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Monday

18 March, 2013

27 Phalguna, 1934 (Saka)

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

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RAJYA SABHA

Monday, 18th March, 2013/27th Phalguna, 1934 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 281. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, on India's silence on the Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take it up after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... After the Question Hour, please. Now, Question No.281. ...*(Interruptions)*... बैठ जाइए, प्लीज। ...*(व्यवधान)*... We will take it up after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have already informed you.

खनन हेतु अनुमति

*281. डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधु : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या व्यक्तियों, संस्थाओं और गैर-सरकारी कम्पनियों को देश में उपलब्ध बहुमूल्य खनिजों का खनन किये जाने की अनुमति प्रदान की गई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो विगत पांच वर्षों के दौरान, मध्य प्रदेश में किन-किन व्यक्तियों, संस्थाओं और गैर-सरकारी कम्पनियों को कितने-कितने हेक्टेयर भूमि खनन के लिए आबंटित की गई है;

(ग) उस राज्य की किन-किन कम्पनियों के खनन हेतु आवेदन केंद्रीय सरकार के पास लम्बित है; और

(घ) इन खदानों के आसपास के क्षेत्रों, आरक्षित वन-क्षेत्र और बांधों के चारों ओर की भूमि पर हो रहे अवैध खनन को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

खान मंत्री (श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) जी, हां।

(ख) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में बहुमूल्य खनिजों के लिए खनन पट्टों की स्वीकृति के संबंध में खान एवं खनिज (विकास एवं विनियमन) (एमएमडीआर) अधिनियम,

1957 की धारा 5(1) के अंतर्गत खान मंत्रालय ने केवल एक मामले अर्थात् मैसर्स टिन्टो एक्सप्लोरेशन इंडिया प्रा. लि. के लिए केंद्र सरकार का पूर्व अनुमोदन संसूचित किया है। पूर्व अनुमोदन मध्य प्रदेश के छतरपुर जिले में 954 हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र में हीरा खनिज के लिए है।

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से प्राप्त खनन पट्टों के लिए सत्रह आवेदन, जैसा कि विवरण-I (नीचे देखिए) में दिया गया है, केन्द्र सरकार के पास लंबित है। इनमें से आठ आवेदन लौह अयस्क, बॉक्साइट और मैंगनीज अयस्क के लिए अधिनियम की धारा 5(1) के अंतर्गत पूर्व अनुमोदन के लिए है। केवल ग्यारह परमाणु खनिजों और दस प्रमुख खनिजों के मामले में केन्द्र सरकार का पूर्व अनुमोदन अपेक्षित है। आठ आवेदन अधिनियम की धारा 6(1)(ख) के अंतर्गत निर्धारित क्षेत्र सीमा से अधिक के खनन पट्टों की स्वीकृति के लिए है। शेष मामले पहले से धारित अथवा आरक्षित क्षेत्र के लिए खनिज रियायत नियम, 1960 के नियम 59(2) के तहत आम जनता के लिए अधिसूचना से छूट के लिए है।

(घ) केन्द्र सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों के साथ समन्वय में देश में अवैध खनन की रोकथाम और नियंत्रण के लिए किए गए उपायों का ब्यौरा विवरण-II में दिया गया है।

विवरण-I

15-03-2013 की स्थिति के अनुसार खान मंत्रालय में लंबित मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से प्राप्त खनन पट्टा प्रस्ताव

क्रम सं.	कंपनी का नाम	खनिज	क्षेत्र	गांव/जिला	स्थिति
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	मैसर्स जयप्रकाश ऐसोसिएट लि.	चूना-पत्थर	145.484 हेक्टेयर	कोठार चिरहाई सतना	राज्य सरकार से प्रश्न (एसजी)
2	मैसर्स जीवन लाइम कैमिकल्स प्रा. लि.	बॉक्साइट लेटेराइट	4 हेक्टेयर	जरियारी सतना	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
3	मैसर्स जयप्रकाश ऐसोसिएट्स लि.	चूना-पत्थर	159.945 हेक्टेयर	बिहरा रेवा	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
4	मैसर्स जयप्रकाश ऐसोसिएट्स लि.	चूना-पत्थर	258.867 हेक्टेयर	हिनोती जुडवानी सतना	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
5	मैसर्स ग्रासीम सीमेंट इंडस्ट्रीज लि.	चूना-पत्थर	965 हेक्टेयर	बोरले धार	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	मैसर्स जयप्रकाश ऐसोसिएट्स लि.	चूना-पत्थर	78.863 हेक्टेयर	रघुनाथ पुर सतना	एसजी से प्रश्न
7	मैसर्स प्रिजम सीमेंट लि.	चूना-पत्थर	198.863 हेक्टेयर	चूल्ही मजिहार सतना	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
8	मैसर्स ग्रासीम सीमेंट इंडस्ट्रीज लि.	चूना-पत्थर	6.5 हेक्टेयर	सीतापुरी धार	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
9	मैसर्स रश्मी मैटलिव्स लि.	लौह अयस्क	44 हेक्टेयर	वन प्रभाग छतरपुर	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
10	श्री नीलेश अग्रवाल	लौह अयस्क लैटेराइट	9.28 हेक्टेयर	तापा जबलपुर	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
11	श्री जी.एस. लाइम एंड मिनरल्स	लौह अयस्क	4.04 हेक्टेयर	बानदरकोटा जबलपुर	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
12	मैसर्स गणेश मिनरल्स	लैटेराइट फायरक्ले	4.36 हेक्टेयर	अमोच कटनी	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
13	मैसर्स ए.वी. माइन्स प्रा.लि.	मेंगनीज अयस्क	4.91 हेक्टेयर	नगनवत बारी झाबुआ	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
14	श्री मुकुल खम्मारियां	लौह अयस्क, मेंगनीज अयस्क	27.61 हेक्टेयर	बीजाया जबलपुर	एसजी से प्रश्न
15	श्री जगदीश पटेल	बॉक्साइट	4.46 हेक्टेयर	टीकारियां कटनी	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
16	मैसर्स हीरा पावर एंड स्टील लि.	मेंगनीज अयस्क	22 हेक्टेयर	उक्वा बालाघाट	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन
17	मैसर्स सांधी इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर एम पी. लि.	क्ले अन्य	201.22 हेक्टेयर	धनवाही हरईया कटनी	मंत्रालय में प्रक्रियाधीन

विवरण-॥

देश में अवैध खनन की रोकथाम और नियंत्रण के लिए राज्य सरकारों के साथ समन्वयन में केंद्र सरकार ने निम्नलिखित कदम उठाये हैं:-

- (i) खान और खनिज (विकास एवं विनियमन) अधिनियम, (एमएमडीआर) की धारा 23ग के तहत राज्य सरकारों को अवैध खनन के नियंत्रण के लिए नियम बनाने के लिए कहा गया है।
- (ii) राज्य सरकारों को रेल, सीमा-शुल्क और पत्तन प्राधिकरणों के प्रतिनिधियों को शामिल करके अवैध खनन को नियंत्रित करने के प्रयासों का समन्वय करने के लिए राज्य समन्वय-सह-अधिकार-प्राप्त समिति (एससीईसी) गठित करने की सलाह दी गई है।
- (iii) सभी राज्य सरकारों को सुदूर संवेदन के उपयोग, यातायात पर नियंत्रण, बाजार आसूचना एकत्र करने, अंत्य-उपयोगकर्ताओं के पंजीकरण और विशेष प्रकोष्ठ गठित करने आदि सहित अवैध खनन का पता लगाने और नियंत्रित करने के विशिष्ट उपायों के साथ कार्रवाई योजना अपनाने की सलाह दी गई है।
- (iv) दिनांक 04.03.2009 को केन्द्रीय समन्वय-सह-अधिकार-प्राप्त समिति गठित की गई जिसमें प्रमुख खनिज धारी राज्यों और संबंधित केन्द्र सरकार मंत्रालयों/विभागों का प्रतिनिधित्व है। समिति अवैध खनन नियंत्रित करने के लिए कार्यकलापों के समन्वयन से संबंधित मामलों सहित सभी खनन संबंधी मुद्दों पर विचार के लिए नियमित रूप से बैठकें कर रही है।
- (v) रेलवे ने बाड़ लगाने और रेलवे साइडिंगों पर चेक पोस्ट बनाने के उपाय के साथ-साथ एक प्रणाली शुरू की है जिसमें केवल रिकवाइज़ जारी और राज्य सरकार द्वारा सत्यापित परमिटों पर लौह अयस्क के परिवहन की अनुमति होगी।
- (vi) सीमा-शुल्क विभाग ने अपने सभी फील्ड यूनिटों को अयस्क निर्यात संबंधी सूचना राज्य सरकार के साथ बांटने के निर्देश जारी किए हैं।
- (vii) जहाजरानी मंत्रालय ने सभी बड़े पत्तनों को निदेश जारी किए हैं कि सड़क और रेल द्वारा पत्तनों में निर्यात के लिए माल के आवागमन हेतु सत्यापन प्रक्रिया को दुरुस्त बनाए।
- (viii) सरकार ने खनिज संरक्षण और विकास नियम, 1988 के नियम 45 में संशोधन 09.02.2011 को अधिसूचित किया है, जिसमें सभी खनिकों, व्यापारियों, स्टॉकिस्टों, निर्यातकों और अंत्य-उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए भारतीय खान ब्यूरो में पंजीकरण करवाना तथा खनिजों के सर्वांगीण उचित लेखांकन के लिए खनिजों के लेन-देन के बारे में मासिक आधार पर सूचित करना अनिवार्य कर दिया गया है।

- (ix) भारतीय खान ब्यूरो ने सेटेलाइट चित्रों के जरिए स्थानिक क्षेत्रों में खानों के परीक्षण के लिए एक विशेष कार्यबल का गठन किया है।
- (x) केन्द्र सरकार ने देश में लौह अयस्क और मैंगनीज अयस्क के व्यापक स्तर पर अवैध खनन की जांच के लिए जस्टिस एम.बी.शाह जांच आयोग गठित किया है।

Permission for mining

†*281. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission for mining of precious minerals available in the country has been given to individuals, institutions and private companies;

(b) if so, the names of the individuals, institutions and private companies along with area of land in hectares allocated to each of them for mining in Madhya Pradesh during the last five years;

(c) the names of the companies of that State whose mining applications are pending with the Central Government; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to stop illegal mining being carried out in the area nearby these mines, reserve forest and the areas around dams?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last five years, so far as grant of mining leases for precious minerals in the State of Madhya Pradesh is concerned, Ministry of Mines has conveyed prior approval of the Central Government under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) [MMDR] Act, 1957 (Act) in one case only, viz. M/s Rio Tinto Exploration India Private Limited. The prior approval is for the mineral diamond over an area of 954 hectares in district Chhattarpur, Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Seventeen applications for mining leases received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh as given at Statement-I (*See* below) are pending with the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Government. Of these, eight applications are for prior approval under Section 5(1) of the Act for minerals iron ore, bauxite and manganese ore. Only in case of eleven Atomic Minerals and ten major minerals, prior approval of the Central Government is sought. Eight applications are for grant of mining leases in excess of the area limits prescribed under Section 6(1)(b) of the Act. The remaining case is for exemption under Rule 59(2) Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 from notification for general public of the area previously held or reserved.

(d) The Central Government in co-ordination with State Governments has taken steps 7are given in Statement-II to curb and check illegal mining in the country.

Statement-I

*Mining Lease proposals received from Government of Madhya Pradesh
pending in the Ministry of Mines as on 15.3.2013*

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Minerals	Area	Village/ District	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	M/s. Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.	Lime Stone	145.484 Hect.	Kothar chhirhai Satna	Query to State Government (SG)
2	M/s Jiwan Lime Chemicals Pvt Ltd	Bauxite, Laterite	4 Hect.	Jariyari Satna	Under process in Ministry.
3	Ms Jaiprakash Associates Limited	Lime Stone	159.945 Hect.	Bihra Rewa	Under process in Ministry.
4	Ms Jaiprakash Associates Limited	Lime Stone	258.867 Hect.	Hinoti Judvani Satna	Under process in Ministry.
5	Ms Grasim Cement Industries Ltd	Lime Stone	965 Hect.	Borlaye DHAR	Under process in Ministry.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Ms Jaiprakash Associates Ltd	Lime Stone	78.863 Hect.	Raghunathpur Satna	Query to SG
7	M/s Prisim Cement Ltd.	Lime Stone	198.863 Hect.	Chulhi Majhiar Satna	Under process in Ministry.
8	M/s. Grasim Cement Industries Ltd.	Lime Stone	6.5 Hect.	Sitapuri Dhar	Under process in Ministry.
9	M/s. Rasmi Metaliks Ltd.	Iron Ore	44 Hect.	forest division Chhatarpur	Under process in Ministry.
10	Shri Neelesh Agarwal	Iron Ore, Laterite	9.28 Hect.	Tapa Jabalpur	Under process in Ministry.
11	Shri G.S.Lime and Minerals.	Iron Ore	4.04 Hect.	Bandarkola Jabalpur	Under process in Ministry.
12	M/s Ganesh . Minerals	Laterite, Fire clay	4.36 Hect.	Amoch Katni	Under process in Ministry.
13	M/s. A.V. Mines Pvt. Ltd.	Manganese Ore	4.91 Hect.	Naganwat bari Jhabua	Under process in Ministry.
14	Shri Mukul Khamparia.	Iron Ore, Manganese Ore	27.61 Hect.	bijaiya Jabalpur	Query to SG
15	Shri Jagdish Patel.	Bauxite	4.46 Hect.	Tikariya Katni	Under process in Ministry.
16	M/s. Hira Power and Steel Ltd.	Manganese Ore	22 Hect.	Ukwa Balaghat	Under process in Ministry.
17	M/s. Shanghi Infrastructure M P. Ltd.	Clay Others	201.22 Hect.	Dhanwahi Haraiya Katni	Under process in Ministry.

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Central Government in co-ordination with State Governments to curb and check illegal mining in the country.

- (i) State Governments advised to frame rules to control illegal mining as per Section 23 C of MMDR Act.
- (ii) State Governments advised to set up State Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (SCEC) to coordinate efforts to control illegal mining by including representatives of Railways, Customs and Port authorities.
- (iii) State Governments advised to adopt an Action Plan with specific measures to detect and control illegal mining including, use of remote sensing, control on traffic, gather market intelligence, registration of end-users and setting up of special cells *etc.*
- (iv) A Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee having representation of major mineral bearing states and concerned Central Government Ministries/Departments was constituted on 4.3.2009. The Committee is holding regular meetings to consider all mining related issues including matters relating to coordination of activities to combat illegal mining.
- (v) Railways have instituted a mechanism to allow transportation of iron ore only against permits issued rake-wise and verified by State Government, apart from taking measures to fence and set up check post at the railway sidings.
- (vi) Customs Department has issued instructions to all its field units to share information on ore export with State Governments.
- (vii) Ministry of Shipping has issued a direction to all major Ports to streamline the verification procedures for movement of consignment by road and rail to Ports for exports.
- (viii) Government has notified amendment in Rule 45 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, on 9.2.2011 making it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockist, exporters and end-users to register with IBM and report their transaction in minerals on monthly basis for a proper end-to-end accounting of minerals.

- (ix) Indian Bureau Mines had constituted Special Task Forces for inspection of mines in endemic areas by taking the help of Satellite imageries.
- (x) The Central Government has set up Justice M. B. Shah Commission to inquire into large scale illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in the country.

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ: सर, कर्नाटक की तरह मध्य प्रदेश भी अवैध उत्खनन का एक चरागाह बनता जा रहा है। वहां बड़े-बड़े लोग इसमें इवॉल्व्ड हैं। वहां जो लॉ एंड ऑर्डर देखते हैं, जो लोकल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन है, उनके ऊपर भी खनन माफियाओं द्वारा समय-समय पर हमले किए जा रहे हैं। मध्य प्रदेश के अंदर एक एस.पी. को मार डाला गया। सर, वहां के एस.डी.एम. और तहसीलदार के ऊपर भी खनन माफियाओं द्वारा हमले हो रहे हैं। सर, वन क्षेत्र के अंदर जितना उनको खनन का रकबा दिया है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आपका क्वेश्चन क्या है?

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ: सर, मैं क्वेश्चन पर आ रही हूं। वन क्षेत्र में जितना रकबा खनन के लिए दिया जाता है, उसके अतिरिक्त जगहों पर भी वे खनन करते हैं, यहां तक कि जो रिजर्व फॉरेस्ट है, उसको भी उन्होंने नहीं छोड़ा है। सभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न (ख) के उत्तर में माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि छतरपुर जिले में विदेशी कम्पनी मैसर्स रियो टिन्टो एक्सप्लोरेशन इंडिया प्रा. लि. को करीब 954 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र दिया है। इसमें मैं आपके माध्यम से यह पूछना चाहती हूं कि यह कार्य विदेशी कम्पनी को क्यों दिया गया? और दूसरे, क्या इसके लिए ओपन टेंडर बुलाए गए या ऑक्शन किया गया और इसमें से कितने कैरट हीरा निकाला? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: सवाल पूछिए।

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर: सर, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: आप जवाब दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... प्रकाश जी, प्लीज़।

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: जहां तक अवैध खनन की बात माननीया सदस्य ने की है, वह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। मैं ऐसा मानता हूं कि यहां बैठे हुए सभी माननीय सदस्यों, अपने सभी एम.एल.एज. और जो सोशल वर्कर्स हैं और देश के जो जाने-माने लोग हैं, उनके लिए भी यह एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात है, क्योंकि इसे रोकना बहुत ही जरूरी हो गया है। शाह कमीशन के जरिए विभिन्न स्टेट्स में इन्क्वायरी करके उसे कैसे रोका जाए, इसके लिए भी प्रयत्न किए गए हैं। वैसे तो इसमें बहुत लम्बी कार्यवाही है, मगर जो अवैध खनन के लिए कार्यवाही की गई उसमें पहले साढ़े तीन वर्षों में मेजर और मॉइनर मिनरल्स के अवैध खनन को चैक करने में राज्य सरकार और

आई.बी.एम. द्वारा 01-04-2009 से 30-09-2012 तक करीब 9,510 एफ.आई.आर. दर्ज की गई हैं और इसमें 2,47,823 गाड़ियां सीज़ की गई हैं। इसके अलावा इसमें 1,060 करोड़ रुपए फाइन भी वसूल किया गया है। उसको कैसे रोका जाए, इसका प्रयत्न भी किया जाता है। अगर इसका सारा ब्यौरा चाहिए तो मैं माननीया सदस्या को भेज दूंगा, क्योंकि यह ब्यौरा बहुत लम्बा है। मैं यहां पढ़कर भी बतला सकता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: आप उनको भेज दीजिएगा।

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: सर, उन्होंने जो दूसरा प्रश्न किया ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: वन क्वेश्चन ऐट ए टाइम प्लीज। एक क्वेश्चन हो गया, अब आप दूसरा सवाल पूछिए।

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: उन्होंने यह भी पूछा है कि इसको फॉरेन कम्पनी को क्यों दिया गया?

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि कम्पनी एक्ट के मुताबिक भारतीय कम्पनी की तरह यह कम्पनी भी रजिस्ट्रेशन करा के एफडीआई में हंड्रेड परसेंट प्रोविजन के जरिए यहां काम कर रही है। उसका पूरा ब्यौरा भी मेरे पास है और अगर वह चाहें तो मैं उन्हें भेज सकता हूँ।

श्री सभापति: आप ऑनरेबल मेम्बर को इसे भेज दीजिएगा।

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधू: सर, मेरे पहले क्वेश्चन का जवाब नहीं आया कि क्या ओपन टेंडर के जरिए इस कम्पनी को खनन की अनुमति दी गयी? सर, उस कम्पनी को बहुत बड़ा एरिया दिया गया है और उससे अलग हटकर भी फॉरेस्ट लैंड पर वह कम्पनी खनन कर रही है। महोदय, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न है कि इस कम्पनी ने उस खनन क्षेत्र से कितने कैरेट हीरा निकाला और उससे सरकार को कितने राजस्व की प्राप्ति हुई है?

श्री सभापति: आप एक सवाल का जवाब दीजिए।

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: अभी खनन शुरू नहीं हुआ है और उसे जो एरिया दिया गया है, वह पहले संशोधन के लिए दिया गया है। सर, संशोधन के ज़रिए 70 वर्ग किलोमीटर एरिया के पूर्वक्षण के लाइसेंस उसे दिए गए। राज्य सरकार से उचित अनुमति मिलने के बाद जांच के दौरान कम्पनी ने 2618.36 कैरेट भार के 33,416 हीरे निकाले। कम्पनी ने जांच के दौरान आस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा और बेल्जियम को विशेष जांच के लिए हीरा और किम्बरलाइट निकालने की अनुमति दी। कम्पनी द्वारा राज्य सरकार को हीरा निकालने के लिए आज तक लगभग 65 लाख रुपए रॉयल्टी के रूप में भुगतान किये गये हैं। कम्पनी ने 384 करोड़ रुपए का निवेश किया है और कुल निवेश 2200 करोड़ रुपए होने की संभावना है।

वर्तमान में कम्पनी द्वारा 400 व्यक्तियों को नियुक्त किया गया है। इससे कम्पनी में 6 से 8 हजार व्यक्तियों को नियुक्ति मिल जाएगी, लेकिन अभी आगे का काम एनवॉयरमेंट डिपार्टमेंट की मंजूरी मिलने के बाद ही वह खनन का काम कर सकेंगे।

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I am quite appreciative of the hon. Minister's reply about illegal mining. But, I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he has examined the rules which have been framed under the MMDR Act, particularly Rule 37, which I have never seen in my practice at the Bar for the last 70 years that there is such an absurd rule which says, "No person shall enter into a *bona fide* agreement — *Bona fide* is the word used, — under which the contractor advances substantial finance to the lessee." Is this the way of stopping illegal mining? You have a contractor who advances money to the poor lessee. The lessee may not have his own money to be able to extract economic wealth for the country and you prohibit it by saying that 'no person shall enter into a *bona fide* agreement.' The word used in Section 37 is "*bona fide*". Please, at least, you make a statement that you will consider this rule and repeal it as early as you can.

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: माननीय सांसद ने जो प्रश्न पूछा है, उसमें संशोधन के बाद नए नियम बन रहे हैं और उनके ज़रिए जो प्रोवीजंस करना जरूरी लगेगा, सरकार करेगी। उसके लिए एक्ट 2011 स्टैंडिंग कमेटी के पास पड़ा हुआ है। उसमें हरेक से पूछा जाता है कि क्या-क्या जरूरी सुधार करने हैं।

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: At least you say that you will consider this rule.

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: जरूर विचार करेंगे।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय मंत्री जी, आपने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि अवैध खनन रोकने के लिए सरकार ने 10 बिन्दुओं पर कार्यवाही की है, लेकिन इसके बावजूद अवैध खनन जारी है। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने निर्देश दिए हैं, फिर चाहे वह बेल्लारी हो या आंध्र प्रदेश व अन्य राज्य हों। इस विवाद का कारण यह है कि राज्य सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार के बीच में यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि खनन की अनुमति देने का अधिकार किसको है। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने इस बारे में तमाम निर्णय दे रखे हैं। मैं माननीया मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि पर्यावरण मंत्रालय, राज्य सरकार और आपका मंत्रालय, क्या ये तीनों बैठकर आपस में कोई एक स्पष्ट नीति तय करेंगे, जिससे खनन की अनुमति देने की नीति सरल बन जाए? इससे अवैध खनन रुकेगा और सरकारों को पैसा भी मिलेगा।

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: सभापति जी, मैं मानता हूँ कि जो अवैध खनन हो रहा है, वह बहुत बुरी चीज़ है, क्योंकि इससे देश का धन लूटा जाता है और कुछ पार्टिकुलर व्यक्तियों के जरिए लूटा जाता है। मैंने पहले ही बताया है कि इसको रोकने की जिम्मेदारी सबकी है, हमारे यहां बैठे हुए सांसदों की भी है, राज्य सरकारों की भी है तथा केन्द्र की भी है। 2005 से केन्द्र सरकार, राज्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर अवैध खनन को नियंत्रित करने के लिए राज्य और जिला स्तर पर गठित कार्य दलों की सतत निगरानी का काम कर रही है। इसके अंतर्गत अभी तक 21 राज्यों में कार्य दल गठित किए गए हैं। रेलवे, सीमा शुल्क, बंदरगाह ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: यह जवाब हमने पढ़ लिया है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: सुन लीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय मंत्री जी, आपने जो जवाब दिया है, उसे हमने पढ़ लिया है, जिसे आप अभी पढ़ रहे हैं। मैं आपसे प्रैक्टिकल चीज़ जानना चाहता हूँ। प्रैक्टिकल बात यह है कि आपने जो लिखा-पढ़ी की है, इस पर कोई अमल नहीं हो रहा है और अवैध खनन जारी है। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के इस बारे में कई आदेश आए हैं। अभी ईट-भट्टों का सारा काम रुक गया था, बाद में पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने कुछ संशोधन किए, तो ये ईट-भट्टे चालू हुए। देश में ये तमाम समस्याएं हैं, जो पर्यावरण से जुड़ी हुई हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि खनन मंत्रालय, पर्यावरण मंत्रालय और राज्य सरकार, क्या ये तीनों बैठकर आपस में खनन के मामले में कोई एक स्पष्ट नीति तैयार करेंगे, यदि हां तो कब तक, यदि नहीं तो क्यों?

श्री दिनशा जे. पटेल: यदि जरूरत पड़ेगी, तो राज्य सरकार, पर्यावरण विभाग और खनन विभाग साथ बैठकर इसके बारे में जरूर सोचेंगे और इसका रास्ता निकालेंगे।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी: सभापति जी, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर आ गया है, विजयलक्ष्मी साधु जी ने वह प्रश्न पूछ लिया है, इसलिए अब मुझे कुछ नहीं पूछना है।

Pension scheme for 100 per cent handicapped persons

*282. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the pension schemes available to 100 per cent handicapped persons especially senior citizens in the country;

(b) the criteria for availing the benefits of those schemes by such senior citizens;

(c) whether States are also providing any such pension or financial support to them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) This Ministry is providing a pension of Rs.300/- per month per beneficiary in the age group of 18 to 79 years as an additional central assistance to handicapped persons with severe or multiple disabilities belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) family, under the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) which is a component of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). This includes senior citizens in the age group of 60 to 79 years as well, with 100 percent disability. From the age of 80 years onwards, these beneficiaries are considered under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and provided with a pension of Rs.500/- per month per beneficiary.

(b) A beneficiary under IGNDPS must be in the age group of 18 to 79 years and must belong to a household below poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. Additionally, the beneficiary should be suffering from severe or multiple disabilities as defined in the "Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995" and the "National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (National Trust Act, 1999) revised from time to time and any other guidelines issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in this regard.

(c) and (d) The funds for NSAP are released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States by the Ministry of Finance and to the UTs by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Identification of beneficiaries, sanction and disbursement of assistance is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The States/UTs have been requested to make at least an equal contribution to this ACA. The pension provided under IGNDPS State-wise is given in Statement.

Statement

*Monthly amount paid per beneficiary under IGNDPS by
State Governments/Union Territory Administrations*

Sl. No.	States	Amount Paid (in Rs.)		
		NSAP	State Pension	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	300	200	500
2	Arunachal Pradesh	300	0	300
3	Assam	300	0	300
4	Bihar	300	0	300
5	Chhattisgarh	300	0	300
6	Goa	300	700	1000
7	Gujarat	300	200	500
8	Haryana	300	350	650
9	Himachal Pradesh	300	150	450
10	Jammu and Kashmir	300	200	500
11	Jharkhand	300	200	500
12	Karnataka	300	700	1000
13	Kerala	300	150	450
14	Madhya Pradesh	300	150	450
15	Maharashtra	300	300	600
16	Manipur	300	0	300
17	Meghalaya	300	0	300
18	Mizoram	300	50	350
19	Nagaland	300	0	300

1	2	3	4	5
20	Orissa	300	0	300
21	Punjab	300	250	550
22	Rajasthan	300	200 (below 75 years) and 450 (75-79 years)	500 (below 75 years) and 750 (75-79 years)
23	Sikkim	300	100	400
24	Tamil Nadu	300	700	1000
25	Tripura	300	200	500
26	Uttar Pradesh	300	100	400
27	Uttarakhand	300	300	600
28	West Bengal	300	100	400
Union Territories				
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	300	700	1000
30	Chandigarh	300	300	600
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	300	300	600
32	Daman and Diu	300	300	600
33	NCT Delhi	300	700 and 900 (for SC/ST/ Minorities)	1000 and 1200 (for SC/ST/ Minorities)
34	Lakshadweep	300	300	600
35	Puducherry	300	700	1000

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: सभापति जी, हमारे देश में गरीबी बहुत ज्यादा है। यहां 8 से 10 करोड़ लोग बुजुर्ग हैं, विकलांग हैं, जब कि संसार में कई ऐसे देश हैं, जिनकी जनसंख्या

इससे कम है। चिंता का विषय यह है कि गरीबी के कारण, बेरोज़गारी के कारण जो गांवों में काम करने वाले लोग हैं, नौजवान लोग हैं, वे खासतौर पर शहरों में पलायन कर जाते हैं। वे अपने बुजुर्गों को वहीं छोड़ देते हैं और नौकरी के लिए, रोज़गार के लिए, जीविकोपार्जन के लिए बाहर चले जाते हैं। बेसहारा बुजुर्ग परेशान हालत में रहते हैं और उनको देखने वाला कोई नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: सर, मैं सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ। अगर मैं कुछ बैकग्राउंड बता दूँ, तभी तो सवाल ज्यादा सार्थक होगा।

श्री सभापति: सप्लीमेंटरी में बैकग्राउंड नहीं, केवल सवाल होता है।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: मैं सवाल ही कर रहा हूँ। मैं इससे जुड़ा हुआ सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूँ। यह बहुत पीड़ा का विषय है। क्या हमने उन बुजुर्गों की हालत देखी है? मंत्री जी ने जवाब दिया कि 18 से 79 वर्ष की आयु तक के बुजुर्ग को हम 300 रुपए दे रहे हैं, उससे अधिक आयु वाले लोगों को हम 500 रुपए दे रहे हैं। क्या 300 रुपए पेंशन में यानी प्रतिदिन 10 रुपए के हिसाब से किसी व्यक्ति का पेट भर सकता है? क्या उसकी हालत पर गौर करने का काम मंत्री जी ने किया है? हालत यह है कि ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप क्वेश्चन पूछिए, प्लीज़।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: मैं क्वेश्चन पूछ रहा हूँ।

श्री सभापति: देखिए, अगर आप इतना समय एक सवाल पर लेंगे ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: सर, मैं समय नहीं ले रहा हूँ, बस क्वेश्चन कर रहा हूँ। हमारे राज्य में, जहां से मैं आता हूँ, वहां गरीबी रेखा के नीचे गुज़र-बसर करने वाले लोगों की संख्या 60 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा है, लेकिन उनको पेंशन के रूप में केवल 300 रुपये दिए जा रहे हैं। वैसे यह और बात है कि बिहार ग्रोथ रेट में दुनिया में नंबर वन पर चला गया है, गरीबी खत्म हो गई है वहां! ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: सवाल क्या है भाई?

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: सर, मैं बोल रहा हूँ। वहां एक रुपया भी नहीं मिलता है। मंत्री जी ने कहा कि विभिन्न राज्यों में कहीं 700 रुपए, कहीं 800 रुपए, कहीं एक हजार रुपए मिलते हैं ...(व्यवधान).... लेकिन बिहार में मात्र 300 रुपए मिलते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, you will lose your supplementary, be careful.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: अब मैं क्वेश्चन कर रहा हूँ। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One supplementary has been taken off your right.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: मंत्री जी, आप यह बताएं कि क्या सरकार पेंशन का अधिकार जैसा कानून बनाएगी, ताकि सभी के लिए एक समान पेंशन योजना चलाई जा सके?

श्री जयराम रमेश: सभापति महोदय, इस विषय पर इसी सभा में ज़ीरो ऑवर में एक चर्चा हुई थी, तब मैंने कहा था कि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा जो तीन महत्वपूर्ण पेंशन योजनाएं चलाई जाती हैं - बुजुर्गों के लिए, विधवाओं के लिए और विकलांगों के लिए, उसमें परिवर्तन लाने की ज़रूरत है और वह मामला अभी विचाराधीन है। मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूँ कि मैं उन्हीं के विचार का हूँ कि जो पेंशन हम आज देते हैं, विकलांगों और विधवाओं के लिए तीन सौ रुपए प्रति महीना, बुजुर्गों के लिए दू सौ रुपए और अस्सी वर्ष से ऊपर पांच सौ रुपए, तो यह अपर्याप्त है। इसको बढ़ाने की ज़रूरत है। इस प्रस्ताव पर हम विचार कर रहे हैं और अगले दो-तीन महीने में हम ज़रूर इस पर कार्यवाई करेंगे।

महोदय, इसके अलावा मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अलग-अलग राज्य सरकारें भी अपने बजट में बुजुर्गों, विकलांगों और विधवाओं को पेंशन देती हैं, खास तौर से दक्षिण भारत के राज्यों में जैसे केरल, तमिलनाडु, आन्ध्र प्रदेश और यहां उत्तर में गोवा, दिल्ली, हरियाणा जैसे राज्यों में, जो राज्य के बजट से पैसा दिया जाता है, वह केन्द्र से भी बहुत ज्यादा है। मिसाल के तौर पर हम आन्ध्र प्रदेश को "नेशनल सोशल असिस्टेंस प्रोग्राम" के तहत पेंशन के लिए करीब 600 करोड़ रुपए हर साल देते हैं, पर राज्य सरकार अपने ही बजट से 2,100 करोड़ रुपए देती है। बिहार में, मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार, विकलांगों के लिए एक अलग प्रावधान किया गया है, पर जो सवाल माननीय सदस्य ने किया है, वह विकलांगों के बारे में है और बिहार के जो आंकड़े हमारे पास मौजूद हैं, उनके अनुसार बिहार में इस साल करीब 22,000 विकलांगों को पेंशन दी जाएगी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिनट... मैं जानता हूँ कि यह अपर्याप्त है क्योंकि विकलांगों की परिभाषा बहुत सीमित है। जो परिभाषा हमने अपनाई है, उसमें हम कहते हैं कि पेंशन मिलने के लिए अस्सी प्रतिशत से भी ऊपर विकलांगता होनी चाहिए, लेकिन मैं इस विचार का हूँ कि विकलांग की परिभाषा ऐसी होनी चाहिए कि चालीस प्रतिशत से ऊपर की विकलांगता को पेंशन दी जाए और जो पेंशन हम देते हैं, वह कुछ न कुछ डिग्निफाइड पेंशन होनी चाहिए। मैं बिल्कुल यह मानता हूँ कि तीन सौ रुपए पेंशन देने से हम किसी का पेट नहीं भर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: माननीय मंत्री जी, केंद्र सरकार तो कर रही है, लेकिन राज्य सरकार क्या कर रही है, हम यह जानना चाहेंगे?

श्री सभापति: नहीं, गुप्ता जी, बैठ जाइए। It is not your turn. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not your turn. ...*(Interruptions)*... राम कृपाल जी, अगर आप एक मिनट में दूसरा सप्लिमेंटरी पूछ सकते हैं, तो पूछिए।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: सर, हमसे आप इतने नाराज़ क्यों हैं?

श्री सभापति: इसलिए कि आपने एक सप्लिमेंटरी पूछने में पांच मिनट ले लिए हैं।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: सर, ऐसा नहीं है। मैं आपके आदेश का अनुपालन करूंगा। महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने बिहार राज्य के आंकड़े प्रस्तुत किए हैं। पिछले वर्षों में आप बिहार राज्य को तो तीन सौ रुपए यहां से दे रहे हैं, लेकिन बिहार राज्य में एक भी पैसा अपने राजकोष से नहीं दिया है। ऐसे और भी राज्य हैं, लेकिन बिहार उनमें प्रमुख है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: मान्यवर, यह ज़ीरो स्टेट है।

श्री सभापति: आप प्लीज़ बैठ जाइए।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: सर, लिस्ट में दिया है "ज़ीरो"। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: देखिए गुप्ता जी, सबके पास एक कागज़ मौजूद है, आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ कि उन्होंने विकलांगों और बुजुर्गों के लिए पैसे बढ़ाने की बात कही है, तो क्या मंत्री जी, आप जो तीन सौ रुपए की राशि दे रहे हैं, उसको बढ़ाकर दो से तीन हज़ार रुपए करेंगे, ताकि बुजुर्गों और विकलांग अपना जीविकोपार्जन कर सकें?

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, मैं देश का कुबेर नहीं हूँ, तिजोरी की चाबी मेरे हाथ में नहीं है। मैं मंत्रिमंडल में सिर्फ प्रस्ताव रख सकता हूँ, इस पर मंत्रिमंडल विचार करेगा और मैं ज़रूर उनको आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि आज जो पेंशन का अमाउंट है और जो परिभाषा है, इसमें परिवर्तन लाने के लिए हम वचनबद्ध हैं। मैंने सारे सांसदों को यही ऐशयोरेंस भी दिया है। सर, बिहार के मामले में जो सवाल उठा है, तो हम सभी राज्यों को सलाह देते हैं कि जो पेंशन हम देते हैं, वही अमाउंट आप कंट्रीब्यूट कीजिए, यानी अगर हम तीन सौ रुपए दे रहे हैं तो आपकी भागीदारी भी तीन सौ रुपए की होनी चाहिए। कई राज्यों में ऐसा नहीं हो पाता है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: आप बिहार के बारे में बताइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री जयराम रमेश: मैं बिहार के बारे में बात करता हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: प्लीज़, आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please do not interrupt.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, why can't he tell about Bihar? He is just beating about the bush. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: मैं बिहार पर ही आ रहा हूँ। ...(*व्यवधान*)... सर, मैं बिहार के दर्द और पीड़ा को समझ सकता हूँ। बिहार में जो हम 300 रुपए देते हैं, उसका कोई *matching contribution* राज्य सरकार से नहीं आता है। ऐसा कई राज्यों में है, क्योंकि हरेक राज्य ...(*व्यवधान*)... आप मुझे खत्म करने दीजिए। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

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

श्री जयराम रमेश: आप मुझे खत्म करने दीजिए। ...(*व्यवधान*)... आप मेरी बात सुनिए। मैं किसी राज्य की आलोचना नहीं कर रहा हूँ, क्योंकि हरेक राज्य सरकार चाहती है कि वह ऐसा श्रेय ले कि उसके बजट से पेंशन दी जा रही है। केन्द्र सरकार की पेंशन का जो 300 रुपया है, उसका कोई *contribution* बिहार सरकार से नहीं आता है, परन्तु अलग से प्रावधान बिहार बजट में विकलांगों के लिए किया गया है। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार विकलांगों के लिए बिहार के बजट में 200 रुपए प्रति महीना पेंशन का प्रावधान किया गया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shri Venkaiah Naidu. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please. Next question, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... प्रेम चन्द जी, प्लीज़ बैठ जाइए। ...(*व्यवधान*)... Please sit down.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: सर, भारत सरकार से ज्यादा जानकारी हमारे मित्र प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता जी के पास है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shivanandji, please.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: ज्यादा जानकारी इसलिए है कि ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, we are not here to degrade any State. Every State is independent in this country. They have got their own programmes. I agree with the Minister that every State has got its own programme and its own way of taking care of these people.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that Dr. Mihir Shah of the Planning Commission Task Force had said that the pension for the aged and the physically handicapped should be Rs. 1,950 per month. We also had the Tendulkar Committee Report which said it should be a minimum of Rs. 950

per month on the basis of the increased inflation. The Minister was saying that it was under consideration. My point is that the inflation has been going up day after day. He has already agreed that Rs. 300 per month is just nothing for the aged and the physically handicapped. That being the case, will the Government act on the recommendations of the Task Force of the Planning Commission and on the recommendations of the Tendulkar Committee? Also, exactly how much time will he take to take a final decision in this regard?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister was expressing his helplessness saying that he was only a Minister, and he had to go to the Cabinet, *etc.* But that is the system, Sir. As far as the House is concerned, you are the Government and you are responsible to the House. So, please be clear, by what time will you take the final decision in this regard?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I don't think the hon. Member was present when I had responded in Zero Hour. I was more than clear. I had said that the Mihir Shah Committee Report has been submitted and it has made many recommendations. I had also announced on the floor of the House four or five basic principles for changing the current pension programme. Let me repeat those principles. First, we are in favour of universalizing pensions with exclusion criteria, rather than confining it only to BPL families because we all know what the credibility is of the BPL lists in various States; two, we want to redefine widows. Right now widow pension is available only for widows in the age-group of 40 to 59. The proposal is to provide pensions to widows above the age of 18 and not above 40. Three, the proposal is to provide pensions for single destitute women who live separately. Four, the proposal is to redefine disability, not on the basis of 80 per cent disability but 40 per cent disability. Five, there is the proposal to link the pension to an inflation index, like we have linked the MNREGA wages. Sir, the total implication of this is, कि आज जो हमारे पेंशन कार्यक्रम हैं, वे हर साल करीब 2.7 करोड़ लाभार्थियों तक पहुंचते हैं। इस पर हम करीब साढ़े 9 हजार करोड़ रुपया खर्च करते हैं। ये जो पांच प्रस्ताव मैंने आपके सामने अभी रखे हैं, अगर इनकी मंजूरी मिलेगी, तो 2.7 करोड़ नहीं, बल्कि हर साल केन्द्र सरकार से करीब 9 करोड़ लाभार्थियों तक पेंशन पहुंचेगी। सर, जैसा कि मैंने कहा है कि इस पर खर्च होगा और इस पर कार्यवाही होने की जरूरत है। मुझे वित्त मंत्री जी से बात करनी है, मुझे प्रधान मंत्री जी से बात करनी है, लेकिन मैं अपनी ओर से यह जरूर कह सकता हूं कि हम मिहिर शाह समिति की सिफारिशों को सकारात्मक ढंग से देखते हैं और हम इनको ले जाएंगे।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am not asking any question. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am only seeking your guidance. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has said that he has made a proposal and it is for the Cabinet to take a final decision. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is speaking for the Government. My specific point was that in what time-frame they are going to implement this scheme. If every Minister..

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I will answer your question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Please bear with me for a second. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are more intelligent, I know that, to circumvent the issue. My point is that if every Minister says like this, then the House will not be able to come to any conclusion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a decision-making process. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are well aware of it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I am not circumventing the issue. The hon. Minister has been my predecessor in my Ministry. He could have very well implemented the recommendations he wants to recommend now. But it does not matter, better late than never. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have said on the floor of the House that within the next six weeks, we will take a final decision on restructuring of the pension programme. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Respected Sir, while understanding the concern of the hon. Minister towards the physically and mentally challenged population of the country, through you, I would like to know from him about the scope of easing the conditions of certification and facilitating the physically challenged persons to get certificates much nearer to their residence such as Block Offices and Mandal Offices. Is there any thinking on the part of the Union Government to guide the State Governments to have a small committee at the Mandal or Block level for issuing of the certificates by the revenue and medical officials? Is there any scope to widen the pension scheme towards the mentally challenged persons?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, the suggestion is very welcome. Under the present circumstance, getting the certificate for 80 per cent disability is exceedingly cumbersome. We have to simplify the procedures. One of the directions is to

redefine the disability with 40 per cent. I do believe that by making it universal with exclusion criteria, we would also be making sure that many disabled, who do not come under the BPL list today, will become eligible for pensions. Sir, there is a very serious problem on pension that I had mentioned earlier in my intervention a couple days ago that except in four or five States pensions do not get paid every month. Orissa gets paid it every month, Andhra Pradesh gets it paid every month, Tamil Nadu gets it paid every month, Haryana gets it paid every month but in most States in India, pensions get paid once in six months or once in seven months. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs. We must ensure that on a designated day, either the first of the month or fifteenth of the month, as the case may be, pensions are paid monthly to the aged, to the widows and to the disabled. The only answer is the Direct Benefit Transfer System. I hope that once the Direct Benefit Transfer System gets rolled out across the country, pensioners do not have to go to banks and post-offices to withdraw their pensions but the pensions will be paid to them on their doorsteps on a fixed date every month.

प्रो. एस. पी. सिंह बघेल: सभापति महोदय, मैं जो क्वेश्चन पूछना चाह रहा था, उसका लगभग जवाब आ गया है। विधवा होना, विकलांग होना और वृद्ध होना एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है। दुर्घटनाओं के द्वारा विकलांगों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है और आज जो आदमी अपनी जिंदगी का दिन गुजार रहा है, वह प्रतिदिन वृद्ध होता जा रहा है और विधवाओं की संख्या भी बढ़ती जा रही है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आप लगातार राज्य सरकारों के टच में रहते हैं और जानते हैं कि उनके यहां इनकी संख्या कितनी हो गई है? यद्यपि आपने जवाब दिया है, लेकिन मेरा निजी अनुभव है कि भी वृद्धों को, विकलांगों को और विधवाओं को साल में दो या तीन बार पेंशन मिलती है। समाज कल्याण विभाग और विकलांग विभाग के चक्कर काटते-काटते उनकी पेंशन का बहुत सा पैसा आने-जाने में खर्च हो जाता है। ये समाज के सबसे वंचित व विपन्न लोग हैं, आप उनके लिए यह कब तक तय करेंगे कि यह पैसा प्रति माह उनके खाते में फिक्स्ड डेट पर पहुंच जाए, ताकि उन्हें समाज कल्याण विभाग और विकलांग विभाग के चक्कर काट-काट कर, अपना किराया जाया न करना पड़े?

श्री जयराम रमेश: सभापति जी, विकलांगों, बुजुर्गों और विधवाओं को प्रति महीना पेंशन मिले, इसकी जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार की होती है। अगर राज्य सरकार तय करे, तो मिलनी चाहिए। जैसा कि मैंने आपसे कहा कि ओडिशा, आंध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, हरियाणा आदि ऐसे राज्य हैं, जहां पर विकलांगों, बुजुर्गों और विधवाओं को प्रति महीना पेंशन मिलती है। पर

अफसोस की बात है कि ज्यादातर राज्यों में, खास तौर से जो गरीब राज्य है, जहां पेंशन की ज्यादा जरूरत पड़ती है, जैसे बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़ आदि, वहां पर इन लोगों को प्रति महीने पेंशन नहीं मिल पाती है। इनको यहां पर छह महीने, सात महीने या आठ महीने में एक बार पेंशन मिलती है। मैं इसी कारण से कहता हूँ कि हम इसको 300 तक तो बढ़ाएंगे ही, इसको इम्प्लेशन के साथ इंडेक्स करेंगे, परंतु इनको प्रति महीना पेंशन दिलवाना सबसे बड़ी चुनौती है। इसकी प्राथमिक जिम्मेदारी राज्यों की होती है। मैं हरेक राज्य के साथ सम्पर्क में हूँ और मैंने हरेक राज्य से इसके बारे में कहा है। अभी पहले चरण में तो हम राशि सीधे खाते में डालते हैं। यह बैंक के खाते में जाती है या पोस्ट ऑफिस के खाते में जाती है। यह आप भी जानते हैं कि खाते में पेंशन निकलवाने में बहुत मुसीबतें आती हैं, क्योंकि कई जिलों में बैंक की कमी है, पोस्ट ऑफिस की कमी है, इसीलिए हमारा, केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से यह प्रयास है कि अगले एक साल में हम एक ऐसी प्रणाली अपनाएं ताकि हम लाभार्थी के दरवाजे तक डायरेक्टली पेंशन पहुंचा सकें। इसके लिए मैं राज्य सरकारों के साथ सम्पर्क में हूँ और मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि एक, डेढ़ साल के अंदर सारे के सारे पेंशन अमाउंट सीधे लाभार्थी परिवार तक पहुंचेंगे। मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूँ कि आज व्यवस्था में कमी है। यह पैसा केंद्र सरकार से राज्य सरकारों के वित्त मंत्रालय को जाता है, राज्यों के वित्त मंत्रालय से सामाजिक कल्याण या ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय तक पहुंचना, वहां से जिलों तक पहुंचना, जिलों से बी.डी.ओ. तक पहुंचना और बी.डी.ओ. से लाभार्थी तक पहुंचना, इस पूरी प्रक्रिया में महीनों लग जाते हैं। मैंने इस पर भी ध्यान दिया है और हमारा यह विचार है कि हम पेंशन का यह पैसा यहां से सीधा राज्य के ग्रामीण या कल्याण विकास मंत्रालय से पहुंचाएं, जो वहां से सीधा लाभार्थी तक पहुंचे। इसमें अगला एक-डेढ़ साल लगेगा, क्योंकि यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन है। इसमें कई मंत्रालय शामिल हैं। जैसा कि माननीय वेंकैया नायडु जी ने कहा है, हम जरूर यह प्रयास कर रहे हैं और सरकार की मंशा भी है कि पेंशन व्यवस्था में परिवर्तन लाए। आप भरोसा रखिए हम यह जरूर लाकर दिखाएंगे।

Use of Black Money in elections

*283. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, during the last five years, maximum amount of black money meant for election campaigns was seized from Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of black money seized from each State in the country;
- (c) how Government is going to utilize this money; and
- (d) what effective steps Government is going to take to curb black money during elections, particularly during the 2014 elections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Election Commission has intimated that elaborate mechanisms for monitoring of Election Expenditure were first adopted by it in Bihar Assembly Election, 2010, and after evaluating their impact, the Commission further decided to enforce similar measures in subsequent General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry held in 2011, Assembly Elections held in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, Goa, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh in 2012 and Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura in 2013 and bye-elections. During recent elections held in 2011, 2012 and 2013, details of unaccounted money seized from each state in the country are as under:

Assam - Rs. 2.24 Crore

West Bengal - Rs. 8.54 Crore

Kerala - Rs. 1.14 Crore

Tamil Nadu - Rs. 36.54 Crore

Puducherry - Rs. 0.12 Crore

Uttar Pradesh - Rs. 36.29 Crore

Punjab - Rs. 11.51 Crore

Goa - Rs. 0.60 Crore

Manipur - Rs. 1.08 Crore

Andhra Pradesh Bye-poll-2012 (18 AC + 1 PC from Nellore) - Rs. 30.65 Crore

Uttarakhand - Rs. 1.30 Crore

Gujarat - Rs. 2.18 Crore

Himachal Pradesh - Rs. 0.10 Crore

Tripura - Rs. 0.051 Crore

Meghalaya - Rs. 0.73 Crore

Nagaland - Rs. 3.36 Crore

(c) The Election Commission has intimated that the cash seized is either deposited in State Treasury for orders of the court or handed over to Income-tax Department for taking further action under Income-tax Act; and wherever, the seized money is linked with poll offences, complaint has been filed in the court.

(d) The Government and the Election Commission are seriously concerned about the growing influence of "Black Money" in elections. The Election Commission held meetings on 4th October 2010 and subsequently, with all recognized political parties and discussed issues related to use of "Money Power" and issued comprehensive instructions for control of money power during recent elections.

The Election Commission's instructions were challenged in the Gujarat High Court in W.P. No. 231/2012, which passed order on 09.11.2012 restricting the powers of Election Commission of India, to order search and seizure of cash. Subsequently, the Election Commission filed Special Leave Petition before Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order of the High Court and keeping in view the interim direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *vide* its judgment dated 30.11.2012 in SLP No. CC20906 of 2012 (Election Commission of India Vs. Bhagyoday Janparishad & Ors), the Election Commission has modified its instructions.

The measures taken by Election Commission include opening of separate division in the Commission to oversee election expenditure, appointment of Expenditure Observers and Assistant Expenditure Observers, deployment of Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams to keep vigil over movement of cash linked with candidates or political parties, or items of bribe meant for inducement of elections, liquor and other illicit items during election and their seizure, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee to keep a watch on media advertisements and suspected cases of paid news, Maintenance of Shadow Observation Register and Folder of evidence in respect of each candidate, Video Surveillance Team to oversee major items of expenditure, opening of separate bank account by the candidate for the purpose of election expenses and involving the Income Tax Department to keep vigil over movement of cash through the airports, hotels, financial brokers etc. in the constituency during election process. The Election Commission has also issued instruction to all candidates and political parties to avoid cash transactions during election process.

Government of India has been receiving suggestions/ recommendations on electoral reforms from time to time from various bodies including the Election Commission, political parties, eminent persons, State Legislatures and public bodies. In the light of the experience gained during elections and suggestions received from time to time, the successive Governments have taken measures to bring electoral reforms by amending the elections laws.

To carry out further reforms and with a view *inter-alia* to eliminate the use of unaccounted money and money power in elections, the issue of electoral reforms in its entirety has been referred to the Law Commission with a request to consider the issue after taking into consideration the reports of various committees in the past, views of the Election Commission and other stake holders and suggest comprehensive measures for changes in the law. The Law Commission has been requested to give concrete suggestions by April this year. The Election Commission has offered its views on some aspect of the suggested electoral reforms. On receipt of the recommendations of the Law Commission, matter will be further examined in consultation with the political parties and other stake holders.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for his elaborate answer. My first supplementary is regarding the usage of black money in elections. On usage of black money, the reply that has been given by the hon. Minister elaborately says that in the last few years — you have given the answer from 2010 onwards — whichever elections have taken place in the States, even the by-polls in Andhra Pradesh that has unearthed some Rs. 30-odd crores or so, the usage of black money is very rampant and whatever measures are being contemplated by the Government are not sufficient. Election Commission will be facing a real acid taste in the general elections which are due within a year or so. For years together, right from seventies onwards, the Joint Parliamentary Committee, a few committees like Dinesh Goswami Committee and even the 1999 Law Commission Report have suggested reforms and also how to curb the usage of black money in the elections.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put the question please.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Sir, I am putting the question. In 2004, while addressing the Joint Session of Parliament, the then President had also announced regarding the partial State-funding of elections which was recommended by the Law Commission too. The Minister has given that it is, again, being referred to the Law

Commission and measures whatever are being contemplated are expected by April, 2013 or so. My question is: Will the Minister see that it is put on a fast track and usage of black money is really curbed which would help the electorate in the country? Because, today, the voters are taken for a ride for a few amount of money. They do not understand the power of their voting. They do not understand that by voting for short-term gains, they are putting their long-term future at stake.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for asking a very pertinent question, a question that goes to the root of the purity of our electoral process.

Sir, successive Governments have been working on ways and means to gradually eliminate the use of black money and unaccounted wealth in elections. Sir, the Election Commission, for the first time, in 2010, started an elaborate mechanism for monitoring the use of black money in elections, and we have statistics from 2011 to 2013 which have been given out in my reply, which show the most excessive use of unaccounted wealth and expenses in elections come from number one—Tamil Nadu, number two — Uttar Pradesh, number three —Andhra Pradesh; and we have 15 States whose details have been given.

Sir, as far as the future course of action and the roadmap for the future are concerned, I can assure the hon. Member that we, this Government, have taken very concrete measures to take forward the process of consultation which has been going on for the past several decades, if I am say so, since 1972, at least, when the Tarkunde Committee first dwelt on this subject. I have asked the Law Commission to give me a concrete set of suggestions by April, by next month. I have given him three months, three months ago; and they have promised to get back to us with a concrete set of suggestions, which, Mr. Chairman, Sir, will then be put for consultations with Leaders of all political parties with a view to arriving at a broad political consensus and then move forward accordingly. Any legislation on electoral reforms must have broad acceptance with the political leadership of all parties.

As far as the State funding of elections is concerned, that was one of the proposals that has been doing the rounds from the last several years; but there is no consensus on the fact whether the introduction of State funding of elections will actually help to eliminate the use of black money in elections. There is also no

consensus on what is the extent of State funding that is either permissible or should be permissible or is indeed affordable. These are extremely complex matters. There have been stakeholder consultations throughout the country by my predecessor. I am also in consultations with the Election Commission of India, with the Law Commission, and I would like to assure this august House that every sincere effort will be made to ensure that we give to our country a democracy that is pure at its roots, namely, its electoral process is such that eliminates the use of excessive black money and thereby eliminates the possibility of certain kind of people to invade the electoral process.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: Sir, my second question is, again, regarding the use of black money through media by way of paid news. Of late, this has been a real problem which is faced in various States, by various candidates and various parties too. Now, the Press Council of India has also reported what has happened in recent Assembly polls in one of the States 'that paid news is creating real problems and self-regulation which has been exercised by the Press itself, media itself, is proving a bit ineffective.' Sir, elections are just a year away. So, I want to know, through you, Sir, from the Minister what measures will be taken in consultation with the Election Commission of India to curb the menace of 'paid news' in the forthcoming elections.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, it is without doubt true that in recent years, this issue of 'paid news' has surfaced and has been treated in certain fora and in courts as one of the kinds of genre of corrupt electoral practices. This has been considered by the Group of Ministers. The Press Council of India has recommended that suitable amendments in the Representation of People Act may be effectuated in order to make the 'paid news syndrome' as actionable and specifically made as a corrupt practice. I personally believe there is a great weight and merit in the suggestion and I have no doubt that very soon a concrete decision will be taken. It has engaged the attention of various institutions in the country. It is a reality and that reality has to be faced. I am, indeed, most grateful to the hon. Member for having raised this issue. We are looking at it and, before long, a concrete policy in this regard would be formulated to ensure that the paid news syndrome does not vitiate the electoral process.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for giving certain data relating to illegal money seized in the elections. But the point is, if you consider its total value, it is not even one-tenth of the iceberg of the total

money involved. It is only the tip of the iceberg. No one knows the amount of black money involved, but there are certain estimates that the total money involved at about Rs.1.4 trillion. My question is, will the Government consider making the Election Commission run a concurrent audit at the time of elections, on a random basis — it is not possible to do it wholesale— to check how-much money is being spent, as the elections are going on?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, a very elaborate mechanism has been put in place by the Election Commission, and I must say that the Election Commission has done an outstanding job in ensuring that there is real-time and effective monitoring of electoral expenses while the elections are on. Sir, I would like to reiterate what I have stated in my reply. The measures taken by the Election Commission in this regard include opening of a separate division in the Commission to oversee election expenditure, appointment of expenditure observers and assistant expenditure observers, deployment of flying squads and static surveillance teams to keep vigil over movement of cash linked with candidates or political parties or items of bribe meant for inducement of elections, liquor and other illicit items during elections and their seizure, media certification and monitoring committees to keep a watch on media advertisements and suspected cases of paid news, maintenance of shadow observation register and folder of evidence in respect of each candidate, video surveillance team to oversee major items of expenditure, opening of separate bank account by the candidate for the purpose of election expenses and involving the Income Tax Department. So, a comprehensive set of measures have already been introduced. They have been in application in the last several elections, and I think, as a result of these measures, the issue of use of unaccounted money in elections has actually become more visible and is a subject matter of public debate. Also, an effective monitoring mechanism to the extent it is possible within the existing policy framework has, in fact, been put in place.

SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, corporate funding is a major source of black money in elections. I think, if corporate funding is banned, corporates are asked to give it to the Government, and Government uses that money to aid the States in elections, it would prove helpful. My question is whether Government would consider banning direct corporate funding to political parties, and instead, collect the money and use it for State-funding or State-level assistance in elections.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, the question will arise only after we decide upon State-funding of elections. Once a view is taken that State-funding of

elections is the preferred mode of funding of elections, then, the issue of asking the corporates to fund a particular part of the electoral expenses could be one of the mechanisms considered. There is already a suggestion that there could be a kind of a cess or tax on corporates with a view to creating a corpus within the Government system. But that is a function of a prior decision which has to be taken whether, as a matter of policy, State-funding of elections has to be introduced or not, and no decision has been taken on that aspect yet. I do hope that after I receive the recommendations of the Law Commission, I would be able to take the matter, threadbare, to the leaders of political parties, with a view to finding common ground to proceed ahead.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Seelam. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, black money in politics is a very vital issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... It has been observed that expenditure per candidate is on the increase. I am happy that the hon. Minister has explained various measures. But these are all on paper. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if there is any impact because of these measures. Is there any impact on the expenditure? Is there any study that because of your initiatives the black money has come down?

Otherwise, could you please quantify, State-wise, money seized during the elections? In some States, subject to correction, there is a ten-fold increase every year in the use of black money. The impact of this is that Rs.16 lakh crores have been spent in this country every year. Most of the money is spent at the State level. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: The Member of Legislative Assembly, for instance, spends money, say, Rs.10 crores to get elected. Then he cites shamelessly how this money could be recovered. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: I think that it is becoming institutionalized. What is the impact of these various initiatives taken by the Government and the Election Commission? Did you commence any study? Do you have any empirical evidence that by virtue of these measures the instances of use of black money have come down? If not, what are the serious implications and serious measures the Government is contemplating?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, it is nobody's case that all is well with the electoral system. I start it by saying that we need to purify the electoral processes and rid the system of the influence of unaccounted wealth which is a reality. But it is equally true that having been seized of this matter for a while the Election Commission, in exercise of its disciplinary power, under Article 324 has taken initiatives. These initiatives may not be fully adequate or may not be fully sufficient. But the fear in the mind of the candidate that Election observers chasing them in the Lok Sabha elections is certainly there. To that extent, the brazen use or the open use of the excessive wealth has certainly come down to an extent. It is not my case, however, that we can rest with our laurels. We need to move ahead. We need to find the law that would be credible and effective and would certainly ensure, over a period of time, the elimination of black money.

*284. The questioner (Shri N.K. Singh) was absent.

Financial assistance to Bihar for dams

*284. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend financial assistance to Bihar for the construction of dams' inundation canals on flood prone rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to undertake negotiations with Nepal for arriving at an effective solution for the problem of flooding in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No such proposal for construction of dams' inundation canals in the State of Bihar has been received by the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has been having continuous dialogue and negotiations with the Government of Nepal through various bilateral mechanisms on matters related to flooding in the State of Bihar. An Indo-Nepal Joint Ministerial Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) has been set up by both the countries which is headed by Ministers of Water Resources. The first

meeting of JMCWR was held on 15th February, 2012 wherein various issues related to water resources Sector including construction of large storage reservoirs, like Sapta Kosi and Pancheshwar Multi Purpose Project *etc* and flood management issues of Bihar were discussed. Besides, flood related issues of Bihar are also discussed in the meetings of Indo-Nepal Joint committee on Water Resources (JCWR) which has so far met 7 times and its last meeting was held 24-25 January, 2013 at Kathmandu.

In addition to above, there are 8 other Task specific Indo-Nepal Joint Committees which also meet regularly and discuss various issues related to flood management in the States bordering Nepal including the State of Bihar.

Both the countries have already agreed for strengthening of the embankments of Bagmati, Kamla, Lalbakeya and Khando rivers and to extend the embankments along these rivers to higher ground in Nepal in order to control spilling of flood water of these rivers. Besides, the flood protection works on Gandak and Kosi projects in Nepal are already being maintained by Indian side. The bilateral Committees also meet regularly to address the issues about implementation of these works.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questioner is not present. Let the answer be given.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: सर, इस प्रश्न को बड़े ध्यान से पढ़ा जाए। बिहार के संदर्भ में जो उत्तर प्राप्त हुआ है, वह डैम्स के कंस्ट्रक्शन और नदियों पर बांध बनाए जाने के संबंध में है। मैं माननीया मंत्री जी को बताना चाहूंगा कि इस सवाल का जो जवाब आया है, उसमें इन्होंने उत्तर दिया है कि डैम के निर्माण के बारे में बिहार सरकार से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। इन्होंने कहा है, 'No such proposal for construction of dams' inundation canals in the State of Bihar has been received by the Government.' सर, यह सवाल ही कुछ और है। इसमें यह कहीं नहीं कहा गया है कि बिहार ने वहां प्रस्ताव भेजा है। आप अपने उत्तर के अंतिम पैराग्राफ को पढ़ें, जिसमें आपने स्पष्ट रूप से यह कहा है कि 'Both the countries have already agreed for strengthening of the embankments of Bagmati, Kamla, Lalbakeya and Khando rivers and to extend the embankments along these rivers to higher ground in Nepal in order to control spilling of flood water of these rivers.' सर, इसका मतलब क्या हुआ? यह भारत और नेपाल के बीच में एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समझौता है, जिसमें या तो भारत की सरकार के द्वारा भारत की योजना के तहत पैसे दिए जाने हैं या नेपाल की सरकार के द्वारा नेपाल की योजना के तहत पैसे दिए जाने हैं, फिर इसमें बिहार सरकार की भूमिका क्या है? यह दो देशों के बीच का समझौता है, तो उस समझौते के तहत बिहार सरकार प्रस्ताव बनाकर थोड़े ही भेजेगी? यह तो केन्द्र

सरकार को तय करना है कि आप दो देशों के बीच में कौन-कौन से समझौते करते हैं, उस समझौते के बाद किस देश को कितना पैसा देते हैं और उसके बाद निर्माण होता है। सर, इस प्रश्न का उत्तर जिसने भी बनाया है, इसमें सरकार ने पूरी तौर से बिहार को गुमराह किया है, देश को गुमराह किया है और सदन को गुमराह किया है। कृपया इसका स्पष्टीकरण दें कि जब दो देशों के बीच कोई समझौता होता है, तो क्या राज्य सरकारें उस प्रस्ताव को बना कर केन्द्र सरकार को देती है और केन्द्र सरकार उन प्रस्तावों को स्वीकृति देकर दो देशों के बीच में समझौते को लागू करती है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, put your question.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: सर, इससे स्पष्ट प्रश्न और क्या हो सकता है। यह उत्तर बिल्कुल गलत है। बिहार प्रस्ताव क्या बनाकर देगी, जब केन्द्र सरकार को यह तय करना है कि इस योजना के लिए दो देशों के बीच में पैसा दिया जाए। यह गलत उत्तर क्यों दिया गया है और इस प्रकार से सदन को और बिहार को गुमराह करने का क्यों प्रयास किया गया और इसका सही उत्तर क्या होगा, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ?

श्री हरीश रावत: महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि वह प्रश्नकर्ता के प्रश्न के पार्ट - a और पार्ट - b को देखें, जिसमें उन्होंने सवाल किया है, "(a) whether Government proposes to extend financial assistance to Bihar for the construction of dams' inundation canals on flood prone rivers;". सर, मैंने इस पार्ट का जितना मेरी समझ से उत्तर बनता था, वही उत्तर देने की कोशिश की है, क्योंकि मुझसे सवाल पूछा गया है कि dams' inundation canals बनाने का प्रस्ताव है? मैंने इसके उत्तर में यह कहा है कि ऐसा कोई प्रपोज़ल बिहार गवर्नमेंट से हमको प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: सर, यही तो सवाल है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, let him finish. Everybody listened to you in rapt silence. Please, listen to him. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री हरीश रावत: सर, मैं माननीय सदस्य से यह अनुरोध करता हूँ कि जरा प्रश्न के पार्ट-a और पार्ट-b को वे और गौर से पढ़ लें, उसमें साफ तौर से मुझसे पूछा गया है कि dams' inundation canals बनाने का प्रस्ताव है। मैंने यह कहा है कि ऐसा प्रस्ताव हमें बिहार गवर्नमेंट से प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। क्योंकि राज्य सरकारों से जो प्रस्ताव प्राप्त होते हैं ...(व्यवधान)... रूडी साहब, यदि मुझसे यह पूछा गया होता कि बिहार में फ्लड प्रोटक्शन के कामों के लिए क्या-क्या प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं, तो मैं आपको उसके अनुरूप उत्तर देता। यदि आप पूछना चाहते हैं तो पूछें मुझसे। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please stop arguing?

श्री हरीश रावत: मुझसे पूछा गया है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Look, if you are not satisfied with the answer, please, give in writing that you have got a misleading answer. ...(Interruptions)... We can go on with the next question.

श्री हरीश रावत: महोदय, मैं आपका प्रोटक्शन चाहता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, just one minute Mr. Rudy, you are taking up precious time. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: But, he has not read his own question. His answer is ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not satisfied with the answer, please give a written representation.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रुडी: यह उत्तर बिल्कुल स्वीकार्य नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, don't take up precious time. There are other questions to be taken up.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रुडी: जिस प्रकार से केन्द्र की सरकार ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, ...(Interruptions)... Look, you have taken five minutes. I am afraid, I cannot allow this.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रुडी: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will go straight to the next question if you don't sit down.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रुडी: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rudy, please.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रुडी: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you wish to hear your own voice, you are welcome to it.

श्री राजीव प्रताप रुडी: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: आप अगर सेटिस्फाइड नहीं हैं तो लिखित में उत्तर दीजिए।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is very ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: None of this is going on record. Shri Shivanand Tiwari.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: शुक्रिया, जनाब। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कबूल किया है कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रेमचन्द गुप्ता: हमको भी मौका दीजिए।

श्री सभापति: आने दीजिए, I can take only one question at a time. Why are we displaying this amazing impatience?

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कबूल किया है कि बिहार में बाढ़ एक समस्या है। उस समस्या के समाधान के लिए वाटर मैनेजमेंट करने के लिए 9 समितियां हिन्दुस्तान और नेपाल के बीच में बनाई गई हैं। एक नई समिति अभी हाल में बनी है, जिसकी 15 फरवरी, 2012 को बैठक हुई। सभापति महोदय, दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि आजादी के 66 वर्षों के बाद भी आज तक भारत सरकार और नेपाल के बीच में इस तरह का कोई समझौता नहीं हुआ, जिससे बिहार को और उत्तर प्रदेश को बाढ़ से मुक्ति मिल सके। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपने कोई आकलन किया है कि 10 वर्षों के दरम्यान बिहार में जो फसलों का नुकसान हुआ है, कृषि फसलों का नुकसान हुआ है तथा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर का जो नुकसान होता है, वह कितना नुकसान होता है और उस नुकसान की भरपाई आप कितना करते हैं? यह मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री हरीश रावत: सर, माननीय तिवारी जी का प्रश्न बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और यह लगातार हमारी भी चिंता रही है। इसीलिए सतत इस बात की कोशिश करनी होती रही है और हम नेपाल के साथ द्विसम्बन्धीय संधियों के द्वारा नेपाल से बाढ़ नियंत्रण के लिए, वहां पर मल्टी-परपज डैम्स कंस्ट्रक्ट किए जाने, एम्बेकमेंट्स बनाए जाने के सवाल पर बातचीत कर रहे हैं। जैसाकि खुद माननीय सदस्य ने जिक्र किया है, उसके लिए मंत्रिस्तरीय समिति स्थापित की गयी है जिसकी एक बैठक हो चुकी है। सर, उसके फॉलो-अप में सेक्रेटरी लेवल की बैठक भी हुई थी। इसके अलावा हमारी अलग-अलग टास्क-स्पैसिफिक कमेटीज की भी बैठक हुई है, जैसाकि उन्होंने खुद कहा है कि 9 ऐसी बैठकें हो चुकी हैं। सर, 9 नहीं बल्कि ऐसी 7 बैठकें हुई हैं और अगर मंत्रिस्तरीय भी लगा लें तो 8 बैठकें हुई हैं। सर, मंत्रिस्तरीय बैठक के बाद बागमती, कमला, लालबेख्या और खांडू रिवर के ऊपर भी एम्बेकमेंट्स बनाने के प्रस्ताव पर अब अग्रिम रूप से टैक्निकल कमेटीज काम कर रही हैं, ताकि वहां से बाढ़ का जो पानी बिहार में आ जाता है, उसको वहीं कंट्रोल किया जा सके, उसको वहीं प्रॉपर्टी चैनलाइज किया जा सके। उसके अलावा, गंडक और कोसी प्रोजेक्ट पर ऑलरेडी भारत सरकार एमईए

*Not recorded.

के माध्यम से जो पैसा प्राप्त होता है, उसके तहत एम्बैकमेंट्स बनाने का काम कर रही है। उससे नेपाल गवर्नमेंट काफी संतुष्ट है और मैंने नेपाल के वाटर रिसोर्सेस मिनिस्टर से खुद बातचीत की थी। वह खुद चाहते हैं कि इस प्रोसेस को खुद एक्सपैडिट किया जाए।

अब आपने जानना चाहा कि कितना नुकसान हुआ है, अभी तक बिहार बाढ़ के रूप में हर साल करीब 242.71 करोड़ का नुकसान उठा रहा है। इस तरह कुल मिलाकर बिहार ने 13,655 करोड़ रुपए के करीब नुकसान उठाया है। सर, यह देश की एक बहुमूल्य सम्पदा है और बिहार में प्रति वर्ष बाढ़ से इस तरीके का नुकसान होता है, इसलिए हमने 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में करीब 689.93 करोड़ रुपए एफएमपी यानी फ्लड मैनेजमेंट प्रोग्राम के अंतर्गत दिए हैं। उसके जरिए वहां 40 प्रोजेक्ट्स बनाए गए हैं और 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में भी बिहार से जो प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं, भारत सरकार उन पर उदारतापूर्वक विचार करेगी।

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: सर, नेपाल से आनेवाली नदियां हर साल बिहार के ऊपरी हिस्से में जो तबाही करती हैं, सारा देश इस बात को जानता है। आपने बताया कि हर साल 242 करोड़ का नुकसान बाढ़ से बिहार को होता है, यह 200-250 करोड़ कुछ नहीं है, मान्यवर, इससे कई गुना नुकसान होता है, लाखों हैक्टेयर जमीन बर्बाद हो जाती है।

श्री सभापति: प्रश्न काल का समय खत्म हो रहा है, जल्दी से प्रश्न पूछ लीजिए।

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: मान्यवर, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा कि कोसी के ऊपर बांध बनाने या एम्बैकमेंट स्ट्रांग करने का कोई प्रपोजल बिहार सरकार की तरफ से नहीं आया है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि अगर ऐसा कोई प्रपोजल आता है तो क्या केन्द्र सरकार उसे कंसिडर करेगी? दूसरे, अगर बिहार सरकार इस इश्यू का इनीशिएट नहीं करती है, तो क्या ह्यूमैनेटेरियन ग्राउंड पर आप काम शुरू करेंगे?

श्री हरीश रावत: सर, मूल प्रश्न के पार्ट "ए" व "बी" को पहले प्रश्नकर्ता और माननीय प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता जी द्वारा गलत समझा गया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: आप पहल करेंगे?

श्री हरीश रावत: मैं उस पर भी आ रहा हूँ। इसलिए यह कहना कि बिहार सरकार ने प्रपोजल नहीं भेजे हैं, गलत होगा। मैं इस इम्प्रेशन को दूर करना चाहता हूँ और कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार सरकार बराबर प्रपोजल्स भेज रही है और भारत सरकार भी, जैसे-जैसे प्रपोजल्स प्राप्त हो रहे हैं, उन पर विचार कर रही है। इस समय सप्तकोसी प्रपोजल पर हम ऑलरेडी नेपाल सरकार के साथ बातचीत कर रहे हैं और दूसरे भी जो बाढ़ प्रोटेक्शन के प्रपोजल्स हैं, उन पर भी नेपाल सरकार से बातचीत कर रहे हैं। इसके अलावा इंटर-स्टेट लिकिंग के प्रोजेक्ट्स पर भी बिहार सरकार और हमारे बीच में बातचीत चल रही है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Allocation of coal blocks in Odisha**

*285. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of coal blocks of Odisha which have been allocated to various public sector and private sector companies, company-wise;

(b) whether it is mandatory, in case of coal block allocation, that the concerned State Government should recommend the allocation; and

(c) if so, whether all coal blocks which were allocated till today have been recommended by the concerned State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The information of coal blocks located in the State of Odisha allocated to various public sector and private sector companies is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Since September, 2005, the coal blocks used to be advertised calling for the applications from interested parties. The application was to be filed in five sets. One set was to be sent to the concerned State Government, one set to the concerned line Ministry in the Central Government, *viz.*, Power, Steel, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, one set to CIL/CMPDIL calling for their recommendations. The applications were considered by a Screening Committee, which was a broad based body with representation from State Governments, concerned Ministries of the Central Government and the coal companies. All applicants were called for making a presentation before the Screening Committee. Comprehensive details about the applicant, the group, performance of the group, financial strength, readiness of the end-use plant etc. were placed before the committee so as to enable it to make appropriate recommendation. The Screening Committee used to deliberate and give recommendations regarding allocation of coal blocks to the eligible applicants. The State Governments recommendations were called for in respect of the applicants and the representative of the concerned State Government was invited for the meeting of the Screening Committee.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Date of allotment	Block allocated	G Govt P-Private	End Use
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Hindalco Industries	25.02.1994	Talabira-I	P	Power
2	Utkal Coal Ltd. (formerly ICCL)	29.05.1998	Utkal-C	P	Power
3	Monet Ispat and Energy Ltd	16.08.1999	Utkal-B2	P	Sponge Iron
4	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd	29.09.2003	Utkal B 1	P	Sponge Iron
5	Bhushan Ltd.	12.11.2003	Jamkhani	P	Sponge Iron
6	Orissa Mining Corporation	19.12.2003	Utkal-D	G	Commercial De-allocated
7	NALCO	27.08.2004	Utkal 'E'	G	Power
8	MCL	10.11.2005	Talabira II	G	Power
	NLC	10.11.2005	Talabira II	G	Power
	Hindalco Industries	10.11.2005	Talabira II	P	Power
9	MCL	29.11.2005	Utkal-A	G	Power
	JSW Steels Ltd./Jindal Thermal Power Ltd.	29.11.2005	Utkal-A	P	Power
	Jindal Stainless Steel Ltd.	29.11.2005	Utkal-A	p	Power

	Shyam DRI Ltd.	29.11.2005	Utikal-A	P	Power
10	Bhusan Ltd.	13.01.2006	Bijahan	P	Sponge Iron
	Mahaveer Ferro	13.01.2006	Bijahan	P	Sponge Iron
11	Bhusan Steel & Strips Ltd.	13.01.2006	Patrapara	P	Sponge Iron
	Adhunik Metaliks Ltd.	13.01.2006	Patrapara	P	Sponge Iron
	Deepak Steel & Power Ltd.	13.01.2006	Patrapara	P	Sponge Iron
	Adhunik Corp. Ltd.	13.01.2006	Patrapara	P	Sponge Iron
	Orissa Sponge Iron Ltd.	13.01.2006	Patrapara	P	Sponge Iron
	SMC Power Generation Ltd.	13.01.2006	Patrapara	P	Sponge Iron
	Sree Metaliks Ltd.	13.01.2006	Patrapara	P	Sponge Iron
	Visa Steel Ltd.	13.01.2006	Patrapara	P	Sponge Iron
12	NTPC	25.01.2006	Dulanga	G	Power
13-14	GSECL	06.02.2006	Mahanadi Machhakata	G	Power
	MSEB	06.02.2006	Mahanadi Machhakata	G	Power
15	Tata Sponge Iron Ltd.	07.02.2006	Radhikapur (East)	P	Sponge Iron
	Scaw Industries Ltd.	07.02.2006	Radhikapur (East)	P	Sponge Iron

1	2	3	4	5	6
	SPS Sponge Iron Ltd.	07.02.2006	Radhikapur (East)	P	Sponge Iron
16	Rungta Mines Limited	25.04.2006	Radhikapur (West)	p	Sponge Iron
	OCL India Ltd.	25.04.2006	Radhikapur (West)	P	Sponge Iron
	Ocean Ispat Ltd.	25.04.2006	Radhikapur (West)	P	Sponge Iron
17	Orissa Mining Corporation	02.08.2006	Nuagaon Telisahi	G	Commercial
	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development (APMDC) Hyderabad	02.08.2006	Nuagaon Telisahi	G	Commercial
18	Power Finance Corporation Orissa UMPP	13.09.2006	Meenakshi	P	Power
19	Power Finance Corporation Orissa UMPP	13.09.2006	Meenakshi B	P	Power
20	Power Finance Corporation Orissa UMPP	13.09.2006	Dip side of Meenakshi	P	Power
21-22	UPRVUNL	25.07.2007	Chendipada, Chendi-II	G	Power
	CMDC	25.07.2007	Chendipada, Chendi-II	G	Power
	MAHAGENCO	25.07.2007	Chendipada,	G	Power

		Chendi-II				
23	Kerala State Elec. Board	25.07.2007	Baitarni West	G	Power	De-allocated
	Orissa Hydro Power Generation Cor	25.07.2007	Baitarni West	G	Power	
	Gujarat Power Generation Corp	25.07.2007	Baitarni West	G	Power	
24	Assam Mineral Dev. Corporation	25.07.2007	Mandakini B	G	Power	De-allocated
	Meghalaya Mineral Dev. Corp	25.07.2007	Mandakini B	G	Power	
	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	25.07.2007	Mandakini B	G	Power	
25	Orissa Mining Corporation	25.07.2007	Mandakini B	G	Power	
	Orissa Power Generation Corporation	25.07.2007	Manoharpur	G	Power	
26	Orissa Power Generation Corporation	25.07.2007	Dipside Manoharpur	G	Power	
27	GMDC	25.07.2007	Naini	G	Power	De-allocated
	PPDCL	25.07.2007	Naini	G	Power	
28	Monet Ispat and Energy Ltd.	09.01.2008	Mandakini	P	Power	
	Jindal Photo Ltd.	09.01.2008	Mandakini	P	Power	
	Tata Power Company Ltd.	09.01.2008	Mandakini	P	Power	
29-30	Sterlite Energy Ltd. (IPP)	17.01.2008	Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia	P	Power	

1	2	3	4	5	6
	GMR Energy (IPP)	17.01.2008	Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia	P	Power
	Arcelor Mittal India Ltd. (CPP)	17.01.2008	Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia	P	Power
	Lanco Group Ltd. (IPP)	17.01.2008	Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia	P	Power
	Navbharat Power Pvt. Ltd. (IPP)	17.01.2008	Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia	P	Power
	Reliance Energy Ltd. (IPP)	17.01.2008	Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia	P	Power
31	Jindal Steel & Power Limited	27.02.2009	Ramchandi Promotion Block	P	CTL
32	Strategic Energy Technology Systems Limited (SETSL)	27.02.2009	North of Arkhapal Sirrampur	P	CTL
33	Sakhigopal Integrated Power Company Ltd. (SPV of first additional Orissa UMPP)	21.06.2010	Bankhui	P	Power

Modernization of Indian Meteorological Department

*286. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current weather forecasting system in the country is equivalent to International standards;

(b) whether Government has any plan to modernize the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD);

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes Sir. The weather forecasting systems in the country are comparable to most of the countries in the world with respect to rainfall forecasting. Efforts are being made to optimize the level of efficiency of the forecasting systems.

(b) Yes Sir. Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) - IMD has already implemented Phase-I of the Modernization during 2007-12.

(c) Under the Phase-I of the modernization of ESSO - IMD, the following state-of-the-art systems were commissioned:

- Observing systems such as Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG), Doppler Weather Radars (DWR) etc.
- Monitoring/early warning systems
- Analysis-visualization-product dissemination systems
- High Performance Computing (HPC)
- Communication/IT systems
- Real-time data assimilation-forecast systems etc.

Further, several manual operations have been fully automated. All the scientific staff engaged earlier have been provided due training to develop appropriate skills for customization of sector specific (like agriculture, aviation etc.) warning and forecasting services.

In order to capture the characteristics of the severe weather in real time, 24X7 monitoring system comprising 675 Nos. of AWSs; 1024 Nos. of ARGs; 17 S and C-Band DWRs have been commissioned at Chennai, Sriharikota, Machilipatnam, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Patiala, Delhi Palam, Lucknow, Patna, Mohanbari, Agartala, Delhi Lodi Road and Jaipur. Only DWR at Bhopal is under commissioning.

High Performance Computing (HPC) systems have been used to enhance the weather forecasting capacities by assimilating all available global satellite data for forecast generation. The global model that was earlier run at 50Km grid scale are now run at 22Km grid. The regional scale model run earlier at 27Km grid is replaced by 9Km and 3Km grid scale models. The accuracy of short range (up to 3-days in advance) monsoon forecasts has improved from 50-60% to 70-95%. The skill of district level medium range rainfall forecast (up to 5-7days in advance) has improved from 60-70% to 75-85% in monsoon season and from 70-75% to 85% in non-monsoon seasons.

As far as the track and landfall forecasts of the tropical cyclones are concerned, the performance evaluation of the updated forecast systems for the past 5-years, have demonstrated enhanced forecast skill by about 18%. ESSO-IMD currently operates 5- Doppler Weather Radars (DWR) at Chennai, Machilipatnam, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Sriharikota on the east coast along with a network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) for continuous weather surveillance over the Bay of Bengal.

ESSO-IMD has operationalized its location specific nowcasting (near real-time) weather service for severe weather (Thunderstorms; heavy rainfall from lows/ depressions over the land) across the country. This service activity currently covers 117 urban centres on experimental basis under which nowcast of 3-6hour range is issued. Origin, development/movement of severe weather phenomena are regularly monitored through DWRs and with all other available observing systems.

Integrated Agro-meteorological Advisory Service (AAS) is rendered now on twice-weekly basis in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), etc. District level weather forecast for next 5-days in respect of:

- Rainfall
- maximum temperature, minimum temperature,

- wind speed, wind direction,
- relative humidity and clouds
- weekly cumulative rainfall forecast

are provided. Further, crop specific advisories to help the farmers are issued and widely disseminated. The AAS of ESSO-IMD has been successful in providing the crop specific advisories to the farmers through different print/visual/Radio/ IT based media including short message service (SMS) and Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS) facilitating for appropriate field level actions.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of drinking water in drought-affected areas in Maharashtra

†*287. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to tackle the problem of drinking water in drought-affected districts/areas in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government has submitted any proposal to the Central Government to address this problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Ministry had written to the State Government of Maharashtra in June, 2012 informing it about the forecast by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and advising the State to take steps for preparedness and response in order to tackle drought like situation that may develop during South-West Monsoon 2012. The State was requested to prepare a Contingency Plan for the same.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries and Minister of Rural Development and Drinking Water and Sanitation along with a team of Central officials had visited Maharashtra in August 2012, to assess the drought situation including scarcity of drinking water.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on Drought had in its meeting held on 31st July, 2012, approved the release of Rs. 15 crore from the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) (Calamity) component to the State, while also advancing the release of Rs. 199.45 cr. as part of the 1st instalment of NRDWP (Programme) funds allocated to the State.

In its meeting held on 11th September, 2012 the EGoM on Drought approved advancing the release of Rs.107 crore being part of the 2nd instalment of NRDWP (Programme) funds to the State.

A further Action Plan to tackle drinking water scarcity from January to March, 2013 and April to June 2013 has been prepared by the State of Maharashtra. As per the Action Plan, a total of Rs. 405 crore is required to tackle the drinking water scarcity from January to June 2013. This amount is required mainly for transportation of drinking water by tankers to scarcity affected areas and repairs to drinking water supply schemes as reported by the State.

Two Inter-Ministerial Central Teams have also visited Maharashtra for assessing the drought situation, including the drinking water supply position. The first Team visited the State during 21 to 23 November 2012 and the second during 26-28 February 2013.

Based on the report of the first Inter-Ministerial Central Team that visited Maharashtra in November, 2012, Rs. 50.63 cr. had been released to the State from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drinking water supply in January 2013. Decision of the High Level Committee for further release based on the report of the second Central Team is awaited.

A further amount of Rs. 226.89 crore has been released under NRDWP on 12.3.2013. Thus this Ministry has released a total of Rs. 814.14 crore in 2012-13 under NRDWP to the State. Together with an opening balance, as on 1/4/2012, of Rs.292.05 cr, the State has Rs. 1106.19 crore available with it under NRDWP in the current year.

Appointment on compassionate ground in CIL

†*288. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries adopt negative attitude while providing jobs on compassionate ground;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries follow a policy as per the relevant clauses under the National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA-VI) for employment of dependents of workers on compassionate ground.

As per this Policy, there are provisions for providing employment to dependents, subject to fulfilling certain conditions in the event where a worker is disabled permanently, or, in case of death while in service. The abstract of the provisions is as follows:

- As per the clause 9.3.0 Provision of employment to dependants - 9.3.1 Employment would be provided to one dependant of workers who are disabled permanently and also those who die while in service. 9.3.2 - Employment to one dependant of the workers who dies while in service.
- As per the clause 9.4.0 Employment to one dependant of worker who is permanently disabled in his place.
- As per the clause 9.5.0 Employment/Monetary compensation to female dependant.

In case of death due to mine accident, the female dependant would have the option to either accept the monetary compensation or employment irrespective of her age;

In case of death/total permanent disablement due to cause other than mine accident and medical unfitness under clause 9.4.0, if the female dependant is below the age of 45 years she will have the option either to accept the monetary compensation or employment. In case the female dependant is above 45 years of age she will be entitled only to monetary compensation and not to employment;

In case of death either in mine accident or for other reasons or medical unfitness under Clause 9.4.0, if no employment has been offered and the male

dependant of the concerned workers is 12 years and above in age, he will be kept on a live roster and would be provided employment commensurate with his skill and qualifications when he attains age of 18 years. During the period the male dependant is on live roster, the female dependant will be paid monetary compensation;

Monetary compensation wherever applicable, would be paid till the female dependant attains the age of 60 years;

The existing rate of monetary compensation will continue. Meanwhile provision of employment as mentioned at (i) above, shall be on basic wage of Cat-I as trainee for a period of 6 months. During the training period they will have the status of permanent employee. On completion of training they shall be regularized as Cat-I employee. However, those dependants in possession of Technical/professional qualification in BE/Diploma will be considered for appointment in higher category, keeping in view their qualification, suitability and vacancy.

The monthly monetary compensation payable to the female dependant in case of death either in mine accident or for other reasons or medical unfitness of the employee shall be @ Rs.6000/- with effect from 1.5.2008.

The CII and its subsidiaries follow a defined procedure for processing of cases relating to compassionate appointment from the stage of submission of application to its screening and approval by the competent authority.

During the year 2011-12, 3119 compassionate employment were provided by CIL and its subsidiaries. Over the last five years, 15179 compassionate employments have been provided by the CIL and its subsidiaries.

Grants for solar panels in Rajasthan

†*289. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantum of grants given by the Central Government for solar projects in Rajasthan;

(b) whether a proposal of giving 90 per cent grants for the purchase of solar panels to the minorities on the lines of other sections is under consideration of Government; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the details of the progress made, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) The Ministry has released Rs. 2977.73 lakhs during 2012-13 (upto 31.1.2013) to Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited and other State Government Organisations for installation of solar home lights, solar street lights, solar water pumps and standalone solar power plants.

- (b) No, Sir.

- (c) Does not arise.

Legal assistance to women

†*290. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides services of advocate to present the case of poor women victims of cases like dowry, domestic violence, sexual assault and rape; and

(b) if so, the name of the agency which has to be approached to obtain free of cost service of advocates and the details of information required to obtain such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) All women irrespective of their social and financial status are entitled to get free legal services, including advocate in legal proceedings, under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

(b) Free legal services can be availed for taluk level cases from Taluk Legal Services Committees, for District Court cases from District Legal Services Authorities, for High Court cases from High Court Legal Services Committees and for Supreme Court cases from Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

Employment generation by MSMEs

*291. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector has been playing an important role in generation of employment in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed by Government for generation of employment by this sector during each of the last three years and so far, State-wise;

(c) the extent to which the targets have been achieved during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether Government has fixed any targets for generation of employment by this sector during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the steps taken by Government to achieve such targets during the Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing a credit-linked subsidy programme named Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) since 2008-09 for generating self-employment in the Country by setting up of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector. State-wise allocation of margin money subsidy which is treated as target as also the achievements in term of the margin money subsidy utilized, the corresponding number of projects assisted and estimated employment generated during last three years and so far under PMEGP is given in Statement-I and II (*See* below).

(d) and (e) An outlay of Rs.7800 crore towards margin money subsidy has been made for PMEGP in the Twelfth Plan which would assist an estimated 3.39 lakh projects creating employment opportunities for an estimated 27.12 lakh persons.

(f) Although KVIC is the nodal agency for PMEGP at the national level, the role of State Governments/Union Territories is crucial in achieving the targets as the beneficiaries and projects are selected at the District level Task Force Committee (DTFC) level and the scheme is reviewed at the State level Bankers Committee by senior functionaries of the State Governments/Union Territories. Central Government has been providing necessary funds, policy inputs and guidance to KVIC for achieving the targets. Intensive monitoring of the scheme and periodic interaction with Banks are also carried out at various levels by KVIC and at national level by the Ministry. The same would continue in Twelfth Plan also.

KVIC has undertaken awareness camps, workshops, exhibitions, etc. at State and district levels to further popularize the scheme.

Statement-I

State-wise margin money subsidy released and utilized, number of projects assisted and estimated employment generated

A. 2009-10

Sl. No.	State/UT	Margin money subsidy released (Rs. lakh)	Margin money subsidy utilized # (Rs. lakh)	Number of projects assisted	Estimated employment generated (No. of persons)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Jammu and Kashmir	1820.00	1803.94	1782	17820
2	Himachal Pradesh	567.79	615.2	485	1963
3	Punjab	1290.13	2106.77	986	8764
4	UT Chandigarh	0.00	40.63	36	185
5	Uttarakhand	332.94	1105.37	891	9088
6	Haryana	1066.22	1347.41	555	4284
7	Delhi	-150.00@	60	85	850
8	Rajasthan	1125.77	2936.23	1438	14427

1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Uttar Pradesh	9739.75	13168.98	4161	41728
10	Bihar	900.00	1123.50	884	5112
11	Sikkim	270.00	120.81	60	226
12	Arunachal Pradesh	351.43	93.02	158	1580
13	Nagaland	350.00	33.96	17	286
14	Manipur	300.00	183.65	211	1187
15	Mizoram	327.40	256.11	156	1705
16	Tripura	350.00	459.02	354	1757
17	Meghalaya	606.01	630.26	399	2167
18	Assam	1635.00	1895.36	2430	15280
19	West Bengal	7200.00	9055.84	7197	69203
20	Jharkhand	300.00	779.36	353	3530
21	Odisha	3422.13	3881.22	1935	17812
22	Chhattisgarh	1952.54	1582.05	464	7410
23	Madhya Pradesh	709.91	3295.87	1138	12294

24	Gujarat*	234.52	2784.71	1331	12643
25	Maharashtra **	3150.15	5624.96	3296	21961
26	Andhra Pradesh	6159.93	8956.14	2995	73073
27	Karnataka	1979.34	3000.87	1509	17198
28	Goa	136.59	168.89	89	1408
29	Lakshadweep	0.00	6.48	14	62
30	Kerala	1245.20	3348.64	2162	13675
31	Tamil Nadu	3930.61	5677.29	3142	45510
32	Puducherry	6.57	28.33	73	396
33	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	33.76	72.88	132	398
TOTAL		51343.69	76243.75	40918	424982

including unutilized balance funds of previous year.

* including Daman and Diu.

** including Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

@ Due to slow utilization, this amount was withdrawn from the unspent balance of 2008-09 and re-distributed to other States.

B. 2010-II

Sl. No.	State/UT	Margin money subsidy released (Rs. in lakh)	Margin money subsidy utilized # (Rs. in lakh)	Number of projects assisted	Estimated employment generated (No. of persons)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Jammu and Kashmir	2544.81	2941.29	1920	15360
2	Himachal Pradesh	1374.78	1339.72	961	4781
3	Punjab	1833.28	1755.06	823	8234
4	UT Chandigarh	63.98	28.96	30	302
5	Uttarakhand	1120.18	1190.26	974	8769
6	Haryana	1887.82	1886.64	915	10508
7	Delhi	173.83	109.72	149	1490
8	Rajasthan	4401.64	3904.93	2481	24085
9	Uttar Pradesh	13848.08	13360.58	4462	45019

10	Bihar	3504.32	3207.20	1428	8316
11	Sikkim	173.77	154.24	78	321
12	Arunachal Pradesh	248.00	342.44	232	2320
13	Nagaland	466.00	546.35	242	1396
14	Manipur	0.00	304.55	204	1691
15	Mizoram	306.00	546.51	380	3658
16	Tripura	811.25	1098.76	733	2583
17	Meghalaya	515.00	574.00	305	1609
18	Assam	5538.00	4808.10	4756	38473
19	West Bengal	6719.17	6719.06	5679	56790
20	Jharkhand	1562.68	2429.68	1707	15363
21	Odisha	4949.26	4983.97	2581	25842
22	Chhattisgarh	2983.58	3643.65	1576	18213
23	Madhya Pradesh	5440.13	5196.18	1180	17467
24	Gujarat*	3042.54	3229.02	1354	16483

1	2	3	4	5	6
25	Maharashtra **	4793.82	5244.46	4848	36592
26	Andhra Pradesh	7443.94	7750.24	2743	53808
27	Karnataka	3696.02	3681.27	1871	14000
28	Goa	391.71	294.79	133	2456
29	Lakshadweep	77.00	26.08	32	84
30	Kerala	3164.19	3141.21	1641	11375
31	Tamil Nadu	4389.80	4475.04	2247	31895
32	Puducherry	85.64	103.24	216	757
33	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	171.83	101.06	183	573
	TOTAL	87722.05	89118.26	49064	480613

including unutilized balance funds of previous year.

* including Daman and Diu.

** including Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

C. 2011-12

Sl. No.	State/UT	Margin money subsidy released (Rs. in lakh)	Margin money subsidy utilized # (Rs. in lakh)	Number of projects assisted	Estimated employment generated (No. of persons)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Jammu and Kashmir	2780.57	2983.42	1920	15360
2	Himachal Pradesh	1141.28	1152.51	809	4248
3	Punjab	1695.61	1756.94	899	4622
4	UT Chandigarh	0.00	39.98	38	144
5	Uttarakhand	1123.74	1059.62	894	6942
6	Haryana	1396.25	1353.79	786	7418
7	Delhi	213.02	189.69	195	906
8	Rajasthan	3684.10	3518.29	2075	14955
9	Uttar Pradesh	18851.45	18599.43	5569	59901
10	Bihar	7417.30	9873.73	4887	35193

1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Sikkim	0.00	113.87	64	253
12	Arunachal Pradesh	349.25	431.63	375	1516
13	Nagaland	695.46	1155.94	556	6545
14	Manipur	630.42	869.51	564	3142
15	Mizoram	508.00	723.57	418	3404
16	Tripura	2868.06	2539.45	1812	16079
17	Meghalaya	833.42	1228.13	712	3273
18	Assam	4035.14	5544.99	5280	44205
19	West Bengal	5581.67	5581.67	5806	61092
20	Jharkhand	3620.64	3486.33	2372	7116
21	Odisha	4220.87	4194.51	2259	20905
22	Chhattisgarh	3182.97	3306.12	1510	10345
23	Madhya Pradesh	5172.54	5419.41	1943	16256
24	Gujarat*	6101.97	6147.35	1863	18662

25	Maharashtra **	4730.07	4548.95	2705	24661
26	Andhra Pradesh	5568.30	5497.37	1672	37336
27	Karnataka	3863.96	3872.13	1852	14971
28	Goa	215.22	296.12	155	2467
29	Lakshadweep	0.00	10.52	12	25
30	Kerala	2910.66	2928.85	1629	9195
31	Tamil Nadu	7383.44	7164.15	3228	43473
32	Puducherry	164.32	79.22	72	361
33	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	83.22	116.47	204	552
TOTAL		101022.92	105783.66	55135	495523

including unutilized balance funds of previous year.

* including Daman and Diu.

** including Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Statement-II

State-wise margin money subsidy released and utilized, number of projects assisted and estimated employment generated during 2008-09 to 2012-13 (till 31.01.2013)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Margin money subsidy released (Rs. in lakh)	Margin money subsidy utilized# (Rs. in lakh)	Number of projects assisted*	Estimated employment generated (No. of persons)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Jammu and Kashmir	10113	9990.19	7139	62820
2	Himachal Pradesh	4985.78	4124.54	2996	16196
3	Punjab	7464.72	7045.69	3487	28711
4	UT Chandigarh	259.3	119.31	120	713
5	Uttarakhand	4728.7	3867.67	3236	28077
6	Haryana	6730.47	6160.35	2992	27401
7	Delhi	891.34	405.17	495	3906
8	Rajasthan	15893.32	12580.05	6728	67426

9	Uttar Pradesh	68997.89	59907.9	19556	19959
10	Bihar	24208.24	14898.35	7549	51707
11	Sikkim	785.66	453.91	233	975
12	Arunachal Pradesh	1445.14	1124.19	1023	7996
13	Nagaland	2991.97	2273.4	1047	10825
14	Manipur	2175.98	1946.87	1381	8103
15	Mizoram	1741.94	1547.4	971	8903
16	Tripura	4864.05	4213.34	2979	20801
17	Meghalaya	3035.83	2872.93	1614	7545
18	Assam	16565.69	14269.46	14783	109631
19	West Bengal	29664.06	28743.26	25540	258308
20	Jharkhand	11246.21	8746.21	5565	32670
21	Odisha	23476.54	17914.1	9608	92848
22	Chhattisgarh	14312.74	12038.79	5260	50555
23	Madhya Pradesh	24850.16	18571.03	5973	60509

1	2	3	4	5	6
24	Gujarat*	15993.37	15263.89	5449	58311
25	Maharashtra **	26191.8	21870.31	14506	108137
26	Andhra Pradesh	28087.46	26342.21	8604	178671
27	Karnataka	16829.4	15416.2	7393	63285
28	Goa	1217.79	769.64	387	6362
29	Lakshadweep	83.66	43.08	58	171
30	Kerala	11076.55	10078.7	5992	39613
31	Tamil Nadu	23508.66	22910.96	10933	163007
32	Puducherry	333.47	240.09	420	1761
33	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	484.81	355.33	640	1859
	TOTAL	405518.09	347104.52	184657	1777762

upto 31.01.2013.

* including Daman and Diu.

** including Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Model Bill on rainwater harvesting

*292. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had adopted and circulated a Model Bill on rainwater harvesting to all the States in the country; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that many States had either not adopted the Bill or adopted it to their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Ministry of Water Resources has circulated the Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to regulate and control development and management of ground water, which also contains a chapter on rain water harvesting for ground water recharge.

(b) So far, fourteen (14) States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Puducherry, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Assam, Dadra and Nagar Haveli have modified the Model Bill as per their requirement and enacted the legislation. Government of Maharashtra has enacted Maharashtra Ground Water (Regulation for Drinking Water Purposes), Act 1993. Government of Maharashtra has also introduced and passed a Comprehensive Ground Water Bill in the Legislative Assembly to regulate and manage ground water resources in the State. Fifteen (15) States/UTs, namely, Andaman and Nicobar, Chhattisgarh, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have initiated action for enactment of the Model Bill. States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have indicated that their ground water development is low and thus they do not feel the need to adopt the Bill.

Impeachment of judges

†*293. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any policy to check the tendency of resigning from the office after the introduction of impeachment motion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of proposals pending before Government to move impeachment motions against judges; and

(d) by when a decision would be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The procedure for removal of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts by impeachment is laid down in Article 124 (4) of the Constitution. The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 regulates the procedure for the investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge of High Courts and the Supreme Court and for the presentation of an address by Parliament to the President.

As regards the resignation of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Articles 124 (2) (a) and 217 (1) (a) of the Constitution provide that a Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign from his office. There is no separate provision made in the Constitution for acceptance or otherwise of the resignation of Judges of the Supreme Court or High Courts against whom impeachment proceeding has been initiated.

Government has introduced the "Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill", which is presently under consideration in the Parliament. This provides a mechanism for receiving complaints, conduct inquiry/investigations against Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts by an Oversight Committee to be constituted for this purpose. It also provides a mechanism to impose commensurate penalty/punishment to the Judge(s) found guilty as a result of the investigation. Further, Clause 34 (3) of the Bill provides that, in a case where an inquiry or investigation against the Judge has been initiated and such Judge has demitted office during such inquiry or investigation, such inquiry or investigation may be continued if the Oversight Committee is of the opinion that the misbehaviour is serious in nature and requires to be investigated into.

(c) and (d) In terms of the provision contained in Section 3(1) of Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, impeachment proceedings against a Judge can be initiated by the Members of Parliament in the manner provided in the Act. There is no proposal(s) for impeachment pending with the Government.

E-filing of nominations during elections

*294. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission of India intends to introduce e-filing of nomination papers in the elections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Per capita expenditure on Muslims

*295. SHRI ALOK TIWARI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the report released by US-India Policy Institute, the per capita actual expenditure by Government on Muslim population has been just Rs. 230/- only during 2011-12;

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

(c) the rationale for the same;

(d) whether only 50 per cent of Muslims are covered under various schemes of Government;

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

(f) the concrete steps Government would take to ameliorate the pitiable condition of Muslims in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Fluoride Mitigation Centre in Gandhinagar

*296. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given in-principle approval for setting up of a Fluoride Mitigation Centre in Gandhinagar; and

- (b) if so, the status of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Based on the advice of the Ministry, the State Government of Gujarat has submitted the draft Detailed Project Report document recently for establishment of a Regional Centre for Fluoride and Fluorosis Management in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Drinking water problem in Karnataka

*297.DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Karnataka is facing acute drinking water shortage;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken note of it that women and girl children are fetching water from a distance of more than 2 to 3 kms.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has released any financial assistance/special packages to provide adequate drinking water to people of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government has taken steps for amicable settlement of Cauvery Water Dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, as drinking water problem is so acute in Karnataka; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has reported that in about 12960 rural habitations there is inadequate water supply and around 202 rural habitations are being transported drinking water.

(b) The Government of Karnataka has informed that no such specific case has been reported so far.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) (Programme) component, this Ministry has released a total amount of Rs. 801.62 crore to the State in 2012-13, as on 13.3.2013, to supplement the efforts of the State to provide safe and adequate drinking water supply to people in rural areas of the State. Further to tackle the drinking water situation arising out of drought, Rs.38.20 crore has been released by this Ministry under the NRDWP (Calamity) component. An additional Rs. 30.67 crore has also been released to the State from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) by Ministry of Home Affairs.

(f) and (g) As per information received from the Ministry of Water Resources, the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 4 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 had constituted on 2nd June, 1990, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) to adjudicate upon the water dispute regarding the inter-State river Cauvery. The Tribunal has given the final order on 5th February, 2007 and forwarded the same to the Central Government for further necessary action. Section 6 of the Act mandates the Central Government to publish the decision of the Tribunal in the Official Gazette. Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Act and also as per direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Central Government has published the Order of the Tribunal on 19th February, 2013. As per section 6 (2) of Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 "The decision of the Tribunal, after its publication in the Official Gazette by the Central Government under sub-section (1), shall have the same force as an order or decree of the Supreme Court".

Foreign companies leaving the country

*298. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreign companies are leaving the country in view of policy paralysis particularly relating to reforms;

(b) to what extent the regulatory framework in some sectors is affecting the entry and survival of foreign companies in the country;

(c) the details of foreign companies which left the country during the last three years, year-wise and company-wise and the reasons for their exit; and

(d) the details of foreign companies which have entered into the country during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (d) Broad trends do not suggest that foreign companies are leaving the Country on account of policy-related issues. Specific information desired by the Honorable Member is being collected for the relevant period from the organizations concerned.

Certification of quality of drinking water

*299. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has schemes for certifying drinking water quality;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any mineral drinking water company in Kerala has been subjected to cancellation or suspension of licence; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) BIS has two Indian Standards IS 14543 for Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) and IS 13428 for Packaged Natural Mineral Water (PNMW). Both are under mandatory BIS certification which means "No person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale, Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking water, except under the BIS Mark."

3414 licenses for Packaged Drinking Water as per IS 14543 and 22 licenses for Packaged Natural Mineral Water as per IS 13428 are in operation as on 11.03.2013.

- (c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are given in Statement.

Statement*Certification of quality of drinking water*

Sl. No.	Actions taken by BO	Details	Licence No.	Name of the licensee	Date of Expiry/ Cancellation	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Cancellation	Marking of product under another licensee's brand name and licence number	3550050 3541857	Neyyar Aqua Products K.V. N Minerals	27 Aug., 2012 16 July, 2012	—
		Based on licensee's request as the factory is closed	3359060	Transasia Beverages	18 January, 2013	—
2.	Expiry	Non submission of application and fees for renewal	3319149	Ganga Products	10 February, 2012	—
		Shifting of factory/ Closure	3588479	Royal Aqua Firms	02 March, 2013	Expired as the licensee has not taken actions to relocate the factory.
3.	Stop Marking	Unsatisfactory performance	6968306	Surya Industries	Date of SM 13 Aug. 2012	Date of ROM — Corrective actions verified. Sample under test

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
			6292372	N.M Minerals (India) Pvt. Ltd.	02 Aug. 2012	24 Sep. 2012	Normal operation allowed based on satisfactory corrective actions
			3354151	Vrindavanam Industries	04 Jan. 2012	30 April, 2012	
			6524064	Varuna Aqua Products Pvt. Ltd.	19 Mar. 2012	30 April, 2012	
		Due to failure of samples	3369972	Thames Valley Packaged Drinking Water	03 Jan. 2012	05 March, 2012	Normal operation allowed based on satisfactory corrective actions and
			3548467	Ramyanath Aqua Bottlings	30 Apr. 2012	19 June, 2012	passing test results of samples.
			6285476	Sree Gokulam Foods and Beverages Pvt. Ltd.	23 Oct. 2012	31 Dec., 2012	
			3520243	Global Creations	13 Feb. 2013	--	Under Stop marking. Action awaited from licensee

* SM stop marking

*ROM - Resumption of Marking

N.B The above data is for the period from Jan, 2012 to 8th March, 2013 regarding Package Drinking Water as per IS 14543 in Kerala.

Supply of coal to States

*300. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pre-fixed quantity of coal is being supplied to the State Governments including Haryana for power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken to supply pre-fixed quantity of coal to States/Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The sector-wise overall coal demand of the country is assessed during the process of formulation of Annual Plan by Ministry of Coal/Planning Commission. Based on such assessed demand, company-wise coal supply plan is formulated by Ministry of Coal for various sectors. Such demand is not assessed State/Union Territory wise and hence details of State-wise coal demand for power utility sector in various States including Haryana is not available. However, State/UT-wise despatch of coal and coal products to power utility sector in the last three years and current year is furnished in the following table:

*State-wise details of coal despatch from CIL sources to
Thermal Power Stations (in Million Tonnes)*

State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (up to Jan'13) (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	5.12	3.79	4.62	3.78
Haryana	10.50	13.36	16.82	12.86
Punjab	5.47	4.47	4.26	3.78
Rajasthan	13.64	14.51	16.03	13.00

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	52.40	54.99	55.21	49.47
Gujarat	18.18	18.46	19.10	16.75
Chhattisgarh	30.48	33.42	33.17	31.32
Madhya Pradesh	32.03	30.79	30.59	26.48
Maharashtra	35.09	32.94	30.52	26.85
Andhra Pradesh	10.35	10.95	11.58	11.70
Karnataka	3.34	3.27	4.04	3.39
Tamil Nadu	12.97	12.64	12.96	10.03
Bihar	9.44	10.54	10.12	9.72
Jharkhand	7.58	7.33	8.57	10.18
Odisha	23.46	21.16	21.64	20.83
West Bengal	27.97	31.53	32.84	29.58
TOTAL	298.03	304.15	312.07	279.70

(c) and (d) The Coal India Limited (CIL) has been dispatching more than 90% of the targets fixed in the supply plan finalized as per the Annual Plan of the Ministry. During the last three years, despatches to Power Utilities have been 96%, 91% and 95% of targets in 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12 respectively. The coal despatches in the current year up to February, 2013 are 91%.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Third party sampling agency for coal

2171. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has decided to involve an independent third party sampling agency to ensure supply of good quality coal to customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the coal sampling provisions, at present, provides for a joint sampling mechanism at the loading end which has been claimed to be inefficient by power producers including NTPC Ltd.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) With the introduction of GCV there has been general demand from the Public Sector Undertakings/Power Generating Companies that the system of Third party sampling should be introduced. There is a proposal to engage an independent Third Party Sampling Agency for sampling & analysis at loading points by the supplying coal companies.

(c) and (d) There is a provision in Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) between the coal supplying company and power houses for joint sampling at the loading ends. As per Fuel Supply Agreement, supply of coal to Power Stations is made under joint sampling and analysis at loading ends and payment of coal by the Power Stations is made as per analyzed grade. Besides, provisions are also stipulated in the FSA for compensation of stones (+250mm size), jointly measured at the power house end in every month. These provisions are part of FSA which was duly agreed/accepted and signed by the coal companies and the consumers including NTPC.

Demand and supply of coal

†2172. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited, the coal producer is claiming that it can fulfil the coal demand of the country by further increasing coal production by 337 million tonnes *i.e.* 73 percent during the next five years;

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

(c) whether the organisation has also mentioned the hurdles arising in fulfilling this claim; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the Twelfth Plan document, the total

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

production of coal by Coal India Limited has been projected to increase from 435.8 million tonnes achieved by CIL in 2011-12 to 615 million tonnes in 2016-17 which is the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan. The increase in production of Coal by CIL is therefore targeted to be of the order of 179.2 million tonnes during the Twelfth Plan period.

During the same period the total demand for Coal in the country has been estimated to increase from 640 million tonnes in 2011-12 to 980.5 million tonnes in 2016-17 which represents an increase of 340.5 million tonnes. Therefore the incremental production of coal targeted for CIL during the Twelfth Plan period works out to 52.6% of the estimated incremental demand in the Twelfth Plan period.

(c) and (d) The main hurdles in CIL in increasing coal production include delay in land acquisition, environment and forest clearance and in the completion of projects relating to movement of coal, especially by rail.

CBI investigation into allocation of coal blocks

†2173. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating the cases of allocation of coal blocks during the last year;

(b) if so, the number of the cases brought under its purview;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of files regarding these cases are missing from the department;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such files and the cases which they are concerned with; and

(e) what action Government has taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (e) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered 3 Preliminary Enquiry (PE) cases regarding alleged irregularities in allocation of coal blocks - relating to allocation of coal blocks to private companies

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

during the period 2006-09, relating to allocation of coal blocks to private companies during the period 1993-2004 and relating to allocation of coal blocks to Government companies.

The CBI after registering the PEs has since requisitioned files/documents/applications/feedback forms/agenda forms etc. in original from the Ministry of Coal. So far more than 700 files/folders/application forms/agenda booklets/feedback forms etc., in original, have been handed over to the CBI for investigation. Further about 30 files are kept ready for handing over to the CBI. Some of the old files/documents primarily pertaining to the applications received prior to 2004 are not readily available in the Ministry. Efforts are made to make them available by writing to Coal India Limited, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI) and Ministry of Steel. A team from Ministry of Coal also visited to CMPDI recently and has collected old applications in respect of about 10 companies which are also kept ready for handing over to CBI.

Investment in coal mines

†2174. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of public sector coal companies which are engaged in extracting coal from coal mines in the country;
- (b) the amount of money that the aforesaid companies are allowed to invest for the purpose, company-wise;
- (c) whether the provisions of funds have been made for upliftment of mine labourers and for discovering new mines; and
- (d) if so, the amount earmarked for them separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Coal companies engaged in coal production are Coal India Ltd (CIL) & its subsidiaries, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL). The details of investment made by the Coal India Ltd., Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. in 2011-12 is given as under.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Public Sector Companies	Investment made in the year 2011-12 (Rs. in crore)
Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries	4220.00
Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	1684.38
Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	2804.30

(c) and (d) As per information available, provision of funds for upliftment of mine labourers and discovering of new mines by the Public Sector coal companies for the year 2011-12 is given as under:-

Public Sector Companies	Upliftment of mine labourers (Rs. in crore)	New Mines (Rs. in crore)
CIL & its subsidiaries	1310.89	366.75
NLC	22.00	4.90
SCCL	484.75	803.45

Gap between demand and supply of non-coking coal

2175. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Twelfth Five Year Plan a demand - supply gap of 230 million tonnes for non coking coal has been projected by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the CIL has been asked to produce 615 million tones of coal in the best case scenario; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) As per AP-2012-13 & Twelfth Plan (2012-17) of MoC, the total demand supply gap (Indigenous) at the terminal year of Twelfth Plan (2016-17) of the country is envisaged to 185.50 Mt under optimistic scenario. Details of the same are stated as under:

For Non coking coal	(in million tones)
Item	2016-17
Total Demand All India	913.30
Indigenous Supply/Availability	759.61
Gap (Indigenous for Non-Coking Coal)	153.69
Availability from CIL Sources	594.88

(c) and (d) CIL is envisaged to produce 615.00 Mt including 15.74 Mt. of coking coal in the Terminal Year of Twelfth Plan *i.e.* 2016-17. This production is achievable only if the requisite clearances are processed in fast-tracked route and delivered within the specified time schedule. The issues affecting land acquisition, R & R, law and order and evacuation infrastructure will also have to be addressed in a time bound manner.

Valuation of Coal Mines Pension Scheme

2176. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft report of the actuary appointed for valuation of Coal Mines Pension Scheme, submitted on 9th July, 2012 has been examined by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether the final evaluation report by the actuary has also been submitted;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, by when the final evaluation report is likely to be submitted;

(g) whether Government has fixed a time-frame for revision of the said pension;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (i) Under clause 22(1) of the CMPS, 1998, actuarial evaluation of the pension fund has to be made every third year. Accordingly, the work of actuarial evaluation of the CMPS, 1998 and Pension Fund was taken up for the period upto March, 2001. The period covered was extended till 31.12.2002. The actuary submitted his revised evaluation report on 29.07.2003. The Central Government asked the CMPFO to have a second opinion/re-evaluation of the actuarial report by an actuary in the panel with Actuarial Society of India. This report of the actuary was submitted on 29.06.2006 followed by a supplementary report dated 10.10.2006. Both these reports were placed in the 145th meeting of the Board of Trustees of CMPFO held on 11.10.2006. The actuary indicated a deficit of Rs. 1946.67 cores and recommended enhancement of contribution from the employees by amendment in the CMPS, 1998. Since the evaluation was based on just 40.35% of the data pertaining to strength of CMPF/pension membership, the BOT directed to get the evaluation done on 100% data. The period covered was extended up to 31.12.2011. Draft Report dated 9.7.12 of Actuary, was deliberated in the meeting of 156th Board of Trustees held on 20.07.12 and as per decision an expert Committee was formed to go into the details of actuarial report. The meeting of the Committee was held on 16.10.12 and 17.10.12. They have submitted the report in which one of the recommendations was to request CIL to send the proposal to Technical Committee of JBCCI for framing of a model to fund the liability. The matter was further deliberated in the 157th Meeting of Board of Trustees held on 22.02.13. Coal India Limited informed the Board that the matter is under consideration with Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry (JBCCI).

Acquisition of coalfields by CIL abroad

2177. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of coalfields acquired by Coal India Limited and other public sector companies during the last five years in other countries, company-wise;

(b) the details of coal production in domestic and foreign coalfields during the last and the current financial year, so far, separately;

(c) whether Government has decided to acquire some new coalfields for exploration in other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) has obtained exploration licenses for two coal blocks *i.e.* 3450L and 3451L covering a leasehold area of 224 sq.km. in Moatize district, Tete Province through competitive bidding process run by Government of Mozambique in early 2009. Exploration licenses have been granted in the name of Coal India Africana Limitada (CIAL) a wholly owned subsidiary of CIL in Mozambique. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has not acquired any coal fields in other countries so far.

(b) Domestic production of CIL's subsidiaries and SCCL during the last and the current financial year up to February 2013 is given below:

Company	(Figures in Million Te)	
	2011-12	2012-13 (up to February 2013)
Eastern Coalfields Limited	30.558	29.29
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	30.207	27.96
Central Coalfields Limited	48.004	40.49
Northern Coalfields Limited	66.401	60.93
Western Coalfields Limited	43.110	37.62
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	113.837	106.30
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	103.119	94.85
North East Coalfields	0.602	0.49
Total production of CIL	435.838	397.93
Singareni Collieries Company Limited	52.211	47.347

No production of coal from the coal blocks in Mozambique has been achieved till date.

(c) to (e) CIL has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with organizations owned by the Provincial Government of Limpopo, South Africa to acquire coal blocks in South Africa for exploration and development. CIL Board has accorded approval for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary of CIL in South Africa and process has been initiated for registration of the same. Further in the past, Joint Venture Company, namely, International Coal Ventures (P) Ltd. (ICVL) was formed with CIL, SAIL, NTPC, NMDC & RINL as constituent members. However, after withdrawal of NTPC, CIL is also reviewing the decision regarding continuance in the ICVL. So far ICVL has not acquired any coal block abroad.

Allocation of coal blocks to PSUs

2178. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended the date for receipt of application for allocation of coal blocks to PSUs and Government companies for specific end use (power) and coal mining;

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

(c) the details of reasons for such extension;

(d) the details of coal block covering areas, location and basic infrastructure including coordinates, status of exploration, sequence of coal seams, quality of coal and estimated reserves, etc. of various such coal mining areas; and

(e) the details of steps taken by Government for compliance of the amended provisions of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act and Rules by various such allottees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has extended the date of receipt of application for allotment of coal blocks from Government Companies/Corporations till 08.02.2013 from 30.01.2013 considering the requests of State Government of Mizoram, Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.

(d) The details of 17 coal blocks (14 for Power and 3 for Mining) earmarked for allocation to Government Companies/Corporation are available on the website of Ministry of Coal (<http://coal.nic.in>) dated 31.12.2012.

The 'Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mine Rules, 2012' as amended in December 2012 contain detailed terms and conditions including provisions relating to production and utilization of coal.

Loss of coal production due to strike

2179. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal production at many places were suffered due to strike;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the steps have been taken by Government to make such loss in the coming days; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Coal production in CIL and SCCL suffered partially due to 2 days nation-wide strike on 20th & 21st February, 2013 by 0.71 million tones (approx.) and 0.1 million tones respectively.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Coal is regularly monitoring the production performance in the Coal sector as also the off take of coal to ensure that the momentum of coal production is maintained. The Coal India Limited (CIL) has stated that its subsidiary companies are taking various taken steps to fulfill the target for coal production including through motivating the employees by Management and Union Representatives. The Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) has stated that areas with potential for higher production have been identified and measures have been taken to ensure un-interrupted production.

Allocation of coal blocks

2180. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received many applications including from power sector and mining firms for allocation of coal blocks;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any decision on those applications; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) In response to the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) dated 31.12.2012 for the 17 Coal Blocks (14 coal blocks for Power and 3 coal blocks for mining) for allocation to Government companies/corporations under Rule 4(3) of the 'Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mines Rules, 2012', the Ministry of Coal has received a total number of 318 applications.

(c) and (d) The Government has notified the "Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mines Rules, 2012" on 2nd February, 2012. Further 'Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mine (Amendment) Rules, 2012' regarding allocation of coal blocks including terms and conditions of allocation of area containing coal for the purpose of mining and specified end use have been notified on 27th December, 2012.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted on 17.12.2012 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Coal to consider the applications received from the Government Companies/Corporations on the basis of pre-determined evaluation criteria for allocation of coal blocks. The IMC comprises of members from Ministry of Coal, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Steel, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Law & Justice, Planning Commission, Coal India Limited, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd. and Coal Controller. The applications are being evaluated.

Coal linkage to NKSTPP

†2181. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coal linkage has been provided again by NTPC to start the activities of North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (NKSTPP) Project at Tandva, Chatra, Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Government has decided in principle to restore the original coal linkage granted to North Karanpura Super Thermal Power plant with the stipulation that the coal supplies will commence during the 13th Five Year Plan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Cancellation of coal blocks

‡2182. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has cancelled the allocation of a few coal mines even after a lot of hue and cry;

(b) the reasons for not cancelling allocation of remaining coal mines whereas the allocation of most of the coal mines was to be cancelled;

(c) whether mismanagement exists in several coal mines of Raigarh district and Sarguja sambhag in Chhattisgarh causing much hardships to the labourers as well as common public which needs to be monitored; and

(d) the reasons for not putting a check on the suppressive attitude of the industrialists of coal mines by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The review and monitoring of progress of development of the coal blocks allotted and associated end use projects is an ongoing process and is reviewed from time to time. The responsibility of developing the coal block as per the prescribed guidelines and milestone chart attached with the allocation letter rests entirely with the allocatee company. Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3 to 7 years for reaching the production stage and another two to three years for reaching the optimal production capacity. As per the guidelines, coal production from a captive coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If a coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report.

The allocatees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project. The allocatees submit a status report to the Coal Controller on quarterly basis. The Coal Controller consolidates and sends the same to the Government and the Government on the basis of the above, periodically monitors and reviews the development of allocated blocks as well as end use

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

plants by the allocattee companies in the review meetings. Further, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted on 21.06.2012 under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) to review the progress of development of allocated coal/lignite blocks and associated end use projects of the allocattees. Appropriate action including de-allocation, deduction of Bank Guarantee is taken by the Government from time to time.

Based on the recommendations of the then Review Committee and the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG), the Government has so far de-allocated 47 coal blocks. Out of the 47 de-allocated blocks, 2 blocks were allocated again, 3 blocks were assigned to Coal India Limited and in respect of 5 blocks belonging to National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd./Damodar Valley Corporation Ltd./Jharkhand State Electricity Board de-allocation letters were withdrawn.

(c) and (d) The issues related to safety and welfare of labourers engaged in the Coal Mines are monitored and supervised by the concerned authorities who are entrusted with the responsibility for the same under various statutes.

Closure of thermal power plants due to shortage of coal

2183. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether thermal power plants in certain States are in extremely critical phase facing closure due to shortage of coal and if so, the details thereof, plant-wise and State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of coal to all the plants across the country;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey for exploring new coal reserves in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated quantum available in those new coal reserves, State-wise; and

(e) the follow up action being taken by Government to utilize those coal reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) As per the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) daily coal report, 15 TPPs are carrying Super critical coal stock position as on 06.03.2013. The State-wise TPP-wise details of TPPs carrying super-critical coal stock are tabled below:

Details of TPPs carrying super-critical coal stock (as per CEA stock report for 06.03.2013)

Sl. No	State	Name of TPP	Stock as on 06.03.2013			Remarks
			Quantity (in Million Tonnes)	No. of Days' requirement		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Delhi	Rajghat TPS	3.88	2	Coal supply regulated by TPP	
2	Haryana	Mahatma Gandhi TPS	17.04	1	Less wagon supply against indents placed by CCL	
3	Uttar Pradesh	NCTPP Dadri	3.31	0	Higher generation by TPP	
4		Anpara C TPS	0.00	0	Fund constraint of TPP	
5		Korba STPS	111.14	3	Higher generation by TPP	
6	Chattisgarh	Sipat STPS	77.35	2	Supply more than 100% of commitment under FSA/ACQ	
7	Maharashtra	Khaperkheda TPS	20.68	1	Less wagon supply against indents placed by MCL	
8	A.P.	Simhadri TPS	17.31	1	Less wagon supply against indents placed by MCL	

1	2	3	4	5	6
9	A.P.	Rayalaseema TPS	54.03	3	Supply more than 100% of commitment under FSA/ACQ
10	Karnataka	Bellary TPS	28.30	2	Less wagon supply against indents placed by MCL
11	Bihar	Kahalgaoon TPS	136.38	3	Supply more than 100% of commitment under FSA/ACQ
12	Jharkhand	Koderma TPP	0.00	0	Less wagon supply against indents placed by MCL
13	Odisha	Talcher STPS	51.81	1	Less Import by TPP
14		Farakka STPS	60.03	2	Supply more than 100% of commitment under FSA/ACQ
15	West Bengal	Durgapur Steel TPS	23.28	1	Less wagon supply against indents placed by ECL

(b) Coal supplies to the Power Utility sector is monitored regularly by an inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising representatives of Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Railways constituted by the Infrastructure Review Committee of Cabinet Secretariat. This Sub-Group takes various operational decisions for meeting any contingent situations relating to Power sector including critical coal stock position.

(c) and (d) The work of exploration is a continuous process and new resources get added year on year. As per the latest National Inventory on Indian Coal Resources published by Geological Survey of India, as on 01.04.2012, the total coal resources assessed in the country are about 293.497 Billion Tonnes. The State-wise details are given below:

(in Million Tonnes)

State	Geological Resources of Coal			
	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
1	2	3	4	5
(A) Gondwana coalfields:				
Andhra Pradesh	9566.61	9553.91	3034.34	22154.86
Assam	0	2.79	0	2.79
Bihar	0	0	160.00	160.00
Chhattisgarh	13987.85	33448.25	3410.05	50846.15
Jharkhand	40163.22	33609.29	6583.69	80356.20
Madhya Pradesh	9308.70	12290.65	2776.91	24376.26
Maharashtra	5667.48	3104.40	2110.21	10882.09
Odisha	25547.66	36465.97	9433.78	71447.41
Sikkim	0	58.25	42.98	101.23
Uttar Pradesh	884.04	177.76	0	1061.80
West Bengal	12425.44	13358.24	4832.04	30615.72

1	2	3	4	5
(B) Tertiary coalfields:				
Arunachal Pradesh	31.23	40.11	18.89	90.23
Assam	464.78	42.72	3.02	510.52
Meghalaya	89.04	16.51	470.93	576.48
Nagaland	8.76	0	8.60	315.41
TOTAL (A+B)	118144.82	142168.85	33183.49	293497.15

(e) A programme of about 50 lakh meters of drilling has been drawn for Twelfth Five Year Plan under Detailed Exploration in coal against the actual achievement in the Eleventh Five Year Plan of 19.30 lakh meters, which is 259% more than the actual achievement in Eleventh Plan. This will enlarge proved reserve base of the country and thus enhance the coal production in the long term perspective.

Development of coal blocks

2184. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the yardsticks followed to allocate as well as de-allocate coal blocks to companies for their development;

(b) the number of coal blocks allocated to companies for more than five years and their stage of production; and

(c) the details of total de-allocated Coal blocks during the last three years and the grounds of their de-allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) In the past coal blocks were allocated to private companies and government companies under the following three processes:

- (i) **Captive dispensation route through Screening Committee :** The allocation of coal blocks to public/ private parties was done through the mechanism of an inter-Ministerial inter-Governmental body called the Screening Committee. The Screening Committee was chaired by the Secretary (Coal) and had representation from Ministry of Steel, Ministry

of Power, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Railways, Coal India Limited (CIL), CIL Subsidiaries, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited, Neyveli Lignite Corporation and the concerned State Governments. Allocations are decided by the Government on the basis of recommendations of the Screening Committee which takes into account, *inter-alia*, techno-economic viability of end-use project, state of project preparedness, compatibility in terms of quality and quantity of coal in a block with the requirement of end user and track record of applicant company, recommendations of the State Government and Administrative Ministry concerned etc. Allocation was decided by the Government in pursuance of Section 3(3)(a)(iii) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

- (ii) **Under Government Company dispensation:** Under the Govt. Company dispensation route, the list of blocks identified was circulated to all the Central Ministries/State Governments applications were invited from the State Governments/Central Government for Government companies. Under this route, only Government companies were allocated coal blocks both for specified end use and for commercial mining by the government companies where there is no restriction of captive use. Allocation was decided by the Government without referring it to the Screening Committee based on Revised Coal Mining Policy 2001 in pursuance of Section 3(3)(a)(i) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.
- (iii) **Tariff based bidding route:** Coal blocks were also earmarked for the power projects to be setup on the basis of tariff based competitive bidding system. Under Tariff Based Bidding route, identified coal blocks are placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Power which determines the linkage of coal blocks with the power projects proposed to be awarded on the basis of Tariff Based Competitive Bidding by calling applications from eligible companies, the Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) is awarded to the successful bidder. For power projects to be selected through tariff based bidding, coal blocks are allotted based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Power in pursuance of Section 3(3)(a)(iii) of the Coal Mines(Nationalisation) Act, 1973. The terms and conditions are same as applicable for blocks allocated under the Captive dispensation through Screening Committee route.

Till date, a total of 218 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 50 billion tonnes have been allocated to eligible public and private companies under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, out of which 178 coal blocks stand allocated as on date after de-allocation/reallocation and withdrawal of de-allocations made. Out of the above, 33 coal blocks have come into production.

Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3 to 7 years for reaching the production stage and another two to three years for reaching the optimal production capacity. As per the guidelines, coal production from a captive coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If a coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report.

The responsibility of developing the coal block as per the prescribed guidelines and milestone chart attached with the allocation letter rests entirely with the allocattee company. The allocattees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment *etc.* for both mining as well as end-use project. In the terms and conditions of the allocation letters, it is categorically mentioned that in the event of willful delay in the development of coal blocks and in setting up of the end use project, the Government would take appropriate action to de-allocate the said block. Government periodically monitors and reviews the development of allocated blocks as well as end use plants by the allocattee companies in the review meetings. Further, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted on 21.06.2012 under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) to review the progress of development of allocated coal/lignite blocks and associated end use projects of the allocattees. Wherever delays are noticed, Government issues show cause notices and advisories to such allocattees cautioning them to bring the coal blocks into production as per the guidelines/milestones chart.

Based on the recommendations of the then Review Committee and the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG), the Government has de-allocated 35 coal blocks during the last three years from 2010 to 2012 and 05 coal blocks during the current year 2013. Out of these de-allocated blocks, 3 blocks were assigned to Coal India Limited and in respect of 5 blocks de-allocation letters were withdrawn. The reasons for de-allocation were no substantial progress in development of coal blocks and in some cases the allocattee companies surrendered the blocks.

Impact of naxalism on coal production

2185. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of coal has suffered in some naxal affected States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to improve the coal production in those States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Production of coal suffered due to Naxalite activities in Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) Jharkhand State. Loss in coal production on account of naxal bandhs during the period April'12 to Feb'13 in CCL was approximately 1.6 Lakh Tonnes.

(c) and (d) As such, Police & Public order are State subjects and action with respect to maintenance of law and order lies primarily with the State Governments. The Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the Central Government closely monitors the situation and supplements the efforts of the State Governments over a wide range of measures including assisting them under security and development related schemes. Separately, the Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) has indicated that they are trying to make up the loss in production by increasing coal production on other working days.

Compensation of displaced families

2186. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families lost their land in Singareni and other coalfields that fall under CIL, so far, coalfield-wise and company-wise;

(b) how many families have been provided with employment, compensation etc., coalfield-wise and company-wise; and

(c) what efforts the Ministry has made to impart skill development, etc., to those families which have been displaced from their land, with a particular reference to Singareni Collieries Company Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) The number of families lost their land/displaced in coalfields that falls under the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited(CIL) during last three years is as follows:

Company	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.(ECL)	26	52	36
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.(BCCL)	NIL	NIL	NIL
Central Coalfields Ltd.(CCL)	147	244	34
Western Coalfields Ltd.(WCL)	198	34	49
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.(SECL)	163	150	144
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL)	1842	2175	1005
Northern Coalfields Ltd.(NCL)	134	299	1072

As regards Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), 22,931 families have lost their land.

(b) In CIL, employment and compensation have been provided in previous three years as per the provisions of CIL's R& R Policy, as indicated below:

Company	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Employ- ment	Compen- sation (Rs. in lakh)	Employ- ment	Compen- sation (Rs. in lakh)	Employ- ment	Compen- sation (Rs. in lakh)
ECL	96	77.35	72	3246.07	64	631.94
BCCL	76	441.80	03	96.89	03	53.96
CCL	228	1928.63	107	298.75	175	144.00
WCL	78	338.70	392	290.81	32	249.87
SECL	754	636.43	735	858.09	165	1533.57
MCL	466	1037.62	920	518.55	396	3481.89
NCL	46	167.24	96	5.83	75	19.64

In Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) 1134 families have been provided with employment. Compensation has been paid to all the 22,931 families as per the award passed by Land Acquisition Officers including compensation as enhanced by courts.

(c) With regard to Coal India Limited the displaced persons have been imparted training for skill development in different trades such as basket making, piggery, motor mechanic, electrician, security, welding, cutting carpet making, sewing, motor driving, poultry, carpentry, computer training etc. in different training institutes of different areas of the subsidiaries of CIL.

In SCCL under skill development/self employment programmes for the benefit of displaced families 1256 Project Affected Persons (PAPs) have been trained in different vocational/self employment courses through locally available faculty and through Khadi Gramodyog Maha Vidyalaya, Hyderabad. About 300 persons have been sanctioned loans with 35%(Rural) - 25% subsidy under Prime Ministers Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). 84 PAPs have been trained on Volvo vehicles and all of them have secured employment. 12170 candidates have been given coaching in army/police recruitment/selections. 50% seats in SCCL polytechnic college have been reserved for PAPs and local people. 50 PAPs have been given training for Government teacher posts.

Requirement of coal for power plants

2187. SHRI A. A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the current requirement of coal for power plants in the country including Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the required quantity is being supplied to those power plants in the States particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if not, the reasons for inadequate supply of coal to those power plants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Ministry of Coal/Planning Commission assesses overall demand of the country for various coal consuming sectors including Power Utility sector at the time of formulation of the Annual Plan. Overall demand of the

country is not assessed State-wise. For the current year (2012-13), All India Coal demand has been assessed to be 512 Million Tonnes for power utility sector in the country which includes power utilities located in various states of the country, including Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) In the current year (up to Feb'13), as against supply plan target of 339.92 Million Tonnes, despatches to power utility sector from CIL to power stations located in various States of the country including Tamil Nadu has been 91% of the target at 309.70 Million Tonnes (Provisional). The supply of coal to power plants are now made under bilateral Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) between power stations and coal companies. Wherever FSAs are still not concluded, supplies are made through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as per allocation made by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). In respect of power plants of Tamil Nadu, supply of coal in the current financial year, (till Feb'13), has been 87% of the committed quantity under FSA/MOU with supply of 11.27 Million Tonnes against commitment of 12.99 Million Tonnes.

(d) Coal supplies to the Power Utility sector is monitored regularly by an inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising representatives of Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Railways constituted by the Infrastructure Review Committee of Cabinet Secretariat. This Sub-Group takes various operational decisions for meeting any contingent situations relating to Power sector including critical coal stock position. The monitoring mechanism has ensured that stock of coal at TPPs of Tamil Nadu has improved from 0.36 Million Tonnes as on 01.04.2012 to 0.56 Million Tonnes as on 28.02.2013.

Rice quota for Assam

2188. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reduced Central quota of rice and wheat for Assam;

(b) whether it has affected the public; and

(c) the details of allocation of rice and wheat in Assam and the breakup for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir.

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

(c) Details of allocation of rice and wheat made to Assam under normal Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the last five years are as under:

(In '000 MTs)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
2007-08	1081.116	264.411	1345.527
2008-09	1181.892	224.364	1406.256
2009-10	1208.460	277.506	1485.966
2010-11	1346.190	326.936	1673.126
2011-12	1440.962	365.794	1806.756

Details of additional allocation of rice and wheat made to Assam since 2009-10 are as under:

(In '000 MTs)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
2009-10	52.476	37.384	89.860
2010-11	569.152	200.696	769.848
2011-12	190.794	30.000	220.794

Misleading advertisements

2189. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumers are being cheated/misled by the companies including producers of cosmetics, health and food supplements, through misleading advertisement making false exaggerated claims about their products and other legal nuances;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases reported, along with the names of the companies, during 2011 and 2012, State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of the consumers, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether Government has any regulatory mechanism to monitor and regulate such advertisements and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, a large number of misleading advertisements come through various media. Details of such advertisements are not centrally available. There are a number of legislations that have provisions to deal with misleading claims and advertisements made by companies regarding their products which include *inter-alia*:

- (i) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (Ministry of Health)
- (ii) The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1955 (Ministry of Health)
- (iii) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (Ministry of Health)
- (iv) The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (Ministry of Health)
- (v) Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (Administered by Department of Consumer Affairs)
- (vi) Advertisement aired on private satellite TV channels are regulated under the Advertising Code prescribed in rules framed under Cable Television Network (Regulation) Acts 1995.
- (vii) Advertisement in print media, which are violative of 'Norms of Journalistic Conducts' are being adjudicated by the Press Council of India under Section 14 of the Press Council Act 1978. Various Ministries are administering above Acts and taking necessary action to protect consumer interests.

(d) and (e) Telecast of advertisements on private satellite/cable TV channels is regulated as per the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Rule 7 (5) of the Advertising Code provides that no

advertisement shall contain references which are likely to lead the public to infer that the product advertised or any of its ingredients has some special or miraculous or supernatural property or quality, which is difficult of being proved.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific complaints or *suo-moto* take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising codes and action is taken as per rules. IMC has representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women & Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs and Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private television channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes.

So far as print media is concerned, the Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with the twin objective to preserve the freedom of press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspaper and news agencies in India and also to inculcate the principles of self-regulation. Accordingly, the Council has built "Norms of Journalistic Conduct" which cover principles and ethics of journalism for adherence by the media. The norm 36 prescribes guidelines for 'Advertisements'.

Regulation of forward trading in essential commodities

2190. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to regulate forward trading in essential commodities including farm products to control price rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the other remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Forward Markets Commission, a statutory body established under the Forward Contracts(Regulation) Act, 1952 regulates forward trading in commodities.

The commodity futures market performs the twin objectives of price discovery and price risk management. The futures market merely discovers the likely prices of a given commodity at future points of time depending on the likely supply-demand scenario. Prices are bound to fluctuate depending on the additional information/data available or expectations of market participants relating to demand and supply factors. When such information is received price expectations change almost on a continuous basis. In so far as the food inflation due to the commodity futures trading is concerned, an Expert Committee chaired by Shri Abhijit Sen, Member of the Planning Commission that analyzed annual trend growth rate in prices of sensitive commodities (foodgrains and sugar) in pre-futures and post-futures period, concluded that although inflation clearly increased post-futures in some sensitive commodities that have higher weight in consumer price indices, it is not possible to make any general claim that inflation accelerated more in commodities with futures trading.

Other factors particularly demand supply mismatches, degree of dependence on imports and international prices in these commodities etc. also tend to affect commodity prices.

(d) The Forward Markets Commission (FMC), the Regulator for commodity futures markets under the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 monitors the volatility in the movement of prices of all commodities traded on the Exchange platform and makes use of various regulatory tools such as daily price limit (circuit limit) to prevent abrupt upswing or downswing in prices, open position limits at the member and client level to prevent over trading, special margins on buyers and/or sellers to control excessive volatility and to prevent excessive speculation or cornering of the market by any individual or a group in the market. The limits on open positions are fixed in such a manner that no single individual/entity or group of individuals/entities acting in concert would be able to influence the price discovery process contrary to market fundamentals.

As a matter of abundant caution, FMC has also suspended futures contracts in respect of Tur, Urad and Rice since 2007.

Spiralling price rise of essential commodities

2191. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is conscious of the fact that there is spiralling price rise in the case of all essential commodities in the country and this has landed common people in great hardship;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would take steps to acquire these goods from producers and distribute them through Public Distribution System; and

(d) whether Government has realised that price rise of essential commodities can be curbed only by protecting people from the clutches of black marketeers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The WPI indicates that during the year 2012-13, the overall rate of inflation for all commodities declined to 6.84% during the month of February 2013 when compared to the same at 7.56% during the month of February 2012. The rate of inflation for Food Articles which was at 6.12% in February, 2012 has been showing a fluctuating trend during the year and stood at 11.38% for the month of February 2013.

Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to several factors such as shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, adverse weather conditions, improvement in income and living standards, changes in dietary habits as well as insufficient logistics and storage facilities. Any increase in the prices of essential commodities does tend to have an impact on the budget of common man.

(c) Procurement of foodgrains is being undertaken to distribute the same through the Public Distribution System. In fact, under Targeted Public Distribution System allocation of foodgrains to those accepted number of BPL families are made @35 kg per family per month. Allocation of foodgrains is also made to Above Poverty Line (APL) families based on the availability of foodgrains in central pool and past off take. Additional allocations of foodgrains are also being made by Government from time to time depending upon the availability of stocks and requirements/requests received from States/UTs.

(d) As indicated in reply to parts (a) and (b) above, price rise is due to several factors. However, to check price rise due to hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been

delegated powers to take necessary action under the provisions of both "The Essential Commodities Act, 1955" and "The Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of essential commodities Act, 1980". They have been repeatedly requested to strictly enforce both the Acts and also monitor enforcement of these Acts periodically.

Status of NFSB

†2192. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status for the enactment of National Food Security Bill (NFSB);

(b) whether the bottlenecks being faced in the implementation of the Bill have been identified and adversed; and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for early enactment of this Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, to which the National Food Security Bill, 2011 was referred for examination, after its introduction in Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, has submitted its report on 17.01.2013.

After finalizing its views on recommendations of the Standing Committee, Government will move necessary amendments to the Bill, wherever required, for consideration of the Parliament.

Cash subsidy to BPL card holders

†2193. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision for providing cash subsidy to BPL cardholders;

(b) whether facility of post office or bank would be made available in every village;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether BPL cardholders will be able to open their accounts in bank and withdraw cash subsidy easily, whether corrupt practices would not be involved on withdrawal of cash subsidy;

(d) whether cardholders would be able to buy 35 Kg. of rice for six hundred in the market after getting cash subsidy; and

(e) whether this amount provided to cardholders would be utilised for meeting other expenditures of the household and it is feared that this amount is likely to be spent on consumption of liquor etc. and that the problems being faced by the families shall remain unresolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) There is no provision at present for disbursement of food subsidy in cash to beneficiaries, including Below Poverty Line (BPL) cardholders, under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Prices of food articles

2194. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that, in spite of inflation coming down, the prices of food articles are beyond the reach of common man;

(b) what impact the increase in price of diesel has on transportation of goods; and

(c) what remedial measures, the Ministry has taken/proposed to take to contain the price of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per the Wholesale Index (WPI), the rate of inflation for Food Articles group stood at 11.88% for the month of January 2013 as against 6.62% for All Commodities for the same month. Rise in prices of food articles would depend on several factors such as shortfall in domestic supply relative to demand, hardening of international prices,

changes in consumption pattern, adverse weather conditions, insufficient logistics, storage facilities etc. Hence, there could be differences between the overall rate of inflation and that of food articles.

The point contribution of High Speed Diesel Oil (HSDO) in overall inflation on a year on year basis in January 2013 was estimated at 0.74.

(c) The steps in operation by the Government to control the prices of essential commodities are given in Statement.

Statement

The Steps in operation by the Government to contain price rise in essential commodities inter-alia include the following:

- Reduced import duties to zero - for wheat, onion and pulses and to 7.5% for refined edible oils.
- Import duty on sugar has been kept at 10%.
- Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil, forest based oil and edible oils in blended consumer packs upto 5 kg with a Minimum Export Price of USD 1500 per MT) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses and lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum).
- Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oils and edible oilseeds for a period upto 30.09.2013 and in respect of paddy and rice upto 30.11.2013.
- Maintained the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002.
- Suspended Futures trading in rice, urad and tur.
- To ensure adequate availability of sugar for the households covered under TPDS, the levy obligation on sugar factories was restored to 10%.
- Government allocated rice and wheat under OMSS Scheme.
- The scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through PDS with a subsidy element of Rs.20/- per Kg is presently under operation.

The scheme for subsidized imported edible oils has been extended upto 30.09.2013 with subsidy of Rs.15/- per Kg.

Quality of items supplied under PDS

2195. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quality of various items supplied under Public Distribution System (PDS) in the States is very poor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Various items supplied under Public Distribution System (PDS) like foodgrains (Wheat, Rice and Coarse grains), sugar, kerosene etc. are procured and supplied as per prescribed norms. No complaint about supply of poor quality of sugar and kerosene has been received from any State including Andhra Pradesh. Three complaints about supply of poor quality foodgrains under PDS in Puducherry, Maharashtra and Gujarat were received during 2012-13. Details are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) In order to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued for distribution under PDS, instructions have been issued to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Governments as given in Statement-II (*See* below).

The quality of sugar supplied under PDS is released as per specification ISS grade by Sugar factories.

The quality of kerosene supplied under PDS in the country through wholesale dealers of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies is as per specification of kerosene laid down *i.e.* IS: 1459.

Statement-I
Details of the complaints received about supply of poor quality foodgrains issued under Public Distribution System (PDS) during 2012-13

Year	State	Complaint	Action Taken by the Government
2012-13	Puducherry	A complaint received from State President, Nationalist Congress Party, Puducherry regarding supply of poor quality rice stock in the State.	The complaint was got investigated through Food Corporation of India and State Government of Puducherry. The complaint was not found to be true.
	Maharashtra	FCI has informed that a complaint was received regarding issue of contaminated wheat stock to PDS from MSWC, Aurangabad during March/April, 2012.	The complaint was got investigated by CMD MSWC, Pune who reported that contaminated stock were not offered under PDS. Only good quality foodgrain have been issued under PDS. Government of Maharashtra has informed that in an incidence at Mauje Ganori, Taluka, Fulambri and Aurangabad contaminated wheat received at fair price shop was replaced and wheat of fair average quality was distributed to the card holders.
	Gujarat	A complaint was received in May, 2012 from Jivabhai Ambalal Patel, Ex-MP (LS) regarding Poor Quality Foodgrains being supplied from FCI and requested for instructions to be issued.	No specific instance was raised in the complaint; however, detailed procedure for supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS from FCI godowns has been apprised to the complainant.

Statement-II*Procedure laid down and instructions issued for supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS to State Governments and FCI*

- (i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to the Standards of Food Safety and Standards Act/Rules (formerly PFA) are to be issued under TPDS.
- (ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting the foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
- (iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the TPDS jointly by FCI and State Food & Civil Supplies Department for display in Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers. FPS dealers are to maintain a complaint register to enable the consumers to lodge their complaints, in case the quality of the foodgrains issued is not proper.
- (iv) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
- (v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government and surprise checks are carried out by the officers of Quality Control Cell of the Ministry.
- (vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
- (vii) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes meet the desired standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

Food inflation due to mismanagement of foodgrains

2196. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, as per the Planning Commission, the main reason for food inflation in the country is mismanagement of foodgrain system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the response of Government thereto;
- (d) whether food inflation in the country has been higher than any developed or developing country of the world during the recent years;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foodgrains under NFSB

‡2197. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has made provision for giving seven kilograms of foodgrains per month to the person living below poverty line under the proposed National Food Security Bill (NFSB);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is satisfied with the fact that 230 grams of foodgrains per day is sufficient for nourishment of a person;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for making provision for giving seven kilograms of foodgrains per person per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The National Food Security Bill, 2011, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011, 2011 seeks to entitle upto 75% of the rural population (with at least 46% belonging to the priority households) and upto 50% of the urban population (with at least 28% belonging to the priority households) to receive foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Priority households will be entitled to receive 7 kg of foodgrains per person per month at prices not exceeding Rs. 3, 2 and 1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) As per the Report of the Expert Group of the Indian Council of Medical Research on Nutrient Requirements and Recommended Dietary Allowances for Indians, the quantity of cereals and pulses required, per day, for moderately active man are 400 grams and 80 grams respectively.

(e) The coverage and entitlements under TPDS, proposed in the Bill, are based on current trends in production and procurement of foodgrains. Besides, the Bill also, *inter-alia*, contains provisions for nutritional support to women and children, and meals for special groups such as destitute and homeless persons, emergency and disaster affected persons and persons living in starvation.

Expenditure on Jago Grahak Jago campaign

2198. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and spent on Jago Grahak Jago campaign during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) whether there are 3.5 lakh cases pending in consumer courts in the country, as on 21st December, 2012, as per the recent data released by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission;

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

(d) whether Government is aware that at district forum level in Delhi and UP, thousands of cases are pending for the last 5 to 8 years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, district wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The details of funds allocated and spent on Jago Grahak Jago campaign during the last three years and the current year, year-wise is given below:

Sl. No.	Year	Budget Estimates (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
1	2009-10	84.00	70.83
2	2010-11	80.67	80.58
3	2011-12	87.43	85.65
4	2012-13	80.00	58.00
		Revised Estimates: 65	(Till 31.1.2013)

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. 10761 cases are pending in the National Commission, 95263 cases are pending in State Commission and 2,48,068 cases are pending in District Fora. A statement showing the details is given in Statement. (See below).

(d) and (e) Information is being collected.

Statement

*A. Statement of Cases filed/disposed of/pending in the
National Commission and State Commissions*

(Update on 06.03.2013)

Sl. No	Name of State/UT	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	% of Disposal	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	National Commission	80014	69253	10761	86.55	28.02.2013
1	Andhra Pradesh	28675	27469	1206	95.79	31.12.2012
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	42	38	4	90.48	31.01.2008
3	Arunachal Pradesh	63	61	2	96.83	30.11.2012
4	Assam	2577	1867	710	72.45	31.12.2012
5	Bihar	15333	10770	4563	70.24	30.09.2012
6	Chandigarh	12204	12035	169	98.62	31.12.2012

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	Chhattisgarh	8612	8016	596	93.08	31.01.2013
8	Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	25	20	5	80.00	31.03.2011
9	Delhi	34653	32857	1796	94.82	31.01.2013
10	Goa	2321	2252	69	97.03	31.01.2013
11	Gujarat	44989	36905	8084	82.03	31.01.2013
12	Haryana	42841	42718	123	99.71	31.01.2013
13	Himachal Pradesh	7871	7629	242	96.93	31.01.2013
14	Jammu and Kashmir	6652	6061	591	91.12	31.12.2012
15	Jharkhand	5101	4601	500	90.20	31.12.2012
16	Karnataka	44505	39485	5020	88.72	31.01.2013
17	Kerala	25502	24307	1195	95.31	31.12.2012
18	Lakshadweep	17	16	1	94.12	31.12.2012
19	Madhya Pradesh	41886	36958	4928	88.23	31.01.2013
20	Maharashtra	57109	41344	15765	72.39	30.06.2012
21	Manipur	139	96	43	69.06	30.09.2008
22	Meghalaya	262	175	87	66.79	31.10.2012
23	Mizoram	200	196	4	98.00	31.01.2013
24	Nagaland	25	6	19	24.00	31.12.2011
25	Odisha	21883	15667	6216	71.59	31.12.2012
26	Puducherry	959	944	15	98.44	31.12.2012
27	Punjab	29596	23575	6021	79.66	31.12.2012
28	Rajasthan	51308	46999	4309	91.60	31.12.2012

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29	Sikkim	42	41	1	97.62	31.12.2012
30	Tamil Nadu	24223	22125	2098	91.34	31.12.2012
31	Tripura	1421	1397	24	98.31	31.01.2013
32	Uttar Pradesh	67119	38625	28494	57.55	31.12.2012
33	Uttarakhand	4641	3856	785	83.09	31.12.2012
34	West Bengal	17301	15723	1578	90.88	31.12.2012
TOTAL		600097	504834	95263	84.13	

B. Statement of Cases filed/disposed of/pending in District Fora

(Update on 06.03.2013)

Sl. No	Name of State/UT	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases Pending	% of Disposal	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	192331	186441	5890	96.94	31.12.2012
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	330	301	29	91.21	31.03.2006
3	Arunachal Pradesh	404	338	66	83.66	30.11.2012
4	Assam	13704	11976	1728	87.39	31.08.2010
5	Bihar	84369	73573	10796	87.20	30.09.2012
6	Chandigarh	46795	45614	1181	97.48	31.12.2012
7	Chhattisgarh	37292	34129	3163	91.52	31.01.2013
8	Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	162	144	18	88.89	31.03.2011

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	Delhi	239215	228875	10340	95.68	30.09.2011
10	Goa	6387	5840	547	91.44	31.01.2013
11	Gujarat	173597	161750	11847	93.18	31.01.2013
12	Haryana	220997	203297	17700	91.99	31.01.2013
13	Himachal Pradesh	57043	53672	3371	94.09	31.01.2013
14	Jammu and Kashmir	20792	18855	1937	90.68	31.12.2007
15	Jharkhand	33985	30720	3265	90.39	31.12.2012
16	Karnataka	155588	150723	4865	96.87	31.01.2013
17	Kerala	180640	172869	7771	95.70	31.12.2012
18	Lakshadweep	75	65	10	86.67	31.12.2012
19	Madhya Pradesh	184906	169904	15002	91.89	31.01.2013
20	Maharashtra	255993	236744	19249	92.48	30.06.2012
21	Manipur	1037	1012	25	97.59	30.09.2008
22	Meghalaya	847	750	97	88.55	31.10.2012
23	Mizoram	3466	2819	647	81.33	31.12.2010
24	Nagaland	290	266	24	91.72	31.12.2011
25	Odisha	92978	86305	6673	92.82	31.12.2012
26	Puducherry	2907	2714	193	93.36	31.12.2012
27	Punjab	154458	148813	5645	96.35	31.12.2012
28	Rajasthan	289436	261290	28146	90.28	31.12.2012
29	Sikkim	296	280	16	94.59	31.12.2012
30	Tamil Nadu	102719	97061	5658	94.49	31.12.2012
31	Tripura	2751	2538	213	92.26	31.10.2012

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32	Uttar Pradesh	565666	490670	74996	86.74	31.12.2012
33	Uttarakhand	34759	32598	2161	93.78	31.12.2012
34	West Bengal	86109	81310	4799	94.43	31.12.2012
TOTAL		3242324	2994256	248068	92.35	

Irregularities and corruption in PDS

2199. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government, regarding alleged irregularities and corruption in the functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) during the last three years, Statewise;

(b) the details of action taken thereon by Government, State-wise;

(c) whether any assessment of PDS has been carried out by Government;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken by Government to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions in the country. As and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

A State/UT-wise Statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and current year is given in Statement-I. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Evaluation studies on functioning of TPDS are conducted from time to time. Studies by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) (survey conducted during 2006-08) and Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) (survey conducted during 2007-08) have revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS such as inclusion/exclusion errors, leakages/diversion of foodgrains, etc. Details are given in Statement-II to V. (*See* below). Copies of these reports have been forwarded to the States/UTs concerned for taking necessary remedial measures to remove the deficiencies noticed in the functioning of TPDS.

Further, in an independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others (2011), it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of PDS across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States. Based on the survey made in May-June 2011, the researchers have brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has been also mentioned that the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone.

(e) Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding conferences wherein State/UT Governments are requested for continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPSs, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, adoption of revised Model Citizen's Charter, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.

A Nine Point Action Plan for curbing the leakages/diversion of foodgrains under TPDS was evolved in July, 2006 in consultation with the State/UT Governments. Point-wise details of the action taken under the Nine Point Action Plan as reported upto 31.12.2012 are given in Statement-VI.

Statement-I

Complaints on TPDS received in the department from individuals, organisations & through media reports etc. from 2010 to 2013 (Upto 31st January 2013)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2010	2011	2012	2013
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	1	-	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	-	-
3	Assam	1	1	1	
4	Bihar	13	6	14	3
5	Chhattisgarh	5	1	1	1
6	Delhi	37	16	22	3
7	Goa	1	-	-	-
8	Gujarat	3	2	3	-
9	Haryana	24	7	5	-
10	Himachal Pradesh	-	4	-	-
11	Jammu and Kashmir	3	-	3	-
12	Jharkhand	5	3	4	1
13	Karnataka	2	1	2	-
14	Kerala	3	1	4	-
15	Madhya Pradesh	13	9	6	-
16	Maharashtra	5	8	9	2
17	Manipur	-	1	1	-
18	Meghalaya	-	1	-	-
19	Mizoram	-	-	1	-
20	Nagaland	1	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
21	Odisha	3	2	3	-
22	Punjab	2	-	5	-
23	Rajasthan	6	6	3	1
24	Sikkim	2	-	-	-
25	Tamil Nadu	2	3	4	1
26	Uttarakhand	1	1	5	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	33	68	72	9
28	West Bengal	2	-	2	1
29	Chandigarh	2	-	-	-
30	Puducherry	-	-	1	-
TOTAL		174	144	171	24

Statement-II

Inclusion/exclusion errors indicated by NCAER (2006-08) in its concurrent evaluation reports in 12 States.

Sl. No.	Name of State	Inclusion errors in percentage	Exclusion errors in percentage
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	50-60	70
2.	Bihar	50	30-35
3.	Chhattisgarh	35	30-35
4.	Delhi	50	50-60
5.	Jharkhand	20-40	80
6.	Kerala	80	70-80
7.	Madhya Pradesh	20-40	70-80

1	2	3	4
8.	Maharashtra	40	50-60
9.	Mizoram	75	70
10.	Rajasthan	50	30-35
11.	Uttar Pradesh	20-30	30-35
12.	Uttarakhand	20-40	70-80

Statement-III

*Statement of leakages and diversion shown in
NCAER (2006-08) Reports*

(Figures in %age)

States	AAY		BPL		APL	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
Delhi	1.63	3.72	3.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jharkhand	3.80	16.47	0.00	8.97	0.00	54.53
Kerala	18.66	0.00	0.00	19.24	0.00	13.10
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	16.81	18.93	29.14	0.00	0.00
Maharashtra	0.00	9.42	0.00	17.77	0.00	0.00
Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.71	0.00	4.92
Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.97	42.32	0.00	78.34
Bihar	0.00	41.35	0.00	46.87	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.86	8.32	20.67	0.00	0.00
Assam	1.49	0.00	44.97	0.00	83.28	100.00
Mizoram	36.21	0.00	37.44	0.00	81.12	100.00

Statement-IV

Consolidated figures of wrongful inclusion and exclusion of households indicated in IIPA (Phase -I) (2007-08) concurrent evaluation of TPDS study report.

Name of State	% of wrongful inclusion of households in BPL Cards.	% of wrongful exclusion of BPL households from holding BPL cards.
Arunachal Pradesh	67.3	31.3
Manipur	73.8	20.2
Nagaland	19.9	10.4
Odisha	16.5	20.0
Tripura	66.9	10.6
West Bengal	8.70	9.71

Inclusion/Exclusion Errors in the IIPA (Phase-II) (2007-08) concurrent evaluation of TPDS study report.

Name of State/UT	Inclusion errors in percentage	Exclusion errors in percentage
Tamil Nadu	76.8	*
Punjab	68.9	16.5
Haryana	69.9	13.5
Chandigarh	30.2	38.6**
Andhra Pradesh	18.0	9.0
Himachal Pradesh	26.1	10.7
Jammu and Kashmir	44.3	10.3
Karnataka	37.6	34.5

Note: Inclusion error is based on percentage of BPL and AAY cardholders above poverty line, as obtained from the sample and projected to the total number of cardholders in each category. This is based only on income criteria using Planning Commission poverty line and should be read with caution. The high percentages are also because of the low poverty line. Exclusion error indicates the percentage of APL cardholders, who are below poverty line.

* Tamil Nadu has universal PDS

** In Chandigarh, nearly 3.7% of the poor households remain excluded because of failure to identify them.

Statement-V

Consolidated figures of leakages of foodgrains (rice and wheat) indicated in IIPA (Phase-I) (2007-08) Report in respect of States, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Tripura and West Bengal

Sl. No.	State	Leakage as Percentage of offtake
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.88
2.	Manipur	27.00
3.	Nagaland	49.49
4.	Orissa	6.86
5.	Tripura	3.24
6.	West Bengal	26.84

Consolidated figures of diversion/leakages of foodgrains (rice and wheat) allocated under TPDS as indicated in IIPA (Phase-II) (2007-08) Report in respect of States/UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka & Chandigarh

Sl. No.	State/UT	Percentage of diversion/ leakage of foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) allocated under TPDS to AAY and BPL beneficiaries
1.	Haryana	8.69
2.	Punjab	Nil*
3.	Chandigarh	13.6
4.	Tamil Nadu	13.64
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil*
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5.6
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.1
8.	Karnataka	Nil *

* Nil percentage of diversion/leakage does not take into account diversion from one category to another category of beneficiaries (AAY/BPL/APL).

Statement-VI*Details of the action taken by States/UTs as reported upto 31.12.2012 under the Nine Point Action Plan*

1	States should undertake a campaign to review BPL/AAY list to eliminate ghost ration cards	As per the reports received from the State & UT Governments by 31st December, 2012, implementation of the action plan has resulted in elimination of a total of 362.26 lakh bogus/ ineligible ration cards in 28 States.
2	Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of food grains	33 States have reported that action is being taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains.
3	For sake of transparency, involvement of elected PRI members in distribution of food grains be ensured. FPS licenses be given to SHGs, gram panchayats, cooperatives etc.	There is involvement of PRIs in Vigilance Committees to monitor FPS in 29 States/UTs. 30 States/UTs have reported FPS being run by Gram Panchayats, SHGs, Cooperatives etc. Out of more than 5.15 lakh FPS in operation, about 1.21 lakh FPS are being run by such organisations.
4	Display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops	BPL lists at FPS are displayed in 32 States/UTs.
5	Display of fair price shop-wise and district-wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny	Action regarding putting up district-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains on websites and other prominent places has been initiated in 21 States/UTs.
6	Door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops	Door-step delivery of foodgrains to FPS by State Governments instead of letting private transporters to transport goods is being done in 20 States/UTs. This reduces leakages during the transportation of foodgrains and ensures viability of FPS owners.

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- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | Ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at FPS and distribution of foodgrains by FPS | Action is being taken by 32 States in this regard. |
| 8 | Training of Vigilance Committee members | 27 State/UT Governments have taken up training programmes for FPS level vigilance committees. Funds are also being provided by Government of India under a Plan Scheme for training of TPDS officers/ officials. |
| 9 | Computerization of TPDS operations, use of IT etc. | Computerisation of PDS is the top-most priority of the Department. End-to-end computerisation including Digitisation of ration card and other databases, Supply chain management, creation of transparency portal, grievance redressal mechanism and FPS automation has been taken up.

States/UTs have prepared their action plans regarding computerisation. Detailed guidelines and timelines for achieving specific milestones have been sent to States/UTs. A Plan Scheme for providing infrastructural and financial support has been approved. |
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Price rise in forward markets

†2200. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of goods in forward markets of the country have witnessed an increase of upto twenty per cent during the last four months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a cent per cent profit has been earned, out of the prices of potatoes from this market during the past one year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that price increase in this market has affected the actual market; and

(f) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The futures market is a mechanism for price discovery and price risk management. During the period from November 2012 to February 2013, an increase in futures prices ranging from 1.18% to 20% was observed in fifteen commodities traded on the futures exchanges is given in the Statement-I. (*See* below). Two commodities *i.e.* chilli and dhaniya showed a price increase of more than 20% is given in the Statement-II. (*See* below). Eleven commodities showed a decline in futures price ranging from -3.60% to -23.72% is given in the Statement-III. (*See* below). The commodities traded on the futures exchange namely soya oil, aluminium, copper, crude oil, gold, lead, natural gas, nickel, silver and zinc use internationally discovered prices and the domestic futures prices merely reflect the international price trends.

(c) The prices of potato traded on the commodity futures exchange declined by -4.10% during the period from March 2012 to February 2013. The Commodity Regulator, FMC is not mandated to monitor the profits earned by participants trading on futures exchanges.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) and (f) In so far as the effect of the commodity futures market on the actual market is concerned, an Expert Committee chaired by Shri Abhijit Sen, Member of the Planning Commission viewed that no strong conclusion can be drawn on whether introduction of futures trade is associated with decrease or increase in spot price volatility. Many other studies have examined relationship between spot and futures prices, empirical evidence remains mixed.

Other factors particularly demand supply mismatches, degree of dependence on imports and international prices in these commodities etc also tend to affect commodity prices.

Statement-I

Near Month Futures Prices of Commodities Traded on Futures Exchanges that showed an increase of upto 20% between Nov 2012 and Feb 2013

Sl. No.	Commodities	Price Unit	Near Month Futures Prices in Nov 2012	Near Month Futures prices in Feb 2013	Futures Price Increase in Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Barley	100 Kg	1377.46	1399.54	1.60
2	Castorseed	100 Kg	3499.27	3540.63	1.18
3	Gur	40 Kg	1094.26	1107.38	1.20
4	Soyabean	100 Kg	3267.77	3319.34	1.58
5	Soya Oil	10 Kg	699.35	721.17	3.12
6	Turmeric	100 Kg	5221.36	6256.75	19.83
7	Cardamom	Kg	859.87	983.90	14.42
8	Mentha Oil	Kg	1252.35	1398.53	11.67
9	Potato	100 Kg	731.05	833.23	13.98
10	Aluminium	Kg	107.29	111.47	3.89
11	Copper	Kg	424.04	437.59	3.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Crude Oil	Barrels	4766.69	5152.67	8.10
13	Lead	Kg	119.54	128.34	7.36
14	Nickel	Kg	896.58	985.10	6.86
15	Zinc	Kg	105.16	115.30	9.65

Statement-II

Near Month Futures Prices of Commodities Traded on Futures Exchanges which showed an increase of more than 20% between Nov 2012 and Feb 2013

Commodities	Price Unit	Near Month Futures Prices in Nov 2012	Near Month Futures Prices in Feb 2013	Differential in Futures Price (in Percentage) % {(+)/(-)}
Chilli	100 Kg	5142.93	6711.67	30.50
Dhaniya	100 Kg	4753.69	6654.75	39.99

Statement-III

Near Month Futures Prices of Commodities Traded on Futures Exchanges that showed price reduction between November, 2012 and February, 2013

Sl. No.	Commodities	Price Unit	Near Month Futures Prices in Nov 2012	Near Month Futures Prices in Feb 2013	Differential in Futures Price (in Percentage) % {(+)/(-)}
1	2	3	4	5	
1	Chana	100 Kg	4494.07	3428.00	-23.72
2	Cottoncake	100 Kg	1431.52	1340.29	-6.37
3	Jeera	100 Kg	14475.05	13328.44	-7.92
4	Maize	100 Kg	1387.20	1294.94	-6.65
5	Pepper	100 Kg	40259.30	38910.36	-3.35

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Rmseed	100 Kg	4187.40	3435.54	-17.96
7	Sugar	100 Kg	3370.82	3078.90	-8.66
8	Wheat	100 Kg	1612.54	1554.43	-3.60
9	Gold	10 Gm	31562.31	30160.04	-4.44
10	Natural Gas	mmBtu	203.34	178.53	-12.20
11	Silver	Kg	61114.85	56243.21	-7.97

Sugar in Central pool

2201. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar lying in the central pool and what would be the quantum of sugar when sugar produced in the preceding season is added; and

(b) whether excess of sugar in the central pool is expected and if so, how the excess sugar is likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Central Government does not maintain stocks of sugar in the central pool. The stocks of sugar are held by the sugar mills in the country and the sales/dispatches are made as per the directions of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities

2202. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has been facing the crisis of shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities and also increase in their prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Central Government has directed the State Governments to maintain buffer stock of foodgrains, so that foodgrain crisis is addressed and the prices are kept under check; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no crisis of shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities, however, prices of foodgrains and certain essential commodities have been showing a rising trend for past some time. Government has taken following remedial steps to control this trend:

- Reduced import duties to zero - for wheat, onion and pulses and to 7.5% for refined edible oils.
- The import duty on sugar has been kept at 10%.
- Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil, forest based oil and edible oils in blended consumer packs upto 5 kg with a Minimum Export Price of USD 1500 per MT) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses and lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tons per annum).
- Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, and edible oilseeds for a period upto 30.9.2013 and in respect of paddy and rice upto 30.11.2013.
- Maintained the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY) since 2002.
- Suspended Futures trading in rice, urad, tur, guar gum and guar seed.
- To ensure adequate availability of sugar for the households covered under TPDS, the levy obligation on sugar factories was restored to 10%.
- Government allocated rice and wheat under OMSS.
- The scheme for distribution of subsidized imported pulses through PDS in a varied form with a subsidy element of Rs. 20/- per kg for the residual part of the current year is presently under operation. The scheme for subsidized imported edible oils has been extended upto 30.9.2013 with subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg for import of upto 10 lakh tons of edible oils for this period.

(c) and (d) Even though there is no crisis of foodgrains, Central Government has requested all State Governments to maintain sufficient stock of foodgrains for taking care of Targeted Public Distribution System's (TPDS) requirement of four month period at any given point of time.

Expenditure on storage and maintenance of foodgrains

2203. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures of the per quintal expenditure incurred on storage and maintenance of foodgrain stocks in Government-owned and private godowns; and

(b) the quantum of foodgrains stored in Government godowns and the amount spent on their maintenance during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The rate of Storage and maintenance of foodgrains in Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporation godowns has been finalized for the year 2009-10 and is fixed at Rs. 5.46 per qtl. per month. For the private godowns hired under the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme, the rates of hiring are decided through a transparent two bid tendering process and have to be within the approved CWC rates indexed appropriately. However, higher rates than the CWC rates received through tendering can only be approved by the High Level Committee (HLC) of FCI after recording the reasons/justifications.

(b) The stock position of wheat and rice (including un-milled paddy in terms of rice) in central pool as on 01.03.2013 is as under:

(Figures in lakh MT)

Wheat	Rice (Including un-milled paddy in terms of rice)	Total
271.03	357.69	628.72

The rent paid by FCI to various Government Warehousing Agencies for storage and amount spent on maintenance of foodgrains in FCI owned godowns in the last three years and the estimate for the current year are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Rent paid to CWC/SWC/ Govt. godowns	Maintenance cost incurred in FCI owned Godowns
2009-10	660.89	64.70
2010-11	758.82	71.57
2011-12	974.47	81.37
2012-13 (RE)	1294.66	122.08

Quantum of wheat export

‡2204. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had given the responsibility of export of wheat to Government institutions;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat exported by them during the year 2012-13 and the quantity of wheat export approved by Government;

(c) whether Government is now considering to give this responsibility of export of wheat to private sector; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Government has allowed export of wheat from Central Pool stocks through the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) namely State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.(STC), Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd.(MMTC) and Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Ltd (PEC) of the Department of Commerce. A total of 45 lakh tons is to be exported upto 30-6-2013, out of which as on 12-3-2013, a quantity of 25.58 lakh tons has been exported.

(c) and (d) Export of wheat by private sector is going on under Open General Licence (OGL) since 09-09-2009. However, Government has decided 'in principle' to allow export of wheat from Central Pool stocks through private sector as an

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

additional channel for export. This is in view of surplus stocks of wheat in the Central Pool in Punjab and Haryana, constraints in long term storage and prospects of the good Rabi crop this year.

Storage facilities for foodgrains

2205. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of wheat and rice during the last three years;
- (b) the annual requirement for consumption in the country;
- (c) the present stock position of foodgrains with Government agencies;
- (d) the present storage facilities and the actual requirements;
- (e) the quantum of foodgrains got rotten, due to shortage of storage facilities throughout the country; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to increase storage capacities and achievement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The total estimated production of wheat and rice during the last three years is as under:

(In million tons)

Commodity/year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Rice	89.10	95.98	105.31
Wheat	80.80	86.87	94.88

(b) During the year 2012-13, the requirement of foodgrains for annual allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) is 627.67 lakh tons.

(c) The stock of foodgrains in the central pool as on 1.3.2013 is 628.72 lakh tons.

(d) As on 31.12.2012 about 718 lakh tons of storage capacity is available for storage of central stock of foodgrains comprising of 376.19 lakh tons storage

capacity with FCI and 341.35 lakh tons of storage capacity with State agencies. Considering the present stock of foodgrains of 628.72 lakh tons, the existing storage capacity is sufficient for stocking of foodgrains.

(e) There is no separate data of foodgrains getting rotten due to shortage of storage facilities. Some quantity of foodgrains during storage may get damaged/ become non-issuable due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakage in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks exposure to rains, floods and negligence on the part of the concerned persons in taking precautionary measures, etc. A quantity of 1454 tons of foodgrains accrued as damaged/non issuable in FCI during 2012-13 (upto 01.02.2013).

(f) The Government is implementing the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme to augment the covered storage capacity through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). A capacity of 181.08 lakh tons (as on 31.12.2012) has been approved for construction of godowns in 19 States out of which a capacity of 130 lakh tons has been sanctioned for construction. Further additional capacities of 14.35 lakh tons for Uttar Pradesh and 2 lakh tons in silos have been sanctioned for West Bengal. For ensuring long-term scientific storage, the Government has also approved construction of 20 lakh tons of storage capacity in silos within the overall sanctioned capacity of the PEG Scheme. The Government has finalized a Plan scheme especially for the North East, for creation of an additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh tons through the FCI. To meet the short term storage requirements, the Executive Director (Zones) and General Managers of FCI have been given full powers for hiring godowns.

Auction of foodgrains

2206. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is auctioning the foodgrains lying in various storages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government incurred a heavy loss due to improper planning and storage of foodgrains during the last three/four years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government is releasing wheat through tender sale by FCI to bulk consumers/ private traders under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). In addition, wheat is also sold to private traders from FCI godowns without tender at reserve price and to retail consumers through State Government under OMSS Scheme. Details of wheat sold under OMSS is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

*Details of wheat sold under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)
during the last four years are as under:*

Year	Qty. (Lakh MT)
2009-10	16.28
2010-11	11.55
2011-12	11.84
2012-13 (as on 31.1.2013)	50.43

Rotting of foodgrains

2207. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of tonnes of wheat and rice procured by Government between 2009 and 2011 is rotting in the open, in various parts of the country, especially in Haryana;

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

(c) whether poor storage has resulted in downgrading of quality of rice which affects exports; and

(d) the action taken by Government to lift the foodgrains at the earliest and also to fix responsibility for losses to exchequer on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Following quantities of wheat accrued as damaged/non-issuable in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage in open complex in Food Corporation of India(FCI) during 2009-10 to 2011-12 and current year 2012-13 (upto January, 2013):

(Figure in tons)

Regions	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto Jan'13)
1. Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	8.94
2. Karnataka	0	0	0	15.45
3. Gujarat	671	137	196	195.00
4. Maharashtra .	45	21	1346	0
5. Uttar Pradesh	0	0	15	0
TOTAL	716	158	1557	219.39

Further, accrual of non-issuable foodgrain stocks with State agencies of Punjab and Haryana States during 2009-10 to 2012-13 (upto Jan'13) is as follows:

(Figure in tons)

State agencies	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto Jan'13)
Punjab	8356	41690	66306	20112
Haryana	823	30069	10456	25243
TOTAL	9179	71759	76762	45355

The stocks reported as damaged/non-issuable by agencies above include open storage also.

Foodgrains may get damaged during storage due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to moisture in case of unscientific storage, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The Government has been urging States/Union Territories (UTs) to lift their entire allocated quota of foodgrains through quarterly advisories, individual letters, various conferences and periodical meetings with them. The lifting of foodgrains against the additional allocations has shown a rising trend and it has improved from 26% against the additional allocations made during January-February, 2010 to 85% against the additional BPL allocations made during 2011-12.

Details of the officials of FCI proceeded against for rotting/damage of foodgrains during last three years and current year are as under:

Year	No. of officials
2009-10	28
2010-11	20
2011-12	59
2012-13	15
TOTAL	122

Requirement of foodgrain storages

2208. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of foodgrains produced during the last five years;
- (b) the details of requirement of storage capacity for the same;
- (c) the details of present storage facilities and the shortfall, if any;
- (d) whether large quantum of foodgrains are rotting due to shortage of storage facilities throughout the country;
- (e) the steps taken by Government to improve the storage capacity of foodgrains;
- (f) by when the country would have no capacity shortage; and
- (g) the details of foodgrains damaged because of lack of storage facilities during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The quantity of foodgrains produced during the last five crop years are as under:

(In lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	Year	Wheat	Rice
1.	2008-09	806.8	991.82
2.	2009-10	808.0	890.93
3.	2010-11	868.74	959.80
4.	2011-12	948.80	1053.10
5.	2012-13	922.99	1018.01

The storage capacity, Covered and Cover & Plinth (CAP) available with the FCI is 376.19 lakh MTs as on 31.01.2013. The storage capacities, both covered and CAP, available with State agencies for storage of Central Stock of foodgrains is about 341.35 lakh MTs. As a result, a total of about 718.00 lakh MTs of storage capacity was available for storage of Central stock of foodgrains which stood at 662.00 lakh MTs as on 31.1.2013.

The damage to foodgrains in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) has shown a decreasing trend. The foodgrains accrued as damaged against offtake has reduced from 0.106 in 2007-08 to 0.004 in 2012-13 (upto 01.01.2013). It is not true that large quantities of foodgrains are rotting due to shortage of storage facilities.

(e) and (f) The Government is implementing the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme to augment the covered storage capacity through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs), however there is no capacity shortage considering the CAP storage facility available in the country which is also a scientific method of storage. Under the PEG Scheme the FCI guarantees to hire godowns constructed under this scheme for a period of ten years, thereby, ensuring for the investor, a fair return on his investment. A capacity of about 197 lakh MTs as on 28.02.2013 has been approved for the construction of godowns in 19 States out of which a capacity of 141.46 lakh MTs has been sanctioned for construction. A capacity of

46.88 lakh MTs has been completed. For ensuring long-term scientific storage, the Government has also approved construction of 20 lakh MTs of storage capacity in silos within the overall sanctioned capacity of the PEG Scheme.

(g) The details of foodgrain stock accrued as damaged (non-issuable) with FCI during the last five years are as under:

(Fig. in MTs)

Sl. No.	Year	Wheat and Rice
1.	2008-09	20114
2.	2009-10	6702
3.	2010-11	6346
4.	2011-12	3338.01
5.	2012-13 (As on 01.02.2013)	1454.27

Grants for Warehouse Construction scheme

†2209. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind rotting of wheat and other foodgrains in Government godowns in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government has discontinued the scheme to give grants, promoting warehouse construction scheme meant for keeping the foodgrains in order;

(c) if so, whether the above scheme would be restarted;

(d) whether the Government has asked for distributing the rotten grains among the poor in compliance of the Supreme Court's order; and

(e) the names of the places where foodgrains have been distributed till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Foodgrains may

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

get damaged during storage due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during movement and handling of stocks, exposure to moisture in case of unscientific storage, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc.

(b) and (c) The scheme "Construction of Godowns" designed to assist the States/UTs for construction of godowns upto the capacity of 2000 tons especially in interior and disadvantageous areas was in operation wherein financial assistance of 50% as loan and 50% as grants in aid was provided to States/UTs. The scheme has been discontinued from 10th Five Year Plan.

However, The Government gives Grants-in-aid to North East (NE) States and the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir for creation of their own storage capacity. The Government has also finalised a Plan scheme especially for the North-East, for creation of an additional storage capacity of 5.40 lakh tons through the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

The Government is also implementing the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme to augment the covered storage capacity through private entrepreneurs, Central Warehousing Corporation(CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations(SWCs). A capacity of about 197 lakh tons has been approved till 28.2.2013 for construction of godowns in 19 States, out of which a capacity of 141.46 lakh tons has been sanctioned for construction. The FCI guarantees to hire godowns constructed under this scheme for a period of ten years, thereby ensuring for the investors, a fair return on the investment.

(d) No, Sir. Damaged foodgrains are not issued to State Governments for distribution for human consumption by Food Corporation of India. Damaged foodgrains are categorized for other uses such as feed categories, industrial use etc.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply at (d).

Shortcomings in the levy of rice

2210. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortcomings in the levy of rice in some States particularly in Andhra Pradesh and whether the millers are responsible for the same;

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

(c) the steps being taken to avoid such shortcomings in the levy of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No shortcomings have been reported in procurement of levy rice except that there are delays at times, as in Andhra Pradesh, in delivery of procured levy rice by the millers. As on 31.12.2012 a quantity of 4.80 lakh tons of levy rice procured in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2011-12, has been pending for delivery to Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Andhra Pradesh. FCI is procuring stocks strictly as per prescribed specifications. Every step is taken to ensure that stocks are properly checked before acceptance and only the stocks conforming to specifications are accepted under levy.

(c) States are given extension of time for delivery of pending levy rice as per need on their request. Steps being taken to avoid shortcomings in the Levy of rice on the basis of quality are as under:

- (a) Pin-pointing ambiguity in definitions of various Quality Parameters/ Refraction of food grains and getting the ambiguity removed.
- (b) Getting the pictorial depiction of refractions introduced and to bring them in Public Domain.
- (c) Getting necessary modifications in Quality Control (QC) guidelines relating to determination of Fair Average Quality (FAQ), quality of food grains to be procured and to put in place a system of Appeal for grievance redressal in effective and expeditious manner.
- (d) Continued emphasis on introduction of Good Laboratory Practices in respect of QC labs.
- (e) Continued emphasis on introduction of system of identity-blind system of taking QC samples of food grains.
- (f) Continued emphasis on introduction of system of Referral Laboratory for grievance redressal.

- (g) Making senior management functionaries responsible for exercising effective supervision & control in QC functions during the period of food grain procurement so that procurement of Below Rejection Limit (BRL) food grains can be ruled out to large extent.

Entitlements of children in National Food Security Bill

2211. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is committed to implement food security system in the country and so considering to introduce the National Food Security Bill for enacting legislation to this effect;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are certain shortcomings in the proposed Bill, with regard to entitlements of children and some States are opposing the Bill in the present form;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to include the entitlements of children in the Bill and satisfy the opposing States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) Government introduced the National Food Security Bill, 2011 in the Lok Sabha on 22.12.2011 to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. Besides coverage of 75% and 50% of the rural and urban population respectively for subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System, the Bill also contains separate provisions for nutritional support to women and children. Various provisions of the Bill, including those relating to children, have been prepared after wide ranging consultations with various stakeholders, including State Governments. There is a broad agreement on provisions relating to children.

Additional foodgrains for poorest districts

2212. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allocated additional foodgrains at BPL rates for some identified poorest districts in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total allocation of foodgrains made by Government at BPL rates to those districts;

(c) whether Government would also consider to increase such allocation to all the poorest districts of all the States including Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and as per the recommendations of the Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) D.P. Wadhwa, Government has allocated 44.90 lakh tons of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) central issue prices for distribution to additional BPL and AAY families in the identified poorest districts in 27 States of the country, out of which 37.75 lakh tons of foodgrains was allocated at BPL rates. This is a one-time allocation made on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. However during 2012-13, Government has allocated 50 lakh tons of additional foodgrains at BPL prices to the States/UTs for additional BPL families, out of which Tamil Nadu has been allocated 5.09 lakh tons of foodgrains.

Reaching of foodgrains to the needy persons

‡2213. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains being distributed in the country each year through Public Distribution System is not reaching to the needy persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the main reason behind this mismanagement is the lack of coordination between the Central and the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b)

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) to States/UTs for distribution to eligible beneficiaries under TPDS. The lifting of foodgrains against the regular TPDS allocation has been around 90% since 2008-09. As regards lifting of foodgrains against the additional allocations, it has shown rising trend and has improved from 26% against the additional BPL allocation made during 2009-10 to 85% against the additional BPL allocation made during 2011-12.

In an independent study conducted by a group of research scholars and student volunteers, including Mr. Jean Dreze, Reetika Khera and others, it has been stated that there has been an impressive revival of Public Distribution system across the country during the recent years. The group have based their findings on a study made in 106 randomly-selected villages, spread over two districts each in 9 States, covering a total of 1227 BPL/Antyodaya Households. Based on the survey made, the researchers have also brought out that there have been major initiatives in the recent past to improve PDS and these efforts are showing results. It has also been pointed out the days when up to half of the PDS grain was diverted to the open market are gone.

(c) and (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein operational responsibilities for allocation of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rest with the concerned State/UT Governments.

The Central Government is issuing advisories and holding conferences with States/UTs from time to time wherein various issues relating to TPDS are discussed. Such conference of State Food Secretaries on Best Practices and the Reforms in TPDS was held in July, 2010 in New Delhi. Another Conference of Food and Agriculture Ministers of States/UTs was held in February, 2012 wherein various subjects including computerization of TPDS were discussed at length. Issues relating to strengthening of TPDS were also discussed during the Conference of Food Ministers & Food Secretaries of States/UTs held on 29-30 October, 2012, in New Delhi.

Amendment in Bill for Protection of Consumers

†2214. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether a Parliamentary Committee has suggested Government to amend the Bill for protecting the interests of consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2011 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 16.12.2011. This Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution. The Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.12.2012. The salient features of the Recommendations of the said Report include, *inter-alia*, that following points:

- (i) Widening the definition of words such as 'complaint', 'defect' & 'deficiency in services';
- (ii) Widening scope of 'Unfair Trade Practices',
- (iii) Provision for review powers to State Commissions; and
- (iv) Empowering the State or the National Commission to entertain consumer organizations and other interested parties.

Adequacy of amount under Cash Transfer Scheme

2215. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state whether Government thinks that Rs. 600 in cash transfer scheme is sufficient for a family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): There is no such scheme of the Government of India.

Vacancies in FCI godwons

2216. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of loading/unloading labour posts are lying vacant in various FCI godowns;

(b) the steps taken by FCI to fill-up such posts; and

(c) whether FCI is not giving weekly holidays, minimum wages and national festival holidays to all loading/unloading regular workers and contract labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir, there are about 3800 vacancies of regular labour in various depots of FCI across the country as on 31.12.2012.

(b) FCI is making a review of its policy with regard to induction of labour against these vacancies.

(c) No, Sir. The Labourers employed under various labour systems in FCI are given paid weekly off as per the provisions of Minimum Wages Act. Besides, National festival holidays are also given to the labourers.

Monitoring of model code on affirmative action

2217. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has issued a policy for monitoring the steps taken by industry associations, which have already adopted a code of conduct on affirmative action to promote their members' companies, to adopt and implement an affirmative action policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of companies and industry associations in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) There is no provision in the Companies Act, 1956 on the subject. However, the issue is being monitored by a "Coordination Committee on Affirmative Action (CCAA) in the Private Sector" which is serviced by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. That Department has recently circulated a Proforma among industry Chambers to monitor the quarterly progress of action taken by the Chambers.

Corporate frauds

2218. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the corporate frauds are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the nature and magnitude of these frauds; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government to prevent such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) There is no verified information available to suggest that cases of corporate frauds are on the increase. However, any serious instance or complaint relating to diversion of funds, fudging of accounts and mismanagement is referred for investigation to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office. For violations/contraventions of provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, necessary prosecutions are filed and for prosecutions under Indian Penal Code, complaints are filed in the jurisdictional courts.

(c) The Ministry has also evolved a system to generate Early Warning System to help in detection of frauds at an early stage.

Reporting of CSR spendings

2219. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has issued guidelines for reporting of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending by companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of companies in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether spending on affirmative action for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been made a reporting head in CSR reporting format guidelines;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response of companies in this regard; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (f) The Ministry has not issued any guidelines for reporting of Corporate Social Responsibility spending by companies. However, after the Companies Bill, passed by Lok Sabha and under consideration of the Rajya

Sabha comes into force, suitable Rules/Guidelines will be issued to give effect to the provision of Corporate Social Responsibility contained in Clause-135 of the Bill. As regards affirmative action for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a "Coordination Committee on Affirmative Action (CCAA) in the Private Sector" has been set up which is serviced by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. That Department has recently circulated a proforma among Industry Chambers to monitor the quarterly progress of action taken by the Chambers.

Priority of drinking water and sanitation programme

2220. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to concentrate more on re-orientation of rural development programmes by giving a thrust to priority areas *viz* drinking water, sanitation, *etc.* through focused attention on specialized needs of the States; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has given thrust to rural drinking water supply and sanitation during 2013-14 by allocating a sum of Rs.15260 crore as against Rs.10,000 crore made available for rural drinking water supply and sanitation in 2011-12 *i.e.* an increase of 52.60% in two years. Specialized needs of States in terms of the areas under Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, Hill Area Development Programme and special category Hill States are taken care of by giving them weightage in allocation of funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Specialized needs of States having water quality affected habitations and States with Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected high priority districts are also given focused attention by earmarking 5% Water Quality fund from the national allocation to such States.

As regards sanitation, to give more thrust to rural sanitation programme and with a view to accelerate the progress of sanitation in rural areas, Government of India has designed a paradigm shift in Total Sanitation Campaign(TSC) which is now called the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), in the *XIII*th Five Year Plan. The

objective of NBA is to achieve sustainable behavior change with provision of sanitary facilities in entire communities in a phased saturation mode with 'Nirmal Grams' as outcomes. Under NBA, following steps have been adopted as way forward:

- (i) A shift from motivating individual household toilet construction to covering whole communities in a Gram Panchayat saturation mode for holistic sanitation outcomes.
- (ii) The scope of providing incentives for individual household latrine units has been widened to cover all APL households which belong to SCs, STs, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homesteads, physically challenged and women headed households along-with all BPL households. Under NBA financial incentive for construction of toilets has been raised for all eligible beneficiaries to Rs.4600/- from the earlier amount of Rs.3200/- under NBA. In addition up to Rs.4500/- can be spent under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for construction of the toilet. Along-with beneficiary contribution of Rs. 900/-, the total unit cost of toilet is now Rs. 10000/-.
- (iii) More emphasis has been given on Information Education and Communication (IEC) by earmarking 15% of the total outlay of district projects for IEC activities. With a view to give thrust to a new approach towards IEC, the Ministry has launched a Communication and Advocacy Strategy (2012-2017).
- (iv) Conjoint approach with National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to ensure water availability for sanitation in Gram Panchayats.
- (v) Focused convergence of rural sanitation with associated Ministries including Health, School Education, Women and Child Development with NBA.
- (vi) Recasting component of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) to a project mode in convergence with MGNREGS.

Sanitation facilities in Gujarat

2221. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes or projects implemented or under implementation by the Ministry to provide sanitation facilities in Gujarat;

(b) how much funds have been allocated in this regard during the last five years by Government and would be allocated for next three years to the State;

(c) whether hazardous chemicals contents are found in underground water which is used for drinking water purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) At present, Government of India is implementing Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) formerly known as Total sanitation Campaign (TSC) in 607 rural districts of India including 25 districts of Gujarat to provide sanitation facilities.

(b) Total fund released during the last five years and current year by Government of India to Gujarat is as under. Since Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) is demand driven scheme, hence releases in the next 3 years will be as per physical objectives projected by Gujarat Government based on demand generated.

(Rs. in lakh)

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (Upto Feb, 2013)
8528.33	978.81	3036.91	4692.36	4308.28	3949.42

(c) As reported by the States on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, as on 1.4.2012 there are 1,04,160 quality affected habitations in the country with one or more drinking water sources contaminated with excess arsenic, fluoride, salinity, iron and nitrate. The State-wise and contaminant-wise details including in Gujarat State are given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) Rural water supply is a State subject. This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. A budgetary provision of Rs. 10,500 crore has been made for the NRDWP in 2012-

13. Up to 67 per cent of the NRDWP funds allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas of the country. Further, 5% of NRDWP funds are earmarked and allocated to those States facing problems of chemical contamination in drinking water or with Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected high priority districts. In addition to this, Government of India provides 3 per cent NRDWP funds on 100 per cent Central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which *inter alia* include taking up works relating to setting up of new or up-gradation of district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, providing field test kits/refills to Gram Panchayats etc. Further up to 10 per cent of NRDWP funds allocated to States could be utilized for sustainability of drinking water sources through artificial recharge of ground water and other methods, which *inter alia* may also dilute the level of contamination in aquifers.

Statement

No of Quality Affected Habitations as on 01/04/2012

Sl. No.	State/UT	Contamination Wise Number Of Habitations					
		Total Habs	Fluoride affected Habs	Arsenic affected Habs	Iron affected Habs	Salinity affected Habs	Nitrate affected Habs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	396	332	0	0	64	0
2	Bihar	14580	2698	1004	10877	0	1
3	Chattisgarh	8815	313	0	8339	163	0
4	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	274	57	0	0	64	153
6	Haryana	17	12	0	0	5	0
7	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Jammu and Kashmir	30	2	0	22	6	0

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	Jharkhand	412	41	1	369	0	1	
10	Karnataka	5875	2806	19	938	734	1378	
11	Kerala	934	106	0	585	186	57	
12	Madhya Pradesh	2789	2485	0	156	148	0	
13	Maharashtra	1671	483	0	337	342	509	
14	Odisha	12465	398	0	11051	991	25	
15	Punjab	33	19	0	1	13	0	
16	Rajasthan	26729	7130	5	46	18924	624	
17	Tamil Nadu	528	5	0	405	111	7	
18	Uttar Pradesh	882	144	9	23	705	1	
19	Uttarakhand	17	2	0	13	0	2	
20	West Bengal	5448	873	2119	1955	501	0	
21	Arunachal Pradesh	115	0	0	115	0	0	
22	Assam	15979	80	1157	14742	0	0	
23	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	
24	Meghalaya	97	0	0	97	0	0	
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26	Nagaland	130	0	0	130	0	0	
27	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	
28	Tripura	5935	0	0	5935	0	0	
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Puducherry	9	0	0	8	1	0
TOTAL		104160	17986	4314	56144	22958	2758

Supply of potable water

‡2222. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether clean and pure potable water is a fundamental right of every citizen;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated by Government to provide clean potable water to common people in every village of the country;

(c) whether, in view of the health of villagers of many areas of Rajasthan who are compelled to drink contaminated and fluoride mixed water due to depletion of ground water level in many areas, Government proposes to give special assistance to the State in the interest of rural inhabitants; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines mention that water is a public good and that every person has the right to demand drinking water. The basic requirement should meet minimum water quality standards and be readily available and conveniently accessible at all times and in all situations.

(b) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. The Central Government under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme provides the States with technical and financial assistance to supplement their efforts in providing safe and adequate drinking water in rural areas of the country. A budgetary provision of Rs.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

10,500 crore has been made for NRDWP in 2012-13. Under the NRDWP, the State Governments are vested with the powers to plan, approve, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes. The State Governments, in consultation with the Ministry, prepare Annual Action Plans to implement rural water supply schemes and activities under the programme, to cover partially covered and quality affected habitations with adequate and potable water supply. Under NRDWP, States can utilize upto 67% of NRDWP (Programme) funds released to them for providing safe drinking water facilities in water quality affected habitations.

(c) and (d) Under the NRDWP, in addition to the Programme funds, 5% of the national allocation is earmarked for Water Quality for those States which include Rajasthan, which have rural habitations reporting chemical contamination in drinking water sources including fluoride. In the year 2012-13, so far under the NRDWP (Programme) Rs. 1197.77 crore has been allocated and released to Rajasthan and under 5% Water Quality fund, Rs. 68.93 crore has been allocated and Rs 34.47 crore released to Rajasthan for this purpose.

Quality of drinking water

2223. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of habitations affected by poor water quality in the country;
- (b) whether the targets under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme have been achieved; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As reported by the State on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 13.3.2013, out of a total of 16.64 lakh rural habitations of the country, 94,963 habitations, having least one drinking water source affected by chemical contamination, remain to be covered with safe drinking water.

(b) The targets and achievements of coverage of rural habitations with adequate and safe drinking water supply in the last 3 years is as below:

*Target & coverage of Partially Covered and Quality Affected
Habitations for the years 2009-10 to 2011-12*

Habitations	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Partially covered habitations	123408	116750	80342	92276	115379	116246
Quality Affected Habitations	34595	32129	41094	27107	29790	22121

(c) Targets of coverage of Quality Affected Habitations have not been fully achieved in the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 because of reasons which include high capital costs of large multi-village schemes to bring water from distant safe sources, selection of technology issues, time taken for planning, designing, sanctioning, executing and commissioning of such schemes and procurement issues.

Girl friendly toilets in schools under TSC

2224. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has schemes, under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), to provide girl friendly toilets at high schools in the country; and

(b) if not, whether this scheme could be extended therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes Sir. Under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) earlier known as Total Sanitation Campaign(TSC), toilets in all types of Government Schools including high schools in rural areas can be constructed. Separate toilet units for girls and boys can be provided in all co-educational schools, for which Central Assistance is available for both the units as two separate units. A toilet unit consists of a toilet and minimum of two urinals. The Central assistance per unit is restricted to 70 percent for a unit cost of Rs. 35,000/- (Rs. 38,500 in case of hilly and difficult areas).

(b) Does not arise.

Contaminated ground water

2225. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a study by the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow, has found that the ground water in the vicinity of the Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal is replete with contaminants;

(b) if so, the measures Government has taken, so far, to provide safe drinking water to the population living in and around the area; and

(c) whether Government has undertaken any medical survey of the population living in and around the plant site to detect any adverse effect of water contamination on their health and to counter the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As per information received from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it has commissioned a study through Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow for assessment of groundwater quality in and around the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) plant to revalidate the observations in the June 2010 report of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur on groundwater and soil quality. The analysis report of 27 samples collected from around the UCIL premises indicates that the value of chloride and nitrate values exceeded the respective guideline values (IS 10500-2004) in 4 and 15 samples respectively. Levels of heavy metals like Nickel, Lead, Cadmium had also exceeded the guideline values in some water samples.

(b) As per report received from Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, a sum of Rs 14.18 crore was provided under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to Government of Madhya Pradesh in April 2006 for supply of piped drinking water from Kolar reservoir to 14 localities around UCIL plant site at Bhopal. In July, 2010, Government of India has further released its 75% share of a total outlay of Rs 50 crore for providing safe drinking water to the Bhopal gas victims as part of a new plan of action to Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) As per information received from the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Department of Community Medicine, Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal

under Government of Madhya Pradesh has undertaken a survey of the population living in and around the plant site in a form of "Epidemiological study" - an Epidemiological study of Symptomatic Morbidities living around solar evaporation ponds and behind Union Carbide factory, Bhopal in the year 2007-08.

Sanitation and drinking water projects in NER

2226. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects submitted by the State Governments of North Eastern Region (NER) during the last three years regarding sanitation and drinking water;

(b) the details of projects approved and the assistance provided, year-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the details of projects not approved or still under consideration and the reasons for rejection and delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Drinking water supply is a State subject. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to the rural population. Under the NRDWP, the State Governments are vested with the powers to plan, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes. The State Governments, in consultation with the Ministry, prepare Annual Action Plans each year, to implement rural water supply schemes to cover partially covered and quality affected habitations and for other activities. Drinking water supply projects prepared thereafter by the States are examined and sanctioned at the state level by the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC). Rural drinking water supply projects are not submitted by the States to this Ministry.

As regards, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), totally 85 district projects have been sanctioned in 8 North Eastern States. However, during the last 3 years, only 2 district projects of Nagaland *i.e.* Kiphire & Longleng have been submitted and approved by Government of India.

(b) Under NRDWP, drinking water supply projects are not approved by the Ministry and NRDWP funds are released State-wise and not project-wise or district-wise. NRDWP fund allocation to the States is made as per approved criteria. Funds allocated and released to the North Eastern (NE) States in the last three years is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

As regards NBA (formerly called the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), the year-wise details of district projects approved is given in Statement-II (*See below*). The details of funds released by Government of India, year-wise and district-wise is given in Statement-III (*See below*).

(c) Does not arise.

Statement-I

*Funds allocated and released to NE States under
NRDWP in last three years*

(in Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
		Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released
1	Arunachal Pradesh	180.00	178.20	123.35	199.99	120.56	184.83
2	Assam	301.60	323.50	449.64	487.48	435.58	522.44
3	Manipur	61.60	38.57	54.61	52.77	53.39	47.60
4	Meghalaya	70.40	79.40	63.48	84.88	61.67	95.89
5	Mizoram	50.40	55.26	46.00	61.58	39.67	38.83
6	Nagaland	52.00	47.06	79.51	77.52	81.68	80.91
7	Sikkim	21.60	20.60	26.24	23.20	28.10	69.19
8	Tripura	62.40	77.40	57.17	74.66	56.20	83.86
TOTAL		800.00	819.99	900.00	1062.08	876.85	1123.55

Statement-II*Details of projects sanctioned as per information received upto 28-02-2013 under NBA/TSC*

Sl. No.	District Name	Date of Sanction	Project Cost (in lakhs)	Approved Share (Rs. in lakhs)	Components Sanctioned (Units)													
					Central State	Beneficiary	IHHL BPL	IHHL APL	IHHL TOTAL	SCW School Toilets	Angan-wadi	RSM-PC						
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
State: Arunachal Pradesh																		
1	Anjaw	15/01/2008	177.73	124.04	40.39	13.3	3232	0	3232	8	44	46	1					
2	Changlang	23/11/2005	842.74	590.62	191.87	60.25	15716	2799	18515	25	384	250	0					
3	Dibang Valley	29/01/2002	90.02	63.88	21.47	4.67	1085	0	1085	0	102	27	0					
4	East Kameng	23/11/2005	440.35	306.8	102.83	30.72	7016	1280	8296	25	288	216	0					
5	East Siang	23/11/2005	457.78	311.35	113.17	33.26	8222	4723	12945	25	244	42	6					
6	Kurung Kumey	23/11/2005	1306.32	919.89	303.61	82.82	22036	0	22036	30	684	164	0					
7	Lohit	03/03/2000	354.99	243.65	82.74	28.6	8800	0	8800	26	240	182	0					

8	Lower Dibang Valley	15/01/2008	112.32	78.68	26.4	7.24	2366	1200	3566	0	134	82	0
9	Lower Subansiri	23/11/2005	362.98	250.78	83.68	28.52	5766	1164	6930	26	232	119	3
10	Papum Pare	23/11/2005	150.1	102.86	37.79	9.45	1268	3778	5046	17	140	113	8
11	Tawang	23/11/2005	321.84	224.27	72.34	25.23	5478	1210	6688	21	156	91	4
12	Tirap	23/11/2005	403.07	280.89	95.66	26.52	5780	470	6250	25	304	150	6
13	Upper Siang	23/11/2005	200.81	139.74	47.07	14	2634	964	3598	15	154	50	4
14	Upper Subansiri	29/01/2002	467.27	323.21	108.07	35.99	9045	461	9506	25	154	221	3
15	West Kameng	23/11/2005	387.3	269.67	91.67	25.96	5644	252	5896	25	306	111	4
16	West Siang	03/03/2000	625.32	432.02	144.22	49.08	11472	0	11472	25	378	2	0
TOTAL			6700.94	4662.35	1562.98	475.61	115560	18301	133861	318	3944	1866	39
State: Assam													
1	Bagsha	15/01/2008	3930.13	2769.19	865.85	295.09	85697	63785	149482	15	1789	69	3
2	Barpeta	17/05/2005	6162.6	4361.74	1348.62	452.24	150747	93069	243816	0	1806	175	10
3	Bongaigaon	31/07/2006	2773.12	1950.68	635.65	186.79	51929	39654	91583	15	1222	59	3
4	Cachar	18/09/2001	4741.34	3346.64	1045.87	348.83	119931	46293	166224	0	1839	1697	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
5	Chirang	15/01/2008	1522.06	1074.34	340.85	106.87	299.56	20899	50855	10	778	38	2
6	Darrang	21/06/2007	3824.75	2681.62	848.25	294.88	86628	25633	112261	25	673	539	5
7	Dhemaji	17/05/2005	3228.33	2284.89	697.63	245.81	80854	18546	99400	10	871	230	5
8	Dhubri	18/09/2001	8964.87	6264.78	1985.57	714.52	205324	42052	247376	50	1016	1902	2
9	Dibrugarh	14/01/2004	3021.96	2136.12	653.02	232.82	77606	45384	122990	0	969	900	4
10	Goalpara	18/09/2001	2837.73	2002.27	645.89	189.57	65070	21747	86817	0	1840	951	3
11	Golaghat	17/05/2005	3133.34	2179.53	676.25	277.56	79743	27031	106774	0	1248	119	6
12	Hailakandi	14/01/2004	1737.93	1215.24	379.49	143.2	49837	12445	62282	0	1140	35	4
13	Jorhat	07/02/2000	3071.84	2172.7	709.72	189.42	65070	21747	86817	0	1840	951	6
14	Kamrup	07/02/2000	3018.34	2129.06	644.75	244.53	85785	52723	138508	0	521	1531	0
15	Karbi Anglong	18/09/2001	3832.82	2713.59	935.24	183.99	60953	19293	80246	0	3304	1406	4
16	Karimganj	18/09/2001	2672.51	1865.25	586.72	220.54	78992	15409	94401	14	1051	912	3
17	Kokrajhar	11/03/2005	2979.14	2075.89	638.56	264.69	84830	35087	119917	0	1157	146	3
18	Lakhimpur	14/01/2004	3024.58	2138.81	646.27	239.5	73224	22938	96162	0	1432	276	4
19	Mariगाon	18/09/2001	1802.88	1249.95	375.72	177.21	60770	105564	166334	0	326	797	3
20	Nagaon	15/07/2005	7161.99	5052.42	1594.4	515.17	168391	60850	229241	0	2468	621	10

21	Nalbari	18/09/2001	3139.74	2195.41	676.86	267.47	88093	127387	215480	0	282	710	5
22	North Cachar Hills	31/07/2006	1293	913.76	305.08	74.16	21328	1102	22430	0	810	194	5
23	Sibsagar	18/03/2002	3209.83	2259.72	729.12	220.99	74686	52367	127053	0	2135	935	4
24	Sonitpur	07/02/2000	4851	3387.94	1094.71	368.35	120048	93032	213080	42	1951	607	6
25	Tinsukia	17/05/2005	2840.31	1984.83	619.16	236.32	68774	29814	98588	0	870	623	8
26	Udalguri	15/01/2008	4038.66	2841.7	903.71	293.25	85751	67169	152920	30	1434	396	7
TOTAL			92814.8	65248.07	20583	6983.77	2220017	1161020	3381037	211	34772	16819	115
State: Manipur													
1	Bishnupur	12/03/2003	669.2	467.84	150.91	50.45	12152	4850	17002	24	302	84	2
2	Chandel	13/08/2007	1099.64	770	253.21	76.43	17610	0	17610	50	434	182	5
3	Churachandpur	13/08/2007	1986.26	1398.73	457.12	130.41	33864	3762	37626	50	676	190	7
4	Imphal East	12/03/2003	1008.5	700.15	243.45	64.9	13189	12030	25219	50	804	119	3
5	Imphal West	22/03/2001	942.21	656.51	209.11	76.59	20608	4405	25013	45	156	0	5
6	Senapati	13/08/2007	2509.77	1766.2	564.69	178.88	47968	28392	76360	50	490	185	1
7	Tamenglong	13/08/2007	883.84	617.51	204.61	61.72	13380	1486	14866	50	424	0	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	Thoubal	12/03/2003	1351.23	954.19	303.18	93.86	23264	5250	28514	42	395	42	3
9	Ukhrul	31/07/2006	823.38	577.6	193.22	52.56	12852	8192	21044	25	238	399	5
	TOTAL		11274.03	7908.73	2579.5	785.8	194887	68367	263254	386	3919	1201	35
State: Meghalaya													
1	East Garo Hills	31/07/2006	1899.42	1355.15	443.55	100.72	31739	6469	38208	10	1311	177	10
2	East Khasi Hills	14/01/2004	2784.15	1957.65	651.34	175.16	42284	32778	75062	50	2148	349	4
3	Jaintia Hills	17/11/2006	1625.05	1141.78	372.82	110.45	31950	6729	38679	50	595	155	5
4	Ribhoi	23/11/2005	1553.53	1074.04	403.07	76.42	16276	21196	37472	50	1946	305	3
5	South Garo Hills	15/01/2008	1237.23	858.26	307.91	71.06	12891	5346	18237	30	1074	227	4
6	West Garo Hills	14/01/2004	2772.29	1669.52	728.49	374.28	44385	11179	55564	50	2244	448	4
7	West Khasi Hills	17/11/2006	2137.32	1506.47	503.89	126.96	36808	1803	38611	50	1013	190	6
	TOTAL		14008.99	9562.87	3411.07	1035.05	216333	85500	301833	290	10331	1851	36
State: Mizoram													
1	Aizawl	23/11/2005	1088.11	751.95	265.15	71.01	16525	3497	20022	60	1025	454	5
2	Champhai	23/11/2005	1010.51	695.73	252.24	62.54	11077	1949	13026	54	1097	282	3

3	Kolasib	23/11/2005	489.29	336.08	115.08	38.13	8833	720	9553	20	360	97	3
4	Lawngtlai	15/07/2005	1079.08	736.95	258.51	83.62	16544	2773	19317	149	908	141	2
5	Lunglei	15/07/2005	1222.06	836.68	292.49	92.89	19280	4665	23945	150	1287	218	3
6	Mamit	02/05/2003	654.3	448.63	166.18	39.49	5459	2000	7459	50	734	222	0
7	Saiha	20/02/2003	391.32	275.29	87.52	28.51	7238	567	7805	0	214	99	2
8	Serchhip	15/07/2005	367.47	250.27	84.33	32.87	4947	2804	7751	77	280	117	2
TOTAL			6302.14	4331.58	1521.5	449.06	89903	18975	108878	560	5905	1630	20
State: Nagaland													
1	Dimapur	10/10/2000	1254.41	884.82	277.99	91.6	28927	3331	32258	0	450	215	3
2	Kiphire	04/08/2010	868.68	607.44	206.49	54.75	14316	78	14394	10	194	77	4
3	Kohima	22/03/2001	713.9	511.98	135.81	66.11	25610	13063	38673	189	365	184	3
4	Longleng	04/08/2010	363.97	254.21	85.54	24.22	6438	0	6438	8	26	40	2
5	Mokokchung	22/03/2001	516.6	362.24	120.69	33.67	11000	2312	13312	10	430	110	2
6	Mon	20/02/2006	967.54	681.75	214.63	71.16	20631	7839	28470	17	368	99	2
7	Peren	31/07/2006	395.83	278.51	86.14	31.18	9018	2325	11343	6	95	148	3
8	Phek	20/01/2007	732	511.32	155.91	64.77	18742	1160	19902	11	155	89	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	Tuensang	20/01/2007	578.09	403.52	129.39	45.18	13027	0	13027	5	214	81	3
10	Wokha	31/07/2006	513.83	370.71	106.68	36.44	11813	1146	12959	7	134	196	3
11	Zunheboto	23/04/2002	1052.73	740.54	240.48	71.71	20570	0	20570	12	541	63	2
	TOTAL		7957.58	5607.04	1759.75	590.79	180092	31254	211346	275	2972	1302	29
	State: Sikkim												
1	East Sikkim	18/03/2002	768.19	501.5	161.29	105.4	24109	18000	42109	225	464	36	7
2	North Sikkim	18/03/2002	270.69	178.95	59.51	32.23	4978	1031	6009	135	272	63	3
3	South Sikkim	25/11/1999	466.58	301.51	101.8	63.27	8970	7681	16651	205	438	82	1
4	West Sikkim	25/11/1999	548.36	356.6	118.14	73.62	13245	9000	22245	224	430	159	1
	TOTAL		2053.82	1338.56	440.74	274.52	51302	35712	87014	789	1604	340	12
	State: Tripura												
1	Dhalai	29/01/2002	1443.04	956.68	317.46	168.9	53507	28305	81812	95	648	944	5
2	North Tripura	18/09/2001	1902.5	1190.38	514	198.12	78389	33744	112133	80	1150	1161	10
3	South Tripura	18/09/2001	3314.95	1892.4	811.32	611.23	139456	55849	195305	38	1352	1858	10
4	West Tripura	10/01/2001	3178.03	2080.78	757.72	339.53	183405	51119	234524	13	3683	2061	10
	TOTAL		9838.52	6120.24	2400.5	1317.78	454757	169017	623774	226	6833	6024	35

Statement-III

*Details of fund released from GoI, District-wise and Year-wise
(Rs. in lakh) under NBA/TSC in last three years*

(Rs. in lakh)				
Sl. No.	State/District Name	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh				
1	Anjaw	31.78	0.00	0.00
2	Changlang	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Dibang Valley	0.00	33.99	0.00
4	East Kameng	130.90	0.00	0.00
5	East Siang	0.00	75.76	0.00
6	Kurung Kumey	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Lohit	69.63	0.00	0.00
8	Lower Dibang Valley	19.51	0.00	0.00
9	Lower Subansiri	100.28	0.00	0.00
10	Papum Pare	52.87	9.51	0.00
11	Tawang	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Tirap	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Upper Siang	0.00	0.00	41.20
14	Upper Subansiri	0.00	0.00	96.20
15	West Kameng	0.00	0.00	67.48
16	West Siang	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		404.97	119.26	204.88
Assam				
1	Bagsha	0.00	999.96	809.62

1	2	3	4	5
2	Barpeta	0.00	1094.00	1227.25
3	Bongaigaon	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Cachar	0.00	0.00	998.96
5	Chirang	282.01	0.00	391.20
6	Darrang	282.02	0.00	709.40
7	Dhemaji	432.03	590.20	662.76
8	Dhubri	0.00	2112.48	0.00
9	Dibrugarh	0.00	0.00	644.30
10	Goalpara	643.97	0.00	687.88
11	Golaghat	0.00	587.02	39.61
12	Hailakandi	0.00	315.98	82.18
13	Jorhat	709.55	0.00	0.00
14	Kamrup	777.51	0.00	675.08
15	Karbi Anglong	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Karimganj	486.87	0.00	551.40
17	Kokrajhar	726.18	0.00	645.78
18	Lakhimpur	817.79	0.00	664.60
19	Marigaon	0.00	173.60	227.35
20	Nagaon	0.00	1227.56	1477.36
21	Nalbari	781.85	0.00	0.00
22	North Cachar Hills	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Sibsagar	790.06	0.00	732.87
24	Sonitpur	0.00	837.56	1023.58
25	Tinsukia	0.00	511.92	0.00
26	Udalguri	0.00	987.08	0.00
	TOTAL	6729.84	9437.36	12251.18

1	2	3	4	5
Manipur				
1	Bishnupur	122.10	0.00	112.38
2	Chandel	0.00	0.00	215.30
3	Churachandpur	446.78	0.00	0.00
4	Imphal East	132.69	0.00	171.24
5	Imphal West	112.53	80.30	202.80
6	Senapati	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Tamenglong	0.00	0.00	174.09
8	Thoubal	185.85	0.00	212.06
9	Ukhrul	177.59	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		1177.54	80.30	1087.87
Meghalaya				
1	East Garo Hills	440.22	432.29	0.00
2	East Khasi Hills	538.29	0.00	685.78
3	Jaintia Hills	0.00	426.71	0.00
4	Ri Bhoi	83.14	330.54	429.94
5	South Garo Hills	0.00	335.07	0.00
6	West Garo Hills	317.13	1019.73	0.00
7	West Khasi Hills	0.00	560.89	0.00
TOTAL		1378.78	3105.23	1115.72
Mizoram				
1	Aizawl	0.00	123.20	31.38
2	Champhai	102.57	178.85	0.00
3	Kolasib	105.88	43.42	0.00
4	Lawngtlai	0.00	162.41	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
5	Lunglei	134.16	0.00	0.00
6	Mamit	0.00	56.99	0.00
7	Saiha	40.13	88.53	0.00
8	Serchhip	30.24	0.00	0.00
TOTAL		412.98	653.40	31.38
Nagaland				
1	Dimapur	169.20	259.73	0.00
2	Kiphire	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Kohima	162.44	174.42	0.00
4	Longleng	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Mokokchung	70.24	115.52	51.40
6	Mon	121.84	195.69	0.00
7	Peren	101.66	82.74	0.00
8	Phek	195.08	148.50	0.00
9	Tuensang	0.00	116.15	0.00
10	Wokha	0.00	136.70	0.00
11	Zunheboto	238.81	0.00	122.66
TOTAL		1059.27	1229.45	174.06
Sikkim				
1	East Sikkim	0.00	24.03	0.00
2	North Sikkim	0.00	8.50	0.00
3	South Sikkim	0.00	63.79	0.00
4	West Sikkim	0.00	16.54	0.00
TOTAL		0.00	112.86	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
Tripura				
1	Dhalai	0.00	181.86	47.84
2	North Tripura	274.05	110.16	86.08
3	South Tripura	420.57	219.81	0.00
4	West Tripura	142.04	413.31	0.00
TOTAL		836.66	925.14	133.92

Rural water supply and sanitation programme

2227. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the performance in implementation of rural water supply and sanitation programme in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has submitted a proposal for rural water supply and sanitation programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Coverage of rural habitations with safe and adequate drinking water supply under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in the country, including in Andhra Pradesh, during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

As regards sanitation, since Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) (formerly called as Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)) is a demand driven programme, there are no State-wise targets. However the physical achievement in construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise, including in Andhra Pradesh, is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(b) and (c) This Ministry has proposed a Rural Water Supply and Sanitation project with support from World Bank to be implemented in four States, *viz* Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam, where the coverage of piped water supply is low and drinking water contamination is high. The project outlay is approximately Rs.5400 crore and the project is to be implemented from 2013-14 to 2018-19.

Statement-I**Coverage of Rural Habitations With Drinking Water Supply under NRDWP***(Physical Target and coverage from 2007-08 to 2011-12)**(No. of Rural Habitations)*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
		Target	Coverage	Target	Coverage	Target	Coverage	Target	Coverage	Target	Coverage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	10094	7070	15889	15647	8500	5374	6673	6971	5634	6183
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1584	464	2390	905	2400	567	534	601	300	415
3	Assam	12792	5060	23099	8703	23000	12004	8157	6467	6073	6601
4	Bihar	15863	6171	39956	25785	40508	26622	18749	14221	15810	11243
5	Chhattisgarh	4342	3852	4408	8178	3551	12002	9948	7847	8409	7977
6	Goa	4	1	3	4	0		0	0	0	
7	Gujarat	3771	3864	4232	2374	1396	1441	1100	1079	1125	1165
8	Haryana	1140	917	635	965	950	885	1007	752	862	859
9	Himachal Pradesh	4510	4510	5184	6390	5000	5204	5000	5094	2557	2558

10	Jammu and Kashmir	2241	747	4704	2234	4700	424	962	903	923	536
11	Jharkhand	5479	6548	7170	6832	1552	14605	1099	11399	19110	17425
12	Karnataka	9176	5418	12950	5586	13000	11625	8750	6130	9000	8757
13	Kerala	3258	906	4596	7650	395	241	744	405	824	419
14	Madhya Pradesh	10107	10035	3718	5302	4500	10781	13300	13937	16715	15644
15	Maharashtra	14975	9261	19877	17128	8605	7465	9745	8987	6407	6364
16	Manipur	153	144	0	115	730	158	330	227	330	234
17	Meghalaya	1558	1205	1881	1116	500	407	840	380	535	510
18	Mizoram	145	191	306	46	300	124	124	121	125	122
19	Nagaland	379	420	170	584	200	84	105	128	85	116
20	Odisha	10361	11585	16492	13507	3452	9525	5494	7525	4725	6782
21	Punjab	2845	588	4933	1523	1651	1874	2023	1658	1630	643
22	Rajasthan	19123	5353	25654	7434	10929	10388	7764	7254	6073	7885
23	Sikkim	307	299	300	27	300	110	175	100	200	50
24	Tamil Nadu	9625	9832	4602	9097	7000	8206	8009	7039	6000	6000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
25	Tripura	784	179	138	555	3132	843	825	976	982	1024
26	Uttar Pradesh	3479	1979	1639	1190	2000	1874	2142	1879	23300	23134
27	Uttarakhand	1451	2117	1450	1351	1199	1200	1565	1324	1341	1102
28	West Bengal	5896	6632	11460	2747	9093	4806	6630	5967	6094	4619
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	14		34		42		8	8		
30	Chandigarh										
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15	15								
32	Daman and Diu	0									
33	Delhi	0									
34	Lakshadweep	7	0	10	0			10	10		
35	Puducherry	21	52	18	15	4	40		12		
TOTAL		155499	105415	217898	152990	158589	148879	121812	119401	145169	138367

Statement-II

State/UT-wise Number of Individual Household Latrines Constructed during last five Years under NBA (Formerly called as TSC)

Sl. No.	State/UT Name	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	389242	292697	606277	1049704	654282
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5436	3399	16682	19799	27781
3	Assam	87554	206256	489334	498849	510243
4	Bihar	513050	756465	640359	717792	839927
5	Chhattisgarh	506722	305456	460320	236164	82496
6	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
7	Goa	310	18753	0	800	0
8	Gujarat	847897	984200	607078	515224	321357
9	Haryana	658602	367097	191242	132137	103913
10	Himachal Pradesh	136043	313872	239576	216571	30066
11	Jammu and Kashmir	39559	39415	55390	125228	70626
12	Jharkhand	318227	362573	335592	296678	53479
13	Karnataka	720063	409816	1087674	810104	414782

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14	Kerala	290185	81865	68302	20241	2188
15	Madhya Pradesh	868037	1105250	1354632	1166016	900769
16	Maharashtra	1191643	854563	934879	562183	519563
17	Manipur	3479	4590	15941	49576	55306
18	Meghalaya	23311	30004	47256	65417	51550
19	Mizoram	15653	8973	7639	1611	17237
20	Nagaland	12156	5543	25993	18224	46318
21	Odisha	475904	323802	539077	853303	359171
22	Puducherry	545	227	208	77	0
23	Punjab	171713	262194	158060	118415	32535
24	Rajasthan	809476	889762	665660	750948	730385
25	Sikkim	9201	3712	0	0	0
26	Tamil Nadu	648360	421967	533108	473647	410794
27	Tripura	2941	62971	27346	30392	24761
28	Uttar Pradesh	2014524	2415154	2669547	2915407	1613384
29	Uttarakhand	75801	98884	115071	132913	125051
30	West Bengal	692256	636422	515535	466311	800900
	TOTAL	11527890	11265882	12407778	12243731	8798864

Supply of drinking water in rural areas

2228. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of villages and rural areas in the country which have access to clean and safe drinking water throughout the year;
- (b) whether the Ministry has any database of water supply for drinking and sanitation purposes in rural areas; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken during last five years, for the operation and maintenance of rural water supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation maintains data regarding provision of rural drinking water supply in terms of habitations. As on 1.4.2012, as reported by the States, in the on-line Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, out of a total of 16,66,075 habitations in the rural areas of the country, 73.91% of rural habitations have been fully covered *i.e.* with atleast 40 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water supply.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has an online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) wherein data related to water supply for drinking and sanitation purposes in rural areas is maintained down to the habitation level.

(c) Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), 15% of the total allocation to States can be utilized for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of existing drinking water supply schemes. The fund can be utilized for expenditure on running, repair and replacement costs of drinking water supply schemes. The allocation for O & M was raised from 10% to 15% of the allocation in 2012-13 in the interest of better O & M of rural water supply schemes.

Further the Ministry has prepared a detailed manual on Operation and Maintenance of Rural Water Supply Schemes in 2012 for the guidance of the agencies responsible for such activities.

Study on effect of climate change on ground water

2229. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has the data regarding change in ground water level due to climate change;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any scientific study which proves the relation between ground water level and climate change?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) of the Ministry of Water Resources monitors regional level ground water levels through a network of 15643 observation wells but no information of the change in ground water levels with respect of climate change is available. Globally, the knowledge of current ground water recharge levels is poor as there has been very little research on the future impact of climate change on ground water except few isolated studies taken up very recently over UK and Africa.

Rise in sea level

2230. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that seas are rising very fast *i.e.* 60% per cent faster than UN forecasts;
- (b) what is the status of rise of waters in all the seas on the Indian Ocean;
- (c) whether any kind of alarming warning has been given by the concerned authorities, both foreign and Indian, to the population living in the coastal regions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Reported study published in Environmental Research Letters of Nov., 2012, through comparing climate projections to observations up to 2011, confirms that sea level rise is happening as fast and in some cases faster than climate models had projected. The satellite based linear trend during 1993-2011 is estimated to be

3.2±0.5mm/year that is about 60% higher than the best estimate of 2.0mm/year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2007 assessment report. However, the estimated sea level rise by the tide gauge records (of over 200) for the period 1993-2009 is found to be about 2.8±0.8mm/year.

(b) Sea level rise is a very slow phenomenon and is manifested globally with pockets of sea level rise/fall trends. However, the trends of sea level rise as estimated by tide gauge data is found to be 13mm/decade. The corresponding satellite derived estimates over the Indian Ocean are found to be in the range of 3.0mm/year with pockets of higher rise along the east of Malaya peninsula, south Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Australia.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of AWSs and ARGs

2231. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Committee for preparation of guidelines for setting up Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) across the country;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its draft report to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has accepted the recommendations/suggestions made by the Committee;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under the Ministry of Agriculture has constituted the committee for preparation of guidelines for setting up Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) and Automatic Rain Gauge (ARGs) across the country where DGM, Earth System Science Organization - India Meteorological Department (ESSO - IMD) is also a member. The draft report submitted by the Committee is circulated for widely for comments and suggestions that dealt with following aspects:

- (i) AWS equipment standards
- (ii) AWS installation standards & maintenance standards and
- (iii) 3rd party accreditation and data certification services
- (d) Not yet Sir as the envisaged wider consultation is still continuing.
- (e) Does not arise.

(f) A Brainstorming meeting was held in Pune on 03rd September, 2012 by the (ESSO -IMD) to develop a national consortium involving all the concerned organizations to integrate the existing AWS/ARG networks and install new ones with the required sensors, maintenance, reception of quality controlled and uninterrupted data, data sharing mechanism, etc. as per the common standards. Based on the suggestions of this meeting and based on the on-going consultations, another brainstorming meeting is planned to be organized in June 2013 to finalize the said report.

Advertisements to newspapers and magazines

2232. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

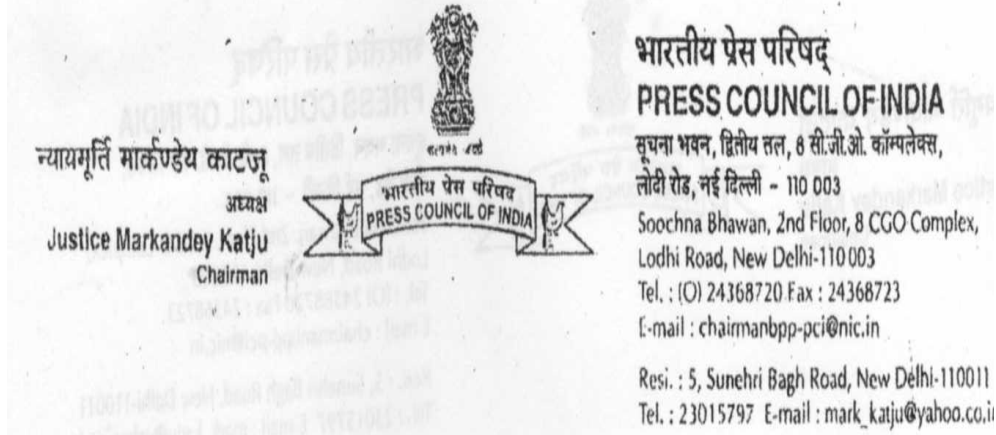
(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman of Press Council of India has recently alleged that the Central and State Governments are stopping advertisements to the newspapers and magazines that have published news articles critical to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard to the allegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Chairman, Press Council of India has issued a Press Note on the issue on 4.2.2013 which is enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(c) DAVP issues Print advertisements keeping in view the target audience, client requirement, budget available etc. within the framework of the Print Media Policy of the Government, which is available at DAVP's website, www.davp.nic.in



PR/13/2012-13

February 4, 2013

PRESS NOTE

I have been receiving several complaints from several newspapers/journals that the advertisements which were being issued to them by the Central/State Governments or Statutory bodies/Public Sector Undertakings have suddenly been stopped or drastically reduced without issuing show cause notice and without assigning any reason. Sometimes, this is done because of the newspapers/journals publishing material critical of a government or some of its Ministers/Officials.

In my opinion in a democracy the people, including the Press, have a right to criticise the government, and this is a part of the freedom of the speech under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution of India. Governments, Ministers and Officials must develop tolerance and must have the strength to stand up to criticism. Stopping advertisements or drastically reducing them merely because a critical article has been published, is totally undemocratic and shows pettiness of mind, and is totally unacceptable in a democracy. Revenue from advertisements is the main Financial resource of a newspaper/journal, and hence such action can do great harm to it and thus violate press freedom. The Press Council of India will not tolerate any further this kind of behaviour on the part of any government, its Ministers or Officials, and shall take suitable legal action in the matter.

In my opinion, once it has been decided to give advertisements to a newspaper/journal, stopping or reducing it thereafter without giving it an opportunity of hearing amounts to violation of the principle of legitimate expectation and natural justice, and thus violation of Article 14 of the Constitution.