grounds. On examination, it was noted that rejection of porting requests of the subscribers done by the service providers in several cases were not accordance with the regulation. TRAI has issued directions

to service providers to ensure compliance of MNP regulations. In addition, TRAI has also issued Telecommunications Mobile Number Portability (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2012 dated 19th September, 2012 providing financial disincentives for unjustified rejection of porting request. These regulations came into force, sixty days from the date of publication in the official Gazette. Under these regulations till date no penalty/fine is imposed on any of the service provider by TRAI.

Relocation of cellular towers

1284. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has come across cellular towers across the country which are not following new mobile tower radiation norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of illegal cellular towers and the action taken by Government thereon;
- (c) whether Government is considering to put forth a rule to relocate those cellular towers which are 5-10 metres from the residential places as this might lead to health hazards; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to ensure safety of people from health hazards caused by the cellular radiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) Sir, as a precautionary measure in respect of Base Transmitting Station (BTS), norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) with effect from 01.09.2012. Further, Department of Telecommunications has also issued a broad guideline regarding installation of mobile towers.

Strict monitoring and enforcement of revised radiation norms has been initiated by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) by taking the actual measurements. In 102 cases, where the Base Station Emissions were found to be higher than the prescribed norms, corrective actions have been taken immediately. Show cause notices have been issued and service providers are allowed to resume operation only after corrective steps have been taken and compliance to the prescribed radiation norms

are ensured. The said cases also include some cases where the Base Station antennas were quite close and facing residential apartments.

Implementation of National Telecom Policy

1285. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is proposing to take steps to implement the measures indicated in the National Telecom Policy, 2012, as approved by the Cabinet;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the time-period for such implementation; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An implementation and review mechanism of National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12) has been formulated in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to ensure timely and effective implementation of the provisions of NTP-12.

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

Demand from telecom service providers

1286. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has raised demand from various telecom service providers as spectrum charges including penalty and interest;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some of the telecom service providers have responded to the said demand by making the demanded amount; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of provisional demand issued to various Telecom service providers on account of spectrum usage charges including penalty and interest is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) M/s Quadrant Televenture (HFCL) has made the payment of the demand amount.

Statement

*Details of provisional demand issued to various Telecom service providers
in respect of spectrum usage charges*

Sl. No.	Telecom service provider	(Amount in crore)
1.	Aircel	81.11
2.	Bharti	874.04
3.	Dishnet	0.13
4.	Etisalat DB	7.84
5.	Idea	7.70
6.	Loop Telecom	1.25
7.	Quadrant Televenture (HFCL)	15.00
8.	Reliance Communications	228.14
9.	Reliance Telecom	0.04
10.	S. Tel	6.95
11.	Sistema Shyam	47.47
12.	Spice Communications	0.54
13.	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	111.25
14.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	112.56
15.	Unitech	17.25
16.	Videocon	1.70
17.	Vodafone	877.80
TOTAL:		2390.77

Tracking of social media

1287. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has deputed a team of officials to track social media on critical issues and has also significantly increased its own presence in this medium;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is trying to combat social media such as Twitter, You Tube, etc. with 19th century tools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), they have the mandate to effectively disseminate information about Government's various policies and initiatives across different media streams. In view of the growing importance of social media as a medium of communication, the Government has taken the initiative to use the social media space.

Keeping the above objective in mind, the task has been assigned to a group of officials to ensure the timely dissemination of information relating to key initiatives and policies. This initiative of the Government has enabled it to register its presence in the social media space. It has also facilitated a direct interface with the target audience who use this medium on a 24×7 basis.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. By registering its presence on the social media space, Government is trying to utilize a new media platform along with contemporary platforms to disseminate the information relating to its policy initiatives. This initiative has enabled the Government to address the communication needs of the target audience of 21st century who process information on an immediate, continual and instant basis.

Regularisation of contract workers in BSNL and MTNL

1288. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contract workers engaged in BSNL and MTNL and for how many years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to regularise them;

- (c) if so, the time-frame thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) to (d) As per information provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), these undertakings have not engaged workers on contract basis. However, certain jobs/works are outsourced by these undertakings through contractors.

Delivery of speed post

1289. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Speed Post articles are taking four to five days locally in Delhi to reach the destinations;
- (b) if so, the factual details in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the date in respect of delivery of Speed Post articles is manipulated on the website and actual delivery is made much later;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the action taken to make the Speed Post service really speedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) No, Sir, of 16,21,548 local articles delivered in Delhi in the month of January, 2013, the average transit time (number of days from booking to delivery) was 1.95 days.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) Bringing improvement in the quality of Speed Post service is a continuous activity. In addition, following measures have been taken to make Speed Post Service speedy:—
 - (i) Optimization and consolidation of operational network of speed post.
 - (ii) Process Re-design at Speed Post Hubs.

- (iii) Development of an online monitoring system for Speed Post monitoring.

Amendment of IT Act

1290. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of several recent cases/incidents that have highlighted the draconian nature of Section 66A of the IT Act, 2008, Government would consider amending the Act accordingly so as to eliminate actions that hamper free speech; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The provisions of the section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 protect the democratic processes and freedom of speech and expression as well as citizen's rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India. The provisions are also based on the international best practices and similar provisions in the legislation of other countries. Government is not considering to amend section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Further, a writ petition (no. 167 of 2012) on section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 is pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(b) The new medium of Internet and social media are expanding and the balance required between rights and obligations of different stakeholders is going to resolve over a period of time. In such a technology advancement arena, there could be a need for consultation on the emerging issues, time and again, to refine understanding on such issues. Government has already held discussions with stakeholders including the Industry Associations, intermediaries and users to address the issue of proper implementation of the provisions of the Act. The wisdom of Hon'ble Supreme Court will also be available in due course. It will help in fully understanding the ambit and implication of cyber space. In the meantime, Government has issued an Advisory to all the State Governments and Union Territories to ensure citizen's right to freedom of speech and expression and proper implementation of provisions of section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Landline and mobile phone connections

1291. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has statistical data of landline and mobile phone connections in the country;

(b) if so, the details for the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) how many mobile connections are having internet connections during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The telecom service area-wise details of mobile and landline telephone connections in the country for the last three years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Out of the 864.72 million wireless subscribers as on 31.12.2012, 430.60 million have subscribed to data services. Similar information for the years 2010 and 2011 is given below:—

As on	Number of wireless subscribers (in million)	Wireless subscribers who had subscribed to data services (in million)
31.12.2010	752.20	332.43
31.12.2011	893.86	431.37

Statement

Telecom service area-wise details of mobile and landline telephone connections

Sl. No.	Name of Service area	As on 31.12.2010		As on 31.12.2011		As on 31.12.2012	
		Mobile	Landline	Mobile	Landline	Mobile	Landline
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57073313	2382272	65645401	2351337	63936016	2261524
2.	Assam	10687173	257002	13926481	231683	14336284	196741
3.	Bihar	49441835	1262130	61004978	609135	61020297	560061
4.	Gujarat	43325984	1971551	51006284	1870185	50280123	1786975
5.	Haryana	18986079	671414	21523973	600662	19527872	571344
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6769724	341968	7806198	315533	6805711	292670

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	5236854	214983	6011170	207293	6802340	199085
8.	Karnataka	46044325	2744898	53801988	2707345	52782195	2451120
9.	Kerala	30132206	3314886	34155318	3205878	32245228	3094549
10.	Madhya Pradesh	41549111	1419975	50154563	1197905	50668593	1120266
11.	Maharashtra	56736273	2881166	68600066	2667523	66845302	2534516
12.	North East	6416888	277540	8266334	253291	8738579	217803
13.	Odisha	20717076	568714	25493468	467422	24317039	395106
14.	Punjab	26890571	1571980	31678133	1485166	28999339	1370149
15.	Rajasthan	40844596	1346731	47275538	1197307	46572329	1084336
16.	Tamil Nadu	66806709	3511597	75766512	3354597	73283971	3135074
17.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	57995034	1476491	71751043	1387623	71979410	1059067
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	41106982	856506	52079835	816925	48338084	773660
19.	West Bengal	35268249	808898	44693423	694786	43076898	593443
20.	Kolkata	21180422	1415272	24353164	1176788	22610241	1151669
21.	Delhi	35560264	2811631	41634803	2885115	39813020	2949893
22.	Mumbai	33430367	2982455	37233805	3001712	31742046	2987658
ALL INDIA:		752200035	35090060	893862478	32685211	864720917	30786709

Cases registered under IT Act

1292. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of cases registered under various provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, in the last three years;

(b) the number of cases registered under this Act, from 2010 till date, offence-wise and State-wise;

- (c) how many of these cases have been resolved or disposed;
- (d) in how many of these cases, there has been acquittal or conviction; and
- (e) the number of such cases which involved cross-border investigations and co-ordination by the police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) With the increase in the proliferation of Information Technology and related services, there is a rise in number of cyber crimes and cyber security incidents. The trend in increase in cyber incidents is similar to that worldwide. As per the cyber crime data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 420, 966 and 1791 Cyber Crime cases were registered under Information Technology Act during 2009, 2010, 2011 respectively, thereby showing an increasing trend. A total of 276, 356 and 422 cases were registered under Cyber Crime related Sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) during 2009, 2010, 2011 respectively. Section/Offence-wise details of cases registered under Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code are given in Statement-I (*See* below). State/ Union Territory-wise details of cases registered under Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code are given in Statement-II (*See* below). The latest available information from National Crime Records Bureau pertains to the year 2011. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has also registered a total of 31 cases relating to cyber crimes/cases in which IT Act, 2000 has been invoked during the last 3 years as per the details given below:—

Year	No. of cases registered
2010	9
2011	10
2012	12
TOTAL:	31

(c) and (d) No such data is maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). However, persons arrested under IT Act, 2000 and IPC during 2009 – 2011 as recorded by NCRB is given in Statement-III (*See* below).

(e) As per the cases investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), four cases have been reported involving Cross Border Investigation and Coordination.

Statement-I
A. Cases registered in various Crimes Heads of IT Act during 2009, 2010 and 2011

Sl. No.	Crime Head	2009		2010		2011	
		Cases registered	Persons arrested	Cases registered	Persons arrested	Cases registered	Persons arrested
1							
2		3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Tampering computer source documents (Section 65)	21	6	64	79	94	66
2.	Hacking with Computer Systems						
	(i) Loss/damage to computer resource/utility [Section 66(1)]	115	63	346	233	826	487
	(ii) Hacking [Section 66(2)]	118	44	164	61	157	65
3.	Obscene publication/transmission in electronic form (Section 67)	139	141	328	361	496	443
4.	Failure						
	(i) Of compliance/orders of certifying Authority (Section 68)	3	6	2	5	6	4

(ii) To assist in decrypting the information intercepted by Government Agency (Section 69)	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
5. Un-authorized access/attempt to access of protected Computer system (Section 70)	7	16	3	6	3	3	15
6. Obtaining License or Digital Signature Certificate by misrepresentation/suppression of fact (Section 71)	1	1	9	4	6	6	0
7. Publishing false digital Signature Certificate (Section 73)	1	0	2	2	3	3	1
8. Fraud Digital Signature Certificate (Section 74)	4	6	3	4	12	12	8
9. Breach of confidentiality/privacy [Section 72(A)]	10	5	15	27	26	26	27
10. Other	1	0	30	17	157	157	68
TOTAL (A):	420	288	966	799	1791	1791	1184
<i>B. Cases registered in various Crimes Heads under IPC during 2009, 2010 and 2011</i>							
1. Offences by/Against Public Servant	0	0	2	3	7	7	3
2. False electronic evidence	0	0	3	4	1	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3. Destruction of electronic evidence		3	0	1	0	9	10
4. Forgery		158	161	188	257	259	277
5. Criminal Breach of Trust/Fraud		90	79	146	100	118	129
6. Counterfeiting							
(i) Property/mark		1	3	1	2	6	8
(ii) Tampering		3	0	8	12	5	7
(iii) Currency/Stamps		21	20	7	16	17	11
TOTAL (B):		276	263	356	394	422	446
GRANT TOTAL (A+B):		696	551	1322	1193	2213	1630

Statement-II

Number of cases registered under IT Act and related Sections of IPC during 2009-2011 as recorded by NCRB

State/UT	I.T. Act			IPC Sections		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	30	105	349	8	66	23
Arunachal Pradesh	1	3	13	0	0	1
Assam	2	18	31	2	0	0
Bihar	0	2	25	0	0	13
Chhattisgarh	4	4	2	46	46	76
Goa	8	15	16	4	1	2
Gujarat	20	35	52	16	20	15
Haryana	0	1	42	0	0	3
Himachal Pradesh	6	17	12	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	5	14	0	1	0
Jharkhand	0	0	8	0	0	25
Karnataka	97	153	151	0	23	9
Kerala	64	148	227	7	8	18
Madhya Pradesh	16	30	90	1	5	13
Maharashtra	53	142	306	108	104	87
Manipur	1	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	6	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	1	3	0	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Odisha	2	7	7	11	5	5
Punjab	28	41	59	28	27	20
Rajasthan	27	52	122	1	3	24
Sikkim	0	0	3	0	0	1
Tamil Nadu	18	52	37	19	25	8
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	14	32	101	3	9	13
Uttarakhand	7	10	6	0	1	0
West Bengal	13	49	43	10	11	14
TOTAL (STATES):	411	922	1725	264	356	370
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	4	3	10	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	3	0	0	3
Daman and Diu	0	0	1	0	0	0
Delhi	5	41	50	12	0	49
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	2	0	0	0
TOTAL (UTs):	9	44	66	12	0	52
TOTAL (ALL-INDIA):	420	966	1791	276	356	422

Statement-III

*Persons Arrested under IT Act, 2000 and IPC during 2009-2011
(as recorded by NCRB)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	I.T. Act (Persons Arrested)			IPC Sections (Persons Arrested)		
		2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	81	242	4	126	25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	7	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	4	6	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	2	6	0	0	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	7	2	44	44	102
6.	Goa	3	2	4	1	0	2
7.	Gujarat	11	45	36	25	18	19
8.	Haryana	0	0	15	0	0	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	20	5	0	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	2	3	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	9	0	0	43
12.	Karnataka	21	95	34	0	22	5
13.	Kerala	47	105	135	0	4	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24	49	97	2	10	6
15.	Maharashtra	78	143	226	89	64	85
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	3	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	1	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Odisha	1	24	1	12	3	1
21.	Punjab	17	34	38	48	42	21
22.	Rajasthan	20	35	110	2	3	22
23.	Sikkim	0	0	1	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	11	44	43	5	17	11
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	24	64	123	7	24	36
27.	Uttarakhand	4	11	3	0	3	0
28.	West Bengal	2	3	11	21	14	16
TOTAL (STATES):		284	772	1161	260	394	409
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	2	2	5	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	0	0	1
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	1	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	2	25	15	3	0	36
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL (UTs):		4	27	23	3	0	37
TOTAL (ALL-INDIA):		288	799	1184	263	394	446

Mobile phone services in Uttar Pradesh

1293. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of areas in Uttar Pradesh where mobile telephony services and mobile connectivity are weak or deficient;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) the areas in and around Ghaziabad and Gursahaiganj in Uttar Pradesh where mobile connectivity is not upto the mark; and
- (d) the steps being taken to strengthen and upgrade the mobile telephony services in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Telecom Service Providers are obliged to roll out their services in 50% of the total districts of their own choice by covering the District Head Quarter (DHQ) or any other town in lieu of DHQ. Further expansion of network beyond roll out obligations is to be done by the TSPs as per their techno-commercial interests. As such all the districts in Uttar Pradesh are covered by major Mobile Service Providers in general. However, as per the recent survey done approx. 5000 villages in Uttar Pradesh (villages as per Census, 2001) are yet to be connected by TSPs.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) assesses the performance of service providers against the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks through quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports submitted by service providers and also through audit and assessment of quality of service through independent agencies. The performance of the service providers against the quality of service benchmarks are assessed for the service area as a whole and therefore details in respect of performance in the different areas of the service area is not available. As per the Performance Monitoring Report for the quarter ending December, 2012 submitted by the service providers it is seen that the service providers have fully met the benchmarks for the network related parameters in Uttar Pradesh (East) service area. In the case of Uttar Pradesh (West) service area, all the service providers have met the benchmark for the network related parameters except BSNL.

(d) TRAI has been taking various steps to ensure quality of service by Cellular Mobile Service Providers. Some of these steps are given below:—

- (i) TRAI monitors the performance of Cellular Mobile Service against the benchmarks given for the various parameters laid in Quality of Service Regulations through Quarterly and Monthly Performance Monitoring Reports. In addition, PoI (Point of Interconnection) congestion is also monitored on monthly basis.
- (ii) TRAI also undertakes objective assessment of the Quality of Service of Cellular Mobile Services through an independent agency. A customer satisfaction survey is also conducted quarterly through this agency. The results of these audit and survey were widely published for public/ Stakeholders knowledge.
- (iii) TRAI also follows up with the Service Providers for addressing deficiencies in meeting the Quality of Service benchmarks.

Revision of reserve price for auction of spectrum

1294. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to revise the reserve price for auction of spectrum under 800 MHz band (CDMA);
- (b) if so, by when Government plans to finalise the reserve price; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to boost investors confidence and prevent another unsuccessful auction like in November, 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Auction of 800 MHz band was scheduled in November, 2012. Reserve Price for spectrum in 800 MHz was indicated in the Notice Inviting Applications issued on 28 September, 2012 for auction of spectrum in 1800 MHz and 800 MHz bands. There was no participation for auction of spectrum in 800 MHz band in November, 2012. Subsequently, Government has taken a decision to reduce the Reserve Price by 50% from the reserve price fixed for the auction held in November, 2012. Notice Inviting Application (NIA) was issued on 30.01.2013 for auction of 800 MHz in

March, 2013. One application has been received for participation in the auction for 800 MHz band and auction is scheduled to commence on 11th March, 2013.

Increase in mobile phone tariff

1295. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mobile Phone Tariff charged by the service providers in the country has been increased recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government or any regulatory agency had evaluated the cost benefit aspect of the Tariff increase; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Tariff plans are of bundled nature and the trade-off is generally between monthly fixed charges and Variable (call) charges. The average outgo per outgoing minute (Rental revenue+Airtime revenue per outgoing minute), therefore, is a realistic indicator of tariff levels. Tariff for mobile services has been showing continuous downward trends for the past several years. However, recently some telecom access service providers hiked certain components of mobile tariff. In many cases the hike is in the nature of withdrawal of concessions, reduction of free minutes and/or reduced validity in Special Tariff Vouchers. Such hikes, however, have not substantially altered the average outgo per outgoing minute.

(c) and (d) As per the current tariff framework, tariff for mobile services is under forbearance except for national roaming where ceiling tariff has been specified. Mobile operators have the flexibility to offer different tariffs depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations. Tariff for mobile services are offered as a bouquet consisting of various components like local calls, STD, ID, on-net/off-net calls, night/off peak calls, friends and family calls, Processing Fee, daily decrements, packs having various combinations of tariff concessions, SMS, free minutes, monthly charges, charges for VAS, roaming tariff etc. The revisions carried out by mobile operators may be in one or more of the above price items and the same may be different for different operators and for different service areas.

Opening of post offices in villages in Uttar Pradesh

†1296. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices situated particularly in villages of the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh as on date; and

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in all the villages of the said State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) There are 5,397 Post Offices in villages of the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) 4 Sub-Post Offices and 4 Branch Post Offices are proposed to be opened by relocation/redeployment in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year.

Filing of tariff with TRAI by telecom companies

1297. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the existing guidelines of TRAI, the operators have to file tariffs of all telecom services with the regulator before the start of such services;

(b) if so, the names of telecom operators and the dates on which these operators filed their tariffs to TRAI before starting of 3G services;

(c) whether it has come to his notice that some operators who did not have spectrum in some States started their operations of 3G services under intra circle roaming services; and

(d) if so, the names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per the existing guidelines, operators are not required to file tariffs to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) before start of service. The reporting requirement mandates the service providers to report tariffs to TRAI within seven working days from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

date of implementation of such tariff. All the telecom operators have been reporting tariff to TRAI as an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) Information regarding some of the mobile operators who had entered into intra service area roaming arrangement for providing 3G services in those service areas where they have not been allocated the 3G spectrum had come to the notice of TRAI. Names of these service providers are M/s Bharti Airtel, M/s Vodafone, M/s Idea, M/s Tata and M/s Aircel.

Computerisation of post offices in Andhra Pradesh

1298. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that computerisation of post offices in Andhra Pradesh Circle is less than the national average of 49.35 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for such low pace of computerisation in Andhra Pradesh Circle; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to step up the process of computerisation in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) No, Sir. All the Departmental Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh Circle have been computerized.

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

Formulation of policy for cyber security

†1299. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would formulate any policy in view of the increasing cyber threat in the country; and

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In order to address the issues of cyber security in a holistic manner, the Government is in the process of formulating a “National Cyber Security Policy” after consultation with all relevant stakeholders, user entities and public. The objective of the policy is to create a framework for comprehensive, collaborative and collective response to deal with the issue of cyber security at all levels within the country.

The policy document is expected to serve as a long-term template for continuous evolution, guided actions and measurement of effectiveness of such actions. It will also serve as a means to:

- Articulate our concerns, understanding, priorities for action as well as directed efforts.
- Provide confidence and reasonable assurance to all stakeholders in the country (Government, business, industry and general public) and global community, about the safety, resiliency and security of cyber space.
- Adopt a suitable posturing that can signal our resolve to make determined efforts to effectively monitor, deter and deal with cyber crime and cyber attacks.

Human resource of MTNL and BSNL

1300. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether vast human resource is available in MTNL and BSNL but the services of these companies are deteriorating;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government for proper utilization of such human resource;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the working of HR units of these companies for proper functioning and management of these companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have a staff strength of about 2.54 lakhs and 39,813 respectively. BSNL

and MTNL impart training to their employees in various areas like technology, management practices etc. and deploy them as per their requirement.

As per information provided by BSNL and MTNL, complaints from customers are received from time to time regarding Quality of Service (QoS) in their service areas. QoS is monitored on a regular basis by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI has indicated, from time to time, some deficiencies on specified parameters of service in specific service areas. Improvements in service delivery is a continuous process.

(c) to (e) BSNL and MTNL sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) which *inter-alia* include Human Resource parameters. DoT and the senior management of BSNL and MTNL regularly review the performance of these PSUs in accordance with the parameters prescribed in MoU.

MoUs/JV projects of PSUs under the Ministry

1301. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Memoranda of Understandings/Joint Venture Projects signed by the public sector undertakings under the Ministry with foreign or domestic partners;
- (b) the date of signing of each of these MoUs/Joint Venture Projects and the purposes of signing, PSU-wise;
- (c) the status of each of the MoU/Joint Venture Project, PSU-wise; and
- (d) by when each of the MoU/Joint Venture Project would be realized/completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) to (d) Sir, the information in respect of the above question is being compiled. It will be laid on the Table of the House soon.

Collaboration of private communication companies with China

†1302. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that some private companies of the country have entered into collaboration with China in the field of communication;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the names of those companies;
- (c) whether such private companies have informed the Government about their collaboration with China;
- (d) if not, whether there is an apprehension that the collaboration of private companies with China may lead to breach of confidentiality of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (e) The private manufacturing companies can enter into collaboration with any company from any country as 100% foreign direct investment is permitted in telecom equipment manufacturing. For this collaboration, the Government of India has also liberalized payment of royalty, lump sum fee for transfer of technology and payments for use of trademark/brand name *vide* Press Note No. 8 (2009 Series) dated 16th December, 2009. These payments are on the automatic route subject to Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000, as amended from time to time.

Similarly, Telecom Service Providers can procure telecom equipment from any Indian or foreign company, including companies from China, subject to compliance towards Unified Access Services Licence (UASL)/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Basic licenses in general and amendments to various telecom licenses issued in May/June, 2011 in particular. According to the amendment of May/June, 2011, telecom service provider has to get any telecom equipment, which is being inducted into network, security tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or international Security Standards from a certified lab or through the vendor facility upto 31.03.2013. From 1st April, 2013, the certification must be done from the authorized and certified agency/lab in India. The above amendments have been issued to safeguard the security of the network and information and data contained or stored in the network elements. Further telecom service providers are completely and totally responsible for security of their network and in case of any security breach, the penalty provisions have been provided in these amendments.

Charging of excess spectrum

1303. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether telecom operators have been writing to DOT against charging of excess spectrum up to the contracted quantity of 6.2 MHz of GSM and 5 MHz of CDMA;

(b) if so, the logic behind levying of one-time charge for the spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz for GSM and 2.5 MHz of CDMA;

(c) whether TRAI, DOT and Attorney General have all opined that 6.2 MHz is the contracted spectrum for GSM and 5 MHz for CDMA; and

(d) if so, whether Government had taken into account the legal complications by charging the operators for spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz for GSM and 2.5 MHz for CDMA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir, Representations from M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd., M/s Idea Cellular Ltd., M/s Vodafone and M/s Reliance Telecommunication Limited have been received.

(b) to (d) Government took a decision to levy onetime charge from spectrum beyond 4.4. MHz for GSM and 2.5 MHz for CDMA, taking into consideration, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations, Telecom Commission recommendations, opinion of the Attorney General of India, and recommendations of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM). Necessary order has been issued on 28.12.2012. A copy of the order is given in the Statement.

Statement

Order regarding levying of one-time charge for the spectrum

**Government of India
Ministry of Communications and IT
Department of Telecommunications
WPC Wing**

No.: P-11014/19/2008-PP (Pt.I)

Dated the 28th December, 2012

O R D E R

Sub: Levy of one time spectrum charges for GSM/CDMA spectrum held by the incumbent Telecom Service Providers.

In pursuance of power conferred by Section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (Act No. 13 of 1885) the Central Government hereby prescribes the following rates of one ,time spectrum charges for GSM spectrum held in 900 MHz and 1800 MHz by Telecom service providers:—

- (i) For spectrum holding above 6.2 MHz (GSM) rates applicable for the period 01.07.2008 to 31.12.2012 shall be as per Schedule of Rates given in Annexure.

- (ii) For spectrum holding above 4.4 MHz (GSM) , one time charge shall be effective from 01.01.2013 as per Schedule of Rates given in Annexure. Licensees may surrender spectrum beyond 4.4. MHz if they do not wish to pay the charge.
 - (iii) In respect of service areas Delhi, Mumbai, Karnataka and Rajasthan, the rates for 1800 MHz with effect from 01.01.2013 are provisional subject to adjustment against auction determined rate, when available.
 - (iv) Like-wise in respect of 900 MHz Band, in all service areas these rates will be adjusted against Auction determined rate, when available.
 - (v) For calculating the upfront charges in the case of spectrum holding in multiple bands (900 MHz and 1800 MHz), spectrum in 1800 MHz Band will be accounted for first, towards the limit of 4.4 MHz
 - (vi) These rates shall be charged on applicable quantum of spectrum held for the balance period of license on prorata basis.
 - (vii) The charges shall be taken as non-interest bearing advance on annual basis and adjusted against the Auction determined rate, when available.
2. For CDMA spectrum holding above 2.5 MHz in 800 MHz band, order regarding the rate for one time spectrum charges with effect from 01.01.2013 shall be issued separately.
3. **Terms of payment:**
- Licensees are permitted to pay in equated annual installments for the balance number of years of License (such that the last installment is payable not later than 12 calendar months prior to the expiry of the license) considering interest @ 9.75 %. The licensees shall also have option of upfront payment or prepayment of one or more installments.
4. The above order shall come into force with effect from 1st January, 2013.
5. This issues with the concurrence of DoT Finance *vide* Dy. No 1859-Adv (F) dated 28.12.2012.



(R.K. Niranjana)

Assistant Wireless Advisor to the
Government of India

Copy to:—

1. Secretary (T), All Members of Telecom. Commission.
2. Chairman, TRAI.
3. Chief Vigilance Officer, DoT.
4. DG P&T, Audit, Delhi.
5. Sr. DDG (WPF), DoT.
6. Sr. DDG (AS), DoT.
7. Director Wireless Monitoring Organization, New Delhi.
8. Director Internal Audit, DoT.
9. All Access Service Providers.

Annexure to order No. P-11014/19/2008-PP(Pt.I) dated 28.12.2012

*Schedule of Rate/MHz/Year for One time Spectrum Charges for GSM
Spectrum held by incumbent Telecom Service Providers*

(Amount in crore)

Sl. No.	LSA	1800 MHZ Band		900 MHZ Band	
		'A'	'B'	'C'	'D'
		Rate/MHz/ Year for Spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz for the period from 01.07.2008 to 31.12.2012	Rate/MHz/ Year for Spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz for the period from 01.01.2013 onward	Rate/MHz/ Year for Spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz for the period from 01.07.2008 to 31.12.2012	Rate/MHz/ Year for Spectrum beyond 4.4 MHz for the period from 01.01.2013 onward
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.97	11.48	5.94	22.96
2.	Assam	0.14	0.3:5	0.28	0.70
3.	Bihar	0.29	1.86	0.58	3.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Delhi	4.92	19.41	9.84	38.82
5.	Gujarat	3.14	8.99	6.28	17.98
6.	Haryana	0.62	1.86	1.24	3.72
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.03	0.31	0.06	0.62
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.06	0.25	0.12	0.50
9.	Karnataka	5.96	9.24	11.92	18.48
10.	Kerala	1.17	2.61	2.34	5.22
11.	Kolkata	2.25	4.55	4.50	9.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.50	2.16	1.00	4.32
13.	Maharashtra	5.45	10.51	10.90	21.02
14.	Mumbai	5.87	19.00	11.74	38.00
15.	North East	0.06	0.35	0.12	0.70
16.	Odisha	0.14	0.81	0.28	1.62
17.	Punjab	4.37	2.69	8.74	5.38
18.	Rajasthan	0.93	1.88	1.86	3.76
19.	Tamil Nadu	6.71	12.24	13.42	24.48
20.	Uttar Pradesh East	1.30	3.05	2.60	6.10
21.	Uttar Pradesh West	0.88	4.30	1.76	8.60
22.	West Bengal	0.03	1.03	0.06	2.06

Expected growth of medium sized IT firms

1304. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that medium sized IT firms expect slower growth in 2013;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to help such IT firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The Growth of all the Information Technology — Information Technology Enabled Services (IT-ITES) firms including mid-sized IT firms would depend on the global economic scenario and IT spending in the major markets of North America and Europe in 2013. However, as per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the exports of IT-ITES is estimated at US \$ 75.8 Billion in FY 2012-13 as compared to US \$ 68.7 Billion in FY 2011-12. Government extends several incentives for Information Technology Sector. Under the Software Technology Parks (STP) scheme, which is administered by the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Ministry of Communications and IT, the IT-ITES units are eligible for various benefits such as Customs Duty exemption on imported goods, reimbursement of Central Sales Tax (CST) and Excise Duty exemptions on procurement of indigenously manufactured goods. Further, the Department of Commerce (DoC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry through Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme assists exporters especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for export promotion activities abroad. DoC has notified 235 IT-ITES specific Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Currently, the SEZs units are eligible for tax benefits as per Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for a period of 15 years in a phased manner.

Measures to salvage BSNL and MTNL

1305. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the State owned BSNL and MTNL are in deep red and seeking bailout from Government;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Department of Telecommunications proposes to take proactive and pre-emptive measures to salvage and save these two State-owned companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the work force of both the companies would be drastically reduced and various facilities be withdrawn; and
- (f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) and

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have incurred losses during the last three years and the details of losses for the year 2011-12 are as follows:—

	Losses during 2011-12 (in Rs. crore)
BSNL	(-)8851
MTNL	(-)4110

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the senior management of BSNL and MTNL review the performance of these PSUs regularly. BSNL and MTNL have taken the following steps to increase their revenue and subscriber base:—

BSNL

- Strengthening of sales and distribution system.
- Special consumer retention camps.
- Monitoring of Quality of Service (QoS) parameters to adhere to the benchmarks stipulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- Continuous improvement in customer care through Project smile.
- Introduction of various attractive tariff plans and improved marketing strategies.
- Provision of Value Added Services including broadband services, Intelligent Network Services and broadband based value added services like Video/Games/Music on demand etc.

MTNL

- Plan to commission Convergent billing. This system will provide one bill for all services to a subscriber and address customer request for services, tariff etc.
- Reviewing of tariff for various products and services.
- Measures to facilitate easy payment of telephone bills.
- Online system for booking of different services and complaints for landline and mobile.
- MTNL is having Sanchar Haats in Delhi and Customer Service Centers (CSCs) at Mumbai, for customers to get various services like registration

for new service, duplicate bills of cellular connection, bill payment, Virtual Calling Cards etc.

In addition, DoT is engaged with these PSUs in formulation of measures for strengthening their financial position.

(e) and (f) BSNL and MTNL are utilising their work force as per their operational and commercial requirements. Both the PSUs decide themselves about the facilities to be extended/withdrawn for their employees.

**Complaints regarding distribution and utilisation of
MPLADS funds**

†1306. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the complaints received about the distribution and utilisation of MPLADS funds, the details thereof, State-wise, head-wise and category-wise along with the disposal thereof;

(b) whether complaints were received by Government regarding irregularities and unnecessary and unwarranted delay by Government officials associated with the MPLADS funds in the distribution of the above funds; and

(c) if so, the action taken against those officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was initiated in 1993. Funds are released by Government of India. Implementation is undertaken by District Authorities under the State Governments. Complaints regarding irregularities in implementation are received from time to time; they are sent to the State Governments for enquiry and appropriate action. The enquiry and appropriate action are undertaken by the State Governments. Data on State-wise and category-wise complaints and action taken is not maintained centrally in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Food Parks Scheme

1307. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for discontinuing the Food Parks Scheme by the Ministry;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of Food Parks proposed under the above scheme that are pending and by when they are going to be completed;

(c) how Mega Food Parks are different from the Food Parks proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) the progress of each of the Mega Food Park in the country, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Food Park Scheme did not envisage the complete supply chain management with backward linkages. Also, the quantum of grant-in-aid was not adequate for development of sufficient infrastructure hence, the Scheme did not achieve the expected results. Therefore, the Scheme was discontinued during Eleventh Plan.

(b) A total of 56 Food Park Projects were approved under the scheme, out of which 33 Food Parks have been completed and 14 Food Parks are partially completed. The remaining 9 Food Parks, have been closed as the implementing agencies have not been able to implement these projects. The incomplete Food Parks are proposed to be transferred to State Government to be funded under National Mission on Food Processing from next year for the remaining portion of grant-in-aid.

(c) The old Food Park Scheme did not have provision for supply chain management with backward linkages, but the new Mega Food Park Scheme provided for both forward and backward linkages. The minimum land requirement was also enhanced in the new scheme from 30 acres to 50 acres. The maximum grant admissible for a Food Park was Rs. 4.00 crores, but it is Rs. 50.00 crores in case of a Mega Food Park. While the Food Park was mostly implemented by the State Government PSUs/ Undertakings, the Mega Food Park projects are implemented by Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which is a body corporate registered under Indian Companies Act, 1956. The SPV comprises of at least 3 independent members including at least one food processor. The Mega Food Park Scheme operates on a hub and spoke model in which Central Processing Centre is net worked with Primary Processing Centers and Collection Centers.

(d) The status of progress of approved 30 Mega Food Parks is given in the Statement (*See* below).

Out of 30 Mega Food Park projects, two projects have been approved in the State of Andhra Pradesh *viz.* M/s Srimi Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Chittoor and M/s Godavari Mega Aqua Park Pvt. Ltd., West Godavari. M/s Srimi Food Park is nearing completion and partial operational.

Statement
Details regarding status of progress of approved 30 Mega Food Parks

Sl. No.	Name	Project cost (crore)	Date of in-principle approval	Date of final approval	Amount of grant approved (crore)	Amount of grant released (crore)	Actual expenditure (crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	M/s Sрни Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	116.94	16.12.2008	27.03.2009	50.00	45.00	105.25
2.	M/s Patanjali Food and Herbal Park Ltd., Uttarakhand	95.08	16.12.2008	27.03.2009	50.00	30.00	62.11
3.	M/s North East Mega Food Park Ltd., Assam	75.98	16.12.2008	27.03.2009	50.00	30.00	29.91
4.	M/s Jharkhand Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Jharkhand	113.95	16.12.2008	27.03.2009	50.00	15.00	13.78
5.	M/s Tamil Nadu Mega Food Park Ltd., Tamil Nadu	133.45	16.12.2008	16.03.2010	50.00	5.00	10.78
6.	M/s Jangipur Bengal Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., West Bengal	132.71	16.12.2008	16.03.2010	50.00	30.00	50.91
7.	M/s Integrated Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Kolar, Karnataka	144.33	03.08.2010	27.03.2011	50.00	15.00	31.36
8.	M/s International Fresh Farm Products (India) Ltd., Ferozpur, Punjab	130.38	03.08.2010	25.05.2011	50.00	30.00	39.79
9.	M/s Keventer Food Park Infra Ltd., Bhagalpur, Bihar	153.96	29.04.2011	30.11.2011	50.00	5.00	3.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	M/s Sikaria Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd., Agartala, Tripura	87.45	29.04.2011	30.11.2011	50.00	15.00	11.29
11.	M/s Anil Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Vadodara, Gujarat	141.07	29.04.2011	13.01.2012	50.00	5.00	24.53
12.	M/s MITS Mega Food Park Ltd., Rayagada, Odisha	80.17	29.04.2011	16.04.2012	50.00	5.00	3.08
13.	M/s Indus Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd.	130.82	10.10.2011	27.08.2012	50.00	5.00	13.56
14.	M/s Paithan Mega Food Park Ltd., Aurangabad, Maharashtra	120.76	05.04.2011	Final Approval to the project has been accorded on 19.02.2013.			
15.	M/s Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd., Sultampur, Uttar Pradesh	168.65	24.09.2010	“In principle” approval was accorded on 24.09.2010. The SPV has been granted extension of time till 31.03.2013 for fulfillment of prescribed conditions for final approval.			
16.	M/s Indus Best Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Raipur, Chhattisgarh	124.91	06.09.2012	“In-principle” approval has been accorded.			
17.	M/s Chekranemi Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Abhishekhpakkam, Puducherry	149.89	06.09.2012	“In-principle” approval has been accorded.			
18.	M/s Chhattisgarh Agro Mega Food Park Ltd., Raipur, Chhattisgarh	129.65	21.09.2012	“In-principle” approval has been accorded.			
19.	M/s Greens Food Park India Pvt. Ltd., Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir	81.02	21.09.2012	“In-principle” approval has been accorded.			
20.	M/s Soma New Towns (P) Ltd., Sirsa, Haryana	147.08	21.09.2012	“In-principle” approval has been accorded.			

21.	M/s Green Tech Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Ajmer, Rajasthan	113.11	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
22.	M/s Godavari Mega Aqua Park Pvt. Ltd., West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh	119.12	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
23.	M/s Pristine Logistics and Infra projects Pvt. Ltd., Khagaria, Bihar	142.98	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
24.	M/s Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park, Surat, Gujarat	108.30	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
25.	M/s Poliyani Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Una, Himachal Pradesh	97.63	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
26.	M/s Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Satara, Maharashtra	132.26	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
27.	M/s Huma Coastal Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Ganjam, Odisha	117.05	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
28.	M/s Kanchenjunga Organic Mega food Park Ltd., South Sikkim, Sikkim	80.37	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
29.	M/s Himalayan Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand	124.52	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.
30.	M/s Bengal Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Jalpaiguri, West Bengal	113.90	21.09.2012	"In-principle"	approval has been accorded.

Mega Food Parks

1308. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Parks expected to commence full commercial operation out of the 15 Mega Food Parks approved by the Ministry;

(b) whether these Food Parks are aimed at giving boost to food processing sector to benefit farmers as well as increase processing of food products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to set up more Food Parks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The Ministry has so far approved 30 Mega Food Park projects out of which 14 projects have been accorded 'Final' approval and the remaining 16 projects have been accorded 'In-principle' approval. Out of the 14 projects which have been accorded 'Final Approval', 2 projects in Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand are partially operational while 2 others in Assam and West Bengal are nearing completion. 5 more projects, one each in Punjab, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tripura are expected to be completed in 2013-14. The remaining 5 projects in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are likely to be completed in 2014-15.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Successful implementation of Mega Food Parks is expected to provide remunerative price to farmers, reduce wastage of agricultural produce, build capacity of producers and processors and create efficient supply chain from farm to market.

It is expected that on an average, each project will have around 30-35 food processing units with a collective investment of Rs. 250 crores that would eventually lead to an annual turnover of about Rs. 450-500 crores and creation of direct and indirect employment to the extent of about 30,000 persons.

The Ministry has already initiated process for seeking approval of the Competent Authority for upscaling of the Scheme.

Separate mission for food processing sector

1309. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts Government is making to give thrust to food processing sector;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start a separate mission for food processing sector on the lines of other missions;

- (c) whether any consultations have been held with the States in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) In order to promote food processing sector, the Government had implemented the following schemes in the Eleventh Plan as well as during Twelfth Plan (2012-13):—

- (i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development such as Mega Food Park, Integrated Cold Chain for Horti. Produce and setting up/modernisation of Abattoirs.
- (ii) National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during 2012-13.
- (iii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, R&D and Promotional Activities.
- (iv) Scheme for Strengthening of Institutions.

(b) 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 basic objective of NMFP is decentralization of implementation of the schemes, leading to substantial participation of State Governments/UTs. The NMFP will significantly enhance Ministry's outreach in terms of planning, supervision and monitoring of assistance through this scheme. 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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Before formulating the mission as above all the States/UTs were duly consulted. And all the States have welcomed the initiative taken by MOFPI during 2012-13 of Twelfth Plan and supported the implementation of NMFP, as NMFP provides flexibility to State/UT Governments in the selection of beneficiaries, location/region of the projects etc. for the development of food processing sector in their States.

Vision 2015 Action Plan

1310. SHRI G. N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets and achievements under Vision 2015 Action Plan for development of Food Processing Industry (FPI);

(b) the locations where Food Parks, Mega Food Parks and Agri-export Zones have been established and the amount expended; and

(c) the details of assistance and subsidies provided to FPIs and to the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The Vision Document was prepared in the year 2005. Vision Document suggested strategy to ensure faster growth of the sector. The Vision 2015 provided for enhancing the level of processing of perishable from 6% to 20% by the year 2015; enhancing value from 20% to 35% and increasing India's share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by the year 2015. To achieve these targets, investment of Rs. 1,00,000 crore was estimated by 2015, out of which Rs. 10,000 crores was to come from Government.

(b) Details indicating the locations of the Food Parks and the amount released is given in the Statement (*See* below) and the details indicating the locations of Mega Food Parks and the amount released is given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to SQ/USQ No. 1307 part (d)]

(c) The details of grant-in-aid/assistance released to the food processing industries and to the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years under various Schemes are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
(i)	Food Processing Industries	117.89	101.595	166.69
(ii)	State Government of Jammu and Kashmir	301.00	5.00	128.28

Statement
State-wise details of beneficiaries/implementing agencies under Food Park Scheme

Sl. No.	State	Location of the project	Implementing agency	Year of approval	Project cost	Approved MFPI grant Rs. in lakhs)	Grant released (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kuppam, Distt. – Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	959.29	398.12	200.00	Operational
2.	Assam	Chaygaon, Distt. – Kamrup	Assam small Industries Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	546.49	350.00	262.50	Under progress
3.	Bihar	Hajipur, Distt. – Vaishali	North Bihar Industries Area Development Authority, C/o Department of Industries	2002-03	1978.30	400.00	—	Closed
4.	Chhattisgarh	Village Teadesara, Distt. – Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation	2001-02	838.35	400.00	—	Closed grant recovered
5.	Haryana	Saha, Distt. – Ambala	Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2001-02	731.01	293.00	293.00	Operational

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Haryana	Rai, Distt. – Sonipat	Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2001-02	5320.22	400.00	300.00	Operational
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	Khunmoh, Distt. – Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	725.82	400.00	360.28	Operational
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Sopore, Baramulla	Jammu and Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (J&K SIDCO)	2002-03	948.30	400.00	268.00	Operational
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	Jammu Agro Industrial Food Park	2001-02	625.00	346.00	273.00	Closed
10.	Karnataka	Malur, Distt. – Kolar	Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board/Food Karnataka Ltd.	2000-01	1800.00	400.00	400.00	Operational
11.	Karnataka	Bagalkot	Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board/Food Karnataka Ltd.	2000-01	1859.00	400.00	300.00	Under progress
12.	Karnataka	Jevargi	Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board Food Karnataka Ltd.	2002-03	1793.00	396.45	196.25	Under progress

13. Karnataka	Hirriyur	M/s Akshay Food Park Ltd.	2006-07	1639.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	Common facilities have been completed
14. Kerala	Distt. – Mallapuram	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation	1996-97	1950.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	Operational
15. Kerala	Aroor, Distt. – Alappuzha	Marine Products Infrastructure Development Corporation Pvt. Ltd. (MIDCON)/Seafood Park India Ltd.	2001-02	1196.19	299.00	299.00	299.00	Operational
16. Kerala	Mazhuvannur, Ernakulam	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	2002-03	313.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	Operational
17. Kerala	Adoor	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	2005-06	1730.00	388.00	388.00	388.00	Operational
18. Madhya Pradesh	Jaggakhedi, Distt. – Mandasaur	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd.	2000-01	815.08	381.83	381.83	381.83	Operational
19. Madhya Pradesh	Nimrani, Distt. – Khargone	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd.	2001-02	866.36	400.00	400.00	400.00	Operations

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Piparia, Babai, Distt. — Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Bhopal) Ltd.	2001-02	820.98	400.00	388.93	Operational
21.	Madhya Pradesh	Borgaon, Distt. — Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd.	2001-02	837.65	400.00	400.00	Operational
22.	Madhya Pradesh	Malanpur, Ghirongi Distt. — Bhind (Madhya Pradesh)	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Gwalior) Ltd.	2002-03	801.52	400.00	400.00	Operational
23.	Madhya Pradesh	Maneri, Distt. — Mandla	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd.	2002-03	832.64	400.00	361.00	Operational IA does not require remaining amount
24.	Maharashtra	Butibori, Distt. — Nagpur	Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	1117.50	315.74	315.74	Operational
25.	Maharashtra	Vinchur, Distt. — Nashik	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation	2001-02	937.53	400.00	300.00	Operational
26.	Maharashtra	Mouza Gumthala, Bhandara Road, Distt. — Nagpur	M/s Haldiram Krishi Udyog Pvt. Ltd., Distt. — Nagpur	2002-03	1400.00	400.00	400.00	Operational

27. Maharashtra	Village Sangvi, Distt. – Satara	M/s Agrifood Informatics (India) Ltd., Pune-411013	2002-03	855.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	Operational
28. Maharashtra	Palus, Distt. – Sangli	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation	2003-04	1860.50	300.00	400.00	300.00	Operational
29. Maharashtra	Kapsi, Taluka Kamtee, Distt. – Nagpur	M/s Maa Umiya Audyogic Sahakari Vasahat Maryadit	2005-06	1590.00	387.00	387.00	387.00	Operational
30. Maharashtra	MIDC Industrial Area, Shendra, Aurangabad	M/s Laxmi Nirmal Pratisthan	2006-07	1612.15	400.00	400.00	400.00	Common facilities have been completed
31. Manipur	Lamphelpat, Imphal	Manipur Food Industries Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	651.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	Operational
32. Manipur	Distt. – Ukhrul	Rishang Keishing Foundation for Management of Tribal Areas	2001-02	755.25	354.01	354.01	354.01	Operational
33. Mizoram	Chhingchip	Mizoram Food and Allied Industries	2001-02	606.00	382.00	382.00	382.00	Operational
34. Nagaland	Bamunpukri, Dimapur	Progressive Rural Development Society	2006-07	1240.00	387.12	193.56	387.12	Under-progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
35.	Odisha	Khurda	Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation	2001-02	990.73	400.00	300.00	Operational
36.	Punjab	Sirhind, Distt. – Fatehgarh Sahib	Punjab Agri Export Corporation	2000-01	1087.70	400.00	200.00	Closed
37.	Rajasthan	Ranpur, Distt. – Kota	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO)	2002-03	805.03	201.25	201.25	Operational
38.	Rajasthan	Boranada, Distt. – Jodhpur	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO)	2002-03	1366.43	226.86	226.86	Operational
39.	Rajasthan	Sri Ganganagar	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO)	2003-04	597.05	131.00	115.50	Operational
40.	Rajasthan	Alwar	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO)	2006-07	1369.51	342.37	175.98	Under-progress
41.	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar, Distt. – Madurai	V.P.S Ayyemperumal Nadar and Sons	2000-01	1112.00	400.00	400.00	Operational

42. Tamil Nadu	Dindigul Distt.	Nilakottai Food Park Ltd.	2004-05	1300.00	325.00	—	Closed grant recovered
43. Tripura	Bodhjungnagar, West Tripura	Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	707.00	400.00	400.00	Operational
44. Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	Wise Industrial Park Ltd.	1999-00	1775.00	395.00	271.00	Closed
45. Uttar Pradesh	Kharkion, Distt. — Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	2251.31	400.00	200.00	Operational IA does not require remaining amount
46. Uttar Pradesh	Shahajanwa, Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority	2004-05	1471.14	323.11	80.77	Closed
47. Uttar Pradesh	Village Kushalipur, Distt. — Saharanpur	M/S Kushal International Ltd.	2002-03	1100.00	400.00	400.00	Operational
48. Uttar Pradesh	Kursi Road, Distt. — Barabanki	Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2000-01	1543.00	400.00	338.00	Operational IA does not require remaining amount
49. West Bengal	Chakgaria, 24 Parganas (South)	State Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., (BENFISH), Kolkata	1998-99	1494.35	400.00	400.00	Operational
50. West Bengal	Dankuni, Distt. — Hooghly	Modular Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	1996-97	4500.00	400.00	75.00	Closed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
51.	West Bengal	Haldia Distt. – Midnapore	Haldia Development Authority, Haldia	2002-03	948.00	400.00	300.00	Common facilities have been completed
52.	West Bengal	Sultanpur, South 24 Parganas	State Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., (BENFISH), Kolkata	2003-04	801.13	200.28	200.28	Common facilities have been completed
53.	West Bengal	Malda	Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Government of West Bengal	2003-04	1600.85	387.00	387.00	Common facilities have been completed
54.	West Bengal	Shankarapur, Distt. – Purba Medinipur	Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Resources, Government of West Bengal	2004-05	715.68	178.92	178.92	Common facilities have been completed
55.	West Bengal	Sankhrail, Howrah	West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC)	2004-05	1898.96	400.00	400.00	Operational
56.	West Bengal	Murshidabad	M/s Pataka Industries Ltd.	2005-06	1519.52	379.88	—	Closed

Proposals from Government of Jammu and Kashmir

1311. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance and subsidies disbursed to different States during Eleventh Five Year Plan for technology upgradation/setting up/modernization/expansion of Food Processing Industries, State-wise, year-wise and activity-wise;

(b) the details of proposals received from Government of Jammu and Kashmir under the Scheme;

(c) the details of projects approved for Jammu and Kashmir and assistance provided; and

(d) the details of projects of the State not approved and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The State-wise and year-wise details regarding financial assistance and subsidies disbursed to different States during Eleventh Five Year Plan for Technology upgradation/setting up/modernization/expansion of Food Processing Industries are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Scheme does not have provision for receiving applications for financial assistance from the State Governments including Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) The details of projects/proposals approved and financial assistance provided under the above Scheme for the State of Jammu and Kashmir is at Serial No. 13 of Statement (*See* below).

(d) A total of 24 cases amounting to Rs. 5.399 crores are pending due to deficiency of documents etc.

Statement

*Number of units assisted and financial assistance provided during the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and current year State-wise under the scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of FPIs**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
		Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		(as on 15.02.13)											
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43	947.49	48	908.999	41	677.05	30	562.096	105	1904.726	171	3373.93
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	17.67	3	376.14	2	66.42	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	12	442.17	17	176.79	22	418.74	26	875.701	12	242.7782	15	309.78
5.	Bihar	5	83.915	2	42.3	2	35.59	6	136.681	5	89.65674	3	51.99
6.	Chandigarh	6	138.08	0	0	0	0	1	25	0	0	0	0

7. Chhattisgarh	0	0	10	163.725	4	45.46	27	297.574	75	841.8276	109	1330.37
8. Delhi	0	0	7	160.65	2	50	3	82.6	16	410.68	9	198.70
9. Goa	1	17	1	24.57	1	24.26	1	25	2	50	1	19.42
10. Gujarat	32	544.06	39	714.81	42	665.18	52	1419.72	106	1975.034	41	701.59
11. Haryana	19	418.72	23	349.415	11	134.96	14	325.28	62	828.2817	73	931.42
12. Himachal Pradesh	12	325.09	5	152.745	10	269.58	7	204.53	14	377.51	4	95.95
13. Jammu and Kashmir	9	109.855	3	22.05	7	59.73	5	89.095	6	98.42	2	16.43
14. Jharkhand	2	9.09	0	0	3	44.09	4	85.425	1	16.57	2	33.38
15. Karnataka	34	529.62	35	629.895	24	269.55	14	377.79	61	896.2926	.62	1020.06
16. Kerala	47	876.8	32	545.37	33	567.53	19	411.72	52	901.285	15	252.44
17. Madhya Pradesh	10	172.32	14	201.87	18	273.03	14	211.294	23	376.5413	19	252.55
18. Maharashtra	95	1696.805	121	1802.633	113	1717.3	56	1006.524	202	2824.152	105	1456.88
19. Manipur	3	61.74	3	45.51	6	163.75	1	23.975	11	189.7182	20	442.74
20. Meghalaya	1	8.19	2	159.57	2	123.02	2	100.045	0	0	1	5.42

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
21. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
22. Nagaland	1	27.485	4	178.205	1	64.99	1	6.205	0	0	0	2	14.21
23. Odisha	6	129.41	2	38.68	6	84.4	8	200.875	9	113.5908	14	249.10	
24. Puducherry	2	31.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	6	150.00
25. Punjab	32	481.45	61	841.36	13	172.37	9	149.495	147	1692.902	174	1719.01	
26. Rajasthan	35	566.075	44	551.975	27	325.46	48	691.123	95	1236.563	36	523.17	
27. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Tamil Nadu	53	951.79	36	594.355	41	672.11	24	493.582	75	1389.79	36	615.95	
29. Tripura	2	39.98	1	13.86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30. Uttar Pradesh	63	1123.425	43	875.475	32	560.63	47	1078.638	53	907.0513	36	574.38	
31. Uttarakhand	9	339.78	6	163.15	12	307.57	6	168.523	5	138.047	5	115.49	
32. West Bengal	35	653.56	19	390.135	10	136.48	10	317.945	19	319.87	5	120.05	
TOTAL:	569	10725.2	579	9765.767	487	8249.97	437	9432.862	1157	17846.29	966	14574.38	

Enrolment of children in Government schools

1312. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to non-availability of teachers and marginalization of kids on the basis of caste and community by the teachers in Government schools, parents do not like to send their kids to these centres of learning;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether enrolment in private schools is going up very high and very fast, as a result of facts mentioned at (a) above; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to increase enrolment of children in Government schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the District Information System for Education (DISE), the enrolments at the elementary education level in Government and Government-aided schools for SC, ST and Muslim children from 2007-08 to 2011-12 are increasing as under:—

Category	Enrolment	
	2007-08	2011-12
SC	3,56,35,418	3,94,12,917
ST	1,91,71,747	2,17,36,821
Muslim	1,84,11,808	2,54,59,152

(c) and (d) As of 2011-12, Government and aided schools account for 75.25% of the children enrolled in elementary education. In order to retain children in elementary education, free textbooks, free uniforms, grants to schools and mid-day-meals are provided, *inter-alia*, to the children in Government schools.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas

†1313. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government proposes to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas for providing good education facility to the children in the country especially in rural and densely populated areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether children in the country especially in rural areas are deprived of getting education in these schools;

(e) whether Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas are very few in number in every State of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (f) The Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are opened primarily to cater to the educational needs of the children of transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-Military Personnel by providing a common programme of education. The proposal for the opening of new KVs under the civil sector is considered if the same is received from the concerned Ministry/Department of Government of India/State Governments/UTs/District authorities in the prescribed format, committing thereby the availability of requisite resources for the setting up of a new Kendriya Vidyalaya. At present, 1087 Kendriya Vidyalayas are functioning in different parts of the country.

The Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs) were set up with the objective of providing good quality modern education to talented children particularly from rural areas. At least 75% of the seats in a district are filled by candidates selected from rural areas. The reservation for SC, ST students is in proportion to their population, subject to a minimum of the national average of these categories. Out of the 628 districts identified so far in 34 States/UTs, 576 districts have been provided with Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. The State of Tamil Nadu has not accepted the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme.

UGC recommendation for pursuing dual degrees

1314. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended that students enrolled in a regular degree course can now pursue an

additional degree simultaneously under open or distance education mode from the same or different university;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the UGC has sought opinion of Vice-Chancellors of all universities in the country before implementation of the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response received by UGC from the universities; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that UGC has made it clear that two regular degrees can be pursued at the same time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The comments of all the Universities to the suggestion in question were solicited by the UGC. The UGC has reported that some Universities have endorsed the suggestion while some have expressed their reservations.

(d) No, Sir. No such decision has been taken by the UGC so far.

Manufacturing of Aakash tablets

1315. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been found that components of the Aakash tablet are manufactured in China and it is merely assembled in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Aakash tablets can not be counted as Indian innovation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective steps being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) Sir, under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, the IIT Bombay is doing a project to achieve the following deliverables:—

(i) The acquisition and testing of low cost access cum computing devices; and

(ii) The hardware and software optimization of low cost access cum computing devices.

The LCADs will initially be acquired for teacher empowerment. In the first phase, only 1,00,000 tablets are being procured, and are for the purpose of testing by users all over India in different climatic and usage conditions.

The purchase order from the IIT Bombay does not mandate a “Made in India” device. The emphasis has always been on devices that meet a certain set of specifications, pass the quality criteria, and are made available at a price equal to or lower than the price arrived at during the tender process initiated by the IIT Jodhpur which has envisaged 50% manufacturing in India and 50% supplies from outside India.

Also, in such devices, the key is not the hardware but the software that is made available on the device itself. The hardware merely provides a platform and the full value delivered by the Aakash device is a function of the applications available on it. None of the components of Aakash such as the Processor, the LCD Screen, the Touch Panel, the Memory, the Battery etc., are manufactured in India. Hence, the only activity that could be undertaken in India is the design of the motherboard, assembly, and a host of applications to make it a powerful educational device. Keeping in mind that the Aakash 2 tablet is meant for educational purposes, the IIT Bombay has already developed and deployed quite a few educational applications on Aakash.

Quality of education in Government schools

1316. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite a significant rise in public spending for education, quality education is not available in Government schools;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government conducts any study to ascertain the quality of education in Government schools;
- (d) if so, the findings of the study;
- (e) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure quality education in Government schools; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The National Council of

Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts National Achievement Surveys (NAS) at Grades-III, V and VIII periodically, on a sample basis under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Survey covers the Government-run and the Government-aided schools throughout the country and aims to know the learning levels of students. The findings of the recently completed NAS at Grade-V indicate that there is marginal to significant increase in the learning levels of students over time and the gaps in achievement between Boys and Girls have also narrowed down. The pass percentages of Government schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) indicates improvement in Class X performance and marginal decline in performance in Class XII:—

Category of School	2010		2011		2012	
	X	XII	X	XII	X	XII
Kendriya Vidyalayas	96.64	91.13	99.21	93.42	99.49	94.15
Navodaya Vidyalayas	98.72	95.31	99.48	96.89	99.58	95.96
Government Schools	83.01	84.49	97.85	84.02	97.77	83.66

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) through the SSA and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) supports the States and Union Territories to expand access as well as to improve quality and equity in schools. Under the SSA, the opening of 263428 new schools (165297-Primary and 98130-Upper Primary Schools), has been approved. Under the RMSA, 9636 new secondary schools have been approved and 34311 existing secondary school have been strengthened. The CBSE has initiated a strengthened form of School Based Assessment and Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in the schools affiliated to it in 2009. The CCE, in addition to academics, also focuses on Co-Curricular areas such as Life Skills, Organizational and Leadership Skills, participation in Literary and Scientific activities and participation in Physical Education and Sports.

CBSE and Pearson company research centre under PPP mode

1317. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently allowed Pearson company and the CBSE to set up a research centre under PPP mode;

(b) if so, the reasons for a private company like Pearson being preferred, ignoring the legitimate interests of NCERT, particularly when the CBSE uses the syllabus prepared by NCERT and also uses text books based on NCERT syllabus;

(c) whether Pearson company has comparable expertise, technical know-how and experience at all India level like that of the NCERT; and

(d) whether selection of Pearson company was done through the open tendering process or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Pearson Charitable Foundation was found to be the most suitable agency for setting up a Research Centre in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode through a tender floated by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). The Foundation was chosen for this job to bring in a large number of unique, complementary skills and global expertise. The Centre would help the CBSE in providing resources for assessment, pedagogy and training of teachers in addition to the support given by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and other Government institutions.

(c) and (d) The selection of the Pearson Charitable Foundation was based on an open tendering process. The Foundation fulfills the criteria of technical know-how and experience prescribed in the document of the notice inviting tender.

Establishment of Navodaya Vidyalayas in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

†1318. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh along with the details thereof, district-wise;

(b) whether Government has any plan to establish Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas in Muslim-dominated areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) A total of 92 and 105 Kendriya

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Vidyalayas (KVs) are functioning in various districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively. The number of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNVs) in various districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are 50 and 71 respectively. The District-wise details of number of the KVs and the NVs in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are given in the Statement-I and II respectively (*See* below).

- (b) The KVs and the NVs are not opened on the basis of religion/communities.
- (c) Does not arise.

Statement-I

The District-wise details of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the State of Madhya Pradesh

Sl. No.	Districts	KVs	JNVs
1	2	3	4
1.	Amla	1	0
2.	Anuppur	1	1
3.	Ashoknagar	1	1
4.	Badwani	1	1
5.	Balaghat	2	1
6.	Betul	2	1
7.	Bhind	1	1
8.	Bhopal	4	1
9.	Burhanpur	2	1
10.	Chhattarpur	1	1
11.	Chhindwara	4	1
12.	Damoh	1	1
13.	Datia	1	1
14.	Dewas	1	1

1	2	3	4
15.	Dhar	1	1
16.	Dindori	1	1
17.	Guna	2	1
18.	Gwalior	5	1
19.	Harda	1	1
20.	Hoshangabad	3	1
21.	Indore	3	1
22.	Itarsi	2	0
23.	Jabalpur	9	1
24.	Jhabua	1	2
25.	Katni	2	1
26.	Khandwa	2	1
27.	Khargon	2	1
28.	Mandla	1	1
29.	Mandsaur	1	1
30.	Murena	1	1
31.	Narsing Pur	1	1
32.	Neemuch	1	1
33.	Panna	1	1
34.	Raisen	2	1
35.	Rajgarh	1	1
36.	Ratlam	1	1
37.	Rewa	2	1
38.	Sagar	5	1

1	2	3	4
39.	Satna	2	1
40.	Sehore	1	1
41.	Seoni	1	1
42.	Shahadol	2	1
43.	Shajapur	1	1
44.	Sheopur	1	1
45.	Shivpuri	2	1
46.	Sidhi	1	1
47.	Singrauli	2	0
48.	Tikamgarh	1	1
49.	Ujjain	1	2
50.	Umaria	2	1
51.	Vidisha	1	1
TOTAL:		92	50

Statement-II

The District-wise details of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the State of Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Districts	KVs	JNVs
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra	3	1
2.	Aligarh	1	1
3.	Allahabad	9	1
4.	Ambedkar Nagar	0	1

1	2	3	4
5.	Auraiya	0	1
6.	Azamgarh	1	1
7.	Badaun	1	1
8.	Baghpat	1	1
9.	Ballia	1	1
10.	Balrampur	1	1
11.	Barabanki	1	1
12.	Bareilly	6	1
13.	Basti	1	1
14.	Banda	0	1
15.	Bhadochi	0	1
16.	Bijnor	0	1
17.	Bahraich	0	1
18.	Bulandshahr	1	1
19.	Chandauli	1	1
20.	Chitrakoot	1	1
21.	Deoria	2	1
22.	Etah	1	1
23.	Etawah	1	1
24.	Faizabad	1	1
25.	Farukhabad	1	1
26.	Fatehpur	0	1
27.	Firozabad	1	1
28.	Gautambudh Nagar	3	1

1	2	3	4
29.	Gaziabad	4	1
30.	Gazipur	1	1
31.	Gonda	2	1
32.	Gourkhpur	2	1
33.	Hamirpur	0	1
34.	Hardoi	0	1
35.	Hathras	0	1
36.	Hapur	1	0
37.	Jalaun	0	1
38.	Jaunpur	0	1
39.	J.P. Nagar	0	1
40.	Jhansi	4	1
41.	Kannauj	0	1
42.	Kanpur	9	1
43.	Kaushambi	0	1
44.	Kushinagar	0	1
45.	Kanpur Dehat	1	1
46.	Lakhimpur Kheri	1	1
47.	Lalitpur	2	1
48.	Lucknow	10	1
49.	Mahamaya Nagar	1	0
50.	Mahoba	1	1
51.	Mathura	3	1
52.	Mau	1	1

1	2	3	4
53.	Meerut	3	1
54.	Moradabad	1	1
55.	Mainpuri	0	1
56.	Mirzapur	0	1
57.	Maharajganj	0	1
58.	Muzaffar Nagar	1	1
59.	Oriya	1	0
60.	Pratapgarh	0	1
61.	Pilibhit	1	1
62.	Rae Bareli	1	1
63.	Rampur#	0	1
64.	Rampur	1	0
65.	Saharanpur	1	1
66.	Shahjahanpur	2	1
67.	Sitapur*#	0	1
68.	Sitapur	1	1
69.	Sonebhadra	3	1
70.	Shrawasti	0	1
71.	Siddharthnagar	0	1
72.	Sant Kabir Nagar	0	1
73.	Sultanpur	2	1
74.	Unnao	1	1
75.	Varanashi	4	1
TOTAL:		105	71

#Non-functional JNVs.

Learning levels in primary education

1319. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the learning outcomes of students in primary education has continued to decline inspite of an improvement in school infrastructure and enrolment rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures Government proposes to take to check decline in the primary education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), which is an assessment brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization, expresses concern regarding the learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievements of children in classes – III, V and VIII. Two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low. The findings of the third round conducted recently for class V also indicate that there is enhancement in the level of achievement in most States.

The Government is committed to improving the quality of elementary education. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which become operative with effect from 1st April, 2010, places an obligation on the appropriate government and local authority to ensure good quality elementary education conforming to the norms and standards specified in the Schedule to the Act. The norms of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for universalizing elementary education, have been revised to conform to the provisions of the RTE Act and several steps have been taken to improve the quality of elementary education, including the recruitment of additional teachers, periodic in-service training of teachers, free distribution of textbooks, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres and support for learning enhancement programmes for Mathematics and Language.

Since the commencement of the RTE Act in April, 2010 sanctions under the SSA have been given for the construction of 30,808 primary schools and 10,644 upper primary schools, 6.88 lakh additional classrooms, 31,678 drinking water facilities, 5.18 lakh toilets and for the appointment of over 7 lakh teachers.

Setting up of Centre of IGNTU in Gujarat

1320. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government or Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) has received any communication from State Government of Gujarat during last six months for setting up of a Center of this university in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the further action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that it is very difficult to allocate 300 acres of Government land at a single place and if so, the further action taken on this particular point; and

(d) by when this university would start its educational activities in Gujarat along with the specific time limit thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Government has been informed that as a matter of policy, it has been decided that the University should first stabilize its operations at its main Campus in Amarkantak before proposals for setting up of new Centres of the University can be considered.

Constraints to enrolment of children

1321. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the enrolment of children aged 6-14 years in schools during 2011-12 and 2012-13 after the introduction of RTE Act and the details of the increase in enrolment;

(b) how many children of the age group are still out of school; and

(c) the details of major constraints including lack of physical infrastructure, lack of trained teachers or other social/pedagogic/financial reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE), 2011-12, the nationwide enrolment of children aged 6-14 years has increased from 19,30,51,999 in 2010-11 to 19,90,55,138 in 2011-12.

(b) An independent sample survey conducted in 2009, estimated the nationwide number of out of school children (6-13 years) at 81.5 lakh. As per State Government reports compiled in April, 2012, the number of out-of-school children in the country was estimated at around 30 lakh.

(c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been supporting State Government/UT Administrators for improving access, retention and quality at elementary level. Since the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 became operative in April, 2010, sanctions have been given under the SSA for the construction of 30,808 primary schools and 10,644 upper primary schools, 6.88 lakh additional classrooms, 31,678 drinking water facilities, 5.18 lakh toilets and for the appointment of over 7 lakh teachers. The States/Union Territories (UTs) are also provided support for the training of untrained teachers to enable them to acquire professional qualifications. During the financial year, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (till 11th February, 2013), the Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 19,601.88 crore, Rs. 20,775.38 crore and Rs. 21,384.53 crore, respectively under the SSA.

Review of technical institutions

1322. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to constitute a committee to review all the centrally funded premier technical institutions in the country like IITs and IIMs;

(b) the criteria on which the members and chairman of the proposed committee would be selected;

(c) the details of the system of peer review test of the institutions in terms of evolution towards meeting world standards in terms of what is happening academically, technically and in the field of research; and

(d) whether the peer review is conducted according to international benchmark and it is expected to bring about transparency and accountability to the institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The Council of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), in its 46th meeting held on 07.01.2013, *inter-alia* accepted one of the recommendations of the re-constituted Standing Committee of the Council of IITs (SCIC), to carry out an external peer review of the IITs by a Review Committee of five eminent persons from Academia and Industry, on a periodic basis once in every five years. It principally envisages an academic review focusing on the core academic activities of teaching and research, as also inter-action with Industry, with special emphasis on the parameters related to (a) International Comparability, (b) Outreach to Community, (c) Commitment to National Goals, (d) Sustainability, and (e) Linkages with industry and Economic Development, Besides, each IIT would conduct an in-house department-wise review. With a view to enable all the IITs to realize the goals enunciated in its Vision and Mission statements, due importance would be attached to the review of matters that influence the academic performance, such as, governance, management structure and support systems. Presently, there is no proposal to constitute a Committee to review the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

**Introduction of four year Bachelor's degree course in
Delhi University**

†1323. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University of Delhi is going to start four year Bachelor's degree courses, Baccalaureate Education System in the year 2013 itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) and educationists are strongly protesting against introduction of this educational system;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has studied all the aspects of this system so that it may not have adverse impact on students, teachers and standard of education; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, it is going to start four-year under-graduate programme, based on knowledge development as well as skill and value-building with multiple exit and degree options, with effect from the academic year 2013-14. Degree nomenclatures on the completion of two, three and four years under this programme have been given as Associate Bacculaureate, Bacculaureate and Bacculaureate with Honours/B.Tech, respectively.

(c) to (f) The Delhi University has informed that before finalization of the course structure of this programme, it held extensive interactions with various stakeholders, such as the teachers, the students, the parents, the Head of the Departments and the Deans of Faculties. The programme has been approved by the Academic and the Executive Council of the University. The University has further informed that it shall implement the programme in compliance with Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956, which stipulates that the Universities can confer such degree as may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, be specified by the Commission by notification in the official Gazette.

Hike in fee of IITs and IIMs

1324. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased the tuition fees in IITs and IIMs by 80 per cent recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such steep hike in fees of these institutions;

(d) whether Government is aware that this hike in fees would have adverse effect on students of poor and lower middle class who are already in trouble due to price rise/inflation;

(e) if so, the response of Government thereto;

- (f) whether Government would review the fee hike and roll it back;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Group of Directors of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Standing Committee of the IIT Council, the Council of the IITs, in its 46th meeting, held on 07.01.2013, decided to revise the existing fees in respect of the Under-Graduate (UG) students of IITs from Rs. 50,000 per annum to Rs. 90,000 per annum from the academic year of 2013-14. There is, however, no proposal for fee hike in the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

(c) The cost of education tends to increase incrementally over a period of time. The substantial part of the cost is borne out of budgetary support from the Government but a small portion of it is met through fees from students. As per the analysis made in the report of the Dr. Kakodkar Committee on "Taking IITs to Excellence and Greater Relevance", the fee covered only 7.49% of the revenue expenditure during the year 2010.

(d) and (e) While the fees payable by the IIT students are gender-neutral, the SC/ST students are exempted from payment of tuition fees irrespective of their parental income. They are also entitled to travelling allowance (II class train fare/ordinary bus fare) from the place of residence to the Institute to join the B.Tech. programme. The SC/ST students admitted to the B.Tech. and Dual Degree programmes are given free book bank facilities and, those whose parental income is below Rs. 4.50 lakhs per annum, are entitled to free hostel seat rent, basic messing and pocket allowance of Rs. 250 per month. The students (other than SC/ST categories), upto 25% of intake strength whose annual parental income is less than Rs. 4.50 lakhs, are exempted from payment of tuition fee and are paid a stipend of Rs. 1000 for ten months in an academic year. Similarly, the IIMs provide need based scholarship/financial assistance to the students on case to case basis by committees constituted for this purpose. Also, easy bank loans are made available to the students ensuring that no student is denied opportunity to pursue a course in higher education for want of adequate resources.

(f) to (h) The present increase in the annual fees of the UG students of IITs from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 has come after the last increase in 2008-09. There is no proposal to roll back the fee hike.

Annual Status of Education Report

1325. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pratham, an NGO, has done stellar work and brought out its latest Annual Status of Education Report on primary education;
- (b) whether the said NGO has provoked policymakers to urgently assess and tackle the crisis in India's primary school education;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective measures Government is taking to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization, presents certain positive findings, including that more than 96% children in the 6-14 years age group are enrolled in schools in rural areas, while the percentage of out-of-school children in the 6-14 years age group has dropped from 4% in 2009 to 3.5% in 2012. The report expresses concern regarding the learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. It is indeed a valuable input, along with other material, into the work of policy-makers.

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which specially focuses on rural and backward areas, the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including the provision of 20-day in-service teacher training, the distribution of free and improved textbooks, the recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for school and teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning material, etc.

Implementation of Pay Commission recommendations in BHU

1326. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission have been implemented in respect of the nursing staff of Banaras Hindu University (BHU);

(b) if not, the reasons for not implementing the same for section of staff of the university;

(c) whether any measures have been taken by the Ministry to implement the same; and

(d) if so, the time by when the same would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) notified the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008 for the implementation of the recommendations of the commission. The Revised Pay Structures as indicated in the Section-I and II of Part-A of the first Schedule of the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008 have been implemented in respect of the non-teaching employees including the nursing staff of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) *w.e.f.* 01.01.2006. As regards the revised pay scales mentioned in the part B of the first Schedule of the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008 for certain common categories of staff, which includes nursing staff, these pay scales have not been implemented.

(b) to (d) The UGC had constituted a Committee to examine and recommend the rationalisation of Cadre structure and the pay scales of various categories of employees of the Centrally funded institutions. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination and would be decided in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Role of State Governments in matters of universities

1327. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a clear law defining the role of State Governments in matter of universities;

(b) whether their role is to only give grants to universities and bear its sundry expenses and not raise questions about irregularities and malpractices; and

(c) if so, the response of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Universities are established

either by Central legislation or by State legislation. The role of the appropriate Government is clearly defined in the Act governing the University. The State Universities established by the State Legislatures are under the control of the State Governments. In addition, the University Grants Commission (UGC) lays down, from time to time, the minimum standards concerning teaching, examination and research in universities.

(b) and (c) The grants are given to the State Universities by the State Governments and also by the UGC if they are covered under Section 2(f) and 12B of the UGC Act, 1956. The role of the State Government is not limited to grants giving alone and it can exercise powers of issuing policy directions and regulating the functioning of the State Universities subject to provisions of Acts and Statutes governing the universities and regulations issued by statutory regulatory authorities. The Central Government has introduced the Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010 in order to prohibit certain unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities and to protect the interests of students.

Eco-friendly bamboo classrooms in Delhi University

1328. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi University colleges have adopted the eco-friendly concept of bamboo classrooms to meet the infrastructure requirements due to increased number of students after implementation of OBC reservation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that bamboo classrooms are not only eco-friendly but also cost effective;

(c) whether it is also a fact that bamboo based ceilings and tin roof classrooms stay warm in winters and cool in summers; and

(d) if so, how many such classrooms have been constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, a few colleges of the University have adopted an eco-friendly concept of bamboo classrooms, which is also cost-effective.

(c) The majority of the colleges which have constructed bamboo classrooms,

have confirmed that the bamboo-based ceilings and tin roof classrooms stay warm in winters and cool in summers.

(d) Based on the information received from 46 colleges, the University of Delhi has informed us that 45 such classrooms have been constructed.

Research on WTO and IPRs

1329. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has invited applications from universities and premier research institutes to set up study centres for studies of World Trade Organization (WTO) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in the country;

(b) if so, the number of applications received from the universities/institutes for the said purpose and the status of these applications; and

(c) the funds sanctioned/released and spent in this regard, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme of Intellectual Property Education, Research and Public Outreach (IPERPO), IPR Chairs are set up in various Universities/Colleges/Institutions for the development and growth of IPR Education, Research and Training.

(b) The Government has already set up 20 MHRD IPR Chairs in various Universities/Colleges/Institutions. During the year 2012-13, two applications have been received which are under consideration.

(c) Under the Scheme of Intellectual Property Education, Research and Public Outreach (IPERPO) in the year 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 3,65,23,763/- has been sanctioned and the entire amount has been released as on 28th February, 2013 for MHRD IPR Chairs. The actual expenditure would be known only after receipt of audited expenditure statements for 2012-13 from the recipient Universities/Colleges/Institutions.

Enrolment and attendance of students in schools

1330. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of enrolment of students in the primary, upper primary and

secondary schools during each of the last three years, gender-wise and State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the incentives given or being given to States to increase enrolment of girls in schools;

(c) whether Government conducts any nation-wide exercise to evaluate and assess attendance levels of children in elementary schools and if so, details thereof, State-wise and the methodology adopted by Government in this regard; and

(d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to check decline in enrolment of girls in schools and improve their literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) As per the Statistics of School Education brought out by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the State-wise and gender-wise details of enrolment in primary, upper primary and secondary schools during the years 2008-09 (Provisional), 2009-10 (Provisional) and 2010-11 (Provisional) are given in the Statement-I, II and III respectively (*See* below).

(b) The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting the goal of Universal Elementary Education through implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Under the SSA, several interventions to promote education of girls are undertaken which include the opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, the appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, free textbooks, free uniforms, separate toilet for girls, early childhood care and education centres in/near schools in convergence with ICDS programmes etc., teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls participation and gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including textbooks and intensive community mobilization efforts to promote girls education, In addition, in educationally backward blocks with female literacy rates below the national average, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme of residential upper primary schools for girls and the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) for the intensification of community mobilization and cluster based intervention have been undertaken for addressing issues of girls education. A scheme for the construction and running of girls' hostel in secondary and higher secondary schools is also being implemented since 2009-10 in educationally backward blocks in the country to improve access and retention of the girl child.

(c) and (d) A study done by independent agencies on assessing the attendance levels of children in elementary schools was conducted in 2009 which showed that the attendance rates of girls at the primary level were 70.6% against the overall average of 68.5% and 78.7% at upper primary levels against the overall average of 75%. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which became operational with effect from 1st April, 2010, provides that every child in the 6 to 14 age-group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education. The SSA Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 and the SSA is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance enrolment. The Mid-Day-Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance the 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 disparities in access to education.

Statement-I

Enrolment in primary schools

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2008-09 (P)		2009-10 (P)		2010-11 (P)	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2881212	2815285	2715011	2657072	2775065	2688831
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	71711	65498	68536	64205	75777	70525
3.	Assam*	1640443	1570829	1218594	1201181	1218594	1201181
4.	Bihar	5912129	4623260	6251583	5034060	6597917	5624435
5.	Chhattisgarh	1897618	1762639	1632098	1518958	1647104	1536409
6.	Goa	51739	47868	53059	48464	51927	48048
7.	Gujarat	673261	690834	712145	656834	—	—
8.	Haryana	625282	697191	838811	792817	737452	701972

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	254863	245312	236957	233040	233583	226625
10.	Jammu and Kashmir*	737482	667239	704268	649676	704268	649676
11.	Jharkhand	1759496	1799585	1924311	1761455	—	—
12.	Karnataka	605602	581816	552128	530965	531980	509506
13.	Kerala	537119	476406	573483	619061	452855	450863
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6159765	5795845	6230307	5725303	3552909	3799897
15.	Maharashtra	3379329	3095255	3411262	3105589	3462668	3172094
16.	Manipur	128638	125569	129002	125683	120897	118145
17.	Meghalaya	269260	293189	331638	334991	404384	402417
18.	Mizoram	78992	72907	81127	74198	86320	79832
19.	Nagaland*	99812	95262	80708	74905	80708	74905
20.	Odisha	2349164	2233038	2308957	2184342	2291043	2167135
21.	Punjab	956279	806617	1081926	855447	661536	595277
22.	Rajasthan	2810457	2347369	2724124	2287430	2617699	2236441
23.	Sikkim*	56881	53900	55275	52282	55275	52282
24.	Tamil Nadu	3733657	3470463	2624128	2688592	1534133	1534445
25.	Tripura	1.06564	101390	101734	98352	63498	61043
26.	Uttar Pradesh	11827031	11976544	12104620	11849680	14206147	13113362
27.	Uttarakhand	564705	538630	562922	532217	567173	531467
28.	West Bengal	3303715	3271003	4100719	3988172	3486005	3499711
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8036	7490	8764	8048	8705	8030
30.	Chandigarh	6234	5201	4698	4267	5137	4757

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	19653	18158	20739	19041	20881	19151
32.	Daman and Diu	12575	10454	12607	10904	11056	9533
33.	Delhi	571986	551386	577117	558415	572990	553858
34.	Lakshadweep	2779	2789	3852	3811	3528	3418
35.	Puducherry	36960	36469	35938	35210	33779	33341
INDIA:		54130429	50952690	54073148	50384667	48872993	45778612

(P): Stands for Provisional.

*: Data for the year 2010-11 has been repeated from 2009-10 for these States.

Gujarat has not shown the figures of Enrolment for Primary and Middle Schools separately for 2010-11. Therefore, total enrolment for primary and middle schools has been shown against middle schools.

Jharkhand has not provided figures of Enrolment by type of school for the year 2010-11.

Primary schools are schools having highest class upto IV/V.

Statement-II

Enrolment in middle schools

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2008-09 (P)		2009-10 (P)		2010-11 (P)	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1304230	1191636	1248562	1147287	1214470	1115260
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68853	62370	69772	65402	71934	67904
3.	Assam*	852520	854749	804559	892263	804559	892263
4.	Bihar	3436651	2534467	3733330	2855066	4080531	3417635

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	748863	630327	661688	601597	693031	638276
6.	Goa	35671	3079	38243	33470	39505	34728
7.	Gujarat	3759546	3448517	3884546	3347812	4596693	4004668
8.	Haryana	334820	302770	438165	390721	441956	415730
9.	Himachal Pradesh	211734	193152	236160	.212021	212682	188334
10.	Jammu and Kashmir*	310245	249091	366711	321471	366711	321471
11.	Jharkhand	1582263	1359461	1582263	1359461	—	—
12.	Karnataka	3301957	3080682	3301020	3072904	3307286	3076351
13.	Kerala	615096	554572	588707	544900	570518	529551
14.	Madhya Pradesh\$	2456999	2151226	2456999	2151226	1497339	1716593
15.	Maharashtra	3464404	3081590	3482756	3095074	3516548	3114746
16.	Manipur	97478	87242	97655	87323	95800	85781
17.	Meghalaya	57690	55525	77875	87110	75259	83925
18.	Mizoram	33863	31024	34980	31796	36208	33110
19.	Nagaland*	50292	48460	45292	43460	45292	43460
20.	Odisha	789594	731862	763413	710559	728771	684516
21.	Punjab	576142	485037	367454	331609	191488	154459
22.	Rajasthan	3428614	2795211	3375393	2840206	3072079	2660970
23.	Sikkim*	14323	16914	15150	18025	15150	18025
24.	Tamil Nadu	1932515	1777446	1803040	1481834	1058783	1058063
25.	Tripura	84355	71877	81090	69541	88559	85657
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3288527	3282592	3804158	3810979	5196551	4608246
27.	Uttarakhand	231910	230321	271359	264857	275093	266226

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	West Bengal	253101	218189	330625	386115	308464	321056
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6908	6302	6161	5576	6216	5650
30.	Chandigarh	7289	6363	8557	7395	8089	7220
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5571	4537	10007	7730	10325	8678
32.	Daman and Diu	6244	5524	6266	5548	4851	4291
33.	Delhi	144170	99672	131534	85116	132741	89345
34.	Lakshadweep	778	976	1746	1764	1901	2178
35.	Puducherry	14981	14893	13695	14306	11154	11628
INDIA:		33508197	29695356	34138931	30381524	32776535	29765994

(P): Stands for Provisional.

*: Data for the year 2010-11 has been repeated from 2009-10 for these States.

\$. Data for the year 2009-10 has been repeated from 2008-09 for the State.

Gujarat has not shown the figures of Enrolment for Primary and Middle Schools separately for 2010-11. Therefore, total enrolment for primary and middle schools has been shown against middle schools.

Jharkhand has not provided figures of Enrolment by type of school for the year 2010-11.

Middle schools are schools having highest class upto VII/VIII.

Statement-III

Enrolment in secondary schools

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2008-09 (P)		2009-10 (P)		2010-11 (P)	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2748205	2622928	2797781	2679646	2750725	2646965

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29939	26066	31396	26989	30874	26982
3.	Assam*	650620	536216	706608	643081	857528	693032
4.	Bihar	947920	589298	909624	609156	961251	693268
5.	Chhattisgarh	225087	199571	259694	216540	285355	244827
6.	Goa	32439	29707	30724	27484	30955	27958
7.	Gujarat	705256	440284	758456	498515	794601	539688
8.	Haryana	582631	555230	527762	448671	527762	448671
9.	Himachal Pradesh	118484	90993	110582	94673	129558	107101
10.	Jammu and Kashmir*	139314	109894	185361	163075	185361	163075
11.	Jharkhand	302002	244416	302002	244416	—	—
12.	Karnataka	1313252	1208792	1341897	1236179	1350548	1253698
13.	Kerala	1357007	1300556	1307727	1271596	603781	604608
14.	Madhya Pradesh	919915	512488	910976	600647	1288746	793427
15.	Maharashtra	2959386	2578046	5186843	4331865	2912840	2500708
16.	Manipur	123133	112056	123706	112082	131032	115813
17.	Meghalaya	61866	61268	59515	65124	27542	28058
18.	Mizoram	22633	21943	24548	24263	25183	25069
19.	Nagaland*	104139	96213	84139	76213	84139	76213
20.	Odisha	762223	632252	774103	681777	797309	712227
21.	Punjab	248116	203349	446850	354371	488292	383319
22.	Rajasthan	1149123	666136	1188631	740488	1297832	862709
23.	Sikkim*	5667	5966	5883	6706	5883	6706

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	591384	619935	560847	603771	541863	552262
25.	Tripura	110902	110687	112327	112880	116076	113507
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2820030	1270908	3030142	1383615	2298325	1585198
27.	Uttarakhand	121201	116033	182071	157009	178707	158787
28.	West Bengal	1926404	1834670	17563	19435	1561186	1601154
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7721	7125	8363	7805	7747	7349
30.	Chandigarh	43285	32826	42877	33333	39795	31279
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5270	3395	39501	2798	4880	3493
32.	Daman and Diu	2444	2265	2463	2290	2706	2372
33.	Delhi	201286	141326	209995	144897	221993	149339
34.	Lakshadweep	1139	1411	1270	1244	1135	1156
35.	Puducherry	39135	35222	37376	34232	39521	35819
INDIA:		21378558	17019471	22284052	17656866	20581031	17195837

(P): Stands for Provisional.

*: Data for the year 2010-11 has been repeated from 2009-10 for these States.

Jharkhand has not provided figures of Enrolment by type of school for the year 2010-11.

Secondary schools are schools having highest class upto X.

Counselling for parents and students

1331. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board of Secondary Education is considering to offer counselling services to parents and students to help them deal with examination related stress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether keeping in mind the geographical spread and heterogeneity of its students, the method of communication would be in many modes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a helpline for Class X and XII on 1st February, 2013 for the 16th consecutive year. The helpline works every year in two phases *i.e.* the first phase in February-April during exams and the second phase during May-June at the time of declaration of results to provide psychological counselling.

(c) and (d) The counselling facility is offered through toll free numbers accessible from any part of the country. The students are connected to the principals or the counsellors in case of exam related anxiety or stress. This is also strengthened by providing services through Question-Answer Columns in Hindi and English National Dailies, On-Line Counselling and through information on the CBSE Website.

Utilisation of funds under SSA

1332. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme under SSA is working satisfactorily in all States;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated to various States and utilised by them during last three years;

(c) whether there is any lacuna on part of any State Government in implementation of this scheme;

(d) if so, whether any action has been taken against those States who have failed to utilise the entire funds or even 50 per cent of the allocated funds; and

(e) whether there is any provision under the scheme to allocate less funds in subsequent year to such States who failed to utilise the funds in the previous years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) All States are participating enthusiastically under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme. The Central share

of funds released to the States/UTs for the implementation of the SSA during the last three years and expenditures incurred by the States/UTs is given in the Statement (*See below*). The slow recruitment of teachers and the timely completion of school infrastructure are some of the key issues in SSA implementation by the States. Only one State (Manipur) had utilized less than 50% of funds available with them as on 31.12.2012. States with low utilization of funds under the SSA in a given year, tend to have larger spillovers to the next financial year and therefore receive lower sanction of fresh works.

Statement

*Details of Central funds release and expenditure during 2009-10
to 2011-12 under SSA*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Central Government Releases			Expenditure by State/UTs (including State Share)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38569.90	81000.00	183551.72	72257.36	144044	337247.68
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11427.95	20401.77	23880.10	12427.83	20993.09	26705.67
3.	Assam	47480.00	76854.35	106921.15	50780.61	85575.16	124930.52
4.	Bihar	121739.06	204789.63	185108.20	224870.24	349506.91	408963.04
5.	Chhattisgarh	55592.82	87863.00	69870.22	96340.63	123107.25	133902.11
6.	Goa	550.58	671.27	1079.14	1212.6	1459.1	1934.35
7.	Gujarat	20031.73	44065.01	88027.79	40058.48	82624	141781.07
8.	Haryana	27600.00	32786.11	40461.41	45620.98	64378.71	77193.8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8608.00	13786.66	14192.78	14610.06	21756.06	25196.78
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37363.27	40348.79	30070.50	22257.61	64000.64	104733.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jharkhand	70940.22	89562.26	57903.46	119946.99	159246.86	117232.77
12.	Karnataka	44220.60	66903.00	62788.35	83028.85	114457.93	124995.76
13.	Kerala	11989.50	19660.73	17021.85	19233	26071.88	26046.45
14.	Madhya Pradesh	113249.00	176783.00	190427.12	194011.77	293543	342831.85
15.	Maharashtra	56432.00	85537.00	117962.58	107883.64	143200	181066.45
16.	Manipur	1500.00	13253.77	3940.55	1443.14	10659.22	8389.53
17.	Meghalaya	9383.00	18540.90	14410.60	12093.67	20050	19782.59
18.	Mizoram	6617.75	10115.31	10814.05	8254.45	9073.47	14084.57
19.	Nagaland	4913.00	8636.83	9798.33	5439.51	10349.83	10315.05
20.	Odisha	63061.60	73177.85	92719.98	112011.89	146508.08	162570.06
21.	Punjab	20044.00	39612.74	48112.44	36772	55943	64703.06
22.	Rajasthan	127124.00	146182.29	148580.86	199893.55	270368	313064.4
23.	Sikkim	1736.00	4469.19	4022.84	2040.9	3915.93	4453.04
24.	Tamil Nadu	48366.00	69068.57	68141.96	78267.24	119480.84	116817.5
25.	Tripura	7473.00	17121.48	17493.76	9196.44	14283.8	24263.63
26.	Uttar Pradesh	196011.90	310462.88	263682.61	335048.8	511096	515804.16
27.	Uttarakhand	16006.29	25793.94	20892.49	27187.03	36831.6	39936.44
28.	West Bengal	104142.00	174703.17	177652.74	162540.01	305333.13	298627.19
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	412.44	357.78	907.36	724.18	885.55	1606.37
30.	Chandigarh	1100.72	2155.89	1611.21	2063.43	2566.09	3301.27
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	350.18	413.78	564.35	631.1	692.07	796.36
32.	Daman and Diu	169.00	162.99	257.06	324.15	374.81	485.42
33.	Delhi	3088.62	3552.71	3783.29	3684.61	4657.72	8008.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Lakshadweep	143.80	127.39	127.86	245.51	292.95	363.28
35.	Puducherry	669.96	485.38	757.62	1124.64	1296	1275.5
TOTAL:		1278107.89	1959407.42	2077538.33	2103526.9	3218622.68	3783409.92

National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning

1333. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning project;
- (b) whether it is proposed to offer degrees and diplomas to students enrolled on this virtual university;
- (c) whether these degrees and diplomas would be treated at par with such certificates as are granted by IITs and IISc; and
- (d) the action plan to develop better infrastructure in the tribal belts of the country to help the students upgrade their technical skills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Under Phase-I of the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), nearly 250 web/video courses have been developed by the IIT Madras. The creation of e-content for 996 courses (in Phase-II) in engineering, sciences, technology, humanities and management has also been undertaken by IIT Madras. More than 550 courses (web-based and video-based) have been uploaded on the NPTEL website.

(b) and (c) The NPTEL is not a virtual university. It does not offer degrees and diplomas to students using the course modules of NPTEL and no proposal has been made for it to do so.

(d) The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) aims to extend computer infrastructure and connectivity to over 25000+ colleges and 2000 polytechnics in the country, including each of the departments of 419 universities/deemed universities and institutions of national importance, as a part of its motto to provide connectivity up to the last mile. A

LAN of upto 400 nodes on average has also been envisaged to be provided to the universities under the NMEICT scheme.

Under this Mission, 1Gbps optical fiber connectivity to 4 Universities and 15-20 VPNoBB connections of upto 10 Mbps speed have already been provided to nearly 434 colleges falling in the tribal district.

Students pursuing higher education and research

‡1334. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of those students who obtain graduation degrees in the country, only 10-12 per cent students pursue Post-Graduation course per year and even less than one per cent students out of those go for research work;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Central Government to improve on these lower standards prevailing in higher education;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is an acute shortage of teachers in the universities and research institutions of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the level wise students' enrolment in the regular stream during the year 2011-12 is as under:—

Level	Enrolment (Provisional)	Percentage
Graduate	17455529	86.80
Post-Graduate	2492472	12.40
Research	160872	0.80
TOTAL:	20108873	100.00

(b) The Government has taken various measures for the promotion and growth of post graduate level studies and research in the country. In scientific areas, these

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

include the successive increase in plan allocations for Scientific Departments, the setting up of new institutions for science education and research, the creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, the establishment of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for Research and Development (R&D) in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, the recognition of R&D units and national awards for outstanding R&D for industries etc. In order to address the shortage of capacity of higher education system to offer post graduate and research education, the Central Government has also created 12 new Central Universities during the Eleventh Plan, which focus mostly on post graduate courses and programmes.

The UGC is implementing the schemes of Universities with Potential for Excellence, Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Area, College with Potential for Excellence, Major Research Projects/Minor Research Project, Special Assistance Programme, Basic Scientific Research and Research Fellowships. The Research Fellowships include the schemes of the Junior Research Fellowship, the Junior Research Fellowship for Technology and Engineering, the Post Doctoral Fellowship for Women, the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST candidates, the Maulana Azad National Fellowship for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D and the Post Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST candidates.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development is also funding research in Social Sciences and Humanities through its research councils, *viz.*, the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI).

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government had constituted a Task Force under the chairmanship of Prof. Sanjay G. Dhande to make appropriate recommendations for alleviating shortage of quality faculty. As per the report of the Task Force submitted in July, 2011, the State Universities, the Central Universities, the Deemed to be Universities and the affiliated colleges are short of qualified faculty to the extent of approximately 40%, 35%, 25% and 40% respectively.

(d) In order to meet the shortage of teachers, the age of superannuation for teachers in the Central Educational Institutions has been enhanced to sixty five years. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has advised all the Central Universities to fill up the teaching positions at the earliest. Teachers' re-employment on contract basis beyond the age of sixty five years upto the age of seventy years is permitted

subject to availability of vacant posts and fitness. Para 12.2 of the UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education 2010 clearly mentions that all the sanctioned/approved posts in the university system shall be filled up on an urgent basis.

The UGC has also launched "Operation Faculty Recharge Programme" for augmenting the research and teaching resources of universities to tackle the faculty shortage in the university system.

Findings of ASER study on schools inspected

1335. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study conducted by ASER, it has been revealed that only 80 per cent of the schools inspected had separate toilets for girls and only half of the facilities were in a usable condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the said study, 13 per cent of the schools were found not providing mid-day-meals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2011-12 (provisional), which is a comprehensive school-wise database, 65.4% schools have girls' toilets of which 80.38% are functional. The ASER study is not a source of government data.

(c) and (d) As per the Mid-Day-Meals (MDM) Programme monitoring data, 100%, 96%, 100% and 97% schools were covered under the scheme during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (upto second quarter), respectively.

Rising trend of enrolment in private schools

1336. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by ASER Centre has found a steady decline in student performance in key areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said study has also revealed a fact that there is a rising trend of enrolment in private schools since 2006, touching over 28 per cent nationally; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), which is an assessment brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization, expresses concern regarding learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of the learning achievements of children in classes – III, V and VIII. Two rounds of these National Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low. The findings of the third round conducted recently for class V also indicate that there is enhancement in the level of achievement in most States.

(c) and (d) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE), the percentage of children enrolled in private schools in rural areas at the elementary education level was 16.99 in 2011-12.

Declining learning outcomes of school going children

1337. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) of 2012, which States that the learning outcomes of children is on the decline to the extent that more than half of all children in standard-V are at least three grade levels behind where they should be, in terms of reading ability;

(b) whether the Right to Education Act fails to give provisions, how quality of education imparted and attained, should be measured;

(c) whether Government is considering the much needed amendments to the Right to Education Act, to include therein the aspect of quality of school education; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), which is an assessment brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization, expresses concern regarding the learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of the learning achievements of children in classes – III, V and VII. Two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low. The findings of the third round conducted recently for class V also indicate that there is enhancement in the level of achievement in most States.

(b) to (d) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for a system of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) of the child's understanding of knowledge and his/her ability to apply the same. The Act places an obligation on the teacher to assess the learning ability of each child and provide additional instructions, if required. The NCERT has developed guidance material on the CCE which has been shared with the States. As of now, 22 States/UTs have reported that they are implementing the system of CCE.

Central Teacher Eligibility Test

1338. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a decline in the pass percentage of Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) this year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the candidates appeared and pass percentage of CTET since 2011, year-wise;
- (d) the financial assistance given for implementation and functioning of the Centrally sponsored scheme of Teacher Education; and
- (e) the measures taken by Government to provide training to teachers and improve teaching quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Secondary Education has conducted three rounds of the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) since 2011, the results of which are as under:—

	Paper-I			Paper-II		
	Appeared	Qualified	% qualified	Appeared	Qualified	% qualified
June, 2011	5,99,754	54,748	9.13%	5,68,490	43,171	7.59%
January, 2012	4,00,775	21,402	5.34%	5,84,477	37,561	6.43%
November, 2012	2,71,351	2,481	0.91%	5,24,432	2,368	0.45%

(d) The sanctions given to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Teacher Education during the last three years and current year are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

2009-2010	326.13
2010-2011	340.24
2011-2012	365.19
2012-13 (as on date)	335.32

(e) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve teaching standards, including regular in-service teacher training, a 30-day induction training for newly recruited teachers, the training of all untrained teachers to acquire professional qualifications, the recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system to equip the teacher to measure pupil performance and provide remedial action wherever required, and teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc. For secondary education, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan programme similarly, provides for in-service teacher training and academic support to schools for improving teacher performance. For improving pre-service teacher education, the States/UTs have undertaken the process of revision of the syllabus of the 2-years Diploma in Elementary Education

programme, in accordance with the principles laid down in the National Curriculum Framework of Teacher Education (NCFTE), 2009.

Reforms in university education

1339. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes initiated by the Ministry to improve the quality of education in Indian universities particularly with regard to introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula, Choice Based Credit Systems, reforms in admission procedure and in examination and evaluation systems; and

(b) the details of all Central as well as State universities where the above mentioned reforms have been initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) As part of continuing educational reforms, the University Grants Commission (UGC) had prepared and issued an Action Plan for academic and administrative reforms, 2009 including the introduction of a semester system, a choice based credit system, curriculum development, reforms in admission procedures, examination and evaluation systems etc. The UGC has also taken various steps for educational reforms which include the setting up of Quality Assessment Cells in Universities and Colleges, issuing Regulations for M.Phil and Ph.D admission and Faculty Development Programme.

The UGC is also implementing a number of schemes for improving the quality of higher education such as; a Special Development Grant for Universities in Backward Areas, a Special Development Grant for Young Universities, the setting up of Autonomous Colleges and, University with Potential for Excellence, a Special Assistance Programme, a Bilateral and Educational Exchange Programme, Academic Staff College, Innovative Programme, Meta University Concept etc. The UGC has also taken various steps for educational reforms which includes Quality Assessment Cells in Universities and Colleges, Regulations for M.Phil and Ph.D admission, Faculty Development, Pay and Service conditions of Teachers, etc.

(b) The Semester system, updating of curricula, Choice Based Credit Systems, reforms in admission procedure and in examination and evaluation system have been initiated in all Central Universities. As far as State Universities are concerned, the data is not centrally maintained by the UGC.

Reading levels of children

1340. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the provisional report of ASER, 2012 reading levels as well as basic arithmetic skills of children between the age group of 6-14 years have declined further since 2011;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government has taken to ensure quality education to children of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), which is an assessment brought out annually by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization, expresses concern regarding learning levels of children in schools in rural areas. However, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which uses a rigorous research methodology, conducts very detailed periodic national surveys of learning achievements of children in classes – III, V and VIII. Two rounds of National Learners' Achievement Surveys have been completed by the NCERT which have revealed improvements in the overall learning levels, even though achievements remain low. The findings of the third round conducted recently for class V also indicate that there is enhancement in the level of achievement in most States.

(c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which specially focuses on rural and backward areas, the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve the quality of elementary education, including *inter-alia*, regular in-service teacher training, the distribution of free and improved textbooks, the recruitment of additional teachers for better pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for schools and teachers through block and cluster resource centres, a continuous and comprehensive evaluation system, teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc.

Restructuring of ICSSR

1341. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has contemplated certain major structural changes in the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for restructuring of Research Institute of ICSSR as well as to expand the research network and establishment of more such research institutes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had set up a Review Committee on 23rd September, 2010 to review the functioning of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The Committee had submitted its report to the MHRD on 28th June, 2011. The Report is available on the MHRD website <http://www.mhrd.gov.in>. The salient recommendations by the Committee included recommendations on the Restructuring and Redesigning of the ICSSR; strengthening Research; improving Resources and Finances and restructuring the ICSSR Institutes.

According to the ICSSR, action has been taken towards implementing various recommendations of the Review Committee. It is decided to amend the Memorandum of Association (MoA) of the ICSSR in order to streamline the appointments of the Chairman, the Member Secretary and the non-ex-officio academic members of the Council to ensure complete transparency in such appointments and further to provide greater autonomy and continuity in the functioning of the ICSSR.

(c) The said Review Committee has also made specific suggestions for restructuring and improving the institutional network of the ICSSR. These include ensuring minimum threshold faculty strength, hundred per cent payment of salary expenditure of the sanctioned posts by the ICSSR and working grant in all the existing 25 Research Institutes receiving maintenance grants from the ICSSR and to establish new ICSSR research institutes in territorial areas and fields of study where such institutes are non-existent at present. The ICSSR has also taken steps to ensure that the research outcomes in the Social Sciences are made available free of cost to teachers, students and researchers. At present, 3700 Ph.D theses procured by the ICSSR through the National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC) are available online. These are available at <http://www.vidyanidhi.org.in/>.

Bogus enrolment in schools in Maharashtra

1342. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report on the inspections/raids carried out in schools to find

out bogus enrolment of students in schools in Maharashtra has been submitted to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that the money drawn for SSA is not misused because of these bogus students in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) The State Government of Maharashtra announced that it had undertaken a drive in October, 2011 to verify actual enrolment in primary schools. A committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the State Chief Secretary to scrutinize the findings emerging from the drive, for the consideration of the Council of Ministers of the Government of Maharashtra.

No report or finding has been shared with the Central Government. Hence no conclusion can be reached on the misuse of funds due to bogus students.

Regulatory body for IIMs

1343. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up an overarching body to make the thirteen IIMs more uniform under a new law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the body would co-ordinate the activities of all IIMs, recommending scholarships and perform other functions referred to it by the Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all the IIMs except IIM, Ahmedabad have not approved the proposal and have raised strong objections; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Infrastructure in Kendriya Vidyalaya, INA colony

1344. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya school building at INA colony is in a very dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the second shift of the school, students of higher classes are forced to sit in the benches which are meant for primary sections due to which students are facing hardships in sitting and studying; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken to mitigate the hardships of the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The school building of the Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV), INA Colony, New Delhi is three decades old. The structural condition assessment of RCC components was carried out through the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). As per the technical recommendation, the school building needs extensive repairs. Therefore, the CPWD has advised not to use some classrooms for conducting classes for safety reasons.

(c) and (d) The KV, INA Colony is a single shift school. However, due to infrastructural problems, as some classrooms have become non-usable, a few classes are being run during the timing of second shift by using the furniture of other classrooms.

State universities and colleges

1345. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State universities and colleges suffer from under-funding by State Governments resulting in shortage of faculty;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to revitalise State universities and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The State Universities and Colleges

are under the administrative control of the State Governments and all non-plan and recurring expenditure, recruitment of faculty and their salaries are to be met by them. An Expert Committee under Prof. Sanjay Dhande was constituted by the Ministry to examine the shortage of faculty. The Committee reported that the vacancies in State Universities and their affiliated colleges were to an extent of 40% each.

(b) The State-wise faculty shortage, as reported by the Committee is at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/6675510_taskforce.pdf.

(c) The Central Government is implementing a scheme for 80% financial assistance to the State Governments for meeting the expenditure on implementing revised pay scales to university teachers as prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) subject to certain conditions. The UGC supports State Universities through the General Development Grant (Plan) that includes grants under various schemes and other additional grants. The UGC has issued the UGC Regulations on the Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010 (available on <http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/regulations/englishgazette.pdf>). Para 12.2 mentions that all sanctioned/approved posts in the university system shall be filled up on an urgent basis. The strategy mentioned in the Twelfth Plan paper approved by the National Development Council (NDC) has emphasized the need for strategic central funding to the higher education system in the States in order to revitalise and strengthen the State Universities and Colleges.

Inclusion of pre-primary schooling in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1346. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present pre-primary classes are being imparted in only a few Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the list of schools, admission policy, number of seats, fee structure, etc.;

(c) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has received repeated requests from various stakeholders to start more pre-primary classes;

(d) if so, whether there is an urgent need to include pre-primary schooling into the formal mandate of the KVS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Article 94 of the Education Code for the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), schools having three sections or more in all classes upto Class X may start upto two sections of pre-primary classes on self-financing basis. The policy of automatic admission of pre-primary students in Class-I has been withdrawn *w.e.f.* session 2008-09. Henceforth, all admissions in Class-I are treated as fresh admissions. The fee structure is Rs. 400/- per child per month. At present, pre-primary schooling is imparted in 26 KVs. A list of such schools with the number of seats is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

List of Kendriya Vidyalaya where pre-primary classes are being imparted

Sl. No.	Name of the Kendriya Vidyalaya where pre-primary classes are in imparted	Number of seats
1	2	3
1.	No. 1 Ahmedabad	25
2.	SAC Ahmedabad	25
3.	Rajkot	50
4.	No. 1 AFS Agra	25
5.	Hinoo Ranchi (1st Shift)	25
6.	Meghahatuburu	25
7.	AFS Begumpet	25
8.	Kurnool	25
9.	Sector 47, Chandigarh (1st Shift)	25

1	2	3
10.	Sainj Kullu	25
11.	No. 1 Salt Lake	25
12.	No. 2 Salt Lake	50
13.	Command Hospital	25
14.	Bina (Madhya Pradesh)	25
15.	KVISVN, VIZAG	25
16.	No. 1 Jalandhar	25
17.	BHEL, Haridwar	50
18.	Ranikhet	25
19.	Moradabad	25
20.	Khanapara	25
21.	OF Khamaria, Jabalpur	25
22.	No. 1 GCF Jabalpur	50
23.	Singrauli	25
24.	Raebareli	50
25.	NER Bareilly	25
26.	Puducherry	50
TOTAL:		800

Norms for fee structure in private colleges/universities

1347. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has laid down norms for fee structure in private colleges/universities in the country;

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

- (c) whether these norms are being followed by such colleges/universities;
- (d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such institutions;
- (e) whether Government has evolved any mechanism to control the arbitrary fee structure in the private colleges/universities; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Though the Government has not laid down any norms for fee fixation in private colleges, the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are being followed. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 31.10.2002 in TMA Pai Foundation and Others vs. State of Karnataka [WP (Civil) No. 317 of 1995], held that the fixing of a rigid fee structure would be an unacceptable condition. The decision on the fee to be charged must necessarily be left to the private educational institution that does not seek or is not dependent upon any funds from the Government. It has further held that in the establishment of an educational institution, the object should not be to make profit in as much as education is essentially charitable in nature.

Further, in Islamic Academy and Ors. Vs State of Karnataka and Ors. [(2003) 6 SCC 697], the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed (14/8/2003) that in order to give effect to the judgment in TMA Pai's case, a Committee headed by a retired High Court judge be set up in each State to approve the fee structure and the fee fixed by this Committee shall be binding for a period of 3 years at the end of which the institution would be at liberty to apply for revision.

In a subsequent judgment (12/8/2005) in this connection in PA Inamdar and Ors. Vs State of Maharashtra and Ors. [(2005) 6 SCC 537], the apex Court has held that the Committees regulating admission procedure and fee structure shall continue to exist, but only as a temporary measure and an inevitable passing phase until the Central Government or the State Governments are able to devise a suitable mechanism and appoint competent authority in consonance with the observations made herein above.

As per the Supreme Court of India's direction in Islamic Academy and Ors. Vs State of Karnataka and Ors. (2003) and upheld in PA Inamdar and Ors. Vs State of Maharashtra and Ors. (2005) judgment, State level fee Committees have been constituted by the State Governments concerned to prescribe the tuition and other

fees to be charged by technical and professional higher educational institutions at undergraduate and post-graduate level and to regulate and oversee the implementation. The State Governments are responsible to ensure that all the colleges located in the State abide by the fees fixed by the State Fee Fixation Committee.

The University Grants Commission [UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010] which came into operation from 26.05.2010 also contains provisions for regulating admissions and fees in institutions deemed to be universities. Para 6.5 of these Regulations provides that, "The level of the fees charged for the courses offered in deemed to be universities shall have a reasonable relation to the cost of running the course. The fee structure shall be displayed in the prospectus and on the institution's website".

The UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 stipulate that the fixation of fees in Private Universities shall be in accordance with the norms/guidelines prescribed by the UGC and other concerned statutory bodies. The UGC is enforcing these provisions.

(e) and (f) Government has introduced the Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational institutions and Universities Bill, 2010 in the Lok Sabha which provides for the prohibition of certain unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities including private universities to protect the interest of the students admitted to these institutions. It also provides for criminal liability and civil penalties for charging capitation fee or donations. The charging of fees over and above what is declared in the prospectus is also made punishable in the Bill.

Delay in issuing of certificates by technical institutions

1348. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of ITIs and technical institutions in the country are lagging behind in issuing certificates to the students who get through the examinations, even after lapse of several years;
- (b) whether such incidents have come to the knowledge of the Ministry;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not issuing the certificates;
- (d) the number of institutions identified in this regard; and

- (e) the corrective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) As per the information given by the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour and Employment, students, who are admitted in the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) affiliated Trades/Units, complete their training and pass the All India Trade Test are issued provisional Certificates by the State Directors immediately after declaring the result. The National Trade Certificate is issued to such students upon receipt of request from the State Directors.

To make the process faster, the States have been requested to forward the details of the students passing the examinations immediately after the declaration of result.

Use of LPG for cooking mid-day-meals

1349. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that at most of centres of mid-day-meal, wood is used as main fuel for cooking;
- (b) whether Government proposes to assist State Governments in encouraging LPG at all centres;
- (c) whether Government proposes to consider providing separate funds to purchase LPG chulhas/stoves of appropriate size and also meet 75 per cent expenditure on regular LPG use; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to assist State Governments in meeting security deposit for LPG cylinders and regulators or alternatively ask Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to instruct oil companies not to charge these deposits from MDMS centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) In 72% of the schools across the country, the mid-day-meal is cooked with fuels other than gas. One time Central assistance @ Rs. 5000/- per school is provided to the States and Union Territories for the provisioning of kitchen devices (Stove, Chulha, etc.), containers for storage of foodgrains and other ingredients and utensils for cooking and serving. The funds are provided for replacement of these kitchen devices every five years. In addition

the Ministry of HRD meets 90% of the expenditure on regular LPG use for the States in the North East (NER) and 75% for other States. All the States/UTs have been requested to promote the use of gas-based cooking in the schools.

(d) At present there is no such proposal in the Ministry.

SC/ST students enrolled in schools and colleges

1350. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is keeping a record of students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories currently enrolled in private and Government-aided schools and colleges;

(b) if so, the details of the percentage/fraction of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students currently enrolled in private and Government-aided schools and colleges out of the total students enrolled in such institutions;

(c) whether steps have been taken to improve the percentage representation of students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories in such institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the annual publication "Statistics of School Education" of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) and All Categories students enrolled in Classes I-XII in the country during 2010-11 (Provisional) is given below:—

Category	SC	ST	All Categories
Number of students enrolled	47051456	23540779	248568502

As per the annual publication "Statistics of Higher and Technical Education" of Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of SC, ST and All Categories students enrolled in higher education in the country during 2009-10 (Provisional) is given below:—

Category	SC	ST	All Categories
Number of students enrolled	2439585	1080898	20740740

These figures cover all educational institutions in India. Data on number of students enrolled is not maintained separately for Government-aided and private schools/colleges. The percentage of the SC and ST students overall in the classes I-XII are 18.9 and 9.5 respectively, whereas in higher education these percentages are 11.8 and 5.2.

(c) to (e) The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting the goals of Universal Elementary Education through the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which became operational with effect from 1st April, 2010, provides that every child in the 6 to 14 age-group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education. The SSA Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 and the SSA is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance enrolment and retention of children. The SSA facilitates context-specific interventions for students from SC, ST and Minority community. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme provides for setting up of residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC and Minority communities. 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 (RMSA) which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio-economic disparities in access to education. Under the RMSA, there are provisions for opening new schools in areas having concentration of SCs and STs, the upgradation of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas to secondary schools and special enrolment drives.

In the higher education sector, reservation is being provided to the SCs, the STs and the OBCs under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservations in Admission) Act, 2006. In order to encourage students of SC/ST/lower income groups for pursuing higher education, the Government has introduced scholarship programmes for them to supplement the cost of education. In addition, the Government has introduced a scheme for Interest Subsidy on Education Loans to enable students from the economically weaker sections for pursuing higher professional education.

The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been envisaged as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of making the best use of ICT with the purpose of identification and nurturing of talent and lifelong learning as well as extending the education facility to a larger section of people.

While the above schemes aim to improve the percentages of SC and ST students, they are not targeted at private institutions.

Fee hike in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1351. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to increase fees of Kendriya Vidyalayas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to increase the tuition fee in the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs). However, there is a proposal to enhance the Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi (VVN) contribution and the computer fund fee.

Enrolment rate of SC/ST students

1352. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is keeping a record of enrolment of students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes separately in private and Government-aided schools and colleges;
- (b) if so, the details of the difference between annual growth rate for enrolment of students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories and the rest of students in private and Government-aided schools and colleges;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to address the gap in growth of enrolment rates between SC/ST and other categories, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) As per the annual publication “Statistics of School Education” of Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) and All Categories students enrolled in Classes I-XII in the country during 2010-11 (Provisional) is given below:—

Category	SC	ST	All Categories
Number of students enrolled	47051456	23540779	248568502

As per the annual publication “Statistics of Higher and Technical Education” of Ministry of Human Resource Development, the number of SC, ST and All Categories students enrolled in higher education in the country during 2009-10 (Provisional) is given below:—

Category	SC	ST	All Categories
Number of students enrolled	2439585	1080898	20740740

Data on number of students enrolled is not maintained separately for private Government-aided and unaided private schools/colleges. However, annual growth rate for the SC, ST and other categories during 2009-10 to 2010-11 are 3.24%, 1.03% and 2.00% respectively for students enrolled in the classes I-XII. In case of higher education, these figures are 3.26%, 2.19% and 13.08% during 2008-09 to 2009-10.

(d) The Government has been making consistent progress in meeting the goals of Universal Elementary Education through implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which became operational with effect from 1st April, 2010, provides that every child in the 6 to 14 age-group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education. The SSA Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 and the SSA is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance enrolment and retention of children. SSA facilitates context-specific interventions for SC/ST students. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme provides for setting up of residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC and Minority communities. 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 (RMSA) which has been launched for universal access to secondary education, aims at removing gender and socio-economic disparities in access to education. Under the RMSA, there are provisions for opening new schools in areas having concentration of SCs and STs, the upgradation of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas to secondary schools and special enrolment drives.

In the higher education sector, reservation is being provided to the SCs, the STs and the OBCs under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservations in Admission) Act, 2006. In order to encourage students of SC/ST/lower income groups for pursuing higher education, the Government has introduced scholarship programmes for them to supplement the cost of education.

The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been envisaged as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of making best Use of ICT with the purpose of identification and nurturing of talent and lifelong learning as well as extending the education facility to a larger section of people.

Flouting of CBSE guidelines

1353. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the various deviations made by flouting the guidelines of Central Board of Secondary Education by Bikaner Boys School, Bikaner, relating to building complex, number of students per section, student-teacher ratio, etc.;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted or such deviations have been found during annual inspections through the monitoring mechanism of CBSE; and

(c) whether all schools affiliated to CBSE are supposed to follow its guidelines or case-to-case exemptions are given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has received complaints against the Bikaner Boys School,

Sagar Road, Bikaner, Rajasthan. The Board has asked the school to offer its comments on the allegations.

(c) All the schools affiliated with the CBSE are expected to follow the guidelines prescribed in the CBSE's Affiliation/Examination Bye-Laws. However, the Governing Body of the Board possesses the power to grant exemptions from these bye-laws depending on the merits of each case.

Development of railway services in North-Eastern region

1354. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the availability of Duronto trains, double tracks, electrification work by Railways, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is not a single Duronto train connecting the North-Eastern region with any other State of the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would take steps for development of railway services in the North-Eastern region equally as in other parts of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Indian Railways do not introduce trains including Duronto trains on State-wise basis as railway network run across State boundaries. However, at present, 31 pairs of Duronto trains are available on Indian Railway network. Details of Duronto trains, State-wise details of double tracks and route kilometers electrified as on 31.03.2012, are given in Statement-I, II and III respectively (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Introduction of new trains including Duronto trains is not done on region-wise basis, but is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc. Srirampur-New Bongaigaon-Rangiya-Guwahati falls under North Eastern Region and is a part of Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati including Katihar-Barsoi electrification project (836 Route Kilometres) and work is in progress. The section has been planned for completion by October, 2015.

(e) The following train services announced in the Railway Budget 2013-14 will serve the North-Eastern region:—

New trains: (i) Jodhpur — Kamakhya (Guwahati) Express (Weekly) (ii) Kamakhya (Guwahati) — Anand Vihar Express (Weekly) (iii) Kamakhya (Guwahati) — Bangalore AC Express (Weekly) (iv) Rajendra Nagar Terminus (Patna) — New Tinsukia Express (Weekly) *Via* Katihar, Guwahati (v) Howrah — New Jalpaiguri AC Express (Weekly) *Via* Malda Town.

Extension: (i) 19601/19602 New Jalpaiguri-Ajmer Express to Udaipur, (ii) 15715/15716 Ajmer-Kishanganj Express to New Jalpaiguri (iii) 12507/12508 Guwahati — Ernakulam Express to Thiruvananthapuram (iv) 15609/15610 Lalgargh-Guwahati Express to New Tinsukia (v) 15723/15724 New Jalpaiguri-Darbhanga Express to Sitamarhi.

Statement-I

Details of Duronto trains

Sl. No.	From	To	Nature	Nature
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sealdah	New Delhi	Duronto Non-stop	Express
2.	Chennai	New Delhi	Duronto Non-stop	Express
3.	Howrah	Mumbai	Duronto Non-stop (AC)	Express
4.	Delhi (Nizamuddin)	Pune	Duronto Non-stop (AC)	Express
5.	Howrah	Yesvantpur	Duronto Non-stop	Express
6.	Mumbai	Ahmedabad	Duronto Non-stop (AC)	Express
7.	New Delhi	Lucknow	Duronto Non-stop	Express
8.	New Delhi	Allahabad	Duronto Non-stop	Express
9.	New Delhi	Jammu Tawi	Duronto Non-stop	Express

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Howrah	Delhi	Duronto Non-stop	Express
11.	Bhubaneswar	Delhi	Duronto Non-stop	Express
12.	Ernakulam	Delhi (Nizamuddin)	Duronto Non-stop	Express
13.	Nagpur	Mumbai	Duronto Non-stop	Express
14.	Delhi (Nizamuddin)	Secunderabad	Duronto Non-stop	Express
15.	Mumbai	Ernakulam	Duronto AC	Express
16.	Mumbai	Secunderabad	Duronto AC	Express
17.	Pune	Howrah	Duronto AC	Express
18.	Yeswantpur	Delhi	Duronto AC	Express
19.	Indore	Mumbai	Duronto AC	Express
20.	Jaipur	Mumbai	Duronto AC	Express
21.	Howrah	Digha	Duronto Non-stop	Express
22.	Chennai	Coimbatore	Duronto Non-stop	Express
23.	Allahabad	Mumbai	AC Duronto	Express
24.	Pune	Ahmedabad	AC Duronto	Express
25.	Sealdah	Puri	Non-AC Duronto	Express
26.	Mumbai Central	New Delhi	AC Duronto	Express
27.	Nizamuddin	Ajmer	Non-AC Duronto	Express
28.	Shalimar	Patna	Duronto	Express
29.	Secunderabad	Visakhapatnam	AC Duronto	Express
30.	Madurai	Chennai	AC Duronto	Express
31.	Chennai	Thiruvananthapuram	AC Duronto	Express

Statement-II*State-wise double line route kilometrage as on 31.03.2012*

Sl. No.	From		Total
1	2		3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Double Line	2333.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Double Line	0.00
3.	Assam	Double Line	112.01
4.	Bihar	Double Line	1156.60
5.	Chhattisgarh	Double Line	338.58
6.	Delhi	Double Line	155.76
7.	Goa	Double Line	0.00
8.	Gujarat	Double Line	658.22
9.	Haryana	Double Line	528.98
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Double Line	4.27
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Double Line	63.05
12.	Jharkhand	Double Line	1088.62
13.	Karnataka	Double Line	580.92
14.	Kerala	Double Line	609.47
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Double Line	2317.38
16.	Maharashtra	Double Line	1778.39
17.	Manipur	Double Line	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	Double Line	0.00
19.	Mizoram	Double Line	0.00
20.	Nagaland	Double Line	0.00

1	2		3
21.	Odisha	Double Line	996.89
22.	Punjab	Double Line	361.19
23.	Rajasthan	Double Line	684.20
24.	Sikkim	Double Line	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	Double Line	686.51
26.	Tripura	Double Line	0.00
27.	Uttarakhand	Double Line	60.62
28.	Uttar Pradesh	Double Line	2357.99
29.	West Bengal	Double Line	1463.04
TOTAL:			18336.65
Union Territories			
1.	Chandigarh	Double Line	0.00
2.	Puducherry	Double Line	0.00
GRAND TOTAL:			18336.65

Statement-III

State-wise position of route kilometres as on 31.03.2012

Sl. No.	State	Route kilometres electrified		
		Broad gauge	Metre gauge	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2679	0	2679
2.	Bihar	1165	0	1165
3.	Chhattisgarh	861	0	861

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Delhi	139	0	139
5.	Gujarat	785	0	785
6.	Haryana	416	0	416
7.	Himachal Pradesh	25	0	25
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	73	0	73
9.	Jharkhand	1591	0	1591
10.	Karnataka	233	0	233
11.	Kerala	579	0	579
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2155	0	2155
13.	Maharashtra	2167	0	2167
14.	Odisha	1473	0	1473
15.	Punjab	531	0	531
16.	Puducherry	11	0	11.
17.	Rajasthan	642	0	642
18.	Tamil Nadu	1689	0	1689
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2872	0	2872
20.	Uttarakhand	52	0	52
21.	West Bengal	2086	0	2086
22.	Other States	0	0	0
TOTAL:		22224	0	22224

Railway projects in Maharashtra

1355. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has submitted various railway

projects for new railway lines, doubling of tracks, gauge conversion, new trains and extension of railway stations, etc. for completion in a stipulated time;

(b) the outcome of the meeting of the Chief Minister and Members of Parliament (MPs) from Maharashtra with the Railway Minister in March, 2012;

(c) the details of the number of proposals raised by the MPs in the said meeting;

(d) whether these proposals have been forwarded to the Ministry for consideration; and

(e) the present status of the railway projects undertaken/to be undertaken in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No minutes of the meeting are available.

(e) 4 new line projects, 3 gauge conversion projects, 10 doubling projects, works for improvement of suburban railway under MUTP-II and 2 Railway Electrification projects are progressed as per the availability of resources and will be completed in coming years. Examination of the completed surveys have been taken up and surveys for other projects are in progress.

Four stations have been identified in Maharashtra for redevelopment *viz.* Mumbai CST, Thane, Pune and Nagpur. Of these, Pune (Shivaji Nagar) has been entrusted to Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) for which technical-cum-feasibility consultancy contract has recently been awarded. For Mumbai CST, Consultancy Study is in progress. This also includes heritage impact study as Mumbai CST has a World Heritage status. For the other two stations, preliminary studies have been undertaken.

Losses due to coach detachment

1356. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have computed annual losses due to coach detachment caused by poor maintenance;

(b) if so, the approximate number of coaches detached in the last three years and the losses caused due to this; and

- (c) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. There is no such practice due to innumerable variables in train operations and involvement of multiple cost centres to calculate such costs of coach detachment.

(b) Approximately 252 number of coaches have been detached en route on account of maintenance issues during last three years (2009-10 to 2011-12).

(c) Based on the findings of the failure investigations, corrective and preventive actions are being taken to avoid such reoccurrences. Special maintenance drives are launched from time to time for special inputs to identified areas. Quality Audits of Coaching Depots, Workshops as well as concerned suppliers are being carried out to identify weak areas and take corrective action for their elimination.

**Thefts on trains running between Delhi and
Visakhapatnam**

1357. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been frequent thefts on trains plying between Delhi and Visakhapatnam *via* Odisha;

(b) whether it is also a fact that complaints have not been properly enquired into by Railways;

(c) whether Railways have a system of monitoring all such complaints of thefts on running trains;

(d) how many such robberies and thefts have occurred on trains or railway stations in Odisha in December, 2012; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that there have been frequent thefts on trains plying between Delhi and Visakhapatnam.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, because Policing on Railways is a State Subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory

responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the States concerned. As such, the cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police. On receipt of the complaints of theft, the same are referred to Government Railway Police of the State concerned for investigation.

(d) and (e) The number of cases of robbery and theft reported in trains and at railway stations in Odisha in December, 2012 are as under:—

Robbery		Theft	
In trains	At stations	In trains	At stations
1	2	10	23

Steps to improve security arrangements at important railway stations

†1358. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards 'Fire Safety Audit Team' report according to which no employee at New Delhi Railway Station has the knowhow of operating fire extinguishing equipments placed there and out of 48 fire extinguishing instruments 46 and out of 12 baggage scanners 4 are out of order;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no scanner in parcel office; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve security arrangements at New Delhi Railway Station and other important stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) have constituted 2 separate Fire Safety Audit Teams A and B to identify areas requiring further upgradation to match the latest fire safety norms to international standards and to conduct checks in few select Railways at stations, coaching depots, workshops etc., for assessment of compliance of RDSO and Board's instructions regarding fire safety. Fire Safety Audit Teams are yet to submit their reports.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Presently scanner machines have not been installed in parcel offices of New Delhi Railway station. However, Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed at parcel offices to ensure restricted entry and checking of suspicious parcel packages. For supplementing efforts of States, security has been identified as one of the priority areas by Railways for strengthening and up-gradation. An Integrated Security System is being implemented to strengthen security over 202 nominated stations including railway station New Delhi. The above system comprises of following four broad areas:—

- (i) Internet Protocol based CCTV system
- (ii) Access control
- (iii) Personal and baggage screening system
- (iv) Explosive detection and disposal system.

Other measures initiated in recent past to strengthen railway security include procurement of modern security related equipment, setting up of an All India Security Help Line, networking of RPF Post and Security Control Rooms, up-gradation of RPF training centers and creation of additional posts etc.

Train from Ferozepur to Haridwar

1359. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for cancelling the train from Ferozepur to Haridwar;
- (b) whether Government would consider the demand of public to start a train from Ferozepur to Haridwar, if not daily, once or twice in a week;
- (c) if so, by when this train would be started again; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) No train service has been operated between Firozpur and Haridwar. As such, its restoration is not feasible. At present, introduction of a train between Firozpur and Haridwar is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Rail connectivity to coal and iron ore mines

1360. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy for rail connectivity to coal and iron ore mines across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as per the new policy, private sector can also participate in the rail connectivity projects; and
- (d) 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. However, providing Rail connectivity to coal and iron ore mines across the country is an ongoing activity of Railways.

(b) Ministry of Railways in consultation with Ministry of Power and Ministry of Coal have jointly identified 30 Coal connectivity projects for swift evacuation and transportation of coal during Twelfth Five Year Plan period and beyond. The list of important coal and iron ore connectivity projects are:—

Sl. No.	Name of the coal connectivity projects
1	2
1.	Piparwar Railway Siding of CCL
2.	Ashoka Siding of CCL
3.	Tori-Shivpur New BG Line
4.	Shivpur-Kathautia
5.	Shivpur-Chatti Bariatu (14 km.) and Hazaribagh-Banadag (9 km.) Sidings
6.	Koderma-Hazaribagh-Barkakana-Ranchi New Line (189 km.)
7.	Koderma-Tillaiya New Line (64 km.)
8.	Renovation of Chainpur-Sarubera Siding

1

2

9. Completion of balance work of Dhori Siding of CCL
 10. Improvement of Dudhi Chua Siding of NCL
 11. Modification of Dudhi Chua Yard for 2nd Silo of NCL
 12. New Railway Siding for Block-B Project of NCL
 13. Complete track renewal at Shaktinagar to Jayant Silo of NCL including improvement to Jayant and Spur Siding
 14. Balance work of KBJ railway line between Krishnashila and Shaktinagar Railway Station
 15. PRE system Amlohri and Nigahi
 16. Krishnashila Railway Siding
 17. Diversion of fire affected railway lines in Jharia area of BCCL
 18. Angul-Talcher bulb Line
 19. Rail Corridor connecting Angul-Talcher Line
 20. Rail Connectivity Project from Bhadrachalam to Sattupalli New Line Project — (56.25 km.)
 21. Pvt. Siding on Pvt. Land between Jharsuguda-Barpalli-Sardega including Dhutra to serve M/s MCL in CKP Division.
 22. Coal connectivity projects in Mand area in SECR.
 23. Construction of railway siding at Lakhanpur Coalfields of Bishrampur area
 24. New Railway siding at Kusmunda area
 25. Construction of new siding parallel to old siding at Bhatgaon area
 26. Survey work for finalisation of alignment for Magadh and Amarpali Railway siding
 27. Renovation of CP Siding of Giridih of B&K area
-

1	2
28.	Renovation of Swang siding in Adra division and Jarandih railway siding of CCL under Dhanbad division
29.	Temporary connectivity of Lingaraj siding with Talcher Main Line
30.	Provision of 2nd siding at Himgir station, Kanika

Sl. No.	Railway	Name of iron ore/steel connectivity projects
1	2	3
1.	South Eastern Railway	Rajkharswan-Sini-3rd line
2.	South Eastern Railway	Bimlagarh-Dumitra
3.	South Eastern Railway	Sini-Adityapur (22.5 km.) 3rd line
4.	South Western Railway	Toranagallu-Rajithpura (2.9 Km.)
5.	East Coast Railway	Kirandul-Jadgalpur (150 km.)
6.	South Eastern Railway	Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (40 km.)
7.	Southern Railway	Kankanadi-Panambur Patch Doubling (19 km.)
8.	East Coast Railway	Banspani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhapura (180 km.)
9.	South Eastern Railway	Dangoaposi-Rajkharswan 3rd line
10.	South Eastern Railway	Champajharan-Bimlagarh (21 km.)
11.	Southern Railway	Omalur-Metturdam Patch Doubling with electrification
12.	South Eastern Railway	Rajkharswan-Chakradharpur 3rd line (20 km.)
13.	South Eastern Railway	Manoharpur-Bondamanda 3rd line (30 km.)
14.	East Coast Railway	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 km.)
15.	East Coast Railway	Daitari-Banspani (155 km.)
16.	East Coast Railway	Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur (235 km.)

1	2	3
17. East Coast Railway		Talcher-Bimlagarh (154 km.)
18. South Western Railway		Hospet-Hubli-Londa-Tinaighat-Vosco-de-Gama (352.28 km.)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The new policy has been issued by this Ministry dated 10.12.2012. There are 5 generic models – Non-Government, Railway Model, JV Model, Railway Projects on BOT awarded through Competitive Bidding, Capacity Augmentation with funding provided by customers and Capacity Augmentation-Annuity Model in which State Governments, Local Bodies, Beneficial Industries, Ports, Large import and export companies, Co-operative Societies and other Body Corporate, Infrastructure and Logistics providers. PIO/Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCB), Foreign Direct Investor and other Investors.

Connectivity of Bhopal with pilgrimage places of Uttarakhand

†1361. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct train to Haridwar, Rishikesh and Dehradun from Bhopal and whether Government is aware of this problem of millions of passengers travelling from Bhopal to pilgrimage sites of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to overcome this problem and the time frame by which this problem would be solved; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Bhopal-Haridwar sector is presently being served by 2 pairs of trains *viz.* 12171/12172 Lokmanya Tilak (T) — Haridwar A.C. Express (Bi-weekly) and 12687/12688 Chennai-Dehradun Express (weekly). Similarly, Bhopal-Dehradun is being served by one pair of train *viz.* 12687/12688 Chennai-Dehradun Express (weekly). At present, there is no direct train between Bhopal and Rishikesh. However, introduction of trains on Indian Railways is an on-going process subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability and availability of resources etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Robbery and other crimes in running trains

1362. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past robbery and other such crimes have been committed in trains running across Bihar, particularly train number 55030 running between Gorakhpur and Muzaffarpur; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Railways to contain such crimes in trains particularly in those running across Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. A solitary case of dacoity was reported in train no. 55033 Gorakhpur -Muzaffarpur Passenger on 18.01.2013 just after its departure from Sugauli Railway Station in Samastipur Division in Bihar. Some other cases of Theft of Passengers' belongings have also been reported in trains running across Bihar in the recent past.

(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. However, RPF supplements the efforts of GRP by deploying their staff for escorting of important trains in affected areas and access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

The following measures are being taken by the Railways for security of the passengers:—

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, 1275 trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily on an average, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
2. An Integrated Security System consisting of electronic surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, access control, Anti-sabotage checks has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 202 sensitive and vulnerable Railway stations and is under implementation.

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. Public awareness against crime like Drugging of passengers is done through regular announcements at stations and in trains.

Increase in charges on goods

1363. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have increased charges on goods twice last year;
- (b) if so, the details of charges increased on each item and the percentage of increase; and
- (c) how much amount Railways are planning to pool through the above hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The impact on major commodities of the rationalization in freight rates that was implemented with effect from 6th March, 2012 is given in the following Table.

Commodities	Lead (Kms)	Freight (in Rs. per tonne for the indicated lead)		% age variation
		prior to 6.3.2012	After 6.3.2012	
1	2	3	4	5
Coal	550	526.10	631.20	20%
Raw Material for Steel Plants	637	647.00	787.80	22%
Iron and Steel	1070	1187.80	1457.10	23%
Iron ore	569	653.00	822.10	26%

1	2	3	4	5
Cement	567	544.20	685.10	26%
Foodgrains	1200	916.80	1144.10	25%
Fertilizers	886	696.80	869.60	25%
POL (Petroleum Products)	645	820.60	984.80	20%
Other Misc. Goods	639	404.40	492.40	22%

Additional revenue that was expected to be generated on account of the aforesaid rationalization was approximately Rs. 16000 crores over a period of one year.

Subsequently, the rate of levy of Busy Season Charge was increased from 10% to 12% for all commodities except Foodgrains and Fertilizers with effect from 1st October, 2012. Additional revenue that is expected to accrue on account of this revision in Busy Season Charge is approximately Rs. 800 crores over the period from October, 2012 to March, 2013.

Projects under Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram Divisions

1364. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the allotment of funds by Railways for various projects under Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram Divisions under Southern Railway during the last three years;
- (b) how much of the allotted amount has actually been spent;
- (c) to what extent work of doubling, electrification, improvement of railway stations and construction of new lines has been completed;
- (d) to what extent work of construction of new coach factory at Palakkad and wagon factory at Cherthala has been taken up; and
- (e) by when these factories are expected to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Details of allotment of funds and actual expenditure incurred on various projects for new line, gauge conversion, doubling, electrification, improvement of railway stations and workshops including production units falling fully/partly under Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram Divisions during the last two years and current year are given as under:—

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		Status and target date for completion wherever fixed
		Outlay	Actual expenditure	Outlay	Actual expenditure	Outlay	Actual expenditure	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

New Line

1.	Tirunavaya-Guruvayur (35 km.)	25	2.12	6.66	4.07	10	2.02	Local people are objecting to the alignment being fixed for this new line. Final location survey held up due to public protest.
2.	Angamali-Sabarimala (116 km)	25	6.61	83	26.27	15	13.46	Angamali-Kaladi (7 km.) is targeted for completion by 31.3.2013. Required land for balance portion is yet to be taken over.

Gauge Conversion

1. Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 km.)	65	21.72	75	8.01	52	49	On this project, 308 km. has already been commissioned. On balance portion <i>i.e.</i> Sengottai-Punalur (49 km.), Punalur-Edaman (9 km.) and Sengottai-Bhagyatipuram (7 km.) are targeted for completion by 31.3.2013.
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Doubling

1. Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara (24 km.)	20	21.73	50	32.68	32	24.74	Bridge works have been taken up.
2. Kuruppantara-Chingavanam (26.54 km.)	20	4.72	1	1.03	25	7.09	State Government is yet to hand over required land.
3. Chengannur-Chingavanam (26.5 km.)	15	8.14	50	20.66	32	28.42	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up on sections where land is available.
4. Mavelikara-Chengannur (12.3 km.)	5	13.91	35	15.2	8	14.01	Commissioned.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.	Cheppad-Kayankulam (7.76 km.)	8	6.01	1	3.07	2	1.74	Commissioned.
6.	Cheppad-Haripad (5.28 km.)	8	8.34	23.01	6.79	2	1.9	Commissioned.
7.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad (18.13 km.)	10	8.05	10	9.51	15	1.91	Tenders for earthwork and bridge works have been processed.
8.	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti (17.37 km.)	5	6.56	18.63	5.67	8	4.88	Commissioned.
9.	Mavelikara-Kayankulam (7.89 km.)	2	5.86	14.54	3.38	2	1.5	Commissioned.
10.	Ernakulam-Kumbalam (7.71 km.)	4	0.07	25	1.36	20	0.48	Land requirements submitted to the State Government.
11.	Kumbalam-Thuravur (15.59 km.)	—	—	1	0.32	18	1.11	Preparation of estimate has been taken up.
12.	Calicut-Mangalore (221 km.)	9	20.72	1	10.58	2	12.29	Commissioned.

Details for electrification works

Sl. No.	Name of Project	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		Status and target date for completion wherever fixed
		Outlay	Actual expenditure	Outlay	Actual expenditure	Outlay	Actual expenditure upto February, 2013	
1.	Shoranur-Mangalore-Penambur	65.64	0	53.10	12.30	31.82	35.17	Works have been taken up and targeted for completion by March, 2015.
2.	Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram including Thiruvananthapuram-Kanniyakumari	19.22	14.90	21.00	13.43	8.80	6.24	Completed.
3.	Madurai-Tuticorin-Nagercoil	63.18	45.53	75.00	59.78	48	51.83	Works on Nagercoil-Tirunelveli section completed and balance portion is targeted for completion by June, 2013.

Details for Improvement/Upgradation of stations

Improvement/Upgradation of stations is a continuous process and works in this regard are undertaken as and when warranted. Many a times the works for improvement to passenger amenities which cut across divisions are sanctioned. The expenditure on such works is funded under Plan Head "Passenger Amenities". Division-wise details of expenditure on improvement of railway stations are not maintained. The allocation/expenditure under Plan Head "Passenger Amenities" on Southern Railway during past two years and current year is as under:—

Year	Allocation	Expenditure	Rupees in crore
2010-11	80.78	61.90	
2011-12	54.90	59.74	
2012-13	69.86	53.62	
			(Upto January, 2013)

Details for workshops including production units

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		Status and target date for completion wherever fixed
		Outlay	Actual expenditure	Outlay	Actual expenditure	Outlay	Actual expenditure upto December, 2012	
		3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Palghat – inspection and stabling facilities for MEMUs	0.10	0	0.13	1.73	0.12	0.52	Civil portion of work almost completed except some minor works, which are in progress.
2.	Erode Electric Loco shed – augmentation of infrastructural facilities to increase holding from 120 to 175 locos	2.00	1.40	0.61	0.37	1.00	2.21	40% of the work has been completed. The work is in progress.
3.	Erode Diesel shed – Augmentation of homing	—	—	0.67	0	3.00	0.06	Detailed estimate is under getting.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	capacity from 100 to 150 locos						
4.	Quilon – Inspection and stabling facilities for main line electrical multiple units	1.50	2.96	0.49	2.98	0.66	0.32
							85% of the work has been completed. Catwalk construction and flooring completed. Remaining works are in progress.
5.	Palakkad – Acquisition of land and connected preliminary works for setting up of rail coach factory	—	—	—	—	34.00	32.45
							Acquisition of land completed. Work of compound wall is in progress.

(d) New coach factory at Palakkad has been sanctioned under Joint Venture/Public Private Partnership mode. M/s RITES have been appointed as consultants for bid process management for setting up of the factory. Simultaneously, proposal has been initiated for nomination of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) for approval of Request for Qualification (RFQ) and Request for Proposal (RFP).

As regards wagon factory at Cherthala, Railways has requested Government of Kerala (GoK) for encumbrance free land for the factory. Availability of suitable land for the wagon factory is in the process of being confirmed by GoK.

(e) Does not arise.

Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded new railway line

1365. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special efforts are being made to lay new railway lines which were approved during last five years;

(b) if so, by when the Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded new railway line approved in Railway Budget 2008 would be completed;

(c) the total allocations of funds from the year of its approval 2008-09 till 31st December, 2012; and

(d) the percentage of work that has been completed towards construction of this 270 km. long railway line which is a lifeline for Vidarbha region of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. New lines are laid as per availability of resources. Priority in allocation of funds is accorded to projects in advance stage of execution, targeted projects and projects considered operationally important. Efforts are made to generate extra budgetary financing through State participation, Public Private Partnership, defence funding, declaring some projects as National Projects and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

(b) Targets for completion of projects are decided annually depending upon operational requirement, availability of resources and progress made on individual project. Most of the projects are completed in phases so as to reap benefit of investment. Due to huge throw forward and limited availability of resources, deadline for every project is not feasible to be fixed.

(c) The total allocation of funds from the year of its approval from 2008-09 to 2012-13 on Wardha-Nanded new line project is given below:—

Year	Fund allocated (₹ in crores)
1	2
2008-09	0.01
2009-10	15.00

1	2
2010-11	40.00
2011-12	40.00
2012-13	15.00

In addition to these funds from Railway, funds are provided by Government of Maharashtra sharing 40% of the cost of project.

- (d) The overall physical progress of the project is 3.7%.

Ongoing railway projects

1366. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ongoing projects and the total amount required to complete them;
- (b) whether Railways have any action plan for special drive of funds;
- (c) whether there would be one time budget provision or Public-Private-Partnership model to complete the entire projects; and
- (d) whether non-completion of railway projects for more than ten years where public money has been invested would be treated as non-performing assets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Railway have 347 ongoing New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects having a throw forward of ₹ 1.47 lakh crore.

(b) The projects being capital intensive are primarily funded through Gross Budgetary Support. The Twelfth Five Year Plan has been approved with Gross Budgetary Support of ₹ 1.94 lakh crore for completing projects during the Twelfth Plan period.

(c) No one time provision of funds is being made. However, the State Governments are also involved in supporting the construction of projects in their States in addition to involvement of private sector in some specific projects.

(d) As the time required to complete the projects is long, the unfinished projects cannot be called as non-performing assets. Once completed, the assets are used for railways operations.

Losses due to subsidies

1367. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any details of losses incurred due to subsidies for various components under Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan periods, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Zone-wise losses are not compiled. Losses are compiled for all Indian Railways, in two parts:—

1. Net loss on coaching services (suburban and non-suburban passenger traffic, parcel, luggage etc.)
2. Loss on essential commodities carried below cost of operation.

Summary of losses during the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan Period is as under:—

Year	Loss on coaching Services (crores of Rs.)	Loss on essential commodities (crores of Rs.)
Eleventh Plan		
2007-08	7523	34
2008-09	15569	79
2009-10	20377	61
2010-11	21324	60
2011-12	23932	57
Twelfth Plan		
2012-13 (estimated)	25803	38

Steps for welfare of railway employees

1368. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps for the welfare of railway employees particularly regarding giving bonus without any ceiling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Railways is not considering any revision in the wage computation ceiling for the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus to the eligible Railway employees as the ceiling is fixed by Ministry of Finance for all Central Government Employees including railway employees.

Losses suffered by Railways

1369. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI ALOK TIWARI:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue and expenditure of Railways during last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether financial condition of Railways is very bad at present and it is running in losses;

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

(d) whether operating ratio of Railways has declined during recent years and this has been the main reason for losses in Railways;

(e) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise; and

(f) the details of the steps Government would take to make Railways a profitable organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) the details of revenue and expenditure of Railways during last three years, year-wise are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1.	Revenue	87,104.65	94,525.46	1,04,153.55
2.	Expenditure	65,810.35	68,139.22	74,537.41

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Financial condition of Railways is not bad. In fact, Indian Railways generated surplus of Rs. 1,125.57 crores in 2011-12 and is expected to generate surplus in 2012-13 also.

(d) The Operating Ratio of Indian Railways has been 75.94% in 2007-08, 90.46% in 2008-09, 95.28% in 2009-10, 94.59% in 2010-11 and 94.85% in 2011-12. This Ratio is likely to improve to 88.8% in 2012-13 and 87.8% in 2013-14. The Operating Ratio of Indian Railways deteriorated after 2007-08 mainly due to steep increase in staff cost and pension payments consequent upon implementation of the recommendations of 6th Central Pay Commission.

(e) The detailed position of Zone-wise Operating Ratio in the last five years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(f) Railways is continuously striving to make itself profitable by increasing Earnings and containing Expenditure to the maximum extent possible. Indian Railways have taken both non-tariff related measures and tariff related measures to improve its economic health as indicated below:—

Non-tariff Measures:

They include improving throughput by increased productivity and efficiency, reduction in wagon turnaround time, extension of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) facilities to more and more locations, speeding up of trains, review of trains with low patronage, deployment of additional coaches in well patronized trains, vigorous checking of ticket less travelling, additional leasing of parcel space in certain nominated trains, leasing of vacant compartment of guard in front SLR coach etc. In addition, efforts to improve staff productivity by better man power planning, better asset utilization, improvement in inventory management, optimizing fuel consumption etc. and controlling expenditure through number of austerity/economy measures are continuously being pursued.

Tariff Measures:

They include simplification and rationalization of freight/fare structure besides several other measures like introduction of Freight Incentive Schemes for retaining the existing traffic and also for attracting additional traffic, introduction of Incentive Schemes for improving parcel traffic.

Statement

*Details of Operating Ratio of Indian Railway in the last five years,
year-wise and Zone-wise (Figures in %age)*

Zonal Railway	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Central	75.92	97.64	106.47	107.31	105.68
Eastern	143.61	173.45	186.25	178.52	182.10
East Central	87.46	99.48	107.94	109.06	103.58
East Coast	48.22	49.30	48.25	42.82	44.68
Northern	92.53	115.26	112.74	112.20	121.00
North Central	53.44	60.59	61.55	63.12	61.81
North Eastern	131.74	197.32	216.19	201.78	202.06
North Frontier	108.35	148.69	161.28	167.25	166.40
North Western	88.91	120.23	110.29	106.41	99.99
Southern	105.07	126.06	137.47	135.55	122.58
South Central	66.99	77.23	80.66	85.76	85.90
South Eastern	53.84	62.24	69.18	66.98	72.74
South East Central	45.74	53.23	60.43	58.01	55.24
South Western	69.24	77.11	88.42	98.69	109.01
Western	76.92	93.25	97.88	97.96	94.61
West Central	66.34	73.95	74.07	74.93	70.13
Indian Railways	75.94	90.46	95.28	94.59	94.85

New FoB at Shivaji Bridge Station

1370. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foot Overbridge (FoB) at Shivaji Bridge Station, New Delhi is very congested and during peak hours it becomes difficult for passengers to cross over on either side thereby posing threat to their lives;

(b) whether construction of a new FoB has been kept in abeyance for last two years;

(c) whether slogan shouting by passengers takes place here daily; and

(d) in the backdrop of Kumbh railway station accident, by when the Ministry proposes to complete the construction work of new bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The foot-over-bridge at Shivaji Bridge Station is congested during peak hours. However, there is no report of the congestion posing threat to lives.

(b) No, Sir. The work of construction of foot-over-bridge is in progress.

(c) Two such incidents have been reported.

(d) The commissioning of bridge is planned by December, 2013.

GRP requirement in each State

1371. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have asked States to increase the number of policemen in Government Railway Police (GRP) to keep a check on crimes against women, robbery, drugging and looting;

(b) if so, the requirement of policemen in GRP in each State; and

- (c) what would be its cost to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Users' Consultative Committees

1372. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose for formation of Railway Users' Consultative Committee (RUCC) by Railways at Zonal, Divisional and Regional level along with detailed objectives and broad perspectives of such Committees;

(b) whether sittings/meetings of ZRUCC and DRUCC of NF Railway are not being held periodically since their composition;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of the sittings/meetings of ZRUCC, DRUCC and similar committees that have been held since constitution of Fifteenth Lok Sabha and till date mentioning date, Zone-wise, year-wise including details of agenda formulated particularly for the NF Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) With a view to securing better representation of Railway users and for affording frequent opportunities for consultation between Railway Administrations and users for the purpose of improving the efficiency and quality of rail services, the Government has established Railway Users' Consultative Committees at various levels indicated below:—

- (i) Railway Users' Consultative Committees at the Divisional levels *i.e.* Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs);
- (ii) A Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) at the headquarters of each railway;
- (iii) A National Railway Users' Consultative Council (NRUCC) at the Ministry level;
- (iv) Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committees (SRUCCs) on Central, Western, Southern, Eastern and South Eastern Railways;

- (v) Konkan Railway Users' Consultative Committee (KRUCC);
- (vi) Metro Railway Users' Consultative Committee (MRUCC);
- (vii) Station Consultative Committees at selected important stations.

(b) and (c) All Zonal Railways including Northeast Frontier Railway have been instructed to hold periodic meetings as per norms. On Northeast Frontier Railway, 21 meetings of ZRUCC and DRUCCs have been conducted since 2010. The meetings could not be held as per norms on account of various factors such as state elections in local areas, local disturbances, etc.

(d) During the tenure of the committees, constituted since the commencement of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, a total of 427 meetings of DRUCCs and 75 meetings of ZRUCCs were held over Indian Railways. The details of the meetings are given in the Statement-I and II (*See* below). The agenda items discussed in the above meetings included issues relating to improvement of railway services/amenities and railway infrastructure.

On Northeast Frontier Railway, the main agenda items raised during the Committee meetings included doubling of Broad gauge lines, introduction of new trains, timely completion of on-going projects, gauge conversion, ticketing, reservation quotas, passenger amenities, punctuality, facilities for the physically challenged etc.

Statement-I

*Dates of meetings of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative
Committees (ZRUCCs)*

Sl. No.	Railway	Dates of Meetings
1	2	3
1.	Central	16.11.2010, 29.12.2010, 15.06.2011, 20.04.2012, 04.10.2012, 29.12.2012
2.	Eastern	10.08.2010, 19.01.2011, 18.07.2012, 21.11.2012
3.	East Central	26.05.2010, 21.12.2010, 27.04.2011, 20.08.11, 20.06.2012, 12.10.2012, 29.12.2012
4.	East Coast	08.10.2010, 07.01.2011, 08.06.2012, 28.09.2012, 19.11.2012

1	2	3
5.	Northern	10.07.2010, 29.12.2010, 24.06.2011, 14.08.2012, 31.12.2012
6.	North Central	14.05.2010, 05.01.2011, 13.05.2011, 29.06.2012, 07.01.2013
7.	North Eastern	07.09.2010, 30.03.2011, 26.09.2012, 29.01.2013
8.	Northeast Frontier	02.12.2010
9.	North Western	15.9.2010, 27.01.2011, 13.09.2011, 26.06.2012, 30.10.2012, 22.12.2012
10.	Southern	15.09.2010, 18.01.2011, 02.11.2012
11.	South Central	17.08.2010, 29.06.2012, 11.01.2013
12.	South Eastern	17.02.2010, 06.07.2012, 21.12.2012
13.	South East Central	18.08.2010, 20.06.2012, 30.10.2012, 21.12.2012
14.	South Western	11.06.2010, 16.09.2010, 09.02.2011, 18.08.2011, 20.04.2012, 19.10.2012, 21.12.2012
15.	Western	01.06.2010, 25.07.2011, 13.09.2011, 31.07.2012
16.	West Central	19.02.2010, 08.09.2010, 22.12.2010, 15.6.2011, 01.06.2012, 22.12.2012
17.	KRUCC	29.10.10, 24.12.2012

Statement-II*Dates of meetings of Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs)*

Sl. No.	Railway	Division	Dates of meetings
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	(i) Bhusawal	04.03.2010, 07.07.2010, 07.01.2011, 26.04.2011, 19.07.2011, 15.05.2012, 18.10.2012, 28.12.2012

1	2	3	4
		(ii) Nagpur	18.03.2010, 30.09.2010, 31.12.2010, 18.03.2011, 24.08.2011, 26.04.2012, 25.07.2012, 11.10.2012, 31.12.2012
		(iii) Mumbai CST	21.04.2010, 25.08.2010, 24.11.2010, 11.02.2011, 19.05.2011, 08.09.2011, 25.04.2012, 10.07.2012, 19.10.2012, 21.12.2012
		(iv) Solapur	10.03.2010, 29.09.2010, 25.02.2011, 29.07.2011, 24.05.2012, 11.10.2012, 29.12.2012
		(v) Pune	20.04.2010, 20.07.2010, 19.10.2010, 28.01.2011, 08.06.2011, 12.07.2012, 12.10.2012, 28.12.2012
2.	Eastern	(i) Malda	18.08.2010, 16.03.2011, 08.09.2011, 29.08.2012, 26.12.2012
		(ii) Howrah	20.04.2010, 06.09.2010, 20.10.2010, 21.12.2010, 05.03.2011, 12.05.2011, 26.07.2011, 26.04.2012, 15.06.2012, 23.08.2012, 15.12.2012
		(iii) Sealdah	20.08.2010, 13.01.2011, 20.04.2011, 10.06.2011, 16.05.2012, 31.08.2012, 21.12.2012
		(iv) Asansol	19.04.2010, 08.07.2010, 01.12.2010, 06.07.2011, 16.05.2012, 05.10.2012, 29.12.2012
3.	East Central	(i) Danapur	09.09.2010, 19.05.2011, 26.06.2012, 27.09.2012, 31.12.2012
		(ii) Dhanbad	24.06.2010, 19.01.2011
		(iii) Sonapur	29.04.2010, 15.07.2010, 05.01.2011, 29.06.2011, 06.06.2012, 19.10.2012, 28.12.2012

1	2	3	4
		(iv) Mughalsarai	30.08.2010, 15.12.2010, 12.06.2012, 07.11.2012, 29.12.2012
		(v) Samastipur	06.04.2010, 16.09.2010, 06.12.2010, 03.03.2011, 24.08.2011, 06.06.2012, 02.11.2012, 27.12.2012
4.	East Coast	(i) Khurda Road	07.05.2010, 14.12.2010, 27.7.2011, 18.04.2012, 26.09.2012, 26.12.2012
		(ii) Sambalpur	30.6.2010, 28.12.2010, 08.07.2011, 21.03.2012, 13.09.2012, 19.12.2012
		(iii) Waltair	26.05.2010, 24.09.2010, 20.05.2011, 29.03.2012, 17.09.2012, 20.12.2012
5.	Northern	(i) Ambala	17.08.2010, 15.11.2010, 15.05.2012
		(ii) Ferozepur	10.06.2010, 17.02.2011, 25.08.2011, 17.07.2012
		(iii) Lucknow	15.09.2010, 23.03.2011, 18.08.2011, 30.08.2012
		(iv) Moradabad	09.02.2010, 26.10.2010, 21.02.2011, 29.07.2011, 20.04.2012, 14.08.2012
		(v) Delhi	06.01.2011, 11.05.2011, 30.08.2012
6.	North Central	(i) Allahabad	29.12.2009, 28.04.2010, 27.03.2011, 27.03.2012, 05.09.2012, 21.12.2012
		(ii) Jhansi	09.04.2010, 17.08.2010, 30.11.2010, 15.04.2011, 13.09.2011, 25.04.2012, 15.09.2012
		(iii) Agra	26.5.2010, 10.12.2010, 19.07.2012, 20.12.2012
7.	North Eastern	(i) Lucknow	13.08.2010, 10.06.2011, 17.07.2012, 28.01.2013

1	2	3	4
		(ii) Varanasi	06.04.2010, 10.11.2010, 04.03.2011, 28.07.2011, 21.06.2012, 23.1.2013
		(iii) Izzatnagar	07.10.2010, 05.01.2011, 21.06.2011, 18.04.2012, 21.09.2012, 30.1.2013
8.	Northeast Frontier	(i) Katihar	09.07.2010, 10.06.2011, 20.09.2012
		(ii) Lumding	30.09.2010
		(iii) Tinsukhia	23.04.2010, 09.09.2010, 03.03.2011, 26.08.2011, 16.10.2012
		(iv) Alipurdwar	26.05.2010, 22.09.2010, 23.12.2010, 18.08.2011, 14.09.2011, 16.10.2012
		(v) Rangiya	15.09.2010, 18.11.2010, 11.02.2011, 08.09.2011, 30.08.2012
9.	North Western	(i) Bikaner	07.07.2010, 19.04.2011, 29.08.2011, 18.05.2012, 23.08.2012, 20.12.2012
		(ii) Jodhpur	17.03.2010, 11.08.2010, 11.02.2011, 01.07.2011, 09.04.2012, 03.07.2012, 27.09.2012, 28.12.2012
		(iii) Jaipur	10.5.2010, 20.10.2010, 21.06.2011, 29.05.2012, 10.10.2012, 15.12.2012
		(iv) Ajmer	23.04.2010, 21.12.2010, 06.09.2011, 04.05.2012, 09.10.2012, 15.12.2012
10.	Southern	(i) Chennai	19.01.2010, 27.04.2010, 25.08.2010, 21.01.2011, 26.05.2011, 15.05.2012, 28.09.2012, 21.12.2012
		(ii) Madurai	06.04.2010, 12.11.2010, 25.08.2011, 22.06.2012, 30.10.2012, 15.12.2012

1	2	3	4
		(iii) Palghat	27.01.2010, 28.07.2010, 09.11.2010, 19.05.2011, 18.08.2011, 20.04.2012, 17.09.2012, 03.12.2012
		(iv) Trichy	29.12.2009, 30.09.2010, 01.03.2011, 06.09.2011, 17.04.2012, 07.12.2012
		(v) Trivandrum	04.03.2010, 25.06.2010, 23.11.2010, 13.07.2011, 21.03.2012, 23.05.2012, 05.09.2012, 13.12.2012
		(vi) Salem	30.04.2010, 18.08.2010, 10.11.2010, 18.03.2011, 14.06.2011, 09.03.2012, 05.06.2012, 10.10.2012, 29.12.2012
11.	South Central	(i) Secunderabad	19.03.2010, 05.10.2010, 15.06.2011, 09.09.2011, 25.04.2012, 14.09.2012, 27.12.2012
		(ii) Hyderabad	22.04.2010, 20.10.2010, 29.03.2011, 25.08.2011, 26.04.2012, 27.09.2012, 22.12.2012
		(iii) Guntakal	28.04.2010, 21.10.2010, 15.05.2011, 08.08.2012, 29.12.2012
		(iv) Vijayawada	05.05.2010, 15.09.2010, 24.12.2010, 20.05.2011, 25.08.2011, 27.04.2012, 14.09.2012, 22.12.2012
		(v) Guntur	30.06.2010, 23.03.2011, 09.09.2011, 10.07.2012, 11.12.2012
		(vi) Nanded	07.05.2010, 12.09.2011, 23.06.2012, 22.12.2012
12.	South Eastern	(i) Kharagpur	25.02.2010, 30.06.2010, 15.06.2011, 24.08.2011, 29.06.2012, 04.10.2012
		(ii) Chakradharpur	17.05.2010, 29.09.2010, 11.01.2011, 26.05.2011, 14.09.2011, 30.05.2012

1	2	3	4
		(iii) Adra	28.05.2010, 24.09.2010, 23.01.2011, 27.05.2011, 15.05.2012, 24.08.2012
		(iv) Ranchi	29.04.2010, 18.01.2011, 14.09.2011, 19.05.2012, 08.08.2012
13.	South East Central	(i) Nagpur	19.03.2010, 28.07.2010, 26.11.2010, 30.05.2011, 14.09.2011, 25.04.2012, 29.08.2012, 29.12.2012
		(ii) Bilaspur	06.04.2010, 28.10.2010, 26.05.2011, 15.09.2011, 27.04.2012, 02.11.2012, 27.12.2012
		(iii) Raipur	26.03.2010, 20.08.2010, 19.01.2011, 19.07.2011, 20.04.2012, 31.08.2012, 29.12.2012
14.	South Western	(i) Bangalore	07.04.2010, 14.09.2010, 19.01.2011, 19.04.2011, 17.06.2011, 15.05.2012, 20.09.2012, 19.12.2012
		(ii) Mysore	25.02.2010, 29.06.2010, 14.12.2010, 23.03.2011, 13.07.2011, 18.04.2012, 20.07.2012, 18.12.2012
		(iii) Hubli	18.03.2010, 31.08.2010, 27.05.2011, 15.09.2011, 15.05.2012, 16.10.2012, 22.12.2012
15.	Western	(i) Bhavnagar	12.05.2010, 21.09.2010, 28.12.2010, 27.04.2011, 15.09.2011, 12.06.2012, 04.10.2012
		(ii) Mumbai Central	31.03.2010, 29.10.2010, 16.03.2011, 26.08.2011, 12.07.2012, 28.01.2013
		(iii) Ratlam	17.05.2010, 22.10.2010, 07.02.2011, 10.06.2011, 13.06.2012, 14.12.2012

1	2	3	4
		(iv) Rajkot	18.05.2010, 28.09.2010, 07.01.2011, 12.05.2011, 07.09.2011, 06.06.2012, 28.09.2012, 15.01.2013
		(v) Vadodara	29.04.2010, 25.10.2010, 03.02.2011, 27.04.2011, 14.09.2011, 13.06.2012, 13.02.2013
		(vi) Ahemdabad	08.04.2010, 05.10.2010, 04.02.2011, 16.06.2011, 07.06.2012, 06.12.2012
16. West Central	(i)	Jabalpur	17.02.2010, 31.08.2010, 28.01.2011, 21.07.2011, 27.04.2012, 22.11.2012
	(ii)	Bhopal	05.02.2010, 18.08.2010, 10.02.2011, 10.08.2011, 28.03.2012, 6.11.2012, 27.12.2012
	(iii)	Kota	04.12.2009, 08.06.2010, 23.09.2010, 12.01.2011, 18.05.2011, 06.09.2011, 15.03.2012, 19.10.2012, 29.12.2012

New DEMU shed at Sonapur, Bihar

1373. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status for establishment of new DEMU shed at Sonapur in Bihar;

(b) how much budget has been sanctioned for this project and how much amount has already been allocated till financial year 2012-13;

(c) the completion schedule of this project; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) All construction works of DEMU shed have been completed. Only 10% of track linking work is remaining, that is under progress.

(b) The sanctioned cost of the work is Rs. 21.75 crore. An amount of Rs. 17.73 crore has been spent till January, 2013.

(c) and (d) Remaining work of track linking is likely to be completed by April, 2013.

Rail factory at Madhepura

1374. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status for establishment of rail factory at Madhepura in Bihar;
- (b) how much budget has been sanctioned for this project and how much amount has already been allocated till financial year 2012-13;
- (c) the completion schedule of this project; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The Cabinet, in its meeting held on 18th Feb.'10, approved proposal of Ministry of Railways, to set up Greenfield Electric Locomotive Factory at Madhepura in Bihar, under Joint Venture, with partners selected through international competitive bidding. Bidders have been shortlisted for participation in financial bid.

1116.16 Acres of land for this project, has been technically acquired. The compensation amount of Rs. 6.52 crore for 141.32 acres of land has been paid to land owners till 31.01.2013.

(b) Total estimated cost of the project: Rs. 1293.57 crore. Total expenditure until 2011-12: Rs. 58.69 crore. Allocation for 2012-13: 1 crore.

(c) and (d) The completion schedule of the project is three years after award of the contract.

Electrification of Ghaziabad-Lucknow railway line

†1375. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which electrification of railway line from Ghaziabad to Lucknow via Moradabad would be completed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for not completing electrification of this railway line despite repeated declarations; and

(c) the time by which it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Electrification work on Ghaziabad-Moradabad section is in progress and planned for completion by March, 2014. Electrification of Moradabad-Bareilly-Lucknow has been completed.

Reserved coach for women

†1376. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to reserve a coach for women in each passenger train on the line of Metro train;

(b) if so, the time by which this scheme would be implemented; 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) Unreserved accommodation is already being earmarked for ladies passengers in EMU (Electrical Multiple Unit)/DMU (Diesel Multiple Unit) trains and local passenger trains. The accommodation so earmarked varies from train to train depending upon demand pattern as well as availability of accommodation.

Anti-fog device

1377. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some anti-fog device has been developed by Railways to control train accidents during foggy season in winter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this device has since been put into use and tried effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Fog Safe Device (FSD) is a Global Positioning System (GPS) based device provided on locomotives working on high density, fog prone sections on Indian Railways on trial basis. This device displays the name of approaching signals and other critical landmarks even during poor visibility condition. It is expected to help reduce stress on Loco pilots while running in foggy weather.

(c) and (d) 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 shall be done before it is adopted on a large scale.

Checking squads to check food quality

1378. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any checking squads to check the quality of food provided in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when checking squads would be formed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Emphasis has been made in new Catering Policy, 2010 for conducting surprise and periodical inspections by Zonal Railways at various levels. Regular and surprise inspections are being carried out by Zonal Railways. More than 27000 inspections have been carried out in the current Financial Year upto Jan., 2013 followed by penalties and corrective action.

Proposal for setting up IRIFM

1379. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Indian Railway Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objectives; and

- (c) the time by which IRIFM is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal to set up this Institute has been included in the Railway Budget 2013-14 at a cost of Rs. 19.26 crore at Secunderabad. The aims and objectives of setting up this Centralized Training Institute include imparting necessary structured and professional training to the officers of Indian Railways responsible for professional management of finances and accounts to enable them to face the emerging challenges and tap opportunities for strengthening the finances of Indian Railways.

(c) The construction work would be taken up in 2013-14 after the Railway Budget 2013-14 is passed in the Parliament and the Institute is expected to start operation in 2014-15.

Disabled-friendly railway stations

1380. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made by Government towards making railway stations “disabled friendly”;
- (b) the number of disabled friendly stations in the country at present;
- (c) whether Government seeks to increase the number of disabled-friendly stations; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) Comprehensive instructions exist for providing better accessibility for physically challenged passengers at Railway stations. Short term facilities like standard ramp for barrier free entry, earmarking at least two parking lots, non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building, signages of appropriate visibility, at least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently abled persons, at least one toilet on the ground floor and ‘May I help you’ Booth, have been planned at all ‘A1’, ‘A’ and ‘B’ category stations (581 stations). These facilities have already been provided at 562 A1, A and B category stations. Instructions also exist for provision of wheel chair at stations. This facility is provided free of cost, duly escorted by coolies (on payment) as per present practice. ‘Battery operated

vehicles for disabled and old age passengers' have also been provided at some of the major railway stations. These facilities are planned at other stations progressively. In addition, escalators and lifts been provided at 44 stations. Further, 354 escalators are planned for ongoing sanctioned works.

Long-term facilities *viz.* provision of facility for inter-platform transfer and engraving on edges of platform, are planned after provision of short term facilities.

RoB on Itadhi Road near Buxar Railway Station

†1381. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to construct a Railway Overbridge (RoB) on Itadhi Road near Buxar Railway Station;

(b) if so, the time by which it is planned to be constructed; and

(c) whether Government would give priority to this RoB in view of heavy traffic thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. A Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of level crossing No. 70 at km. 660/9-10 on Buxar-Baruna section has been sanctioned on cost sharing between Railway and the State Government in Railway Works Programme 2011-12.

(b) Being a new work, it is at planning and estimation stage. General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) and estimate are under preparation. Soil investigation work has been done. Target date for completion of this ROB will be fixed after approval of GAD and sanction of estimate for which active co-operation from State Government is solicited.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Modernisation work of Buxar Railway Station

†1382. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernisation work of Buxar Railway Station has been completed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details of the works completed;
- (c) the details of the works which were to be carried out for modernisation of the station;
- (d) if not, the details of the works done and to be done;
- (e) by when the remaining works would be completed;
- (f) the reasons for non-completion of these works; and
- (g) whether any action would be taken against those agencies/officers entrusted with the responsibility of completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) At Buxar Station, works for improvement of station building and platform surface, extension of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) and increase in platform length for 24 coaches have been completed.

Works for provision of 16 feet wide FOB, extension of circulating area (Phase-II) and improvement to surface of platform No. 2 and 3 are likely be completed by March, 2014.

(f) Due to non-fulfillment of the contractual obligations by the contractor, the works of extension of circulating area (Phase-II) and improvement to surface of platform No. 2 and 3 could not be completed.

(g) Due to failure of the agency, contract has been terminated and Security deposit and performance Guarantee has been forfeited, in terms of the contract agreement.

Historical railway track in Assam

1383. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first railway track of Assam Commissioned on July 16, 1883 by a British Company named 'Assam Railways and Trading Company' (ART), between Dibrugarh and Saikhowa, has been closed down by the North-east Frontier Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when coal mine was discovered at Ledo,

another track was laid from Makum to Ledo by the ART company joining with the Dibru-Sadiya line;

(c) the reasons why the Ministry cannot conserve the historic track for tourists; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The first railway track of Assam commissioned by 'Assam Railways and Trading Company' (ART), from Dibrugarh to Saikhowa, was opened in various stages during the period 1882 to 1910 and is still in existence between Dibrugarh to Dangri and is operational. However, passenger and goods traffic has been suspended on section from Dangri to Saikhowa Ghat from 1956-57 due to natural calamity.

(b) The following tracks were laid down from Makum to Ledo:—

(i) Dihing Bridge to Ledo — opened on 17.02.1884; and

(ii) Makum Jn. to Dihing Bridge — opened on 02.05.1884.

(c) The Railway track from Dibrugarh to Dangri (near Saikhowa Ghat) and from Makum Jn. to Ledo is still in existence and also operational.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of wagon factory at Cherthala, Kerala

1384. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of progress made, so far, towards setting up of wagon factory at Cherthala, Kerala;

(b) the steps being taken by Railways in this regard; and

(c) the funds allocated and utilized thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Railways has requested Government of Kerala (GoK) for encumbrance free land for the factory. Availability of suitable land for the wagon factory is in the process of being confirmed by GoK.

(c) The wagon manufacturing factory is to be set up under Public Private Partnership mode and therefore allocation of funds for the factory and utilization thereof does not arise at this stage.

Manned railway level crossings

1385. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria fixed for provision of manned railway level crossings;
- (b) the number of such railway level crossings in Madhya Pradesh which have not been converted into manned ones so far despite fulfilling all norms;
- (c) whether it is proposed to entrust the unmanned level crossings to private sector; and
- (d) if so, the details along with the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) It has emerged from the analysis of pattern of accidents that manning of unmanned level crossings is not an ideal solution. Therefore, the policy of manning of unmanned level crossings has been reviewed. Accordingly, Indian Railways have decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by:—

- (i) **Closure** — Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).
- (ii) **Merger** — Merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway or Road Under Bridge (RUB) or Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.
- (iii) **Provision of Subways/RUBs.**
- (iv) **Manning** — The unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means, will be progressively manned based on rail-road traffic volume, visibility conditions for which the criteria is as under:—

Category-I: All unmanned level crossings gates with Train Vehicle Unit (TVU) above 3000.

Category-II: All unmanned level crossings gates with visibility restricted to 800 meters for road users and TVU above 2500.

Category-III: All unmanned level crossings, which do not fall in Category-I and II above.

(b) There are 40 such unmanned level crossings in Madhya Pradesh which fulfill the above criteria. Feasibility to eliminate these 40 unmanned level crossings by closure/merger/provision of subways is being explored.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Executive lounges at railway stations

†1386. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to build airport-like executive lounges at railway stations;

(b) if so, by when and the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of the department under Railways which would be handling them and the details of the facilities which would be available in these lounges; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to provide value added services to passengers, an Executive Lounge has been set up at New Delhi railway station recently. Setting up of similar Executive Lounges at Bilaspur, Visakhapatnam, Patna, Nagpur, Agra, Jaipur and Bengaluru has been announced in the Railway Budget 2013-14.

(c) and (d) As per policy, Executive Lounges are to be set up through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) with facilities such as wi-fi internet, buffet services, wash and change, concierge services for pre-departure and post-arrival assistance to passengers as per demand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Accidents by travelling on train roof and hanging on doors

†1387. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people travel by sitting on trains roof and hanging on doors and windows of trains;

(b) whether Government earns 50 per cent of its total income from passenger traffic from unreserved tickets and inspite of that it is not able to sort out the problems being faced constantly by these passengers;

(c) whether people become victim of accidents while travelling like this every year;

(d) if so, the details of people becoming victim of such accidents during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the year-wise and State-wise details of assistance provided by Government to families of accident victims for above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The passenger earnings accrued from unreserved segment constituted about 44% of the total passenger earnings as on 31.03.2012. However, people travel on rooftops/foot boards of local/passenger trains during Rallies, Melas, Recruitments and in crowded sections of sub-urban areas during peak hours. Necessary preventive steps are being taken by Railways in coordination with local police and Government Railway Police to prevent travelling on rooftops and foot boards.

(c) and (d) Details regarding number of people died, injured due to travelling on rooftop and foot board of trains during the year 2010,2011 and 2012 over Indian Railways is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) Travelling on roof, steps or engine of a train is prohibited and is a punishable offence under Section 156 of the Railway Act, 1989 and there is no statutory liability of Railways for payment of compensation for accidents by travelling on train roof and hanging on doors of the train.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details showing number of people died, injured due to travelling on rooftop and foot board of trains during the year 2010, 2011 and 2012 over Indian Railway

Railway	2010		2011		2012	
	Died	Injured	Died	Injured	Died	Injured
Central	978	1194	944	1256	1060	1276
Eastern	33	2	14	1	71	4
East Central	27	6	25	9	23	7
East Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	333	177	340	261	292	223
North Central	3	0	0	0	0	0
North Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast Frontier	5	1	1	0	3	4
North Western	2	13	19	20	12	34
Southern	190	18	167	37	253	43
South Central	0	0	2	2	1	2
South Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0
South East Central	11	0	1	0	0	0
South Western	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western	460	1332	469	973	500	1046
West Central	194	23	177	29	228	31

Passengers' complaints

‡1388. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of complaints of any sort made by train passengers regarding disorder, filthiness, substandard meals in the compartments during their journey in the last one year;

(b) the details of such complaints, nature-wise and region-wise;

(c) the action taken on such complaints; and.

(d) the area-wise number of Railway Passengers' Associations along with the details of the cooperation provided by them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) A statement showing the Zone-wise number of complaints lodged by the passengers during the year 2012 regarding disorder and cleanliness in the compartments is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Details of Zone-wise complaints regarding catering services for the period 01.02.2012 to 31.01.2013 is given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) Action taken to deal with the complaints cases depends on the nature of complaints. Major course of action includes inquiry, confronted inquiry, punishment/warning to staff as well as to contractors, multi department activities for improvement in services etc. to dispose of the cases.

(d) Registered Railway Passengers' Association are, nominated on Railway Users' Consultative Committees like Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) etc. The names of these associations nominated on DRUCCs and ZRUCCs constituted for a two years term from 01.10.2011 and 01.12.2011 respectively are given in the Statement-III and IV (*See* below). During the meetings of these Committees, representatives of these associations raised the issues concerning Railways which are examined for taking further necessary action wherever feasible and justified.

Statement-I
Position of complaints made by train passengers during their journey in 2012

Sl. No.	Causes	CR	ER	ECR	ECoR	NCR	NER	NFR	NR	NWR	SCR	SECR	SER	SR	SWR	WCR	WR	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Improper behaviour of train ticket examiners	21	0	37	35	4	9	4	54	16	23	24	18	13	5	13	32	308
2.	Allotment of seats/berths by train staff	3	4	8	3	11	1	1	0	3	6	9	5	5	8	1	13	81
3.	Unauthorised passengers in coaches	53	7	6	16	4	6	3	5	8	25	3	1	1	8	1	24	171
4.	Non-availability of water in coaches	6	6	3	34	1	2	8	2	3	3	5	4	7	6	4	18	112
5.	Maintenance/cleanliness of coaches	38	50	58	271	5	6	62	18	15	81	55	157	54	24	10	120	1024

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
6. Malfunctioning electrical equipments	46	47	39	104	18	15	32	35	27	23	16	63	25	21	5	55	571		
7. Complaints relating to sleeper class	25	2	1	21	4	1	1	17	5	1	9	4	1	18	0	13	123		
8. Non-availability/poor quality of bed-rolls	21	127	53	180	1	5	27	10	6	17	31	139	6	11	1	131	766		
GRAND TOTAL:	213	243	205	664	48	45	138	141	83	179	152	391	112	101	35	406	3156		

Statement-II

Details of Zone-wise numbers of complaint received on trains regarding catering services and action taken during last one year (01.02.2012 to 31.01.2013)

Zonal Railway	No. of complaints received regarding quality	Action Taken									Total
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		Fined	Warned	Termination	Suitably advised	Not sub-stantiated	DAR action	Any Other	Pending		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Central	36	13	8	0	9	1	1	4	0	36	
East Central	45	3	0	0	0	0	0	41	1	45	
East Coast	22	8	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	22	
Eastern	43	8	17	0	18	0	0	0	0	43	
North Central	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	
North Eastern	7	0	2	0	0	4	0	1	0	7	
Northeast Frontier	11	1	0	0	2	2	0	6	0	11	
Northern	366	64	124	0	174	4	0	0	0	366	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
North Western	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
South Central	4	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
South East Central	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
South Eastern	89	30	30	26	7	13	5	6	1	1	89
Southern	53	22	22	3	0	18	0	0	1	9	53
South Western	5	4	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
West Central	4	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
Western	49	6	6	23	0	16	2	0	2	0	49
TOTAL (Zonal Railways)	743	168	168	212	7	261	19	7	58	11	743
Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)	799	206	206	238	8	164	48	43	92	0	799
GRAND TOTAL (Zonal Railway + IRCTC)	1542	374	374	450	15	425	67	50	150	11	1542

Statement-III

Details of registered Railway Passenger Associations nominated on DRUCCs constituted for the term from 01.10.2011 to 30.09.2013

Sl. No.	Railway	Division	Name of Associations
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	(i) Bhusawal	1. Nasik District Railway Pravasi Sanghatana, Nasik Road 2. District Passenger (Seva) Association, Malkapur
		(ii) Nagpur	1. Bhartiya Yatri Kendra, Nagpur (Shri Dilip A. Fatehpuria) 2. WR-BPQ Yatri Sangh, Hinganghat (Shri Babusingh R. Gaherwar)
		(iii) Mumbai Central	1. Mumbai Rail Pravasi Sangh 2. Dombivali Passengers Association
		(iv) Solapur	1. Solapur Zila Pravasi Sangh, Solapur 2. Hyderabad-Karnataka Passenger and Transport Relief Association, Gulbarga
		(v) Pune	1. Mavel Taluka Rail Pravasi Sangh, Talegaon, Pune 2. Pune-Mumbai Pravasi Sangh
2.	Eastern	(i) Malda	1. Malda Distt. Passengers' Association, Mukdumpur, Malda 2. Daily Passengers' Association, Sahibganj-816109, Jharkhand
		(ii) Howrah	1. Tarkeswar Branch Line Passengers' Association, P.O. Singur, Distt. Hubli

1	2	3	4
			2. Burdwan-Bandel Railway Passenger's Welfare Association, Amodaghata, P.O. Mogra, Hubli
	(iii) Sealdah		1. Bongaon-Sealdah Passengers' Association, 20, M.C. Mitra Lane, Kolkata 700028 2. District Murshidabad Railway Passenger's Association, Motijhil Road, Lal Bagh, P.O. and Distt. – Murshidabad, Pin-742149 (W.E.)
	(iv) Asansol		1. Jharkhand Main Line Daily Passengers' Association, Madhupur 2. Panagarh Bazar Daily Passengers' Association, P.O. Panagarh, Distt. Burdwan, Sealdah
3. East Central	(i) Danapur		1. Bihar Daily Passenger Association, Patna 2. Passenger Welfare Association, Patna
	(ii) Dhanbad		1. Dhanbad District Railway Passenger Council, Karkend Bazar, Kusunda, Dhanbad 2. Dhanbad-Chandrapura-Bokaro Daily Passenger Association, Katras Bazar, Dhanbad
	(iii) Sonapur		1. North Bihar Travellers Association, Sutapatty, Muzaffarpur 2. North Bihar Railway Passenger Association, Begusarai
	(iv) Mughalsarai		1. Grand Chord Passenger Association, Gaya, Bihar

1	2	3	4
		(v) Samastipur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uttar Bihar Rail Yatri Sangh, Marwari School Road, Darbhanga 2. Dainik Yatri Sangh, Samastipur
4.	East Coast	(i) Khurda Road	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rail Passengers Welfare Committee, Banapur 2. Rail Users Committee, Ichapuram, A.P.
		(ii) Waltair	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visakha Rail and Bus Passengers Association, Visakhapatnam 2. Parvatipuram Town Passengers Association
		(iii) Sambalpur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bolangir Zilla Bus and Rail Yatri Sangh, Bolangir 2. Titilagarh, Sub-Divisional Rail Users Association, Titilagarh
5.	Northern	(i) Ambala	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Railway Passenger Association North Zone, Bhatinda, Abohar 2. Saharanpur-Ambala Daily Passenger's Association, Saharanpur
		(ii) Ferozepur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Daily Passenger Association H.No. 228, Near Banian Mandir, Ward No. 7, Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar 2. Daily Passenger Consumer Protection Council, Bindraban Road, Civil Lines, Prem Nagar Chowk, Near Shiv Mandir, Ludhiana 141001
		(iii) Lucknow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lucknow-Kanpur Daily Passenger, Association E-2666, Rajajipuram, Lucknow

1	2	3	4
			2. Uttar Bharat Rail Yatri Parishad Varanasi
	(iv) Moradabad		1. Moradabad Travellers Association (Regd.) Moradabad 2. Ghaziabad-Hapur Rail Yatri Sangh, E-225 Sector-12, Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad
	(v) Delhi		1. The Delhi Railway Passenger Association Gannuar 2. Dainik Yatri Sangh (Regd.) Trans. Hindan, Sahibabad, Distt. GZB. D-159(A) Lajpat Nagar, Sector 4, Sahibabad
6.	North Central	(i) Allahabad	1. The Railway Passengers Safety and Amenities Association, Allahabad 2. The All India Railway Passenger Association, Kanpur
		(ii) Jhansi	1. Rail Dainik Yatri Kalyan Association, Jhansi 2. Rail Dainik Yatri Kalyan Association, Lalitpur
		(iii) Agra	1. Rail Yatri Kalyan Samiti, Agra 2. Rail Kalyan Association, Agra
7.	North Eastern	(i) Lucknow	1. Sitapur-Lucknow Dainik Rail Yatri Kalyan Sangh 2. Lucknow-Gonda Dainik Yatri Sangh
		(ii) Varanasi	1. Baliya Rail Yatri Seva Sangh, Harivansh Bhavan, Town Hall road, Baliya

1	2	3	4
			2. Registered Passenger Association, Ramrajya Mor, Lohiya Nagar, Distt. Siwan
		(iii) Izzatnagar	1. Passenger Association, Makarandnagar, Kannauj 2. Registered Passenger Association, Dainik Yatri Pratinidhi Sangh, Kasganj
8.	Northeast Frontier	(i) Katihar	1. West Bengal Passengers Association, Siliguri Branch, Siliguri (W.B.) 2. Divisional Railway Passengers Association, Katihar, Bihar.
		(ii) Lumding	1. N.C. Hills Railway Passengers Amenities Association, Lower Haflong 2. Guwahati Passenger Association, Guwahati
		(iii) Tinsukhia	1. Dibrugarh Passenger Association, Dibrugarh
		(iv) Alipurduar	1. Dooars Railway Passengers Welfare Association, c/o Kartick Chandra Sen, Ward No. 8, Beitala Road, P.O. Alipurduar Court, District Jalpaiguri, Pin-736122
		(v) Rangiya	1. Bongaigaon, Golpara and Garo Hills Passenger Association, AOC Road, District Bongaigaon-783380 2. Assam Rail Passenger Association, Barpeta Road, District Barpeta
9.	North Western	(i) Bikaner	1. Rail Bus Yatri Sangh, Ratangarh

1	2	3	4	
			2. Rail Road Passenger Association, Mandi Dabwali	
	(ii)	Jodhpur	No Registered Passenger Association	
	(iii)	Jaipur	1. Dainik Yatri Mahasangh-Phulera 2. Dainik Rail Yatri Samiti, Alwar	
	(iv)	Ajmer	1. Mewar Passengers Relief Society Bhilwara 2. The Railway Passengers Association, Abu Road	
10.	Southern	(i)	Chennai	1. The Tiruvottiyur Railway Passenger Association 2. Pattabiram Railway Passengers' Association
		(ii)	Madurai	1. Thoothukudi District Passengers Welfare Association, Tuticorin 2. Railway Users Association, Sengottai
		(iii)	Palghat	1. Kasargod Railway Passengers Association, Kasargod 2. Palakkad District Railway Passengers Association, Palakkad
		(iv)	Trichy	1. Thanjavur District Rail Users Association, Kumbakonam-612001 2. Panruti Rail Passengers Welfare Association, Panruti
		(v)	Trivandrum	1. Railway Passengers Association, Trichur

1	2	3	4
			2. All India Federation of Indian Railway Users'-Thiruvananthapuram
	(vi) Salem		1. MTP-CBE Train Traveller's Association 2. Coimbatore Railway Users Welfare Association
11. South Central	(i) Secunderabad		1. Passengers' Association, Tandur 2. MMTS Travellers' Group
	(ii) Hyderabad		1. Suburban Trains, Bus Travellers' Association, Malkajiri, Hyderabad 2. New Generation Season Pass Holders and Ticket Holders' Welfare Association, Mahabubnagar
	(iii) Guntakal		1. Passengers' Welfare Association, Tirupati 2. Passengers' Welfare Association, Guntakal
	(iv) Vijayawada		1. Passengers' Association, Rajahmundry 2. Passenger Association, Bapatla
	(v) Guntur		1. Divisional Railway Users' Association, Guntur 2. Chairman, Passengers' Association, Piduguralla
	(vi) Nanded		1. Vidarbha Yatri Sangh, Akola 2. Maharashtra Pradesh Pravasi Mahasangh, Washim

1	2	3	4
12.	South Eastern	(i) Kharagpur	1. Passengers and Public Welfare Association, Ghoraghata Station Road (South), P.O. Kantapukur, Distt. Howrah 2. Daily Passengers' Association, MDN-KGP-HWH section, c/o Sri Rangan Kar, Ram Mandir Road, P.O. Nimpura, Kharagpur, Distt. Paschirn Medinipur.
		(ii) Chakradharpur	1. Chhotanagpur Passenger Association, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) 2. Gangpur Commuters Association's Rajgangpur (Odisha)
		(iii) Adra	1. Rail Users Organisation- Bankura 2. Rail Yatri Samiti-Purulia
		(iv) Ranchi	1. Chhotanagpur Passenger Association, The Boulevard Hotel, Main Road, Bistupur, Jamshedpur
13.	South East Central	(i) Nagpur	1. Shri Ashok Sharma, Daily Railway Movers Association, Gondia, M.S. 2. Shri Ashish Shukla, Passenger Maa Bamleshwari Rail Yatri Sangh, Dongargarh, M.P.
		(ii) Bilaspur	No Registered Passenger Association
		(iii) Raipur	1. Shri Deo Mani Pandey, President, Dainik Rail Sahkari Sanstha, Raipur 2. Shri R.K. Garg, President, Dainik Rail Yatri Sangh, Bhilai

1	2	3	4	
14.	South Western	(i) Bangalore	1. Railway Commuters Forum, MG Road, Tumkur 2. Bangalore-Kengeri Travellers Association, K.S. Town, Bangalore-60	
		(ii) Mysore	1. The Mysore Railway Passenger Association, No. 2/12, C.B. Compound, Tiptur-572201 2. Chikkamagalur District Railway Passenger Association, N.H. 206, Kadur-577548	
		(iii) Hubli	1. Karnataka Passenger and Traffic Relief Association, Hubli 2. All Goa Railway Users Association, Vasco-da-Gama	
		(i) Bhavnagar	1. Shri Dineshbhai N. Thanki, Porbandar District Passengers Association-Porbandar, 1/2 Bhojeswar Plot, Mata Kendera, Porbandar-360575 2. Shri Rajendra K. Parikh, Saurashtra Passengers Association, Bhavnagar	
			(ii) Mumbai Central	1. Shri Jethmal Jain, Amalner Pravasi Sangh, Saraf Bazar, Amalner, Distt. Jalgaon 2. Gujarat and Rajasthan Rail Users' Welfare Association, RH-6, Shamali Complex, Opp. Railway Station, Bhayanfer (West)
			(iii) Ratlam	1. Shri Mahendra Gadia, Railway Upbhokta Sangh, 125, Namak Mandi, Ujjain

1	2	3	4
			2. Shri Manoj Keklawala, Dahod Rail and Road Passenger Association, Kiklawala Compound, Baharpur Parao, Ujjain
	(iv) Rajkot		1. Shri Chandravadan Pandya, Jamnagar Regional Passenger Association, Jamnagar 2. Shri Kiran Shukla, Saurashtra Passengers Association, Rajkot
	(v) Vadodara		1. Shri Omkar Tiwari, Railway Passenger Association, Vadodara 2. Dr. N.I.I. Kanuga, Surat-Bharuch Passengers' Association, Kosamba
	(vi) Ahmedabad		1. Shri Sanjay T. Upadhyay, Railway Passengers and Consumer Association, Vadodara/Ahmedabad 2. Shri Dilipbhai A. Pandya, The Maninagar Railway Passengers' Association, Maninagar
16. West Central	(i) Jabalpur		1. Narmada Sambhag Rail Yatri Sangh, Pipariya 2. Maihar Railway Upbhokta Kalyan Samiti, Maihar
	(ii) Bhopal		1. Railway Passenger and Consumer Association, Bhopal
	(iii) Kota		1. Kota Rail Sambhag Yatri Vikas Samiti, Kota 2. Kota Coaching Sanchalak Mitra Mandal, Kota

Statement-IV

*Details of registered Railway Passenger Association nominated on Zonal
Railway Users Consultative Committees constituted from
01.12.2011 to 3.11.2013*

Sl. No.	Railway	Details
1	2	3
1.	Central	1. Kurla Railway Pravasi Sangh. 2. Uttar Bhartia Pravasi Sangh, Pune.
2.	Eastern	1. Bengal Railway Passenger's Association, Pglachandi, Nadia. 2. West Bengal Passengers' Association, Kolkata.
3.	East Central	1. Dhanbad District Railway Passenger Council, Karkend Bazar, P.O. Kusunda, Distt. – Dhanbad (Jharkhand). 2. Grand Chord Passenger Association, Gaya. 3. North Bihar Railway Passenger Association, P.B. No. 17, Begusarai. 4. North Bihar Rail Yatri Sangh, Marvari School Road/ Darbhanga. 5. Bihar Daily Passenger Association, Station Road, Patna.
4.	East Coast	1. Commuters and Welfare Association, Visakhapatnam. 2. Ganjam Zilla Rail Yatri Surakshya Samiti, Ganjam. 3. Chhattisgarh Passengers Association, Chhattisgarh.
5.	Northern	1. Daily Passengers Association, Pataudi Road, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana. 2. Doaba Passenger Association (Regd.) Office Nizatam Nagar, Basti Nau, Jalandhar.

1	2	3
		<p>3. Moradabad, Gajrolla, Dainik Rail Yatri Welfare Association, Hoh. Kotgari, Hasanpur, Distt. J.P. Nagar (UP)</p> <p>4. Rail Passengers Association (N.Z.), 2654, Bazar No. 4, Near SBI, Abohar-152116.</p> <p>5. Haryana Rail Upyog Karta Federation, 171 Shanti Nagar, Model Town, Panipat-132103.</p>
6.	North Central	<p>1. Railway Passengers' Safety and Amenities Association, Allahabad.</p> <p>2. Dainik Yatri Sangh, Bharatpur.</p>
7.	North Eastern	<p>1. Rail Users Association, 194 Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Farukhabad-209625</p> <p>2. Rashtriya Rail Upyogkarta Mahasangh, Manshipur (Makhnawa) Mau</p>
8.	Northeast Frontier	<p>1. Bihar Daily Passenger's Association, Katihar.</p> <p>2. West Bengal Passenger's Association Siliguri.</p> <p>3. Dibrugarh Passenger's Association, Dibrugarh.</p>
9.	North Western	<p>1. Mewar Passenger Relief Society, 35, Sadar Bazar, Bhilwara.</p> <p>2. Marudhara Passenger Welfare Society, 2-B, Samta Nagar, Opposite, Krishi Mandi, Bikaner.</p> <p>3. Rail Road Passenger Association, Mandi Dabwali, Haryana.</p>
10.	Southern	<p>1. Thanjavur-Trichrappalli Train Passengers Users Association, Thanjavur</p> <p>2. Allappuzha-Trichur Railway Passengers Association, Allappuzha</p>

1	2	3
		3. Malabar Rail Users' Association, Kozhikode
11.	South Central	1. The East Godavari Dt. Cocanada Town Passengers' Association, Kakinada. 2. Passengers' Association, Secunderabad. 3. Marathwada Vikas Samiti Passengers' Association, Aurangabad.
12.	South Eastern	1. Chotonagpur Passenger Association, Jamshedpur. 2. Paschim Odisha Rail Yatri Sangh-Rourkela. 3. South Eastern Railway (Howrah-Jakpur) Passenger Association, Bagnan, Howrah.
13.	South East Central	1. Regional Rail Passenger Association, Ghampa (C.G), Barpali Chowk, Champa-495671. 2. All India Long Distance Rail Passenger Welfare Association, Khargapur, 114/1B, Cotton Street, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700007. 3. Rail Pravasi Kalyankari Mandal, Amagoan, (M.S.) Jagdamba Iron Stores, Gandhi Chowk, Amagaon, Distt.-Gondia, Maharashtra.
14.	South Western	1. Mysore Railway Passenger Association, No. 2/12, C.B. Compound, Tiptur-572201 2. Chikkamagalur District Railway Passenger Association, N.H. 206, Kadur-577548.
15.	Western	1. South Gujarat 1st Class Passenger Association, Plot no. 173, Mota Borasara Village Road, Kim Distt. Surat. 2. Railway Passenger Association 113, City Centre Complex, Kalanala, Bhavnagar

1	2	3
		3. Rail Users Sangh Association, Namak Mandi, Ujjain.
		4. The Kutch Passengers Association, 6, Bhuta Niwas No. 1, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Kings Circle, Mumbai-400019.
16.	West Central	1. Akhil Bhartiya Rail Yatri Kalyankarj Sangh, Jabalpur. 2. Kota Rail Sambhag Yatri Vikas Samiti, Kota.
17.	KRUCC	1. Konkan Railway Pravasi Welfare Association. 2. All Goa Railway Users Association. 3. Karnataka Passenger Welfare Association, Kumta.

Modernisation and safety of Railways

1389. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are working for its modernisation and safety; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction, so far, Zone-wise and the amount spent for the same during last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Modernisation and safety improvement is an ongoing process on Indian Railways. The details of major works related to modernisation and safety undertaken during the last four years, zone-wise are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

The expenditure in related plan heads during 2008-09 to 2011-12 is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

Statement-I
The details of major works related to modernisation and safety, undertaken during the last four years, zone-wise

Item Zone	CR	ER	ECR	ECOR	NR	NCR	NER	NFR	NWR	SR	SCR	SER	SECR	SWR	WR	WCR	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Complete track renewal (km.)	1048	718	866	202	2587	1115	581	482	497	743	1433	864	326	535	1295	1153	14445
Machine procurement for track maintenance mechanisation (Nos.)	9	10	9	7	13	11	9	7	7	11	14	8	9	9	9	10	152
Rehabilitation of railway bridges (Nos.)	184	606	204	186	608	219	27	332	264	298	332	354	253	254	323	359	4808
Vigilance Control Device (VCD) in electric locos (Nos.)	470	236	359	250	344	319	-	-	-	297	502	491	188	-	307	513	4276
Complete track circuiting of stations (Nos.)*	372	310	346	245	530	238	214	262	321	471	551	217	156	274	451	256	5214
Provision of electrical/electronic inter-locking at stations (Nos.)*	371	314	339	230	479	231	230	254	321	455	544	216	153	271	381	247	5036
Block proving by axle counters (No of block sections)*	163	511	288	218	416	119	83	57	301	348	250	306	180	140	187	244	3811

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Interlocking of level crossing gates*	427	659	557	343	1414	530	650	462	592	1256	833	345	294	447	1039	444	10292
On Board train protection and warning system trials (Route km)	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	250
Induction of crash worthy design LHB coaches (Nos.)*	38	204	153	64	436	18	-	37	53	14	22	66	-	97	253	-	1455
Provision of bio toilets in coaches (Nos.)*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1296
Providing wheel impact load detector (Nos.)*	01	01	03	01	-	-	-	-	-	01	01	01	02	01	-	03	15
Elimination of unmanned level crossing (Nos.) (2009-10 to Jan. 2013)	84	147	146	156	661	87	372	326	275	317	369	255	205	237	389	140	4166
Construction of Road Over/under bridges/ Subways (Nos.) (2010-II to Jan. 2013)	83	120	62	48	216	77	36	111	185	238	313	09	130	232	46	98	2004

The above figures are for period 2008-09 to 2011-12, except where indicated otherwise.

*This is cumulative figure as on 31.01.2013.

Statement-II

The expenditure in related plan heads during 2008-09 to 2011-12

(Figure in crore of Rs.)

Sl. No.	Plan head	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Total
1.	Rolling stock	10735.45	12922.09	14413.47	16157.73	54228.74
2.	Road safety works level crossing	249.56	358.58	414.05	518.89	1541.08
3.	Road safety road over/under bridges	315.51	539.53	686.20	804.40	2345.64
4.	Track renewals	4139.30	2627.74	2598.53	3185.37	12550.94
5.	Bridge Works	412.38	355.26	345.42	304.37	1417.43
6.	Signalling and Telecom Works	1379.90	1048.44	957.71	840.20	4226.25

Incidents of robbery in trains

1390. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to unstarred question 581 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 2011 and state:

(a) whether incidents of robbery in 350 trains took place where items worth Rs. 3,21,98,164 were robbed during three years *viz.*, 2008, 2009 and 2010 and 20 passengers were killed;

(b) if so, does it militate against the ideal of fear-free journey for the passengers in trains;

(c) how many of the above trains were escorted by RPF or GRP or both and how they responded, like-robbers killed or caught red-handed;

(d) the details of FIRs registered by GRP along with their disposal; and

(e) the statistics of robbery in trains during 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Out of 350 trains, number of trains escorted by Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police- and both and number of robbers killed or caught red-handed are as under:—

No. of trains escorted by RPF/GRP and Both	No. of robbers killed	No. of robbers caught red-handed
163	0	33

(d) Policing on Railways is a State Subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the States concerned. As such, the cases of crime on Railways including robbery are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police and the persons arrested are prosecuted by them as per the provisions of existing Law.

(e) 258 cases of robbery were reported in trains over Indian Railways during the year 2011.

Accidents at level crossings

1391. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unmanned level crossings have become potential danger spots;

(b) the details of accidents at level crossings, manned and unmanned, that took place in the country in the last five years, year-wise and Zone-wise and manned and unmanned level crossing-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that three accidents at level crossings were reported within 24 hours claiming over 22 lives in the last week of August, 2012; and

- (d) if so, how the Ministry would address this issue?

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 mainly 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 April to February, 2013, there have been 46 such incidents at unmanned level crossings in comparison to 51 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 April to February, 2013 is 130, 204 and 110, respectively.

(b) Zone-wise number of consequential incidents at manned and unmanned level crossings during the last five years and current year (upto February, 2013) is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Three separate incidents involving death of 20 persons took place at unmanned level crossings at 08.42 hours on 24.08.2012, at 17.45 hours on 25.08.2012 and at 11.10 hours on 29.08.2012. Brief details of these incidents are given below:—

- (i) On 24.08.2012 at 08.42 hours while Train No. 16318 Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Inter-city Express was on run, it dashed with one goods carrier Autorickshaw at unmanned level crossing No. ST-7 'C' between Sambalpur City and Maneshwar stations in Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway. In this unfortunate incident, 14 persons lost their lives. This incident was caused due to the negligence of road vehicle user in observing precautions laid down in Motor Vehicles Act and the Railways Act while negotiating unmanned level crossings.
- (ii) On 25.08.2012 at 17.45 hours while Train No. 75705 Dn. Ring Rail was on run and approaching unmanned level crossing No. SK/220 between Siliguri Jn. and Baghdogra station in Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, one car dashed against Train engine. In this unfortunate incident, 4 persons lost their lives. This incident was caused due to the negligence of road vehicle user in observing precautions laid down in Motor Vehicles Act and the Railways Act while negotiating unmanned level crossings.

(iii) On 29.08.2012 at 11.10 hours while a Goods Train was on run, one car trespassed at unmanned level crossing No. 24 and hit against the train engine between Dindigul-Eriodu stations of Salem Division of Southern Railway. In this unfortunate incident, 2 persons lost their lives. This incident was caused due to sudden trespass, carelessness and negligence on the part of the car driver while crossing unmanned level crossing.

(d) It has emerged from the analysis of pattern of accidents that manning of unmanned level crossings is not an ideal solution for preventing accidents. Therefore, the policy of manning of unmanned level crossings has been reviewed. Accordingly, Railways have decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by:—

- **Closure** — Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/negligible TVU (Train Vehicle Unit)
- **Merger** — Merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway or RUB (Road Under Bridge) or ROB (Road Over Bridge) by construction of diversion road.
- **Provision of Subways/RUBs**
- **Manning** — The unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means will be progressively manned based on rail-road traffic volume, visibility conditions.

Elimination of all these Level Crossings is a gigantic task and involves lot of manpower, resources and budgetary support. It is a continuous process and is done as per need, *inter-se* priority of works, availability of funds and co-operation of State Government, particularly, in getting consent of closure of level crossing and undertaking to maintain road and drainage in future for subways.

Statement

Details of Zone-wise number of consequential incidents to manned and unmanned level crossings during the last five years and current year

Railway	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13*									
	MLC	Total	MLC	Total	MLC	Total	MLC	Total	MLC	Total	MLC	Total								
1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Central			0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
Eastern			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
East Central			4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	2	7	7	1	2	3
East Coast			4	4	5	5	5	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	4
Northern			5	10	3	3	6	1	15	16	16	16	2	7	9	1	13	14	2	15
North Central			2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	7	0	1	1	1	1	0
North Eastern			8	8	1	11	12	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	4	5	5	1	2	3
Northeast Frontier			0	0	1	1	2	1	5	6	6	6	2	2	4	4	4	4	3	3
North Western			2	4	6	11	11	1	9	10	10	10	5	5	1	6	7	7	7	7

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Southern			6	6	6	5	5	1	1	1	3	3	3		4	4	5	5	5
South Central		3	4	7	1	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	5		6	6	2	2	2
South Eastern			5	5	5	1	1	4	4	4	1	5	6		0	1	2	3	3
South East			2	2	2	3	3	1	1	1		0	0		2	2	3	3	3
Central																			
South Western			8	8	8	1	1	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	4	5			0
Western			5	5	5	9	9	1	6	7	6	6	6		1	1	1	1	1
West Central			3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1		0	0	1	1				0
TOTAL:	12	65	77	7	62	69	5	65	70	5	48	53	7	54	61	5	46	51	51

Note: MLC- Manned Level Crossing. UMLC-Unmanned Level Crossing

* Figures upto February, 2013

Drinking water in trains and at platforms

†1392. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to improve the condition of badly maintained toilets and contaminated drinking water at all railway platforms in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mineral water bottles being supplied in the trains are also of substandard quality and ants have been found in them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Maintenance/improvement of amenities including toilets at stations and platforms is a continuous process. Arrangements for drinking water have been made at all the stations on Indian Railways. Water is suitably treated as per requirement to make it fit for drinking purpose. Corrective action is taken whenever shortfall/problem is noticed during inspections or reported through public complaints.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Only Rail Neer and other BIS (Bureau of Indian Standard) approved packaged drinking water having requisite laid down standards as shortlisted by Zonal Railways, are permitted for sale in the trains. Frequent checks are being conducted to ensure approved brands, quality and hygiene. Discrepancies found by the Railways are dealt with suitably under FSSA (Food Safety and Standard Authority of India) Act.

Directions for use of MPLADS funds

†1393. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some special directions have been issued for the use of MPLADS funds;

(b) if so, the details of the drawbacks noticed in their implementation;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up a monitoring system for use of the said fund;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is a fact that some blacklisted companies have started working again; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme is governed by the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines prescribed by the Central Government. The Scheme's implementation in the field is undertaken by the District Authorities under the State Governments in accordance with the State Government's financial, technical and administrative rules. On the basis of experience, feedback from stakeholders and advice of Parliamentary Committees, etc., modifications/revisions in the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines are carried out from time to time.

(c) Monitoring mechanisms have been prescribed in the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines, wherein the roles of the Parliamentary Committees, Central Government, State Governments, District Authorities and Implementing Agencies are laid down.

(d) and (e) The Implementing Agencies are selected by the District Authorities. Data on Implementing Agencies against whom action has been taken, including blacklisting, is not maintained centrally by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Complaints of MPs regarding sanctioning of proposals under MPLADS

1394. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaint letters of Hon'ble MPs received by the Ministry regarding not sanctioning of proposals under MPLADS in District Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the action taken on these letters;

(c) how much time would be taken by Gautam Buddh Nagar District Administration to sanction these proposals under MPLADS; and

(d) whether the Ministry has issued any instruction/direction to the concerned authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) As per available record, 7 letters were received in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation from Shri Mohammed Adeeb, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) during the period November, 2012 to February, 2013 regarding non-sanctioning of proposals under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme in Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. The implementation of the Scheme in the field is undertaken by the District Authorities under the State Governments. Accordingly, communications were sent to officers of the District Authority of Gautam Buddh Nagar and to officers of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for taking necessary action in respect of the issues raised in these letters, and the matter was followed-up.

(c) The District Magistrate, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, has reported on 04.03.2013 that the time taken by the District Authority for sanctioning the recommended eligible works/proposals under MPLAD Scheme is within 75 days from the date of receipt of the proposals as per the guidelines. However, the District Authority did not receive the said proposals in original form. Only a covering letter in the form of photocopy and proposals in the form of photocopies were received by the District Authority on a later date. The issue, *viz.* whether the proposals in original form have been actually received or not, is being enquired into to fix responsibility in case of any laxity on the part of erring personnel. The enquiry has been expedited so that the said proposals of the Hon'ble Member of Parliament could be scrutinized and sanctioned at the earliest.

(d) The MPLAD Scheme Guidelines provide that all recommended eligible works should be sanctioned within 75 days from the date of receipt of the recommendation, after completing all formalities. The District Authority shall, however, inform MPs regarding rejection, if any, within 45 days from the date of receipt of recommendations, with reasons thereof.

Incomplete infrastructure projects

1395. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incomplete major infrastructure projects in the country during last five years and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is any 'Investment Tracking System' to ensure speedy implementation of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total cost overrun on major infrastructure projects during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, project-wise and the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to overcome such shortfalls and losses in future; and

(f) the details of coordinated efforts made by various Government Departments to solve land issues, fuel supply shortage and environmental clearances for faster implementation of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors the Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 150 crore and above (Rs. 20 crore and above before 31st March, 2010) on the basis of information supplied by the project implementing agencies. The details of incomplete major infrastructure projects in the country during the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year 2012-13 (upto 1st January, 2013) is at Annexure-I. [See Appendix 228, Annexure No. 18] The projects are delayed mainly due to delay in regulatory approvals, non-availability/delayed-availability of funds, delay in land acquisition, law and order situation, lack of strong R&R (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) policies, ineffective procurement planning, design/scope change, delay in decision-making, weak/ineffective project planning and monitoring, contractual disputes, problem in location and connectivity to project site, delay in equipment supply, pre-commissioning teething troubles, geological surprises, etc.

(b) and (c) Government has set up in May, 2012 an Investment Tracking System for projects with an investment of Rs. 1000 crore and above. National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) has been mandated to track all Public Sector Undertaking projects with an investment of Rs. 1000 crore and above. The Department of Financial Services has been mandated to monitor projects with an investment of Rs. 1000 crore and above in the private sector.

(d) During the Eleventh Plan Period (1st April, 2007 to 31st March, 2012), 551 projects were completed, out of which 168 projects reported cost overruns; the

details are at Annexure-II. [See Appendix 228 Annexure No. 19] As on 31st March, 2012, 555 projects were on-going, out of which 179 projects reported cost overruns; the details are at Annexure-III. [See Appendix 228 Annexure No. 20] Major reasons for cost overruns are under estimation of original cost, change in rates of foreign exchange and statutory duties, escalation in cost of land, high cost of environmental safeguards and rehabilitation measures, inflation and delay in projects, etc.

(e) and (f) The major steps undertaken to ensure timely completion of projects include rigorous project appraisal, On-line Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) for better monitoring, setting up Standing Committees in the Ministries for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns, regular review of the infrastructure projects by the concerned administrative Ministries and setting up of Central Sector Project Coordination Committees (CSPCCs) in the States under the Chief Secretaries for removal of bottlenecks and for facilitating the speedy implementation of major projects. A Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) has also been constituted in December, 2012 to review and monitor the implementation of major projects, including issues relating to clearances/approvals, to ensure their accelerated and timely implementation.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Assessment of drought affected regions of Maharashtra

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

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment of the situation in the drought affected regions of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether any help and relief has been provided by Government for the drought affected regions of Maharashtra;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

12.00 Noon

Statement

(a) to (d) During Kharif — 2012, Government of Maharashtra declared drought in 125 talukas. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the State and assessed the situation. Based on the report of IMCT and recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), Government of India approved Rs. 778.09 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Maharashtra.

During Rabi — 2012-13, Government of Maharashtra has reported that 3905 villages in 9 districts have suffered crop loss of 50% and above on account of deficit rainfall. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team has visited the State and assessed the situation. An Empowered Group of Ministers has also been constituted to assess and monitor the situation arising out of drought/deficient rainfall on a regular basis; to take decisions on policy issues and approve new and innovative schemes for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues; and to examine the existing schemes of the Government of India and take decisions on any suitable modifications/relaxations that may be required for effective management of drought/deficit rainfall and related issues.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सभापति महोदय, महाराष्ट्र में सूखे की स्थिति बहुत गंभीर है। वहां पर 7000 से ज्यादा गांवों में किसानों सहित सभी लोग सूखे का सामना कर रहे हैं। वहां पर 5 तालुका तो ऐसी हैं जहां पर 25 परसेंट भी rainfall नहीं हुआ है, 50 तालुका ऐसी हैं जहां पर 50 परसेंट से कम rainfall हुआ है, 136 तालुका ऐसी हैं जहां पर 25 परसेंट की deficiency है। वहां पर आज reservoirs 25 परसेंट भी नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सभापति महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न है कि महाराष्ट्र में ऐसी अभूतपूर्व स्थिति पैदा हुई है, ऐसी स्थिति हमने कभी नहीं देखी। यह महाराष्ट्र में 1972 की याद दिलाने वाला भयंकर सूखा है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें केन्द्र सरकार ने आज तक कितनी मदद दी है?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, everybody knows that there are two types of crops — Kharif and Rabi. During the days of Kharif, as I mentioned in my reply, there were 125 talukas where there was a severe drought situation. The Government of India received a Memorandum from the State Government. The Government

deputed an Inter-Ministerial Central Team and, after getting Report from the Team, decided to support and approved Rs. 778 crores to resolve the issue of Kharif.

Sir, hon. Member has raised the issue, essentially, about the Rabi situation. It is true that situation in Rabi is quite serious. There are 3,905 villages in nine districts where there is a severe problem of drinking water, fodder and, practically, no crop. The State Government has taken a lot of effective steps. For drinking water, 2,136 tankers are working there. Till today, the State Government has spent more than Rs. 684 crores just to supply water. It is true that the water situation is quite serious. Water sources have totally been dried. There are two major irrigation projects in this area. One is Jayakwadi and the other one is Ujjani. Unfortunately, in these major irrigation projects, availability of water is zero. So, there is no choice but to bring water from 30 kms. or 40 kms. or 50 kms. And, that is the reason why it has become very expensive. I myself visited many villages. Though a large number of tankers are working there day and night, but, generally, every household gets water only once in four days or five days.

The second serious problem is that of fodder, and that is why, the State Government has organized 533 cattle camps where 4,00,052 cattle have been brought and the State Government is providing drinking water, fodder and concentrates and certain medical items. So, that programme is on. Now, we have recently received a communication from the State Government about the *rabi* crops. We had deputed a team that visited and it has submitted its report two days ago. The State Government has asked for Rs. 1,809 cores. A final decision on that would be taken in the meeting on the 13th. I have been continuously monitoring that and maintaining a report with the Home Minister and Chief Minister of the State; the Centre shall extend full support to the State Government to resolve this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second question, and quickly, please.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सर, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी वहीं से आते हैं, इसलिए उनको पता है कि आज बहुत से किसान खेतिहर मज़दूर बनकर, जो “रोजगार गारंटी योजना” महाराष्ट्र में 1972 से ही चल रही है, उसके अंतर्गत काम करने आते हैं। अब उस योजना को “मनरेगा” में बदल दिया है। यह जो सौ दिन की लिमिट है, इससे बड़ी परेशानी हो रही है, क्योंकि लोगों को मई महीने तक काम करना पड़ेगा। सर, मेरा आपके माध्यम से माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से स्पेसिफिक सवाल है कि महाराष्ट्र ने जो 1800 करोड़ रुपए रबी की फसल के लिए मांगे हैं, उसकी मंजूरी के साथ-साथ क्या सरकार इस साल की स्थिति को देखते हुए “मनरेगा” की सौ दिन की लिमिट बढ़ाने का भी काम करेगी?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, an Empowered Group of Ministers has been appointed to take a final view on policy matters. The Group would be meeting on the 13th. There are two or three issues before this Group of Ministers: One, the number of days of employment under NREGA is 100, but there is a demand to extend this upto the end of July, 2013. There second demand from the State Government is that the cattle camp — for which the initial decision was that it would be for 15 days; and which was later extended to three months — should be extended upto the end of July, 2013. The third issue is about the wages. The issue of wages would also be discussed and we would take a final view on that. There is a fourth demand from the State as well. Today, the Government of India is paying Rs. 32 for a big animal and Rs. 16 for a small animal. The State Government has requested that it should be Rs. 80 and Rs. 40 respectively, because they themselves are having Rs. 60 and Rs. 30. So, their demand is that that norm should be changed. In the meeting that is slated for the 13th and in the EGoM, we would take a final view on all these four issues.

श्री हुसैन दलवाई : सर, यह सही बात है कि महाराष्ट्र में ऐसी अभूतपूर्व स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। वहां सन् 72 ये 74 तक बड़े पैमाने पर अकाल पड़ा है। हम लोगों ने वहां काम भी किया था। मंत्री महोदय, जो बात हमेशा कहते हैं, वह सही है कि महाराष्ट्र की स्थिति सन् 72 से भी बदतर हो गई है।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई : सर, मेरा यह कहना है कि वहां कई ऐसे तालुके हैं, जिनमें हर तीन साल के बाद अकाल की स्थिति पैदा होती है, हालांकि वह अकाल बड़ा नहीं होता है, लेकिन होता जरूर है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वहां अकाल की स्थिति पैदा न हो, इसके लिए क्या केन्द्र सरकार वहां पर irrigation इत्यादि का कुछ प्रबंध करेगी? मैं दूसरा सवाल यह पूछना चाहता हूँ।

श्री सभापति : आप एक ही सवाल पूछिए।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई : सर, वहां पर cattle के लिए पानी की बहुत बड़ी problem हो गई है, इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा कहा जाता है कि हमारे पड़ोसी राज्यों, कर्णाटक और आन्ध्र प्रदेश से पानी लेने में दिक्कत है, तो क्या इस मामले में सरकार कोई intervene करेगी?

श्री शरद पवार : वहां पर अनाज की समस्या नहीं है और न ही रोजी-रोटी की समस्या है, वहां पर मुख्य समस्या पानी की है। जब वहां 1972 में सूखा पड़ा था, उस समय वहां

अनाज की समस्या थी, इस समय अनाज की समस्या नहीं है। यह बात सच है कि वहाँ पर पानी की समस्या है, मगर लॉर्ग टर्म मेज़र्स क्या लेना चाहते हैं या क्या करने की बात है, तो आज, the immediate issue is to help the needy people and help cattle. From that angle, the State Government is working and the Government of India is totally supporting the State Government. Then, a question comes about various long-term schemes. It is true, there are a number of schemes which have been completed but there were not enough rains. That is why, though irrigation projects were there, because of non-availability of the rains, they were not useful. There are certain irrigation projects which are incomplete. Under Accelerated Irrigation Scheme, we are trying to support and expedite completion of these.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Naresh Agrawal now. The question is on the drought situation in Maharashtra.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सभापति जी, आपके आदेशों का पालन होगा। माननीय मंत्री जी वैसे तो यह प्रश्न महाराष्ट्र ये जुड़ा हुआ है, यह आपके राज्य का मामला है, लेकिन मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे देश में प्रति वर्ष कहीं न कहीं बाढ़ और सूखे की स्थिति बनी रहती है। मैं तीन साल से बराबर सुन रहा हूँ कि सरकार ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स बना रही है, तमाम कार्यवाही कर रही है, लेकिन स्थिति वैसी की वैसी बनी रहती है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत सरकार इस परिस्थिति से निपटने के लिए पूरे देश में कोई दीर्घकालिक योजना बना रही है? यदि हां तो यह योजना क्या है और इसके लिए कितने रुपये की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी और यह योजना कब तक पूरी होगी?

श्री शरद पवार : सभापति जी, यह जो आपत्ति है, यह नैसर्गिक आपत्ति है। कभी-कभी ऐसी समस्या पैदा होती है, जिसकी वजह से देश में कई जगहों पर यह परिस्थिति निर्मित हो जाती है। पिछले साल देश के कई राज्यों में ऐसा हुआ। पिछले साल गुजरात में, महाराष्ट्र में और कर्नाटक में भी सूखे की परिस्थिति थी। वहाँ पर जो भी मदद करने की आवश्यकता थी, वह मदद करने की तैयारी भारत सरकार ने कर रखी थी और उस सरकार को वहाँ पर इस परिस्थिति का सामना करने के लिए फाइनेंशियल सपोर्ट भी जरूर दिया गया था। मेन इश्यू यह है कि इरिगेशन प्रोजेक्ट्स कम्पलीट करना, छोटे प्रोजेक्ट के लिए प्रायोरिटी देना और इनमें से कुछ प्रोजेक्ट्स को गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया से मदद देना आदि हैं। सभी राज्य सरकारें अपने-अपने राज्यों में इस काम के लिए कुछ न कुछ प्रायोरिटी देने का प्रयास करती हैं, मगर हमारे यहाँ पर इतने ज्यादा नम्बर ऑफ प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं कि इनका एक, दो या तीन सालों में पूरा होना बहुत मुश्किल बात है। इतने पैसों की समस्या को हल करना आसान नहीं है, फिर भी हमारा ध्यान राज्य सरकार की ऐसी सभी बातों की ओर है और जहाँ तक हो सकता है, हम हर साल के बजट में उनकी जरूर मदद करते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kumar Deepak Das now if his question is on this question.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, definitely, I would put my question on that. Drought and deficit rainfall problems prevail in Maharashtra as well as in other States. The problem persists for a long-term. The Government has many research institutions and expert bodies. I would like to know whether the Government has acted on innovative schemes to give some relief to the farmers in addressing this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a different subject altogether. We shall now go on to ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: There is a research group; there are expert bodies. Has the Government taken any action?...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask a question and you will get an answer. But, this is not the subject...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Now, Papers to be laid.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development

II. Reports and Accounts (2010-11 and 2011-12) of various Universities, IIT, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyans, Missions Institutes and Study Centre and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Shashi Tharoor, I lay on the Table:—

- I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education), under Section 24 of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987, along with delay statement:—
 - (1) F. No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2012, dated the 27th September, 2012, publishing the All India Council for Technical Education (Grant of Approvals for the Technical Institutions) Regulations 2012.

- (2) F. No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2012, dated the 8th November, 2012, publishing the All India Council for Technical Education (Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for the Teachers and other Academic Staff in Technical Institutions) (Diploma) Regulations, 2012.
- (3) F. No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2012, dated the 8th November, 2012, publishing the All India Council for Technical Education (Career Advancement Scheme for the Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Technical Institutions) (Degree) Regulations, 2012.
- (4) F. No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2012, dated the 5th December, 2012, publishing the All India Council for Technical Education (Grant of Approvals for conducting Vocational Education Program, Community College Course(s) and Skill Knowledge Provider, under National Vocational Education Qualification Framework Regulations, 2012.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8575/15/13]

- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy) Notification No. S.O. 79 (E), dated the 7th January, 2013, amending Notification No. S.O. 1548 (E), dated the 7th July, 2011, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification, under Section 33 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8483/15/13]

- II. (i) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of the Section 31 of the Central Universities Act, 2009:—
 - (a) Third Annual Accounts of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8583/15/13]

[Shri Rajeev Shukla]

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central University of Jammu, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8585/15/13]

- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

- (ii) (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961:—

- (a) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, for the year 2011-12, and Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8581/15/13]

- (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, for the year 2011-12, and Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8587/15/13]

- (c) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8588/15/13]

- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Accounts of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Assam University Act, 1989.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8582/15/13]

- (ii) (a) Annual Accounts of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon, under Section 13 of the Banaras Hindu University Act, 1915.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8584/15/13]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Nagaland, 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. 8480/15/13]

- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the Rajiv Vidya Mission, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iv) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8473/15/13]

- (v) (a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), NOIDA, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), NOIDA, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (v) (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8474/15/13]

[Shri Rajeev Shukla]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Gangtok Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Sikkim, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8828/15/13]

- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Gangtok Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority, Sikkim, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8829/15/13]

- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Studies in Civilizations for implementation of the Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture (PHISPC), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (viii) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8589/15/13]

- (ix) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, 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 (ix) (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8581/15/13]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture**II. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of various Corporations and related papers**

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री तारिक अनवर):
सभापति जी, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

I. (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), under Section 97 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001:—

- (1) G.S.R. 900 (E), dated the 18th December, 2012, publishing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (Second Amendment) Rules, 2012.
- (2) G.S.R. 901 (E), dated the 18th December, 2012, publishing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (Amendment) Rules, 2012.
- (3) G.S.R. 902 (E), dated the 18th December, 2012, publishing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (Amendment) Rules, 2012.
- (4) G.S.R. 903 (E), dated the 18th December, 2012, publishing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (Use of Denomination of Registered Variety) Rules, 2012.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8544/15/13]

(ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) Notification No. G.S.R. 45 (E), dated the 24th January, 2013, publishing the Gum Karaya Grading and Marking Rules, 2013, under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 8467/15/13]

II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) (a) Forty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Madhya

[श्री तारिक अनवर]

Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8465/15/13]

- (ii) (a) Forty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8543/15/13]

Report and Accounts (2011-12) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation (IRWO), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Organisation.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 8499/15/13]

**STATEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development (2012-13):—

- (i) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee relating to the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Eighteenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2012-13)' of the Ministry of Urban Development; and
- (ii) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-second Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee relating to the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Nineteenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2012-13)' of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2012-13

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), for the year 2012-13 (March, 2013).

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that the Government Business in this House for the week commencing Monday, the 11th March, 2013, will consist of:—

1. General discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2013-14.

[Shri Rajeev Shukla]

2. Consideration of Resolution seeking approval of the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Railway Convention Committee (2009) on "Rate of dividend for 2012-13 and other ancillary matters."
3. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2013-14.
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2012-2013.
 - (c) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2010-11.
4. General discussion on the Budget (General) for 2013-14.
5. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
 - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2013-14.
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2012-13.
 - (c) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2010-11.
6. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:—
 - (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2013.
 - (b) The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Parliamentary and Legislative Constituencies Bill, 2013.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the hon. Prime Minister to reply to the discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to join all Members of this august House in conveying our sincere thanks to the hon. President for his enlightened Address. The debate on the President's Address

has been vigorous and wide-ranging. I thank all the hon. Members who have contributed to this debate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other day, the hon. Leader of the Opposition quoted Tacitus in the course of running down the achievements of the UPA Government. Since he is so obviously fond of Tacitus, I hope he will not mind if I quote some Tacitus back at him. Tacitus also said, and I quote, "When men are full of envy, they disparage everything whether it be good or bad."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is a wise and discerning person. I appeal to his better sense to make a judgement about the performance of the UPA Government in considering wider national interest and not merely in the pursuit of a mere political point.

Sir, Shri Jaitley made a powerful speech, and I listened with great interest to the points that he has made. His first point with which I agree is that our country needs a growth rate of 8 to 9 per cent if we are to get rid of chronic poverty and large scale unemployment of our youth. He is also right when he said that this would require a rapid pace of industrialisation. I would like to remind this House that this is precisely the intention of the UPA Government. And way back in early nineties when the Congress Government was in power, we opened up our economy, we adopted a path of economic reforms with a view to create an environment conducive to rapid industrialisation and on terms and conditions whereby India's goods would find ready space elsewhere in the world. At that time also, there were lots of doubts about the wisdom of the Government and I recall the debates in both the Houses when the Members of the Opposition rose to criticise the Budget that I presented in 1992 as having been made in Washington and not in Delhi. But since then, Sir, there have been three Governments. The Congress Government went out of office in 1996. It was followed by the United Front Government and later a BJP-NDA Government. Despite changes in Governments, the rise of Left Parties, the rise of Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies, there was no change in the direction of reforms. All political parties, whatever they may say in opposition, have sworn by economic reforms and that our country needs economic reforms to realise its full developmental potential. I sincerely hope and trust that when the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues reflect calmly on the situation, they would come to the conclusion that the path we have chosen is the right one. The hon. Leader of the Opposition started by saying that the UPA inherited a fast growing economy and we have made

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

a mess of it. I would like to remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition that the Government of which he was a distinguished member was in power from 1998-99 to 2003-04. If I look at the data of growth rates, in 1998-99, the growth rate of the economy was 6.7 per cent, in 1999-2000, it was 7.6 per cent, in 2000-01, it was 4.3 per cent, in 2001-02, it was 5.5 per cent, in 2002-03, it was 4 per cent and it is only in 2003-04 that the growth rate picked up and we had a growth rate of 8.1 per cent. By contrast, if you look at the nine years of the UPA, in 2004-05, the growth rate of the economy was 7 per cent, in 2005-06, it was 9.5 per cent, in 2006-07, it was 9.6 per cent, in 2007-08, it was 9.3 per cent, in 2008-09, it was 6.7 per cent, in 2009-10, it was 8.6 per cent, in 2010-11, it was 9.3 per cent, in 2011-12, it was 6.2 per cent and it is only in the current year, 2012-13, that the growth rate is estimated to fall to 5 per cent. Sir, as the hon. Finance Minister has pointed out in his Budget Speech, We do not believe that the slow growth will stay where it is today. We have every intention to use all policy instruments to push up the growth rate and it is our expectation that in the next two or three years, the economy can once again bounce back to a growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent.

What was the main point made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition? He said that we first created a crisis and, now, we are trying to resolve this crisis. This reference was, obviously, to the expenditure that was incurred by the UPA Government in the course of last nine years to bring a social balance in our patterns of spending, to pay greater attention to the social sectors of the economy. Shri Jaitley very sarcastically said that the UPA Government first increased expenditure in an unbridled fashion and, now, wants to take credit for enforcing financial discipline.

Sir, we are proud of expanding expenditure in the social sector. We are proud of increasing spending in programmes that ensure access to health and education for the common man, particularly for the weaker sections of our society. We are proud of increasing spending in programmes that provide livelihood security to the poor. We are proud of making all sincere efforts for fulfilling our commitment for inclusive growth. Look at the health sector. We have increased the expenditure from about Rs. 7,500 crores in 2003-04, which was the last year of the NDA Government, to about Rs. 27,000 crores in the year 2011-12. This is a three-and-a-half times

increase. In *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* the expenditure has gone up from Rs. 2,730 crores in 2003-04 to Rs. 20,841 crores in 2011-12. The results are for everyone to see. I do not wish to cite here all the indicators that reflect our successes. Let me also say to this august House that we will continue supporting these schemes and programmes.

Shri Jaitley referred to programmes initiated by the NDA Government. Whatever good programmes were there, we have carried them forward.

In the Mid-Day-Meal Programme, the expenditure in 2003-04 was Rs. 1,325 crores, and in the current year the expenditure will be Rs. 9,890 crores.

The point that I wish to make is that during the NDA period there was a token provision, although great terms were used for the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* and other programmes, but the amount of money that was allocated to these programmes was very, very small.

Therefore, their capacity to make impact in the areas where spending was to be devoted was pretty small. Take, for example, the case of PMGSY. From 2001-02 to 2003-04, in the NDA period, the releases were Rs. 9,682 crores. From 2009-10 to 2012-13, in UPA-II, it was Rs. 56,251 crores. In UPA-I, from 2004-05 to 2008-09, it was Rs. 38,637 crores. Whether you look at rural development or you look at infrastructure including the roads programme, there has been a tremendous increase in spending under the UPA Government. We are not ashamed of that. There may be some problems with regard to the way some Programmes are being managed. There are bound to be difficulties, particularly, when large sums of money are being spent for the first time. I do not deny that there are problems, but these are problems of growing up; these are problems of a fast-growing economy trying to realise its full development potential. Therefore, I would, respectfully, submit to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that he should be more objective in assessing the performance of the UPA Government. Whether it is growth rates, whether we are dealing with agricultural development, or, whether we are dealing with the pace of industrialisation, the record of the UPA Government speaks for itself. I don't have to go deep into this matter.

Sir, Shri Arun Jaitley referred to the problem of terrorism and the role of National Counter Terrorism Centre. I believe, there are no two points of view that we should not make any compromise with terrorism. I sincerely hope and believe that when

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

it comes to dealing with terrorism, all political parties will speak with one voice. It will be our effort that in order to bring about a broad national consensus, we will work with the State Governments to give meaning and substance to the proposal of the NCTC. With regard to the developments in Jammu and Kashmir, I would once again say to this House that our policy is a policy based on evolving national consensus. We will not do anything which is against the national interest. In formulating our policies, the well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be always a paramount interest, consistent with the requirements of the national economy and national polity. Shri Ram Gopal Yadav referred to the need for increased emphasis being given to the agricultural sector and I share his concern that more should be done for development of our agriculture. Agriculture has been doing quite well in the last eight or nine years, and, in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the growth rate of agricultural production was 3.7 per cent as against 2.4 and 2.5 per cent in the previous two Plans, that is, in the Ninth and the Tenth Plan. But I would be the last person to deny that more attention needs to be paid to the development of our agriculture.

I am very happy that some of the BIMARU States are showing good results. Today, Bihar, I am told, has the highest growth rate among the States. But that is as it should be. Starting from a low base, whether it is Bihar or whether it is Madhya Pradesh, these are the States which have been backward. People and Governments are now trying to grapple with the problem of backwardness more effectively. If they are succeeding, we are all very happy at their success, and one must never forget the contribution made by my esteemed friend and colleague, Shri Sharad Pawar, in making powerful pleas for allocating more resources for the development of agriculture. Schemes like the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*, have made an impact, and the fact that the growth process, particularly in agriculture, is showing a positive direction, a positive trend, in several hitherto backward States is something about which we can express happiness. I sincerely believe that more can be done and it will be done. Our Government will remain alive to the needs of our farmers particularly in areas where there is drought, where there is scarcity and shortage of drinking water. We will work with the State Governments to deal with these calamities with forcefulness.

Sir, I do not wish to take more of your time. Shri Arun Jaitley referred to our Foreign Policy in the concluding part of his speech, and I should say that we are in an unsettled neighbourhood. We have, therefore, to be alert, but we will never compromise with our national interests. We want our neighbours to prosper, we want our neighbours to be partners in progress; and I sincerely hope that we will work with our neighbours to give the SAARC Region a new profile of a strong growth than that has been possible hitherto.

There are problems in Sri Lanka. We have been worried about the fate of the Tamil population in Sri Lanka. It has been our effort to plead with the Government of Sri Lanka that there must be political reconciliation, that without national reconciliation, the situation cannot remain calm, and that the Sri Lankan Government must, therefore, take initiative to talk to the Tamil leadership in Sri Lanka. It will be our effort to work with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that Tamil people of Sri Lanka do get the chance to lead a life of dignity and self-respect as equal citizens of the country.

Sir, with regard to Pakistan, we have made sincere efforts to normalize our relations. We have achieved some progress in this regard. People-to-people contacts have gone up. Trade relations have shown improvement. But there cannot be normalization of relations between our two countries unless and until the terror machine, which is still active in Pakistan, is brought under control. This has been our policy during the nine years that we have been in office and it is the same approach which would guide us in dealing with Pakistan in the years to come.

We are very happy that our President's visit to Bangladesh was deeply appreciated by the Government and people of Bangladesh. I sincerely hope that as a means of promoting friendship between the two countries, which have such a close relationship, this House and the other House would have the wisdom to endorse the Land Boundary Agreement, which I signed along with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh when I visited Bangladesh. This is an Agreement which would ensure peace and tranquility on the border, which would remove uncertainties, and I am convinced that this is an Agreement, which is in the interest of both the countries. I sincerely hope that when we bring this Bill before Parliament, Parliament would have the wisdom to approve it with acclamation.

Sir, with regard to Nepal there is uncertainty, but we sincerely hope that the multi-party democracy which has been introduced will survive and thrive. Our effort

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

has been to work with the Government and the people of Nepal to strengthen the processes and working of multi-party democracy.

In Maldives, there have been unfortunate problems after the February, 2012 event. We believe that the best course is to have elections to the office of the President, which are due in September, 2013. There should be free and fair elections, with an inclusive process, with all people participating in the process of electing the new President. I sincerely hope that the Government and people of Maldives will overcome this atmosphere of crisis and uncertainty.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to spend more time. I once again thank all the hon. Members who have taken part in the debate. I have taken note of the points that have been made. We will look into all those issues which have figured in the debate. With these words, I once again request the House to thank the hon. President for his gracious address to us all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to make just one point...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, just a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time for discussion or clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*...

I shall now put the ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: I wish to make just ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, taking into consideration the prevailing mood in Tamil Nadu, will the Prime Minister be kind enough ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, sorry, there is no time for discussion or clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*... Discussion has taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: If the Prime Minister clarifies, that would be a message to the people. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Siva, you know the practice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Words of consolation will go to the people of Tamil Nadu. *...(Interruptions)...* That would be a very good message. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There has been enough time for discussion. *...(Interruptions)...* Everybody has spoken. *...(Interruptions)...* Please resume your places. *...(Interruptions)...* You have said your piece in the debate. *...(Interruptions)...* I shall now put the amendments which have been moved to vote. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, the Leader of the Opposition wants to speak. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not our practice. *...(Interruptions)...* I am sorry. *...(Interruptions)...* The hon. Leader of the Opposition has initiated the debate. *...(Interruptions)...* There is no right to reply to the reply. *...(Interruptions)...* Sorry, there is no practice about it. *...(Interruptions)...* I shall now put the amendments which have been moved to vote. *...(Interruptions)...* Amendments 23 to 69 by Shri Prabhat Jha. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री बलबीर पुंज (ओडिशा): सर, यह लोक सभा में हुआ है।

श्री सभापति : बैठ जाइए, बैठ जाइए। This is not fair. *...(Interruptions)...* This is not fair. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, नेता विपक्ष, जिन्होंने बहस शुरू की, वह एक clarification पूछना चाहते हैं, आप कृपा कर के उन्हें अनुमति दें। यह well-known है। मैं भी 12 साल से इस हाउस का मेम्बर हूँ। यह पहली बार हो रहा है कि एलओपी आग्रह कर रहा है और आप उसे बोलने की अनुमति नहीं दे रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Leader of the Opposition participated in the debate. *...(Interruptions)...* Other sections of the House have also participated. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh): It doesn't matter. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But LoP has a different stature. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Mr. Jaitleyji, please speak.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for a very detailed reply. One of the issues

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

that I raised — and a large number of Members have also raised — it is a matter of serious concern in the whole country, is the corruption during the UPA. I only hope the Prime Minister had not treated it as a non-issue and chosen not to reply on this issue, and, at least, he will appreciate that despite the wisdom of Tacitus the UPA's corruption is not a cause of envy for us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendments which have been moved to vote. Amendments (Nos. 23 to 69) by Shri Prabhat Jha.

SHRI PRABHAT JHA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I withdraw the amendments.

Amendments (Nos. 23 to 69) were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amendments (Nos. 70 to 109) by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I withdraw the amendments.

Amendments (Nos. 70 to 109) were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amendments (Nos. 661 to 733) by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I am not pressing, except Amendment No.707. I would like to request the Prime Minister about my demand for universalisation of Public Distribution System and to put a complete ban on speculation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing your amendments?

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: I am not pressing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about the rest of the amendments proposed?

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: I am not pressing.

Amendments (Nos. 661 to 733) were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amendments (Nos. 734 to 736) by Shri C.P. Narayanan. Are you withdrawing the amendments?

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I withdraw the amendments.

Amendments (Nos. 734 to 736) were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amendments (Nos. 791 to 842) by Shrimati Maya Singh.

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I withdraw the amendments.

Amendments (Nos. 791 to 842) were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amendments (Nos. 843 to 856) by Shri Raghunandan Sharma.

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैं अपने अमेंडमेंट्स वापस लेता हूँ।

Amendments (Nos. 843 to 856) were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Motion to vote. The question is:—

“That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

‘That the Members of the Rajya Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 21, 2013.’”

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-one minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The Youth (Development and Welfare) Bill, 2012

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Private Members' Legislative Business (Bills). Bills for Introduction. The Youth (Development and Welfare) Bill, 2012, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the overall development

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

of the youths in the country and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Special Financial Assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh Bill, 2012. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

**The Special Financial Assistance to the State of
Andhra Pradesh Bill, 2012**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh for the purpose of promoting the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes of the society and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Financial Assistance to Girl Child Belonging to Parents Living Below Poverty Line, 2012. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

**The Financial Assistance to Girl Child Belonging to
Parents Living Below Poverty Line, 2012**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for financial protection and security to girl child of parents living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, not present. Next is Shri Rajkumar Dhoot, not present. Next is Shri Prabhat Jha. The Ban on Obscene Advertisements Bill, 2013.

The Ban on Obscene Advertisements Bill, 2013

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि देश में किसी भी रूप में किए जाने वाले अश्लील विज्ञापनों पर प्रतिबंध लगाने और तत्संसक्त या उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री प्रभात झा : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Again, Shri Prabhat Jha. The Prevention of Begging and Rehabilitation of Beggars Bill, 2013.

The Prevention of Begging and Rehabilitation of Beggars Bill, 2013

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि देश में भिक्षावृत्ति के निवारण और भिखारियों के पुनर्वास और तत्संसक्त अथवा उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए एक विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted

श्री प्रभात झा : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2013, Shri Piyush Goyal. Not present.

Now, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2013, Shri Vivek Gupta.

**The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
(Amendment) Bill, 2013**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2013, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy. Not present.

We will now take up further consideration of the Official Languages Bill, 2012.

The Official Languages Bill, 2012

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. I stand here for further consideration of the Official Languages Bill, 2012, which proposes to repeal and replace the Official Languages Act, 1963, in order to ensure that all regional languages that have been recognized under Schedule-VIII of the Constitution can be used for all official purposes of the Union. Today is a historic day. Our movement, the Dravidian movement, since its inception, has been fighting for the betterment of the Tamil. I am compelled to look back to history and to some events which have happened in the past. But now, as the time has changed, the mood has also changed. Earlier, as everyone in this House is well aware, there was a very big resistance in the southern region, especially in Tamil Nadu, against Hindi. In those times, there was an apprehension in the minds of the people that one of the regional languages in this country is trying to dominate all other regional languages and their culture. When a language is washed away, the entire culture or the entire race will slowly fade. I could recall that during the Irish Revolution, De Valera said, "If I have to choose between an independent Ireland and mother-tongue, I would prefer the latter. I would prefer to choose my mother-tongue to independent Ireland". I can cite many examples like that who have preferred their mother-tongue to their soul, especially when India was not one before independence. Everyone knows it. Only after 1947, we became a nation and we resolved to have the motto of unity in diversity. But the Constitution which we adopted in 1950 said that Hindi in *Devanagari* script will be the official language of the Union and for fifteen years, English would be a language associated with that and after that only Hindi will be the official language. Subsequent to that, there was a great agitation in Tamil Nadu. Starting from 1938, 1948 and in 1965, it was at its peak. Many youth in the State of Tamil Nadu self-immolated. On the same floor of the House, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru gave an assurance to our Members of Parliament who were then here and were raising voice that until otherwise the non-Hindi speaking people are willing to accept Hindi, English will continue as an associate language.

Of course, any assurance given by the Minister on the floor of the Parliament is valued so much and Panditji's assurance was taken by us and it subsided. Later in 1963, when the Official Languages (Amendment) Act came, our leader Anna was

in the same House. His speech was so vociferous and he took away all the Members here, and at that time, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, senior most leader of the Jan Sangh was there, and was an ardent fighter for the cause of the Hindi, and our leader was a fighter for Tamil. There was a good discussion, and that debate was so valuable. In that Anna said, "Why should you discriminate a language in this country which has got equal qualifications, rather more than that? At this moment, I should thank the UPA Government, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister and the UPA Chairperson, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, who have declared Tamil as a Classical Language. It has been a demand for long and that was declared as a Classical Language in the UPA-I Government.

Every language has been found out when it has come into existence. For example, English which is spoken by more than 145 countries, which is considered to be the language which would help us to go across the world, came into existence only in the Tenth Century. French language came into existence in the Eighth Century. German language came into existence in the Sixth Century. If you have to go into further more details every language has got a period when it came into existence, but Tamil, Sir, no one knows when it came into existence. I am proud that I belong to the Tamil speaking community. But, at the same time, I am proud to say that Tamil is such a hoary language, an ancient language but it is being disregarded, and has not been accredited with due respect it should have. Our Thirukural which everyone knows was written 2,000 years before. Tolkappiyam, Tamil grammar was written 2,500 years before, when Lord Buddha was in Bihar, when Kung Fu was in China, when Socrates was in Greece. Tolkappiar in Tamil Nadu was writing grammar for Tamil. So rich is that language which is inferior to no other language, rather it was considered as the mother of all languages, but it has not been given the due respect. We were fighting vehemently when we felt that Hindi was being imposed, rather Hindi language came into Tamil Nadu, rather across the country, and that it would take away all the languages. Sir, Hindi is spoken by 5 or 6 States in the country, maybe the majority. But majority can't decide always. If one language has to be there to maintain unity, can anyone argue that there should be only one religion to keep this country as one country with unity? No, Sir. Nothing can bind us with one reason, whether it is a language or religion. That is why, at the outset itself, I have told unity in diversity is the basic thing or the basic motto or the basic principle of our Indian politics.

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

Sir, I should say at this moment, if some people say one language will bind the country with unity, I would like to tell them that so many countries which speak the same language are separate. They are not together. In South American countries, Spanish is the language in many countries but they are all separate. German is spoken in Austria and in Germany. But they are two nations. Korean is the language in the North Korea and South Korea but they are two different nations. Even in our own country, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and States nearby Bihar, they all speak in Hindi, but they are all separate States. Even in the recent past, Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar, a Hindi speaking State. So also Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh, a Hindi speaking State; and Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh. So, language can't bind a nation or a State into one with one language. We say that we are against Hindi, that was once our slogan. But now we say that all regional languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, starting from Tamil, 22 languages must be regarded as official languages of the Union.

One language is given the official status and all others are only official languages in the State and that language is also having a committee which goes across and sees how it is being implemented. Those who are having Hindi as their mother-tongue would come up very well, and even if I or you, Sir, from Kerala or any other person from Andhra Pradesh learn Hindi, we cannot compete with a person whose mother-tongue is Hindi. So, we argued that one language, which is the language of a part of this country, cannot be a common language to all the States in this vast sub-continent. Many people argued even in the same House that Hindi is the national language and others are regional languages. No, Sir, all are national languages. As regards languages in India, all languages which were called once as regional languages are, of course, accepted as national languages. So, one language which is the language of a part of the country, just because it is spoken by a majority of the people here, cannot rule the entire country. So, we launched agitations. Sir, I could recall, in 1948 itself, our leader Anna wrote in Dravida Nadu that all regional languages must be made as official languages. In 1974, when our leader, Dr. Kalam, was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he passed a Resolution in the Assembly that all regional languages must be regarded as official languages of the Union. In 2000, when we were a part of the NDA, our leader, as a partner in the NDA,

making the same demand, wrote to the then Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee, to amend the Constitution. In 1978, our senior leader, Shri Murasoli Maran, moved a Resolution in the same House insisting the same. But that Motion was defeated here. Later in 1983, he moved a Bill. I am happy that after thirty years, a person from the same party, his younger brother, has moved that Bill and it has come up for discussion. That is why I said that this is a historic moment. I don't think it will resolve all the issues today itself. But it is a very good start. Many Members here, cutting across political parties, from various States, said that they would participate in this discussion and would support this cause. So, we are not against any particular language now. What we argue is that we want our language to be given the official status which another regional language in this country is enjoying. What is wrong in that? We have got a rich past. Our language is ancient. Our literature, if we start describing it, it will go on for hours together. We have got everything of our own. Our language is so rich; our language is ancient. It has got everything of its own. But we are very sorry that it has not been given credit of its own. If a section of the people of this country has come to the conclusion that they are disregarded for the sake of language, then, that would result in something else. That is what happened in 1965. So many youngsters came to the streets. They set fire to themselves. The whole of India was shaken. That was the first ever incident in the history of human race, next to Vietnam when some Buddhist monks set themselves ablaze, the first time in Tamil Nadu, that youths came to the streets and self-immolated. That shocked the entire country. Everyone was very shocked to know that just for the sake of a language, these people came to the streets and they wanted to take away their lives by setting themselves on fire. This made them sense the mood prevailing then and they realized that their love for the language was greater than their love for life. But, after that, it came to a halt. Everything came to a halt. Our demand remains as a demand. When what we expected, to be brought as a Bill, has not been attempted by any Government, either by the UPA or by the NDA or by the United Front Government, a Member of this House is moving this Bill to be considered by the Government.

Sir, I have to quote many things. This discussion started in the Constituent Assembly itself. If we look into the debates of the Constituent Assembly, it was very, very serious and many seniors even went to the extent of condemning another

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

language. But what I would say is that due to maturity over the period of time and due to incidents which have developed, we have come to a point that we are not against any language. We were against some languages earlier.

But, now we want our language to be given the same official status. We have to be treated equally. Our Leader, Anna in this House said, "Kindly don't mistake unity for uniformity. You cannot expect unity by way of creating uniformity. It cannot be." He said, "Unity in diversity has to be maintained." Sir, in the Constituent Assembly, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Ms Durga Bai and Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar spoke, and especially, what Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar spoke is very, very important. Mr. Krishnamurthy Rao who was in the Constituent Assembly also spoke; he said, "My respectful submission is that today Hindi is only a regional language and a provincial language and just because it is being spoken by about 10 crores out of 32 crores at that point of time, we are raising it to the level of common language." I would call all languages spoken in India as our national languages, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam Bengali, Gujarati and all other languages are national languages. But for the purpose of the Union, we want a common language and we are prepared to accept Hindi as our common language, but Hindi has to become such a language that its effect would be seen in all the ramifications of national life and for this, it should develop much. My submission is that today, Hindi has not yet developed. That was his view at that time. In fact, I can quote from some of our own south Indian languages. So, many arguments were made like that and especially, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of Independent India, in the Constituent Assembly, has also said that there is no other item in the Constituent of the country, which would be required to be implemented from day-to-day and from hour-tohour. I might even say minute-to-minute in actual practice. Therefore, the decision of the House should be agreeable to the country as a whole. Even if we succeed in getting a particular proposition passed by majority, if it does not meet with the approval of any considerable section of people in the country, either in the North or in the South, the implementation of the Constitution will become a most difficult problem. Sir, just because of the resistance given by Tamil Nadu, our movement and those who advocated for Tamil, English came to be the associate language. That was the amendment made in 1967. In 1965, it was mandatory, as per the Constitution, 'that

Hindi alone will be the official language of this country'. Because of the agitation in Tamil Nadu, that was not implemented. Pandit Nehru gave an assurance here and in 1967 an amendment was made and the word, English 'may' continue to be the associate language was substituted with 'should'. So, 'English should continue as the associate language of India' helped the people across the country in various other States to survive. Otherwise, I am sorry to say, by this time many languages would have faded away. Just for the sake of seeking job, just for the sake of living, everyone would be compelled to learn only one language which is the official language, which will be practised in all the offices. So, that will be the medium of instruction in all the schools, maybe in Tamil Nadu, maybe in Karnataka, maybe in Odisha, maybe in Bengal, maybe in Mumbai, everywhere. Only one language will be taught and everyone will be studying that for the sake of their livelihood, for the sake of their future. Naturally, their mother-tongue will become an option and in due course that optional language will also go off because people nowadays survive mostly for their stomach. But this is something beyond the stomach, that is, a man's life. That is what we resisted. Sir, I am proud to be here as Member of the DMK party which has saved other sections of the country, who are non-Hindi speaking people, not to become slaves in the same country. So, Sir, at this point we would like to say that now the time has matured, now that the things have changed, we say that let Hindi be in its own place. Let us also be elevated to that place. What is wrong in that? If you are considering everyone in this country as equal, if at all you want to treat everyone as equal, why don't you give us that status? That is what our leader, Anna, fought here. That is what our leader has been writing again and again even now. One of our basic principles is this. Our leader, Anna, in his speech in Parliament, had very rightly pointed out that he would not yield unless and until the language Tamil will be given its due place in the Union. Anna said, "You are trying to impose one language on a multilingual country like India. In fact, such an attempt results in separation in some other countries. For example, the imposition of English language was one of the main reasons for separation and independence of Irish State from the United Kingdom of the Great Briton in 1922." So also, Sir, the imposition of Urdu was one of the reasons why Bangladesh came into existence. Sir, America dropped the atom bomb on Japan and there were some officers who took control of Japan. And, one of the jobs assigned to those officers was to impose English on them. America was able to drop a bomb on Japan, but

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

could not drop English there, because 95 per cent of the people were literate and were never prepared to accept English as their language. So, that man was retreated without being able to impose English on Japan. So, wherever any language tried to impose on other sections of the people who have got a language of their own, it had resulted in separation. That is the cause of Ireland. That is one of the reasons behind formation of Bangladesh. That is what we have seen in Japan. So, there are many other such instances. Therefore, using more than one language in the administration is not a new phenomenon. During Emperor Ashoka's reign, Prakrit, Greek, and Aramaic languages were used in the administration along with Brahmi script in South India. The Satavahanas used Prakrit and the local script variation of Brahmi. The Kadambas, Chjalukyas of Badami and Rashtrakutas used Kannada and Sanskrit. The Vaidumbas used Telugu and Kannada. The Pallavas and later Pandyas used Tamil and Sanskrit. The later Cholas used Tamil in Tamil Nadu, Kannada in Kannada region, Telugu in Telugu region and Sanskrit. The Eastern Chalukyas and Kakatiyas used Telugu and Sanskrit. The Hoyasalas used Kannada in Kannada region and Tamil in Tamil Nadu. Sir, this is the history.

What I said was: Many countries which had only one language were not able to be remained as one country; they were separated. That is what I told earlier. In South America, Spanish was the official language for many countries, but they were separated. Whereas, in Switzerland, Singapore and in many other countries, you have more than five languages as official languages and they are still surviving as one country. So, it cannot be construed that more languages will dismantle a nation's unity and one language will unite a country. One language was not able to keep one nation united, but it has divided it into so many countries. But, at the same time, a country which has adopted and accepted other languages in its own country has been successfully running.

Article 345 of the Constitution, which deals with Official language or languages of a State, says, "Subject to the provisions of articles 346 and 347, the Legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State. Provided that, until the Legislature of the State otherwise

3.00 P.M.

provides by law, the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes..." Sir, the next one is very, very important.

That is article 347 — 'Special provisions relating to languages spoken by a section of the population of a State'. The article says:—

"On a demand being made in that behalf the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognized by that State, direct that such language shall also be officially recognized throughout that State or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify".

Sir, when this could apply to a State, why can't this apply to the Union? When the State can have more number of languages, if the President so wishes, why can't that be in the case of the Union also?

Also, the language used in the Supreme Court and the High Court for Acts and Bills has been only English so far. Article 348 States:—

"(1) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions this Part, until Parliament by law otherwise provides—

- (a) all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court,
- (b) the authoritative texts—
 - (i) of all Bills to be introduced or amendments thereto to be moved in either House of Parliament or in the House or either House of the Legislature of a State,
 - (ii) of all Acts passed by Parliament or the Legislature of a State and of all Ordinances promulgated by the President or the Governor of a State, and
 - (iii) of all orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws issued under this Constitution or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of a State, shall be in English language.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of Clause 1, the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

of Hindi language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State.”

Sir, I make a request to the hon. Home Minister, who is present in the House. Apart from our basic demand that all regional languages contained in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution should be regarded as Official Languages, at least, in High Courts. The Official Language of a State must be allowed to be used as the language in the High Court. That has been the demand for very long. If the hon. Minister in his reply could give a concrete consoling reply, we would be very happy. So, what I would like to say is this. Even my friend, Mr. V.P. Singh, was clarifying it; not arguing with me because he is such an esteemed and wise Member of this House, he asked whether it was possible to have more languages in the Centre. We say that when the country is spending so much, why can't it spend on something to maintain unity, to develop the languages of the country? The United Nations has so many languages whereas using more than one language in the administration is a new phenomenon in India.

I want to mention something very important. Shri Balagopal mentioned something. I had requested him to remain present in the House, but he has left. The DMK has fought for Tamil.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How much more time will you take?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Ten minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We want to dispose it of. Anyhow, you proceed.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Now, it says:—

“At the Tenth Party Congress in 1921, the Communist Part took some important decisions with an aim of overcoming the existing national inequality of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. The decisions with regard to the language policy were, “(1) to develop and consolidate judicial institutions, administration, economic organs and organs of power operating in their native languages and composed of local people familiar with the way of life and the psychology of the population, and (2) to develop press, schools, theatres, clubs, and cultural and educational institutions employing the native language.”

Sir, I was pleading with many Members that they have to support this Bill, not because Tamil alone is going to be the Official Language — we must be the first in the ranks, and I could take pride in that, but all people from various parts of the country should support this Bill. I specially mentioned something to my comrade friends.

“Lenin declared: “Whoever does not recognize and champion the equality of nations and languages, and does not fight against all national oppression or inequality, is not a Marxist; he is not even a democrat.” Further, he pointed out, “Tiny Switzerland has not lost anything, but has gained from having not one single official language, but three — German, French and Italian.” So, he did not want to force the Russian language on the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and, in fact, he gave full encouragement to all national languages.”

This was Lenin, Sir. So also, I want to quote from other leaders, from our leader, whose age is 90. He started his public life at the age of 14 as a fighter for the cause of Tamils. When Hindi was imposed, so many agitations were launched at the age of 14 and now he is 90. For the past 76 years, we have been fighting; we have been extending requests; and, we have been suggesting on many occasions. Now, we have come to a point that at least we are not against; once, we were against Hindi. We were totally against. We were fighting with them. Our relations were not good. But, now, we are good friends. What we expect and what we demand is, give our language also the same status.

So also, Mr. P. Ramamurthy, the Marxist leader asked a pertinent question in Lok Sabha on 12th December, “Why does the Central Government say that Tamil Nadu can’t communicate with the Centre in Tamil and that they will have to have their own arrangement for translation? A few crores of rupees...”, that is the reply I could give to my colleague Shri V.P. Singh, “...for maintaining and developing the unity of this country are nothing.” So also, the CPI(M) in a statement—I feel sorry that no comrade is here. ...*(Interruptions)*... Comrade is a common term. ...*(Interruptions)*... I told them, “You have argued more vehemently than us.” ...*(Interruptions)*... The CPI(M) in a statement released at the Conference of Opposition Party Leaders held at Sri Nagar said, “A correct approach to the languages of the people is necessary in the interest of the Indian unity and promoting a sense of equality. We are of the view that the equality of all Indian languages in Parliament

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

and in Central Administration should be recognized. Members of Parliament should have the right to speak in any Indian language..”—which we have achieved—“..and simultaneous translation will have to be provided in all other languages. All Acts, Government orders, and Resolutions of the Centre should be made available in all Indian languages.”

So, Sir, I think, the House can understand the genuinity in our demand. On correspondence, our leader, Dr. Kalaingar, suggested in the Assembly Resolution itself, when he was the Chief Minister, “What prevents the Central Government offices in the State from communicating in the official language of the State?” I would give you an example as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. In Income-Tax Department, Indian Railways, Postal Department, Indian Bank and United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, if there are 100 works to be completed, 90 per cent of the works are completed at the Chennai office itself. Only 10 per cent of it is referred to the Head Offices at Delhi. With regard to Department of Telecommunications and Doordarshan, Chennai, it is 5 per cent less. Eighty-five per cent of the works are completed in Chennai itself. Only 15 per cent are completed in Delhi.

So, what is coming in the way of communicating in the official language of the State when the works are completed within the State? I think, the answer to a query which Mr. V.P. Singh asked would be clear in this. The Delhi Office is being corresponded by any State for only 50 per cent of the works with regard to Central Government works. Any transaction between the Central Government and the State Government is settled within the State itself. Sir, there was a time when we laid down our lives; there was a time we convened conferences; we passed Resolutions. There was a time we came to the streets. No language was understood by any Government at that point of time. Now, at the outset itself I thank the UPA Government that it has declared Tamil as a Classical Language. You can understand the genuinity; you can understand the logic in our argument; you can understand the reason in the demand which we put forth; it is mandatory and it has become compulsory at this point of time that this nation, if at all it has to maintain its individuality and uniqueness of unity in diversity—I think, the time has come—you have to declare all the regional languages, which are in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, to be the official languages of the Union.

Sir, the day should not be far behind. Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Home Minister what was declared in 2004 Manifesto and in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA. In 2004, after the elections, the UPA Government in its Common Minimum Programme assured us that all regional languages would be declared as the official languages of the Union. Dr. Abdul Kalam, who was the then President, confirmed in his Address the same, ...(Time-bell rings)... and assured us that all official languages of the States would be declared the official languages.

Sir, the Official Language Commission headed by Shri B.G. Kher submitted its Report in 1956, and it said, "The linguistic medium — this is the only thing I would like to insist here, Sir — will have change over in the administrative agencies and organizations such as the Railways, the Posts and Telegraphs, the Excise, Customs, Income-Tax Departments, and so on. Some of these organizations have units and branches located in different parts of the country and the language problem presents a special aspect in regard to them. The language policy of these agencies should be framed principally with a view to the convenience of the public whom they are designed to serve; the instrumentality of these Departments should not be used as a lever to force the pace of Hindi propagation at the cost of convenience to the public".

Sir, Justice R.S. Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations has recommended as follows. "The work of the Government, both Union and State, which involves or affects the local people must be carried on in the local language".

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, now conclude.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: We will conclude, Sir, only on the day when our languages are declared as official languages. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a punishment to me.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Until then, our voice will be resuming, Sir.

He further said, "This is even more important in a welfare State. It is necessary that all forms, applications, letters, bills, notices, etc., are available in the local language as well as official language". So, these were the recommendations of Justice R.S. Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations.

Sir, the Rajamannar Committee on Centre-State Relations, appointed by our leader, when he was Chief Minister in Tamil Nadu, rightly pointed out that: "This will

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

bring the public at least emotionally nearer the administrative apparatus of the Union and make the people feel that the Central administration is as much their own as the administration at the State level”.

Sir, this long history of us, the demand which we have been insisting in all the manner, at least, should be understood at this point of time. A broad-minded and inclusive policy of encouraging and development and use of all Indian languages as well as English, which Pandit Nehru said, ‘is a window to the outer world’. If you close that window, that would be a peril, and we would be totally out of touch with the entire world. That is what Pandit Nehruji told. Giving all the major languages spoken in India equality of status will ensure that there will be no unhealthy sentiment against any language. On the other hand, any heavy-handedness in language policy at the national or State level will have divisive, if not disintegrative, implications. Attempts to impose one language in a multi-lingual society have resulted in separation in many other countries. Therefore, it would be unwise to impose on a multilingual country one language. So, Sir, I put forth that this Official Languages Bill should repeal and replace the Official Languages Act, 1963 in order to ensure that all regional languages that have been recognized under Schedule VIII of the Constitution can be used for all official purposes of the Union. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You argued your case very well.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri V.P. Singh Badnore.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing a subject and the Motion moved by Shri Tiruchi Siva. What does the Motion say? Let us come to the Motion first. It says ‘That the Bill further to provide for all regional languages to be used for all official purposes of the Union...’ What it really means is that whenever correspondence coming from the regional States, it cannot be done just in Hindi and English but it should be done or could be done in any of the regional languages. Then it also says, ‘...matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration.’ Mr. Siva has put lots of arguments. But the times have changed. If this argument had been put by Mr. Siva 60 years ago when we were discussing in this very House and the

subject was, what is the language of the country going to be and the formation of the three language formula and our founding fathers in those days had put forth all these arguments and the arguments that have come really reinforces what must have happened in those arguments, debates when we were discussing the language. Sir, in those days all this was to come up and they decided whether we should have Hindi, English or the regional languages. The formula that was taken in those days was that you have Hindi, you have English because lots of Southern parts of the country were using that language, so they would not be disconnect and delinked, and also, the regional languages should be given importance. So, they made the Eighth Schedule and they said that this will be revised and in times to come. Lots of languages have been adjusted today there are 22 languages. Sir, if I come to the subject, let me also put forth that I am also saddened. Mr. Siva has rightly said about the mother language being so important to all of us and to everybody in this world. We speak the mother language Rajasthani. We have been fighting for Rajasthani for so many years. We have ten crore people speaking that language and it is not even recognized in the Eighth Schedule. But today let me come to the subject. We will be fighting for the Rajasthani language to be included in the Eighth Schedule. This is going to go on and as Mr. Siva ended and said, this will go on till that is recognized. I am also going to say that. I will not go into the Rajasthani language just now. But let us come back to what is the international thinking on this. The United Nations through UNESCO has said about the recognition of all the mother languages in the world and they have Mother Language Day also celebrated. There is a day which is celebrated as Mother Language Day about which Mr. Siva was also talking about. We all love our mother languages and we want to celebrate it in India also. We had the Linguistic Minority Commission and that also celebrates all the regional languages like the UNESCO. We celebrate that. There are today, if you look at it, 10,000 languages in the world. Sir, the UNESCO has put forth a paper that because the world is getting together, the world is becoming a global village. And we are in the age of computers. We talk on the Facebook, Google, YouTube and all that. Now if you have 10,000 languages, would we be able to talk to each other, connect to each other, have business with other countries? If everybody has 10,000 languages, would that be possible? I would like to ask Mr. Siva how that is possible. In the 21st Century, we should get on to some language that we can convey to each other. Communication is the biggest thing today. We can speak to each other. We have Facebook. We have all other things. People want

[Shri V.P. Singh Badnore]

to talk to everybody. But to have more languages would be very difficult. Let me remind you that in China, the CHIN Dynasty...*(Interruptions)*... Please, I do not want any interruptions. I did not disturb him. This is not the way. He kept on taking my name very, very nicely and I will also do that. I am not arguing against it. I am just putting forth my point. What has to be decided will be decided by the House, not by Mr. Siva or Mr. V.P. Singh. So, I am just putting forth my arguments. That's all.

Sir, in China, they had many languages. The Emperor of the CHIN Dynasty said that they would not be able to progress unless they had one language. He thought how to have one language. It is very interesting. When I went to China, I was told this. They wanted to know about our languages. I told them that we have so many languages, we have Schedule VIII in our Constitution, and all that. They told me that the Emperor called all the Pandits of those days, who were great literate people. He put them in a hall and said that they could eat there, they could drink there, they could make merry there, they could have all the arguments, but he would not let them go out of that hall till they decided one language.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want me to do that! ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: And, they came out with one language. They do not have any other language, like we have in India. But India is a big country. And, how did all these languages come about? We had lots of invasions. As he said, Greek language was also spoken here. Alexander the Great invaded India in 326 B.C. He also put his language and all that. The Aryans also came here. That's why we have so many languages. I also love my mother-tongue, as you do. But let us get to the point. Will it really help us? That is the main thing. What is happening in the European Union today? It is a fiasco because of all those languages being recognized there.

SHRI P. KANNAN (Puducherry): Can you please tell us what is the position in China?

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: There is one language. That's what I know. That is the official language. That language came about in those days when all those *pandits* were not allowed to go out of that hall, till they had a consensus on one language. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Let me please continue. What is happening in European Union? The European Union has lots of languages. There is a problem when they do business, when they communicate, when they are in the European Union Parliament. A study was conducted on the problems of the European Union. And, one of the problems that came about was that billions of Euros were being spent on translation.

For every document, for every business document, they have to spend billions and billions of rupees on translation. This is one point that has come about. They, like Greece and all these countries which have come to the European Union or wanting to come to the European Union, cannot pay their liabilities. The biggest problem that they are still facing is the money that they are spending on translations — on document translations, lawyers' fee, etc. So, all this is happening. They asked, "Can we do something about it?" Sir, I must also confess here and they have also said that, today, all the European countries teach three languages. One is their own language and two other languages. Sir, the most preferred languages may be German and French, alongwith English. Germany may have English and all that, but there are three languages which are really preferred, whichever they may be. In Spain, they may be wanting to have English and Italian. That is what is also in Europe. Our founding fathers had foreseen all this. They had said that with unity in diversity in India, we have to find some way out. And, the best way out that was created in those days was the three-language formula. I also agree with Mr. Siva who was very right when he quoted Mr. Nehru by saying that we need a window to the outer world. In those days, he 'thought' of a window to the outer world; today, it has become a 'necessity.' How do we communicate? How do we communicate through the computer? How do we communicate with the other world? If we have more languages, then, there will be more problems, more translations and money is going to be spent on this. Suppose you are a tourist. You go to other countries. You would like to go to a country where you can be heard or you can listen to other people and understand them. That is why, it is said, lesser the languages, the better it is. Sir, in the UNESCO, they have made a study and come out with a fact that there are hundreds of languages which are becoming obsolete. They are going out of the way because of the new circumstances, changing world and changing economic situation. Sir, they want to communicate, they want to do better business, so that they could communicate in a better way. Out of the ten thousand languages that I was talking about, there are hundreds of languages which are disappearing.

[Shri V.P. Singh Badnore]

They are becoming obsolete. In this 21st Century, let us not go back to the debate and the arguments that were put forth 60 years ago. Let us move ahead. We want our GDP to grow. Are we going to have the growing GDP with more languages? Sir, it will create more problems. The GDP growth depends on better communication or on becoming more savvy with computer. How will you do that? So, I feel that like Mr. Siva, I also love my mother-tongue. I want Rajasthani to be recognised in the Eighth Schedule. But I will not go with Mr. Siva. Thank you very much Sir.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha): Sir, I rise to participate in the Official Languages Bill, 2012 and also support some of the arguments put forward by my friend, Mr. Siva, demanding that all regional languages to be taken into consideration for the official purposes of the Union, and also given the status of 'national language'. There is no harm in it. I think, the Government can also consider it for giving recognition to the regional languages. At present, the two official languages that we have are Hindi and English. He was putting his arguments in favour of Tamil. There is no problem. We also support Tamil. But there is a system which is working. As he has already said, it may also work. I have all respect for the Tamil language, Tamil people and their movement. But, I think, in addition to Hindi and English, all other languages could also be declared 'official languages.' As he has mentioned, there was an assurance given in this regard in the UPA's Common Minimum Programme. I think, that can also be taken into consideration.

Sir, language is the medium of expression and there is no doubt that it is important for everybody in the country. It has many aspects. If you see our judicial system and the legislative system, the work is done in English only, which is, sometimes, creating problems. Although it is not very much related to this Bill, in the judicial system, such a system is creating problems for a poor worker, a farmer, a woman, a girl who is being tortured or raped, or for his father or mother who do not know the English language, who do not understand whether the lawyer is saying for her or against her or what the Judge is pronouncing. He or she has to only depend upon the lawyer for it, and it happens here in this country where we live in. But, Sir, this system cannot go for a long time, because, if a person has no right to understand what his lawyer is saying, what remark the Judge is making and if he or she cannot understand the judgment that is pronounced, then how can we say

that we are giving justice to everybody? That is a situation in all spheres, and the Government has to take it very seriously. We say to a person that 'you are violating the law.' But the law is printed only in English or somewhere, sometimes, in Hindi. We are not giving an opportunity to the general public to understand the law. Suppose, an Act is enacted today, but if it is not translated into the regional language and people do not know what the law is, how can we say that this is the law which you have violated and you are liable to be punished? Sir, these two things are very important. I draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister, through this House, to these two important aspects, and, I think, the Government has to give a serious thought for giving the real information on any statute or legislation to the public in the regional language, and the deliberation of the judgment also should be made available in the regional language.

Sir, there are three cases. One is, as Mr. Siva said, the Tamil language had been given the status of Classical Language during UPA-I time, and he has also given his thanks for it. There is another case. My other friend, Mr. Singh, was saying that Rajasthani language is not included in the Eighth Schedule. Sir, in my case as well, even though Odiya language is a also very old language, till now, it has not been given the status of Classical Language. The only difference is, the Tamil people have fought a lot for it for more than 65 years. I think, we have not fought enough, and also, the other people have also not fought in the manner as the Tamil people fought for their cause; and we are very much with them for their cause. There are many languages in our country. Sir, in the case of Odiya language, certain things are very relevant. As has been mentioned by my friend, Mr. Siva, I would like to draw your attention to certain aspects related to it.

The term '*Janapada*' literally means the foothold of the tribe. The fact that the '*Janapada*' is derived from the jan-point to an early stage of land taken by the Jan tribe for settlement of life, the process of first settlement on land, was in its final stages prior to the times of Bhuddha and Panini. The pre-Buddhist North-Western region of the Indian sub-continent was divided into several *janapadas*, demarcated from each other by boundaries. According to Panini, '*janapada*' stands for country and *janapadini* stands for citizenry. Each of the janapada was named after the Khetriya tribe, for the Khetriya *jan*, who were settled there. 'India as known to Panini : A Study of Cultural Material in the Ashthadhyayi', 1963, Vasudevsharan Agarwal's, 'India in the time of Patanjali', 1968 and Socio-economic and Political

[Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia]

History of Eastern India, 1977, the History of Literature, 2000 edition, talk about the presence of the Odiya language at that time. The famous Sanskrit Gramarian, Panini's Ashtadhyayi, also indicated the presence of the Odiya language at that time.

Sir, I wish to draw your kind attention to the time of Chandragupta Maurya who overthrew the last Nanda King in 322 B.C. During the time of Chandragupta, Kalinga declared herself independent. His grandson, Chandasoka, invaded Odisha in 261 B.C. and included Kalinga into his empire. The Kalinga War was recorded as the bloodiest war ever in the history of India. Over hundred thousand people were killed and a hundred and fifty thousand were arrested, but the great Kalinga War changed Chandrasoka to Dharmasoka and subsequently, he embraced Buddhism, which was elaborately written in Pali language and Brahmi script, in an ancient form of the Odiya language.

In the early First Century B.C., there was the Chedi Chief, Mahabegha Bahana Aira Kharabela, a great King of Odisha, whose kingdom extended right from Ganga to Godavari and sometimes even to Krishna and, in the north up to Agra. He was one of the most illustrious Kings who ruled Kalinga. A detailed account of the life and military expeditions of this great King can be found in the *Hati Gumfa* inscription in Udaygiri. That language is close to Odiya.

Sir, the first poetic text of our country, 'Natya Shastra', composed by Bharat Muni about the First Century A.D., mentions Udra Vibhasa as a prabriti. This Udra Vibhasa, the language spoken by the downtrodden and the farmers, was none other than the ancient proto form of Odiya language. *Prakrit Sarbaswa* of Markandeya also gives an example of *Udra Bhasa*.

The Buddhist text 'Lalita Bistara' gives a list of 64 scripts known to Lord Buddha. Ugri was one of the scripts in the list. Scholars traced *Udri* with Udra, the Odiya script. The Chinese traveller, Hieun Tsang, in the Seventh Century A.D., recorded the academic growth of the eminent Kalinga and mentioned, "The words and languages of this region, the land of Odras, differ from the speeches of Central Asia'. This proves that by that time the common speech of Odiyas had acquired a distinct originality. The folk literature created in Odiya language since time immemorial, are varied and rich in their own ways. The folk songs, tales, riddles, anecdotes and folk theatres that existed certainly before the written literature, are proof of the old

and rich tradition of Odiya language. Distinguished foreign scholars like John Beams, Verrier Elvin, etc., were attracted towards the Odiya folklore and held discussions on it. Though all the eastern Indian languages like Bengali, Assamese, Maithili and Nepali accept 'Charya Pada' of the 10th Century as their first written literature, which was found from the Nepal court, only Odiya language has the legitimate claim to being the language closest to *Chayapadas*, and many Odiya words are found in the text. Odia prose, which found its origin in the inscriptions of about 11th century (Urajam Inscription) subsequently enriched in Madala Panji (the Jagannath Temple Chronicle of 13th century) and Rudrasudhanidhi, a unique prose text written in the poetic style in the 14th century was close to Odia.

Odia literature is one of the most original and copious literatures of India manifested in many genres. It has never been influenced by any language nor has it borrowed anything from any source during ancient and medieval period. At the beginning, Odia Mahabharat composed by Sarala Das in 15th century, which is considered to be the first complete Mahabharat in vernacular Indian languages, the religious and mystic poetry composed by saint poets of Bhakti cult during 16th century, the archaic poetry during medieval time are the unique features of Odia literature. Many style of poetry like Chautisha, Koili, Poi, Champu, Chupadi, etc., are some of the original and new forms which are unique in Odia literature. Sir, by saying so, I want to mention here, as I was saying earlier, that Tamil language has been declared as classical language but Odia language has not been declared the classical language although it is very old and unique and it has its unique culture and origin.

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

Sir, this is the situation. As has been said by others also, it is a fact that Tamil people fought in the past for their language. But Odia people and people belonging to other languages might not have fought. But, today, the Bill which has come is a very important Bill. It gives us an opportunity to discuss various languages like Rajasthani, Odia, etc., and their history. As has been said by Mr. Singh, it may be very expensive. Nowadays also, an international conference can also be conducted through translation system. In this new era, it is not very difficult to hire a software which can give the opportunity to translate the language and communicate it to various States in regional languages. Such a software can be developed. Even in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha or international conferences, translation system is possible. So, in this

[Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia]

new era of developed technology, this is possible. I think, with less expenditure also, this could be possible. The Government of India can think about this as to how to communicate with people in their own language and how to use a regional language as the official language of the Government of India.

With these words, I once again support the Bill moved by brother Siva. I may not insist on making Odia an official language now, but I will definitely fight to the last till Odia language is declared, at least, a classical language. I will fight for that. I also once again request hon. Home Minister to consider that and also consider whether all other languages can also be given an opportunity to be used as official language of the country. Thank you.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I rise to support Mr. Siva. I do so not because I speak Bengali but because there is good merit in what he has said. Sir, the Constitution recognises 22 languages as official languages. I also understand that if you have to transact business in 22 official languages, communication may be very difficult. But, the short point I will make is that when you talk about correspondence between the Centre and the State, you can use three-language formula as he has done. In those three languages, it can be English, Hindi and the regional language. Therefore, it would recognise that language as an official language. It will be easier for you to do so.

Sir, a small country like Switzerland has four languages. Of these four languages, French, German and Italian are all live languages, but there is another fourth language which is almost obsolete language, known as Romance. Romance is an old variety of Italian, more Latinish than Italian, but only very few, only a few thousand, people speak Romance. Still, they have recognised it. And, entire correspondence and Government communication in Switzerland are done in four languages simultaneously. Sir, in Canada, French and English are used simultaneously. You can say that we have got three-language formula — Hindi, English and a third language. There is no problem about it. What we find is that language is a highly evocative problem. Whole Pakistan issue, which was brought out of the exploded two-nation theory that Hindus and Muslims are different, and they had two parts of Pakistan. Namely, West Pakistan and East Pakistan, East Pakistan broke away not because one side had become more Islamic or less Islamic, but because of language. When the West Pakistanis

tried to push Urdu there as an official language, they revolted. Ultimately, they got separated. They belonged to the same Islamic religion, Islamic culture, but they separated. So, Sir, language is a highly emotional and evocative issue. It binds and also it distracts. So, let us use language as a bonding force by accepting all the languages in the Constitution and try to transact business with a particular area in the language that is predominant there. I have no problem with any language coming up as an official language. I do admit that you can't have 22 languages operating simultaneously, but you can always have regional language also. If you talk to Tamil Nadu, you can use Hindi, English and Tamil. If you write to Hyderabad, you can write in Telugu, English and Hindi. If you write to West Bengal, you can write in Bengali, English and Hindi. If you write to Odisha, from where my friend, Mr. Khuntia, comes, you can write in Hindi, English and Odia. So, it is not very difficult. It will create a kind of oneness. No region should feel that it is not being recognised by the Indian nation. We are part of one Indian nation. I have no existence as a Bengali other than being an Indian. I am both, an Indian and a Bengali, simultaneously. But, I will feel ignored if Bengali is not given that due recognition which it deserves.

So, Sir, I support, in principle, the point made by Shri Tiruchi Siva. The only point is, I leave it to the Government of India, to have a Language Commission again and see how far they can accommodate all the 22 languages, recognised under Eighth Scheduled of Indian Constitution. With this, I support Mr. Siva and also request the Government of India not to be very obstinate but think about the possibility of accommodating 22 languages as best as they can.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद श्रीमन्। श्रीमन्, मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारा देश अकेला ऐसा देश है, जिसकी अभी तक अपनी कोई राजभाषा नहीं है, यद्यपि राजभाषा अधिनियम है और संविधान निर्माताओं की ऐसी मंशा भी थी। दुनिया में केवल पांच देश ऐसे हैं, यू.के., यू.एस.ए., कनाडा, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और न्यूजीलैंड, जिनमें अंग्रेजी है, लेकिन उससे भी ज्यादा अंग्रेजी का प्रयोग हिन्दुस्तान में होता है। महोदय, हमारा जो **Official Language Act** है, वह स्पष्ट रूप से इस बात की व्यवस्था करता है कि इस देश में जो **Central Offices** हैं, अगर वे **Northern Region** में हैं तो उनमें सारा काम हिन्दी में होना चाहिए। हालांकि हमारी पार्टी की पॉलिसी हमेशा से यह रही है कि हिन्दी के साथ-साथ जिस राज्य की जो मातृभाषा है, उसमें राजकाज की भाषा, वहां की अपनी भाषा हो और केन्द्र से व्यवहार के लिए हिन्दी का प्रयोग किया जाए। अगर तमिलनाडु में बात होती है तो तमिल भाषा का प्रयोग हो। जब यहां

[प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव]

से वहां पत्राचार होता है तो हिन्दी के साथ तमिल भाषा में चिट्ठी का ट्रांसलेशन जाना चाहिए। अभी जो मौजूदा स्थिति है, वह ऐसी है कि **Official Language Act** यह कहता है कि यहां पर जो भी हमारे **offices** हैं, उनमें सौ फीसदी काम हिन्दी में होना चाहिए। अगर अंग्रेज़ी में चिट्ठी आती है तो उसका जबाब अंग्रेज़ी में न जाकर हिन्दी में जाना चाहिए। हम इस कमेटी में जाकर देख चुके हैं और मुझे आश्चर्य इस बात का होता है कि आज़ादी के इतने वर्षों बाद भी हम लोगों को मॉनिटरिंग करनी पड़ती है कि क्या हमारे देश के अंदर **official language** का प्रयोग हो रहा है या नहीं?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I would like to know from Professor Ram Gopal Yadav, if a State communicates with the Central Government in its own official language, do you accept that. When you speak of Hindi and the State's language, could it be used to communicate with the Central Government offices?

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: This has been my policy. Yes, I agree with it. हमने कहा है कि राजकाज में क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं का, **regional** भाषाओं का उनके राज्य में तो प्रयोग करना ही चाहिए, केन्द्र के साथ वार्तालाप में, पत्राचार में भी उन भाषाओं का प्रयोग करना चाहिए और उसके साथ हिन्दी का ट्रांसलेशन करके भेजना चाहिए। अगर ओडिशा से कोई पत्र आता है तो वह उड़िया में आना चाहिए और साथ-साथ हिन्दी में भी आना चाहिए। इसी प्रकार अगर तमिलनाडु से आता है तो तमिल और हिन्दी, दोनों भाषाओं में आना चाहिए। इसी प्रकार यहां से अगर तमिलनाडु में कोई पत्र जाता है तो हिन्दी और तमिल में जाना चाहिए। हमेशा से हमारी पार्टी की यह पॉलिसी रही है क्योंकि हम यह मानते हैं कि अंग्रेज़ी ने जिस तरह से पूरा कब्जा कर लिया है और लोगों को यह गलतफहमी रही है कि दुनिया में विज्ञान या मेडिसिन्स से संबंधित जो भी तरक्की है, वह केवल अंग्रेज़ी के जरिए हुई है, वह गलत है। दुनिया में कई ऐसे देश हैं, चाहे आप जर्मनी को लें, चाहे तत्कालीन सोवियत यूनियन या रूस को लें या जापान को लें, इन सबने विज्ञान में तरक्की की, मेडिसिन्स के क्षेत्र में अपनी भाषाओं का प्रयोग करके तरक्की की, कभी अंग्रेज़ी भाषा की कोई मदद नहीं ली। इसलिए लोगों के मन में अगर यह भावना है कि अंग्रेज़ी के जरिए ही ऐसा हो सकता है तो यह गलत है। मुझे तो ऐसा लगता है कि हिन्दुस्तान में लोगों की मानसिकता ऐसी है कि अगर अंग्रेज़ी बोलेंगे तो वे **superior** समझे जाएंगे। आज अपनी भाषा बोलने पर लोगों के मन में हीनता का भाव पैदा हो गया है। यह अजीब बात है कि आज अपनी मातृभाषा का प्रयोग करने से भी लोग हिचकते हैं। वे यह अहसास करते हैं कि अगर अंग्रेज़ी में बोलेंगे तो जो सामने वाला है, वह उन पर ज्यादा ध्यान देगा, उसकी कद्र करेगा, उनकी बात को ठीक तरीके से समझेगा। इस धारणा को जब तक आप नहीं निकाल सकते, तब तक अंग्रेज़ी का साम्राज्य चलता रहेगा। उस साम्राज्य को तोड़ने के लिए आवश्यक है कि क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को, **regional languages** को बढ़ावा दिया जाए।

जितनी आसानी से **expression** कोई व्यक्ति अपनी भाषा में कर पाता है, उतनी आसानी से **expression** वह दूसरी भाषा में नहीं कर पाता है। आप जितना **fluently** अपनी भाषा में बोलते चले जायेंगे, उतना **fluently** दूसरी भाषा में नहीं बोल पायेंगे। आपको दूसरी भाषा में बोलते समय काफी सोचना पड़ता है कि अगला शब्द क्या हो, **sentence** का निर्माण कैसे हो और किस तरह से वाक्य को पूरा किया जाए। अपनी बात की सही तरीके से अभिव्यक्ति अपनी मातृभाषा में ही हो सकती है। इसलिए यह जो विधेयक है जिसमें क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को समुचित प्रतिनिधित्व देने की बात कही गई है, कम्युनिकेट करने की बात कही गई है, इसका हम शुरु से ही समर्थन करते रहे हैं। हमारे नेता डा. राम मनोहर लोहिया हमेशा कहा करते थे कि हमारी राजभाषा तो हिन्दी हो, लेकिन राज्यों में सारा काम क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में हो और उनका जो कम्युनिकेशन हो, उसके साथ हिन्दी का ट्रांसलेशन होना चाहिए। मुझे याद है कि जब हमारे राज्य के मुख्य मंत्री श्री मुलायम सिंह जी तमिलनाडु गए थे और वे करुणानिधि जी से मिले थे और उन्होंने मुलायम सिंह जी से कहा कि आप तो तमिल विरोधी हैं, उस पर मुलायम सिंह जी ने कहा कि मैं तमिल विरोधी नहीं हूँ, मैं तमिल समर्थक हूँ और मैं चाहता हूँ कि तमिल का प्रयोग हो। उन्होंने जो चिट्ठियां तमिल भाषा में उत्तर प्रदेश आईं, उत्तर प्रदेश में जो तमिल के ऑफिसर्स थे, उनसे उनका ट्रांसलेशन कराकर हिन्दी के साथ तमिल में सारा पत्राचार किया। अगर ऐसा हो तो इससे कम्युनिकेशन बढ़ेगा, लोग दूसरी भाषाओं को पढ़ना और लिखना भी चाहेंगे, इससे देश की अस्मिता भी बढ़ेगी। हिन्दुस्तान में हम लोग यहां खड़े होकर बोलते हैं, तो कुछ को छोड़कर, ऐसा लगता है कि जैसे हम ब्रिटेन की पार्लियामेंट में हैं। यहां ऐसा लगता ही नहीं है कि कोई हिन्दी जानता है। हमें अच्छा लगता है, जब महाराष्ट्र के लोग मराठी में बोलते हैं, तमिलनाडु के लोग तमिल में बोलते हैं, यहां पर **interpretation** उपलब्ध है। आपके राज्य के लोग राज्य सभा टी.वी. को सुनते हैं, जब वे आपको मातृभाषा में बोलते हुए सुनते हैं, तो वे इसको पसन्द करते हैं। मैंने एक-दो बार अपने मित्रों से कहा कि आप अपनी मातृभाषा में बोलिए, यहां पर **interpretation** मौजूद है। उन्होंने कहा कि आपने ठीक कहा था, मेरे क्षेत्र से टेलीफोन आए कि आपने ठीक बोला, क्योंकि आज भी इस देश में कुल मिलाकर एक-दो परसेंट से ज्यादा लोग अंग्रेज़ी नहीं समझते हैं। यह लोगों को गलतफहमी है कि वे अंग्रेज़ी बोलते हैं, तो सारा देश समझता है। आपका मतदाता अंग्रेज़ी नहीं समझता है। हमें कई बार कहना पड़ता है कि आप उस भाषा में बोलिए, जिस भाषा में आप अपने मतदाताओं से वोट मांगते हैं। लोग वोट हिन्दी में मांगते हैं, लेकिन यहां अंग्रेज़ी में बोलते हैं, वे वोट मराठी में मांगते हैं, लेकिन यहां अंग्रेज़ी में बोलते हैं, वे वोट उड़िया में मांगते हैं, लेकिन यहां अंग्रेज़ी में बोलते हैं, यह बात ठीक नहीं है। इसलिए क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं को बढ़ावा दिया जाना चाहिए। इस विधेयक का मैं इस दृष्टि से समर्थन करता हूँ कि हिन्दी को राजभाषा के रूप में स्वीकार किया जाए और शेष भाषाओं को भी उनके राज्यों में राजकाज की भाषा बनाया जाए तथा सारा पत्राचार उन भाषाओं के माध्यम से केन्द्र से होना चाहिए। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

4.00 P.M.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Thank you, Sir. I wish I could speak, as Yadav *saheb* has said, in my mother-tongue here. But, unfortunately, I have not given the notice to speak in that language, and that is the problem. Here, I have to fight for the right of my mother-tongue, in the language that is neither mine nor yours. This is the problem with this nation that we do not speak our language and that is why we are a disintegrated nation.

Sir, at the outset, let me congratulate Mr. Tiruchi Siva, hon. MP and my good friend, for bringing in this Bill. I support it. I know there are many lacunae in operational part of the Bill, but I subscribe to the basic principle of the Bill, the basic feeling of the Bill.

Sir, I come from Maharashtra, a non-Hindi-speaking State and many people in my State don't understand Hindi. The Home Minister is from my State, who is now going out. ...(*Interruptions*)... Okay. Many people from my State, particularly those who come from Konkan belt and those who come from western Maharashtra, the *aam admi*, about whom everybody is talking about, do not understand Hindi. They can read Hindi, but they cannot speak or write in Hindi. The problem is with these people and in most of the States, as Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav said, most of the people do not understand how to write or communicate in Hindi or English.

Sir, I will give my own example. I studied in a Marathi-medium school. Obviously, my school leaving certificate came in Marathi and I am proud of it. When I applied for passport to the Central Government agency, the Passport Office under the External Affairs Ministry, the clerk there, who was also a Marathi, refused to accept my school leaving certificate because that was in Marathi. He asked me to get its translation. I told him that you know my name, I know your name, you can speak to me in Marathi and I am telling you this is in Marathi, what is the problem? He said that he wanted the translated version of that. He asked me to get a true copy of the translation. I said okay, because I was a needy person. I needed a passport. I went out, got the whole thing translated in English and went back to him. He then said that he wanted Gazetted Officer's attestation on the school leaving certificate. What is this? In my own country, I have to give certificate for the translation of a foreign language and that too, after 60 years of Independence. Why should I go by this? After that, I lost my father. I lost my father in Mumbai. Of course,

I got the death certificate. BMC had given me a choice whether I want the certificate in English or in Marathi. I, being a proud lover of Marathi, said that I want it in Marathi. BMC gave me a certificate in Marathi. After that, I realised that he worked all his life for the Central Railways. So, all his pension and everything else had to be dealt with by the Railway Ministry, Central Government and at each step, I was stopped, asked about this language and told that this would not be accepted. They asked me to give it in Hindi or English. Finally, I had to go back to the municipal office and tell them that it was my mistake that I asked for a certificate in Marathi and I asked them to give me a certificate in English. Sir, this is not self-esteem. I am insulting my own language. I am insulting myself. This is the situation in most of the non-Hindi States. Sir, I am not against Hindi. I love Hindi. I love Hindi poems and I love Hindi literature. The thing is that there is a practical difficulty. Why I am proud of my language is because in the tenth century, Mukund Raj was a poet who wrote the first poetry in Marathi language when many other languages did not know what literature was. After that, the first interpretation of Gita in regional language was done by Sant Jnaneshwar in the thirteenth century. Since then the Marathi literature has grown too huge. During Shivaji's period, Maratha's rule was from Jinjee in Tamil Nadu up to Attock, that is the border of Afghanistan. Up to that point, Marathas had their rule. There were Marathi-speaking Princely States. They were there outside Maharashtra — in Baroda, in Gwalior, in Indore and in Jhansi.

Sant Namdeo, a Marathi poet of the 13th Century, he went from Maharashtra, from Pandaripur, the southern end of Maharashtra, which is the home district of the Home Minister. From there he started walking and went *via* Gujarat, Rajasthan to Punjab and his *abhangs* are included in the Guru Granth Sahib. From there, he came back. So, we have a rich tradition. With this tradition when we come, we are not recognised in Delhi. For anything and everything, we have to get it translated into Hindi or English. This is an insult. It is a matter of self-respect. I think, I hold my self-respect in very high esteem. I am not emotional, it is practical also.

I will give you an example. Now, you are giving loan waiver scheme, whatever election gimmick, I am not getting into it. But loan waivers were given, then, notices came in Hindi and English languages. How do you expect a villager somewhere in the interior of Jalna or Pune district to understand the nuances of the language?

[Dr. Bharatkumar Raut]

Hindi language has been used in such a communication. It is so difficult to understand. Even Hindi-speaking people would not understand. That Hindi is spoken by only one community in one region. Those who speak about Hindi, the champions of Hindi, they are not ready to give Raj Basha status to Rajasthani. They are not ready to give Raj Basha status to Maithili or Bundeli because they want everything to be kept with them, and with one particular community, coming from one particular area. This is not acceptable in democracy. Why does that happen? As Mr. Siva has rightly said, this creates discontent between man and man, between State and State and between Region and Region. If we allow languages to flow, it will be good for all. Now, Tamil doesn't come to Maharashtra because I don't get to read anything. Marathi doesn't go to Tamil Nadu. Marathi does not go to Gujarat. Gujarati doesn't go to Andhra Pradesh. If there is a status to all regional languages, languages will start flowing to and fro, from East to West, from West to East, from South to North and from North to South. It will create a great fabric of social homogeneity and cultural homogeneity among Indians; and that will make India a great, great country.

I know that in this Bill, there are some difficult points which will take time to resolve. But if the Government really thinks very seriously that is not very difficult. After all what happens? We live in our own States, and own cities. This problem comes when we have to communicate with the Centre or with other States. How many people and how much percentage of our total *vyavahar* or transactions takes place like that? Not much. Then, why can't we accept it? Why can't we do it? As Mr. Tiruchi Siva has said, along with Tamil, if Hindi translation goes, or, along with Marathi, if English and Hindi translation goes, how much will it cost? Definitely it will cost much less than those scams that happened in the Central Government. I think, we should make this experiment. There are examples in history where many languages can live together harmoniously.

But here the total attitude seems to be so that we are the big brothers. That attitude should go. If that attitude does not go, India will not remain one nation. Tamil Nadu has been fighting for the 'classical language' status and it has got it because of their fight. We have also started that fight for Marathi. Shri Khuntia, who was speaking just now, is also fighting for the 'classical language' status. Sir, my point is, why keep the people fighting for such things. Mr. Minister, why can't

you give it with respect and honour? If you give this 'classical language' status to Oriya, Marathi, etc., not only people from that region will be happy, people from other regions also will have some aspirations. I think we should nurture that aspiration. I look at this Bill from this point of view. Yes, I know he will have to withdraw the Bill or it will be defeated. But that gives a fodder for thought to the Home Ministry, the Government and the whole House to think how we can bring the nation together; how we can respect languages. Respecting a language does not mean that you only respect the letters written in that language. You respect the culture of that region. I think it is our moral duty to ensure that ethos, culture, history and pride of each language, each region, each person and the last man of the society, are also respected. Thank you.

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष जी। श्री तिरुची शिवा के द्वारा यह अशासकीय विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जिसमें उन्होंने इस सभा से यह आग्रह किया है कि पुनः एक राजभाषा विधेयक आना चाहिए और संसद उस राजभाषा विधेयक को पारित करके नई व्यवस्थाएँ लागू करे। अब मैं सोचता हूँ कि इसकी कोई आवश्यकता नहीं थी। इस देश को आजाद कराने के लिए जिन लोगों ने बलिदान दिए, अपने आपको फाँसी के फंदे पर चढ़ाया और अंग्रेजों के बर्बर अत्याचार सहते, उन लोगों ने वर्षों तक पशुता जैसा व्यवहार सहन करके इस देश को आजाद कराने का संकल्प किया था। जो भारत की आजादी के लिए, इस देश की स्वायत्तता के लिए मर मिटे और कुर्बान हो गए, उन लोगों के मुख्य रूप से दो ही उद्देश्य थे और इसलिए उन्होंने सब कुछ न्योछावर किया। पहला यह है कि अंग्रेज इस देश से जाना चाहिए और दूसरा यह कि अंग्रेजी इस देश से जाननी चाहिए। उन लोगों की कुर्बानी, उन लोगों का त्याग, उन लोगों का बलिदान सफल हुआ। हमारे पुरखों ने स्वाधीनता प्राप्त करने का जो लक्ष्य रखा था, उसमें बिन्दु क्रमांक एक में तो वे सफल हुए। अपने त्याग और बलिदान के बदले वे हमें आजाद करा गए, स्वाधीनता दे गए और अंग्रेज यहां से चले गए। लेकिन दूसरा बिन्दु था कि अंग्रेजी यहां से जाननी चाहिए। वे इस पीढ़ी को विरासत के रूप में जो जिम्मेदारी दे गए थे, हम अपनी वह जिम्मेदारी वहन करने में आज तक 65 वर्ष बाद भी असमर्थ रहे हैं। अंग्रेजी इस देश से नहीं गई। आज भाषाई रूप से यह देश गुलाम है। अभी राम गोपाल जी यहां बोल रहे थे कि जब मैं यहां खड़ा होकर देखता हूँ, तो ऐसा लगता है कि यह कोई भारत की संसद नहीं, यह ब्रिटेन की पार्लियामेंट है। जो हिन्दी जानते हैं, तो अपनी मातृभाषा जानते हैं, जो तमिल जानते हैं, जो तेलुगु जानते हैं, जो मराठी जानते हैं, जो गुजरात जानते हैं, वे सब लोग भी अंग्रेजी बोलना ज्यादा पसंद करते हैं। वे न तो हिन्दी का प्रयोग करते हैं, न अपनी मातृभाषा का प्रयोग करते हैं। केवल राजनीतिक दृष्टि से राजनीतिक लाभ लेने के लिए अपनी भाषा का यदा कदा प्रयोग करते हैं और अपने क्षेत्रवासियों को ऐसा प्रतीत कराने का प्रयत्न करते हैं, जैसे वे अपनी भाषा के प्रति बहुत ज्यादा प्रेम रखते हैं।

[श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा]

हमारी लड़ाई क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं से नहीं है। क्षेत्रीय भाषाएं, प्रान्तीय भाषाएं, आंचलिक भाषाएं विकसित होनी चाहिए। वे प्रगाढ़ हों, मज़बूत हों, उनका विकास हो, इसमें कोई दो मत नहीं है। अपने-अपने प्रान्त में, उन भाषाओं में सारा पत्राचार चले, राजकीय व्यवहार हो। उस प्रान्त की राजभाषा ही वहां की मुख्य भाषा हो, इसमें कोई भी दो मत, दो राय नहीं है। हमारी लड़ाई अंग्रेज़ी से है। यदि अंग्रेज़ी का स्थान कोई ले सकता है तो वह हिन्दी ही ले सकती है, यह विचार आज भी ज्वलन्त रूप से स्वीकार्य है। देशवासियों ने इसे स्वीकार किया है। संविधान सभा का जब गठन हुआ था, तब उसमें भी व्यापक बहस होने के बाद इसी बात को स्वीकार किया गया था। 14 सितम्बर, 1949 को संविधान सभा ने अनुच्छेद 343 जोड़ कर भारतीय संघ की राजभाषा हिन्दी को घोषित किया था। मुझे यह बात कहते हुए गर्व है कि जब 1949 में हिन्दी को अनुच्छेद 343 जोड़ कर राजभाषा घोषित करने की बात कही गई, यह काम एक गैर-हिन्दीभाषी विद्वान ने, राजनेता ने किया था। वह व्यक्ति केरल के श्री आयंगर थे जिन्होंने सबसे पहले यह प्रस्ताव रखा कि हिन्दी ही इस देश की राजभाषा होनी चाहिए, क्योंकि 70 प्रतिशत लोग हिन्दी बोलते हैं, हिन्दी जानते हैं, हिन्दी समझते हैं।

यदि भारत के 70 प्रतिशत लोग तमिल जानते होते, तो हम तमिल को राजभाषा के रूप में स्वीकार करते, उसका उसी रूप में सम्मान करते। यदि भारत के 75 प्रतिशत लोग मराठी बोलने वाले होते, तो हम मराठी को राजभाषा के रूप में स्वीकार करते। यदि 75 प्रतिशत लोग बंगाली बोलने वाले होते, तो हम भारत की राजभाषा बंगाली को स्वीकार करते। दुर्भाग्य यह है कि हमने लोकतंत्र को तो स्वीकार किया है, लेकिन लोकतंत्र में बहुमत के द्वारा बोली जाने वाली भाषा के प्रति हम आज भी ईर्ष्या रखते हैं। हम हिन्दी से ज्यादा गुलामी की उस अंग्रेज़ी भाषा को महत्व देते हैं। हम उसको तो स्वीकार कर सकते हैं, लेकिन हिन्दी को स्वीकार नहीं कर सकते क्योंकि वह इस देश की भाषा है। यह ईर्ष्या है। यह राजनैतिक ईर्ष्या है, द्वेष है और यह ईर्ष्या और द्वेष इस देश को तोड़ने वाले हैं, जोड़ने वाले नहीं।

मैं तिरुची शिवा जी के भाषण के एक पार्ट से सहमत हूँ। मैं उनका इस बात के लिए अवश्य समर्थन करता हूँ कि उनके प्रान्त में और प्रत्येक प्रान्त में अपने-अपने प्रान्त की प्रान्तीय भाषा का सम्मान हो, आदर हो, राजकीय भाषा के रूप में उसका प्रचलन हो और उसको स्वीकार किया जाए। इसमें कहीं कोई मतभेद नहीं है। इस नाते से इस देश ने त्रिभाषा फार्मुला स्वीकार किया है। त्रिभाषा फार्मुले में कहा गया है कि जब तक अंग्रेज़ी का स्थान पूर्ण रूप से हिन्दी नहीं ले लेती, तब तक अंग्रेज़ी चलेगी, उसके साथ-साथ हिन्दी भी चलेगी और हिन्दी के अलावा प्रान्तीय भाषा भी हमको स्वीकार्य है। अब यह प्रयत्न हमें करना है कि अंग्रेज़ी का स्थान हिन्दी ले।

1963 में इसी पार्लियामेंट ने राजभाषा विधेयक बनाया है और राजभाषा अधिनियम स्वीकार

किया है। दोनों सदनों ने इसे स्वीकार किया है। अब हम उसके खिलाफ कैसे जा सकते हैं? हम भारत के संविधान के विरुद्ध कैसे जा सकते हैं? भारत के संविधान ने इस बात को स्वीकार कर लिया है कि राजभाषा हिन्दी ही होगी, संसद के दोनों सदनों ने विधेयक पारित करके इसे स्वीकार कर लिया है। 1976 में राजभाषा समिति का गठन करके देश भर में यह आग्रह किया गया कि अंग्रेज़ी का स्थान हिन्दी ही ले सकती है, कोई और भाषा नहीं ले सकती।

तिरुची शिवा जी ने अपने पहले ही वाक्य में लिखा है कि इस देश में केवल छः प्रान्तों में हिन्दी बोली जाती है। मैं तिरुची शिवा जी को त्रुटि सुधारने का आग्रह करता हूँ और उन्हें बताना चाहता हूँ कि लगभग 10 से अधिक प्रान्तों में हिन्दी बोली जाती है। उत्तर प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश, हरियाणा, बिहार, झारखंड, छत्तीसगढ़, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और यहां तक अंडमान में भी हिन्दी ही राजभाषा है।

श्री तरुण विजय (उत्तराखंड) : अरुणाचल प्रदेश में भी हिन्दी बोली जाती है।

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा : जी हां, अरुणाचल प्रदेश में भी हिन्दी बोली जाती है। इस तरह 11 से अधिक प्रान्त हिन्दी समर्थक और हिन्दी बोलने वाले प्रान्त हैं।

अरुणाचल प्रदेश हमारा सुदूरवर्ती प्रांत है। अंडमान, जहां पर देश के क्रांतिकारियों को ले जा कर रखा गया था, जब वे आज़ाद हुए, तो उन्होंने सोचा कि हमारे इस द्वीप की, इस क्षेत्र की भाषा कौन-सी होगी, तब उन्होंने स्वीकार किया कि हम हिन्दी का ही प्रयोग करेंगे। हिन्दी ने देश को आज़ादी दिलाने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है, इस देश को एक रखने में इसने महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है, इसलिए अंडमान के लोगों ने इसे स्वीकार किया। मैं उनको धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा कि वहां 30 प्रतिशत बंगलाभाषी लोग निवास करते हैं और लगभग 25 प्रतिशत तमिलनाडु के लोग निवास करते हैं, तो 55 प्रतिशत लोग वहां पर बंगाली और तमिल हैं, उसके बावजूद भी उन सब लोगों ने हिन्दी को स्वीकार किया और हिन्दी को आत्मसात कर लिया। फिर कौन-से ऐसे कारण हैं, जो यदा-कदा हिन्दी के खिलाफ स्वर उठते हैं और हिन्दी की अपदस्थ करने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है? राम गोपाल जी अभी यहां से चले गए हैं। मैं नहीं समझता कि उन्होंने शिवा जी के इस विधेयक को बगैर पढ़े कैसे सम्पूर्ण रूप से समर्थन करने की बात कही है?

चौधरी मुनब्वर सलीम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : वे निजी संशोधन के साथ ही समर्थन करके गए हैं।... (व्यवधान)... शायद आपने सुना नहीं।... (व्यवधान)...

† [چودھری منور سلیم: وہ نجی سنشودھن کے ساتھ بی سمرتین کر کے گئے ہیں۔

[(مداخلت) ... شاید آپ نے سنا نہیں ... (مداخلت)]

एक माननीय सदस्य : उर्दू भी तो है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा : हां, उर्दू भी है। उर्दू और हिन्दी में कोई अंतर नहीं है।...**(व्यवधान)**... इनमें केवल भाषा-लिपि का अंतर है। हिन्दी और उर्दू एक जैसी भाषाएँ हैं। मराठी और गुजराती दोनों देवनागरी में लिखी जाती हैं। उर्दू, मराठी, गुजराती और 11 प्रान्तों को यदि हम जोड़ते हैं, तो हम यह देखते हैं कि इस देश को एक रखने वाली भाषा केवल राजभाषा हिन्दी ही हो सकती है, अन्यथा यदि हमने हिन्दी को हटाकर फिर से वहां अंग्रेज़ी को लाने का प्रयत्न किया, तो हम फिर से उसी स्थिति में चले जाएंगे, जब हमारे देश के पुरखों ने बलिदान देकर अंग्रेज़ों को बाहर किया था। इसलिए, हमें इस पर विचार करना पड़ेगा।

मित्रों, मैं यहां उपस्थित लोगों से आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि अपने क्षत्र स्वार्थों को छोड़ें। भारतीय भाषाओं के ऊपर हमें बड़ा गर्व है। हम उनका सम्मान करते हैं, लेकिन हम किसी विदेशी भाषा का सम्मान नहीं कर सकते। हम किसी विदेशी भाषा को वह स्थान नहीं दे सकते, जो तमिल, मराठी, गुजराती या बंगला को दे सकते हैं। हम अंग्रेज़ी को मराठी और गुजराती से भी नीचे की भाषा मानते हैं। हम इनका ज्यादा सम्मान करते हैं। हम अंग्रेज़ी का सम्मान नहीं करते और हम यह नहीं करना चाहेंगे। तो फिर, हम अगली पीढ़ी को क्या देना चाहते हैं और हम फिर से उस युग में, अंधकार वाले युग में क्यों लौटना चाहते हैं? हम उस दासता के युग में क्यों लौटना चाहते हैं? भारत के संविधान ने जिस बात को स्वीकार किया, इस पार्लियामेंट ने जिस बात को स्वीकार किया, पार्लियामेंट देश की जनता का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, देश की जनता ने हमें यह बात कह कर यहां भेजा और राजभाषा को हमने स्वीकार किया, तो अब फिर से एक नए विधेयक को लाकर नया विवाद खड़ा करें, नया वितंडावाद खड़ा करें इसकी कोई उपयोगिता नहीं है, कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।

मैं तिरुची शिवा जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हम भारतीय भाषाओं का सम्मान करते हैं। हम तमिल का आदर करते हैं। आप भी हिन्दी का आदर करना सीखिए। तमिलनाडु को छोड़ कर बाकी किसी भी प्रान्त में हिन्दी का इतना घोर विरोध नहीं है। वे ऐसा यह मानते हैं कि जैसे यह दुश्मनों की भाषा है। इस प्रवृत्ति को छोड़ना पड़ेगा।

अभी रामचन्द्र खूँटिआ जी बोल रहे थे।...**(व्यवधान)**... वे कुछ बोलने को कह रहे हैं, तो मैं उनको बताना चाहता हूँ कि मैं ओडिशा में गया हूँ और वहां कई महीनों तक रहा हूँ। वहां एक कहावत प्रचलित है कि 'उड़िया आदमी को जब गुस्सा आता है, तो हिन्दी बोलने लगता है।'...**(व्यवधान)**... वहां यह कहावत है कि 'यदि किसी उड़िया आदमी को गुस्सा आता है, तो वह हिन्दी बोलने लगता है।' आपको भी यदि गुस्सा आए, तो आप भी हिन्दी बोलना शुरू कर दीजिए, रामचन्द्र जी।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रामचन्द्र खूँटिआ : हम हिन्दी के विरोध में नहीं हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा : सर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दी पूरे देश में प्रचलित भाषा

है। जब उत्तर भारत का कोई व्यक्ति रामेश्वरम जाता है, तमिलनाडु में जाता है, तो रामेश्वरम का हर व्यक्ति, तमिलनाडु क्षेत्र का रहने वाला हर व्यक्ति उससे हिन्दी में ही बात करता है। वह उससे जुड़ा हुआ है। सांस्कृतिक रूप से सारा देश एक है और इसको एक रखने के लिए हिन्दी ने अपना महत्वपूर्ण त्याग किया है, उसमें उसका महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है, इसलिए हमें इस बात को स्वीकार करना चाहिए। हम इतिहास को झुठलाने का प्रयत्न न करें, तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। हम भारतीय भाषाओं का पूरा-पूरा सम्मान करें और उनको विकसित करें। हम अंग्रेज़ी को हटा दें और उसके स्थान पर हिन्दी को रख कर हिन्दी में तमिल का अनुवाद हो, तमिल में हिन्दी का अनुवाद हो तथा वैसे ही मराठी का हिन्दी में अनुवाद हो और हिन्दी का मराठी में अनुवाद हो। केवल क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के माध्यम से पत्र-व्यवहार चलता रहे और इसी रूप में हम राजभाषा के रूप में यदि हिन्दी को सम्मानित करते रहें और इस सत्य को स्वीकार करते रहें कि अंग्रेज़ी दासता की भाषा है, तो निश्चित रूप से हमारा यह राष्ट्र एक शक्तिशाली, मज़बूत और एकाग्र राष्ट्र के रूप में तथा एकात्म राष्ट्र के रूप में वर्षों तक जीवित रहकर विश्व में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान बनाए रखेगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI P. KANNAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. I stand before you to speak on the Official Languages Bill, 2012. Let me say a few things. I kindly request the Chair and the hon. Members to listen to me with a little patience. I am not going to preach anything; but I am going to express my views only.

It is needless to say that I love my mother. Mr. Siva, my valued friend, has said that we love mother-tongue. Everybody loves mother-tongue. How can I hate my mother? Or, for that matter, can anybody hate their mother or their mother-tongue? We all love our mother-tongue. There is nothing special in that. By mentioning what had happened in the history, if you say that you love your mother-tongue gives a meaning that you hate other languages. It, indirectly, meant, somewhere in the history, there is hate for other languages. All mother-tongues — my mother-tongue, your mother-tongue, his mother-tongue, Singhji's mother-tongue and everybody's mother-tongue — have to be respected. That is my perception. Actually, I wish I would have known all the languages in the country; not only in the country, but all the languages in the world. I wish, I would have known, I would have learnt, I would have understood all the languages. Sir, even the birds have got a language. Had I known that language, how happy I would have been? Sometimes, I feel very sad. Sir, there is even a language of silence. Sometimes, we keep silent, some people keep silent. It is a language — language of silence. It has got a deeper meaning than any other language.

[Shri P. Kannan]

Sir, my request is, let us not shut the doors of knowledge. I would like to mention here one thing to my Hindi-speaking people. Before I enter Parliament, I entered Delhi some 35 years ago and felt very difficult to communicate. I never felt inferior, but I felt very difficult to communicate. I can say that I felt bad, because, I could not communicate with my own countrymen, with my own people, with the common man — *Aam Aadmi*. I could not communicate. I was not able to understand what he says. And, he also did not understand what I say. So, I had a very bad feeling, but I did not feel inferior. A man cannot learn all the languages. It is not humanly possible. But, we must, first of all, learn to respect everybody's language. That is my humble request. It is only then our mother-tongue or anybody's mother-tongue would get automatically respected.

Sir, Mr. Siva has got a valid point. I support his case, but there is one thing. Take Andhra Pradesh for example. I am not taking Tamil Nadu as example. Being a Tamil-speaking man, I don't want to talk about Tamil Nadu. That is why I take Andhra Pradesh. Two advocates are fighting a case on behalf of two individuals.

They speak English; the judgment delivered is in English; the poor, the common men, in Andhra Pradesh, in Telugu-speaking areas, do not understand what transpires between the two advocates; they do not understand whether the advocates supported them or they opposed them; they do not understand what the judgment says. It is a pathetic situation. It should not be so. In any region, the use of its regional language must be the maximum. I am not a pundit, and I am not an expert to say that we should make it an official language. Of course, it is our national language. I don't know how far we can go in making it our official language, and if that happens, I would be the happiest person; but I do not know the practicality. I am given to understand that even Hindi is not being used in 90 per cent in the official communications of the Government of India. Ninety per cent of the official communications of the Government of India are not being done in Hindi language, as far as my knowledge goes. The notings in majority of the files are done in English. I am not against Hindi. Hindi is the most widely spoken language in the country. I would never be against any language, for that matter, in the country, or, if I go further, I would like to say that I would never be against any language in the whole world. Yes, I love my mother-tongue, I love my mother. But, then,

does it require any publicity? I don't want to make any politics out of it. I say this. You respect the regional language. The UPA Government is a wise Government. It know how to respect the sentiments of the people. So, I want to make a request to the hon. Home Minister and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs who is also sitting here. You ask the State Governments to follow the rules and regulations or the law so as to make use of the regional language to the most possible extent. That will help the common man; that will help regional languages; and that will help the generations to come. But, at the same time, I would caution the Hindi-speaking people, and they should not misunderstand me. Don't eliminate the use of English language! It is dangerous for India; it is dangerous — I can even say — for the whole human kind. This is the only language in which we communicate throughout the whole world. Today, in India — whether it is for good or for bad, I do not know — English language is the storehouse of knowledge. Fortunately or unfortunately, we got it from the Britishers. They did many things both good and bad. But, it is they who gave English to us. Let us cherish it. Let us not eliminate it. I am not saying this just for the sake of the Tamil language or the Telugu language. I am saying it for the sake of the nation, for the sake of the whole country. Let us preserve English, side by side with all other languages in the country.

There is another thing that I want to mention here, Sir. I remember, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister, he had assured the non-Hindi-speaking States, the southern States, that as long as they accepted Hindi, English would continue to be there as the link language, or, the associate language. This was the assurance Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had given at the instance of the great leader, late Kamaraj. This must be noted here. So, this was there not because of anybody else, not because of any agitation, not because of anything else; it was because of the late Kamaraj; he was a towering leader. He stood like a mountain. He stood like a rock. He stood like the Himalayas. He made the then Prime Minister give this assurance. Till today, this assurance has been in force. Congress people, the Congress Prime Ministers, Congress leaders have always been safeguarding the sentiments and the rights of the people in the whole of India; they have always been safeguarding the regional languages, whether it is Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Odiya, or, whether it is Hindi, Bengali or any other language. The spirit of the nation, the spirit of India, has been kept intact by Congress leaders, like Kamarajji.

[Shri P. Kannan]

Sir, I want to say something. If Mr. Siva does not agree with me, he must bear with me. This is what I am requesting Mr. Siva. He is my brother. He is my lovely brother. I love him like anything. He is very humble. He is very unassuming.

AN HON. MEMBER: You love all.

SHRI P. KANNAN: Yes, I love all, especially Siva. How could I leave Siva? I call him Sivaji. So, Mr. Siva, you must tell me one thing.

In Tamil Nadu, we had the anti-Hindi agitation. I do not want to go into the details of it. Now, when people from south India come to Delhi, particularly from Tamil Nadu, don't they feel that they have missed something; don't they feel that they missed something in the post-Independence history?

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Ask the Finance Minister. He will be able to tell you whether he has missed something or not.

SHRI P. KANNAN: Of course, I will ask him. Why should I spare the Finance Minister, or, any Minister for that matter?

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: No, you don't have to...

SHRI P. KANNAN: Sorry, Madam. I was talking, generally.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: We are very proud of the Finance Minister.

SHRI P. KANNAN: You must be. I am thankful to you. You started the argument, and you have ended the argument. Thank you very much. I didn't bring the Finance Minister into the picture. Thank you, Madam.

Now, what I am saying is this. I am saying this very honestly. I don't want to be a hypocrite. But I really feel that you have spoiled a generation — it is not that we should have imposed Hindi — but, in the sense, how many people are now trying to learn Hindi. I know how many MPs coming from Tamil Nadu, irrespective of which political party they may belong to...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: But, that is an indirect way of imposing it. If you don't learn a second language, you are compelled to learn it. We don't learn English language, which, as you said, is the link language, an associate language which helps us to

communicate amongst people who are in various southern States. Our mother-tongues will be different. I may be a Tamilian; he may be a Malayalee; the third one may be a Telugu-speaking person; another one may be a Marathi-speaking people. So, we have the English language as the link between us. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is an indirect imposition on the people of south India.

SHRI P. KANNAN: We never imposed anything.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): One minute, please. The time-limit allotted for this discussion is over. But, still, the subject has its importance. Therefore, we will continue the debate till we come to the end. Another thing, please try to address the Chair. You reply when your turn comes.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: All right, Sir.

SHRI P. KANNAN: Let me speak now, Sir. It is a very sensitive matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Please conclude now.

SHRI P. KANNAN: I will try to conclude, Sir. My attention had been diverted.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): When will be the reply? In the next week?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): In the next sitting.

SHRI P. KANNAN: What I would like to tell you is this. Now, Mr. Singh had said something. I went to him and I understood the point he was making. In Europe, they have three languages. The mother-tongue is already there. Then, you can chose any other language. Then, English is there. He mentioned China. He mentioned various other countries. What for is a language? It is for communication. I know, we—Bengalis, Tamilian and others—have got emotional attachment to our languages. Apart from that, we want to communicate with our people. It is not that I communicate only within Tamil Nadu and that I would not move out of Tamil Nadu. We can't say that. Unfortunately, English is not widely known in India. If it were so, well and good. I don't want to kill any language on this earth, particularly of this country. We don't want to kill. What Mr. Yadav said is true. Some people, in their politics, in their various fields, think that if they know English, they would

[Shri P. Kannan]

feel very good and proud. They think they are great and superior to others because others do not know English and that they know only Hindi, Bengali, Telugu or Tamil. So, one thinks himself to be superior and a great scholar. He holds his head high and does not look down. That sort of hypocritical attitude is there in many learned people; I don't want to spare anybody. It is the inferior quality, slavery quality of the erstwhile British people who left it upon us; and many Indians never felt high of themselves for the sake of English. But, we have inherited this slavery mentality from the British. "I know English, I am great." That is why I support Mr. Yadav. He said it so well. All Indians should know this fact.

Sir, I would like to read a fine poem before I conclude.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I can understand that he is anti-English.

SHRI P. KANNAN: No, I am not anti-English. I said that I am not against any language. But, you can't say that just because you know English you are superior to somebody else. That should not be the attitude.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: But, he is speaking in English rather than Tamil.

SHRI P. KANNAN: Because I know English. I do not speak in Tamil because I want my brothers to understand me.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Simultaneous interpretation service is available.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI P. KANNAN: Madam Kanimozhi, that is why I am saying that I want to communicate directly. I do not want to pretend. I can speak Tamil at least of your level, if not more. ...(Interruptions)...

I want to communicate to my people wholeheartedly. English is the only instrument through which I can do that here. If I knew Hindi, I would have spoken only in Hindi. I don't feel ashamed of it.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: You are deserting your mother tongue.

SHRI P. KANNAN: You may think so. I am sorry to say that. After Mr. Siva saying so, I would like to say that, I think, I am the only Member who signs only in Tamil on the Attendance Register. You can verify it from the Attendance

Register. I sign as 'Pa Kannan' only in Tamil. I donot sign in English. I never signed in English or in any other language. I sign in my mother tongue because I have self-esteem. Yet, I do not disrespect anybody. Moreover, when I took oath, it was in Tamil. For the sake and for the information of Mr. Siva I say that I took oath in Tamil because I was elected from a Tamil-speaking area. When I came to this Parliament, this House, this Rajya Sabha, I took the oath of affirmation only in Tamil, not in English. So, my English-speaking is not my grandeur. I do not think myself to be great when I speak in English. I think, it is the only instrument I have got, unfortunately.

Sir, I am going to conclude my speech. In a nutshell, I would say that every language—Tamil, Malayalam, or any language—should be respected and given the due place. Because, the regional people would understand the happenings only in their own language. For which, I request the hon. Home Minister to do his best. Sir, before concluding, let me finish with a very good poem. That poem says, Sir; — which I have just translated in a hurry,...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to know whether Mr. Kannan is supporting this Bill or not.

SHRI P. KANNAN: Sivaji, I will come to that, don't worry. I will not be in-between you and somebody else. I stand in a position. I take a firm stand. We, the Congress people, always take firm stand. We do not have any jittery. We are certain. We will take a very firm stand. I will come to you.

Sir, with a poem, I conclude my speech. The poem is in Tamil. I tried to translate it. It says that when the wind blows in a forest of bamboos, it goes through the holes of the bamboos. Each bamboo gives a fine music. When the same wind enters a particular bamboo, it gives a very fantastic music. In another bamboo, it gives an excellent, unique music. So, the only thing is wind. Man's mouth makes some kind of wind. The language comes; that is the language. So, all the languages are beautiful; they are wonderful; they are lovable. They are all to be embraced. See, we don't have any hesitation in saying that we do not oppose any language. We embrace the whole universe, the whole country. So, I respect my mother tongue. Because I respect the Hindi-speaking people, I respect Hindi. Without respecting Hindi, I cannot respect Tamil. If I say so, it is a blunt lie. It is a shame. It is a shame on the part of the human being, not as an Indian. If I hate Hindi, I can't love

[Shri P. Kannan]

Tamil. If anybody says so, he is a pretender. He is duping himself, duping the country and duping the society. So, I support the Bill brought by my valued friend, Shri Siva. Shri Siva is a thinker, I believe, above politics. Above politics, he is an intellectual, I believe. So, I share his sentiments, I share his views, I share the views of the rest of the Members, particularly Shri Singh, who spoke very well. Shri Yadav spoke very nicely. Mr. Siva, needless to say, is an orator. He is the number one orator in the DMK from Rajya Sabha. He is an excellent orator. ...*(Interruptions)*... His campaign is going on. He has to go back. Sir, I love all the languages. So, I request the hon. Home Minister to consider the maximum utility of the regional languages, i.e., my language — Tamil; your language — Telugu; your language — Hindi; your language — Marathi; your language — Odiya. Be it any language.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Okay, thank you very much.

SHRI P. KANNAN: Come on, let us flourish the garden of languages. Let us enter into the fragrance of the garden of all languages. Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, Shrimati Kanimozhi.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: *(Hon. Member may please fill in Tamil)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): The translation is not coming.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, that is the problem here. That is exactly what we are trying to address. I cannot speak here in my language.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): You have to intimate half-an-hour before.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Yes, Sir, if I want to speak in this House in my language, I have to notify people, I have to get permission. I have to do a lot of pre-requisites before I start speaking in my language, about my problems, about what I believe, in this House. This is exactly what we are trying to bring to the

*The Honourable Member did not provide the English translation of the text.

notice of all our friends here. I would like to see a day where we do not have to go through all this.

I can just get up and speak in my language. Let us speak in Hindi, let us speak in Hindi or any other language, I would just like to rise and start speaking in my mother-tongue, about my issues. I can be very sure that every Member here will be able to understand what I speak because there are simultaneous translations in all Official Languages, all the languages which are in the Eighth Schedule. This is exactly what our request is. We cannot understand each other. It is a problem. We cannot understand each other here because there is no translation because a language...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. KANNAN: Please don't take umbrage to what I said. ...*(Interruptions)*.. I am sorry I could not hear you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I went out to take water. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't take it otherwise. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't think my party is running this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Members spoke here with passion about their mother-tongue, about their problems they have to face, and getting a certificate in their language has led to so many complications in their lives. Sir, somebody here actually insulted us, insulted a movement, insulted a history by saying that it is all a political gimmick. We are trying to cater to the masses. I do not support killing people themselves. But so many youngsters, so many people in the anti-Hindi agitation did it. When I am talking of about anti-Hindi agitation, I would really like to make one thing clear that it is not against any language, it is not against Hindi as a language, but it is against imposing a language on a region, on a State. There is a difference between opposing a language and imposing a language on us. The anti-Hindi agitation was all about imposing Hindi on us when we did not want it. That is what I would like to make very clear here. That agitation was not a political gimmick. People were injured, thousands and thousands went to jail, people died, they killed themselves. Can that be called a political gimmick? Can they be insulted? They were ending their lives for what they believed in. What happens to their families they do not care about that. You can call it as an emotional decision but they wanted to protect their language, their identity, their culture. You cannot insult that. I would like to quote an example. My father, Dr. Kalaignar, our leader,

[Shrimati Kanimozhi]

got into the anti-Hindi protest when he was at the age of 14. He was not a politician then. He was a mere school student. I do not think he knew that there is a political future for him and he might become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu or he would find space in national politics. No. He is not a person who believes in astrology or some predictions and had thought of all that. He was just a mere student. You cannot insult all those leaders. There were leaders before him, there were leaders after him. He was a student who got into this agitation. He got into it only to protect our identity and what they believed in. We cannot be insulted, we cannot be called as imposters, we cannot be called as people who are doing things like this for political gimmicks. It is not. This is what we feel. People are saying that majority speaks Hindi but a minority opposes it. It does not oppose a language. We are okay with Tamil, we are okay with Malayalam, we are fine with Hindi, we are fine with Bhojpuri, we are fine with Rajasthani, every language spoken in this country, in this world, we are prepared to embrace it. But here when we spoke, he said, "Don't you feel that you have lost something because you have not learnt Hindi?" I have not learnt Hindi, Mr. Siva has not learnt Hindi and there are so many other colleagues here who have not learnt Hindi, and, that is why I have to bring in the Finance Minister. He says, "Haven't you lost?". If a person can become the Finance Minister of this country without knowing Hindi or without speaking Hindi, what has he lost?...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री नरेन्द्र बुढानिया (राजस्थान) : सर, राजस्थान में वित्त मंत्री जी ने हिन्दी में भाषण दिया था।

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sorry, I did not understand. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. KANNAN: Sir, the great leader, Shri Kamaraj, did not know Hindi. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Yes. I agree with him. I also know the history of Mr. Kamaraj.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Both of you are saying the same thing.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: The great leader, Shri Kamaraj, comes from Tamil Nadu. I also know his history. He did not speak English. He did not speak Hindi.

Where is the compulsion that all of us have to learn Hindi to feel a part of India? If you do not speak Hindi, you do not belong to India! ...(*Interruptions*)... No, I did not say that. I am just raising a general question. ...(*Interruptions*)... I don't think that I have lost anything because I do not know one language. I do not know so many languages of this country. I do not know so many languages that are spoken around this world. I know just two languages. Does it mean that I have lost anything? Of course, I might have lost out, but it does not mean that I have lost out just because I don't know one language. Am I not an Indian? Are these people, who are here, not Indians just because they do not know Hindi? Is that the only link between us? Just because majority speaks a language, you cannot impose it on minorities. You cannot force us to learn a language just because you think that that is the only unifying factor. There is so much more in India, there is so much more in our culture, there is so much more in our value system and beliefs that unite us, more than just a language. And, I would like to say on behalf of my party, if any language is going to be imposed on us, in Tamil Nadu, we will resist, we will continue to resist and it will never happen in Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Mr. A.V. Swamy. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let the time allotted for Private Members' Business be finished. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A.V. SWAMY (Odisha): Sir, I thank hon. Member, Shri Tiruchi Siva, for having raised an issue which is of such an interest for the unification of the country, at a time when we are forgetting its importance. Therefore, I offer to see what a language has to do with our unification and with enhancement of our value system.

Sir, I had the opportunity of being in Calcutta, when East Pakistan, now Bangladesh revolted against Yahya Khan. I was working in Calcutta at that point of time. Therefore, I knew the entire Bangladesh and also Bengal from close quarter. They had tolerated the neglect and all the atrocities committed by Pakistan for years together, but when they tried to undermine their language, the entire nation woke up. I was a part of that movement. I had been sending blood for wounded freedom fighters from Calcutta. I knew what it meant for them. It was not that they were merely fighting for Bangladesh. Probably, many people do not understand that aspect. It is not that only the Muslims in Bangladesh wanted to rise against Yahya Khan who imposed Urdu on Bengali speaking people. I remember one of the songs that they composed

5.00 P.M.

[Shri A.V. Swamy]

at that time. That was not only for unification or a movement against Yahya Khan. They composed a song. That song will be of importance for some of us. I enumerate some of those lines.

*“Suno ekti mujiburer theke, lakho mujiburer
kantho swarer, dhwani, prathidhwani
akashe bathase uthe roni;
....Bangladesh, amar Bangladesh
Biswakabir Sunar Bangla,
Nazuruler Bangladesh,
Jeebananander Rupasi Bangla
Ruper jeTar Nahikosesh...
Bangladesh, Amar Bangladesh...”*

Those are the values they stood for. Among the heroes enlogised in the song are, one is Hindu, one is Muslim and the other is poet.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Mr. Swamy, one minute please. Would you like to continue?

SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Yes, Sir, I would like to continue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): I would like to get the sense of the House whether we can continue this in the next sitting of the Private Members' Business.

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Yes, Sir. We can continue this in the next sitting.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Okay. Mr. Swamy, you will continue in the next sitting of this particular Bill. This Bill will be taken up on the next scheduled date.

Now, I will take up the Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS**Need to set up CBI or Judicial Inquiry into the alleged irregularities in debt waiver scheme for farmers in the country**

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI (Andhra Pradesh): The Government of India announced Rs. 71,680 crores Agricultural Debt Relief Scheme for farmers with a lot of fanfare in 2008. But, the CAG Report has made it clear that there are a lot of irregularities and siphoning off funds in more than 22 per cent of cases it scrutinized. This is more than Rs. 10,000 crores scam. It is a pity that while nearly 34 lakh eligible farmers were denied debt waiver, more than 24 lakh ineligible beneficiaries gained through this Scheme. The Department of Financial Services, which is responsible for monitoring, has totally dependent on nodal agencies which played havoc with this Scheme. The irony is, one bank has diverted Scheme funds to a micro finance institution!

The share of Andhra Pradesh in this Scheme is Rs. 11,353.71 crores. In Andhra Pradesh, 66,46,198 farmers were made eligible under this Scheme. Out of these, 11.09 lakhs have got 25 per cent relief. An amount of Rs. 40,76,107 has been given to 132 ineligible people. Even though 96 people do not come under eligibility criteria, they were paid Rs. 26 lakhs. Some banks under NABARD got Rs. 31 lakhs as pecuniary gains. Ballikuduva Gramina Bank in Andhra Pradesh tampered with accounts and brought 17 big farmers under the Scheme and thereby siphoned off Rs. 10.62 lakhs. If you take other irregularities under this Scheme into account, it is a matter of more than Rs. 2,000 crores in Andhra Pradesh alone.

In view of this, I demand for handing over this case to CBI or having Judicial Inquiry for thorough investigation. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, absent; Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, absent; Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilania.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, if you want to save time, I will lay it on the Table.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): As you like. You lay it.

Concern over poor Government spending on healthcare

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, India, a country with the largest number of poor people and the biggest chunk of patients in the world, also has the most privatized healthcare system of all nations. India has one of the highest proportions of OOP (out-of-pocket) spending on healthcare in the world. According to the ILO's World Social Security Report, 2010-11, OOP spending in India was about 76 per cent, putting it in the bracket of such extremely poor countries as Congo, Chad, Burundi and Guinea. OOP spending is just 13 per cent in the US, 12 per cent in the UK and 33 per cent in Brazil. In India, according to one calculation, this catastrophic OOP spending has pushed 3.9 crore people into poverty in the past few decades, although an estimated 20 per cent of the sick go untreated because people just do not have the money to see a doctor. For every Rs. 245 spent by the Government on healthcare, the sick in India have to shell out Rs. 76.

The Government spending on health, Centre plus States, in 2007-2008, was Rs. 44,977 crore — 0.9 per cent of India's GDP. Five years later, in 2011-12, the combined expenditure on health had risen to Rs. 90,569 crore, but as a share of GDP, it remained at one per cent, while the private share was 2.2 per cent of the GDP. The country's Government-run healthcare system is short of 76 per cent doctors, 53 per cent nurses, 88 per cent specialists, 85 per cent radiographers and 80 per cent laboratory technicians. So, even where infrastructure is in place, the absence of doctors and nurses renders it meaningless.

In view of the above worrying scenario, I would urge the hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare to undertake corrective measures.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri Motilal Vora, absent; Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda, absent; Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani, absent; Shri Vivek Gupta, absent; Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra, absent; Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki, absent; Shri Darshan Singh Yadav, absent; Shri Husain Dalwai, absent; Shrimati Bimla Kashyap Sood, absent; Shri M.P. Achuthan, absent; Shri C.M. Ramesh, absent; Shrimati Kusum Rai, absent; Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan, absent; Shri K.N. Balagopal, absent; Shri Sanjay Raut, absent; Shri T.K. Rangarajan, absent; Shri Y.S. Chowdary, absent; Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, absent; Shri Devender Goud T., absent; Shri D. Raja, absent; Shri Ambeth Rajan.

**Need to take strict and necessary steps to curb menace
of begging in the country**

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the thoroughfares and traffic signals in the major cities have become den for beggars, who get help from police. It has become very common to see beggars nagging the passers-by, people travelling in car, two wheelers and pedestrians at railways stations, bus stands and other places of tourism importance. This act of beggars damages the image of India at international level.

Sir, Section 24 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 prescribes punishment for those who are employing juvenile and children for begging. The forced begging leads to anti-social activities. In the garb of begging, drugs are sold to school-going/college-going students, and future citizens of the country are becoming drug sellers and drug buyers. To prevent forcing children into beggary, suitable amendments should be brought in Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

Twenty States have their own Act to prevent beggary. Some other States adopted the law enacted by other States. For example, Delhi adopted the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959; but of no use. A rough estimate States that in the National Capital Delhi alone there are around 58,570 beggars. It seems all the Governments are sleeping over their Acts. They are not enforced in true letter and spirit. In this context, an important question arises: Who is to be punished — beggars or backers (police or others)?

I urge upon the Government to take stringent and necessary steps to curb the menace of begging in the country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Dr. Prabha Thakur, not present; Shri Narendra Kumar Kashyap, not present; Shri P. Rajeeve, not present; Shri N.K. Singh, not present; Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri, not present; Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy, not present. Shri Basawaraj Patil.

**Need to re-frame rules to make medical education
cheaper in the country**

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से स्वास्थ्य मंत्री और सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि वैद्यकीय शिक्षा के नियमों

[श्री बसावाराज पाटिल]

में कड़ कानूनों के कारण जो अव्यवहारिकता है, उससे स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा बहुत महंगी होकर आकाश छू रही है। सरकार के नियमों के अनुपात के अन्दर 40 से 80 प्रतिशत अस्पतालों में मरीजों के बेड खाली पड़े रहते हैं जिन पर हजारों करोड़ों का व्यय होता है। इसी प्रकार प्रमाणित शिक्षकों की संख्या जो रिकॉर्ड में होती है, वह भी वास्तविक नहीं होती है, जिसके कारण फीस और प्रबंधन के स्ट्रक्चर का खर्च साल दर साल बढ़ता जा रहा है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इन विषयों पर खुले मन से विचार करे। कम-से-कम आवश्यक नियमों का पालन हो, अन्धाधुन्ध स्ट्रक्चर पर खर्च न हो, गलत रिकॉर्ड न बने आदि विषयों पर ध्यान देने से वैद्यकीय कॉलेजों का खर्च 40 से 60 प्रतिशत तक कम किया जा सकता है। साथ ही साथ अनियंत्रित दवाओं की दर, पेटेंट और अन्य कानूनों के कारण से रोगियों पर बोझ बढ़ रहा है। इस तरह शिक्षा और सेवा इन दोनों विषयों पर सरकार गंभीरता से विचार करके व्यवहारिक तथा नेक नियमावली और व्यवस्था जारी करे, ऐसा मैं सरकार से आग्रह करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Dr. Ram Prakash, not present. Shri Tarun Vijay.

**Need to prepare a vision document for railway connectivity
of the country to neighbouring countries**

SHRI TARUN VIJAY (Uttarakhand): Sir, Indian Railways have achieved a great name in the world. Yet, it seems to be a bit of a time warp and works on a beaten path created by the colonial rulers. There is an urgent need to have a grand vision for the expansion of the Indian Railways to the border areas of India, like Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal, Sikkim, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Besides, let the Indian leadership dream and create a great vision to have Railway connection between Delhi and Kathmandu, and taking it further to link Lhasa and Beijing on one side to Delhi, Chennai, Colombo on a fantasy tour of Ramayana making tourists to cross sea between India and Sri Lanka on ships and reconnecting on the Lankan shores with onward rail journey. Similarly, while India-Thailand-Myanmar Highway is quite commendable, Indian Railways must think in terms of taking the glorious rail connection from India's North-East to Bangkok, Mandalay, Singapore and beyond. Our immediate neighbour, China, has done an incredible job of connecting Beijing with Lhasa and working fast to connect it with Kathmandu by railway and has connected with Central Europe by laying 32,000 kilometres of railway for freight services. But we are lagging far behind. Let the Indian leadership

rise to the changing times, and I demand Indian Railway Minister should prepare a vision document to connect India with her neighbours and East Asian countries in the next 20 years.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shrimati Jaya Bachchan, not present.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, the 11th March, 2013.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 11th March, 2013.