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Friday

11th July, 2014

20 Ashadha, 1936 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

# RAJYA SABHA

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[P.T.O.]

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## RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 11th July, 2014/20th Ashadha, 1936 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### रेल परियोजनाओं के लम्बित प्रस्ताव

\*61. श्री रामदास अठावले : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार के समक्ष कुछ परियोजनाएं स्वीकृति हेतु लम्बित हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो आज की तारीख के अनुसार तत्संबंधी परियोजना-वार और राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या-क्या है;

(ग) सरकार के समक्ष ये परियोजनाएं कब से लम्बित/विचाराधीन हैं और इनकी अनुमानित लागत परियोजना-वार कितनी-कितनी है; और

(घ) इन परियोजनाओं को कब तक स्वीकृति दे दिए जाने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री डी.वी. सदानन्द गौड़ा) : (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

#### विवरण

(क) से (घ) रेलवे को राज्य सरकारों, केन्द्रीय सरकार के अन्य विभागों विभिन्न स्तरों पर जन प्रतिनिधियों से रेल परियोजनाओं के लिए बहुत अधिक संख्या में अनुरोध प्राप्त होते हैं। इन अनुरोधों के आधार पर उनकी तकनीकी व्यवहार्यता, लागत और लाभकारिता को जानने के लिए सर्वेक्षण किए जाते हैं। सामान्यतः बजट में शामिल करने से पहले परियोजनाओं को लाभकारिता, परिचालनिक, आवश्यकताओं, संपर्कता अभावों, सामरिक महत्व और सामाजिक-आर्थिक दृष्टिकोणों के आधार पर सरकार के अनुमोदन के लिए शार्ट लिस्ट किया जाता है। बहरहाल, कभी-कभी परियोजनाओं को सरकार के अनुमोदन के बिना भी बजट में शामिल कर लिया जाता है। यद्यपि परियोजनाओं का वास्तविक कार्य-निष्पादन अपेक्षित अनुमोदन मिल जाने के बाद ही शुरू किया जाता है। 25 ऐसे परियोजनाएं हैं, जिन्हें पिछले बजटों में सरकार के अनुमोदन के बिना शामिल किया गया था, परन्तु उन्हें चालू परियोजनाओं के भारी मात्रा में आगे ले जाने, धन की सीमित उपलब्धता और प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक प्राथमिकताओं आदि के कारण अनुमोदन प्रदान नहीं किया जा सका। 01.04.2014 की स्थिति के अनुसार इन परियोजनाओं का ब्यौरा नीचे दिया गया है:-

क्र.सं.	परियोजना का नाम	रेलवे जोन	वर्ष	लागत (करोड़ रुपए में)
1	2	3	4	5
1	कपिलवस्तु-बस्ती वाया बंसी	पूर्वोत्तर	2013-14	643
2	आनंदनगर-घुगली वाया महाराजगंज	पूर्वोत्तर	2013-14	307

1	2	3	4	5
3	अजमेर-कोटा (नसीराबाद-जलींदरी)	उत्तर पश्चिम	2013-14	822
4	बरवाडीह-चिरमिरी दक्षिण	दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य	2013-14	1137
5	कम्बम-प्रोदुतुर	दक्षिण मध्य	2013-14	829
6	कोंडाप्पली-कोथागुडुम	दक्षिण मध्य	2013-14	616
7	मनुगुर-रामागुंडेम	दक्षिण मध्य	2013-14	1112
8	रायपुर-झरसुगुडा	दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य	2013-14	2161
9	श्रीपेरंबदूर-गुडुवंचेरी	दक्षिण	2013-14	839
10	चिकबल्लपुर-पुत्तापुथी-श्री सत्य साई निलयम	दक्षिण पश्चिम	2013-14	692
11	श्रीनिवासपुरा-मदनपल्ली	दक्षिण पश्चिम	2013-14	296
12	दिल्ली-सोहना-नुह-फिरोजपुर झिरका-अलवर	उत्तर	2013-14	1239
13	यमुना नगर-चंडीगढ़ वाया साधौरा, नारायणगढ़	उत्तर	2013-14	876
14	फैजाबाद-लालगंज वाया अकबरगंज, महाराजगंज और रायबेली	उत्तर	2013-14	654
15	हिसार से सिरसा तक वाया अगरोहा एवं फतेहाबाद	उत्तर	2013-14	400
16	पुष्कर-मेड़ता	उत्तर पश्चिम	2013-14	323
17	चोला-बुलंदशहर	उत्तर	2013-14	185
18	चिकबल्लारपुर-गौरीबिदनुर	दक्षिण पश्चिम	2013-14	368
19	दीमापुर-तिजित	पूर्वोत्तर सीमा	2013-14	4274
20	फिरोजपुर-पट्टी	उत्तर	2013-14	216
21	काकीनाडा-पीथापुरम नई लाइन	दक्षिण मध्य	1999-2000	126
22	गुडुर-दुर्गाराजपुरम	दक्षिण मध्य	2011-12	278
23	भदुतोल-झारग्राम	दक्षिण पूर्व	2011-12	290
<b>आमान परिवर्तन</b>				
24	नागपुर-नागभीड़ आमान परिवर्तन	दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य	2013-14	401
<b>दोहरीकरण</b>				
25	न्यू बोंगाईगांव-कामाख्या वाया रांगिया	पूर्वोत्तर सीमा	2013-14	1798

**Pending railway project proposals**

†\*61. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some projects are pending with Government for approval;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, as on date, project-wise and State-wise;
- (c) since when these are pending/under consideration with Government and the project-wise estimated cost thereof; and
- (d) by when these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (d) Railways receive a large number of requests for railway projects from State Governments, other Central Government departments and public representatives at various levels. Based on these requests, surveys are conducted to know their technical feasibility, cost and remunerative-ness. Depending on remunerative-ness, operational requirements, missing links, strategic & socio-economic considerations, projects are shortlisted for Government approval normally before inclusion in the Budget. However, sometimes projects are included in Budget pending Government approval though physical execution of projects is taken up only after obtaining requisite approvals. There are 25 projects which had been included in previous Budgets pending Government approval but the same could not be granted due to huge throw-forward of ongoing projects, limited availability of funds and competing priorities. Details of the projects as on 01.04.2014 are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Railway Zone	Year	Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
<b>New Line</b>				
1	Kapilavastu-Basti <i>via</i> Bansi	North Eastern	2013-14	643
2	Anandnagar-Ghugli <i>via</i> Maharajganj	North Eastern	2013-14	307
3	Ajmer-Kota (Nasirabad-Jalindri)	North Western	2013-14	822

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5
4	Barwadih-Chirmiri	South East Central	2013-14	1137
5	Cumbum-Proddutur	South Central	2013-14	829
6	Kondapalli-Kothagudem	South Central	2013-14	616
7	Manugur-Ramagundam	South Central	2013-14	1112
8	Raipur-Jharsuguda	South East Central	2013-14	2161
9	Sriperambudur-Guduvanchery	Southern	2013-14	839
10	Chickballapur-Puttapurthy-Sri Satya Sai Nilyam	South Western	2013-14	692
11	Srinivasapura-Madanapalli	South Western	2013-14	296
12	Delhi-Sohna-Nuh-Firozpur Jhirka-Alwar	Northern	2013-14	1239
13	Yamuna Nagar-Chandigarh <i>via</i> Sadhaura, Narayangarh	Northern	2013-14	876
14	Faizabad-Lalganj <i>via</i> Akbarganj, Maharajganj and Raibarely	Northern	2013-14	654
15	Hissar to Sirsa <i>via</i> Agroha & Fatehabad	Northern	2013-14	400
16	Pushkar-Merta	North Western	2013-14	323
17	Chola-Bulandshahar	Northern	2013-14	185
18	Chickballapur-Gauribidanur	South Western	2013-14	368
19	Dimapur-Tizit	Northeast Frontier	2013-14	4274
20	Ferozpur-Patti	Northern	2013-14	216
21	Kakinada-Pithapuram new line	South Central	1999-2000	126
22	Gudur-Durgarajapuram	South Central	2011-12	278



1	2	3	4	5
23	Bhadutola-Jhargram	South Eastern	2011-12	290
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>				
24	Nagpur-Nagbhir Gauge Conversion	South East Central	2013-14	401
<b>Doubling</b>				
25	New Bongaigaon-Kamakhya via Rangiya	Northeast Frontier	2013-14	1798

**श्री रामदास अठावले :** सभापति महोदय, रेल डिपार्टमेंट अपने देश का बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण डिपार्टमेंट है, जो सभी लोगों की सेवा करने का काम करता है। आपने देखा होगा कि अभी नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में फास्ट रेल चल रही है, लेकिन हमारे इन प्रोजेक्ट्स पूरा करने के लिए रेल मंत्रालय को ज्यादा से ज्यादा मदद करने की जरूरत है। मैंने पूछा था कि रेलवे के कितने प्रलंबित प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं? तो ये करीब 25 प्रलंबित प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, ऐसा जवाब उत्तर में तो दे दिया है, लेकिन ये प्रोजेक्ट्स किस राज्य में हैं, जैसा हमने पूछा था, उसका उल्लेख इसमें नहीं है। ये जो 25 प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, ये किन राज्यों में हैं? इस उत्तर में राज्य का नाम भी आना चाहिए था। तो ये जो सारे प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, ये कब तक पूरे हो जाएंगे? मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि रेल को ठीक से चलाने के लिए जो प्रलंबित प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, उनको पूरा करने के बाद ही नए प्रोजेक्ट को हाथ में लेना चाहिए। एक प्रोजेक्ट्स को पांच साल में पूरा होना चाहिए, नहीं तो पन्द्रह साल, बीस साल, पच्चीस साल, चालीस साल लग जाते हैं।

**श्री सभापति :** आप सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

**श्री रामदास अठावले :** सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि इन प्रोजेक्ट्स को आप अब तक पूरा करेंगे? इनको पांच साल में पूरा करने का आप वायदा करते हैं, तो अलगे पांच साल आपको मिलेंगे। इसलिए आपको इन प्रोजेक्ट्स को पांच साल में पूरा करने का वायदा करना चाहिए।

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a detailed list of the projects that are pending before the Government. The hon. Member has raised the question whether some projects are pending before the Government for approval. I have given zone-wise list of the projects, and, in my answer, I have also given the details as to why those cases are pending. Sir, these projects will be practically taken up after a survey, after getting them verified by the Board or expended Board. Then it will subsequently go to the Planning Commission, and, if necessary, it will also go to the CCEA. Then only will it be finalized.

The hon. Member is fully aware of the fact that only those projects which are within Rs.300 crore limit could be sanctioned by the Minister of Railways. But the rest of the projects need to go for approval before the Planning Commission and other Committees.

We have given a list here. Practically, the Rate of Return (RoR) is one of the criteria to decide how the projects could be selected. The RoR should be 14 plus. Only such projects which meet this criterion could be taken up for consideration. Here I have given a list which shows that there are only three projects where the Rate of Return is 14 plus and the rest of the projects are not within that criterion.

Another thing which the hon. Member said just now is that first all the on-going projects should be completed at the earliest. We have taken a decision in that direction. In my Budget Speech, I have clearly said that only the on-going projects will be taken up at this stage, and we will complete all the on-going projects and dedicate them to the country so that further loss is not caused. Here in my reply also I have given a Zone-wise list of projects. Almost all the projects which are pending before the Government are yet to be perused, and only those projects which are feasible will be taken up. Sir, there are only three projects which are eligible as per the Rate of Return.

**श्री रामदास अठावले :** सभापति महोदय, महाराष्ट्र में नागपुर में नागभिर के आमन परिवर्तन का ही यह प्रलंबित प्रोजेक्ट है, लेकिन महाराष्ट्र में मराठवाड़ा एक बैकवर्ड एरिया है। महाराष्ट्र में और भी ज्यादा प्रोजेक्ट्स हाथ में लेने की आवश्यकता है, इसलिए महाराष्ट्र की तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए। महाराष्ट्र में 48 में से 42 सीटीज़ को हम लाए हैं, इसलिए सदानंद गौड़ा जी से मेरा निवेदन है कि महाराष्ट्र की तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए। अक्टूबर में वहां इलेक्शन भी होने वाले हैं, इसलिए महाराष्ट्र की तरफ ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। मेरा मंत्री जी से यह कहना है कि जिस राज्य में उद्योग होते हैं, उद्योगपति होते हैं, जो बड़ी-बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज़ चलाते हैं, उनसे भी कुछ परसेंट मदद लेनी चाहिए और राज्य सरकार की ज्यादा से ज्यादा मदद लेकर इस प्रोजेक्ट को जल्दी से जल्दी पूरा करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। मंत्री महोदय, आप महाराष्ट्र की तरफ ध्यान देने वाले हैं या नहीं?

**श्री सदानंद गौड़ा :** चेयरमैन साहब, हम पूरा ध्यान देंगे और अठावले साहब के मन में जो-जो है, हम उसे पूरा करेंगे।

**श्री जी.एन. रतनपुरी :** सर, रेल मंत्री जी ने अपने बजट में जम्मू-कश्मीर के लिए किसी नए प्रोजेक्ट का एलान नहीं किया, लेकिन जो पुरानी कमिटमेंट्स हैं, जिनमें जम्मू में एक रेलवे टेक्नीकल इंस्टीट्यूट और सर्वेज - पहलगाम, कुपवाड़ा, राजोरी, पुंछ और डोडा के लिए जिनके एलान पिछले बजट्स में हो चुके हैं, इसके अलावा नए स्टेशन्स के क्रिएशन, जिनमें पुलवामा डिस्ट्रिक्ट में नाइना और रत्नीपोरा का सर्वे हो चुका है, तो पुरानी कमिटमेंट्स हैं, मैं इनका स्टेटस जानना चाहूंगा और यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि जम्मू-कश्मीर के लिए इन्होंने किसी नए प्रोजेक्ट का एलान क्यों नहीं किया?

**SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:** Mr. Chairman Sir, practically, projects in Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern States have been given priority. Some of these projects have already been branded as national projects and we are financing more. This time, you might have seen that for Jammu & Kashmir and especially the North-Eastern

States, 54 per cent more allocation has been made this year towards completion of projects. As for the two-three items that you have pointed out just now, I would go through them and come back to you with particulars after getting feedback from my officers.

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Hon. Chairman Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether a decision has been made by the Railway Ministry that unless projects which have already been approved and are pending get rolling, no announcement of new projects should be made. Particularly in regard to three other projects, was there a decision to this effect that the Eastern Freight Corridor which was to be built should first get rolling before any other projects are announced? Similarly, the Mumbai Elevated Corridor which was to be built at a cost of Rs. 25,000 crores should get moving before new projects are announced. Also, there is the Bihar Loco Factory which is to be set up at the cost of Rs. 3,300 crores. There is no progress with regard to the existing projects and yet new projects are being announced. How can this be justified?

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Mr. Chairman Sir, as I have already said, we have not announced any new projects in this Budget. Apart from that, as my hon. friend rightly said, the dedicated freight corridors are given much importance and certainly, we will take up these projects at a greater speed than other projects because freight corridors are the need of the hour. We are giving importance to the Eastern and Western Freight Corridors and that would be taken care of.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to the fact that the projects which were sanctioned earlier have not been included in the Budget. I come from Chhattisgarh. I remember, the Rajhara-Jagdalpur project was sanctioned years back, but according to the Minister, it has not been included because of shortage of funds. I would like to point out to the Minister that while you have got funds for bullet trains, you don't have funds for the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh, where a number of projects are pending. They were sanctioned earlier. Hon. Chairman Sir, the Rajhara-Jagdalpur stretch falls under Bastar and I remember that long back it was sanctioned by Ms. Mamata Banerjee when she was the Minister, and it was repeatedly appearing in the Budget. But I am very sorry to say that the Minister has not included it in this Budget. As far as 23 projects, which are mentioned, are concerned, you are short of funds. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Rajhara-Jagdalpur rail line and the conversion of Raipur-Dhamtari rail line have been taken into consideration. I suspect that Chhattisgarh has been totally neglected in the Budget which has been presented by the hon. Minister. I would like to ask him about the Rajhara-Jagdalpur rail line and conversion of Raipur Dhamtari rail line.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, Chhattisgarh has not been neglected. That I can assure my friend. Our project is not restricted to a particular area or a particular State. We take the railways to the whole country as one unit and we are for that. So far we have not announced any new projects. If there had been any political motive, I would have announced so many new projects and I would not have allotted funds for projects given by my predecessor. But it is not like that. A new era has begun and we are seeing it in the total interest of the country. As my hon. senior Member of Parliament said, as far as Chhattisgarh is concerned, especially naxal-affected areas and other socially and economically backward areas, it will be taken care of by the Railway Ministry. This project is in progress. Owing to some security reasons, it was slowed down a little bit. Now security has been provided and work is in progress. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister finish. ...*(Interruptions)*...

उनको खत्म कर लेने दीजिए।

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: That is in progress. If my friend wants some more particulars, I will give all the particulars to him with regard to the particular project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.62. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No.62 please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, Telangana has not been given anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

चौधरी मुनव्वर सलीम : सर, मेरा एक छोटा सा सवाल है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

چودھری منور سلیم : سر، میرا ایک چھوٹا سا سوال ہے۔ ...*(مداخلت)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

चौधरी मुनव्वर सलीम : सर, मेरा एक छोटा सा सवाल है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

چودھری منور سلیم : سر، میرا ایک چھوٹا سا سوال ہے۔ ...*(مداخلت)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, you all know what the rule for supplementary is. In addition to the main question ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: We are totally neglected. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

श्री राजपाल सिंह सैनी : सर, मैं एक छोटा सा प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

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

श्री राजपाल सिंह सैनी : सर, मेरा अनुरोध है ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैंने कभी कुछ नहीं पूछा, मैं एक छोटा सा क्वेश्चन पूछना चाहता हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए, मैं आपको समझाना चाहता हूँ कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजपाल सिंह सैनी : सर, प्रश्न बहुत जरूरी है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजपाल सिंह सैनी : हम बार-बार चिल्लाते रहते हैं लेकिन कोई सुनता नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down....*(Interruptions)*... तीन सप्लीमेंट्रीज पूछे जाते हैं। They are rotated around the House. अगर कोई मुझे ऐसा कम्प्यूटर प्रोग्राम बनाकर दे दे कि किस तरीके से 245 मेंबर्स में से तीन मेंबर्स सेलेक्ट होंगे तो मैं बड़ी खुशी से उसको एक्सेप्ट कर लूंगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... No, I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can't do this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजपाल सिंह सैनी : मेरा एक सेकेंड का क्वेश्चन है। आप बड़े दिल वाले हैं, आप कृपया मुझे अलाऊ कर दीजिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : वह सवाल खत्म हो गया है।

श्री राजपाल सिंह सैनी : सिर्फ एक सेकेंड का सवाल है। इतनी देर में तो मैं सवाल पूछ भी लेता। मेरा केवल एक सेकेंड का सवाल है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Chairman, Sir, why don't you club all the questions related to Railways? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राजपाल सिंह सैनी : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : आपका सवाल रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जाएगा, उसका जवाब आपको नहीं मिलेगा। आपके दूसरे साथी का जो सवाल है, आप उनको वह पूछने दीजिए।

श्री राजपाल सिंह सैनी : सर, आप कृपया मुझे एक सेकेंड दे दें, आपका इतना बड़ा दिल है...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री सभापति :** उसका फायदा क्या? न आपका सवाल रिकॉर्ड पर जाएगा और न ही मंत्री जी उसका जवाब देंगे। Now, Dr. Mungekar, your question.

**Security mechanism in railways**

\*62. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism the Ministry proposes to create to provide security to passengers from the horrendous instances of murder, crime against women other than rape, rape, dacoity, robbery and theft that run into thousands every year; and

(b) the time-frame for creating this security mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) At present there is a three tier security mechanism of RPF, GRP and District Police over Indian Railways in which prevention and detection of crime in Railway premises and running trains are the responsibility of States through their Government Railway Police (GRP).

Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRPs to ensure protection and security of railway property and passengers as well as matters connected with the Railways Act, RPF Act and the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act. Concerned District Police are responsible for security of tracks, bridges and tunnels.

The mechanism proposed for enhanced security of passengers is as follows:

- (i) At present an average of 3275 trains are being escorted by RPF and GRPs. Almost all existing vacancies in RPF are being filled up. This will enable us to strengthen the existing escorts and to escort another 1500 vulnerable trains.
- (ii) Eight sanctioned Mahila Vahinis (women RPF companies) will be recruited and trained to provide enhanced security to women passengers.
- (iii) 17000 RPF Constables are under process of recruitment. The final result is likely to be declared shortly.
- (iv) 4000 more posts of women RPF personnel are being sanctioned to provide enhanced security to women passengers.

- (v) Integrated Security System has been sanctioned at 202 sensitive stations. The project is at different stages of completion in 93 stations.
- (vi) Security Control rooms and RPF posts are being networked through Railway Security Management System.
- (vii) Security Helpline: A four digit helpline (Number 1322) has been sanctioned. This will enable passengers to seek security related assistance on a real-time basis.
- (viii) Mobile phones are proposed to be provided to all train escorts. This will enable passengers to contact the escort personnel easily.
- (ix) To create a more effective security mechanism over Indian Railways, a proposal for amendment in the RPF Act has been moved by the Ministry of Railways with the approval of the Ministries of Law & Justice and Home Affairs. This will empower the RPF to deal with serious crimes in passenger areas.
- (b) All these measures will be implemented on high priority basis.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Sir, thank you, very much. I have read carefully the answer given by the hon. Minister and he has given the list of measures that he proposes to take in addition to the measures which are already in the place, and the UPA Government had already started implementing them. But the measures suggested by the hon. Minister are too inadequate taking into account the magnitude of the problem. Sir, I would request you to give me one-and-a-half minutes. Between 2000 and 2013, the total number of murders on railway trains and premises is 3,341; rape cases - 468; dacoity cases - 1,588; robberies - 6,445; and, thefts from passengers - 1,70,385. Now, this number of 1,70,385 includes me also when I was travelling by a Konkan Railway train. But somehow, my wrist watch was spared. I did not know how he came to know about it. It was presented to me by my wife on my anniversary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Sir, I am coming to my question, in view of this magnitude where 73 rapes were taking place only on the trains, I would like to say that since I know a little Economics, and there are financial constraints in the Railways, I want to put a pointed question to the hon. Railway Minister, whether he will sacrifice that white elephant of bullet train from Mumbai to Ahmedabad costing Rs.60,000 crore and divert that amount in the course of time towards security measures.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the question raised by my senior friend regarding bullet train does not come under the purview of this question. So, I am not interested to answer that.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Sir, I had put the question about bullet train simply because of financial constraints on the Railways. If he can make arrangement for finances, I don't have any objection.

Now, I come to my second supplementary. Sir, out of 75,00,000 passengers travelling by railway every day in Mumbai, nearly 15 to 20 lakh passengers happen to be women. Particularly during late hours and lonely hours, women find it very difficult so far as their safety is concerned. Will the hon. Minister adopt separate special measures for the Mumbai city woman rail commuters who feel unsafe while travelling in trains.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, practically, there is a three-tier security mechanism in the Railways, that is, RPF, GRP and then there is District Police. Police at each level has been given separate responsibilities, especially the Government Railway Police is taking care of these criminal activities and other investigations. The Railway Protection Force and the District Police assist them in carrying out their works.

At present, there are about 3,275 trains which are escorted by the RPF and GRP. Recently, we have recruited 17,000 RPF constables ...*(Interruptions)*... and it is nearly 1,00,000. By July 15, their recruitment process will be over and from August, their training will start. By March 2015, we will get those 17,000 new constables also. Apart from that, we have decided to recruit about 4,000 more woman constables in RPF, especially as it was a question put by my senior colleague with regard to women's safety and what steps we are going to take.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Sir, my question was specifically regarding Mumbai.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: At present, we are having separate RPF personnel to escort the lady coaches and we have planned to give more protection in future to women who travel in the trains. We are already providing mobile phones to personnel who are escorting these coaches. We already have a four-digit helpline number. All these things are there. Once these 4,000 additional lady constables are deployed, it will take care of all these things. Of course, the statistics given by the hon. Member is exactly right. There were several incidents. Nowadays, the definition of 'rape' has been expanded. So, some more cases pertaining to small incidents are included in that list. In future, we will specially take care of woman travellers by deputing another 4,000 lady constables.



**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी :** सभापति महोदय, मैं सबसे पहले तो रेल मंत्री जी को बधाई देता हूँ कि इन्होंने बहुत अच्छा रेल बजट पेश किया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

جناب مختار عباس نقوی: سبھا پتی مہودے، میں سب سے پہلے تو ریل منتری جی کو بدھائی دیتا ہوں کہ انہوں نے بہت اچھا ریل بجٹ پیش کیا ہے۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

**श्री सभापति :** आप सवाल पूछ लीजिए।

**श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नक़वी :** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि रेल यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं? महोदय, इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि पिछले दिनों जिस तरह से माओवादियों का, नक्सलवादियों का रेल यात्रियों पर हमला हुआ है, वह अपने आप में बहुत खतरनाक है और लगातार इस तरह की घटनाएं होती रहती हैं।

अतः मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि रेलों तथा रेल यात्रियों पर इस तरह के किए जाने वाले हमलों पर प्रभावी ढंग से काबू पाने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं?

جناب مختار عباس نقوی: سبھا پتی مہودے، میں آپ کے مادھیم سے مانتے ریل منتری جی سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ ریل یاتریوں کی سرکشا کے لئے کیا اپائے کئے جا رہے ہیں؟ مہودے، اس سے بھی اہم بات یہ ہے کہ پچھلے دنوں جس طرح سے ماؤوا دیوں کا، ناکسلوا دیوں کا ریل یاتریوں پر حملہ ہوا ہے، وہ اپنے آپ میں بہت خطرناک ہے اور لگاتار اس طرح کی گھٹناتیں ہوتی رہتی ہے۔ اس لئے میں مانتے ریل منتری جی سے یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ ریلوں اور ریل یاتریوں پر اس طرح کے، کئے جانے والے حملوں پر پوہواوی ڈھنگ سے قابو پانے کے لئے کیا اپائے جا رہے ہیں؟

**SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:** Hon. Chairman, Sir, we have already created an integrated security system, and, we have identified some sensitive areas and stations. Already, 202 sensitive stations have been identified in this regard. We are just taking up the project to have this integrated security system in place in those areas. We have already allotted Rs. 353 crore for this purpose and the works have begun at 93 stations. Special control rooms have also been established at various places where there are some security problems.

We are in close touch with the State Governments from whom we will get some intelligence report, and, whenever certain activities of this type are anticipated, we provide escort across the country in the trains moving in those areas.

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, would the hon. Minister consider putting up CCTVs in the ladies' compartments?

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: We have already decided to put CCTVs in the ladies' compartments.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, if it is already decided, it would be better if it is implemented immediately.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Certainly, we will do it. We have already decided it and it will be taken up in a phased manner.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Would you give a lady MP an assurance regarding the time-frame?

MR. CHAIRMAN: One question, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... You asked one question, he gave the answer. Thank you.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, he has given an assurance but it has no time limit. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, there are so many assurances given to women but nobody gives us a time frame regarding implementation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take up separately with the hon. Minister. Now, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, the hon. Minister has given us a very reassuring hierarchy of the kind of security which is provided in the railways. What is the conviction rate that you have acquired in this hierarchy, and, have you taken the local ticket collectors into confidence because what happens on the train is that after the assured booking is done, the ticket collector in his discretion, happily allots tickets to people who have no advanced booking? These guys board the train. Sir, I know of a case of South Central Railways, which came to my notice, and, that is why I am drawing your attention towards it. These men, unknown men, who have no records in the railway booking, get on to the trains, commit the crimes, whether it is theft or rape, and, they get off at the next station. So, in such cases, it is virtually impossible for you to have a conviction or even file an FIR against such people because they cannot be identified.

So, the CCTVs, about which Mrs. Bachchan just made a mention, will also assure that we get some evidence regarding these fellows and there is some way to trap them. So, the ticket collectors will also have to be made accountable. When they are on the train, they cannot give tickets randomly to people and if they do, they should be able to have some check on them. Thank you.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Sir, the suggestion is well taken, we will look into the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

**Performance of BSNL and MTNL**

\*63. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that performance of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is not upto the mark, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government would take to improve the performance and infrastructure of both these public undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) Government is conscious that the performance of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited needs substantial improvement.

Landline connections of BSNL have reduced by 38.04% in the period from March, 2009 to May, 2014 and landline connections of MTNL have reduced by 1.14% in the same period.

The market share of mobile subscriber base of BSNL has reduced from 14.87% in March, 2009 to 10.95% as on May, 2014. The market share of mobile subscriber base of MTNL in its two service areas, namely Mumbai and Delhi, has reduced from 10.87% to 4.83% in the same period.

The decline in landline connections and in market share of mobile subscriber base in BSNL has been sharp over the last five years whereas in MTNL, the decline in market share of mobile subscriber base over the last five years has been severe.

The revenues from operations of BSNL have reduced by 11.67% in the last five years, whereas in MTNL, it has reduced by 23.87% in the same period. BSNL has been incurring losses for the last five years with losses touching Rs 7085 crores in FY 2013-14. MTNL too has been incurring losses for four years with its losses reaching Rs 5321 crores in FY 2012-13. MTNL has shown a profit of Rs 7825 crore in FY 2013-14 mainly due to write back of provisions on account of pensionary liabilities and spectrum amortization costs after decisions of Government taken for revival of MTNL.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are in financial distress. BSNL and MTNL are faced with declining revenues from loss of market share, increasing expenditure and inability to invest in expansion of communications network.

(b) Government has taken several measures to revive the two CPSUs. These measures include:

- (i) Treatment of pensionary liabilities of Government employees absorbed in MTNL and who opted for combined service pension on parity with similar employees in BSNL.
- (ii) Waiver of Government loan to BSNL involving an amount of Rs. 1411 crores
- (iii) Financial support of Rs.6724.51 Crores to BSNL and Rs.4533.97 crores to MTNL on surrender of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum.

Besides these measures Government is formulating a coordinated plan aimed towards revival of BSNL and MTNL by addressing issues of high employee expenses and gainful utilization of assets to enhance availability of finances for network expansion and improvement in Quality of Service (QoS).

BSNL and MTNL are separately preparing a revival plan for increasing revenue potential, identifying business opportunities, organizational restructuring to enable them to grow into customer-centric companies with expertise in marketing and customer services delivery and developing human resources strategy in line with restructured organizational vision.

SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: I have a question to the hon. Minister that a Group of Ministers was formed on 17th April, 2013, and they had made certain recommendations. I congratulate the new Government that they have scrapped this Group of Ministers. I congratulate them for this because this was a way not to take decisions, to withhold decisions. What was the recommendation of the Group of Ministers which was formed on 17th April, 2013 and whether the Government has implemented it or not?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, now those Groups of Ministers no more exist. But since he has asked a question, some recommendations had come. I have not the slightest hesitation in admitting before the House that the health of both the BSNL and the MTNL leaves much to be desired and one of my priority areas after taking over the Government

is to restore the health of these two organizations because the Government strongly feels that for a healthy competition, the public sector also must compete. We have taken a lot of measures for improving it. And, Sir, one thing which I am doing myself in my own chamber is, I wish to assure this House, I have installed a Network Operating Centre (NOC) machine where I am personally monitoring as to how many base Transreceiver Stations are working all over the country and I have talked to four CGMs to improve the performance. So, we are doing this, apart from providing financial support. I would assure this hon. House that the Government is quite serious in restoring the health of the two bodies.

SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: No, no, the hon. Minister has not replied ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second question, please.

SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: No, no, I have a question: What are you doing? What steps are you taking to ensure that these loss-making PSUs are brought on the profit mode?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, there are basically some of the steps that we have taken. The PSUs propose to invest Rs. 39,468 crores in the coming five years. The PSUs are going to install 24,476 BTS all over the country by next year end to ensure their efficiency as far as transmission is concerned. The PSUs are also introducing on a war footing the conversion of landline network to latest internet network so that the entire connectivity and the network of the BSNL landline is also properly improved. Apart from that, I have also told them that the whole scenario is changing. It is very important that the officers both in the BSNL and the MTNL become more market-oriented so that they compete properly and sell their extraordinary assets from Kedarnath to Kanyakumari people friendly and more consumer friendly. That is what we are doing, apart from monitoring myself, which I have just indicated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Maitreyan.

SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Sir, may I have your permission?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, you have asked your two questions. Thank you.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Union Minister and my esteemed friend has acknowledged that the landline connections of the BSNL have reduced by 38.04 per cent during the last five years and the revenues from operations of the BSNL have reduced by 11.67 per cent in the last five years. I would like to ask the hon. Minister: Is he aware of the huge revenue loss and the investigation thereupon in the BSNL, Chennai, where a separate private telephone exchange was established in the residence of a former illustrious predecessor of his Ministry? ...*(Interruptions)*... Investigation is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, what is he ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

DR. V. MAITREYAN: What is the extent of the revenue loss? Is the Ministry aware? Would he like to enlighten this House on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you wish to stick to the question, please?

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, he has mentioned about the revenue loss. I am asking about the revenue loss only, Sir; the revenue loss created by an illustrious predecessor of his Department. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, how can you allow such a thing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, I do not think this is fair. ...*(Interruptions)*... You ask a general question, you get an answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I am asking: Is he aware? Let him say he is not aware. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, let him say he is not aware, I am asking: Is he aware, at least, of the revenue loss in his own Department? ...*(Interruptions)*... The whole world knows this, Sir.

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

DR. V. MAITREYAN: No, no, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Injustice is being done to me, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Injustice is being done to me, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, it is an acknowledged fact that private telephone exchanges were established; revenue loss to benefit a private channel was indulged by a former Union Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, you cannot make allegations like this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Let the Minister say whether there is any revenue loss or not. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him say there is no revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a procedure. You cannot make impromptu allegations like this.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, it is not an allegation. His Department is investigating into this. Let him say there is no investigation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask another question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, his Department is investigating. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him say there is no investigation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask another question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I want your protection, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think that will be appropriate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, let him say that there is no investigation. ...*(Interruptions)*... His Department is investigating. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's not the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: He has acknowledged that there is revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has acknowledged that there is revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... The revenue loss is of 11 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Maitreyan, you are a very senior Member of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, what is wrong in my question? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, what is wrong in my question? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have a problem, there is a procedure for it. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can't make allegations like this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, what is wrong in my question? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, what is wrong in my question? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can't make allegations like this.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, what is wrong in my question? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, what is wrong in my question? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: There has been a revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... The investigation is being done by his Department. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him say ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: There has been an investigation by his Department.

...(Interruptions)... Let him acknowledge that, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... He has to be forthright, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, he has to be forthright on this. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, the matter is *sub judice*. ...(Interruptions)... It cannot be raised. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, there has been an investigation. ...(Interruptions)... Let him deny that there is no investigation, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... Let him say that there is no investigation, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, the matter is *sub judice*. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Maitreyan, please. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: If there is an investigation, what is the extent of revenue loss? ...(Interruptions)... He has acknowledged here that there is revenue loss to the tune of 11 per cent. ...(Interruptions)... There is a revenue loss. ...(Interruptions)... The revenue loss is not created by others. ...(Interruptions)... It is created by a former Union Minister. ...(Interruptions)... Revenue loss is created by a former Union Minister. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, the matter is *sub judice*. ...(Interruptions)... It cannot be raised in the House. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I want an answer. ...(Interruptions)... It is a genuine question. ...(Interruptions)... I am not naming anybody. ...(Interruptions)... I have not named anybody. ...(Interruptions)... Let him say that there is nothing, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not correct. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, let him say that there is nothing. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not correct. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, why are you denying the answer in this House? ...(Interruptions)... Sir, why are you denying the answer in this House? ...(Interruptions)...



MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I am asking a genuine question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request all of you to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I request everybody to sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Please look at the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a general question. It is not a specific question. Therefore, supplementaries have to be general ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I have specifically asked about revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have specifically asked about revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has acknowledged that there is revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, he has acknowledged that there is revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, you have to protect me. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you have to protect me. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have to protect me, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is revenue loss. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has acknowledged it, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him say that, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, the House needs to be protected from your tactics. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned for ten minutes.

The House then adjourned at thirty-three minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at forty two minutes past eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us continue with the supplementaries.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I want an answer. I only want to know whether there is a revenue loss. Let the Minister say if he is aware of the revenue loss.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I will look into the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Now, Shri Rapolu.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir, the hon. Minister has, in detail, mentioned about the decrease in landline in BSNL and MTNL. Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to mention to the Minister a suggestion as well as a question that there is every facility technologically advanced to utilise the landlines wireless to be useful for fax and other facilities. With that facility, the landline subscriptions can enhance. This is an observation in several advanced countries. So, for the telecommunications, if it is ready to utilise the wireless facility for the landlines, it will be a healthier sign. That will also enhance the landline subscriptions. For this, is the Minister intending to utilise the advanced technology available throughout the globe? That is what I would like to know from the Minister.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Member is very right. Landline is a big asset of BSNL and MTNL and what we are proposing by way of reform is to leverage it with new technology for convergence whereby mobile telephony and landline telephony will be converged. There will be less stress on spectrum and effective use. It is a very welcome suggestion and we are going in that direction.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Is the Minister aware that in late 2006-07, these two companies were valued at about Rs.50,000 crore which represents the value of public investments in these companies? Today, he has made a statement that he foresees a further investment of Rs.39,000 crore. Would he be kind enough to share with this House the reason for this colossal and tragic loss of value of these companies over the last 7-8 years before he commits to meeting this huge additional investment of Rs.39,000 crore of taxpayers' money?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Member, who is quite well informed in this field and whom I respect a lot, has raised a very, very sensitive and critical issue. These two organisations were in profit 5-6 years ago. But, some of the decisions taken, namely, not granting them requisite infrastructural support in time and the manner in which spectrum was burdened on them with a huge cost to their own kitty, had a very spiralling effect over the decline of their net worth. Added to that was the lack of effective monitoring as far as performance is considered. Today, it is a different world. It is more competitive. Therefore, that mindset has to change. But, many decisions of the past have also contributed. As I said earlier, Sir, these two are big national assets and the Government is committed to restore their health. Sir, apart from NOFN and broadband connectivity, one of my priorities after taking charge of this department is to restore the health of these bodies for which we are taking all the requisite steps.

**Collision of Gorakhdham Express with goods train**

\*64. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passengers died, critically injured and sustained minor injuries, category-wise, in collision of Gorakhdham Express with goods train near Sant Kabir Nagar district in UP;

(b) whether medical relief and rescue teams were rushed without delay to save maximum lives and to provide immediate succour to the injured passengers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the cause of the accident, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether compensation to the nearest kin of dead and to the injured passengers was distributed or still pending, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) 29 passengers lost their lives, 16 passengers were critically (grievous) injured and 58 passengers sustained simple injury in accident involving Gorakhdham Express in Sant Kabir Nagar District of Uttar Pradesh on 26.05.2014.

(b) Yes, Sir. Medical Relief and Rescue Teams were rushed to accident site without delay. The incident took place at 10:35 hours on 26.05.2014. Medical Director/ North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur with medical team departed from Gorakhpur by Accident Relief Medical Equipment (ARME) Train at 11:12 hours and reached the accident site at 12:05 hours. Chief Medical Director with medical team departed from Gorakhpur by road at 11:25 hours and reached the accident site at 12:45 hours. Another ARME Train departed from Gonda at 11.10 hours and reached the accident site at 13:30 hours while Ambulance which departed from Gonda at 11:25 hours reached the accident site at 13:35 hours.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per the preliminary report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the accident was caused due to failure of rail and hence the accident is classified under the category "Failure of Equipment - Permanent Way".

(d) Compensation to the victims of train accident, as defined under Section 124 of the Railways Act, 1989, is paid by the Railways on the basis of claims filed and decreed by Railway Claims Tribunal, which is a quasi judicial body, independent from the railways. In the above accident, compensation would be paid on receipt of decree of the Tribunal.

As a special case on humanitarian grounds, enhanced *ex-gratia* relief of Rs. 2 lakh to the next kin of each deceased, Rs. 1 lakh to each grievously injured and Rs. 20 thousand to each simple injury passenger was announced by the Railway Administration. In addition, *ex-gratia* relief of Rs. 2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs. 50 thousand to each grievously injured passenger was also announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Accordingly, *ex-gratia* has been paid in all the cases except three death cases which are pending on account of dispute of legal heirship.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member is absent. Any supplementaries? No supplementaries.

#### **Status of railway lines/tracks and stations**

\*65. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of railway lines/tracks and stations in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir Valley regions of Jammu and Kashmir, separately, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and plans to start new railway projects, the area-wise details thereof; and

(b) the tourist and general public traffic for these areas in regard to Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

*(a) The State -wise Gauge-wise route kilometers are given below:-*

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Route kilometers as on 31.03.2014			
		BG	MG	NG	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.00	1.26	0.00	12.26
2.	Assam	1766.30	701.63	0.00	2467.93

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Himachal Pradesh	50.48	0.00	245.78	296.26
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	273.33	0.00	0.00	273.33
5.	Manipur	0.00	1.35	0.00	1.35
6.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Mizoram	0.00	1.50	0.00	1.50
8.	Nagaland	11.13	1.72	0.00	12.85
9.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Tripura	0.00	151.40	0.00	151.40
11.	Uttarakhand	303.08	42.15	0.00	345.23
<b>Union Territory</b>					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		2415.32	901.01	245.78	3562.11

Note: The State-wise stations are not maintained.

So far as starting of new railway projects in these States/areas are concerned, it is stated that sanctioning and starting of projects is a continuous process. As on 31.3.2014, status of ongoing projects and surveys falling partly/fully in the States is given below:-

State	No. of ongoing projects			
	New Lines	Gauge conversion	Doubling	Surveys
1	2	3	4	5
Jammu and Kashmir	1	Nil	4	3
Himachal Pradesh	3	Nil	Nil	4
Uttarakhand	4	2	1	9
Sikkim	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nagaland	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	Nil	Nil
Manipur	1	1	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Tripura	2	1	Nil	2
Meghalaya	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mizoram	1	1	Nil	2
Assam	4	3	2	1
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	1

*Note:* Some of the Railway projects fall in more than one State.

For ongoing projects of North Eastern region, Railways have provided 54% higher allocation in current financial year in comparison to last year's final allocation.

In Budget 2014-15, two new surveys in the State of Himachal Pradesh and one survey for providing connectivity to Chardham in the State of Uttarakhand have been announced which are not included in the above table.

(b) Northern Railway which, *inter-alia*, caters to passenger traffic to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand carried about 667.72 million passengers during the Financial Year 2013-14. North Eastern Railway which caters to parts of Uttarakhand carried about 247.23 million passengers and Northeast Frontier Railway which caters to the States of Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Manipur carried about 97.64 million passengers during the aforementioned period. This includes tourist traffic also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member is absent. Any supplementaries? Okay. Shrimati Viplove Thakur.

**श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर :** सर, मैंने पढ़ा कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में दो लाइनों का सर्वे कराया गया, उनमें से एक लाइन नंगल-तलवाड़ा है, जिसको बनते-बनते 39 वर्ष हो गए, लेकिन उसके लिए बजट में कोई पैसा नहीं रखा गया और जितनी लाइनें हमने पहले प्रपोज की थीं, उनके लिए भी बजट में कोई प्रावधान नहीं किया गया है। सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि हिमाचल प्रदेश के साथ यह सौतेला व्यवहार क्यों होता है और क्या माननीय मंत्री जी नंगल-तलवाड़ा के लिए बजट में प्रावधान करेंगे, जिससे कि वह इस साल पूरी हो सके?

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Hon. Chairman, I don't have the data and other things right now.

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Why does the Minister not have the data?  
...(Interruptions)... Himachal Pradesh is mentioned here. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: I will get back to you. The question is in respect of status of railway lines/tracks and stations. ...(Interruptions)... I have given a detailed answer to that. ...(Interruptions)... I have mentioned about Arunachal. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: I am talking about Himachal Pradesh.  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Okay. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I suggest that the information be made available to the hon. Member.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Certainly, Sir. I have a piece of information.  
...(Interruptions)... A sum of Rs.20 crore has been allotted for this. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा :** सर, तीन वर्ष पूर्व उत्तराखंड राज्य में दो रेलवे लाइनें स्वीकृत हुई थीं, जिनका सर्वे भी हो चुका है, उनमें से एक गढ़वाल में कर्णप्रयाग है और दूसरी कुमाऊं में टनकपुर से बागेश्वर है। सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या कारण रहा कि उन्होंने उत्तराखंड को रेलवे से बिल्कुल मुक्त कर दिया और जो स्वीकृत परियोजनाएं हैं, उनको भी ठंडे बस्ते में डाल दिया? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इसी बजट में उन परियोजनाओं को सम्मिलित करेंगे? अगर नहीं करेंगे, तो उत्तराखंड के साथ ऐसा घोर अन्याय क्यों किया जा रहा है?

**श्री रामदास अठावले :** पहले की सरकार ने क्या किया? ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति :** कृपया बैठ जाइए। Hon, Minister, you please go ahead ...(Interruptions)... आप बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Hon. Chairman, I have not taken up any new projects in this Budget. ...(Interruptions)... In spite of that, the Chaar Dhaam connectivity will be speeded up. I have already said that in my Budget speech. I will take care of that. ...(Interruptions)...

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

**श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा :** सर, माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया। ...(व्यवधान).... यह बहुत अन्याय है। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति :** आप यह क्या कर रहे हैं?...**(व्यवधान)**...यह आप कर क्या रहे हैं?  
...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री महेन्द्र सिंह माहरा :** सर, वह इतना सेंसिटिव जोन है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. ...**(Interruptions)**... बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...  
Just one minute. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please one minute. One minute ...**(Interruptions)**...  
बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप भी बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Please, hon. Members  
...**(Interruptions)**... बैठ जाइए, अठावले जी। ...**(व्यवधान)**... एक मिनट। ...**(व्यवधान)**... देखिए,  
आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... If the answer is inadequate, there is a procedure for it. I  
would request the hon. Members to look at the procedure, point out the inadequacies of  
the answer; it will always be corrected, or, amplified. Thank you very much. डूडी जी,  
अब आप सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री राम नारायण डूडी :** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से रेल मंत्री जी से यह कहना  
चाहूंगा कि राजस्थान स्टेट के अंदर पीपार रोड से बिलाड़ा और बिलाड़ा से बर (पाली) तक की  
रेलवे लाइन का एक्सटेंशन होना बहुत आवश्यक है। यहां पर जब दूसरे राज्यों का मामला आया  
है, तो मैं भी राजस्थान के संबंध में यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि बिलाड़ा-बर रेलवे लाइन को जोड़ने की  
मंशा आप रखते हैं या नहीं? क्योंकि यह केवल 40 किलोमीटर का टुकड़ा है और बिलाड़ा-बर  
रेलवे लाइन के बन जाने से पूरा का पूरा दक्षिण भारत इस क्षेत्र से जुड़ जाएगा।

**श्री सभापति :** आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

**श्री राम नारायण डूडी :** सभापति महोदय, इसके बन जाने से हमारे जोधपुर और पाली के  
लोग, जो कि दक्षिण भारत में रहते हैं, उनको सुविधा मिलेगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पिछले  
बजट के बाद इस रेलवे लाइन का सर्वे हुआ था, तो क्या इस बार इसको आगे बढ़ाने की मंशा है?

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question does not relate  
to Rajasthan. In spite of this, I will request the hon. Member to participate in the debate  
on the Railway Budget; I will reply to his questions during the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Q. No.66.

#### **Increase in passenger fares and freight charges**

\*66. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have increased passenger fares by 14.2 per  
cent and freight charges by 6.5 per cent with effect from 25 June this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor on the eve of presentation of  
regular Railway Budget?

THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and  
(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.



**Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the passenger fare and freight rate revision effective from 25.6.2014 are as under:

- The passenger fares have been increased by 10 percent and freight rates by 5 percent.
- In addition revision has been done on account of Fuel Adjustment Component (FAC) to the tune of 4.2 percent in passenger fares and 1.5 percent in freight rates.
- There was however no increase in second class (ordinary) suburban fares upto a distance of 80 kilometer.

Revision of fare and freights is done periodically depending on the situation and it does not have to be necessarily a part of the Budget. However, in the Interim Budget presented to the Parliament on 12.02.2014, the additional resource mobilization on account of fare and freight revision had been factored in the Budget Estimates 2014-15. The fare and freight revision was necessitated in order that Railways could meet additional expenditure on account of increase in energy costs, wages and salaries, dearness allowance and associated allowances, stores, contribution to pension fund and increase in the rate of Dividend payable to the Central exchequer for 2014-15 from 4 percent to 5 percent.

In view of the above, Indian Railways had no option but to implement the fare and freight revision immediately without which the Railways safety, modernization and development programmes would have been adversely affected.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, this question is further going to be discussed during the debate on the Railway Budget. However, I would like to put two questions. Sir, the answer given to my question says, "The passenger fares have been increased by 10 per cent and freight rates by five per cent. In addition, revision has been done on account of Fuel Adjustment Component (FAC) to the tune of 4.2 per cent in passenger fares and 1.5 per cent in freight rates." Now, oil marketing companies have been given absolute independence to hike the prices of petrol and diesel whenever they feel it is necessary. In such a situation when prices of petrol and diesel fall, when they decline, how are you going to adjust this? What is the criterion? What is the definition you follow to make the revision of passenger fares according to the fuel adjustment component? What are the criterion, yardstick and definition you follow?

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the budget of 2012-13, इस fuel adjustment component के बारे में अनाउंस किया गया था। So, whenever there is a hike in the prices of petrol and diesel, automatically it will be adjusted as per the fuel adjustment component. Once it was done on an earlier occasion and it was due in last April. So this was based on variations and fluctuations in the oil market and all that. Sir, no such occasion has arisen so far because there was no decrease in prices. So we did not touch that matter. There was continuous hike. Due to hike, we are forced to implement the Fuel Adjustment Component.

SHRI D. RAJA: How did you arrive at this figure?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your second supplementary. Don't discuss it. You have a second supplementary.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, this answer is inadequate. I am asking a specific question. If I am wrong, you tell me. I have asked, "How does the Government come to this conclusion of 4.2 per cent as per the Fuel Adjustment Component?" That is what I want to understand. Let the nation know about it. How is it done by the Government?

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have made it very clear that it is based on the fluctuations and variations in fuel prices across the world. Automatically, it is followed. Earlier, it was decided that adjustment would be done twice a year and the variation in fuel cost would be reviewed once in six months. Consequently, that has to be done. It was done in the previous six months. It was due in last April. So it was done in last April. How the fare hike and other things are done, I will deal with it in detail in the discussion on the Railway Budget.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, the Minister should be told by the Chair that he should come fully prepared. He is not prepared. He is not responding to any question properly. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the Minister is fully prepared.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is expected of all Members of the House to come fully prepared. Second supplementary, please.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, my second question is this. The answer says, "Revision of fare and freights is done periodically depending on the situation and it does not have to be necessarily a part of the Budget. However, in the Interim Budget presented to the Parliament on 12.2.2014, the additional resource mobilization on account of fare and freight revision had been factored in the Budget Estimates 2014-15."

What is this happening with the Government, whether it is the previous Government or the present Government? If the Government is honest, say it honestly to the people that we have to raise the railway passenger fares and freight charges and it is part of the Budget. Why do you do it as a pre-Budget exercise? In what way are you different from the previous Government? They did the same thing and you are following the same thing. Therefore, the Government should be transparent.

SHRID.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we don't have any hesitation in saying that we have raised the fares. We don't have any hesitation in saying that because it was the need of the hour. There are various factors that made us to hike the prices. I had said it on an earlier occasion that my friends in the UPA, at this stage, can't say that there is a price hike and all that. Already, it has been dealt in detail by Shri Arun Jaitley the other day how it was done by the previous Government and all that. I don't want to go into that. I do not want to politicise this issue. My friend, Shri D. Raja, has asked the right question. I don't have any hesitation in saying that this hike was done by my Government as it was the need of the hour.

**श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता :** श्रीमान जी, भारतीय रेलवे देश के करोड़ों लोगों के साथ उनके जनजीवन से जुड़ी हुई है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि चूंकि और कोई साधन नहीं था, तभी यह माल भाड़ा और पैसंजर फेयर बढ़ाया गया, नहीं तो इसके बगैर भारतीय रेलवे तकलीफ में आ जाती। लेकिन मैं याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि यू.पी.ए. वन में जब डा. मनमोहन सिंह जी की सरकार थी और उसमें लालू प्रसाद जी रेल मंत्री थे, तो आपको ध्यान होगा कि पैसंजर फेयर कम किया गया और रेलवे को गोल्डन हार्ट्स तक पहुंचाया गया। श्रीमान् जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि is it not an insufficiency of the railway system which forces you to increase the passenger fares and freight charges? श्रीमान जी, फ्रेट चार्ज बढ़ाने का मतलब...

**श्री सभापति :** प्रश्न पूछिए।

**श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता :** महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि ऐसी कौन-सी इमरजेंसी थी कि बजट से 15 दिन पहले...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### Making farming a profitable activity

\*67. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take steps to make farming a profitable activity through scientific practices and agro-technology;

(b) if so, the details of such scientific practices and agro-technology in this regard; and

(c) how far the small and marginal farmers would be benefited by these improved practices?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government promotes proven scientific practices and agro-technologies, namely improved cultivars/ planting material/breeds, crop diversification, resource conservation technologies [zero tillage, laser levelling, bed planting, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Direct Seeded Rice], integrated water management, participatory watershed management for rainfed agriculture, micro-irrigation, soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management, enriched/vermicomposting, biofertilizers, Leaf Colour Chart (LCC), integrated pest management, organic farming, cost effective reclamation technologies, climate resilient agriculture, agro-advisories, contingent crop planning, low cost farm implements and machinery, post-harvest management and value addition to make farming a profitable activity. Implementation of these technologies/practices in integrated farming system mode encompassing crops, including agroforestry, horticulture, livestock, fisheries etc. is suggested for enhancing farm productivity, profitability and livelihood security of farming community.

(c) These improved practices benefit the small and marginal farmers in terms of reduction in cost of farming through savings on fertilizers, pesticides, water, labour, energy besides improving soil health and crop productivity. For instance, zero tillage reduces cost of cultivation by about half over conventional tillage; laser land levelling saves irrigation water by about 25% and reduces labor requirements by nearly 35%; SRI saves about 22-35% of water, 14% labour; self-propelled rice transplanter saves labour and energy by 80% and 60% respectively; LCC can save about 15-20% of nitrogen (N) fertiliser, biofertilizers can supplement costly chemical fertilizers (N, phosphorus) by nearly 20-25%, micro irrigation can save water by 30-50%, labour 50% and fertilizer 30-40%.

#### **Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani train accident**

†\*68. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express has fallen prey to a naxal attack near Chapra in Bihar recently;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether patrolling is undertaken for safety of railway tracks across naxal affected areas during bandh call by naxals;
- (c) whether the said accident has occurred due to the landmines or bomb explosions on the tracks;
- (d) whether safety of trains/traffic across such areas depends on fate;
- (e) whether safety of railway tracks does not come under the purview of Central Government; and
- (f) whether the said accident has caused much loss of lives and property and left several others injured, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) On 25.06.2014 at 02.12 hours, while the Train No.12236 Dn New Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express was running between Chhapra Kacheri and Goldenganj stations on Chhapra-Sonepur Section of Sonepur Division of East Central Railway, its locomotive alongwith 12 coaches next to train engine derailed, out of which 5 coaches capsized. Statutory inquiry into this derailment being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is underway. *Prima facie* cause of the derailment is 'suspected sabotage'. The Local Police/Mufassil Thana, Chhapra, Bihar, therefore, has registered a case under various sections of Indian Penal Code and The Railways Act.

(b) The responsibility of security of railway tracks, tunnels and bridges lies with the State Governments. However, railways also undertake patrolling to supplement the efforts of State Government.

(c) Statutory inquiry into the above derailment being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is underway. *Prima facie* cause of the derailment is 'suspected sabotage'.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) As per entry number one and two of List- II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India, Public Order and Police (including Railway and Village Police) is the statutory responsibility of State Government.

(f) In the above unfortunate derailment of Train No.12236 New Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express on 25.06.2014, 4 passengers lost their lives, 3 passengers suffered grievous injuries and 20 passengers suffered simple injuries. Loss of railway property in

this accident will be ascertained after receipt of the inquiry report of CRS/North Eastern Circle.

**Coordination among agriculture universities**

\*69. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of proper coordination between various State Agriculture Universities and inspite of our agro-scientists having excellent skills, useful information and technological developments are not being shared among all Agriculture Universities resulting in farmers not getting benefits of the new research in the farming sector; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Ministry, as on date, for proper coordination amongst various State Agriculture Universities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Agricultural Universities share useful information and technologies through various mechanisms for the development of agricultural sector. These mechanisms are:

- (a) All India Coordinated Research Projects and Network projects coordinated and funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Information is shared during annual workshops.
- (b) Krishi Vigyan Kendras (638 nos.) are spread all over the country. As many as 432 of these are managed by Agricultural Universities and provide services to the farmers.
- (c) Summer Schools and Winter Schools are organized by Agricultural Universities through funding support from ICAR, in which scientists from all over the country participate.
- (d) Symposium/Conference in specific areas are also organized with participation from Universities.
- (e) Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of all Agricultural Universities are organized where their achievements, problems, new technologies etc. are shared on a common platform.
- (f) ICAR organizes Regional Committee Meetings regularly, which leads to better Coordination among SAUs in that region.
- (g) During Twelfth Plan, more emphasis has been given to governance issues for improving coordination, better resource efficiency and networking among SAUs.

**Assistance to technical textile sector**

\*70. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned any assistance for the technical textile sector along with Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (TMTT), if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of major impediments in the growth of technical textile sector in the country and the steps taken to overcome them along with the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Assistance for the technical textiles sector is provided under TMTT from 2010-11 to 2014-15. Besides TMTT, Government is providing following assistance for Growth and Development of technical textiles:

- (i) Scheme for Promoting Usage of Agrotextiles in NER: Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has launched a Scheme for Usage of Agrotextiles in North-Eastern Region in the Twelfth five year plan with an outlay of Rs. 55 crore. The scheme has been operationalized in June, 2013. The aim is to encourage utilization of Agrotextiles in improving the Agriculture, horticulture and floricultural produce of the N-E States through awareness programmes, Development of Agrotextile products suitably customized for use in the North-Eastern region and Creating demonstration set-up depicting the benefit of usage of Agrotextile products suitable for the region. With increasing acceptability of Agrotextiles, entrepreneurs are expected to set up Agrotextiles production units in the country and particularly in NE Region.
- (ii) Scheme for Promoting Usage of Geotextiles in NER: Outlay of Rs. 427 crore is provided for the proposed Scheme for Promoting Usage of Geotextiles in NER during the Twelfth Plan period to promote and utilize Geo textiles in development of the infrastructure in the NER States by providing technological and financial support in road, hill/ slope protection and water reservoirs.
- (iii) Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS): Major technical textile machineries are covered under the Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RRTUFS) for 5% Interest reimbursement. In addition specified technical textile machinery has been provided with benefit of 10% capital subsidy in addition to 5% interest reimbursement under RRTUFS.

## (iv) Scheme for Strengthening of Database and Standards for Technical Textiles:

The scheme is aimed at creating a repository of knowledge that will facilitate effective policy decisions by the government and business decisions by industry stakeholders. Under this scheme Ministry of Textiles is conducting the Baseline survey for Strengthening of Database of Technical Textile industry. The objectives of the project is to identify the market size, consumption, trade trends, number of units, type of units, type of products produced, investment, turnover, employment etc., in the field of Technical Textiles in India.

(b) The major impediments in the growth of technical textile sector are non-availability of indigenous technology and machinery for most of the high-end Technical Textiles products, need for R&D activities and development of standards for all technical textiles products.

To promote the growth of technical textiles, Government has taken several initiatives which include among others the Scheme for Growth and Development of Technical Textiles (SGDTT) launched in 2007-08; Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (TMTT) from 2010-11 to 2014-15; Scheme for Strengthening of Database and Standards for Technical Textiles and Scheme for promoting usage of Agrotextile in North East Region launched.

The key outcomes of aforementioned initiatives of the Government in technical textile sector are as under:

- (i) Eight Centre of excellence in the different segments of technical textiles have been established which are equipped with testing labs, training facilities for trainers and technicians from the industry, IT enabled information centre and other requisite support to the technical textile entrepreneurs like prototype development, incubation activities etc. and also facilitation of standards formulation.
- (ii) Investment in machinery of Rs 4580 Crores for Technical Textiles under Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS)
- (iii) Database of Statistics of Technical Textile Market in India such as Investor Guide for technical textile sector, Studies on developing measures to promote the use of Agrotextiles and Geotextiles, Compendium on Standards, etc. has been developed.
- (iv) So far 101 standards pertaining to technical textiles are under various stages of development with Bureau of Indian Standards. Out of 101 standards, 21 standards have been printed.
- (v) 5 projects have been approved for Contract Research under TMTT.



**Action plan for water guzzling agricultural products**

\*71. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified water guzzling agricultural products which are grown in Maharashtra and other parts of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has prepared any policy or action plan with regard to such agricultural products which are responsible for creating drought conditions; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has identified Rice and Sugarcane as water guzzling field crops as they require high amount of water for producing unit quantity of output/economic yield. The average area (average of 2008-09 to 2012-13) under cultivation of rice and sugarcane in India is 43.41 and 4.70 million hectare, respectively.

(b) and (c) To reduce utilization of water in paddy cultivation, government is promoting water conservation techniques like Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) through seed drills and drum seeders, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), alternate wetting & drying method, laser land leveling, adoption of varieties which require less water, etc. through various crop development programmes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), etc. Government is also implementing Crop Diversification Programme in Original Green Revolution States of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh since 2013-14 in order to diversify cropping pattern from water guzzling paddy to pulses, oilseeds, maize and agro-forestry with the objective of tackling the problem of depleting water table in these States. In order to promote judicious use of water in sugarcane cultivation, farmers are given advisories and assistance for adoption of technologies and agronomic practices for efficient water use like drip irrigation system, alternate row, irrigation, mulching, etc. to save irrigation water. Government is promoting cultivation of pulses and coarse cereals under NFSM and oilseeds under National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) in rainfed areas as these crops need less water.

Government has also launched a National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency by promoting efficient on-farm water management technologies and equipment like drip and sprinkler, creation of farm ponds, efficient delivery and distribution systems, etc. with emphasis to manage and equitably distribute common resources by involving water users associations, etc.

**Incidents of crime in Railways**

\*72. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that incidents of crime in Railways are increasing year after year, touching to 19000 per year, an increase of 50 per cent over the last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and action taken thereon;
- (c) whether Government is aware that crime against women is also increasing in trains thereby making it difficult for single woman to travel in Railways; and
- (d) if so, the safety measures in place and steps taken by Railways to provide safety and security to women in trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) Though incidents of crime have registered upward trend during the year 2013, it is incorrect to say that there has been 50% increase in crime as compared to the previous year. There was a decrease of 3.2 % in 2012 and an increase of 21.5 % in 2013.

(b) Incidents of crime reported over Indian Railways are 22493, 21775 and 26467 during the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively (including 14701, 14267 and 18037 cases of theft of passenger belongings in corresponding years). In so far as action taken thereon is concerned, it is clarified that prevention and investigation of crimes over India Railways is the statutory responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the States concerned. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP for escort of important trains in affected areas and access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

(c) Though there is increase in crime against women in trains, it would be incorrect to say that it is difficult for single women to travel in Railways.

(d) The following measures are being taken by Railways for safety and security of women in trains:

- (i) A daily average of 1275 trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States. Almost all existing vacancies are being filled up in RPF, after which escorts will be provided in a larger number of trains.
- (ii) Ladies special trains are being escorted by lady RPF staff, wherever available,

in sub-urban sections over Central, Eastern, Northern, Western and Southern Railways. The strength of Women RPF personnel is being increased by eight (8) companies already sanctioned, and another 4000 as announced in the current budget, to further enhance security of women passengers.

- (iii) An Integrated Security System including electronic surveillance through CCTV to enhance security over 202 sensitive and vulnerable Railway stations is under implementation.
- (iv) Security Help-Line numbers have been set up in Zonal Railway Control Rooms to enable passengers to seek assistance.
- (v) It is now proposed to provide all escorts with mobile phones so that passengers may contact them conveniently and without delay.
- (vi) RPF holds regular coordination meetings with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by Government Railway Police (GRP).

#### **Introducing high-speed rail/bullet trains**

\*73. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to undertake a study for introducing high-speed rail/bullet train as part of Diamond Quadrilateral HSR Project, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, whether any feasibility study has been carried out in that direction; and
- (c) whether any vital routes have been identified to immediately decongest highways, airports and traditional railway lines, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As a part of Diamond Quadrilateral High Speed Rail Project, on Mumbai-Ahmedabad sector, two pre-feasibility studies have been completed, and, two studies, one a Joint feasibility study and another a business development study is in progress, as under:

- (i) A joint feasibility study for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, co-financed by India and Japan, which started in December-2013, will be completed in 18 months.
- (ii) A Business Development Study is being undertaken by French Railways (SNCF) which will be completed in 2014.

**Passenger's security and amenities**

†\*74. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the modern and safety arrangements in addition to the existing measures for passengers' security, safe journey and amenities in the operation of passenger trains; and
- (b) the gap between the demand and supply of rakes of passenger trains in the country along with the action plan with regard to the measures taken for manufacturing rail coaches for safe operation of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table:

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***Statement***

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**(i) Safety**

Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. In addition to Anti Collision Device, the other devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), etc.

For Fire safety in coaches, fire retardant materials in the interior furnishing of coaches are being provided. Besides, portable fire extinguishers are also being provided in Air-conditioned coaches, pantry cars, power cars and Guard-cum-luggage Brake van for use in fire emergencies. Recently as a modern safety arrangement, automatic fire and smoke detection system has been provided on 2 Rajdhani trains and 1 Double-Decker train. In the latest design of automatic fire and smoke detection system, provision of automatic braking of train, in case of fire emergency, has also been provided. To minimize injury to passengers in case of collision, Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches which have anti-climbing and crashworthy features have been inducted in Mail & Express trains in lieu of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches. Recently design of these LHB coaches has been further improved to absorb more collision energy and design validated through actual crash test.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**(ii) Security**

At present there is a three tier security mechanism of RPF, GRP and District Police over Indian Railways in which prevention and detection of crime in Railway premises and running trains are the responsibility of States through their Government Railway Police (GRP).

Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRPs to ensure protection and security of railway property and passengers as well as matters connected with the Railways Act, RPF Act and the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act. Concerned District Police are responsible for security of tracks, bridges and tunnels.

The mechanism proposed for enhanced security of passengers is as follows:

- (i) At present an average of 3275 trains are being escorted by RPF and GRPs. Almost all existing vacancies in RPF are being filled up. This will enable us to strengthen the existing escorts and to escort another 1500 vulnerable trains.
- (ii) Eight sanctioned Manila Vahinis (women RPF companies) will be recruited and trained to provide enhanced security to women passengers.
- (iii) 17000 RPF Constables are under process of recruitment. The final result is likely to be declared shortly.
- (iv) 4000 more posts of women RPF personnel are being sanctioned to provide enhanced security to women passengers.
- (v) Integrated Security System has been sanctioned at 202 sensitive stations. The project is at different stages of completion in 93 stations.
- (vi) Security Control rooms and RPF posts are being networked through Railway Security Management System.
- (vii) Security Helpline: A four digit helpline (Number 1322) has been sanctioned. This will enable passengers to seek security related assistance on a real-time basis.
- (viii) Mobile phones are proposed to be provided to all train escorts. This will enable passengers to contact the escort personnel easily.
- (ix) To create a more effective security mechanism over Indian Railways, a proposal for amendment in the RPF Act has been moved by the Ministry of Railways

with the approval of the Ministries of Law & Justice and Home Affairs. This will empower the RPF to deal with serious crimes in passenger areas.

**(iii) Amenities in Trains**

As passenger amenity in coaches, Cushioned seats/berths, fluorescent lights, fans and toilet & washbasins facilities etc. in all mainline coaches have been provided. Looking mirrors, Snack tables, Magazine bags, water bottle holders, coat hooks, small luggage racks, luggage securing arrangements, mobile/laptop charging sockets have been provided in reserved class coaches. Curtains for aisles/windows, berth reading lights and dustbins have been provided in Air Conditioned coaches.

Reserved coaches of Mail/Express Trains are manned by ticket checking staff as per prescribed norms primarily for checking tickets and to ensure that unauthorized passengers do not travel by reserved coaches. The auxiliary duties included in the duty list of ticket checking staff are as under-

- That the doors of the coaches are kept latched during run of the train.
- That the end doors of vestibule coach be locked during 22.00 hours to 06.00 hours to prevent unauthorized entry.
- That during night time, the entry of unauthorized persons/beggars/intruders in the coach, shall be checked; and
- That blank FIR forms shall be carried for making them available to the passengers in case of any incident of theft of luggage.

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(b) Consequent upon a growth of 5.0% in passenger traffic over the last 10 years, Indian Railways are presently serving the travelling needs of 23 million passengers per day. Indian Railways have catered to this growth by way of introducing new services and augmenting services. However, since the demand trends for passenger travel on Indian Railways indicate seasonal fluctuations and show variations sector-wise, these are broadly responded to, in the short term, by temporarily augmenting the existing services and also by operating special trains taking into account the existing infrastructural constraints, operational feasibility, man power availability and meeting requisite safety norms. Nonetheless, during peak summer and winter rush as well as festival periods, the demand for travel tends to exceed the availability of services resulting in some unmet demand over a few sectors and trains.

Indian Railways in its endeavour to meet the unmet demand, in critical sectors,

has planned capacity enhancement works, which is an on-going process and which are prioritised and executed subject to availability of funds. Thus, in order to enhance line capacity and remove congestion, 162 doubling projects, 43 gauge conversion and 155 new line projects and 703 traffic facility works (like construction of new terminals, augmentation of existing terminals, bye-passes etc.) are already sanctioned for which ₹ 32,708 crore, ₹ 19,170 crores, ₹ 1,22,548 crore and ₹ 5247 crore respectively is required to complete the balance work.

Further, to enhance carrying capacity on Indian railways, additional coaches are manufactured in existing factories - 4023 in 2012-13, 3887 in 2013-14, and 3658 coaches have been planned for the year 2014-15. Additionally, the following important projects are under progress for augmenting the coach manufacturing capacity in the country:

1. A new Rail Coach Factory at Rae Bareli at an estimated cost of ₹ 2557 crore.
2. Expansion of integral coach factory at Chennai at an estimated cost of ₹ 252 crore.
3. Workshop to manufacture FIAT bogies for LHB coaches at Budge-Budge, at an anticipated cost of ₹152 crore.
4. Workshop to manufacture FIAT bogies for LHB coaches at Yadgir, at an anticipated cost of ₹.75 crore.

#### **Price-rise of essential commodities**

\*75. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for increase in prices of essential commodities during the last two months on weekly basis;
- (b) the details of factors responsible for the said increase;
- (c) the details of measures taken against hoarders to improve the supply position of these commodities; and
- (d) whether Government intends to import some of these commodities to keep their prices under control?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The recent rise in prices of essential

food items are mainly due to factors such as anticipation of deficient rains with possible shortfall in production, transportation cost, supply constraints like storage facilities for fruits and vegetables and artificial shortages created through hoarding and black marketing.

(c) The steps taken by the Government against hoarding and black marketing include the following:

- Advisory issued to State Governments to take effective action against hoarding & black marketing under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act 1980.
- Imposition of stock holding limits on Onions & Potatoes under Essential Commodities Act which empowers the State Governments/UTs to fix the stock limits for traders w.e.f. 03.07.2014.
- Based on interaction with the State Governments/UTs on 4th July, 2014, a decision has been taken to amend the Essential Commodities Act to make hoarding and black marketing a non bailable offence and increase the period of detention to one year from existing six months.

(d) As we are not self sufficient in the production of pulses and edible oils, the shortage in availability is being met through imports.

**Stoppage of Vananchal Express at Kotal Pokhar Station  
in Sahabganj, Jharkhand**

\*76. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to consider the long pending request for stoppage of 13403/13404 Vananchal Express at Kotal Pokhar station in Sahabganj Jharkhand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Kotalpukur station is presently being served by one pair of Express trains and 9 pairs of Passenger trains which are adequately catering to the needs of passengers of Kotalpukur station. Provision of stoppage of 13403/13404 Ranchi-Bhagalpur Vananchal Express at Kotalpukur is neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible, at present.



**Setting up of National Commission for fishermen**

†\*77. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to boost fisheries production, Government has formulated the scheme of providing loans to fishermen on lower interest rates, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has formulated any plans to set up a National Commission for Fishermen for the welfare of fishermen, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) No, Madam. No such scheme has been formulated by Government of India to provide concessional loans to fishermen.

(b) No, Madam. However Government of India has a Central Sector Scheme 'National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen', which provides for Group Accident Personal Insurance, relief during fishing ban, low cost houses and training to fishermen.

**Rise in prices of sugar**

\*78. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has increased import duty on sugar and has increased export subsidy in order to help the sugar industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these measures have resulted in the rise of prices of sugar for the consumers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure that the long pending arrears to the cane growers are cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The import duty on sugar was increased from 10% to a moderate level of 15% with effect from 08.07.2013 which is still in vogue. As regards export subsidy, the Central Government has notified a scheme on 28.02.2014 to provide incentive for marketing and promotion services for raw sugar production targeted for export. The rate of incentive for the bi-monthly period of February-March was ₹ 3300/- per MT and has been re-calculated for the subsequent bimonthly periods of April-May and June-July, 2014 at Rs 2277 and Rs 3300 per MT respectively.

(b) No Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The Central Government on 03.01.2014 has notified a Scheme for Extending Financial assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014) envisaging interest free loans worth Rs. 6600 crores by bank as additional working capital to sugar mills of the country. The loan funds available under the scheme as well as under export incentive for raw sugar are to be utilized by the sugar mills for making payment to the farmers.

The Central Government has advised the State Governments to ensure timely payment to the cane growers and to take action against the defaulting sugar mills for non-payment of cane price arrears under Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.

#### **Proposals for reorganization of zones and divisions**

\*79. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal for reorganisation of Zones and Divisions, if so, the details thereof and reaction thereon;

(b) the details of proposals from various States, including Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) to (c) Receipt of proposals from various State Governments, elected representatives etc., for reorganisation of zones and divisions, through creation of new ones, is a continuous process. After considering the proposals received so far, there is no plan for reorganization of zones and divisions. However, a Committee of Senior Officers from Railways has been constituted to examine the issue of a new Railway Zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh, in terms of Item No.8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

#### **Use of banned pesticides in the country**

\*80. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pesticides banned in other countries but still being used in our country;

(b) the reasons for their continued use in the country; and

(c) whether their use is being reviewed by Government to withdraw them from the Indian market, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The list of 72 pesticides which are currently banned/ restricted/ withdrawn in one or more countries but continue to be registered for domestic use in India is given in the Statement (*See below*). A Committee of Experts has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Anupam Verma (Adjunct Professor), Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi, to review the continued use of these pesticides.

The Registration Committee registers pesticides only after detailed evaluation of studies/data/information to establish their safety and efficacy. Technical reviews are carried out from time to time and continued use of pesticides is permitted only if they are found to be safe. 28 pesticides and their formulations have so far been banned for import, manufacture and use in the country.

#### *Statement*

*List of 72 pesticides which have been banned/ severely restricted in one or more countries of the world but are still being used in India*

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide	Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
1.	Acephate	13.	Chlorfenapyr
2.	Alachlor	14.	Carbosulfan
3.	Aluminum Phosphide	15.	Chlorothalonil
4.	Atrazine	16.	Chlorpyrifos
5.	Benfuracarb	17.	Dezomet
6.	Benomyl	18.	DDT
7.	Bifenthrin	19.	Deltamethrin
8.	Butachlor	20.	Diazinon
9.	Captan	21.	Dichlorovos
10.	Carbaryl	22.	Dicofol
11.	Carbendazim	23.	Diflubenzuron
12.	Carbofuran	24.	Dimethoate

Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide	Sl. No.	Name of the Pesticide
25.	Dinocap	50.	Peitilachlor
26.	Diuron	51.	Propargite
27.	Endosulfan*	52.	Propineb
28.	Ethofenprox	53.	Quinalphos
29.	Fenpropathrin	54.	Sodium cyanide
30.	Fenarimol	55.	Sulfosulfurone
31.	Fenitrothion	56.	Thiidecarb
32.	Fenthion	57.	Thiometon
33.	Iprodione	58.	Thiphanate Methyl
34.	2,4-D	59.	Thiram
35.	Kasugamycin	60.	Triazophos
36.	Linuron	61.	Trichlorofon
37.	Methomyl	62.	Tridemorph
38.	Methoxy Ethyl Mercury Chloride	63.	Trifluralin
39.	Methyl Parathion	64.	Zinc Phosphide
40.	Malathion	65.	Zineb
41.	Mancozeb	66.	Ziram
42.	Mepiquat Chloride	67.	Thiomethoxam
43.	Metaldehyde	68.	Clothianidine
44.	Monocrotophos	69.	Acetamiprid
45.	Oxyfluorfen	70.	Imidacloprid
46.	Paraquat Dichloride	71.	Dinotefuron
47.	Pendimethalin	72.	Thiacloprid
48.	Phorate		
49.	Phosphomidon		

\* Endosulfan has been banned by the Supreme Court of India w.e.f. 13.05.2011 for production, use and sale all over India till further orders *vide* ad-Interim order in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 213 of 2011.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Drop in sowing area of summer crops**

386. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in arrival of monsoon and a sharp drop in seasonal showers have dragged down the sowing area affecting the summer crops;

(b) if so, the details of the shortage of rain, drop in sowing area of different crops and expected decrease in production of these crops; and

(c) to what extent it would increase the prices of these agricultural commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, as per reports of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the rainfall deficit in the current monsoon season (01.06.2014 to 06.07.2014) as compared to Long Period Average is as follows:

India as a whole:	(-) 43 %
East & North East India:	(-)20%
North West India:	(-) 46 %
Central India:	(-) 64 %
South Peninsula:	(-) 41 %

Due to delay in arrival of monsoon and deficient seasonal rainfall, kharif area coverage as on 04th July, 2014 is about 182.40 lakh hectares, against 237.43 lakh hectares normal (5 years average) area of corresponding period. However, sowing window of most of crops is available till early August. Hence, it may be too early to estimate the decrease in production of kharif crops or increase in prices of agricultural commodities.

**Impact of low rainfall on Kharif pulses**

387. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the predictions of below normal rainfall during the current monsoon season would affect production and prices of Kharif pulses such as arhar, moong and urad; and

(b) if so, to what extent and the measures being taken to minimize its impact on the production of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Production of Kharif agricultural crops including pulses viz. arhar, moong and & urad and their prices are impacted by the overall rainfall situation in the country during monsoon season. As per forecast of India Meteorological Department (IMD), the overall rainfall in the country during the current monsoon season is likely to be lower by 7% as compared to Long Period Average (LPA). At all India level, the cumulative rainfall during 1st June to 6th July, 2014 has been deficient by 43% as compared to LPA.

To tackle the aberrant rainfall situation in many parts of the country, the States have prepared district-wise Contingency Plans in consultation with Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), State Agricultural Universities and Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Besides, they have also been asked to ensure availability of seeds of shorter duration, drought tolerant varieties and alternate crops, availability of fertilizers, power supply and other critical inputs in time.

Farmers are also being regularly advised through Farmers SMS Portal to adopt techniques such as in-situ moisture conservation and on farm water harvesting through farm ponds, etc., ridge-furrow, broad bed furrow, promoting agronomic practices like mulching, timely weed management, zero tillage practices including direct seeded rice through seed drills/drum seeder, use of short duration and drought resistant varieties of paddy like Sahbhagi Dhan, intercropping & mixed cropping with pulses/oilseeds/coarse cereals, spray of drought mitigating chemicals, etc. For pulses production, Indian council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also developed several short duration photo-thermo insensitive varieties of pulses viz. mungbean and uradbean, besides varieties of Pigeonpea, Clusterbean, Mothbean, Cowpea and Horsegram suitable for low rainfall and delayed monsoon situations.

#### **Impact of weak monsoon on production**

388. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that monsoon is expected to be weak this season thereby raising concern about decreased agricultural production and higher agricultural prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, as per reports of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the rainfall deficit in the current monsoon season (01.06.2014 to 06.07.2014) as compared to Long Period Average is as follows:

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India as a whole:	(-) 43%
East & North East India:	(-) 20%
North West India:	(-) 46%
Central India:	(-) 64%
South Peninsula:	(-) 41%

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Due to delay in arrival of monsoon and deficient seasonal rainfall, kharif crops area coverage as on 04th July, 2014 is about 182.40 lakh hectares, against 237.43 lakh hectares normal (5 years average) area of corresponding period. However, sowing window of most of crops is available till early August. Hence, it may be too early to estimate the decrease in production of kharif crops or increase in prices of agricultural commodities.

To tackle the aberrant rainfall situation in many parts of the country in the current monsoon seasons, States have prepared district-wise Contingency Plans in consultation with Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), State Agricultural Universities and Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Besides, they have also been asked to ensure availability of seeds of shorter duration, drought tolerant varieties and alternate crops, availability of fertilisers, power supply and other critical inputs in time. Government is reviewing the situation with States regularly.

Farmers are also being regularly advised through farmers SMS portal to adopt techniques such as in-situ moisture conservation & on farm water harvesting through farm ponds, etc., ridge-furrow, broad bed furrow, promoting agronomic practices like mulching, timely weed management, zero tillage practices including direct seeded rice through seed drills/drum seeder, use of short duration and drought resistant varieties of paddy like

Sahbhagi Dhan, intercropping & mixed cropping with pulses/oilseeds/coarse cereals, spray of drought mitigating chemicals like thio-urea, KC1, KNO<sub>3</sub> and hydrogel, etc. States have also been advised to raise community nurseries of paddy and arrange seeds of contingent crops like coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable fodder etc.

#### **Stagnation in net sown area**

389. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the net sown area is stagnant at around 140 million hectares during the last four decades;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/planned to be taken to come out of this stagnation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Due to shift in area for non-agricultural purposes the net sown area is stagnant at around 140 million hectares during the last four decades.

(c) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, land comes under the purview of State Government and therefore, it is for the State Governments to take suitable steps to check the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Under the, National Policy for Farmers 2007 (NPF 2007), State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities. National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP, 2007) has recommended that, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wastelands, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non agricultural use in projects may be kept to the minimum and avoided, to the extent possible, in respect of multi-cropped land. Acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum.

Further Ministry of Rural Development is implementing an Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for development of rainfed/degraded areas.

#### **Post-harvest management**

390. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:



(a) whether it is a fact that Government can save up to 25 metric tonne of foodgrains, about 10 per cent of the total production, if farmers adopt proper post-harvest management practices with cleaning and grading under post-harvest measures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard in consultation with State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council Of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in its study of 2010 on quantitative harvest and post-harvest losses of major crops and livestock produce considered various operations such as harvesting, collection, threshing, grading/sorting, winnowing/cleaning, drying, packaging, transportation and storage, depending upon the commodity and estimated 3.9-6% losses in foodgrains due to improper post-harvest management practices.

(b) This Ministry has initiated a number of steps towards improving post-harvest management practices including cleaning and grading viz. (i) Promotion of cleaning, sorting and grading of foodgrains at producer's level as per the grade standards formulated and notified after consultations with stakeholders including States and through provision of subsidy for creation/strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure including storage and other post-harvest infrastructure and capacity building under the Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM), (ii) The Ministry also advocates reforms in agricultural marketing sector so that private sector is encouraged to invest in post-harvest infrastructure nearer to farmers' field; (iii) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities have also developed a number of post-harvest equipment and technologies which help in checking post-harvest losses. They also organize relevant trainings.

#### **Soil Health Card**

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

(a) whether Government proposes to provide 'Soil Health Card' to all farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to improve productivity of farm lands in the country through judicious use of fertilizers and water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Soil Health needs to be assessed at regular intervals so as to ensure that farmers apply the required amount of nutrients to their crops. Accordingly, distribution of Soil Health Cards is a continuous and dynamic exercise carried out by the State Governments. Central Government provides assistance to State Governments for setting up Soil Testing Laboratories for issuing Soil Health Cards to farmers. State Governments have adopted innovative practices like involvement of agricultural students, NGOs and private sector in soil testing, determining average soil health of villages, etc., to issue Soil Health Cards.

(c) Government has taken up Management of Soil Health and Fertility under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers. The scheme provides assistance for setting up new static/mobile soil testing laboratories (STLs), strengthening of existing STLs, training of STL Staff/ extension officers/ farmers, field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers etc.

For judicious use of fertilisers, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) advocates split application and placement of fertilisers, use of slow releasing N-fertilisers and nitrification inhibitors, growing leguminous crops and use of Resource Conservation Technologies. ICAR has developed technologies for preparation of enriched / vermi compost from various organic wastes, developed improved strains of biofertilisers specific to different crops and soil types, and prepared geo-referenced soil fertility maps of 171 districts which are useful in monitoring soil fertility and fertiliser recommendations for balanced nutrient application.

Government has launched Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) from 2014-15, wherein a component of integrated area expansion has been included for enabling farmers to take up area expansion activities along with drip irrigation. Assistance is also extended for creation of water resources that is community and individual tanks.

Apart from above, ICAR provides technology support for enhancing irrigation efficiency through laser levelling, optimal basin sizes and shift to micro irrigation techniques, optimal irrigation scheduling, augmenting water supplies through rain water harvesting for supplementary irrigation, etc.

**Use of pesticides banned in other countries**

392. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of pesticides which have been banned in other countries are in use in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any research has been made during the last three years to assess their harmful impact; and
- (c) if so, the corrective measures taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) A Committee of Experts has been constituted on 8th July, 2013 under the chairmanship of Dr. Anupam Verma (Adjunct Professor), Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi, to review the use of neonicotinoid pesticides registered in India and to review 66 pesticides which are currently banned/ restricted/ withdrawn in one or more countries but continue to be registered for domestic use in India. The Committee has submitted its report on Neonicotinoids.

The Government registers pesticides only after evaluating, studies/ data information regarding its safety and efficacy. Reviews on continuation of use of pesticides are carried out from time to time, as required.

- (c) Steps taken to educate farmers include training programmes for farmers on safe use of pesticides such as through the Farmers Field Schools programme being organized by the 31 Central Integrated Pest Management centers located in 28 States and 1 U.T of India on different crops; information dissemination during Krishi Melas and through media.

**Centrally sponsored agricultural projects in Rajasthan**

†393. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of Centrally sponsored agricultural projects operational in Rajasthan along with details of amount spent on them during last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): In the year 2014-15, 51 schemes of the Department of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Agriculture and Cooperation were restructured into 5 Central Sector Schemes, 5 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and 1 State Plan Scheme *i.e.* Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), which is centrally sponsored. At present there are six centrally sponsored schemes operational in Rajasthan namely:

1. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
2. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
3. National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
4. National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP)
5. National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET)
6. Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

The details of amount spent on centrally sponsored schemes in the State of Rajasthan during the last five years, prior to restructuring, is given in the Statement.

**Statement***Details of amount spent on Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Rajasthan during the last five years*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	186.12	628.01	692.08	348.18	663.21
2	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)					
2.1	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	40.77	79.51	69.02	115.20	147.60
2.2	Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)	1.39	0.55	0.63	0.49	0.50
	TOTAL: NFSM	42.16	80.06	69.65	115.69	148.10
3	National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)					
3.1	National Mission on Micro Irrigation	60.73	116.20	128.24	103.47	79.29
3.2	National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility	2.68	4.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL: NMSA	63.41	120.29	128.24	103.47	79.29

(₹ in crore)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)					
4.1	Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)	28.36	48.95	53.74	37.37	34.93
	TOTAL: NMOOP	28.36	48.95	53.74	37.37	34.93
5	National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET)					
5.1	Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms (ATMA)	11.16	7.92	21.86	27.22	31.57
	TOTAL: NMAET	11.16	7.92	21.86	27.22	31.57
6	Mission of Integrated Development of Agriculture (MIDH)					
6.1	National Horticulture Mission	34.66	40.70	41.44	49.09	57.00
6.2	National Bamboo Mission	2.00	1.88	2.05	1.88	0.84
	TOTAL: MIDH	36.66	42.58	43.49	50.97	57.84
7	Macro Management Scheme #	59.19	54.71	45.28	18.14	
	GRAND TOTAL	427.06	982.52	1054.34	701.04	1014.94

# The Scheme stands discontinued from 2013-14

**Special package to farmers of Maharashtra**

†394.SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many farmers have committed suicide and such incidents still continue in Jalgaon, Dhule, Nashik, Nandurbar districts due to loss of crops and heavy financial loss as a result of unseasonal rain, hailstorm and storms in Maharashtra from February to May, 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has given any special package as a compensation to the farmers;

(d) whether the loans given to these farmers by banks have been waived, in addition to the financial aid;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) the details of suicides committed by farmers in the State during the said months, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a), (b) and (f) State Government of Maharashtra has not, so far, reported any incidence of farmer suicide during February to March, 2014.

(c) Central Government had approved ₹ 856.06 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to State Government of Maharashtra to manage the situation in the wake of hailstorm that occurs during February-March, 2014.

(d) and (e) As per standing guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) short term crop loans are rescheduled into term loans upon declaration of natural calamity.

**Possibility of sub-normal monsoon**

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

(a) the steps to be taken by Government to safeguard the interests of farmers in view of the possibility of sub-normal monsoon predicted by Met Department;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the crops likely to be affected as a result of shortfall; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) As per India Meteorological Department's (IMD) second stage operational long range forecast, South-West Monsoon (June-September) rainfall during 2014 is likely to be  $93\% \pm 4\%$  of country's Long Period Average (LPA) of 890 mm.

Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall.

Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 500 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficient rainfall.

States have been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises. States have also been advised to keep asides 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and other schemes for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate any situation arising out of deficient rainfall.

States have also been requested to construct water harvesting structures, restore irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals; energising tubewells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps and arranging power to meet irrigation needs.

Field functionaries and extension workers under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and other schemes are educating, training and making the farmers aware of various techniques to overcome deficient rainfall. Farmers are also being advised through Farmers' SMS portal, Kisan Call Centres, Kisanvani Programme of All India Radio (AIR) and Krishi Darshan Programme of Doordarshan etc.

Farmers have been advised to adopt techniques such as *in-situ* moisture conservation, on farm water conservation, ridge furrow sowing, promoting suitable agronomic practices including mulching, inter cropping, mixed cropping, sowing of less water consuming crops etc.



Delay in onset of monsoon and its slow progress has caused delay in sowing of paddy, pulses, oilseeds and coarse cereals during Kharif-2014. However, the sowing window is available till early August and sowing coverage is expected to improve with further progress of monsoon.

**Encouragement to horticulture and oilseeds crops**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to give preference to horticulture and oilseeds crops over other crops in the country;
- (b) whether Government proposes to encourage farmers for the above crops by giving better sale price for these crops;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action plan of the Central Government to encourage horticulture and oilseeds crops in Odisha under various Central Plans to improve the economy of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to provide better price incentive and to increase production, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is mandated to recommend the price policy for 23 commodities which include oilseeds also, under which Minimum Support Prices (MSP) are fixed for oilseeds.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during the Twelfth Five Year Plan *w.e.f.* 2014-15 for the holistic development of horticulture in the country including Odisha. Under the scheme, provision exists for taking up production and productivity improvement programmes, post harvest management, marketing and human resource development. The DAC has also launched a National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) during the current year to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and oil palm. NMOOP is implemented in nineteen States including Odisha.

**Warehouses under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana in West Bengal**

397. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of warehouses sanctioned in West Bengal under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana since its inception, year-wise and district-wise;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and spent during the above period;
- (c) the number of farmers benefitting from the above scheme in the State; and
- (d) the total capacity added after construction of the warehouses sanctioned under the scheme, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) The details of godowns sanctioned in West Bengal under Grameen Bhandaran Yojana (since inception upto 30.06.2014), year-wise and district-wise is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Since it is demand driven scheme, there is no State-wise fund allocation under the scheme. However, the amount of fund released in the form of subsidy during the above period is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) While the number of farmers benefitting from the scheme in the State has not been estimated, it is likely to be quite large and would include both those that are direct beneficiaries who avail subsidy under the scheme by constructing godowns and those farmers that benefit indirectly by using such facilities and availing pledge finance.

(d) The total capacity added after construction of the godowns sanctioned district-wise, in West Bengal (since inception upto 30.06.2014) is given in Statement-I.

***Statement-I***

*Details of godowns sanctioned in West Bengal under  
Grameen Bhandaran Yojana*

Year	District	No. of Godowns sanctioned	Capacity added in MT
1	2	3	4
2002-03	Howrah	1	20000
	Nadia	1	300
	Uttar Dinajpur	1	4125
	TOTAL	3	24425

1	2	3	4
2003-04	Burdwan	4	3767
	Coochbehar	2	6027
	Dakshin Dinajpur	39	6530
	Hooghly	1	100
	Jalpaiguri	1	100
	Murshidabad	12	11283
	Nadia	420	67770.16
	North 24 Parganas	1	181
	Paschim Medinipur	3	700
	Purulia	1	100
	Uttar Dinajpur	6	2927
	TOTAL	490	99485.16
2004-05	Bankura	2	850
	Birbhum	5	15461
	Burdwan	1	250
	Dakshin Dinajpur	15	10303
	Hooghly	12	1405
	Malda	18	14785
	Murshidabad	5	9480
	Nadia	1	1207
	Paschim Medinipur	1	100
	Uttar Dinajpur	9	7676
	TOTAL	69	61517

1	2	3	4
2005-06	Malda	1	507
	Bankura	20	8973
	Birbhum	46	11489.44
	Burdwan	52	10891
	Coochbehar	2	2000
	Dakshin Dinajpur	118	56316
	Hooghly	71	14709
	Howrah	1	10000
	Jalpaiguri	6	1100
	Malda	45	36153
	Murshidabad	83	23835.16
	Nadia	84	45377
	Paschim Medinipur	12	3177
	Purba Medinipur	3	1960
	Purulia	23	4728
	South 24 Parganas	2	956
	Uttar Dinajpur	35	13731
	TOTAL	604	245902.6
2006-07	Bankura	13	3658
	Burdwan	9	7350
	Coochbehar	1	1000
	Dakshin Dinajpur	29	10525

1	2	3	4
	Hooghly	1	114
	Malda	14	6706
	Murshidabad	17	7049
	Nadia	7	1300
	North 24 Parganas	2	1500
	Paschim Medinipur	9	1941
	Uttar Dinajpur	3	1562
	TOTAL	105	42705
2007-08	Bankura	26	6876.48
	Birbhum	4	14321
	Burdwan	38	25301.83
	Coochbehar	1	600
	Dakshin Dinajpur	19	8533
	Hooghly	60	15221
	Jalpaiguri	12	26475.6
	Malda	22	10772.35
	Murshidabad	91	40059.7
	Nadia	79	14426.63
	North 24 Parganas	8	20207.67
	Paschim Medinipur	28	11798.76
	Purba Medinipur	6	2952
	Purulia	16	3530.34
	Uttar Dinajpur	29	25670.85
	TOTAL	439	226747.21

1	2	3	4
2008-09	Bankura	58	10661.25
	Birbhum	59	19281.63
	Burdwan	41	44894.61
	Coochbehar	1	5500
	Dakshin Dinajpur	28	7141.42
	Hooghly	19	12981.8
	Howrah	2	100
	Jalpaiguri	2	4052.02
	Malda	9	5396.08
	Murshidabad	51	18554.28
	Nadia	50	8583.23
	North 24 Parganas	1	500
	Paschim Medinipur	22	9699.74
	Purba Medinipur	12	8315
	Purulia	15	7033.54
	Uttar Dinajpur	11	3911.78
	TOTAL	381	166606.4
2009-10	Bankura	3	550
	Birbhum	5	5782.35
	Burdwan	6	2377.88
	Coochbehar	4	6016
	Dakshin Dinajpur	11	3809.91
	Hooghly	8	4517

1	2	3	4
	Malda	4	1592.58
	Murshidabad	8	3461.14
	Nadia	5	1155.2
	Paschim Medinipur	3	767
	Uttar Dinajpur	5	4805.66
	TOTAL	62	34834.72
2010-11	Bankura	16	8940.41
	Birbhum	2	17942
	Burdwan	9	5550.13
	Coochbehar	2	3040
	Dakshin Dinajpur	6	5220
	Darjeeling	1	2028
	Hooghly	10	3389
	Jalpaiguri	1	1000
	Malda	3	977.67
	Murshidabad	6	3204.09
	Nadia	12	2829.43
	Paschim Medinipur	4	1212.67
	Purulia	2	1600
	South 24 Parganas	1	10000
	Uttar Dinajpur	4	3776
	TOTAL	79	70709.4
2011-12	Bankura	23	10322.36

1	2	3	4
	Birbhum	4	16930.11
	Burdwan	13	11307.28
	Coochbehar	1	460
	Dakshin Dinajpur	3	4615
	Hooghly	17	17754.7
	Howrah	1	790
	Jalpaiguri	1	5000
	Malda	1	3706
	Murshidabad	5	5303.4
	Nadia	9	1656
	Paschim Medinipur	10	13881
	Purba Medinipur	1	6501
	Purulia	3	3015
	Uttar Dinajpur	7	17054.78
	TOTAL	99	118296.63
2012-13	Bankura	2	1439
	Birbhum	6	4899.87
	Burdwan	13	66811.82
	Darjeeling	1	2636.04
	Hooghly	9	75786.73
	Howrah	6	22054.26
	Jalpaiguri	3	23319.44
	Malda	6	8616.94
	Murshidabad	4	7781.5



1	2	3	4
	Nadia	3	754
	North 24 Parganas	1	128
	Paschim Medinipur	1	160
	Purulia	5	10848.95
	Uttar Dinajpur	9	26609.8
	TOTAL	69	251846.35
2013-14	Bankura	3	3270
	Birbhum	1	1122
	Hooghly	1	160
	Paschim Medinipur	1	185
	Purulia	2	1725
	North Dinajpur	7	10610.14
	South Dinajpur	1	353.88
	TOTAL	16	17426.02
2014-15			
(up to June '14)*		Nil	

\* The erstwhile Grameen Bhandaran Yojana scheme has since been integrated with the Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure Sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM w.e.f. 1.4.2014.

### Statement-II

#### Details of subsidies released to West Bengal

Year	Subsidy released in the State of W. Bengal in Rs. lakhs
1	2
2002-03	46.16
2003-04	332.47

1	2
2004-05	232.04
2005-06	676.33
2006-07	2069.51
2007-08	567.53
2008-09	682.93
2009-10	123.62
2010-11	227.42
2011-12	305.81
2012-13	171.57
2013-14	52.85
2014-15 (Up to June' 14) *	0.00
TOTAL	5488.24

\* The erstwhile Grameen Bhandaran Yojana scheme has since been integrated with the Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure Sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM w.e.f. 1.4.2014).

#### **Apprehension of below average monsoon**

†398. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the apprehension of Met. Department that monsoon rainfall from June to September in the country may be below average, Government has made any preparations or taken any special steps;

(b) whether there is apprehension of rise in prices of foodgrains in the country in the event of monsoon remaining below average; and

(c) if so, whether Government has issued any guidelines to State Governments to cope with this problem, if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) As per India Meteorological Department's (IMD) second stage operational long range forecast, South West Monsoon (June-September) rainfall during 2014 is likely to be 93%  $\pm$  4% of country's Long Period Average (LPA) of 890 mm. Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall.

States have been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises. States have also been advised to keep asides 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and other schemes for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate any situation arising out of deficient rainfall.

States have been requested to construct water harvesting structures, restore irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals; energising tubewells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps and arranging power to meet irrigation needs.

States have been asked to initiate appropriate location specific interventions in the event of aberrant monsoon situation based on district level contingency plans developed by Central Research Institute of Dryland and Agriculture (CRIDA).

Production of agricultural crops and their prices are generally impacted by the overall rainfall situation in the country during the monsoon season. However, the stock of wheat and rice in the Central pool is well above buffer norms and is sufficient to meet the food security requirement of the country.

#### **Farmers leaving agriculture**

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

(a) whether slow pace of growth in agricultural sector is a matter of concern for food security in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that large number of farmers have quit agriculture;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to popularize agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (e) Agriculture and allied sector grew at the rate 4.1 per cent against the targeted growth rate of 4.0 per cent during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012). Further, as per the provisional estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 30.05.2014, the sector is estimated to have grown at 4.7 per cent in 2013-14.

As per Census conducted by the Registrar General of India, the total number of agricultural workers in the country comprising cultivators and agricultural labourers increased from 234.1 million (127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural labourers) in 2001 to 263.1 million (118.8 million cultivators and 144.3 million agricultural labourers) in 2011. The State/ UT-wise, number of agricultural workers are given in Statement (*See below*).

Government has taken several steps to popularize agriculture by increasing investment, improving farm practices, creating rural infrastructure and ensuring timely delivery of credit, technology and other inputs and providing remunerative prices for farm produce through increased MSPs, higher level of procurement & competitive markets.

***Statement***

*Number of agricultural workers in India (in million)*

Sl. No.	State/ UT	Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Total	
		2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<b>All India</b>	127.31	118.81	106.78	144.33	234.09	263.14
1	Jammu and Kashmir	1.59	1.25	0.25	0.55	1.84	1.80
2	Himachal Pradesh	1.95	2.06	0.09	0.18	2.04	2.24
3	Punjab	2.07	1.93	1.49	1.59	3.56	3.52
4	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Uttarakhand	1.57	1.58	0.26	0.40	1.83	1.98
6	Haryana	3.02	2.48	1.28	1.53	4.30	4.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	Delhi	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.07
8	Rajasthan	13.14	13.62	2.52	4.94	15.66	18.56
9	Uttar Pradesh	22.17	19.06	13.40	19.94	35.57	39.00
10	Bihar	8.19	7.20	13.42	18.35	21.61	25.55
11	Sikkim	0.13	0.12	0.02	0.03	0.15	0.15
12	Arunachal Pradesh	0.28	0.30	0.02	0.04	0.30	0.34
13	Nagaland	0.55	0.54	0.03	0.06	0.58	0.60
14	Manipur (Excl. 3 Sub-divisions)	0.38	0.57	0.11	0.11	0.49	0.69
15	Mizoram	0.26	0.23	0.03	0.04	0.29	0.27
16	Tripura	0.31	0.30	0.28	0.35	0.59	0.65
17	Meghalaya	0.47	0.49	0.17	0.20	0.64	0.69
18	Assam	3.73	4.06	1.26	1.85	4.99	5.91
19	West Bengal	5.65	5.12	7.36	10.19	13.01	15.31
20	Jharkhand	3.89	3.81	2.85	4.44	6.74	8.25
21	Odisha	4.25	4.10	5.00	6.74	9.25	10.84
22	Chhattisgarh	4.31	4.00	3.09	5.09	7.40	9.09
23	Madhya Pradesh	11.04	9.84	7.40	12.19	18.44	22.03
24	Gujarat	5.80	5.45	5.16	6.84	10.96	12.29
25	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.05
27	Maharashtra	11.81	12.57	10.82	13.49	22.63	26.06
28	Andhra Pradesh	7.86	6.49	13.83	16.97	21.69	23.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29	Karnataka	6.88	6.58	6.23	7.16	13.11	13.74
30	Goa	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.09	0.06
31	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Kerala	0.72	0.67	1.62	1.32	2.34	1.99
33	Tamil Nadu	5.12	4.25	8.64	9.61	13.76	13.86
34	Puducherry	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.08
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02

*Note:* The Census 2001 figures for India and Manipur exclude that of Mao Param, Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur.

*Source:* PCA, Census of India, 2001-2011.

#### **Price-rise of onion**

400. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite largest ever harvest of onion this year, the price thereof is rising day by day; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Sir, as per figures received from State Governments, onion production in the country in 2013-14 is estimated to be about 19.3 million tonnes as compared to 16.81 million tonnes in 2012-13.

Price trends over the last few years suggest that retail prices tend to be lower during Rabi (the main production season *viz.* March-May). This year also, retail prices were at their lowest from March to May (Rs. 17-19/- per kg ) and have risen from June. In the first week of July, average retail prices were Rs. 26/- per kg (as reported by State Civil Supplies departments from selected 59 centres).

The price rise in onion can be attributed to several factors such as increase in cost of input, increased transportation costs, higher consumption due to growing urbanisation, seasonality, inclement weather conditions, etc.

**Subsidy on HSD to fishermen**

†401. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has received any request from Government of Maharashtra seeking subsidy on High Speed Diesel (HSD) to fishermen under Central Government Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operation Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the proposal; and

(c) by when this proposal is going to be finalised and the reasons for its delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure & Post Harvest Operations during Eleventh Plan had released a sum of Rs.650.00 lakh to the Government of Maharashtra for providing rebate to fishermen on High Speed Diesel (HSD). The central amount released includes Rs.450 lakh and Rs.200 lakh for fiscal year 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. The Government of Maharashtra has not submitted any proposal in the current Twelfth plan period.

**Implementation of NMAET**

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

(a) the details of objective, methods of implementation and current status of the National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) initiated by Government some time back;

(b) how did it help farmers of the country, particularly of Gujarat and Jharkhand to improve their agriculture; and

(c) whether Government thinks of considering alternate approach to reach out to farmers, provide them guidance and inputs as well as increase the productivity and the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) **The National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET)** which encompasses extension, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Seeds, Agricultural Mechanization and Plant Protection aims to restructure & strengthen agricultural extension to enable delivery of appropriate technology and improved agronomic practices to the farmers through interactive methods of information dissemination, use of ICT, capacity building & institution strengthening; to improve reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers by various means including promotion of custom hiring centers; to make available quality seeds and increase Seed Replacement Ratio and to promote Integrated Pest Management and plant protection measures.

**Methods of Implementation:**

Most components of the Mission are implemented through State Governments. However, some regulatory and administrative components like pesticide registration & quarantine regulation; national institutes, Mass Media, Kisan Call Centre & SMS Portal are implemented centrally. Farmers centric extension activities under various Sub-Missions & other Schemes/Programmes are being converged at the level of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

**Current status of the Mission:**

Guidelines of various Sub-Missions of NMAET have been issued. Administrative Approval for implementation of the Mission has been issued. Based on the budget provided for NMAET, State-wise allocations have been made in respect of the Centrally sponsored components of the Mission and work on the ground has commenced with effect from April 01, 2014 based on Annual Action Plans received from various States/Union Territories.

(b) The Mission will help farmers including those in Gujarat and Jharkhand through integrated approach as various technological components of NMAET *viz.* seeds, machinery, plant protection are inextricably linked to each other at the field level and these are disseminated among the farmers and other stakeholders through a strong extension network. Besides interactive & direct extension by dedicated personnel and dovetailing manpower support with other programmes, extensive use of ICT is also being promoted in various areas including Short Messaging Service (SMSs), Farmers' Portal & other web based applications to disseminate timely & relevant information and appropriate technologies.

(c) Public-Private-Partnership is encouraged in the Extension and Training components of the Mission. Genuine and reputed Non-Governmental Organisations



(NGOs), para-extension workers, Farmers Organizations etc. are encouraged to participate and provide extension and training services and guidance to farmers to improve agricultural production and productivity. Besides this input dealers and agripreneurs are also trained to give advisories to the farmers.

#### **Measures for increasing agricultural productivity**

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

- (a) the measures Government is taking to increase the overall agricultural productivity and growth in the country;
- (b) whether Jharkhand is listed among those States showing negative trends in agriculture, if so, the measures being taken to improve agriculture in Jharkhand; and
- (c) the names of the States listed as showing negative trends in agriculture and the efforts made to change the trend in these States from negative to positive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) The GDP growth in agriculture and allied sector in Jharkhand during the year 2013-14 was 8.9%. There has been negative trend in the growth of agriculture and allied sector during 2013-14 only in Bihar (-3.1%) and Odisha (-3.5%).

In order to increase production and productivity of agricultural crops, the Government has been implementing several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm, National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET) etc. Under these schemes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

Further, to achieve higher agricultural productivity, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable to different situations including development of location-specific varieties/hybrids and technologies.

**Special financial assistance to desert districts of Rajasthan**

†404. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government provides special financial assistance to State Governments only for rain based agriculture and agriculture on barren land;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Central Government proposes to provide special financial assistance to desert districts of western Rajasthan where agriculture is dependent only upon nature and rain and is devoid of any means of irrigation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) According to definition of land uses, barren land includes land covered by mountains, deserts etc., which cannot be brought under cultivation except at an exorbitant cost and is classified as unculturable land. In view of this, there is no comprehensive scheme/programme for development of barren land into cultivable land. However, to address specific concerns of rainfed/dryland areas, MoA implemented “Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP)” as a sub scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) during 2011-12 to 2013-14. This activity is being continued as a component of the newly launched National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

(c) and (d) Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development implements the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Integrating the erstwhile schemes namely Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP). The scheme is being implemented throughout the country including Rajasthan for harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and ground water table; prevention of soil run-off; rainwater harvesting and recharging of ground water table; increasing the productivity of crops; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities; promoting sustainable livelihoods and increasing the household incomes etc. Under IWMP an area of 49.52 lakh hectares has been covered so far until 2013-14. Ministry of Agriculture has no special schemes for financial assistance to desert districts of western Rajasthan where

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

agriculture is primarily rainfed. However, under Rainfed Area Development (RAD) component of NMSA, Rs.50 crore has been allocated to the State for the year 2014-15 for promoting integrated farming system in rainfed areas.

### Apprehension of drought

†405. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to weak monsoon, there is an apprehension of drought in the current year;
- (b) if so, the details of action plan of Government to tackle this drought crisis;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the likely negative impacts on agro-production due to weak monsoon and drought; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As per India Meteorological Department's (IMD) second stage operational long range forecast, South-West Monsoon (June-September) rainfall during 2014 is likely to be  $93\% \pm 4\%$  of country's Long Period Average (LPA) of 890 mm.

(b) States have been advised to ensure availability of appropriate low water consumption seeds for meeting any contingency cropping requirement in the eventuality of deficient rainfall. States have also been asked to keep aside 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and other schemes for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate drought like situation, initiate appropriate drought mitigation measures *viz.* Construction of water harvesting structure under MGNREGA; promote agronomic practices for moisture conservation; promote cultivation of less water consuming crops; restoration of irrigation infrastructure by de-silting canals; energizing tubewells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps etc. to deal with any potential drought situation.

(c) and (d) Production of agricultural crops and their prices are generally impacted by the overall rainfall situation in the country during the monsoon season. However, the stock of wheat and rice in the Central pool is well above buffer norms and is sufficient to meet the food security requirements of the country.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Development of drip irrigation in Jharkhand**

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

- (a) whether Government has formulated any action plan for development of drip irrigation in Jharkhand if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the present status of drip irrigation in the State; and
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated for the purpose in the present financial year for Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Sir, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation was launched in January, 2006 in all the States, including Jharkhand. This was up-scaled as National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) in June, 2010. From 1st April, 2014, NMMI has been subsumed under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and is now implemented as “On Farm Water Management” (OFWM). Under this component, assistance is provided for the installation of Micro Irrigation systems, namely, drip and sprinkler irrigation system.

- (b) An area of 20277 ha has been covered under Micro Irrigation in Jharkhand.
- (c) In the current financial year, Rs.30 crores has been allocated under OFWM component to the State.

**Campaign against Indian generic drugs**

407. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to State:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is recurring campaign against Indian generic drugs in many parts of the world;
- (b) whether it is proposed to initiate global campaign to counter this campaign, and to highlight the quality of generic drugs made in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to seek help of certain companies to make our campaign a success; and
- (d) if so, the details and status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) Government of India has been receiving reports on the quality of drugs exported from India from various countries like USA, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Ghana etc.

(b) to (d) To counter such baseless allegations in an effective way, the Government interacts on continuous basis with Pharma industry for an effective campaign on such adverse reports on the quality of drugs exported from India, with the objective to propagate that India is a trusted source for quality and affordable generic drugs and also to create confidence in the international markets that India has strong regulatory mechanism to supervise manufacture and export of quality medicines. The Brand India Pharma campaign launched in CPhI Japan in 2012 is being continued in various major international Pharma event.

**Switching over to gas-based from naphtha-based urea production**

408. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to switch over to gas from naphtha-based urea production by fertilizer companies;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a switch over; and

(c) the details of the quantum of urea produced by naphtha-based fertilizer plants and gas-based fertilizer plants since the switch over policy initiated by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Stage I & II of New Pricing Scheme (NPS) emphasized the usage of most efficient feedstock *i.e.* gas and conversion of non-gas based units to gas. Under NPS-III, all Naphtha and FO/LSHS based plants were directed to convert to Natural Gas (NG)/ Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) since the cost of production of urea using Naphtha is much higher than that by natural gas. The conversion of non-gas based Urea Plants to Natural Gas (NG)/ Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) resulted in saving of subsidy of this Government.

(c) The detail of the quantum of urea produced by naphtha-based urea units and gas-based urea units is given in Statement.

**Statement***Plant-wise production of Urea for the years 2007-08 to 2013-14*

Name of Plants	Production (000' MT)							
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<b>Public Sector:</b>								
NFL: Nangal-II	478.7	514.5	474.0	478.5	503.4	471.3	394.6	
NFL: Bhatinda	511.4	537.5	514.7	553.0	482.9	394.4	560.3	
NFL: Panipat	511.6	488.3	512.9	470.0	500.3	413.8	511.1	
NFL: Vijaipur	899.9	865.9	878.5	916.6	902.1	966.4	1006.3	
NFL: Vijaipur Expn.	866.6	937.9	949.6	961.5	1011.7	965.2	1162.5	
TOTAL (NFL):	3268.2	3344.1	3329.7	3379.6	3400.4	3211.1	3634.8	
BVFCL: Namrup-II	77.6	60.7	79.2	86.1	102.3	109.4	70.6	
BVFCL:Namrup-III	251.7	128.5	230.4	198.9	176.5	281.3	235.3	
TOTAL (BVFCL):	329.3	189.2	309.6	285.0	278.8	390.7	305.9	
RCF: Trombay-V	0.0	0.0	306.9	341.1	336.0	384.1	352.6	
RCF: Thal	1832.3	1903.3	1782.2	1783.4	1772.5	1951.6	1993.4	
TOTAL (RCF):	1832.3	1903.3	2089.1	2124.5	2108.5	2335.7	2346.0	

MFL: Chennai*	440.5	405.7	435.9	477.9	486.7	435.8	486.8
TOTAL Public Sector	5870.3	5842.3	6164.3	6267.0	6274.4	6373.3	6773.5
<b>Coop. Sector</b>							
IFFCO: Kalol	544.5	559.8	601.2	600.1	600.0	600.3	600.4
IFFCO: Phulpur	629.9	662.7	722.6	745.1	701.3	673.1	651.7
IFFCO: Phulpur Expn.	924.3	840.6	1000.1	1026.2	1132.8	992.0	951.0
IFFCO: Aonla	875.7	986.8	1000.3	988.5	1065.9	1091.9	1103.0
IFFCO: Aonla Expn.	989.3	1018.1	1000.3	1042.6	986.8	1152.8	1074.2
TOTAL (IFFCO):	3963.7	4068.0	4324.5	4402.5	4486.8	4510.1	4380.3
KRIBHCO: Hazira	1739.7	1743.2	1779.6	1840.3	1432.4	2132.0	2209.9
TOTAL COOP. SECTOR:	5703.4	5811.2	6104.1	6242.8	5919.2	6642.1	6590.2
TOTAL (PUB.+COOP.)	11573.7	11653.5	12268.4	12509.8	12193.6	13015.4	13363.7
<b>Private Sector:</b>							
GSFO Vadodara	240.8	236.3	281.5	245.5	286.6	347.7	322.1
SFC: Kota**	380.9	395.5	382.2	403.4	385.9	384.8	403.2
KFCL (DIL): Kanpur	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	313.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ZAL: Goa***	395.4	412.4	387.5	396.8	365.4	385.6	376.3
SPIC: Tuticorin*	0.0	0.0	0.0	300.9	621.7	483.4	286.2
MCF: Mangalore*	379.6	379.3	379.5	379.4	379.4	379.5	378.9
GNFC: Bharuch	670.3	592.3	601.7	643.2	701.8	708.8	696.4
IGF: Jagdishpur	880.3	1068.6	1096.1	1098.5	1162.2	1084.7	1035.5
NFCL: Kakinada-I	757.2	768.9	757.0	831.6	792.5	787.6	646.8
NFCL: Kakinada-II	597.2	609.1	723.1	824.0	769.1	777.7	780.1
CFCL: Gadepan-I	1004.4	909.8	1019.6	1032.2	1106.5	1035.8	990.6
CFCL: Gadepan-II	995.5	1008.3	1011.2	1068.0	1039.5	1056.0	950.6
TCL: Babrala	1069.7	1023.8	1231.7	1116.7	1164.6	1119.8	1136.5
KSFL: Shahjhanpur	913.2	864.3	972.8	1030.5	1015.6	1007.9	1035.3
TOTAL Private Sector:	8284.5	8268.6	8843.9	9370.7	9790.8	9559.3	9351.7
TOTAL (Pub.+Coop.+Pvt.):	19858.2	19922.1	21112.3	21880.5	21984.4	22574.7	22715.4

\* Naphtha based urea plants.

\*\* SFC Converted to gas during 2007-08.

\*\*\* ZAL-Goa converted to gas during 2013-14.



**Investment policy in urea sector**

409. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that recent investment policy for urea sector is not much lucrative to attract investment in domestic urea production, if so, whether Government intends to make necessary amendments in this regard;

(b) the number of proposal received, as on date, by Government unit-wise and the proposed investment details; and

(c) the number of proposals received from mega expansion of urea production from PSUs and Cooperative Urea Products of Gujarat and when Government proposes to grant the permission with specific details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) Department of Fertilizers had finalized the CCEA Note of amendment to New Investment Policy (NIP) - 2012 and placed it before CCEA for approval. The Note was considered and approved by CCEA on 28.02.2014. The notification of amendment to NIP-2012 is under consideration for approval.

(b) and (c) This Department has received the following proposals:

Sl. No.	Company	Projects	Ownership	State/Country
1	2	3	4	5
1	IFFCO- Kalol	Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Expansion Plant at Kalol	Cooperative	Gujarat
2	IGFL-Jagdishpur	Brownfield Expansion urea project at Jagdishpur.	Private	Uttar Pradesh
3	CFCL-Gadepan	Expansion of Ammonia-Urea units at Gadepan-Kota.	Private	Rajasthan
4	KRIBHCO-Hazira	Brownfield Hazira fertilizer unit - Phase-II	Cooperative	Gujarat
5	TCL-Babralla	Expansion of Urea project at Babralla.	Private	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
6	GNVFC-Bharuch	Brownfield Ammonia-Urea project at Dahej.	State JV	Gujarat
7	GSFC-Vadodara	Greenfield Ammonia-Urea project at Dahej.	State PSU	Gujarat
8	NFCL Kakinada	Expansion of Ammonia-Urea project at Kakinada.	Private	Andhra Pradesh
9	MATIX Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd.	Greenfield Ammonia-Urea Fertilizers Complex at Panagarh, West Bengal.	Private	West Bengal
10	BCCL (Shriram Group)	Greenfield Coal Gasification Ammonia-Urea project at Paradip, Odisha.	Private	Odisha
11	RCF-Thal	Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Expansion project at Thal-III of RCF	CPSU	Maharashtra
12	KF&CL-Kanpur	Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Project at Panki-Kanpur.	Private	Uttar Pradesh
13	KSFL-Shahjahanpur	Brownfield Urea Ammonia project at Shahjahanpur-II.	Private	Uttar Pradesh
14	FACT-Kochi	Brownfield Ammonia-Urea project at Kochi.	PSU	Kerala
15	NFCNL Nigeria	NFCNL Ammonia-Urea project at Nigeria - JV.	Private	Nigeria

The notification of amendments to New Investment Policy (NIP) - 2012 will pave the path for implementation of these proposed projects.

#### **Financial package to FACT**

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

(a) whether Government has cleared any financial package for Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT), if so, the present status of the package; and

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to help FACT to overcome the financial crisis, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) and (b) Considering the accumulated losses and erosion of Networth of FACT, a financial restructuring package was recommended by Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2013. Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, a proposal seeking approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for sanction of financial reliefs to FACT has been circulated for inter-Ministerial consultations. The proposal involves infusion of fresh fund as well as waiver of Government of India loans and interests.

#### **Blackmarketing of fertilizers**

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the ongoing black-marketing of fertilizers on a large scale and the resultant hike in prices of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the details regarding demand and supply of fertilizers available with the Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) and (b) There had been some reports regarding alleged black-marketing in the past. However, there is no report from any State Government/UTs during this year so far. The distribution of fertilizers to the farmers within the State at fair price is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. State Governments are adequately empowered to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating provisions of FCO, 1985 and Essential Commodity Act, 1955. In addition, Department of Fertilizers has, from time to time, written to the Chief Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs to activate the enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction to take action in this regard. Further, Department of Fertilizers, through weekly video conference with Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and representatives of State Government has been sensitizing and advising the State Governments for keeping strict vigil and for taking of prompt action by the State Governments to check black-marketing, diversion, smuggling and breach of MRP etc.

(c) The details of the State-wise demand (requirement) and availability, sales of urea, DAP, MOP and NPK fertilizers for the year 2013-14 and Kharif 2014 (April to June-2014) are given in Statement-I and II (*See below*).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

***Statement-I****Cumulative Requirement, Monthly Plan, Availability and Sales  
of Fertilizers during the year 2013-14 (FMS)*

State	UREA				DAP			
	Require- ment	Monthly Plan	Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	Monthly Plan	Availa- bility	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Andhra Pradesh	32.50	40.60	35.12	34.87	11.00	11.86	6.30	6.15
Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00
Assam	3.45	4.02	2.68	2.67	0.60	0.73	0.31	0.29
Bihar	21.50	24.94	18.77	18.71	5.25	6.71	3.79	3.60
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	7.00	9.37	6.43	6.34	3.10	6.09	2.52	2.44
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.01
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
Delhi	0.07	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00
Goa	0.05	0.10	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.02
Gujarat	22.25	24.01	20.82	20.78	5.40	7.02	3.97	3.79
Harayana	19.50	22.78	18.55	18.45	3.50	5.64	3.14	3.08
Himachal Pradesh	0.63	0.87	0.64	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	1.46	2.41	1.35	1.26	0.75	1.49	0.60	0.54
Jharkhand	2.60	3.29	1.68	1.63	0.90	0.95	0.29	0.29

**Statement-I**

*Cumulative Requirement, Monthly Plan, Availability and Sales  
of Fertilizers during the year 2013-14 (FMS)*

(Figures in MT)

MOP				NPK			
Require- ment	Monthly Plan	Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	Monthly Plan	Availa- bility	Sales
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.00
5.00	5.89	3.45	3.26	22.00	26.97	20.76	19.75
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.25	1.96	0.84	0.80	0.28	0.29	0.06	0.05
1.54	2.72	1.46	1.40	3.75	3.21	1.80	1.72
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.06	1.95	0.67	0.56	1.90	1.94	0.80	0.75
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.01	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.09	0.03	0.03
1.30	2.19	1.25	1.11	4.73	5.31	4.77	4.60
0.35	0.92	0.24	0.24	0.55	0.28	0.11	0.10
0.07	0.29	0.09	0.09	0.30	0.42	0.23	0.22
0.20	0.56	0.19	0.18	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02
0.21	0.19	0.03	0.03	0.75	0.46	0.16	0.16

90	Written Answers to	[RAJYA SABHA]				Unstarred Questions		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Karnataka	15.50	20.34	15.01	14.79	7.00	9.30	4.86	4.56
Kerala	2.00	2.41	1.44	1.44	0.28	0.85	0.31	0.27
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	19.25	23.39	23.01	22.84	11.50	17.63	8.81	8.15
Maharashtra	27.00	29.35	26.54	26.42	14.00	13.94	5.77	5.70
Manipur	0.40	0.42	0.18	0.18	0.10	0.08	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	0.11	0.14	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.06	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.09	0.11	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Odisha	6.80	8.05	5.33	5.21	2.45	3.09	1.50	1.40
Puducherry	0.27	0.32	0.22	0.22	0.05	0.14	0.01	0.01
Punjab	26.40	31.65	26.21	26.18	9.15	9.51	4.84	4.65
Rajasthan	18.00	20.78	18.50	18.45	6.04	7.84	4.86	4.69
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	10.50	13.08	9.12	9.11	4.00	4.82	2.21	2.18
Tripura	0.53	0.61	0.22	0.20	0.06	0.09	0.01	0.01
Uttar Pradesh	62.00	71.56	59.38	58.76	18.65	23.74	15.69	14.04
Uttaranchal	2.50	3.39	2.80	2.76	0.35	0.61	0.22	0.22
West Bengal	14.50	16.61	12.50	12.39	5.50	5.80	2.56	2.44
TOTAL	316.90	374.83	306.75	304.54	109.86	138.23	72.64	68.55

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4.90	5.18	2.63	2.54	14.50	18.46	11.70	10.71
1.87	1.84	0.96	0.96	2.43	2.81	1.58	1.38
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.00	2.89	0.60	0.51	4.20	3.90	2.20	1.99
4.92	7.27	3.57	3.26	17.50	23.04	15.92	15.43
0.05	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.60	1.76	0.94	0.89	3.80	3.83	1.85	1.75
0.04	0.15	0.02	0.02	0.19	0.41	0.09	0.09
0.70	1.18	0.42	0.35	1.20	0.50	0.29	0.28
0.23	0.53	0.04	0.03	1.21	0.74	0.33	0.32
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.91	4.29	2.56	2.46	6.93	9.10	5.05	4.71
0.11	0.15	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.01
1.80	2.65	1.13	1.10	11.00	8.89	4.23	3.93
0.05	0.22	0.01	0.01	0.54	0.59	0.40	0.34
2.87	4.87	2.15	2.08	9.50	11.73	7.26	6.82
35.13	49.75	23.32	21.92	107.36	123.11	79.63	75.17

**Statement-II**

*Cumulative Requirement, Monthly Plan, Availability and Sales of Fertilizers  
during the Kharif 2014 season (April to June)*

State	UREA				DAP			
	Require- ment	Monthly Plan	Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	Monthly Plan	Availa- bility	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	4.20	6.80	4.43	3.41	1.56	2.75	0.58	0.31
Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	0.62	0.90	0.94	0.89	0.09	0.19	0.08	0.04
Bihar	3.15	5.12	4.30	3.84	0.75	1.81	0.52	0.23
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	2.45	3.33	2.45	2.30	1.02	2.20	1.17	0.96
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Goa	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00
Gujarat	4.60	4.70	5.12	4.72	1.85	2.68	1.28	0.97
Haryana	3.90	4.46	4.24	4.05	0.75	2.33	0.13	0.11
Himachal Pradesh	0.18	0.24	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J&K	0.40	0.62	0.46	0.40	0.20	0.51	0.26	0.21
Jharkhand	0.65	0.89	0.47	0.36	0.25	0.41	0.09	0.06



**Statement-II***Cumulative Requirement, Monthly Plan, Availability and Sales of Fertilizers**during the Kharif 2014 season (April to June)*

(Figures in MT)

MOP				NPK			
Require- ment	Monthly Plan	Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	Monthly Plan	Availa- bility	Sales
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
0.79	1.04	0.31	0.13	3.32	5.86	2.58	1.33
0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.26	0.43	0.09	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.03	0.02
0.28	0.72	0.24	0.11	0.62	0.92	0.55	0.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.25	0.63	0.31	0.19	0.51	1.13	0.36	0.28
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.00
0.33	0.78	0.32	0.25	1.66	2.06	1.54	1.37
0.08	0.41	0.17	0.16	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.06
0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.12	0.03	0.03
0.03	0.11	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01
0.05	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.30	0.09	0.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Karnataka	2.75	4.81	3.64	3.28	2.17	4.04	1.89	1.42
Kerala	0.48	0.65	0.44	0.42	0.08	0.30	0.14	0.09
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	3.30	3.70	3.62	3.23	2.75	4.95	1.95	1.38
Maharashtra	7.35	8.38	7.74	7.44	2.45	4.09	1.45	1.39
Manipur	0.12	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00
Megalaya	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.04	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Odisha	0.80	1.86	1.36	1.04	0.47	1.07	0.48	0.31
Pondicherry	0.06	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
Punjab	10.00	9.13	7.89	7.66	2.60	3.39	1.68	1.39
Rajasthan	2.30	2.82	2.82	2.74	0.62	2.12	1.22	1.13
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	1.69	2.64	1.87	1.85	0.51	1.06	0.25	0.18
Telangana*	1.80	1.90	1.62	1.69	0.44	0.48	0.24	0.26
Tripura	0.12	0.13	0.10	0.08	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	12.50	13.86	13.63	11.80	2.80	5.55	2.73	0.61
Uttaranchal	0.75	0.95	0.78	0.76	0.14	0.22	0.04	0.03
West Bengal	1.75	3.31	2.76	2.25	0.36	1.44	0.48	0.33
TOTAL	66.04	81.61	71.07	64.55	21.96	41.81	16.70	11.44

\* Data related to Telangana is available from June'14 onwards.

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0.71	1.91	0.79	0.59	2.90	5.53	3.30	2.29
0.42	0.74	0.37	0.34	0.74	0.98	0.56	0.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.46	0.83	0.31	0.15	1.26	1.36	0.53	0.35
0.98	2.24	1.38	1.15	4.91	7.48	3.89	3.41
0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
0.31	0.60	0.26	0.20	0.70	1.76	0.72	0.47
0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.13	0.01	0.01
0.14	0.54	0.20	0.12	0.17	0.24	0.05	0.04
0.05	0.14	0.03	0.01	0.33	0.34	0.12	0.11
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.65	0.94	0.45	0.44	1.30	1.81	0.85	0.64
0.10	0.18	0.06	0.04	0.73	0.78	0.84	0.87
0.05	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00
0.35	0.97	0.24	0.15	1.90	1.96	0.73	0.38
0.03	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.15	0.09	0.06
0.29	1.23	0.33	0.18	0.72	3.21	1.52	0.88
6.68	14.81	5.93	4.31	22.46	36.66	18.48	13.28

**Demand and supply of urea and fertilizers to West Bengal**

412. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the demand for urea and fertilizers made by Government of West Bengal from the Central Government during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the allotment of urea and fertilizers made *vis-a-vis* the demand so made;
- (c) the reasons for not making allocation of fertilizers to States by Central Government according to their demands; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to frame any policy for 2014-15 with regard to meeting the demand of the States; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) to (c) A statement showing demand for urea and fertilizers made by Government of West Bengal from the Central Government during the last three years *i.e.* 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 and quantity made available is given in Statement (*See below*).

It can be seen from the Statement that the availability *vis-a-vis* the sales have been adequate and comfortable in the State of West Bengal.

(d) As per extant practice, Department of Fertilizers is taking following steps to ensure adequate supply of subsidized chemical fertilizers to each State/UT:

- (i) The month-wise demand is assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season.
- (ii) On the basis of month-wise and State-wise projection given by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability through following system;
- (iii) The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system ([www.urvarak.co.in](http://www.urvarak.co.in)) also called as Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS);
- (iv) The State Governments are regularly advised to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies through timely placement of indents for railway rakes through their State institutional agencies like Markfed etc.
- (v) Regular weekly video conference is conducted jointly by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Department of Fertilizers (DoF), and Ministry of Railways with State Agriculture Officials and corrective actions are taken to dispatch fertilizer as indicated by the State Governments.
- (vi) The gap in the demand and domestic production of fertilizer is met through imports.

**Statement**

(Figures in LMT)

*Requirement, Availability and Sales of Fertilizers during 2010-11 to 2014-15 (Upto June '14)*

State	Year	Urea		DAP		MOP		NPK				
		Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sales	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sales		
West Bengal	2010-11	13.00	11.26	11.26	4.63	4.62	4.00	3.29	3.23	8.25	8.95	8.76
	2011-12	13.25	12.76	12.74	5.03	4.76	4.00	3.04	3.02	9.00	8.96	8.13
	2012-13	13.50	14.02	13.87	4.34	4.25	4.25	2.18	2.16	8.28	8.01	7.90
	2013-14	14.50	12.50	12.39	2.56	2.44	2.87	2.15	2.08	9.50	7.26	6.82
	2014-15	1.75	2.76	2.25	0.48	0.33	0.29	0.33	0.18	0.72	1.52	0.88

**Assistance to farmers in the wake of rise in prices  
of chemicals, fertilizers etc.**

†413. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of price-rise in chemicals, fertilizers and insecticides during the last five years;
- (b) by when Government will provide assistance to farmers in the wake of price-rise; and
- (c) whether farmers are not getting fair prices as per the cost of production due to price-rise in chemicals, fertilizers and insecticides and whether support price would be increased in future and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) and (b) At regards fertilizers, Urea is provided to the farmers at the statutory price of Rs. 5310 per MT since 1.4.2010. This price was increased slightly by Rs. 50 per MT *w.e.f.* November, 2012 to meet the expenses of retailers for acknowledging the receipt of fertilizers in the mobile based Fertilizer Monitoring System (m-FMS). So now the MRP is Rs. 5360 per MT excluding the Central Excise Duty of 1% for the domestically produced urea and 1% Counter Vailing Duty (CVD) on the imported Urea and local taxes (VAT etc.) levied by various State Governments. In respect of non-urea fertilizers *i.e.* Phosphetic and Potassic fertilizers, the prices of these fertilizers are open and fertilizer companies are allowed to fix the prices at reasonable level. Prices of fertilizers during the last five years are given in Statement (*See* below).

Government neither regulate the prices of chemicals and insecticides nor maintain any data base of chemicals and insecticides.

- (c) Government announces MSP for every Rabi and Kharif crops. The estimates of cost of cultivation/cost of production, which is an important input for forming the recommendation of Minimum Support Price (MSP), include all actual expensed in cash and kind incurred in production by the farmers which also include cost of chemicals, fertilizers and insecticides. Moreover, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices tracks the movement in prices of all factor inputs to arrive at the estimates of the cost of production for the year for which MSP policy is formulated.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Statement***Prices of fertilizers during the last five years*

Sl. No.	Grades of Fertilizers	2009-10*				2010-11 (Qtr.-wise)				2011-12 (Qtr.-wise)				2012-13 (Qtr.-wise)				2013-14 (Qtr.-wise)				2014-15 (Qtr.-wise)			
		I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20						
	Urea	4830					5310																		
	P&K Fertilizers																								
1	DAP: 18-46-0-0	9350	9950	9950	9950	10750	12500	18200	20297	20000	24800	26500	26500	26500	26520	25000	24607	24607	24080						
2	MAP: 11-52-0-0	9350	9950	NA	NA	NA	NA	18200	20000	20000	20000	24200	24200	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA					
3	TSP: 0-46-0-0	7460	8057	8057	8057	8057	8057	8057	17000	17000	17000	NA	NA	17000	NA	17000	17000	NA	NA						
4	MOP: 0-0-60-0	4455	5055	5055	5055	5055	6064	11300	12040	12040	16695	23100	24000	18750	18638	17750	17750	17750	17892						
5	16-20-0-13	5875	6620	6620	6620	7200	9645	14400	15300	15300	15300	18200	18200	18200	17280	17710	17510	17010	17940						
6	20-20-0-13	6295	7280	7280	7395	8095	11400	14800	15800	15800	19000	24800	19176	24800	20490	19166	23500	23500	19710						
7	23-23-0-0	6145	NA	NA	NA	7445	7445	7445							Excluded from NBS Policy										
8	10-26-26-0	7197	8197	NA	8300	10103	10910	16000	16633	16386	21900	22225	22225	22225	22213	22200	21160	21160	22260						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9	12-32-16-0	7637	8637	8237	8637	9437	11313	16400	16500	16400	22300	23300	22500	24000	23300	23300	21475	21105	22580
10	14-28-14-0	7050	NA	NA	NA	NA		14950	17029	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
11	14-35-14-0	8185	NA	NA	NA	9900	11622	15148	17424	17600	17600	23300	23300	23300	23300	23300	21810	21810	23340
12	15-15-15-0	5121	NA	NA	NA	7421	8200	11000	11500	11500	13000	15600	15600	15600	15600	15150	15150	15150	16894
13	AS: 20.3-0-0-23	10350	8600	8600	7600	8700	7600	11300	10306	10306	11013	11013	11013	11013	11106	11106	11184	11689	13020
14	20-20-0-0	5343	5943	NA	6243	7643	9861	14000	15500	18700	18700	24450	24450	18500	15561	15262	18000	18000	16910
15	28-28-0-0	7481	NA	NA	NA	11181	11810	15740	18512	18700	24720	24720	23905	23905	23905	23410	21907	21907	23100
16	17-17-17-0	5804								17710	20427	20522	20572	20672	20672	22947	24013	23231	23231
17	19-19-19-0	6487								18093	19470	19470	19470	NA	NA	0	20915	20915	20915
18	SSP(0-16-0-11)*		3200	3200	3200	3200	3200	4000 to 6300			6500 to 7500				6200-9900	9270	10300	9270	9600
19	16-16-16-0					7100	7100	7100	15200	15200	15200					18000	18000	17000	17000
20	DAP lite (16-44-0-0)					NA	11760	17600	19500	19500	19500	24938	24938	24938	24938	23875	22900	22000	NA
21	15-15-15-09					6800	9300	12900	15750	14851	15000	15000	15000	NA	NA	0		15670	16618



22	24-24-0-0	7768	9000	11550	14151	14297	14802	16223	16223	18857	18857	18857	17896	17896	17896	19840
23	24-24-0-8															19960
24	13-33-0-6			16200	17400	17400	17400	17400	17400							
25	MAP lite (11-44-0-0)			16000	18000	18000	18000	21500	21500						Excluded from NBS Policy	
26	DAP lite-II 14-46-0-0)			14900	18690	18300	18300	24800	24800							

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MRP is exclusive of Taxes

\* MRP was fixed by the Government

Fertilizers grade mentioned at Sl. No. 7, 24, 25, 26 are not under subsidy scheme presently.

Blank space/NA means not available in the market/not under subsidy scheme.

**Consumption of fertilizers by farmers of Andhra Pradesh**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that per hectare fertilizer (N, P and K) consumption in Andhra Pradesh is much more than the national average;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind increased use of fertilizers in the State; and
- (c) the efforts Government is making to see that fertilizers, in appropriate quantity, are used by farmers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requirement of fertilizers for a specific cropping season depends upon the requirement of nutrients based on soil health status, cropping pattern, irrigated area etc. In view of above, consumption pattern of fertilizers varies from State to State and accordingly, per hectare consumption of fertilizers of a particular State will be at variance from the national average.

(c) Government is promoting balanced fertilization based on deficient soil nutrients as established by soil testing in conjunction with other sources of plant nutrients such as organic manures and bio-fertilizers through National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) in all States including Andhra Pradesh.

To enhance soil testing capacity in the State, financial assistance has been provided to the State Government for setting up of 5 new Static Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs), 3 new Mobile STLs, 2 new Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) and strengthening of 5 FQCLs during 11th Plan period.

Financial assistance to promote Organic Farming and micronutrients is also provided to the State Government.

Trainings for farmers and STL staff and Frontline Field Demonstrations are also taken up by State Government under the scheme.

Andhra Pradesh has issued 4.17 lakh Soil Health Cards during year 2011-12, 5.28 lakh during 2012-13 and 2.69 lakh during 2013-14.

**Effects of New Drug Pricing Policy**

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

- (a) whether New Drug Pricing Policy which has been brought in the month of May

this year has put pharmaceuticals companies in problems, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) is not allowing the loss making pharmaceutical companies to discontinue their production and exit from the market in spite of their negligible market share, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by Government to protect such pharma companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) The new National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP) was promulgated on 7th December, 2012 with the objective to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines—“essential medicines” at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of pharma industry thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well-being for all. Subsequently, the Drugs (Price Control) Order (DPCO) was notified on 15th May, 2013. The present DPCO, 2013 is based on market based pricing which is faster and easier to implement than the earlier DPCO which was cost based and complex.

(b) DPCO, 2013 *vide* its para 21 (2) provides that any manufacturer of scheduled formulation, intending to discontinue any scheduled formulation from the market shall issue a public notice and also intimate the Government in Form-IV of Schedule-II of this order in this regard at least six months prior to the intended date of discontinuation and the Government may, in public interest, direct the manufacturer of the scheduled formulation to continue with required level of production or import for a period not exceeding one year, from the intended date of such discontinuation within a period of sixty days of receipt of such intimation. Accordingly, Form-IV application received from different manufacturers are processed and permission for discontinuation of medicines is granted or refused by the NPPA under para 21 of DPCO, 2013 depending upon the availability of the drug in question.

(c) Does not arise, as permission for discontinuation is granted unless there is apprehension that it may lead to a shortage of the scheduled drug(s).

#### **National Mobile Number Portability**

416. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to do away with the roaming charges by adopting the National Mobile Number Portability (MNP); and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when the scheme is going to be a reality?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) At present, no proposal is under consideration for doing away with roaming charges by adopting the National Mobile Number Portability (MNP).

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

#### **Child bullying on internet**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the survey of a cyber security software company Symantec has revealed that a large number of urban and rural children in the country are becoming the victim of bullying;

(b) whether children are falling prey to depression due to the said problem, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken or would be taken by Government in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) There have been some media reports that children are becoming victims of depression owing to cyber bullying. As per the survey report “Cyber Crime -2013 - Kids (India)”, published by the software company, Symantec about 18% of children have said that they have been victim of bullying on internet. It has been stated that the sample size of said survey is limited to 203 kids.

(c) The Government has taken various steps in this regard which include:

- (i) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory on Preventing and Combating Cyber Crime against Children dated 4th Jan., 2012, wherein it was advised to States/Union Territories to specifically combat the crimes in the forms of cyber stalking, cyber bullying, child pornography and exposure to sexually explicit material etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) The Information Technology Act, 2000 has provision for dealing with cyber crimes targeting children.
- (iii) Government has implemented Information Security Education Awareness (ISEA) programme including the programmes conducted by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Internet and Mobile Association of India (IMAI) and Data Security Council of India (DSCI) for security awareness and training in the area of information security. Specific workshops have been conducted for school children on making them aware about risks on internet and adopting safe internet browsing practices. In these programmes around 710 workshops have been organised across the country covering large number of organisations, schools, students and teachers. During the workshops awareness kits have also been distributed. Security awareness material like posters, DVDs, cartoon/animation videos have also been developed and widely distributed. A dedicated website for information security awareness ([www.infosecawareness.in](http://www.infosecawareness.in)) has also been developed and content is available in English and Hindi language.
- (iv) A website ([secureyourpc.in](http://secureyourpc.in)) for children, home users and elderly is available for safeguarding their computer systems and learning the risks on internet.

#### **Landline BSNL telephone services in Jharkhand**

418. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that landline telephone services by BSNL in Jharkhand are continuously deteriorating, not only in rural but urban areas also, and even the capital of the State is badly affected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with data and figures in this regard; and
- (c) the status of rectification measures, if any, initiated by the Department towards it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that its landline telephone network in Jharkhand meets the Quality of Service (QoS) norms fixed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). However, telephone services get affected due to the following reasons:

- Poor availability of electricity supply.
- Faults due to cut in optical fiber/copper cables due to road widening works etc.
- Delayed maintenance and repair due to law and order issues.

The network parameters for QoS achieved during the last three months as against the benchmarks prescribed by TRAI are mentioned below:

*Landline network parameters for Jharkhand circle*

Parameter		Benchmark Achievements		
		March, 2014	April, 2014	May, 2014
Fault incidences per 100 subscribers per month	≤5%	2.56	2.47	2.51
% Fault repaired by next day	≥90%	98.02	98.7	96.37
% Fault repaired within 3 days in urban area	100%	100	100	100
% Fault repaired within 5 days in rural area	100%	100	100	100
Meantime to repair	≤8Hrs.	6.07	5.79	5.88

(c) BSNL has taken the following steps to ensure speedy restoration of faults:

- Co-ordination with other Government agencies to prevent faults due to damage of cables.
- Regular patrolling of important cable routes to prevent cable damages.
- Monitoring the Fault Repair Service System for prompt fault clearance.

**Broadband network coverage to gram panchayats**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there will be a great delay in providing broadband network coverage to the targeted 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats in the financial year 2014-15, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government to augment the project to reach the expected targets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government has approved the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) scheme. The scheme envisages connecting all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be created for the purpose.

The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) was incorporated on 25.02.2012. BBNL is getting the project executed through 3 Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

It was decided that before starting the project at national level, some pilots be conducted so that the learning on ground level be incorporated in the implementation of project at national level. Accordingly, BBNL implemented 3 Pilot Projects in Arain block, District Ajmer, Rajasthan State (by BSNL-30 GPs), Parvada block, District Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (by PGCIL-14 GPs) and Panisagar block, District North Tripura, Tripura State (by Railtel-15 GPs). The pilot projects comprising 3 Blocks and 59 GPs were completed on 15.10.2012 with 100 Mbps connectivity to each GP.

BBNL entrusted the task of survey work to the 3 CPSUs (BSNL, Railtel and PGCIL). This preliminary exercise was undertaken to ascertain the actual length of incremental OFC required for NOFN network. Survey work has been completed for over 2,30,000 Gram Panchayats and BBNL has issued Technical Sanction for about 1,81,000 Gram Panchayats.

Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Government of India, concerned State Governments and BBNL for free Right of Way (RoW) for laying of OFC have been signed with all States and UTs except Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep.

Procurement orders for Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and electronic transmission equipment Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) have been finalized. The three CPSUs viz. BSNL, Railtel and PGCIL have awarded work in 210 Blocks for trenching and laying of OFC.

NOFN project is being implemented in a phased manner as under and is likely to be completed by March, 2017:

- 50,000 GPs by March, 2015 (Phase-I)
- 1,00,000 GPs by March, 2016 (Phase-II)
- Balance GPs by March, 2017 (Phase-III)

Project is to be executed in a phased manner to foster competition and to learn and improve from experiences of project implementation. Multi-pronged strategy for execution of work is being adopted for accelerated implementation of the project.

**Complaints regarding unsolicited calls**

420. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India proposes to work out measures to control unwanted calls, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of complaints that have since been received against unsolicited calls; and

(c) the details of action that has since been taken against such telecom companies to wean them away from this business?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) notified the “Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) Regulations, 2007” dated 5th June, 2007, putting in place a framework for controlling unsolicited commercial communications. It envisaged establishment of a National Do Not Call (NDNC) Registry to facilitate registration of requests from customers who do not wish to receive UCC. To improve the effectiveness of the framework, the TRAI had subsequently amended these regulations from time to time by issuing amendments.

In order to make the regulatory framework for curbing UCC more effective, TRAI issued “The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2010” on 1st December, 2010. As per the provisions of The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2010, registration of telemarketers has started on web portal [www.nccptrai.gov.in](http://www.nccptrai.gov.in) from 15th January, 2011. Registration of customer preference on National Customer Preference Registry (NCPR) has started from 10th February, 2011. All the provisions of these regulations have come into force from 27th September, 2011.

(b) and (c) Total complaints received against Unsolicited Commercial Calls and the present status of actions taken against registered and unregistered Telemarketers are given below:

1. Total complaints received by service providers (From 27.9.2011 to 03.07.2014)	941691
2. Number of notices sent to unregistered telemarketers (From 27.9.2011 to 24.05.2013)	286910
3. Number of telephone disconnections of unregistered telemarketers (From 27.9.2011 to 03.07.2014)	494688



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4.	Additional disconnection on account of UCC sent (Proactive/ call back numbers/Entities)	825404
5.	Number of notices sent to telemarketers with deduction in their security deposit and total amount deducted so far (From 27.9.2011 to 03.07.2014)	403, 1.73 crores
6.	No. of telemarketers blacklisted (From 27.9.2011 to 03.07.2014)	20
7.	No. of unregistered telemarketers blacklisted for 2 years till 03.07.2014.	224341

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#### Market share of MTNL and BSNL

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

(a) whether MTNL and BSNL are under heavy debt due to loss of market share of landline and mobile services in comparison to the private telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor along with the number of subscribers, separately for landline and mobile connections lost by the said two PSUs, PSU-wise; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to improve the financial condition and provide quality services to increase customer base of these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are in financial distress. BSNL and MTNL are faced with declining revenues from loss of market share and increasing expenditure.

As on 31st March, the total debts on the books of BSNL and MTNL are Rs. 5948 and Rs. 14210 crores respectively. Details of the total debt as on 31st March of the concerned financial year and the current year as on 30th June, 2014 is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

Details of market share of landline and mobile connections of BSNL and MTNL for the last three years and current year is given in Statement-II (*See below*). Details of net additions/disconnections in landline and mobile customer base for the last three years and current year as on 31.5.2014 are given in Statement-III (*See below*).

The declining market share of BSNL and MTNL is for the following reasons:

1. Declining wireline business due to shift to mobile communication.
2. Inability to expand coverage due to financial and procurement problems.
3. Lack of adequate skill sets due to changing nature of technology and customer centric business with focus on sales, marketing and customer services.
4. Stiff competition in the telecommunication sector.

(c) Government has taken several measures to revive the two CPSUs. These measures include:

- (i) Treatment of pensionary liabilities of Government employees absorbed in MTNL and who opted for combined service pension on parity with similar employees in BSNL.
- (ii) Waiver of Government loan to BSNL involving an amount of Rs. 1411 crores.
- (iii) Financial support of Rs.6724.51 crores to BSNL and Rs.4533.97 crores to MTNL on surrender of BWA spectrum.

Besides these measures Government is engaged in formulating a coordinated plan aimed towards revival of BSNL and MTNL by addressing issues of high employee expenses and gainful utilization of assets to enhance availability of finances for network expansion and improvement in Quality of Service (QoS).

BSNL and MTNL are separately preparing a revival plan for increasing revenue potential, identifying business opportunities, organizational restructuring to enable them to grow into customer-centric companies with expertise in marketing and customer services delivery and developing human resources strategy in line with restructured organizational vision.

***Statement-I***

*Details of the total debt as on 31st March of the concerned financial year and the current year as on 30th June, 2014.*

(Rs. in Crores)

PSU	As on 31.03. 2012 (Audited)	As on 31.03.2013 (Audited)	As on 31.03.2014 (Unaudited)	As on 30.06. 2014 (Unaudited)
BSNL	3335	4772	5948	6448
MTNL	9648	11779	14210	14760

**Statement-II***Market share of BSNL, MTNL in comparison with Private Operators in landline and mobile connections*

As on	BSNL's Market Share		Private Operator's Market Share		MTNL's Market Share		Private Operator's Market Share	
	% of Landline connections	% of Mobile connections	% of Landline connections	% of Mobile connections	% of Landline connections	% of Mobile connections	% of Landline connections	% of Mobile connections
31.03.2012	85.61	13.27	14.39	86.73	58.51	7.92	41.49	92.08
31.03.2013	84.26	14.55	15.74	85.45	58.20	7.60	41.80	92.40
31.03.2014	82.81	12.85	17.19	87.15	57.47	4.81	42.53	95.19
31.05.2014	82.57	12.30	17.43	87.70	57.43	4.83	42.57	95.17

*Note:*

1. Percentages of BSNL and MTNL have been calculated in their respective License Service Areas (LSAs) i.e. the market share of MTNL is for Mumbai and Delhi service areas, in comparison with private operators in these service areas, whereas market share for BSNL is for 21 other service areas in comparison with private operators in these areas.
2. Mobile connections includes GSM and WLL connections.

**Statement-III***Status of telephone connections during last three years and current year*

Parameter	(No. of connections in lakhs)							
	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Connections as on 31.03.2012	Net Addition (+)/Surrender (-)	Connections as on 31.03.2013	Net Addition (+)/Surrender (-)	Connections as on 31.03.2014	Net Addition (+)/Surrender (-)	Connections as on 31.03.2014	Net Addition (+)/Surrender (-)
<b>BSNL</b>								
Landline (Wireline)	224.7	-27.5	204.5	-20.2	184.90	-19.60	181.80	-3.10
Wireless	985.10	66.70	1012.00	26.90	946.50	-65.50	916.20	-30.30
TOTAL	1209.80	39.20	1216.50	6.70	1131.40	-85.10	1098.00	-33.40
<b>MTNL</b>								
Landline (Wireline)	34.58	-2.24	34.60	-2.04	35.42	-2.09	35.33	-0.35
Wireless	58.32	-1.46	49.99	-12.00	33.72	-18.61	33.97	-0.25
TOTAL connections	92.90	-3.70	84.59	-14.04	69.14	-20.70	69.29	-0.60

**Vacancies in post offices in Tamil Nadu**

422. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of around 7,000 personnel in the post offices spread across Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same especially when Government is proposing to bring various services like ATM, Train Ticket Reservation, etc., in post offices;
- (c) whether Government will be able to extend plethora of services with existing vacancies; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No Sir.

(b) Vacancies are caused due to promotion, resignation, death, retirement etc., for which action to fill up vacancies is taken on priority. With the available man power, the services are provided to members of the public by the post offices in Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Yes. Filling up of such vacancies is an on going process. The vacancies are already in the process of being filled and in the meantime services are being managed by re-distribution and combination of duties among the available personnel in post offices.

**Regulations for mobile number portability**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Commission has given approval to full Mobile Number Portability, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) how the new regulations are different from old regulations regarding Mobile Number Portability; and
- (c) whether this measure is a step towards 'one nation one number', if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Telecom Commission has on 13.06.2014 given approval to the proposal for accepting the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for implementing full Mobile Number Portability. The

Commission has also approved the proposal of seeking re-considered opinion of TRAI on the issues of additional entry fee, Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) and Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG).

(b) At present, a subscriber can port his mobile number within the same service area only. However, after coming into force of full mobile number portability, the subscriber will be allowed to port his mobile number even from one service area to another service area.

(c) Retaining same number even while moving from one License Service Area to another Licensed Service Area amounts to a step towards “one nation one number”.

#### **Improvement of telecom services in NE region**

424. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to invest Rupees five thousand crore to set up over eight thousand mobile towers for improvement of telecom services in NE region;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Telecom Commission has cleared the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details of amount out of Rupees five thousand crore, allocated to Assam?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Telecom Commission, in its meeting held on 13.06.2014, recommended a proposal to implement a ‘Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North-Eastern Region (NER)’ at an estimated project cost of Rs. 5336.18 crores, for approval.

(c) The total estimated investment for providing 2G coverage and augmentation of transmission media in Assam under the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan is Rs. 1542.19 crores.

#### **Plan to revive MTNL and BSNL**

425. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating any plan to revive ailing telecom PSUs-MTNL and BSNL; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are in financial distress. Government has taken several measures to revive the two CPSUs. These measures include:

- (i) Treatment of pensionary liabilities of Government employees absorbed in MTNL and who opted for combined service pension on parity with similar employees in BSNL.
- (ii) Waiver of Government loan to BSNL involving an amount of Rs. 1411 crores.
- (iii) Financial support of Rs.6724.51 crores to BSNL and Rs.4533.97 crores to MTNL on surrender of BWA spectrum.

Besides these measures, Government is formulating a coordinated plan aimed towards revival of BSNL and MTNL by addressing issues of high employee expenses and gainful utilization of assets to enhance availability of finances for network expansion and improvement in Quality of Service (QoS).

BSNL and MTNL are also separately preparing a revival plan for increasing revenue potential, identifying business opportunities, and for organizational restructuring to enable them to grow into customer-centric companies with expertise in marketing and customer services delivery and to develop a human resources strategy in line with the restructured organizational vision.

#### **Assessment of decision on sugar sector**

†426. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the decisions taken by Government regarding sugarcane and sugar mills, and whether Government is aware of their far-reaching consequences;
- (b) whether the decision of Government is causing neglect to the interests of sugarcane growers; and
- (c) whether any assessment has been made to see that who are going to be benefited by this decision of Government — farmers, consumers or the industrialists of sugar industry and if so, the details thereof ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) An Informal Group of Union Ministers has deliberated about the prevailing situation regarding cane price arrears and related issues and has made its recommendations relating to Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP), Production and Export of Raw Sugar, Import Duty on Sugar and Excise Duty Loan to sugar mills.

(b) and (c) The said recommendations seek to provide benefit to all the stakeholders in the sugar sector by improving the financial health of the sugar mills so as to enable them to clear the cane price arrears of the farmers.

**Price-hike of sugar and other essential commodities**

†427. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of sugar and several essential commodities have risen drastically in the country due to impractical policies of the current Government and consequently the common man has to directly face the price-hike;

(b) the inflation rate of sugar and different essential commodities during the last three years;

(c) the measures taken by Government to check the price-rise and whether these measures are proving effective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) The prices of sugar in the domestic market are currently stable. The recent rise in prices of other essential food commodities are mainly due to factors such as anticipation of deficient rains with possible shortfall in production, transportation cost, supply constraints like storage facilities for fruits and vegetables and artificial shortages created through hoarding and black marketing.

(b) The inflation rate of sugar and different essential commodities during last three years are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The measures taken by the Government to control prices of essential commodities are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



**Statement-I**

*Commodity-wise rate of inflation based on whole-sale price index (base year 2004-05=100) during last three financial years*

Sl. No.	Name of Commodity	% Variation (WPI Financial year)		
		Year 2011-12	Year 2012-13	Year 2013-14
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rice	3.05	12.69	16.51
2.	Wheat	-1.84	15.51	9.20
3.	Atta	3.15	4.79	14.46
4.	Urad	-11.68	-5.14	2.92
5.	Moong	-12.84	6.16	14.03
6.	Arhar	-10.66	8.82	6.49
7.	Masur	-16.29	19.10	12.01
8.	Gram	29.21	37.43	-18.41
9.	Potato	-2.25	60.45	6.34
10.	Onion	-28.09	24.56	107.40
11.	Tomato	-3.15	-6.56	78.40
12.	Groundnut Oil	12.79	17.55	-5.71
13.	Mustard & Rapeseed Oil	16.84	13.49	-0.14
14.	Vanaspati	4.37	3.48	0.45
15.	Soyabean Oil	17.20	10.20	-1.86
16.	Sunflower Oil	9.64	4.48	-4.47
17.	Palm Oil	7.58	4.21	1.18

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Sugar	5.10	11.34	-2.42
19.	Gur	-0.03	10.14	1.34
20.	Salt	0.84	3.35	2.12
21.	Milk	10.31	7.24	6.05

Source: Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion

### ***Statement-II***

*The measures taken by Government to control price rise of essential commodities:*

#### **A. The Steps in operation:**

- Reduced import duties to zero - for wheat, onion and pulses.
- Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil, forest based oil and edible oils in blended consumer packs up to 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 oil, and edible oilseeds for a period up to 30.9.2014 and in respect of paddy and rice up to 30.11.2014.
- 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.
- The Government is also implementing “The Essential Commodities Act 1955” and “The Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980” with the objective of preventing hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities.

#### **B. Recent steps taken:**

- Fixed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 300 for onion *w.e.f.* 17.6.2014 and increased to USD 500 *w.e.f.* 2.7.2014.

- Fixed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 450 for potato *w.e.f.* 26.6.2014.
  - Imposed stock holding limits on onions and potatoes under Essential Commodities Act and empowering State Governments to impose limits on stocking of these vegetables by traders *w.e.f.* 03.07.2014.
  - States advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from APMC Act.
  - Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of rice to BPL & APL families in states pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
  - Issued advisory to State Governments to take effective action against hoarding and black marketing under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and the PBMMSEC Act 1980.
- 

#### **Lead based paints**

428. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the study by National Referral Centre for Lead Poisoning in India, Bengaluru, 91 per cent of paints in India contain toxic lead;
- (b) if so, the details of the study made;
- (c) whether it is because of lenient BIS standard as compared to the Western standards;
- (d) the percentage of lead permissible as per BIS standards; and
- (e) whether there are any plans to ban lead-based paints in the country, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) to (c) The Department of Consumer Affairs has not commissioned any such study and nor has it received any such report.

(d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated 61 Indian standards on paints. Out of these, 37 Indian standards have been revised incorporating the maximum permissible limit for Lead. In remaining 24 Indian standards, lead content limit has not been prescribed.

The maximum permissible limit for lead which has been prescribed in the Indian standards are 90 ppm (max), 300 ppm (max) or 1000 ppm (max) depending on type of paints and their end use.

- (e) At present, there is no such plan to ban lead-based paints.

### **Implementation of Food Security Scheme**

429. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is receiving any complaints from State Governments regarding problems of storage and disbursement of foodgrains under Food Security Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to overcome these problems; and
- (d) the details of quantity of major foodgrains disbursed and expenditure incurred for implementation of this programme during current year, State-wise particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (c) The obligations and responsibilities of Central and State Governments are clearly specified in the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). The obligations of State Governments *inter-alia* include taking delivery of foodgrains from the designated depots of the Central Government in the State, organise intra-State allocations for delivery of the allocated foodgrains through their authorised agencies at the door-step of each fair price shop and ensure actual delivery of foodgrains to entitled persons. It is further provided that State Government is to create and maintain scientific storage facilities at the State, District and Block levels, being sufficient to accommodate foodgrains required under the TPDS and other food based welfare schemes and to suitably strengthen capacities of their Food and Civil Supplies Corporations and other designated agencies.

From time-to-time, State Governments have raised various issues relating to implementation of the Act during conferences, meetings and through letters, which *inter alia* included the issues of assistance to improve storage capacity at various levels in the State, funds for doorstep delivery of foodgrains etc. All such issues are examined on merit and suitable action taken wherever required.

(d) So far, 10 States, including Karnataka, and Union Territory (UT) of Chandigarh have started implementation of the Act and foodgrains have been allocated to them as per the identification of beneficiaries reported by them. State-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*). The difference between the economic cost of foodgrains and the issue prices is borne by the Central Government as food subsidy. The Economic cost (2014-15) of rice and wheat and the issue prices of foodgrains allocated under the Act are as under:

(₹ per kg.)

Foodgrains	Economic Cost	Issues Prices	
		As per Schedule-I of the Act	For 'Tide Over' allocation#
Rice	27.56	3.00	8.30
Wheat	19.94	2.00	6.10

# In case annual allocation of foodgrains to any State/UT under the Act is less than the average annual offtake of foodgrains for last three years under normal Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the same is protected and allocated as 'Tide Over' allocation'.

Actual expenditure on food subsidy depends upon the offtake of foodgrains by States/UTs out of the allocation made.

### Statement

#### Details of foodgrains allocated to States/UTs under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Current Monthly foodgrains allocation (tons)		
		Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	0	66250	66250
2.	Rajasthan	0	232631	232631
3.	Delhi	3785	13596	17381
		7538	22831	30369 <sup>s</sup>
4.	Himachal Pradesh	6395	9101	15496
		8946	17891	26837 <sup>s</sup>

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Punjab	0	72510	72510
6.	Karnataka	206362	0	206362
7.	Chhattisgarh	107573	0	107573
8.	Maharashtra	164636	210497	375133
9.	Chandigarh	397.1	595.65	992.75
		0	1608.25	1608.25 <sup>s</sup>
10.	Madhya Pradesh	66366	184597	265463*
11.	Bihar	245745	163830	409575

<sup>s</sup> Indicates 'Tide Over' allocation. Rest are at NFSA prices.

\* Includes 14500 tons per month of maize at Re. 1/- per kg.

#### **Food inflation**

430. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to control food inflation, Government would announce liquidation of 20 million tonnes of foodgrains from Government stocks at a price equivalent to last MSP plus 5 per cent to cover all costs;

(b) whether Government would also consider abolishing levy on rice mills and allow private sector to build its own silos and hold stocks upto 50,000 tonnes after a formal registration with Government; and

(c) the other programmes Government would consider to contain food inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) No, sir. However, during the current year 2014-15, Government has released additional 66.45 lakh tons of foodgrains from Central Pool to States/Union Territories (UTs) for distribution to additional BPL families at BPL rates and APL families at APL rate under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and 7.11 lakh tons of foodgrains for festivals, calamity relief, additional requirement under TPDS, etc. This is in addition to the provisional allotment of 483.30 lakh tons of foodgrains made to States/UTs under normal TPDS allocation, including the allocation under National Food Security Act.

(b) Central Government has authorized State Governments to impose levy for rice on millers/dealers and various State Governments have been imposing levy to varying extent ranging from 25% to 75%. Delegation of powers given to the State Governments has now been restricted by the Central Government to limit the imposition of levy on the millers/dealers to the maximum extent of 25%.

(c) Details of other steps taken by the Government to contain the price rise of essential commodities are given in Statement.

**Statement**

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

- 
- Reduced import duties to zero - for wheat, onion and pulses.
  - Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil, forest based oil and edible oils in blended consumer packs up to 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 oil, and edible oilseeds for a period up to 30.9.2014 and in respect of paddy and rice up to 30.11.2014.
  - 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.
  - Fixed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 300 for onion *w.e.f.* 17.6.2014 and increased to USD 500 *w.e.f.* 2.7.2014.
  - Fixed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 450 for potato *w.e.f.* 26.6.2014.
  - Imposed stock holding limits on onions and potatoes under Essential Commodities Act and empowering State Governments to impose limits on stocking of these vegetables by traders *w.e.f.* 03.07.2014.
  - States advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from APMC Act.
  - Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of rice to BPL & APL families in states pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
-

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- The Government is also implementing “The Essential Commodities Act, 1955” and “The Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980” with the objective of preventing hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities. Issued advisory to State Governments to take effective action against hoarding and black marketing under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and the PBMSEC Act 1980.
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#### **Bringing onion under Essential Commodity Act**

431. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to bring onion under Essential Commodities Act;
- (b) if so, the other items Government propose to include in the list;
- (c) whether State Governments have been consulted in the matter; and
- (d) the details of views expressed by State Governments in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) Onion is already included under “Foodstuffs” under the Essential Commodity Act, 1955.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Corruption in retail outlets of PDS**

432. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of corruption in retail outlets of Public Distribution System (PDS) in various States;
- (b) if so, the number of complaints Government has received from the public during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken against the accused where the charges were substantiated?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System including Fair Price Shops (FPSs) 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. State/UT-wise number of complaints received during the last three years is given in Statement-I (See below). However, specific information regarding corruption in retail outlets of TPDS is not maintained by the Department.

(c) Under the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, the States/UTs are competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. Details of action taken by States/UTs in case of malpractices, complaints, etc. under the clauses 8 & 9 are given in Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Complaints on TPDS received in the department from individuals, organisations and through media reports etc. from 2011 to 2013*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	-	3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	-
3	Assam	1	1	-
4	Bihar	6	14	32
5	Chhattisgarh	1	1	3
6	Delhi	16	22	37
7	Goa	-	-	-
8	Gujarat	2	3	4
9	Haryana	7	5	11
10	Himachal Pradesh	4	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
11	Jammu and Kashmir	-	3	-
12	Jharkhand	3	4	8
13	Karnataka	1	2	6
14	Kerala	1	4	1
15	Madhya Pradesh	9	6	17
16	Maharashtra	8	9	20
17	Manipur	1	1	2
18	Meghalaya	1	-	1
19	Mizoram	-	1	-
20	Nagaland	-	-	-
21	Odisha	2	3	3
22	Punjab	-	5	6
23	Rajasthan	6	3	18
24	Sikkim	-	-	0
25	Tamil Nadu	3	4	9
26	Uttarakhand	1	5	2
27	Uttar Pradesh	68	72	92
28	West Bengal	-	2	7
29	Chandigarh	-	-	-
30	Puducherry	-	1	-
TOTAL		144	171	282

**Statement-II**

*Results of action taken by the State/UT Governments under Clauses  
8 & 9 of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 from January 2011 to  
December, 2013 (As compiled upto 31.03.2014)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Year	Number of persons arrested/prosecuted/ convicted	Number of FPS licenses suspended/ cancelled/show cause notices issued/ FIR lodged
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2011	*	*
		2012	*	*
		2013	00	66
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2011	0	01
		2012	0	00
		2013	*	*
3	Assam	2011	200	129
		2012	00	32
		2013	00	14
4	Bihar	2011	49	8926
		2012	38	10358
		2013	4	3984
5	Chhattisgarh	2011	07	215
		2012	11	104
		2013	64	244
6	Delhi	2011	09	78
		2012	00	28
		2013	*	*

1	2	3	4	5
7	Goa	2011	00	51
		2012	00	23
		2013	00	52
8	Gujarat	2011	139	316
		2012	45	209
		2013	87	310
9	Haryana	2011	*	*
		2012	*	*
		2013	*	*
10	Himachal Pradesh	2011	08	00
		2012	02	00
		2013	02	04
11	Jammu and Kashmir	2011	*	*
		2012	*	*
		2013	*	*
12	Jharkhand	2011	*	*
		2012	*	*
		2013	*	*
13	Karnataka	2011	157	162
		2012	69	59
		2013	94	170
14	Kerala	2011	06	54
		2012	02	127
		2013	00	139

1	2	3	4	5
15	Madhya Pradesh	2011	00	4884
		2012	19	2323
		2013	71	4092
16	Maharashtra	2011	116	907
		2012	*	*
		2013	*	*
17	Manipur	2011	00	00
		2012	*	*
		2013	*	*
18	Meghalaya	2011	00	18
		2012	00	02
		2013	*	*
19	Mizoram	2011	02	10
		2012	00	03
		2013	00	00
20	Nagaland	2011	00	00
		2012	00	01
		2013	*	*
21	Odisha	2011	368	2722
		2012	131	1229
		2013	54	717
22	Punjab	2011	08	1304
		2012	*	*
		2013	*	*

1	2	3	4	5
23	Rajasthan	2011	283	00
		2012	335	00
		2013	170	00
24	Sikkim	2011	00	00
		2012	*	*
		2013	00	00
25	Tamil Nadu	2011	1290	00
		2012	2340	00
		2013	2008	00
26	Tripura	2011	42	590
		2012	00	780
		2013	56	388
27	Uttarakhand	2011	27	159
		2012	7	16
		2013	03	24
28	Uttar Pradesh	2011	653	3523
		2012	976	5302
		2013	311	1807
29	West Bengal	2011	58	1154
		2012	01	1213
		2013	00	679
30	A&N Islands	2011	03	09
		2012	00	17
		2013	00	00

1	2	3	4	5
31	Chandigarh	2011	03	00
		2012	00	00
		2013	10	00
32	D&N Haveli	2011	08	03
		2012	*	*
		2013	00	00
33	Daman and Diu	2011	*	*
		2012	*	*
		2013	*	*
34	Lakshadweep	2011	00	00
		2012	00	00
		2013	*	*
35	Puducherry	2011	22	01
		2012	161	00
		2013	36	01
	TOTAL	2011	3458	25216
		2012	4137	21826
		2013	2970	12691
GRAND TOTAL= 2011+2012+2013			10565	59733

\* Information not provided.

#### Contingency plan for shortfall in production

433. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seized of a possible shortfall in foodgrain production during the ensuing Kharif season due to delayed and insufficient rainfall predicted by the Meteorological Department;

(b) whether as a contingency plan, Government is holding sufficient buffer stocks to meet the continuing requirements of PDS, social welfare schemes like Mid-Day Meal Scheme, MNREGA and the National Food Security Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The stock position of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 1.7.2014 was 610.37 lakh tons comprising of 212.36 lakh tons of rice and 398.01 lakh tons of wheat. The current level of foodgrains is adequate to meet the requirement of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) at the existing level of allocation.

#### **Foodgrains lying in godowns of FCI**

434. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains lying in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) throughout the country; and

(b) whether Government intends to distribute them through PDS and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) The stock position of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 1.7.2014 was 610.37 lakh tons comprising of 212.36 lakh tons of rice and 398.01 lakh tons of wheat.

(b) During the current year 2014-15, Government has provisionally allocated a quantity of 556.86 lakh tons of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which includes normal TPDS allocation of 483.30 lakh tons, additional allocation of 66.45 lakh tons for Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, and 7.11 lakh tons for natural calamity, festivals and other TPDS requirements.



**Price-rise of essential items**

435. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of vegetables and other essential items are increasing substantially every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the firm steps Government will take to control the prices of essential items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Yes. The details of annual all India average retail prices of essential food items for the last two years and the current year up to June 2014 are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The recent initiatives taken by the Government to improve the availability and contain prices of essential food items include:

- (i) Fixed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 300 per MT for onion *w.e.f.* 17.6.2014 and increased to USD 500 per MT *w.e.f.* 2.7.2014.
- (ii) Fixed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 450 per MT for potato *w.e.f.* 26.6.2014.
- (iii) Imposed stock holding limits on onion and potato under Essential Commodities Act which empowers State Governments/UTs to fix the stock limits for traders *w.e.f.* 3.7.2014.
- (iv) States advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from APMC Act.
- (v) Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of Rice to BPL and APL families in States pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- (vi) Issued advisory to state Governments to take effective action against hoarding and Black marketing under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

***Statement****All India Average Annual Retail Prices*

Commodities Name	2012	2013	(₹ per Kg)
			2014 (up to 8.7.2014)*
Rice	22	26	28
Wheat	18	21	21
Atta (Wheat)	19	23	23
Gram Dal	58	55	48
Tur dal	65	69	70
Urad dal	60	60	67
Moong dal	66	74	85
Masoor dal	51	57	62
Groundnut Oil	124	130	121
Mustard Oil	100	100	98
Vanaspati	75	72	76
Soya Oil	84	85	84
Sunflower Oil	93	98	96
Palm Oil	71	68	71
Potato	15	17	19
Onion	14	33	20
Tomato	20	28	18
Sugar	36	36	35
Gur	37	40	40
Milk	31	34	36
Tea Loose	190	201	204
Salt	13	14	14

*Source:* State Civil Supplies Departments

\* Latest available

**Implementation of DBS**

436. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to continue with the Direct Benefit Scheme (DBS) launched by the previous Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) has been rolled out in 27 schemes pertaining to 17 scholarship schemes, 3 pension schemes and other schemes related with benefit for women, children and labour in identified 121 districts. A list of the DBT schemes is given in Statement.

**Statement***List of DBT Schemes*

Name of Ministry	Name of Schemes
M/o Women and Child Development	Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)
D/o School Education & Literacy	National Scheme for Incentive for the Girl Child For Secondary Education
	National Means Cum Merit Scholarship
D/o Higher Education	Fellowship Schemes of AICTE
	Fellowship Schemes of UGC
	Scholarship to Universities /College Students
M/o Health and Family Welfare	Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
M/o Minority Affairs	Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Minorities

Name of Ministry	Name of Schemes
M/o Labour and Employment	Maulana Azad National Fellowship
	Merit Cum Means Scholarship for Minorities
	NCLP
	Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers
	Housing Subsidy to Beedi Workers
	Stipend to Trainees Under The Scheme of Welfare of SC/ST Job Seekers
M/o Tribal Affairs	Stipend To Trainees for Skill Development in 34 Districts affected By Left Wing Extremism (LWE)
	Post Matric Scholarship for ST
	Top Class Education Scheme
M/o Social Justice and Empowerment	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship
	Post Matric Scholarship for SC Student
	Upgradation of Merit of SC Students.
	Pre Matric Scholarship for Children of Those Engaged Unclean Occupations
	Pre Matric Scholarship for SC
M/o Rural Development	Top Class Education Scheme for SC
	Post Matric Scholarship for OBC
	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension (NSAP)
	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension (NSAP)
	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension (NSAP)

**Increase in import duty on sugar**

†437. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the outstanding amount of sugarcane farmers of the country on sugar mills and the arrangement made for their payments;
- (b) the facilities provided to sugar mills by the Central Government as of now;
- (c) whether the duty on import of sugar has been increased from 15 per cent to 40 per cent and its impact on sale price of sugar in market; and
- (d) whether increasing the import duty on sugar is in the interest of sugar mills or consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) As on 30.06.2014, the outstanding amount of sugarcane farmers of the country on sugar mills is Rs. 11,524 crores. The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 stipulates payment of cane price within 14 days of supply, failing which interest at the rate of 15% per annum on amount due for the delayed period beyond 14 days is payable. The powers for enforcing this provision are delegated and vested with the State Governments/UT Administrations who have necessary field formations.

(b) In order to facilitate clearance of cane price arrears of previous sugar seasons and timely settlement of cane price of current sugar season to sugarcane farmers, the Central Government on 03.01.2014 has notified a Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014) envisaging interest free loans worth Rs. 6600 crores by bank as additional working capital to sugar mills. Further, the Central Government on 28.02.2014 has notified another scheme allowing incentives for marketing and promotion services for raw sugar production targeted for export market. The incentive available under the Scheme shall be utilized by the sugar mills for making payment to the farmers.

- (c) No Sir, the current rate of import duty on sugar is 15%.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Wastage of foodgrains**

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

- (a) the quantum of foodgrains in Government stock wasted during last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) how much of it was wasted due to lack of proper storage facilities;
- (c) how much of the wastage could have been avoided by proper storage facilities;
- (d) how much money is spent on an average every year for storage of food articles; and
- (e) the amount of foodgrains required for distribution to poorer sections of people as per Food Security Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):

(a) Details of foodgrains (wheat and rice) accrued as damaged during last three years and current year in Food Corporation of India (FCI) is as under:

(Quantity in lakh tons)

Year	Accrued as damaged/non-issueable	Storage loss*	Transit loss*
2011-12	0.03	2.05	1.96
2012-13	0.03	2.20	2.12
2013-14	0.25	1.47	2.06
2014-15 (as on 1.6.2014)	0.017	0.23	0.36

\* Figures for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are audited and for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are provisional.

(b) and (c) Foodgrains under central pool are stored in covered godowns as well as in Cover & Plinth (CAP) storage for varying periods. During storage, scientific code of practices for safe storage of foodgrains are adopted. However, some quantity of 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 foodgrains, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc. At present sufficient covered and CAP storage capacity is available with FCI and State agencies which is 758.52 lakh tons, while the total foodgrain stock as on 1.6.2014 was 622.31 lakh tons.

(d) Money spent on storage of foodgrains during last three years and current year is as under:

(Amount Rs. in crores)				
Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (RE)
Storage Cost	2180.22	2364.40	2706.55	3463.55

(e) Total foodgrain requirement under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 is estimated at Rs.614.4 lakh tons.

### Computerization of PDS

†439.SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

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

(a) whether the task of full computerization of Public Distribution System (PDS) has been completed;

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

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be completed;

(d) whether all provisions of the Food Security Law have been implemented; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State/UT-wise status of implementation of Component-I of the Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' upto 31.05.2014 is given in Statement (*See* below). As per the timelines under the scheme, digitization of beneficiary database was to be completed by March, 2013 and computerisation of supply-chain management was to be completed by October, 2013 by all States/UTs. The implementation of the scheme is uneven across the country due to delay in finalization of action plans by States/UTs, late submission of their proposals for financial assistance, practical problems faced during implementation, etc. No revised timelines have been prescribed.

(d) and (e) Based on identification of beneficiaries reported by them, allocation of foodgrains under the National Food Security Act, 2013 has been made to ten States and one UT.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

**Statement-I***Status of Component-I of End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations*

(as upto 31.05.2014)									
States	FPS Data*	Godowns Data*	Ration Card Data*	Online Allocation	Supply Chain	Transparency Portal	Online Grievance	Toll free Number	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	100%	-	100%	In Progress	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Andhra Pradesh**	100%	100%	100%	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Arunachal Pradesh	100%	64%	76%	Few locations	-	Yes	-	Yes	
Assam	100%	82%	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	
Bihar	100%	100%	89%	In progress	In progress	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Chandigarh	100%	100%	79%	Not operational	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Chhattisgarh	100%	100%	100%	Implemented	Implemented	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	100%	100%	57%	-	-	Yes	-	Yes	



Daman and Diu	100%	100%	51%	-	-	Yes	-	-
Delhi	100%	n/a	100%	Implemented	Implemented	Yes	-	Yes
Goa	89%	100%	100%	In Progress	In Progress	Yes	-	Yes
Gujarat	100%	100%	100%	Implemented	In Progress	Yes	Yes	Yes
Haryana	100%	100%	100%	Only 4 blocks	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Himachal Pradesh	100%	100%	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jammu and Kashmir	100%	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	Yes
Jharkhand	100%	100%	98%	3 Districts	-	Yes	Yes	-
Karnataka	100%	100%	100%	Implemented	Implemented	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kerala	100%	100%	100%	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lakshadweep	100%	100%	90%	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	100%	100%	100%	Yes	In progress	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maharashtra	100%	100%	100%	Implemented	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manipur	100%	100%	54%	-	-	-	-	Yes
Meghalaya	100%	100%	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mizoram	100%	100%	65%	-	-	-	-	Yes
Nagaland	100%	100%	-	-	-	Yes	-	Yes
Odisha	100%	100%	2%	Yes	Partially	Yes	Yes	Yes
Puducherry	100%	-	100%	2 divisions	2 divisions	Yes	Yes	-
Punjab	100%	100%	83%	-	-	Yes	-	-
Rajasthan	92%	100%	60%	-	-	-	Yes	Yes
Sikkim	100%	100%	100%	-	-	Yes	-	Yes
Tamil Nadu	100%	100%	100%	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-
Tripura	100%	100%	80%	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	100%	100%	34%	-	-	Yes	-	Yes
Uttarakhand	100%	100%	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
West Bengal	100%	100%	69%	In 3 districts	-	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Data in most States is in the process of being verified. Some States are to push data in standard format.

\*\* Includes State of Telangana

**Cold storage and processing facilities**

440. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of fruits and vegetables wasted in the country annually for want of cold storage and processing facilities;
- (b) the present status of food processing industries in the country;
- (c) how many food processing units are functioning in Maharashtra; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to set up additional units in that State, if so, the details thereof along with location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As per the report of Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) (ICAR, Ludhiana), published in 2010, based on nationwide sample survey, annual wastage of fruits and vegetables is estimated in the range of 5.8% to 18% having value of Rs. 13,309 crores annually. The crop-wise wastages of fruits and vegetables are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Food Processing Sector forms an important segment of the Indian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP, employment and investment. The sector constitutes as much as 9.0 and 11.0 per cent of GDP in Manufacturing and Agriculture sector respectively. During the last 5 years ending 2012-13, Food Processing Industries sector has been growing at an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of around 8.4 per cent. As per latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI): 2011-12, the total number of factories and persons employed in the registered FP sector in the country is 36,881 and 17.77 lakh respectively. The export in food processing sector is growing with an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of 20.53 per cent for five years ending 2013-14.

(c) As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI): 2011-12, the total number of registered food processing industries in the country is 36,881, out of which 3,113 food processing units are located in Maharashtra. The details are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) The Ministry is implementing the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/

Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries. This scheme has been subsumed in the newly launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) w.e.f. 12th Plan (2012-17) to be implemented through the State/UT Governments including Maharashtra. Under the Mission, all the applications in the 12th Plan (w.e.f. 01.04.2012) under the above scheme are received and sanctioned by the respective State/UT Governments, for setting up of Food Processing units in the country.

***Statement-I***

*Details of wastages of various fruits and vegetables*

Crop / commodity	Losses estimated (%)	Estimate of economic value of the losses at 2009 wholesale prices (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
<b>(i) Fruits</b>		
1. Apple	12.3	953
2. Banana	6.6	1275
3. Citrus	6.3	839
4. Grapes	8.3	434
5. Guava	18	407
6. Mango	12.7	3298
7. Papaya	7.4	157
8. Sapota	5.8	74
TOTAL		7437
<b>(ii) Vegetables</b>		
1. Cabbage	6.9	217
2. Cauliflower	6.8	308
3. Green Pea	10.3	562
4. Mushroom	12.5	15

	1	2	3
5.	Onion	7.5	587
6.	Potato	9	2630
7.	Tomato	12.4	997
8.	Tapioca	9.8	556
	TOTAL		5872
GRAND TOTAL (Fruits + Vegetables)			13,309

Source: Study by Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana

### Statement-II

#### Number of Registered Food Processing Units in the country

Sl. No.	State/UT	Numbers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9,359
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4
3.	Assam	1,212
4.	Bihar	715
5.	Chandigarh (U.T.)	23
6.	Chhattisgarh	1,028
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8
8.	Daman and Diu	35
9.	Delhi	145
10.	Goa	85
11.	Gujarat	1,924
12.	Haryana	650
13.	Himachal Pradesh	171

Sl. No.	State/UT	Numbers
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	150
15.	Jharkhand	169
16.	Karnataka	1,979
17.	Kerala	1,437
18.	Madhya Pradesh	754
19.	Maharashtra	3,113
20.	Manipur	18
21.	Meghalaya	18
22.	Nagaland	12
23.	Odisha	875
24.	Puducherry	70
25.	Punjab	2,784
26.	Rajasthan	777
27.	Sikkim	18
28.	Tamil Nadu	5,186
29.	Tripura	55
30.	Uttar Pradesh	2,116
31.	Uttarakhand	381
32.	West Bengal	1,600
TOTAL		36,881

*\*Source: Annual Survey of Industries, 2011-12*

#### **FPIs in the State of Haryana**

441. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country, State-wise including Haryana;
- (b) the details of incentives/assistance provided by Government to develop and promote FPIs in the country;
- (c) the details of number of units benefited so far from such assistance during the last three years, State-wise including Haryana; and
- (d) the targets set and allocation made during the current year for promoting and developing FPIs, State-wise especially Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not maintain data on details of Food Processing Industries in the country including Haryana. However, as per Annual Survey of Industries, 2011-12, there were 36,881 registered food processing units in the country including Haryana. The details are given in Statement [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer SO/USQ No. 440 (Part (C))]

(b) During Eleventh Plan, Ministry of Food Processing Industries implemented a Plan Scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries. Under the above scheme, Ministry extended financial assistance to food processing units in the country including Haryana in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas and @33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North-Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas.

However, the above said scheme has been subsumed in the newly launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) in 12th Plan (2012-17). As per the Scheme guidelines under the mission, all the new applications in 12th Plan for the above scheme are received, sanctioned, and funds are released by the respective State/ UT Governments, for setting up of Food Processing units in the country.

In addition, Government of India provides various tax incentives to the Food Processing Industries in the country including Haryana. The details of incentives/financial assistance provided to the Food Processing Industries are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) Financial assistance provided under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries during 11th Plan & 12th Plan) 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15) towards committed liabilities of 11th Plan is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Also, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Food Processing in 12th Plan under the Technology Upgradation Scheme, number of Food Processing Units assisted State-wise and amount released is given in the Statement-III (*See below*).

(d) During 2014-15, Rs. 180 crores has been allocated under National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) to various States/UTs. The details of allocation State/UT-wise are given in Statement-IV (*See below*). The funds in each State/UT are meant for all the Schemes of NMFP including that of scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries, under which food processing units can be set up in the country by the interested entrepreneurs.

***Statement-I***

*The tax incentives provided by the Government for food processing sector  
in the country including Haryana.*

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**1. Income Tax:**

1.1. Deduction of expenditure: These incentives are allowed for the following businesses for the investment made in the previous year and prior to commencement of its operations:

1.1.1. Businesses allowed 100% deduction:

- (a) Setting up and operating a cold chain facility.
- (b) Setting up and operating warehousing facility for storage of agricultural produce.

1.1.2. Businesses allowed 150% deduction (provided the taxpayer has commenced its business on or after 01.04.2012):

- (a) Bee-keeping and production of honey and bees wax.
- (b) Setting up and operating a warehousing facility for storage of sugar.

1.2. Deduction of Tax from profit: This tax incentive is available at the rate of 100% tax exemption for the first 5 years of operations. After 5 years, it is at the rate of 25% of the profits. However, in case of a company, rate of tax is 30% of profits, after 5 years of operations. This benefit is available only for ten years provided that such business had commenced with effect from 01.04.2001. This incentive is provided for new units in the business of processing, preservation

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and packaging of fruits or vegetables, meat & meat Products, poultry, marine or dairy products. However, in case of business relating to meat, meat products, poultry, marine products or dairy products, the above incentive is available to only those units who have started their production after 01.04.2009.

## **2. Service Tax:**

- 2.1. Negative list: Service tax is not leviable on items contained in the negative list. These are services including processes carried out at an agricultural farm including tending, pruning, cutting, harvesting, drying, cleaning, trimming, sun drying, fumigating, curing, sorting, grading, cooling or bulk packaging and such operations which do not alter the essential characteristics of agricultural produce but make it only marketable for the primary market.
- 2.2. Exempted category: Exemption from Service Tax is allowed for following services:
- (i) Construction, Erection, Commissioning or installation of original works pertaining to post-harvest storage infrastructure for agricultural produce including Cold storages for such purposes.
  - (ii) Mechanized Food grain handling system, machinery or equipment for units processing agricultural produce as food stuff excluding alcoholic beverages; and
  - (iii) Services provided by a goods transport agency by way of transportation of fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk, food grains or pulses in a goods carriage.
  - (iv) Services of Loading, unloading, packing, storage or warehousing of agricultural produce.

## **3. Customs Duty:**

- 3.1. Government has provided following Project Import benefits:
- (i) Projects for the installation of mechanized food grain handling systems and pallet racking systems in 'Mandis' and Warehouses for food grains and sugar;
  - (ii) Cold storage, cold room (including for farm level pre-cooling) or industrial projects for preservation, storage or processing of agricultural, apiary, horticultural, dairy, poultry, aquatic and marine produce and meat.

Consequently, all goods related to Food Processing, imported as part of the project, irrespective of their tariff classification, would be entitled to uniform assessment at concessional customs duty of 5% plus CVD as applicable.

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3.2. Customs duty on Hazelnuts has been reduced from 30% to 10%.

3.3. Customs Duty on De-hulled Oat grains has been reduced from 30% to 15%.

**4. Central Excise Duty:**

In order to promote food processing industry, the Government has given following concessions in Central Excise Duty from time to time:

**4.1. Food Products:**

- (i) Nil excise duty in milk, milk products (Chapter 4), vegetables (Chapter 7), nuts & fruits, fresh & dried (Chapter 8).
- (ii) As against standard excise duty of 12%, Processed Fruits & Vegetables (Chapter 20) carries a merit rate of 2% without CENVAT or 6% with CENVAT.
- (iii) Soya Milk Drinks, Flavoured Milk of Animal origin also carry a duty of 2% without CENVAT or 6% with CENVAT.
- (iv) Excise duty on “Tapioca Starch manufactured and captively consumed within the factory of their production, in the manufacture of Tapioca Sago (Sabudana)” and excise duty on Tapioca Sago (Sabudana) has been reduced to nil in the Budget 2013-14.

**4.2. Food Processing Machineries:**

- (i) All Refrigeration Machineries and parts used for installation of Cold storage, Cold room or Refrigerated Vehicle, for the preservation, storage, transport or processing of agricultural, apiary, horticultural, dairy, poultry, aquatic and marine produce and meat are exempted from Excise Duty.
  - (ii) Pasteuring, drying, evaporating, etc. machinery used in Dairy sector is exempted from Excise Duty.
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**Statement-II**

*State-wise No. of units assisted and financial assistance provided during Eleventh Five Year Plan, FY 2012-13, FY 2013-14 & 2014-15 under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernization of FPIs*

Sl. No.	State	11th Five Year Plan		2012-13*		2013-14*		2014-15* (30.06.2014)		(Rs. in lakh)
		Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Andhra Pradesh	267	5000.40	221	4245.40	143	2877.00	34	591.00	
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6	460.23	0	0.00	2	69.00	0	0.00	
4	Assam	89	2156.20	18	376.12	11	255.00	0	0.00	
5	Bihar	20	388.14	2	36.43	2	27.00	2	35.00	
6	Chandigarh	7	163.08	0	0.00	2	33.00	0	0.00	
7	Chhattisgarh	116	1348.60	149	1753.70	68	801.00	16	231.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	Delhi	28	703.93	9	198.70	6	118.00	2	50.00
9	Goa	6	140.83	1	19.42	5	93.00	1	25.00
10	Gujarat	271	5318.80	53	858.71	77	1394.00	11	139.00
11	Haryana	129	2056.70	86	1122.20	34	566.00	2	48.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	48	1329.50	5	133.45	10	260.00	1	9.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir	30	379.15	2	16.43	3	55.00	0	0.00
14	Jharkhand	10	155.18	4	76.53	2	38.00	0	0.00
15	Karnataka	168	2703.20	81	1271.00	68	840.00	17	256.00
16	Kerala	183	3302.70	15	252.44	43	740.00	5	91.00
17	Madhya Pradesh	79	1235.10	31	422.19	30	405.00	4	14.00
18	Maharashtra	587	9047.40	137	1864.80	168	2367.00	40	453.00
19	Manipur	24	484.69	21	467.49	38	944.00	0	0.00
20	Meghalaya	7	390.83	1	5.42	3	72.00	0	0.00
21	Mizoram	1	11.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00

22	Nagaland	7	276.89	2	14.21	2	22.00	0	0.00
23	Odisha	31	566.96	15	259.00	5	73.00	2	28.00
24	Puducherry	3	56.30	6	150.00	1	25.00	0	0.00
25	Punjab	262	3337.60	231	2420.80	83	949.00	9	131.00
26	Rajasthan	249	3371.20	41	615.63	50	545.00	8	100.00
27	Sikkim	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
28	Tamil Nadu	229	4101.60	44	689.19	58	997.00	17	271.00
29	Tripura	3	53.84	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
30	Uttar Pradesh	238	4545.20	39	622.29	57	1028.00	23	343.00
31	Uttarakhand	38	1117.10	5	115.49	7	225.00	2	66.00
32	West Bengal	93	1818.00	8	186.85	18	390.00	11	172.00
33	MM IV	0	0.00	5	426.28	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		3229	56020.00	1232	18620.00	996	16208.00	207	3053.00

• Committed liabilities of 11th Plan.

***Statement-III***

*State-wise no. of units assisted and financial assistance approved under the Technology Upgradation Scheme of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP)\* (Centrally Sponsored Scheme) in 12th Plan (2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15).*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No. State		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	419.00	0	0	-	-
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	-	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	150.00	0	0	-	-
4.	Assam	3	46.00	0	0	-	-
5.	Bihar	2	45.00	1	12.00	-	-
6.	Chhattisgarh	2	100.00	0	0	-	-
7.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	-	-
8.	Goa	6	104.00	2	79.00	-	-
9.	Gujarat	53	1911.00	9	286.00	-	-
10.	Haryana	9	388.00	4	179.00	-	-
11.	Himachal Pradesh	21	593.00	0	0	-	-
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	630.00	0	0	-	-
13.	Jharkhand	1	24.00	6	350.00	-	-
14.	Karnataka	36	1392.00	14	471.00	-	-
15.	Kerala	7	258.00	11	439.00	-	-
16.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	-	-
17.	Madhya Pradesh	20	622.00	24	936.00	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Maharashtra	60	2045.00	31	970.00	-	-
19.	Manipur	3	12.00	0	0	-	-
20.	Meghalaya	4	83.00	5	100.00	-	-
21.	Mizoram	2	35.00	2	40.00	-	-
22.	Nagaland	7	89.00	0	0	-	-
23.	Odisha	7	285.00	0	0	-	-
24.	Puducherry	1	50.00	2	66.00	-	-
25.	Punjab	3	124.00	0	0	-	-
26.	Rajasthan	8	323.00	34	1186.00	-	-
27.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	-	-
28.	Tripura	0	0	2	174.00	-	-
29.	Tamil Nadu	5	174.00	2	94.00	-	-
30.	Uttar Pradesh	36	1459.00	0	0	-	-
31.	Uttarakhand	0	0	2	23.00	-	-
32.	West Bengal	10	395.00	36	1626.00	-	-
TOTAL		337	11756	187	7031	-	-

\* NMFP was implemented during 12th Plan.

#### Statement-IV

*State / UT-wise allocation of funds / GOI share to States / UTs  
for implementation of NMFP during FY 2014-15*

(a) States:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State	Allocation of GOI share (2014-15)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.38

1	2	3
2.	Bihar	8.92
3.	Chhattisgarh	5.83
4.	Goa	2.14
5.	Gujarat	8.68
6.	Haryana	4.11
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3.39
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.81
9.	Jharkhand	5.13
10.	Karnataka	8.64
11.	Kerala	4.39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11.40
13.	Maharashtra	13.36
14.	Odisha	7.01
15.	Punjab	4.32
16.	Rajasthan	11.84
17.	Tamil Nadu	8.02
18.	Uttar Pradesh	16.43
19.	Uttarakhand	3.51
20.	West Bengal	8.20
TOTAL		153.51

**(b) North-Eastern States:**

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.96
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1	2	3
2.	Assam	4.70
3.	Manipur	2.40
4.	Meghalaya	2.41
5.	Mizoram	2.29
6.	Nagaland	2.29
7.	Sikkim	2.11
8.	Tripura	2.33
TOTAL		21.49

**(c) UTs:**

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.41
2.	Chandigarh*	0.00
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	0.00
4.	Daman and Diu*	0.00
5.	Delhi	1.53
6.	Lakshadweep	1.00
7.	Puducherry	1.06
TOTAL		5.00

\*UTs which have not taken funds for preparatory activities / advance action and also for NMFP main scheme.

**FPIs in Public and Private Sector**

442. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in public and private sector, respectively in the country;

(b) the estimated number of persons employed in FPIs both in public and private sector in the country;

(c) whether Government has estimated the possible number of jobs to be created by FPIs during Twelfth Five Year Plan, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the additional incentives to be provided to States/Union Territories for setting up FPIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the main source of annual data on food processing units registered under Factory Act, 1948. Information on unregistered food processing units is generated through National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) rounds every five year.

Food processing units are set up by entrepreneurs in the private sector. Information on the number of units and employment in food processing sector, is as under:

*Number of Units and employment in food processing sector in 2010-11*

	Registered	Unregistered	Total
Number of Units (nos.)	36,881	22,41,195	22,78,076
Employment (lakhs)	16.62	47.93	64.55

*Source: Annual Survey of Industries (2010-11) and NSSO 67th Round (2010-11)*

As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), the number of registered food processing units in the country in 2011-12 was 36,881 employing 17.77 lakh persons.

(c) Planning Commission has projected employment in food processing sector in the range of 6.46- 7.29 million for the terminal year (2016-17) of Twelfth Five year Plan.

(d) Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) - on 1st April, 2012 for promoting food processing sector through active participation of the State/ UT Governments. The various schemes under the NMFP, interalia, include Establishment/ Technology upgradation/ modernisation of food processing units, setting up cold chain units for non-horticultural products, Primary Processing Centres/ Collection Centres in Rural Areas, setting up/ modernisation of meat shops, Reefer Vehicles, Human Resource Development and Promotional Activities.

NMFP is implemented with financial contribution of Government of India and States/UTs in the ratio of 75:25, except for North-Eastern States, where the ratio is 90:10. For UTs, it is funded 100 per cent as grant by Government of India.

### **Improving food processing industries**

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

- (a) whether any concrete measures have been taken during the last three years by Government to improve the food processing industries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) how Government is making food processing industry globally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is implementing Central Sector Schemes for Infrastructure Development (a) Mega Food Parks (b) Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure (c) Setting up/Modernization of Abattoirs, Scheme of Technology Upgradation / Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research & Development and Other Promotional Activities, Scheme for Human Resource Development and Scheme of Strengthening of Institutions for development of food processing industries in the country.

The Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) *w.e.f.* 01/04/2012, being implemented by the State Governments/ Union Territories. The components of the NMFP are (i) Scheme of Technology up-gradation/ Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non Horticulture-Products (iii) Scheme for Modernization of Abattoirs (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development (v) Scheme for Promotional Activities (vi) Scheme for Creating Primary Processing Centres/ Collection Centres in Rural Areas (vii) Modernization of Meat -Shops and (viii) Reefer Vans vehicles.

(c) Government is motivating the food processing industries for adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as TQM including ISO: 14000, ISO: 22000, HACCP, GMP, GHP, to prepare them to face global competition, to enable adherence to

stringent quality and hygiene norms, to enhance product acceptance by overseas buyers and to keep Indian industry technologically abreast of international best practices to make food processing industry globally competitive.

**Abolition of obsolete laws**

444. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be please to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Jain Committee was appointed to identify obsolete laws in the country;
- (b) if so, how many laws were identified and abolished till date;
- (c) how many obsolete laws are still operative in the country and whether Government intends to abolish them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1382 Acts were recommended for repeal and 415 Acts have been repealed so far.

(c) and (d) Review of all laws, including those enacted during the British era, with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by different nodal Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government administering the respective laws allocated to them and generally by the Law Commission of India. The Government of India has constituted Twentieth Law Commission with effect from 1st September, 2012 for three-year's term. The Terms of Reference of the said Law Commission includes "Review/Repeal of obsolete laws".

**Banning entry of criminals in Legislatures**

445. SHRI H.K. DUA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning any special law to ban entry of criminals into Parliament and State Legislatures;
- (b) the number of candidates with criminal background who contested the recent parliamentary election and how many of them have been elected; and

(c) whether Government is planning to hold discussions with the Election Commission and political parties to decide future strategy on tackling this serious problem facing our parliamentary democracy?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) A 'Criminal' means a person who has committed crime. Thus a person can be said to have committed crime only when the said person is convicted by a court of law. Further, on conviction of certain offences specified in section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a person gets disqualified for being chosen as and for being a member of Parliament or State Legislatures. Therefore, there are adequate provisions for restricting entry of criminals in Parliament and State Legislatures. Further, the Law Commission in its 244th Report on electoral disqualifications *inter alia* recommended for disqualifying a person against whom charge has been framed by a competent court in respect of a criminal offence punishable with imprisonment of five years or more provided that the charges are framed one year prior to date of scrutiny of nomination. The said proposal is under consideration of the Government.

As per the provisional data issued by the Election Commission, total of 8251 candidates have contested on a party ticket in general elections to Lok Sabha-2014 and the only mechanism to check their criminal antecedents is to go through all the affidavits filed before the concerned returning officers which itself is a gigantic task and cannot be completed in a given time-frame. There is no compilation available with the Government containing the details of persons having criminal background being elected in recent parliamentary election.

#### **Legislators with criminal charges**

446. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the provisions for preventing the Legislators with criminal charges from entering the Legislatures;
- (b) the details of Parliamentarians with criminal charges at present; and
- (c) the action Government plans to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a)

At present there is no provision in the election laws which prevents persons charged in a criminal offence from entering Parliament and State Legislatures. However, on conviction

in respect of offences specified in section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a person gets disqualified for being chosen as and for being a member of Parliament or State Legislatures.

(b) As per the provisional data issued by the Election Commission, total of 8251 candidates have contested on a party ticket in general elections to Lok Sabha-2014 and the only mechanism to check their criminal antecedents is to go through all the affidavits filed before the concerned returning officers which itself is a gigantic task and cannot be completed in a given time-frame. There is no compilation available with the Government containing the details of persons having criminal background being elected in recent parliamentary election.

(c) Recently, the Law Commission of India submitted its 244<sup>th</sup> Report on Electoral Disqualification which *inter alia* includes disqualification for being chosen as and for being a member of Legislature on framing of charges by a competent court prior to one year from the date of scrutiny of nominations in cases concerning any offence punishable with imprisonment of five years or more. The said report is being examined.

#### **Law colleges**

447. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of law colleges functioning in the country and the details thereof;
- (b) the system of extension of renewal of permission/approval of law colleges;
- (c) the authority which accords such permission/approval; and
- (d) the steps Government proposes to take to control such authority, which is not working properly?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Central funding for setting up of Fast Track Courts**

448. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to restart Central funding for setting up of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) in States which was done away in the year 2011; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government would extend strategic and financial help to States to set

up Fast Track Courts particularly when States have been asked to set up such Courts for trial of rape cases as well as offences against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of the society; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has decided to provide funds on a matching basis upto 31.03.2015 from the Thirteenth Finance Commission Award for salaries of the 10% additional positions of Judges being created in the subordinate Judiciary following the direction of Supreme Court in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India. The State Governments and Chief Justices of High Courts have been requested that they may utilise these positions for creation of Fast Track Courts also.

In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 7th April, 2013, it has been resolved that the State Governments shall, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, take necessary steps to establish suitable number of Fast Track Courts relating to offences against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of the society and provide adequate funds for the purpose of creating and continuing Fast Track Courts.

#### **Vacancies of Supreme Court Judges**

449. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges that exist in Supreme Court of the country;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to fill these vacancies, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the collegium has submitted any panel of lawyers and High Court Judges for elevation to the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, whether Government has accepted these proposals; and

(e) if not, the reasons for rejecting any of these names?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Against a sanctioned strength of 31 judges including that of Chief Justice of India,

there are 27 judges in position as on 8.7.2014, leaving 4 vacancies of Judges to be filled up in Supreme Court. Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of 1993, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court rests with the Chief Justice of India. The recommendations of the Collegium headed by the Chief Justice of India are processed by the Government, as and when they are received.

(c) to (e) The Supreme Court Collegium *vide* minutes of its meeting held on May 06, 2014, had recommended the appointment of Chief Justices of Calcutta and Orissa High Courts and two senior Advocates as Judges of the Supreme Court of India. While appointment for three judges was notified on 25th June, 2014, name of one Senior Advocate was referred back to the Supreme Court for re-consideration by the Collegium. Subsequently, the Chief Justice of India has informed that the said senior Advocate has withdrawn his consent for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

**Construction of court complex and residential  
accommodation in Chhattisgarh**

†450. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Chhattisgarh has sent letters in May, 2013 and August, 2013 under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for making available a fund of Rs. 3540.86 lacs for completion of under construction court complex and residential accommodations for judicial officers in the year 2012-13;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) by when the required funds will be made available for construction of court complex and residential accommodations for judicial officers; and

(d) the reasons behind delay in disbursement of the abovesaid fund?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to augment the resources of the State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been in operation since 1993-94. On receipt of the complete proposals from the State Governments including utilization certificates for the funds released earlier necessary financial assistance is sanctioned to the State Governments in terms of the guidelines of the scheme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



The State Government of Chhattisgarh had been released an amount of Rs.50 crores under the scheme of which Rs.20.97 crores was released in 2011-12. The proposals for release of further financial assistance were received from the State Government in 2013-14, however, the State Government had not furnished the utilization certificate for the entire amount sanctioned in 2011-12. The State Government has recently furnished a report on physical and financial progress of projects under the Scheme based on which a sanction order has been issued for release of further grant of Rs. 21.76 crore to State Government of Chhattisgarh on 8th July, 2014.

**Pendency of court cases and shortage of judicial staff**

†451. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed the report of the Parliamentary Committee as per which more than 2 crore 68 lakh cases are lying pending in the lower courts of the country and there is a shortage of more than 3000 judicial staff;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the Committee regarding the cases pending in the lower courts;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government would take steps to address this problem by setting up “Fast Track Courts” across the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (d) Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 67th Report has observed that there are a large number of pending cases and shortage of judicial personnel in subordinate courts. The Committee is of the view that both these issues are closely related to each other. The Committee has *inter-alia* recommended that recruitment and training of judicial personnel and subordinate staff may help in reducing the pendency of cases.

The Government has taken up this matter with the High Courts and State Governments requesting them to operationalise all sanctioned courts by filling up vacant posts of judicial officers. They have also been requested to organize Pendency Reduction Campaigns and Mega Lok Adalats to reduce the pendency of cases in courts. Regular training programmes of judicial officers and other court functionaries both at induction level and during inservice training are being held at National Judicial Academy and State Judicial Academies.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

High Courts / State Governments have also been requested to set up Fast Track Courts for trial of cases relating to crime against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalised sections of society.

#### **Retirement age of High Court Judges**

452. SHRI H.K. DUA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the suggestion made by a former Chief Justice favouring a fixed tenure for the Chief Justice of India, if so, whether Government is going to accept the suggestion;

(b) by when Government would bring forward a Bill to raise the retirement age of High Court Judges from 62 years to 65 years as has been recommended by the Standing Committee for Law and Justice; and

(c) whether there are plans to raise the retirement age of Supreme Court judges also?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) No proposal has been received from the former Chief Justice of India for a fixed tenure for the Chief Justice of India.

(b) The Constitution (One Hundred and Fourteenth Amendment) Bill, 2010 for increasing the retirement age of High Court Judges from 62 years to 65 years was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 25.08.2010. However, the Bill could not be considered in the Parliament. With the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha the Bill has lapsed.

(c) There is no proposal for increasing the retirement age of Supreme Court Judges.

#### **Pending rape cases in High Court of Andhra Pradesh**

453. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 390 rape cases are pending in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of cases which are pending for more than five, ten and fifteen years and the reasons for such pendency; and

(c) the special efforts Government is making to ensure that every rape case is disposed of in one year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) As per the information made available by High Court of Andhra Pradesh, 302 Criminal Appeal Cases and 140 Criminal Revision Cases relating to Rape Cases are pending as on 07.07.2014 in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. 74 Criminal Appeal Cases and 56 Criminal Revision Cases are pending for over five years. The pendency is on account of high institution of cases *vis-a-vis* working strength of judges in the High Court.

(c) In order to expedite the trial of criminal cases, in general, and for certain serious offences relating to crime against women, in particular, Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, *inter alia*, provides that in every enquiry or trial, proceedings shall be held as expeditiously as possible, and in particular, when examination of witnesses has once begun, the same shall be continued from day-to-day until all the witnesses in attendance have been examined, and unless the court finds the adjournment of the same beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded. This Section has further been amended through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to provide that when the inquiry or trial relates to an offence under Section 376, Section 376 A, Section 376 B, Section 376 C or Section 376 D of the Indian Penal Code, the inquiry or trial shall, as far as possible be completed within a period of two months from the date of filing of the charge-sheet. The Government on its part has been pursuing the matter with the State Governments / High Courts for setting up of Fast Track Courts to *inter-alia* expedite the trial of cases relating to Crime Against Women.

#### **Pending railway projects**

†454.SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many major projects of Railways are pending for want of financial resources, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is mulling options like hundred per cent foreign direct investment and private partnership for mobilizing resources to complete major projects of Railways, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. As on 01.04.2014, there are 154 ongoing New Line, 42 Gauge

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Conversion and 166 doubling projects across the country requiring about Rs.1,82,224 crore for their completion.

(b) Ministry of Railways has approached Department of Industrial Policy and Planning for allowing Foreign Direct Investment in Rail Transport.

#### **Railway safety projects**

455. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increasing trend in train accidents during the last four years;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) the details and number of posts related to safety measures remaining vacant during the said period; and

(d) the progress in upgrading safety enhancing projects like installation of Anti-Collision Device (ACD), modernization of communication system, including signaling system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents including incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings, have generally decreased from 141 in 2010-11 to 131 in 2011-12, 121 in 2012-13 and further to 117 in 2013-14. Notwithstanding this, every accident is unfortunate and is a matter of concern for Indian Railways. Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety.

(c) Safety category vacancies during the last four years on Indian Railways are as under:

As on	Number of Safety Category vacancies
01.04.2011	1,26,304
01.04.2012	1,49,271
01.04.2013	1,42,311
01.04.2014	1,29,152 (Prov.)

(d) Progress in respect of major safety enhancing projects is as under:

**(i) Anti -Collision Device (ACD) :**

- Deployment of Anti-Collision Device (ACD) after initial trials, was done on Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) covering 1736 Route KMs. This was a single/double line non-electrified Broad Gauge section. Anti-Collision Device provided by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) and on trials on Northeast Frontier Railway had operational problems and technical issues. To overcome these problems, KRCL has now developed updated ACD version 1.1.2m which has been deployed on all Divisions of Northeast Frontier Railway after completion of joint trials by Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), NFR and KRCL.
- ACD Version 2.0 for electrified multiple lines, Automatic Signalling section was put on trial on Southern Railway in 2010-11. Operational and Technical problems were experienced during the trials on Southern Railway which could not be fully resolved by KRCL due to design limitations of ACD. Further development of ACD version 2.0 has been put on hold by KRCL.
- Works for deployment of ACD have been sanctioned on 6800 RKMs over Eastern, East Central, East Coast, Southern, South Central, South Western and South Eastern Railways at a cost of Rs. 442 Cr.

**(ii) Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) :**

- TPWS is a safety system based on International Safety Standards. It eliminates accidents caused due to human error like Signal Passing at Danger and over speeding.
- Two pilot projects of Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) have been implemented (i) between Chennai Central and Gummidipundi (50 Route KMs) on suburban section of Southern Railway and (ii) Non-suburban Delhi - Agra Section (200 Route KMs) of Northern/North Central Railway where service trials are in progress.
- TPWS is also under commissioning on Kolkata Metro between Dumdum and Kavi Subhash Nagar stations (25 Route KMs) for all the rakes.
- Further, works have been approved for provision of TPWS (ETCS Level 1) on 3330 RKMs at a cost of Rs. 1740 Cr. on Indian Railways covering Automatic Signalling Sections / High Density Network (HDN) of eight Zonal Railways.

- In the first phase, process to acquire TPWS (ETCS Level 1) equipment on Automatic Signalling Suburban sections where Electrical Multiple Units (EMUs), Mail Express Multiple Units (MEMUs), Diesel Multiple Units (DEMUs) and Main Line Locomotives ply has been initiated for Eastern, South Eastern and North Central Railways.

**(iii) Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) :**

- Based upon experience gained from ACD and TPWS systems, Indian Railways has now taken up development of TCAS which is being done indigenously by RDSO. TCAS shall be a fusion of functionalities of TPWS and ACD and shall prevent Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD) and collisions.
- RDSO has finalized the specification of TCAS and proof of concept trials were successfully carried out during October/November 2012 on South Central Railway.
- Extended field trials on 250 Kms Lingampalli- Vikarabad- Wadi- Bidar Section of South Central Railway have been planned by RDSO and work has been awarded to three indigenous firms.
- Full Prototype of the system shall be ready for field trials and functional trials with 40 locomotives on 250 RKMs section shall start shortly.
- Operational deployment of TCAS on Indian Railways will be considered after successful extended field trials expected to be completed by March, 2015.

**(iv) Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) :**

- AWS is a track magnet based system working in Mumbai suburban area of Western and Central Railways since 1987 (320 RKm), where suburban trains run at a Headway of about 4 minutes.
- This system applies brakes automatically in case Driver disregards a **RED** Signal.

**(v) Vigilance Control Device (VCD) :**

- Vigilance Control Device is a system provided in the locomotives where if the driver does not perform a certain set of actions over a period of 20 seconds, it gives audio visual alarms and then applies brakes automatically.

- Provision of VCD has been completed in almost all diesel and electric locomotives.
- (vi) Complete Track Circuiting of the station to enhance safety by verification of track occupancy has been completed at 99.83% of total 'A', 'B', 'C' Routes.
- (vii) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'D Spl.' routes, where permissible speed is more than 75 kmph, has been completed.
- (viii) Electrical/Electronic Interlocking System to eliminate human failure is being progressively provided at stations.
- (ix) Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC) for 'Last vehicle check' has been provided at about 4246 Block Sections.
- (x) **Modernization of Communication System:**
- Modernization of Communication System is an ongoing work. Railways have laid Optical Fibre Cable capable of carrying high speed data in 46850 RKms of its network totaling 65000 RKms. Similarly Quad cable for Block operations and level crossing gate telephones has also been laid down on 53950 RKms of the rail network.
  - GSM(R) based Mobile Train Communication (MTRC) provides safe and secure communication between loco pilot, guard, station masters, controllers and maintenance teams working along the track. This system also provides a feature to alert all MTRC subscribers in a radius of 10 Kms (programmable) whenever unsafe conditions are observed on the track with a single push by button. GSM(R) is also a carrier for signalling data in radio based signalling systems. On date, MTRC works have been sanctioned on about 2400 RKms of Indian Railways. Of these, MTRC system has been commissioned on 2200 RKms and works are in various stages of completion of balance sections.

#### **Railway facilities for Simhashta Kumbha in Ujjain**

†456. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the action plan prepared by the Ministry for providing required safe infrastructure for railway, expansion on both sides of Ujjain railway station for facilitating easy movement of passengers, construction of additional sub-stations for stoppage of trains, retiring rooms for train passengers, drinking water, light and other public conveniences for upcoming Simhashta Kumbha in Ujjain in 2016?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Yes, Sir. In view of the importance of the forthcoming Kumbh Mela in 2016, the following additional passenger amenities at Ujjain Railway Station have been sanctioned:

- (i) Improvements to platform cover on Platforms No.2/3, & 6/7;
- (ii) Raising of Platforms No. 1, 2/3 and 4/5;
- (iii) Development of additional sitting space on Platform No.1;
- (iv) Provision of additional foot-over-bridge at Indore end;
- (v) Extension of the existing foot-over-bridge at Nadiad end;
- (vi) Provision of chilled water plant of 1200 liters capacity; and
- (vii) Improvement of lights at various platforms etc.

Further, additional passenger amenities have been planned at adjoining satellite stations such as Nagda, Vikramnagar, Shibra Bridge, Fatehbad, Naikheri, Chitaman Ganesh, Pingleshwar Nai Khedi, Indore, Ratlam etc.

#### **Demand and supply of passenger coaches**

†457. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of demand and supply of passenger coaches in each zonal railway in the country, class-wise; and
- (b) the measures taken for manufacturing of coaches to supply them as per requirement for mobility in traffic according to the new norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Demand of rail service is dynamic and increase/decrease depends upon seasonal variation, incremental growth, etc. The supply of coach is based on these factors.

- (b) During a financial year, the production of coaches is commensurate with the projected requirement as planned.

#### **Railway works in Uttarakhand**

458. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Karnprayag railway track in Uttarakhand; and
- (b) whether Government plans to shift Dehradun railway station to a better and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.



bigger place like Harrawala, if so, the details thereof and the time period to have it started and finished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Preliminary alignment for Rishikesh-Karanprayag new line project has been finalised by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a PSU under Ministry of Railways to whom this work has been entrusted for execution. Geo-physical studies and Geological mapping, work of staking of the alignment on ground with concrete pillars, processes for land requirement for yards, tunnel portals, bridge locations, etc. and submission of proposals to State authorities for forest clearance and land acquisition have been taken up.

(b) No, Sir.

#### **Izzat monthly season ticket**

459. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of issuing Izzat monthly season ticket to persons belonging to low income category working in unorganized sector is being implementing successfully;

(b) if so, the newly adopted conditions/relaxations to get Izzat Season Ticket;

(c) whether 100 Kilometres distance has been extended to 150 kilometres;

(d) how many unorganized sector low income category persons are having Izzat monthly season ticket under the jurisdiction of South Central Railway, division-wise; and

(e) the action being taken to prevent misuse of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 15.10.2013, the following additional provisions have been made for issue of Izzat MST:

(i) Alongwith other prescribed certificates, income certificate from local Government officials *i.e.* SDM/SDO/BDO/Tehsildar has been made mandatory; and

(ii) Passengers have to submit a copy of the proof of residence.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During 2013-14 a total of 1,66,628 Izzat season tickets were issued on South Central Railway. The Division-wise details are as under:

Divisions	No. of Izzat MST Issued
Secunderabad	1,26,230
Vijayawada	6,410
Hyderabad	10,243
Guntur	6,422
Nanded	14,791
Guntakal	2,532

(e) Apart from the regular checks being conducted at stations to check the misuse of Izzat MST, the provisions of income certificate from State Government officials and the submission of proof of residence have been made mandatory [as mentioned at (b) above] so that only bonafide eligible persons can avail of the facility.

**Distance limit on issuing a tatkal ticket**

460. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to limit issuance of Tatkal ticket only to a minimum distance of 500 kilometers, changing the earlier set limit of 200 kilometers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that this decision causes difficulties and financial loss to short distance travellers, especially travelling within small States like Kerala; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider a reversal of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) With a view to discourage short distance travel under the Tatkal scheme, the minimum distance for booking tickets under the Tatkal Scheme has been revised as under:

Class	Minimum distance for charge (in km)
Second Sitting	100
AC Chair Car, Executive Class	250
Sleeper, 3AC Economy Class, AC 3-Tier, AC 2-Tier	500

(c) No change in policy is contemplated at present.

**Condition of railway coaches**

461. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coaches for passenger trains are provided on the basis of number of travellers with prescribed amenities/safety benchmarks, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether condition of coaches, including sleeper class, in several express trains is far from satisfactory, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures being taken by Railways to improve the condition of coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Number and type of passenger amenities in a coach are provided on the basis of their carrying capacity and class of travel viz. AC First, AC II Tier, Non AC sleeper etc. as per approved layout.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Maintenance and upkeep of coaches, including Sleeper class, is a continual requirement and this is carried out during the prescribed maintenance schedules. Besides, coaches are also subjected to a 'Mid-life' rehabilitation to restore their condition. Special drives are also launched and surprise checks are conducted to monitor the passenger amenities and safety items in coaches.

**Structural audit and strengthening of railway bridges**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are large numbers of bridges/puliyas on railway lines in various parts of the country which are more than 100 years old and need urgent structural audit and strengthening;
- (b) if so, the details of such bridges/puliyas, particularly in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for improvement of such railway bridges/puliyas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The age of the bridge does not have any direct relevance on the physical condition of the bridge and the rebuilding/rehabilitation/ strengthening of bridges is undertaken whenever so warranted by physical condition and not on the basis of age. A regular and rigorous system of inspection of Bridges is followed on Indian Railways. Under this system, all the bridges are thoroughly inspected once a year. The rebuilding/rehabilitation/strengthening of bridges is a continuous process and is undertaken on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during these inspections. As on 01.04.2014, 2885 railway bridges are sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation/strengthening, which include bridges of all ages.

As on 01.04.2014, there are 34,328 bridges on Indian Railways, which are more than 100 years old. The information on Railway Bridges is maintained zone-wise and not State-wise. Zone-wise break up is as under:

Railway	Central Railway	Eastern Railway	East Central Railway	East Coast Railway	Northern Railway	North Central Railway	North Eastern Railway	Northeast Frontier Railway
Number of bridges more than 100 years old	3401	2886	2759	698	7302	992	893	828
Railway	North Western Railway	Southern Railway	South Central Railway	South Eastern Railway	South East Central Railway	South Western Railway	Western Railway	West Central Railway
Number of bridges more than 100 years old	364	2919	3713	1448	1288	811	2198	1828

**FDI in railways**

463. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Railways;
- (b) if so, the areas in which it is proposed;
- (c) whether any formal decision has been taken in this regard;
- (d) whether all the zonal railway authorities have been consulted in the matter; and
- (e) if so, when were these consultations held alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) A proposal in this regard has been initiated by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

- (c) No decision has been taken in this regard.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

**Inclusion of Bairagarh station in Bhopal division**

464. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for inclusion of Bairagarh station in Bhopal Division of West Central Railway;
- (b) if so, the present status of action taken in the matter; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to include Bairagarh station in Bhopal Division for convenience of the people of this area who have to trudge 200 Kilometres to Ratlam for their railway related work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) and (c) No decision has yet been taken by Ministry of Railways on the subject.

**Incidents of theft in long distance trains**

465. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is substantial increase in incidents of theft in long distance trains running in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu Express and G.T. Express;

(b) if so, the details of theft which were reported to Railway Police from 1st January, 2014 to 25th June, 2014; and

(c) the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a marginal increase in the incidents of theft of passengers' belongings in long distance trains as well as in Tamil Nadu Express and G.T. Express.

(b) In all, 3463 incidents of theft of passengers' belongings were reported to Government Railway Police from 1st January, 2014 to 25th June, 2014 including 49 incidents in Tamil Nadu and G.T. Express.

(c) Policing on Railways is a State Subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the States concerned. However, Railway Protection Force supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police by deploying its staff for escorting of important trains in affected areas and access control duties at important and sensitive stations. Regular coordination meetings are held with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by Government Railway Police.

**Train fares**

466. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is marginal rise in middle and high-end passenger train fares;

(b) if so, the details thereof comparatively during the last five years; and

(c) whether fares of the monthly season tickets and passengers in suburban trains exempted from the hike so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been a marginal increase in the passenger fares of middle and high-end-train during the last five years (2010-11 to 2014-15). The comparative details of class-wise average increase during the last five years are as under:

Class of Travel	Superfast Mail/Express	Shatabdi Express	Rajdhani/ Duronto Trains
Sleeper	5.2% to 7.4%		
AC Chair Car	5.2% to 6.6%	4.9% to 5.2%	
AC 3-Tier	4.7% to 5.8%		4.4% to 5.3%
AC 2-Tier	5.4% to 7%		5% to 6.5%
AC First/Executive	5.5% to 7.4%	6.2% to 6.7%	4% to 6%

The above also includes increase in passenger fares due to levy of Fuel Adjustment Component (FAC).

(c) No, Sir. However, in the recent revision there was no increase in Second Class (Ordinary) Suburban fares upto 80 kms.

#### **Railway projects announced for Tamil Nadu**

467. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various projects, particularly for Tamil Nadu, announced in the previous Railway Budgets are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details of the projects announced during last five years and their current status; and

(c) the details of funds allocated at the time of announcement of projects and subsequent budget allocations in succeeding Railway Budgets, during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Details of New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects falling partly/fully in the State of Tamil Nadu announced during last five years alongwith outlay provided for each project and their status are as under:

Sl. No.	Project announced	Year of announcement	Outlay (Rupees in crore)						Status
			2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.	Needamangalam - Mannargudi New line	2010-11	-	60	150	70	100	Sanctioned as material modification to Mayiladuturai-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli and gauge conversion project.	
2.	Mannargudi- Pattukottai new line	2011-12	-	-	-	-	-	Needamangalam-Mannargudi New line completed. Land acquisition processed for Mannargudi-Pattukottai new line.	
3.	Madurai-Tuticorin	2011-12	-	-	1	12	2.10	Project sanctioned. Final location survey taken up.	
4.	Omalur-Mettur Dam patch doubling	2011-12	-	-	2	7	5	Project sanctioned. Land acquisition processed.	
5.	Karaikal-Peralam New Line	2012-13 & 2013-14	-	-	-	-	11.50	Sanctioned as material modification to Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal gauge conversion project. Final Location Survey completed and	



									Detailed Estimate prepared.
6.	Avadi-Guduvancheri via Sriperumbudur and Oragadam New Line	2012-13 & 2013-14	-	-	-	-	0.10		Project included in Budget 2013-14 but not approved by Government.
7.	Thanjavur-Pattukottai new line	2013-14	-	-	-	-	100		Sanctioned as material modification to Mayiladuturai-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli gauge conversion project. Work stopped due to protest by local people.
8.	Chennai Central-Basin Bridge Junction 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> lines	2013-14	-	-	-	-	0.10		Preparation of Detailed Estimate Taken up.

Besides above, surveys announced for new line, gauge conversion and doubling of rail line during aforesaid period and their status are given as under:

Sl. No.	Survey	Year of announcement	Status
1.	Madurai-Ernakulam (Cochin) New Line	2009-10 & 2011-12	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
2.	Madurai-Kottayam New line	2011-12	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
3.	Dindigul-Kumili New Line	2011-12	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
4.	Rameshwaram-Dhanushkodi New Line	2011-12	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
5.	Jolarpettai-Hossur via Krishnagiri New Line	2011-12 & 2012-13	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
6.	Salem-Karaikal new line via Perambalur and Mayiladuturai	2011-12	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
7.	Tirupati-Nagore via Kancheepuram new line	2011-12	Broad gauge line already exist between Tirupati and Katpadi. As such, survey for Kancheepuram- Tiruvanamalai- Katpadi taken up.
8.	Karaikal-Sirkazhi new line	2011-12	Survey completed. Project not found viable.

Sl. No.	Survey	Year of announcement	Status
9.	Irugur-Podanur doubling	2011-12	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
10.	Podanur-Palghat 3 <sup>rd</sup> line	2011-12	Survey taken up.
11.	Chennai-Sriperumbudur new line via Guindy and Poonamallee	2012-13	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
12.	Kancheepuram-Tiruvannamalai-Katpadi new line	2012-13	Survey taken up.
13.	Kumbakonam-Andimadam Jayankandam-Vridhachalam new line	2012-13	Survey taken up.
14.	Thanjavur-Pudukottai via Gandarvakottai new line	2012-13	Survey taken up.
15.	Attipattu-Ennore Sea Port new line	2012-13	Survey/execution of work done by Port Authorities.
16.	Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanniyakumari doubling with electrification	2012-13	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
17.	Trivandrum-Kanniyakumari doubling	2012-13	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
18.	Jolarpettai-Katpadi-Arakkonam 3 <sup>rd</sup> line	2012-13	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
19.	Renigunta-Arakkonam 3 <sup>rd</sup> line	2012-13	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
20.	Karaikudi-Dindigul new line	2013-14	Survey taken up.

Sl. No.	Survey	Year of announcement	Status
21.	Karaikudi-Madurai new line	2013-14	Survey taken up.
22.	Morapur-Dharmapuri new line	2013-14	Survey completed. Project not found viable.
23.	Thanjavur-Ariyalur new line	2013-14	Survey taken up.
24.	Tirunelveli-Sankarankoil new line <i>via</i> Pettai, Pudur	2013-14	Survey taken up.
25.	Tirupati-Katpadi doubling	2013-14	Survey taken up.

#### **Railway projects in border areas**

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

- (a) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for early completion of railway projects/constructions, especially in Indo-Pak and Indo-China border areas;
- (b) the reasons for delay in completion of such strategic railway projects; and
- (c) whether Government has sorted out its funding and other necessary clearances for completion of such railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Projects in border areas are taken up by the Ministry of Railways with full earnestness and all steps are taken for their early completion including regular co-ordination with all stakeholders. However, these projects suffer delay due to non-availability of adequate funds, delay in land acquisition, difficult terrain, law and order issues, forestry clearances etc. Funds on these projects are provided subjected to overall availability of funds.

#### **Luxury tourist train on Mumbai-Goa route**

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

- (a) whether Government is seriously considering a proposal to start a fast luxury tourist train on Mumbai-Goa route on lines of the 'Palace on Wheels'; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be started, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The luxury tourist train 'Deccan Odyssey', on the pattern of Palace

on Wheels, is already covering the Mumbai-Goa sector on the itinerary Mumbai CST - Sindhudurg - Goa - Vasco - Kolhapur - Aurangabad - Jalgaon - Nasik - Mumbai and another luxury tourist train 'Golden Chariot' is covering Goa on the itinerary Yesvantpur - Mysore - Hassan - Hospet - Badami - Vasco Da Gama - Yesvantpur. However, Luxury Tourist Trains are introduced at the instance of respective State Tourism Corporations/Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, subject to tourism potential, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

#### **Rollback in suburban train fares**

470. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government is considering to rollback the fare hike in suburban trains, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): No, Sir.

#### **Trains announced in previous budgets**

471. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains which were declared to be introduced in the previous three Railway Budgets and have not been introduced/started so far indicating the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when these train would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The detailed status of new trains announced during the last Railway Budgets viz. 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Number of introduction announced	Number of introduction implemented	Pending Introduction
		(A)	(B)	(A-B)
1.	2011-12	131	131	0
2.	2012-13	113	108	5
3.	2013-14	126	115	11

Some trains announced in the Railway Budgets 2012-13 and 2013-14 are pending introduction owing to various constraints like non-completion of gauge conversion of concerned sections, non-receipt of necessary clearance from the Commissioner of Railway Safety for LHB stock, etc.

(b) No definite dates for their introduction can be indicated as works are in progress.

#### **Shortage of trackmen**

†472. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the length of railway tracks in kilometres under supervision of a trackman;
- (b) the engineering code regarding maintenance of railway tracks and whether it is being observed by the Engineering Department;
- (c) the number of trackmen deployed in Indian Railways at present along with their sanctioned strength as well as the posts lying vacant; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that the maintenance of railway tracks cannot be done due to acute shortage of trackmen and other employees for maintenance of railway tracks thereby increasing the possibility of an accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Maintenance of Railway track is being done with the help of track machines and trackmen as per guidelines contained in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual (IRPWM).

Trackmen work in gangs under the supervision of Gang mate or Permanent Way Supervisor. Length of track with each gang varies from about 5 to 8 km.

(c) As on 30.04.2014, against a sanctioned strength of 2,72,486, a total of 2,17,761 Trackmen were in position and 54725 post were vacant.

(d) To overcome the shortage of trackmen till the vacancies are filled up, certain activities are outsourced to ensure safe running of trains.

#### **Tatkal tickets**

473. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether even with much fine-tuning and safeguards for the bonafide passengers, there still persists problems in Tatkal reservations along with much scope for misuse and manipulation by travel agents/touts;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether heavy rush for Tatkal website access during the designated opening hours at 10:00 A.M. makes it impossible for a bonafide passenger to access the booking site; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Tatkal tickets are otherwise available for a hefty premium from touts/agents over and above the stipulated surcharge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. The Tatkal scheme has been thoroughly revised and there are adequate safeguards to ensure that Tatkal tickets are available to bonafide passengers. The following measures have been taken to reduce the scope for its misuse by unscrupulous elements:

- (i) Agents have been restricted from booking Tatkal tickets at the counters between 1000 hours and 1200 hours.
- (ii) For Tatkal tickets the proof of identity is captured in the system and printed in the charts. Carrying the same original proof of identity as indicated on the ticket has been made compulsory for one of the passengers while undertaking journey on Tatkal tickets. This measure has substantially reduced the scope for transfer of tickets.

(b) With a view to meeting the rush during the designated opening hours, the Next Generation e-ticketing (NGeT) has been launched for improving accessibility and enhancing the overall experience of e-ticketing. NGeT has the capacity to book 7,200 tickets per minute and support 1,20,000 concurrent users at any point of time.

(c) No, Sir. Preventive checks are conducted in and around reservation offices and also in trains to check the misuse of the reservation facility by unscrupulous elements.

#### **Laying of Islampur-Natesar railway line**

474. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time schedule has been fixed for completion of under construction Islampur-Natesar new railway line under the East Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the time schedule therefor, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Railways have a large shelf of ongoing projects. In view of limited availability of funds, the time schedule for completion of this project has not been fixed.

**Dynamic train fares**

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

- (a) the concept of Dynamic train fares;
- (b) whether it is applicable to all types of trains;
- (c) the percentage of differences in fare that would be there between regularly booked ticket and ticket booked under Tatkal for 2AC travel, for example, between Delhi and Mumbai;
- (d) the price of ticket without Dynamic train fare on the above route; and
- (e) the additional revenue that Railways are expected to earn through this 2014-15?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The fare of Premium special trains on dynamic pricing increases depending upon the demand and availability of accommodation. The base fare of these trains is the normal adult fare applicable for the trains plus the tatkal charges and the fare can increase based on demand intensity subject to a prescribed maximum limit. The premium special trains have a short advance reservation period and do not provide for waiting lists.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In the case of 12952 New Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani Express, there is a 14.77% difference of fare between regularly booked ticket and ticket booked under Tatkal for 2AC class between New Delhi and Mumbai. However, the fare of the premium specials operated on dynamic pricing would vary from time to time based on demand intensity.

(d) The normal fare of a 2<sup>nd</sup> AC Class ticket in 12952 New Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani Express inclusive of service tax, catering charges, reservation charges, etc., and excluding Tatkal charges is Rs. 2810.

(e) The revenue from Premium Special Trains is dependent on the demand pattern, the operational feasibility of running such trains and availability of coaches. It is therefore, not feasible to work out in advance the overall additional revenue that Railways are expected to earn through such trains during the year 2014-15.

**Gauge conversion of Ratlam-Indore-Mhow-Khandwa railway line**

476. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:



- (a) the year when the gauge conversion of Ratlam-Indore- Mhow-Khandwa railway line had been sanctioned;
- (b) the reasons for inordinate delay in starting the gauge conversion work on this line; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government for early execution of gauge conversion work on this line in order to facilitate connectivity with Ujjain to pilgrims from Southern and Western India during Simhastha fair in May, 2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The gauge conversion of Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa section was sanctioned in the year 2008-09.

(b) Implementation of any project requires some preliminary activities like proper planning, final location survey, geotechnical investigation, etc. before commencement of execution in field which take time.

(c) Gauge conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad section (80 km) has been completed and commissioned. Further, conversion work on Fatehabad- Indore (40 km) section is also in advance stage of completion. The project is progressing as per availability of resources. Ujjain is already connected to Southern India *via* Bhopal and Itarasi and to Western India *via* Nagda, Ratlam and Godhara.

#### **Train accidents**

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

- (a) the total number of train accidents in the last five years, State-wise/Union Territory wise;
- (b) the total number of lives lost in these accidents, State-wise/Union Territory-wise; and
- (c) the measures being taken by Government to reduce the number of train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Data on consequential train accidents is not maintained State-wise/ Union Territory-wise. Year-wise number of consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users, during the last five years *i.e.* 2009-10 to 2013-14 and the loss of lives involved therein, is given below:

Year	No. of consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings	Loss of lives
2009-10	100	68
2010-11	93	251
2011-12	77	115
2012-13	68	80
2013-14	71	54

(c) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Anti Collision Device (ACD), Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) and Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS).

#### **New railway division at Bhagalpur, Bihar**

†478. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to set up a new railway division at Bhagalpur in Bihar;
- (b) whether it is being considered to establish Headquarter of this new railway division at Bhagalpur;
- (c) if so, by when it is likely to be established, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government is also aware that the number of trains from New Delhi to Bhagalpur is not sufficient as per demand; and
- (f) if so, whether Government proposes to introduce some more superfast trains between New Delhi and Bhagalpur?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Committee of Senior Administrative Grade officers was set up by the Ministry of Railways to examine the large number of requests received from the State Governments, Union Ministers, Members of Parliament/ MLAs etc for the creation of new zones and divisions on Indian Railways from various aspects of railways working. The Committee was also asked to examine the feasibility of creation of a new division with headquarters at Bhagalpur. After examining these requests from operational, financial, administrative and other aspects of railway working, the Committee in its report did not recommend the creation of a new division at Bhagalpur. This recommendation of the Committee has been accepted by the Ministry of Railways.

(e) and (f) At present, 8 pairs of Mail/Express train services are available between Bhagalpur and New Delhi which are considered adequate for the present level of traffic. Introduction of additional trains is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

#### **ISO certification for railways**

479. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are keen to secure the coveted ISO-22000 certification from the Geneva based International Organisation for Standards for ensuring good food, cleanliness and customer service quality for its premium trains, including Shatabdis and Rajdhanis;

(b) whether in a third-party audit of on-board customer satisfaction last year, the Rajdhanis and Durontos scored upwards of 80 per cent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) It is a continuous endeavour by the Indian Railways to provide good quality hygienic food to Railway passengers. Accordingly, a Catering Policy, 2010 has been introduced on 21.07.2010 with a mandate for effective quality assurance programme, wherein ISO-22000 (International Organization for Standardization) standards are to be progressively implemented for major catering units.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Third Party Survey of on-board customer satisfaction was done in Oct-Nov, 2013 and March, 2014 in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) managed Rajdhani and Durgam Cheruvu trains and the scores achieved were 82% and 83% respectively.

**Land property in possession of railways**

480. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total land property in possession of Railways, State-wise or zone-wise;
- (b) the approximate value thereof;
- (c) whether any policy has been prepared for utilisation of the same;
- (d) whether foreign investors are going to be allowed to use this land; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The total area of land under Railway network is 457689 hectare out of which approx. 47336 hectare is vacant. The vacant land too is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks, which is required for servicing and maintenance of track and other infrastructure. The vacant railway land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways and include projects like doubling, traffic facilities, Rail Coach and Component factories, etc. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized for commercial development, wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources through Rail Land Development Authority. As most of the Railway land is occupied by Railway track and other operational/administrative infrastructure, value of the land is not assessed. However, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) assesses the value of land which is entrusted to RLDA through market study for its commercial developmental purpose. Zone-wise details of Railway land are as under:

Railway	Total Railway land (in hectares)
Central	28377
Eastern	20950
East Central	36299
East Coast	13145
Northern	41463
North Central	17753

Railway	Total Railway land (in hectares)
North Eastern	25644
Northeast Frontier	44928
North Western	24895
Southern	26296
South Central	32374
South Eastern	42113
Southeast Central	21921
South Western	17592
Western	36646
West Central	23256
Production Units	4037
TOTAL	457689

(d) Presently there is no policy to allow foreign investors to use railway land.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Modernisation of railway stations

†481. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money allocated during last three years and current financial year till date, zone-wise, for modernisation of railway stations in the country, especially those situated in backward and rural areas;

(b) the amount of money to be spent for each railway station separately; and

(c) the targets set for modernisation of railway stations where work is in progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and works in this regard are undertaken depending upon need and volume of the passenger traffic. Station wise details of funds allocated/spent are not maintained. The expenditure on works of modernisation of stations is generally funded under Plan Head - 'Passenger Amenities'. The zone-wise allocation/expenditure under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities' on Indian Railways, also covering stations which are situated in backward and rural areas, during the last three years and the current year is as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Railway	(Figures in crores of Rupees)							
	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure (upto May '14)
Central	55.62	54.77	29.00	30.85	58.60	59.68	70.29	13.68
Eastern	113.59	130.26	126.69	125.02	113.30	98.96	113.64	4.31
Northern	69.94	72.09	54.30	60.59	71.45	75.91	82.59	13.19
North Eastern	16.66	17.24	14.14	15.36	18.59	19.44	25.70	2.72
Northeast Frontier	47.11	53.90	67.23	64.74	45.00	42.39	50.47	6.41
Southern	59.00	58.71	69.81	71.61	68.12	67.56	63.25	8.89
South Central	81.46	94.76	85.98	87.82	97.12	95.57	94.44	15.50
South Eastern	39.90	43.15	57.80	56.91	45.97	47.60	57.95	5.69
Western	67.98	64.69	49.91	47.54	50.74	48.08	58.22	5.70
East Central	39.02	35.82	41.91	36.03	53.39	46.07	58.02	8.49
East Coast	18.48	18.52	33.38	25.37	35.94	33.57	53.66	3.68

North Central	46.00	50.44	72.36	62.19	74.97	62.47	97.13	12.96
North Western	13.96	15.94	18.94	22.47	28.38	30.15	35.15	6.57
South East Central	44.10	49.65	65.80	60.46	42.87	45.43	46.10	7.50
South Western	32.98	36.07	37.59	37.53	28.02	29.48	38.05	3.78
West Central	26.98	27.18	30.76	31.32	53.58	47.82	48.09	7.36
Metro	12.50	11.24	6.46	6.33	7.95	7.55	12.26	0.83
TOTAL	785.28	834.43	862.06	842.14	893.99	857.73	1005.01	127.26

**High-speed bullet trains**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry intends to run high-speed Bullet trains in the country;
- (b) the sector in which these bullet trains would be run;
- (c) the cost of laying per kilometre track of Bullet train as compared to ordinary track for trains and metro tracks;
- (d) how the Ministry intends to arrange funds for these trains; and
- (e) whether there is any time line in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is planned to have a Diamond Quadrilateral Network of High Speed Rail, connecting major Metros and growth centres of the country. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad sector has been identified as the first corridor to start High Speed Trains.

(c) The cost of laying per kilometer track of Bullet Train (High Speed Train) is approx. Rs.80-120 crores, as compared to Rs. 10-12 crores for ordinary Track and Rs. 150 - 200 crores for metro tracks.

(d) The High Speed Rail project will have to be taken up through an appropriate mix of Government support, multilateral / bilateral funding and by alternative means of resource mobilization, including Public-Private-Partnership (PPP).

(e) No, Sir. The project is yet to be sanctioned.

**Refund of waitlisted tickets**

483. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued guidelines for cancellation of waitlisted tickets within 2 hours of train departure;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of passengers are unable to get the refund of waitlisted tickets due to short time and many a times system of Railways doesn't work;
- (d) if so, whether Government will increase the time duration for cancellation of waitlisted tickets; and



- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. As per the revised refund rules which came into effect from 01.07.2013, unused waitlisted tickets can be cancelled upto three hours of the actual departure of the train and such refunds are granted from any Passenger reservation counter or designated current counters.

In the case of e-tickets, if all the passengers are waitlisted, refund of fare is automatically credited to the customer's account, immediately upon preparation of charts.

(b) The ticketing system of Indian Railways had undergone major changes during the last 15 years, which include: (i) Large scale proliferation of Computerized Passenger Reservation System and Computerized Unreserved Ticketing System; (ii) Expansion of Internet Based Ticketing System; and (iii) Availability of Integrated Train Enquiry System which facilitates instant information on train running and reservation status through telephone, SMS and internet.

The refund rules were revised in keeping with the above developments in the ticketing/enquiry systems.

(c) No, Sir. Passengers can avail refund of waitlisted tickets in accordance with the revised Rules.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal.

(e) The revision was carried out to meet the objectives of simplification, efficiency in processing refunds, discouraging last minute cancellations, checking bogus claims for refunds and reducing the misuse of refund process.

#### **Anti-collision device project**

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

(a) whether the project of developing Anti-Collision Device to provide much desired safety to trains has been dropped by Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for dropping the project;

(c) whether Railways intend to introduce some imported device or will introduce any indigenous one for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and by when alternative mechanism would be developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Development and deployment of Anti-Collision Device (ACD) was taken up by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) as a pilot project on 1736 Route kilometers on Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) and it was operationalised in 2006. Technical and operational problems have been experienced in the functioning of ACD on NFR. Major problem is of unwarranted brakings which has adverse impact on train running.

R&D and Engineering efforts in resolving these technical and operational problems have been undertaken since its deployment on NFR. KRCL developed improved version 1.1.2 of ACD which was validated by Electronic Test & Development Centre (ETDC), Chennai and the same has been implemented on all Divisions of NFR. However, unwarranted brakings still continue to exist.

To deploy the system on the main line sections having multiple lines / electrified routes, KRCL developed ACD version 2.0 with revised specifications and design configuration. Trials of ACD version 2.0 was conducted jointly by KRCL, RDSO and NFR on section Pattabiram - Arakkonam on Chennai Division of Southern Railway during 2010-11. A large number of complex operational and technical problems were experienced during the trials on Southern Railway which could not be fully resolved by KRCL due to design limitations of ACD and further development of ACD version 2.0 has been put on hold by KRCL and further proliferation of ACD on other Zonal Railways is not contemplated at present.

(c) and (d) To overcome major problems noticed in ACD due to its dependence on GPS for location, error in Deviation Count Theory and need for a number of mid-section repeaters which are prone to theft and vandalism, an alternative system termed as Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) is being developed indigenously by Research Design and Standard Organization (RDSO) in association with three Indian Vendors. TCAS has features of Automatic Train Protection and Anti-collision. Extended field trials with multi vendor, interoperability features are in progress by RDSO, on 250 Km section of Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway and are expected to be completed by March 2015.

Initial rounds of extended field trials were conducted by RDSO during 2013-14 in a sub section of the above identified section wherein Anti-Collision and Automatic Train Protection features of TCAS were successfully demonstrated.

**Transparency in procurement system**

485. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place a road-map to ensure transparency in procurement system of Railways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways follows transparent online e-tendering system for procurement of goods which is linked with Central Public Procurement Portal of Government of India.

**Railway network under pressure**

486. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway network is under tremendous pressure today;

(b) if so, the growth in the index of passenger and freight traffic *vis-a-vis* rolling stock sine Independence;

(c) whether this is resulting in frequent accidents; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Index of Passenger Traffic & Freight Traffic is as under:

*Growth Index of passenger Traffic vis-a-vis Passenger Vehicle (Rolling Stock)*

Year	Passenger Traffic		Rolling Stock (Vehicles)	
	Passenger carried	Passenger kms.	Passenger coaches	Seating capacity
1950-51	100	100	100	100
2012-13	656	1651	422	536

*Growth Index of Freight Traffic vis-a-vis Wagon (Rolling Stock)*

Year	Freight Traffic		Rolling Stock (Wagons)	
	Tonnes carried	Net tonnes kms.	Wagon	Wagon capacity
1950-51	100	100	100	100
2012-13	1377	1841	119	325

(c) No, Sir. Consequential train accident is not attributable to any pressure on the railway network or the growth in the index of passenger and freight traffic *vis-a-vis* Rolling Stock. The number of consequential train accidents, excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings, have generally decreased over the years despite quantum jump in the traffic carried by the Indian Railways. Accident per million train Kilometers, as per internationally accepted safety index, has come down from 0.29 in 2004-05 to 0.10 in 2013-14.

(d) Capacity augmentation over Indian Railway is an ongoing process. New works are carefully scrutinized and sanctioned based on Operational Requirement, Financial Justification, Technical Feasibility and Resource Availability.

As on 01.04.2014, there are:

154 new line projects covering a length of 17,129 kms.

42 Gauge Conversion Projects covering a length of 9828 kms and

166 Doubling projects covering a length of 9,264 kms. have been sanctioned.

**Pending railway projects in NE region**

487. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of eleven ongoing projects declared in 2012 by Central Government as National Projects, nine belonged to the North-Eastern region;

(b) whether works of some of these projects sanctioned way back in 1996-97 have been delayed because of different reasons, the main being lack of adequate funds;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken steps to expedite the pending projects in North Eastern region;

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

(e) the details of projects which are likely to be completed during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Out of eleven ongoing National Projects, ten fall in North Eastern Region.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Additional funds were provided in 2013-14 and adequate funds have also been provided in 2014-15. Field organizations have been empowered to expedite decision making. Regular coordination meetings have been held with all stake holders to facilitate faster execution of projects.

(e) Rangiya-Murkongselek (Gauge Conversion) project (510.33 km) is planned for completion in current fiscal year.

#### **Incident of loot in Samjhauta Express**

†488. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of loot took place in Samjhauta Express running between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether Railway Police could not trace criminals after FIR and no clue has been detected, so far;

(c) whether RPF was deployed in the said train;

(d) whether the incident was carried out despite presence of Railway Security Force and security was breached again;

(e) if so, the details of steps taken and investigation made so far in this regard;

(f) whether any appropriate steps would be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. However, an incident of theft of personal belongings of four passengers was reported in Train No. 14002 Samjhauta Express near Karnal railway station on 03.06.2014.

(b) Yes, Sir. No arrest has been made so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Yes, Sir. But for this solitary incident, no breach of security has been reported after introduction of RPF escorting in this train.

(e) GRP/Karnal has registered four cases *vide* crime numbers 28, 29, 30 and 31/2014 under section 379 IPC dated 10.06.2014 and taken up investigation. Four RPF staff of escort party have been placed under suspension and departmental proceedings have been initiated against them for dereliction of duty.

(f) and (g) Policing on Railways is a State Subject and the prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as in running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the States concerned. Railway Protection Force (RPF) with limited resources available supplements the efforts of GRP by deploying their staff for escorting of important trains in affected areas and access control duties at important and sensitive stations. Besides, strict instructions have been issued to train escort parties to be extra alert to prevent recurrence. Surprise checks are being carried out by Gazetted and Subordinate Officers to keep the escorts on toes. Regular coordination meetings are held with GRP and Civil Police where security issues are deliberated and views are exchanged to improve security of passengers.

#### **Demand for model stations in Bihar**

489. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to convert Khudiram Bose railway station and Karpurigram railway station in Bihar into Model stations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there have been several representations/demands to Government regarding it, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The scheme of Model Station has been discontinued after November, 2008. However, essential passenger amenities have been provided at Khudiram Bose Pusa and Karpurigram stations.

(b) No representation for converting Khudiram Bose Pusa and Karpurigram stations as Model Stations have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

**Hike in train fares and freight charges**

490. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has increased train fare including local train fare and freight charges recently, if so, the details thereof, separately, class-wise;
- (b) the reasons for increase in train fare/freight charges; and
- (c) whether Government would roll back the increased fare/freight charges in view of cumulative inflationary trends due to this sharp increase and sufferings of already inflation hit lower and middle strata of society, and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Though Railways need enormous resources to not only sustain its current performance but to improve upon it, passenger fares had not been increased by Railways since 2002-03; in fact, fares in several segments of passenger services, including Second Class, were revised downwards in subsequent years. With a viewpoint of generating resources that are critically required for funding initiatives in thrust areas, viz. modernization and safety, the fare and freight rates were marginally increased.

Highlights of the fare and freight revision, effective from 25.06.2014 and 28.06.2014 in case of Monthly Season Ticket, are as under:

**Passenger:**

- A flat 10% increase in all classes plus 4.2% increase due to Fuel Adjustment Component.
- With a view to protect the interest of common man; no increase in passenger fare has been carried out up to minimum distance in all classes (upto 80 kms in second class ordinary (suburban)).

**Freight:**

- A flat 5% increase in freight rates plus 1.4% increase due to Fuel Adjustment Component (FAC).
- Reduction in Low Rated Classes from 4 to 3. Certain concessions in case of some commodities withdrawn.
- Withdrawal of short lead concession for traffic booked up to 100 kms.

- Minimum Distance for charge revised from existing 100 to 125 kms. Distance block for charging freight beyond 2000 kms. have been rationalized to 250 kms. slab instead of 500 kms. slab at present.

Presently, there is no proposal for reviewing the fare and freight structure.

#### **Train accidents**

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

- (a) the details of the train accidents occurred during the last one year;
- (b) the main reasons thereof and the details of loss of railway properties due to such incidents during the last one year;
- (c) whether it is a fact that due to a large number of vacant posts, the instances of accidents are increasing, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the comprehensive measures taken to deal with the increasing incidents of train accidents and for the safety of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) During 2013-14, altogether 71 consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings, took place on Indian Railways. These include 04 collisions, 53 derailments, 07 incidents of fire in train, 04 incidents at manned level crossings and 03 miscellaneous accidents. Besides, there were 46 consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users during this period.

(b) Based on the inquiry reports including *prima facie*, out of the above 71 consequential train accidents during 2013-14, 50 accidents are attributable to failure of railway staff, 09 due to failure of other than railway staff, 04 due to sabotage, 04 due to incidental factors, 03 due to equipment failures and cause of 01 accident could not be established. Loss of railway property in these accidents has been estimated to Rs.27.98 crore approximately (Provisional).

(c) Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and at any point, there would be some vacancies in an organization. Vacancies occur due to normal retirements, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions and creation of posts etc. There is sometimes a lag between occurrence of vacancies and processing the same for filling up which involves notification of vacancies, holding examinations, finalization of select panels and issue of



appointment letters. The Railways are committed to filling up vacant posts, promptly as per the laid down procedure. The number of vacancies do not have a direct correlation to the accidents.

(d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Anti Collision Device (ACD), Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) and Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS).

#### **Frequency of trains in Gujarat**

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

- (a) whether Railways have received representations to increase the frequency of various trains running to/from Gujarat, specially Bombay, Delhi through Ahmedabad;
- (b) the number of trains available to passengers to visit various pilgrim places like Ambaji and Sidhpur; and
- (c) whether Railways intend to increase the frequency of these trains, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received, *inter-alia*, for increase in frequency of trains running to/from Gujarat.

(b) While Sidhpur station is served by 11 pairs of Mail/Express (04 pairs daily, 01 pair bi-weekly and 06 pairs weekly) and 03 pairs of passenger (daily) train services, Ambaji is not connected by direct train service, as it is not on the railhead. At present, Abu Road station (20 km away) serves as the railhead for passengers desirous of visiting Ambaji.

(c) Increase in frequency of existing services is an on-going process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability of resources, etc.

**Bullet train between Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Pune**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has requested for introduction of Bullet train between Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Pune;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a study conducted by Railways for connecting Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Pune with Bullet train has been completed in April, 2010;

(c) if so, the reasons for not starting the Bullet train, so far; and

(d) by when Government proposes to take up the said project and the likely time-frame for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Pre-feasibility study for Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Pune high speed corridor was completed in April, 2010 by Ministry of Railways in consultation with Gujarat State Government.

(c) High Speed train projects are highly capital intensive and require substantial financial support. Such projects are sanctioned after technical and financial feasibility are proven through a Detailed Project Report (DPR). No DPR has been done for such a high speed project.

(d) As the project has not been sanctioned, no timeframe can be indicated.

**Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Udaipur railway line**

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

(a) whether work of gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Udaipur railway line has been taken up;

(b) if so, the time-frame for completion of the project;

(c) the present position of the same falling in Gujarat; and

(d) whether the budget provision for the year 2014-15 is sufficient for the project's implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to huge throw-forward of ongoing projects and limited availability of funds, target date for completion of the project has not been fixed.

(c) Ahmedabad-Jagabor section (148.36 km) of this project is falling in Gujarat. Detailed estimate has been sanctioned. On this section, contract for station building and Signalling & Telecom structures have been awarded.

(d) Budget allocation for all projects including this project has been made as per overall availability of funds and relative priority.

#### **Fund allocation for newly announced express trains**

495. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allocated fund to introduce 'Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Express' bound to Pune, 'Ambedkar Express' passing through Mhow in Madhya Pradesh and Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj Express? bound to Kolhapur, for which a demand was made during the discussion on Railway Budget 2013-14; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for introduction of 'Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Express' bound to Pune, 'Ambedkar Express' passing through Mhow in Madhya Pradesh and Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj Express" bound to Kolhapur, due to operational and resource constraints.

#### **Railway track between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad**

496. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact railway track between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad was renovated/upgraded some years back;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon and the year in which the work was completed;

(c) whether it is a fact that fast speed trains can still not operate on that track, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware that large scale corruption and bungling was done in renovation of the track; and

- (e) if so, the steps being taken to enquire into the matter and fix responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Railway Track between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad was upgraded at a cost of Rs. 43.06 crores in the year 2008. After completion of certain miscellaneous works, speed of the section, which was earlier 35 kmph, has been raised to 60 Kmph. Considering the traffic requirement and the fact that area is prone to theft of railway fittings, roof top travel, Alarm Chain Pulling etc, it is not considered desirable to increase the speed further.

(d) The track renewal and all associated works were executed as per the standards and the norms laid down. There is no report of corruption or bungling.

- (e) Does not arise.

#### **Railway projects**

497. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS ne pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing railway line projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, State-wise, during the last three years;

(b) the total number of ongoing over bridges/under bridges *vis-a-vis* manned/unmanned level crossing projects in these States;

(c) whether all these works are progressing as per schedule, if not, the reasons therefor, project-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite all the pending projects and the time by which the projects will be completed, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Seven new line projects and one doubling project falling fully and partly in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been sanctioned during the last three years.

(b) 93 Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and 89 Road Under Bridges (RUBs) have been sanctioned in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Railways is having a huge shelf of ongoing projects and requires more than Rs. 1.82 Lakh crore to complete these projects. Due to limited availability of funds to execute these projects, no time frame has been fixed for their completion.

**Railway project proposals from Government of Maharashtra**

†498. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government has received proposal for various railway projects from State Government of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date;
- (c) the current status of the proposal; and
- (d) the time by which this proposal would be finalized and the reasons for delay in finalizing this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Proposals from State Governments or various public representatives and other organizations for construction of railway lines are received at Divisional Offices, Zonal Offices and in the Ministry from time to time. As receipt of such proposals is a continuous and dynamic process, compendium of such requests is not maintained. Projects are sanctioned based on remunerativeness, operational requirements, missing links, strategic/socio-economic considerations etc.

**Shifting of headquarter**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat contributes a major share in passenger and goods traffic to Western Railways and hence has requested for shifting of Headquarter to Ahmedabad from Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the request so far; and
- (c) why shifting of Headquarter from Mumbai to Ahmedabad has not been considered feasible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The location of the headquarters of a Railway depends on operational & administrative requirements, consistent with the needs of economy & efficiency and not on regional considerations. The Western Railway headquarter at Mumbai is working satisfactorily and no change is considered necessary.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The proposal to shift the Western Railways headquarters from Mumbai to Ahmedabad was examined in the light of the above and has not been considered feasible.

**Gauge conversion projects**

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

(a) whether Government has received representations for gauge conversion from various organisations/road users as well as from Government of Gujarat, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the work is likely to start along with probable time-frame for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Requests are received at various levels and a compendium is not maintained. However, the details and status of gauge conversion proposals received from State Government and public representatives of Gujarat in recent past falling partly/fully in the State of Gujarat, is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the proposals	Status
<b>Gauge conversion</b>		
1	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion project was sanctioned in 2008-09. Latest anticipated cost of this 322 km long project is Rs. 1152 crore. On Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar section, works of station building and signaling & Telecom structures have been taken up. On Himmatnagar-Udaipur section, earthwork, bridges & ballast supply works have been taken up.

Sl. No.	Name of the proposals	Status
2.	Bhuj-Naliya with extension of Vayor	Gauge conversion of Bhuj-Naliya (101.35 km) with extension from Naliya to Vayor (24.65 km) was sanctioned in 2008-09 at a cost of Rs.318.24 crore with the funding through Budgetary Support Rs. 238.24 crore and Rs.80 crore from Cement Industries (M/s. Jaypee Cement & M/s. Sanghi Cement). But M/s. Sanghi Cement backed out subsequently. Now, M/s. Jaypee cement has committed to fund entire amount of Rs.80 crore alone and accordingly, Final Location Survey has been completed. Detailed Estimate has been prepared.
3.	Shapur-Saradiya	Gauge conversion of Shapur-Saradiya has been sanctioned in 2011-12 as a material modification to Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjaliaya-Jetalsar sanctioned gauge conversion project. Preliminary activities like Final Location Survey (FLS), preparation of Plan, estimates, etc. have been taken up.
4.	Mahesana-Taranga Hill	Gauge conversion of Mahesana-Taranga Hill (57.40 km) has been sanctioned in 2011-12 as a material modification to Bhildi-Viramgam gauge conversion project. Preliminary activities like Final Location Survey (FLS), preparation of Plan, estimates, etc. have been taken up.

Sl. No.	Name of the proposals	Status
5	Miyagaon-Karjan-Dabhoi-Samlaya	The project has been included in the Budget 2011-12. Preliminary activities like Final Location Survey (FLS), preparation of Plan, estimates, etc. have been taken up.
6	Ahmedabad-Botad-Bhavnagar	Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Botad has been included in the Budget 2012-13. The project has been transferred to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) for execution. Preliminary activities like preparation of plan, estimates have been taken up. Botad-Bhavnagar section is already in the Broad gauge network.
7	Dhasa-Jetalsar	The work has been included in the Budget 2012-13. The project has been transferred to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) for execution. Preliminary activities “like preparation of plan, estimates have been taken up.
8	Ahmedabad-Mehsana	Survey taken up.
9	Khambhat-Khambhat Port	Survey taken up.
10	Nadiad-Bhadran	Survey was sanctioned in 2013-14. but field survey has not yet been taken up.
11	Champaner Panimines (49 km) & Chocapara-Tanakla (38 km) & its extn upto Rajpipla	Survey taken up.



Sl. No.	Name of the proposals	Status
12	Kalol-Kadi-Katosan	Survey taken up.
13	Katosan-Bahucharaji-Rajun	Survey taken up.
14	Veraval-Talala-Visavadar (Veraval-Dhasa Jn. via Talala-Visavadar-Khijadiya)	Survey taken up.
15	Jambusar-Kavi	Survey taken up.
16	Katosan-Ranuj	Survey taken up.

Time frame for inclusion and completion of these projects cannot be given due to a large shelf of ongoing projects and funds constraints.

#### Investigations into recent train accidents

†501. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the facts that have come to the fore so far in the accidents of Gorakhdham Express at Chureb railway station situated in Sant Kabir Nagar and Guwahati Rajdhani Express at Chapra and whether any action has been taken against any individual involved in this;

(b) the details of loss to railways including loss of humans, due to these accidents; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in the year 2008 Special Safety Fund was closed due to which work of renewal of old railway tracks was nearly stopped, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Train No. 12556 Hisar - Gorakhpur Gorakhdham Express derailed at Chureb station situated in Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh on Gonda-Gorakhpur section of Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway at 10.35 hours on 26.05.2014. Statutory inquiry into this derailment is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. As per CRS' preliminary report, the accident was caused due to failure of rail and the accident has been classified under the category "Failure of Equipment - Permanent Way". Responsibility will be fixed once the CRS' final report is received.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Train No. 12236 Dn New Delhi - Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express derailed between Chhapra Kacheri and Goldenganj stations situated in Chhapra district of Bihar on Chhapra-Sonepur Section of Sonepur Division of East Central Railway at 02.12 hours on 25.06.2014. Statutory inquiry into this derailment is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is underway. Prima facie cause of the derailment is 'suspected sabotage'. Responsibility will be fixed once the CRS' final report is received.

(b) In the accident involving 12256 Gorkakhdham Express, 29 passengers lost their life, 16 passengers were grievously injured and 58 passengers sustained simple injury. Loss of railway property in this accident has been estimated to Rs. 9.65 crore (approx.).

In the accident involving 12236 New Delhi - Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express, 4 passengers lost their life, 3 passengers suffered grievous injury and 20 passengers suffered simple injury. Loss of railway property in this accident will be known once CRS' report is received.

(c) No, Sir. A non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) to replace over aged assets was created in the year 2001 which was utilised till the year 2008. After 2008, the works of renewal of old railway track as and when due on age-cum-condition basis are being undertaken under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF).

#### **Private investment in Railways**

†502. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the services of Indian Railways for which plans for private investment have been chalked out;

(b) the number of plans received for private investment so far and the progress made to achieve them; and

(c) whether Railway officers/employees organisations have been roped in to promote private investment, if so, names of these organisations and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The 12th plan had envisaged port connectivities, production units, elevated rail corridor, private freight terminals, procurement of special purpose/high capacity wagons,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

station development, high speed corridor, dedicated freight corridor, logistics parks, electric locomotive factory, diesel locomotive factory, rail coach manufacturing factory and certain electrical works to be implemented through Public Private Partnership

(b) 10 proposals under port connectivity have been received, out of which, 'In principle' clearance has been granted for 9 proposals.

45 proposals have been received for Private Freight Terminals (PFTs), out of which 22 proposals have been granted 'In principle' approvals and notification for 19 has been issued. Approval of 53 rakes has been given under Liberalised Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS) and approval of 6 rakes under Special Freight Terminal Operators Scheme (SFTO), 6 rakes under Automobile Freight Terminal (AFTO) and 10 rakes under Wagon Leasing Scheme (WLS) has been given. Out of these induction of 20 rakes under LWIS, 2 rakes under AFTO and 2 rakes under WLS has been done.

(c) Officials of PPP Cell and concerned Directorates in Railway Board are working for promoting private investment.

#### **Recent train accidents**

503. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of train accidents occurred during May and June, 2014;
- (b) the details of persons died/ injured, accident-wise;
- (c) the details of compensation announced and actually paid to victims/ kin of deceased, so far, accident-wise;
- (d) the reasons identified for accidents, case-wise; and
- (e) the steps new Government has taken to stop accidents in Railways and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) During the months of May and June, 2014, altogether 17 consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings which were caused due to negligence of road vehicle users, took place on Indian Railways. Category-wise number of such consequential train accidents and number of persons died and injured therein is given below:

Type of Accidents	Number of Accidents	Died	Injured
Collision	-	-	-
Derailment	15	56	183
Fire in trains	-	-	-
Manned Level Crossing Accident	1	3	7
Miscellaneous	1	1	2
TOTAL	17	60	192

(c) Compensation to the victims of train accidents as defined under Section 124 of the Railways Act, 1989, is paid by the Railways only after the claim filed by the applicant is decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal in favour of the applicant. So far, no claim for compensation has been decreed by the Tribunal in respect of victims of train accidents which took place during May and June, 2014. However, ex-gratia relief to meet the immediate needs has been announced and paid to the victims of three train accidents during this period.

(d) Based on the inquiry reports including prima facie, out of the above 17 consequential train accidents during May and June, 2014, 10 accidents are attributable to failure of railway staff, 03 due to incidental factors, 03 due to sabotage and 01 due to equipment failure.

(e) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Anti Collision Device (ACD), Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) and Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS).

#### **Vacant railway land**

†504. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether substantial railway land is lying vacant under different railway zones of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, as on date, zone-wise;
- (c) the area of land lying vacant and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government is considering to allocate Railways' vacant land to poor people on lease; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The total area of land under Railway network is 457689 hectare, out of which approx. 47336 hectare is vacant. The vacant land is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks, which is required for servicing and maintenance of track and other infrastructure. The vacant railway land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways and include projects like doubling, traffic facilities, Rail Coach and Component factories, etc. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized for commercial development, wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources through Rail Land Development Authority. Zone-wise details of vacant Railway land are as under:

Railway	Vacant land (in hectares)
Central	2719
Eastern	1510
East Central	4284
East Coast	2232
Northern	8319
North Central	976
North Eastern	5776
Northeast Frontier	1114
North Western	1706

Railway	Vacant land (in hectares)
Southern	2651
South Central	1349
South Eastern	466
Southeast Central	2979
South Western	4131
Western	6243
West Central	476
Production Units	405
TOTAL	47336

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Making textile sector job oriented**

†505. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating any policy with the objective of making textile sector job-oriented, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the special measures being taken by Government for promoting export in textile sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The textile sector is already a labour-intensive sector employing the largest number of people after agriculture. The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has constituted an Expert Committee for reviewing Textile Policy 2000 and formulating a new National Textile Policy.

(b) The Government has introduced several export promotion measures in the

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

successive Union Budgets as well as through schemes of Foreign Trade Policy 2009-2014, including harmonized Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme covering all sectors and extension of 2% interest subvention scheme to certain specific sectors such as handicrafts, handlooms, carpets, readymade garments etc. In addition, various measures such as Incremental Export Incentivisation Scheme, Utilization of Duty Credit Scrip Scheme and inclusion of new products under Focus Product Scheme have been initiated with a view to promoting textile sector exports to various countries.

**Boost to RBHM Katihar Jute Mill, Bihar**

506. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to enhance the production and export potential of RBHM Katihar Jute Mill in Bihar, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of financial assistance provided to the Mill during the last two years; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government for growth of jute industry in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir. To enhance production and cost effectiveness of RBHM, Katihar, National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd. is upgrading its equipment in phases and doing need based repair and renovation of machines. There is also a plan for entering in production linked payment system to the labour contractor for increasing the production. There is no plan for making exportable goods presently.

(b) An amount of Rs. 7.87 crores in 2012-13 and Rs. 6.04 crores in 2013-14 has been provided to RBHM Mill, Katihar.

(c) Government of India is taking various steps for growth of jute industry in India, including Bihar. Some of these are as under:

- (i) In order to encourage jute production, compulsory packaging of certain percentage of foodgrains and Sugar in jute is mandated under Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities), 1987.
- (ii) Government of India launched the Jute Technology Mission (JTM) as a major initiative for overall development of the jute industry and growth of the jute sector with a total outlay of Rs.355.55 crores between 2006-07 to 2012-13.

- (iii) Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute and mesta is fixed every year to encourage farmers to grow more jute.
- (iv) National Jute Board and Jute Corporation of India are working on projects with National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAFT) and Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) to develop better jute seeds and to improve agronomical practices for jute cultivation.
- (v) Jute Corporation of India distributes high-yielding certified seeds to farmers for increasing productivity.

#### **Rejuvenation of the closed jute mills**

507. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of closed jute mills in the country, State-wise details thereof; and
- (b) the action Government intends to take for rejuvenation of the closed mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The State-wise closed jute mills in the country as on 8.7.2014, are as under:

Name of the State	No. of closed mills
West Bengal	5
Andhra Pradesh	1
Uttar Pradesh	2
Odisha	1
Chhattisgarh	1

- (b) At present, there is no scheme to rejuvenate the closed private mills.

#### **Winding up of Mumbai showroom of Central Cottage Industries Corp. of India Ltd.**

508. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to wind up the Mumbai showroom of Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd., one of the highest profit earning units in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;



(b) whether many employees of the Mumbai branch have been transferred to other metropolitan cities; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for promotion and marketing of handloom and handicraft products in the country, particularly in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Presently, 10 employees of Mumbai Branch of CCIC are on transfer to other units as per work requirement.

(c) For promotion and marketing of handloom products in the country, the Government of India provides financial assistance to State Governments and their organizations to organize fairs, craft melas and exhibitions at district, State and National level. These events are organized in important cities of the country including Mumbai. This not only provide direct marketing platform to weavers, avoiding the middleman, but also help them understand the market trends and establish market linkages. Moreover, there are several schemes namely Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna, Design and Technology Upgradation, Research and Development, Infrastructure and Technology Development and Marketing Support and Services Schemes (MSS) for promotion and marketing of Handicraft products in the country including Mumbai. Under one of the component of MSS scheme *i.e.* 'Domestic Marketing', financial assistance is provided to various Implementing Agencies for organization of Gandhi Shilp Bazar, Craft Bazaars, Exhibitions, National Handicrafts Fair, buyer-seller meets and workshops.

#### **Jute industry in West Bengal**

509. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jute related PSUs declared as sick or under severe financial constraints in the State of West Bengal during the last ten years;

(b) the details of schemes to assist these sick PSUs and the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken to tackle the high cost of production faced by the jute industry along with the international competition during last five years and results of steps taken; and

(d) the steps taken to upgrade the old machinery and technology used by the jute industry in West Bengal during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The 5 units of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd. (NJMC), namely, Kinnison, Khardah, National, Union and Alexandra and the Bird Jute and Exports Ltd. (BJEL) have been declared sick in the State of West Bengal during the last 10 years.

(b) With the approval of Cabinet and after the sanctioning of the Revival Scheme of Rs. 1562.98 crores, by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) the 2 units of NJMC namely Khardah and Kinnison are under revival. The revival scheme *inter- alia* includes financial restructuring, grant of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to all the employees of NJMC, running of 3 mills of NJMC namely Kinnison and Khardah in West Bengal and RBHM in Katihar, Bihar and closure of the remaining 3 mills namely National, Union and Alexandra.

As per the Revival Scheme, all the employees of NJMC have been granted VRS and production has been started in the 3 mills namely Kinnison, Khardah and RBHM, Katihar.

(c) The Government declares Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Raw Jute every year to encourage the jute farmers to produce more raw jute. The Government of India has launched the Jute Technology Mission (JTM) as a major initiative for overall development of the jute industry and growth of the jute sector with a total outlay of Rs.355.55 crores. Under the JTM, several schemes were operational under the Mini Mission I, II, III and IV for the overall growth of jute sector. Mini Mission-I aimed towards strengthening agriculture research and development in jute sector for improving the yield and quality. Mini Mission-II was targeted towards transfer of improved technology and agronomic practices in production and post harvesting phase. Under Mini-Mission-III, market linkage of raw jute provided in all jute growing States. Mini Mission-IV provided for modernization of jute industry, upgradation of skills, market promotion and exports which helped to increase demand of raw jute.

The major international competition is from Bangladesh which provides 7.5 % export subsidy to its jute goods exporters.

Due to the said efforts, the production of Raw Jute has been consistent to meet the demand of jute industry and many jute mills have been modernised resulting in increased efficiency in terms of cost of production. In the recent Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting held in Dhaka, the Government of Bangladesh has been requested to reconsider the export subsidy being provide by them to the jute goods exporters.

(d) The Government has given subsidy to the jute mills amounting to Rs. 104.36 crore for modernisation under JTM scheme to install new machineries.

#### **Appointment of bureaucrats in NIFT**

510. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Centres have been filled with bureaucrats and most of its Directors have been appointed from Central Civil Services who have nothing to do with fashion technology;

(b) if so, why the core function of NIFT is being diluted by appointing bureaucrats in place of professionals and at the cost of academicians; and

(c) the pay scales of teaching staff of NIFT and whether they are at par with central universities and other academic institutes like IITs, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Sir, presently out of the total of 15 Campus Directors, only 3 are deputationists from Central Government, one is on contract basis and the rest are academicians.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The pay-scales of teaching staff of NIFT Central Universities and IITs are as follows:

Sl. No.	Post	NIFT	Central University (fixed by HRD)	IITs
1	Assistant Professor	15600-5400-39100	15600-6000-39100	15600-8000-39100
2	Associate Professor	15600-6600-39100	37400-9000-67000	37400-9500-67000
3	Professor	37400-8700-67000	37400-10000-67000	37400-10500-67000
4	Senior Professor	37400-8900-67000		

The pay-scales of teaching staff of NIFT are therefore, at par with the pay-scales of the teachers in Central Universities and other academic institutes like IITs and as per the norms laid out by Ministry of Human Resource Development. The difference is only in grade pay which is due to the fact that minimum qualification for recruitment at the entry level to

the post of Assistant Professor in Central Universities is good academic record with 55% marks at the Master level and qualifying the National Eligibility Test (NET) or an accredited test (State Level Eligibility Test -SLET/SET). In NIFT the essential qualification is Under Graduate/Post Graduate Diploma/Degree from a recognized University or Institute.

**Problems faced by jute industry in West Bengal**

511. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the area under jute cultivation in West Bengal along with its production per hectare, district-wise during last five years;

(b) the steps taken by Government to tackle the competition faced by the jute industry from synthetic polymers and to overcome the problems of power shortage, obsolete machinery and shortage of raw materials; and

(c) whether Government is mulling any legislation similar to the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987 to protect the persons employed in the jute industry, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) District-wise area and production per hectare (yield) under jute cultivation in West Bengal, during last five years is as under:

**Table - 1**

Name of the district	Area under cultivation (hectare)				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	2	3	4	5	6
24-Pgs (N)	53654	40000	38000	30400	25840
24-Pgs (S)	2521	1700	1700	1615	1373
Hooghly	29040	29000	26000	25300	17710
Purba Madinipur	850	2000	2000	1900	1330
Paschim Madinipur	3716	3000	3000	2850	1995
Burdhaman	18850	23000	23000	21850	15295
Bankura	700	1300	1300	1235	865

1	2	3	4	5	6
Nadia	127600	143500	147500	140125	126113
Murshidabad	171999	203000	200000	186000	167400
Malda	18040	49000	45000	42750	42750
D Dinajpur	18005	30500	30500	28975	28975
U Dinajpur	43705	33000	33000	31350	31350
Jalapaiguri	41300	46000	46000	41400	37920
Darjeeling	2980	3046	2500	2250	1960
Coochbehar	35300	46000	42000	41153	32922
Alipurduar	10100	4480	4480	5436	4385
TOTAL	578360	658526	645980	604589	538181

**Table - 2**

Name of the district	Yield (Bales per hectare)				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	2	3	4	5	6
24-Pgs(N)	12	9.60	11.00	12.25	12.25
24-Pgs(S)	11.5	11.91	11.91	12.00	12.00
Hooghly	12	12.50	12.50	12.25	12.25
Purba Madinipur	12	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Paschim Madinipur	11.48	11.90	11.90	12.00	12.00
Burdhaman	11.5	12.20	12.50	12.50	12.50
Bankura	10	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Nadia	12.5	12.75	13.00	13.00	13.00
Murshidabad	13	12.61	12.81	13.00	13.00
Malda	11.5	10.82	10.82	12.00	12.00
D Dinajpur	11.5	10.65	10.65	12.00	12.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
U Dinajpur	11.5	11.60	11.60	12.00	12.00
Jalapaiguri	11	11.25	11.50	11.50	11.50
Darjeeling	10.5	9.56	10.00	10.50	10.50
Coochbehar	11	11.25	11.25	11.50	11.50
Alipurduar	11	11.25	11.25	11.50	11.50

(b) Government of India is taking various steps to tackle the competition faced by the jute industry from synthetic polymers and to overcome the problems of power shortage, obsolete machinery and shortage of raw materials. Some of these steps are as under:

- (i) To safeguard the interest of the jute industry from synthetic polymer, Government provides for compulsory packaging of certain percentage of foodgrains and Sugar in jute under Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities), 1987.
- (ii) Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the modernisation/technology upgradation of textile industry including jute. The Jute Technology Mission (JTM) launched by the Government had a major component for modernisation/technological upgradation of jute mills.
- (iii) Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute and mesta is fixed every year to encourage farmers to grow more jute.

There is no report of power shortage except in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the matter has already been taken up with the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh to rectify the problem of power shortage.

There is no shortage of raw jute to meet the demands of the jute sector.

- (c) There is no such proposal at present.

**12.00 NOON**

### **RULING BY THE CHAIR**

#### **Notices of alleged breach of privilege over leakage of certain portions of Railway Budget (2014-15)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, on July 9th, I received some notices of alleged breach of privilege on account of leakage of certain portions of the Railway Budget 2014-15 in a newspaper on July 8, the day on which it was laid in this House. The

notices were from Shri Madhusudan Mistry, Shri V. Hanumantha Rao, Shri Shantaram Naik, Shrimati Rajani Patil, Shri Praveen Rashtrapal and Shri Ashk Ali Tak, Members of Rajya Sabha. They enclosed a clipping of The Indian Express of July 8, 2014, which contained certain proposals of the Government which were to be announced during the Railway Minister's Budget speech. The matter was also raised by them in the House during the Question Hour on that day, and I had said, at that time, that it was under my examination.

I had examined the notices on the basis of the facts of the case, the material placed on record and the past precedents. It is a fact that some of the proposals of the Government, which found place in the Railway Minister's Budget speech, were, indeed, reported by The Indian Express in its issue of July 8, 2014, the day on which the Budget was due to be presented to Parliament. It is unfortunate that the contents of the Budget speech of the Railway Minister were reported in the media. This needs to be looked into by the Government to ascertain if norms of official secrecy were infringed. There are several instances in the past, wherein the Presiding Officers have observed that the leakage of Budget proposals does not constitute a breach of privilege. I have no reason to differ with these rulings of the past. Accordingly, I hold that these notices are not admissible.

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**12.00 P.M.**

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Ananth Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No discussion on the ruling given by the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*... Papers to be laid. Shri Ananth Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

#### **MoUs between Government of India and various Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited Companies**

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), for the year 2014-15.

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals) and the Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL), for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 19/16/14]

...(Interruptions)...

**Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology**

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, I lay on the Table :—

- (i) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology), under subsection (3) of Section 96 of the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000:-

- (1) S.O. 2745 (E), dated the 8th December, 2011, regarding declaring of convention countries with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 63/16/14]

- (2) S.O. 307 (E), dated the 4th February, 2014, regarding, declaring of convention countries with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 63/16/14]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications), under Section 37 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:-

- (1) F. No. 3-24/2012-B & CS, dated the 20th September, 2013, publishing the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Digital Addressable Cable Television Systems) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2013.
- (2) No. 311-33/2014-QoS, dated the 7th April, 2014, publishing the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (Fifteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2014.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 60/16/14]

...(Interruptions)...



**I. Report and Accounts (2012-13) of NIFT, New Delhi and related papers****II. MoU between Government of India and NHDC**

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Sir, on behalf of Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, I lay on the Table:—

**I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—**

- (a) Twenty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi, for the year 2012-13, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons or the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 122/16/14]

**II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Limited, for the year 2014-15.  
...(Interruptions)...****MoUs between Government of India and various Public Sector Companies**

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री निहाल चन्द) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) and the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL) for the year 2014-15

[Place in Library. See No. L.T. 231/16/14]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T.232/16/14]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) and the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 88/16/14]

...(Interruptions)...

**Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture**

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा खाद्य प्रसंस्करण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान): महोदय, मैं आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम, 1955 की धारा 3 की उपधारा (6) के अधीन कृषि मंत्रालय (कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग) की निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल रखता हूँ:-

- (1) S.O. 968 (E), dated the 29th March, 2014, notifying the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985, made under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 as special order for the purposes of the said section.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 24/16/14]

- (2) S.O. 1180 (E), dated the 30th April, 2014, amending Notification No. S.O. 382 (E), dated the 15th February, 2013, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 25/16/14]

- (3) S.O. 1181 (E), dated the 30th April, 2014, publishing the Fertiliser (Control) Amendment Order, 2014.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 26/16/14]

- (4) S.O. 1182 (E), dated, the 30th April, 2014, notifying the specifications of the customized fertilizers for a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification.

[Placed in Library See No. L.T. 27/16/14]

...(Interruptions)...

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**RULING BY THE CHAIR – contd.****Notices of Alleged Breach of Privilege over Leakage of certain portions of Railway Budget 2014-15**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your problem? ...(Interruptions)... Let me listen to Shri Chaturvedi. ...(Interruptions)... Now others should keep quiet.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, सभापति जी ने अपनी रूलिंग में यह बात स्वीकार की है कि इस तरह का लीकेज दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। इस तरह के लीकेज पर सरकार को कार्यवाही करनी होगी ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. I have told you that after the Chairman's ruling, that is over. ...(Interruptions)... That is over. After the Chairman's ruling, that is over. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : चेयरमैन की रूलिंग पर सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रही है? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): The House is supreme.  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Announcement by the Chair....(Interruptions)...  
बैठिए, प्लीज बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज, रूलिंग हो गयी। आपको रूल मालूम है।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर, यह गंभीर मामला है। ...(व्यवधान)... यह मामला गंभीर है। इसको  
ऐसे नहीं जाने दिया जा सकता। इस पर सरकार क्या एक्शन ले रही है? इस बात का जवाब यहां  
पर आना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Mr. Deputy Chairman,  
Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You listen to the Minister ...(Interruptions)... You  
listen to the Minister. You listen to him. ...(Interruptions)... You are asking a question. The  
Minister wants to react. ...(Interruptions)... Yes, Venkaiahji. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: They don't want to listen. Then, fine, thank you.  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not saying anything. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, ...(Interruptions)... of that inquiry certain portions  
appeared in that newspaper. That means the crime has been committed. So to what extent  
is the Government proceeding with? ...(Interruptions)... Rejection of privilege notice is a  
different thing. It is on the basis of precedence. It is a serious matter. We want some kind  
of a direction from the Chair to the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is, in the ruling, hon. Chairman  
has said what he has to say that there is no privilege at all. This is the first point  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Privilege is a different thing. But after inquiry  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Secondly, it is up to the Government ...(Interruptions)...  
The Chair cannot do anything. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : उपसभापति जी। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री उपसभापति :** नहीं, बैठिए, बैठिए।

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी :** उपसभापति जी, सभापति जी ने अपनी रूलिंग देते हुए रूलिंग में यह कहा कि जो भी उपलब्ध साक्ष्य हैं, उनको देखकर हमने यह पाया कि कुछ न कुछ पोर्शन्स, जो बजट स्पीच में थे, वे पहले से इंडियन एक्सप्रेस में प्रिंट हुए हैं। इसको उन्होंने दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण माना, गलत माना और उन्होंने अपनी रूलिंग में सरकार से यह अपेक्षा की है कि सरकार इस मुद्दे के ऊपर कार्रवाई करे। हम यही जानना चाहते हैं, यह सदन जानना चाहता है कि इस मामले के ऊपर सरकार क्या कार्रवाई करने का प्रस्ताव रखती है और कब तक वह कार्रवाई करने जा रही है? ...(व्यवधान)... हम यह जानना चाहते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Chair in his ruling also mentioned that similar precedence were there in the past. I would like to know what investigations were done in those cases. The House may be enlightened on that.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is present today.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, the hon. Chairman, while giving his ruling...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't discuss on the ruling.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: No, no; the hon. Chairman while giving his ruling has also said – I am just referring to the ruling, I am not disputing – that it is unfortunate that some portion of the Budget has been leaked to the newspaper and it is for the Government to look into this to see how it has happened. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Government to look into the matter. Otherwise, the Government should give an advance copy of the Budget to the newspaper for publication. The Government must make a statement on that.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): I am not questioning the ruling. The Chairman made very serious remarks on the leakage of the Budget documents. Actually it is against the oath taken by the Ministers, *i.e.*, to protect the secrecy. I would request the Government...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How do you know that the Ministers have leaked? Chairman has not said that Ministers have leaked. No, no; Chairman has not said that Ministers have leaked. ...(Interruptions)... No, no, don't attribute such kind of allegations. The point is, I also heard the ruling. All that our Chairman said is about the leakage. He has not said that it is done by any Minister or Government. He has not said that.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: ...(Interruptions)... No, the leakage is there. That means it

is against the secrecy. The Government should come out with a statement on what has actually happened.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You made your point.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no discussion on that.

SHRI D. RAJA: No, no; I am not discussing. As you are in the Chair, you should take the sense of the House also. It is such a serious issue. That is why I am giving my opinion. The point is, while giving the ruling, the Chairman has said, it is for the Government to look into it and see if there is any violation of Official Secrets Act. Now the Ministers are here. Let them say that Government will look into it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If Chairman has given such a direction, then, Government will look into that. Why do you worry? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: In a discreet way ...*(Interruptions)*... the Government is functioning ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say something, Mr. Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*... See, Parliamentary Affairs Minister may react if you sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to him.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: The Government has to come out as to what it wants to do ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, we are sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*... We want to know what the Government proposes to do and what action they are proposed to take ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us hear him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: All right. We will hear him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Agreed. ...*(Interruptions)*... बैटिए...बैटिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Sir, it is the violation of the Official Secrets Act. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are asking to punish the offenders who have assisted in this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister may react ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have called the Minister. You can speak after the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... बैठिए .... बैठिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी :** सर, इस सदन को कब तक बैठिए जानकारी दी जाएगी कि सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us hear him. Now, let us hear the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Okay, Minister is yielding. You can speak.

**श्री के.सी. त्यागी (बिहार) :** मेरा निवेदन यह है कि जो वित्त मंत्री महोदय हैं, उनकी भूमिका पर कोई इलज़ाम नहीं लगा रहा है, नंबर वन ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**कुछ माननीय सदस्य :** रेल मंत्री .... रेल मंत्री ...

**श्री उपसभापति :** नहीं, नहीं यह तो रेल मंत्री की बात है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री के.सी. त्यागी :** सॉरी सर, तो रेलवे मिनिस्टर पर कोई इलज़ाम नहीं लगा रहा है, लेकिन बजट की जो सीक्रेसी है, यह मेन्टेन की जाती है, यह कन्वेंशन है, इसलिए किन अधिकारियों ने, किन कर्मचारियों ने, उसमें गड़बड़ की है, कम से कम सदन के सामने यह बात आनी चाहिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री उपसभापति :** मंत्री जी को बोलने दीजिए।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, even without any suggestion from the Chair, I immediately stood up to respond. But, I was not allowed. So, I just sat down. Otherwise, the Government is sensitive. We will go through the ruling of the hon. Chairman. To my knowledge, hon. Chairman did not issue any direction or advice to the Government. That is one ...*(Interruptions)*... Secondly, the Government will definitely respect whatever advice or direction given by the Chair and then we will look into the entire matter. I am also aware that the hon. Chairman has...

**श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश) :** सर, कब तक? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु :** अगर उत्तर नहीं चाहिए, तो मैं बैठ जाता हूं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, allow him to say. Please, sit down.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the hon. Chairman also mentioned in his observation, while giving the ruling, that there were some instances earlier also. So, I will ask my colleague to examine what had happened earlier, what sort of action was taken and what could be done now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. That is all. Fine. Now, announcement by Chair.

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**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the Members that a letter has been received from Shri Mithun Chakraborty stating that he is unable to attend the sittings of the House during the current Session due to some prior urgent commitments. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence from 7th July, 2014 to 14th August, 2014 of the current 232nd Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from all meetings of the House during the current Session?

*(No hon. Member dissented.)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have also to inform the Members that a letter has been received from Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey stating that he is unable to attend the sitting of the House during the current Session due to ankle surgery. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence for the entire sittings of the current Session *i.e.* from 7th July to 14th August, 2014, of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from all meetings of the House during the current Session?

*(No hon. Member dissented.)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I also to inform the Members that a letter has been received from Shri Kunal Kumar Ghosh stating that he is unable to attend the sitting of the House during the current Session due to his being in the custody of the CBI. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence from 7th July to 14th August, 2014, of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from all meetings of the House during the current Session?

*(No hon. Member dissented.)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Motion for election to the Tea Board. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan.

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**MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE TEA BOARD**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, I move the following motion:

“That in pursuance of clause (f) of sub-Section (3) of Section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953 (No. 29 of 1953) read with clause (b) of sub-rule (I) of Rule 4 and sub-rule (1) of Rule 5 of the Tea Rules, 1954, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from amongst the Members of the House to be a member of the Tea Board.”

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

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**STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Statement regarding Government Business. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with your permission Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 14th of July, 2014, will consist of:—

1. General discussion on Budget (Railways) for 2014-15.
2. Consideration and return of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:—
  - (a) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2014.
  - (b) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2014.
3. Consideration and passing of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2014, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.
4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 and consideration and passing of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2014, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.



## 5. General discussion on Budget (General) for 2014-15

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Now, we take up matters to be raised with the permission of the Chair, Zero Hour. Shri Prabhat Jha ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मेरा एक राष्ट्रीय महत्व का सवाल है। आप कृपया एक मिनट के लिए सुन लीजिए, मैं बड़ी देर से आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाह रहा था।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Listen, I have started the Zero Hour. After the Zero Hour is over, I will allow you time. Shri Prabhat Jha.

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**MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION****Rape of a minor girl in Bokaro in Jharkhand on the  
direction of a social panchayat**

**श्री प्रभात झा** (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, देश में अब तक हम सभी लोगों के ध्यान में यह बात आती रही है, कश्मीर से लेकर केरल तक कोई भी घटना होती है, सबसे शर्मनाक घटना बलात्कार की होती है, जिस पर हम सब लोगों का सिर शर्म से झुक जाता है। लेकिन उससे भी एक कूरतम घटना जब झारखंड के गोमिया थाना, स्वांग उत्तर पंचायत में घटती है, तो लगता है कि हम सबको जीने का अधिकार नहीं बचा है। बलात्कार जबरिया किया जाता है, लेकिन वहां पर एक पंचायत का मुखिया एक फरमान जारी करता है। गांव में किसी व्यक्ति की पत्नी के साथ छेड़खानी होती है, गांव के लोग इकट्ठे होते हैं, वहां पासी समाज की पंचायत बैठती है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... एक मिनट, यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। जब पंचायत बैठती है तो उसके द्वारा यह पूछा जाता है कि क्या तुम्हारी पत्नी के साथ छेड़खानी हुई है। वह कहता है, हां, हुई है। उसके बाद वह मुखिया फरमान देता है कि जाओ, इसकी दस साल की बेटे के साथ तुम रेप करो, चाहे जो करो, यह मेरा आदेश है - इस प्रकार का फरमान पंचायत जारी करती है। वह भी एक संवैधानिक संस्था है। इससे बड़ा दुर्भाग्य क्या हो सकता है? महोदय, घटना यहीं नहीं रुकती है। घटना और आगे जाती है। गांव वालों के सामने उस दस साल की बेटिया को वह व्यक्ति जंगल में लेकर जाता है, उसका रेप करता है और गांव के लोग कुछ नहीं कहते हैं। इसलिए मैंने कहा कि आज़ाद भारत के बाद हमने सुना था कि बलात्कार की घटना होती है। जो झारखंड में हुआ, उसमें मैं न सरकार की बुराई करता हूं, न किसी की बात करता हूं, यह मानवीय संवेदना की बात है। जब वह घटना घटती है तो गांव का एक भी व्यक्ति वहां नहीं बोलता है। इसलिए मुझे लगा कि सदन में यह बात लानी चाहिए। इतना ही नहीं होता है, दिन दहाड़े उस दिल दहलाने वाली घटना को पूरे गांव के लोग अपनी आंखों से देखते रहते हैं, लेकिन उस मासूम को बचाने के लिए कोई एक आदमी आगे नहीं आता है। जब खुद उसका पिता रोता और चिल्लाता है, उसकी मां रोती है, तब जाकर बड़ी मुश्किल से थाने में उसकी रिपोर्ट दर्ज होती है, लेकिन अभी तक उसमें बस्ती का कोई व्यक्ति पकड़ा नहीं गया, क्योंकि कोई इस बात की गवाही देने को तैयार

[श्री प्रभात झा]

नहीं है। जब वह थाने पहुंचा और उसने कहा कि रिपोर्ट लिखिए, तो उससे कहा गया कि कठिनाई यह है कि कोई गवाह नहीं बन रहा है। इतनी बड़ी शर्मनाक घटना वहां घटती है। जो विक्टिम है, जो पीड़िता है, जो नाबालिग है, वह वहां है। इसलिए मेरा भारत सरकार से निवेदन है कि किसी की भी सरकार झारखंड में हो, भारत की धरती पर इस तरह से यह तालिबानी फरमान करना, कि जाओ, बलात्कार करो, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए, इसको रोकना चाहिए। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि सारा सदन इस घटना से शर्मसार होगा और मेरी बात से सहमत होगा।

**डा. कर्ण सिंह** (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

**श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी** (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

**कई माननीय सदस्य** : उपसभापति महोदय, हम सभी इस विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करते हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, the entire House is one on this. ...**(Interruptions)**...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): This is not only a question of the entire House being associated itself with it. I think the entire police of that place and the entire village should be held responsible for this. This is not a question of 'a' government or 'b' government. ...**(Interruptions)**... How has it been allowed? Only last year we had passed a legislation. What has happened to that legislation if we do not take action on such issues? ...**(Interruptions)**... We are all one on this issue. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In any case, ...**(Interruptions)**... This is such a heinous crime on a minor girl. If whatever stated here is true, it is very serious. I think the Government should inquire and come back to the House on what is the position. ...**(Interruptions)**... It should be inquired into. Also if such a crime has happened, serious action should be taken. ...**(Interruptions)**... Whatever is possible by the Government of India, it should be done. ...**(Interruptions)**...

**श्री अनिल माधव दवे** (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, ऐसे व्यक्ति को सख्त सजा दी जानी चाहिए।...**(व्यवधान)**... ऐसे व्यक्ति को सार्वजनिक रूप से सजा दी जानी चाहिए।...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर** (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : सर, यह बहुत ही गंभीर मामला है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

**सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री (श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत)** : उपसभापति महोदय, आपके निर्देश और सदन की भावना का सम्मान करते हुए, मैं सदन को आश्वस्त करना चाहूंगा कि मैं गृह मंत्री जी से बात करके, इस गंभीर घटना के बारे में आवश्यक कार्यवाही कराऊंगा।

श्री अश्विनी कुमार (पंजाब) : सर, सदन में एक्शन टेकन रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत होनी चाहिए। यह बहुत ही संवेदनशील मामला है। सारे सदन की भावना के मद्देनजर सरकार ने क्या एक्शन लिया है, वह एक्शन टेकन रिपोर्ट सदन में प्रस्तुत की जाए। माननीय मंत्री जी, आप इस बात का संज्ञान लें, चेयर के माध्यम से सारे सदन की यही दरखास्त है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने डायरेक्शन दे दी है।...(व्यवधान).... यह विषय हो गया। श्री डी. राजा।...(व्यवधान)...

**Continued Attack on Indian Fishermen particularly  
Tamil fishermen by Sri Lankan forces**

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I draw the attention of the entire House and I also draw the attention of the Government to the miserable plight of Indian fishermen. The fishermen from Tamil Nadu, the fishermen from Puducherry have been continuously attacked, harassed and arrested by the Sri Lankan forces. Many of them are still in the prisons of Sri Lanka. Every political party in Tamil Nadu has raised this issue. The Chief Minister has repeatedly written to the Central Government. Despite all these things the fishermen are in prisons, fishermen are being attacked, their fishing is being affected. It is a serious matter. I do not know what the Government is going to do because I have been raising this issue, my colleagues have been raising this issue umpteen times in this House for years together but nothing is happening in reality. No protection is for our fishermen. Sir, here I would like to underline the fact that there are certain bilateral issues with Sri Lanka. I do not want any mercy from the Government towards fishermen. They are Indian fishermen. Because they speak Tamil, do not treat them as Tamil fishermen. They are Indian fishermen. Indian Government has the responsibility to protect the Indian fishermen. This is number one. Number two, Sir, we will have to strive for a long-term lasting solution. That lies in the resolution of Kachchatheevu dispute. I am saying it as a 'dispute' even though the Government claims it is a settled matter, a bilateral matter between Indian and Sri Lanka. The agreements were done in 1974 and 1976. At that point of time a promise was given that the traditional fishing rights of the Indian fishermen will be protected. Now they say the right to access to Kachchatheevu is not to be understood as to cover the fishing rights of fishermen. That is where the question comes whether these agreements need to be reopened. The 1974 and 1976 Kachchatheevu Agreements should be reopened and should be renegotiated.

If Sri Lanka thinks that it cannot be reopened and it is a closed chapter, India should caution the Government of Sri Lanka that if India is forced to such a position we would claim retrieval of Kachchatheevu Islands. It was an agreement. You go through the debates that took place in this House as well as in the other House. (*Time-Bell rings*) Just find out what Madam Indira Gandhi said in those days. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: I sincerely appeal to the Government to give, an assurance ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no use of speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Maitreyan to associate.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, on behalf of my party chief, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I thank the Narendra Modi-led Government for taking effective steps for getting released 184 fishermen within the first forty-five days of their assuming power. However, the problem is that the fishermen are released, but their boats are still impounded. The long-term impoundment of these boats deprives the livelihood to these fishermen. That is why I urge upon the Government to take effective steps in this regard. Secondly, my Chief Minister has repeatedly reiterated that the International Maritime Boundary Line and retrieval of Kachchatheevu are not settled issues. In fact, we are shocked that the affidavit filed by the Ministry of External Affairs ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. You have only to associate.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: We are shocked to learn that as per the affidavit filed by the Ministry of External Affairs the issue of Kachchatheevu is a settled matter in the High Court of Madras. We reiterate that it is not a settled issue. We request the Government to change its affidavit and not to go by ...*(Time-bell rings)*... what the *babus* of ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Alright. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The *babus* of the Ministry of External Affairs have been ...*(Interruptions)*... They have to revisit their files and revise their affidavit. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have only to associate. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL (Gujarat): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, why can't you ask the Government to respond. It is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; okay. It's alright. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Raja, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Non-disbursal of scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled  
Castes in various States, particularly in Punjab**

**श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान पोस्ट मैट्रिक स्कॉलरशिप देने में हो रही देरी की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, भारतीय संविधान में बाबा साहब भीमराव अम्बेडकर जी ने दलितों को विकास की दिशा में ले जाने के लिए आरक्षण की व्यवस्था की थी। इसी क्रम में अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति के स्टूडेंट्स की एजुकेशन के विकास के लिए पोस्ट मैट्रिक स्कॉलरशिप का पूरे देश में प्रावधान हुआ है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार को अवगत कराना चाहता हूँ कि बड़े ही अफसोस की बात है कि पंजाब प्रदेश में और देश के कुछ अन्य प्रदेशों में अनुसूचित जाति के स्टूडेंट्स को स्कॉलरशिप समय पर नहीं मिल रही है। इसके कारण लाखों दलित स्टूडेंट्स का आगे की क्लासेज में एडमिशन नहीं हो पा रहा है। पिछले साल करीब दो लाख पैंतीस हजार दलित स्टूडेंट्स को इस स्कीम के तहत एडमिशन मिला था। इस बार इन स्टूडेंट्स को एडमिशन नहीं मिल पा रहा है। जिन स्टूडेंट्स ने पहले एडमिशन लिया है, उनमें से किसी की तीन साल की डिग्री है, किसी की चार साल की डिग्री है, उनकी पढ़ाई भी इससे प्रभावित हो रही है, क्योंकि जो प्राइवेट कॉलेज हैं, उनको समय पर फीस न मिलने के कारण वे बच्चों को आगे की क्लासेज में एडमिशन नहीं दे रहे हैं। इसके साथ ही नए स्टूडेंट्स का एडमिशन भी नहीं हो पा रहा है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से यह मांग करता हूँ कि पंजाब प्रदेश के लाखों दलित स्टूडेंट्स को उनके एडमिशन के लिए जो स्कॉलरशिप फीस है, वह समय पर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार intervene करे और इसके लिए पंजाब सरकार को जरूरी निर्देश जारी किए जाएं, ताकि लाखों दलित विद्यार्थियों के फ्यूचर को बचाया जा सके तथा उनको समय पर एडमिशन मिल सके। पंजाब की सरकार ने एक पत्र जारी करके कहा है कि कॉलेज पहले बच्चों से फीस ले लें, हम उनको बाद में वापस दे देंगे। पिछले दो सालों से प्राइवेट कॉलेजों की फीस को नहीं दिया गया है। जो पैसा यहां से गया है, वहां उनको क्यों नहीं दिया गया है। प्राइवेट कॉलेजों को और दूसरे कॉलेजों को समय पर फीस मिले, ताकि बच्चों को समय पर एडमिशन मिले। मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से अपील करते हुए, माननीय मंत्री जी यहां हैं, मैं उनसे आश्वासन चाहूंगा, क्योंकि यह एक गंभीर विषय है और लाखों बच्चों के फ्यूचर का सवाल है। ...*(समय की घंटी)*... मुझे उम्मीद है कि वे इसमें जरूर intervene करेंगे।

**श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं इससे अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

**Setting up of a separate ministry for fisheries**

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, India is the third largest producer of fish in the world. We have over three crore fishermen and 13 coastal States in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, यह बड़ा गंभीर मामला है। मंत्री जी सदन में विराजमान हैं, यदि वे इसका आज उत्तर देंगे तो अच्छा होगा। यह लाखों बच्चों के भविष्य का सवाल है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : यह गंभीर मामला है, इसलिए मंत्री जी देखेंगे और जो कुछ करना है, वह करेंगे ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, यह दलित बच्चों का गंभीर सवाल है ...*(व्यवधान)*... ऐसा मत कीजिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; not allowed. It is her time. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिए। ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Kanimozhi, you continue. You don't stop.

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : \*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. Kanimozhi, you proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, we have an 8018 kilometre coast. Last year's foreign exchange earnings through sea food exports was Rs.18,856/- crores. At present, the fisheries and fish processing sector come under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing. However, given the immense export potential, maritime security issues and welfare of fishermen, there is a strong necessity to create a separate Ministry for Fisheries. Many of us have spoken again and again about the tragic situation of the Tamil Nadu fishermen who fish in Indian waters. Last month alone, a total of 179 fishermen were arrested and 45 boats were seized. There is a constant sense of fear and unease among those who are living on the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. Though most of the fishermen who were captured last month have been sent back, the Sri Lankan Government has not returned their boats. This has severely affected their livelihood because they can't go back to fishing without their boats. The Government has to take stern steps and take it up with the Sri Lankan Government to stop this and find a permanent solution to these problems. It has been going on for many years and nothing is being done to make sure that this problem is settled once and for all. Our traditional fishing waters have to be made safe for our own fishermen. Apart from this, the fishery sector faces multiple challenges such as loss of bio-diversity, depletion of fish stocks, adverse impact of climate change, shoreline degradation and loss of coral reefs. Unless a well-planned strategy is put in place, the fishermen and the industry would face serious problems in the coming years. These are all issues which can be dealt by a dedicated Ministry of Fisheries, which will handle all aspects of fishery, fishermen's welfare

\*Not recorded.

and fish processing industry. This year's Budget has increased its allocation in this regard from Rs. 325/- crores to Rs. 461/- crores. But, still, this is a very small amount considering that fisheries is the third largest livelihood generator after agriculture and weaving in this country. On behalf of the DMK, I urge the Prime Minister and the Government to take this up immediately and set up a Ministry for Fisheries which can address the problems of the Indian fishermen, their security and put an end to their troubles.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with the point raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the point made by the hon. Member.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the point raised by the hon. Member.

#### **Atrocities against dalits at tigaon village in Faridabad, Haryana**

**श्री रामदास अठावले (महाराष्ट्र) :** उपसभापति जी, भारत में जो दलित हैं, उनके ऊपर गाँव-गाँव में बहुत अत्याचार हो रहे हैं। महात्मा गाँधी जी ने सभी दलितों को न्याय देने की बात कही थी, लेकिन गाँवों में आज भी अनटचेबिलिटी है। यदि कोई दलित पढ़ाई करता है और किसी सवर्ण समाज की लड़की के साथ प्यार करता है एवं शादी करना चाहता है, तो उसका मर्डर हो जाता है। महाराष्ट्र में खरड़ा नाम का एक गाँव है, वहाँ पर सत्रह साल के एक नौजवान की हत्या कर दी गई। दिल्ली के नजदीक फरीदाबाद जिले में तिगाऊँ नाम का गाँव है। वहाँ पर जगदीश नाम का लड़का एक राशनिंग डिपो चलाता है। गुर्जर समाज के दो-तीन आदमी उसके पास गए और कहा कि हमें राशन कार्ड चाहिए, इसके लिए इन ब्लैक फॉर्मस पर सिग्नेचर करो। वह बोला कि आप पहले फॉर्म भर लीजिए, मैं बाद में सिग्नेचर कर दूंगा। उन्होंने कहा कि तू दलित है, हमारा गुलाम है और हमारे साथ ऐसे बात करता है? उन्होंने उसको मारा। उसके बाद 26 जून को, गुर्जर समाज के लगभग 250 लोग उस बस्ती में आए और 50 गाड़ियाँ तोड़ दीं। अभी वहाँ पर 8 लोग जखमी हैं। दिल्ली के नजदीक यह सब हो रहा है। पूरे देश में, चाहे हरियाणा हो, महाराष्ट्र हो, यूपी हो, बिहार हो, राजस्थान हो, कई राज्यों में ऐसा हो रहा है। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जब लोक सभा और राज्य सभा में प्रिवेंशन ऑफ एट्रोसिटीज़ एक्ट, 1989 पास हुआ था, तो 20 घंटे तक चर्चा हुई थी। सभी मेम्बर्स ऑफ पार्लियामेंट और सभी पार्टियों ने यह स्वीकार किया था कि दलितों पर अत्याचार हो रहे हैं। आज हम 21वीं शताब्दी में प्रवेश कर चुके हैं, लेकिन इस अनटचेबिलिटी को खत्म करने के लिए हम कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं। यह केवल सरकार का काम नहीं है, यह हम सब लोगों का काम है। समाज को जोड़ने का जो काम है, जिसके लिए बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर जी ने संविधान में लिखा है, उसमें सोशल, इकोनॉमिक इक्वेलिटी प्रस्तावित करने की बात है, लेकिन संविधान एक बाजू में है, हमारा कानून एक बाजू में है और दूसरी ओर हम एक-दूसरे पर अत्याचार कर रहे हैं। मैंने तो बहुत बार मांग की है कि दलितों और सवर्णों को इकट्ठा लाना चाहिए। जब बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर जी ने आरपीआई की स्थापना की थी, तो उसके पीछे उनकी भावना इतनी थी कि दलितों और सवर्णों को एक करना चाहिए, जातिवाद को खत्म करना चाहिए और अपने देश में समानता स्थापित होनी चाहिए। इसका मतलब यह है कि हम सवर्णों के खिलाफ नहीं हैं। सर, मैंने सवर्ण समाज के लोगों, उच्च वर्गीय समाज के लोगों के लिए



[श्री रामदास अठावले]

लोक सभा में माँग कि थी कि दलित, आदिवासी और ओबीसी को जिस तरह आरक्षण मिलता है, उसी तरह ब्राह्मण, मराठा, राजपूत, क्रिश्चियन, लिंगायत आदि समाज में जो इकोनॉमिक रूप से बैकवर्ड क्लास के लोग हैं, उनको भी मंडल कमीशन के मुताबिक आरक्षण मिलना चाहिए। हमें इस झगड़े को खत्म करना चाहिए। गुर्जर को भी आरक्षण मिलना चाहिए, जाट को भी मिलना चाहिए, मराठा को भी मिलना चाहिए। मेरा कहना यह है कि मेरा विषय एट्रोसिटीज़ का है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**....

**श्री उपसभापति :** आपका समय समाप्त हो गया। ...**(व्यवधान)**... ओके, आपका टाइम ओवर हो गया। त्यागी जी, आप बोलिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अठावले जी आप, बैठिए। आपका टाइम खत्म हो गया। त्यागी जी, आप बोलिए।

#### **Recent Attack on Palestine by Israeli Army**

**श्री के. सी. त्यागी (बिहार) :** सर, पिछले एक सप्ताह में लगातार निर्दोष फिलिस्तिनियों पर अत्याचार हो रहे हैं। यह बहुत पुरानी समस्या है, अगर मैं उसके विस्तार में जाऊँगा, तो आप समय भी नहीं देंगे। उनकी तीन पीढ़ियाँ तम्बुओं में पैदा हुई हैं। अमेरिका इजरायल को इकोनॉमिकली और मिलिट्रीवाइज़ सपोर्ट करने के लिए 8 मिलियन डॉलर पर डे खर्च करता है। भारत के पहले प्रधान मंत्री पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू और नासिर साहब ने मिल कर गुटनिरपेक्ष देशों की कल्पना की थी और उसे अस्तित्व में लाए थे, जिसे बाद में श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी और यासर अराफात ने मिल कर पश्चिम एशिया से लेकर पूरी दुनिया में फैलाया था। श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी के प्रधान मंत्रित्व काल में भी कई मौकों पर उन्होंने फिलिस्तिनियों की मदद की थी। यह पहला अवसर है, बाजारवाद का असर है और अमेरिकी\* का असर है कि दुनिया का कोई भी मुल्क उन निहत्थे लोगों के ऊपर हो रहे अत्याचार पर बोलने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। मेरे पास समाचार पत्र की एक कटिंग है, जिसमें से मैं एक लाइन पढ़ कर सुनाने की इजाजत चाहता हूँ। इसमें लिखा है, 'The mother of a four year old Palestinian girl killed in an Israeli air attack.' एक चार साल की बच्ची रमज़ान के मुकद्दस महीने में, जिसको अगली ईद का इंतजार था, जिसके माँ-बाप उसकी बहबूदी के लिए दुआएँ करते, वह चार साल की बच्ची भी इजरायल के अटैक में मरी है। इस पर पूरी दुनिया खामोश है। भारत ऐसी तमाम तहजीबों का और इस तरह की तमाम चीजों का समर्थन करता रहा है। यह हमारा सिद्धांत रहा है कि हम तमाम ब्रह्मांड के लोगों का ध्यान रखते हैं। अच्छा होता है कि हमारी काबिल विदेश मंत्री यहाँ होतीं, लेकिन मुझे अफसोस है कि विदेश मंत्री ने भी अब तक इस विषय में कोई चिन्ता व्यक्त नहीं की है। मून साहब, जो यूनाइटेड नेशंस के सेक्रेटरी जनरल हैं, उनका कल का रिज़ोलुशन मेरे पास है। शायद आज सिक्योरिटी काउंसिल की मीटिंग भी हो सकती है, जिसमें यह प्रस्ताव आए, लेकिन मुझे यह अफसोस है कि क्या कारण है कि भारत सरकार ने अब तक इस पर रिएक्ट नहीं किया। यह बात मैं अपनी बाई बाजू के मित्रों के लिए इलज़ाम के तौर पर नहीं कहना चाहता, न ही मैं सारी पार्टी के लिए यह कह रहा हूँ, लेकिन कुछ ऐसे लोग हैं, जिनकी इज़राइल के साथ भी हमदर्दी रहती है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि कम-से-कम इस सदन में इस तरह का प्रस्ताव पास होना चाहिए कि इस समय फिलिस्तीन और इजरायल के लोगों में जो झगड़ा चल रहा है,....**(समय की घंटी)**... उसको समाप्त करने के लिए और 7 लाख के करीब जो रिफ्यूजी हैं, जो पिछली तीन पीढ़ियों से टेंटों में

\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.



रह रहे हैं, उनकी वापसी के लिए भारत यूएनओ में फिलिस्तीनियों के पक्ष में पैरवी करेगा। धन्यवाद।

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इनके उल्लेख का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Almost the entire House associates. Now, Shri K.N. Balagopal.

### **Bringing back Indians Trapped in Iraq**

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, I wish to raise a very serious issue here. It is about the very serious situation prevailing in Iraq.

Sir, I think this should have been discussed in this House earlier after a statement by the Minister. A discussion is actually needed in this House. Hence, I would first request the Government to initiate a discussion on the Iraq issue. An immediate intervention by the Government is needed. Now, Iraq is divided into three parts and ISIS is controlling a major part of the region. There are terrorist attacks taking place over there. And India is concerned socially, politically, economically and there are various aspects to it. But the immediate concern is the plight of the Indians there.

Sir, I wish to congratulate the Government for taking the initiative and bringing back home some of the Indians, especially some nurses working in Mosul. There are Indians who have been brought back, but they are only few in number considering the total number of Indians working there. India sent a Boeing 777 Airbus and brought them back from the Erbil Airport, not Mosul. So, transporting is a problem. Forty-six nurses from Kerala came back on the first flight. A lot of people are still trapped there. There are a lot of people working in the health sector there, mainly nurses. Also, there are office workers who are working in different enterprises. Mainly, they are Indian labourers working there. They went to Iraq through some other channels too; some Indian labourers had gone to Iraq from neighbouring countries. The unfortunate part is that we don't have the records. We don't know the actual position. The Government may make a statement, but I fear that India does

[Shri K.N. Balagopal]

not have the data as to how many Indians are actually working in various parts of Iraq. The Government of India needs to make an urgent intervention, just as it did during the time of the Kuwait war when dozens of aircraft were sent to Kuwait and neighbouring countries to bring back Indians trapped there. At the time of the earlier UPA Government too there were a couple of incidents such as the Libyan crisis. Internationally, such crises do take place. So, from Kuwait we brought our people back home through ships and aircraft.

Sir, the Government has done something on this issue, but we need a more serious discussion on this and an immediate intervention to bring back Indians from Iraq.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Achuthan to associate.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Sir, the situation in Iraq is getting worse with each passing day. Many countries like the United States and Germany are able to evacuate their citizens well before the situation gets out of control. Now, it is estimated that 10,000 Indians are working in Iraq at present. But there is no accurate data with the Government as many of the workers have been shifting to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and UAE. So, the Government must coordinate with all the Arab countries on this issue. Moreover, the Government must come forward with a rehabilitation package. We need to rehabilitate people coming back from Iraq. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, there are many Himachalis too. I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. T.N. SEEMA (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You must just associate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Sir, every time we get telephone calls from people working in Iraq. Yesterday I got a call from a person working in Kurdistan. He told me that the sponsors are not ready to give back their passports to them and not allowing them to fly back to India. This is a very serious situation. I request the hon. Minister that the Government should come with a detailed statement as to what steps have been taken by the Government for the evacuation of Indians who are working in Iraq.

**श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना** (पंजाब) : सर, बालगोपाल जी ने एक बहुत गंभीर विषय उठाया है, मेरा जिला भी उससे पूरी तरह प्रभावित है। वहां पर कम-से-कम पांच-छः हजार लोगों ने मुझसे संपर्क किया है। मैं सदन को बताना चाहता हूं और बाकी देशवासियों को बताना चाहता हूं कि हमारी सरकार ने इसके लिए दो जगह कंट्रोल रूम स्थापित किए हैं और उनकी बहुत अच्छी वर्किंग है। पासपोर्ट की जो दिक्कत है, वह काफी बच्चों को आ रही है, लेकिन मैं सभी सदस्यों से आग्रह करूंगा अपनी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी में वह फोन नंबर फ्लैश कीजिए, ताकि संबंधित व्यक्ति उस फोन नंबर पर संपर्क करे और उसके बाद कंट्रोल रूम वहां उससे संपर्क करके, उसको लोकेट करने का काम करे।

सर, हमारे यहां जितने भी प्रभावित लोग हैं, हमारी पंजाब सरकार के अफसर उनके घर जाते हैं और उनकी जो मेडिकल एड और financial aid वगैरह है, वह उनको मुहैया करायी जाती है।

**श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर** (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : सर, यह बहुत ही गंभीर मामला है और हिमाचल के लोग भी लेबर के रूप में वहां जाते हैं। ये लोग एजेंसी के थू जाते हैं, वे लोग उनको betray कर रहे हैं, उनके पासपोर्ट नहीं दे रहे हैं। उनके पास वापस आने के लिए किराया तक नहीं है। भारत सरकार इसमें इंटरवीन करे। हमारी एम्बैसी को फोन किया जाता है, तो एम्बैसी कहती है कि क्या आप हमसे पूछ कर गए थे? ये जो बातें हैं, इन पर सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए और उन लोगों को वापस लाने का काम करना चाहिए।

**श्री शरद यादव** (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, इस समय सदन में scattered तरीके से अलग-अलग सदस्य खबरें दे रहे हैं, सूचनाएं दे रहे हैं और यह बहुत गंभीर एवं उलझा हुआ मामला है। कितने लोग वहां हैं, उनमें से कितने यहां आ गए हैं और वहां क्या हालत है, इस संबंध में विदेश मंत्री को एक डिटेल्ड बयान देना चाहिए। हर जिले से लोग बोल रहे हैं, इसलिए मैं आपसे विनती करना चाहता हूं कि सरकार को इस संबंध में डिटेल्ड बयान के साथ आना चाहिए और मेरी आपसे यह भी विनती है कि अगर आप इस बहस करा सकें, तो यह एक बड़ा काम होगा।

**श्री उपसभापति** : ठीक है, मैं इसको देखूंगा।

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala)**: Sir, this matter is not coming for the first time in the House, especially what is happening in this war-torn area. The serious problem is that there a large number of nurses. Of course, some of them have been repatriated. But, at the same time, thousands of workers are still remaining there. The agony of families is reflecting in

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

the State of Kerala. Being Members of Parliament, we are also facing this pressure. I think it is necessary that instead of waiting for further report from the Embassy, the Government should move very fast. That is my request. The Government should move very fast and see to it that any number of persons who want to come can come back. That is the only solution to save the people from the agony which has been created by the situation. I hope the Government will rise to the occasion and do its best to make the people of this country satisfied. If it is done, families will feel that the Government has saved their relatives.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, UPA assured to evolve a full-fledged Ministry for the welfare of non-resident Indians, particularly in Gulf and other dependent nations, wherein in the name of the organic ministries, the latest Government has led into this type of situation that there is no foolproof mechanism to look after the needs of the war-torn residents of India. At this juncture, the facility, namely, e-visa is going to come. Keeping this crisis in view, why not we try to evolve e-passport to ensure redressal of this type of problem? I would like to know from the Government.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: We want a statement from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is up to the Government to decide. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not that the Government has not done anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... Government has done a lot of work, especially in the case of nurses. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me say. ...*(Interruptions)*... Everybody knows it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Some good work has already been done by the Government. But, the Government may be thinking to do something more. The House wants to know more details. More good work can be done. Would you like to react?

**सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिक मंत्री (श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत) :** उपसभापति महोदय, जैसा आपने बताया, मैं आपकी भावना से सहमत होते हुए सदन से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि मैं माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी को इस संबंध में जानकारी देकर उनको सदन की भावना से अवगत करा दूंगा।

**श्री उपसभापति :** ठीक है।

#### **Pune blast on 10th July, 2014 and security concern**

**श्री संजय राउत (महाराष्ट्र) :** सर, मैं इस सदन का ध्यान महाराष्ट्र में हुई एक गम्भीर घटक की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। सर, जब से देश में मोदी जी की सरकार आई है, पूरे देश में लॉ एंड ऑर्डर की सिचुएशन पूरी तरह से ठीक है और इस देश के आतंकवादी संगठन भी डर गए हैं। लेकिन, कल महाराष्ट्र के पुणे शहर में दिन-दहाड़े एक बम विस्फोट हुआ। इस धमाके से सिर्फ पुणे शहर में ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरे महाराष्ट्र में चिन्ता और दहशत का माहौल बन गया है। गम्भीर बात यह है कि जो यह बम विस्फोट हुआ है, यह पुणे के फारसखाना पुलिस स्टेशन के कम्पाउंड में हुआ है, जिसमें दो पुलिसकर्मी और चार नागरिक घायल हुए हैं। इस विस्फोट की

तीव्रता ज्यादा नहीं थी, लेकिन पुणे शहर एक बार फिर आतंकवादी कार्रवाइयों का केन्द्र बन गया है। हमने पुणे में बार-बार यह देखा है कि वहां इंडियन मुजाहिदीन के स्लीपर सैल्स सबसे ज्यादा एक्टिव होते हैं और वहां से पूरे महाराष्ट्र की आतंकवादी कार्रवाई ऑपरेट होती है। इस प्रकार, पुणे एक बार फिर आतंकवादियों का टारगेट बना है।

मैं यह बात आपको इसलिए बताना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में पुणे कई दृष्टियों से एक महत्वपूर्ण शहर है। पुणे इंडिया का आई.टी. और एजुकेशन हब है, यह महाराष्ट्र की सांस्कृतिक राजधानी है, यह एक पर्यटक स्थल है और यहां देश भर के स्टूडेंट्स पढ़ने आते हैं, इसलिए पुणे हमेशा आतंकवादियों के निशाने पर रहा है। इससे पहले भी पुणे में तीन बार इस प्रकार के बम विस्फोट हुए हैं, जिनमें कुछ लोग मारे गए हैं। जर्मन बेकरी का जो सबसे बड़ा बम विस्फोट हुआ था, वह पुणे में ही हुआ था और उसके आरोपियों को हम आज तक नहीं पकड़ सके हैं। इसी पुणे में एक साल पहले समाजसेवी, डा. नरेन्द्र दामोलकर की हत्या हुई थी और आज तक पुलिस उनके हत्यारों को पकड़ नहीं सकी है।

पुणे में आतंकवाद के जो अड्डे हैं, कुछ ऐसे अड्डे हमें मालूम हैं और उनके बारे में हमने पुलिस को बताया भी है, लेकिन वहां कॉम्बिंग ऑपरेशन करने से पुलिस डरती है, पुलिस वहां हाथ नहीं लगाती है, वहां जाती नहीं है। इसका क्या मतलब है, यह पुलिस को मालूम है। वहां किसकी सरकार है और वहां कौन सी राजनीति चलती है, यह पुलिस को मालूम है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... लेकिन, कल जहां बम धमाका हुआ है, वह पूरा इलाका संवेदनशील है। इसके पास ही महाराष्ट्र का सबसे मशहूर दगडूसेठ हलवाई गणेश मंदिर है और हर दिन वहां हजारों श्रद्धालु माथा टेकने जाते हैं। यह मंदिर भी हमेशा आतंकवादी संगठनों के निशाने पर रहा है। पुणे में अगले महीने से सार्वजनिक गणेशोत्सव होना है। **(समय की घंटी)**

**श्री उपसभापति :** आपका टाइम खत्म हो गया। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

**श्री संजय राउत :** ऐसे में अगर आतंकवादी संगठन...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. आपका टाइम खत्म हो गया।

**श्री संजय राउत :** \*

SHRI ANIL DESAI (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sanjay Raut.

#### **Observance of World Population Day concern over rising population**

DR. KARAN SINGH (NCT of Delhi): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, today is the World Population Day, and I recall about 40 years ago, leading the Indian delegation to the first Conference on the World Population in Bucharest, Romania. We now have a population of 1.24 billion and, at the present rate of growth, we will add 400 million by 2050, thereby overtaking China who will only add 25 million. Sir, this will have an unbearable pressure on our resources in every way, whether it is foodgrains, whether it is education, whether it

\*Not recorded.

[Dr. Karan Singh]

is social harmony, whether it is housing, or any other sphere. But, unfortunately, population stabilisation has dropped of the radar. There is no mention of population stabilisation either in the President's Address or in the Finance Minister's speech.

So, my submission to you, Sir, is that we should have a half-an-hour debate during this Session in the House so that this vitally-important matter can once again come to the national forum.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is a very important matter.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Dr. Karan Singh.

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Dr. Karan Singh.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Dr. Karan Singh.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Dr. Karan Singh.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Dr. Karan Singh.

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री के. सी. त्यागी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to associate myself with Dr. Karan Singh's comments and I would like to highlight the fact that the key parameter that is used in demography is the Total Fertility Rate, which is the average number of children that are born per woman during her reproductive span period. The all-India Total Fertility Rate now is 2.4 and many States of India have actually fallen below the replacement levels of fertility of 2.1, like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So what; many other States are there.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab are all States which have fallen below 2.1. Jammu and Kashmir is also there. But there are very many States where the Total Fertility Rate is much above 2.1, for example, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you do then? Why are you saying all this?  
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Let me finish, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please associate. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Okay. I sit down. ...(Interruptions)... If you want to speak,  
you speak. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He can only associate. ...(Interruptions)... You can  
only associate on this matter. You are taking more time than what Dr. Karan Singh has  
taken! ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I am trying to say something very important. You are  
trivializing it. I am sorry, I don't want to say anything. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please speak. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I am sorry, I am trying to say something  
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. This is no time for a lecture like that.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I am not giving ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can associate yourself with the issue and support  
it. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I don't want to say anything now. ...(Interruptions)...  
Forget it. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have only five minutes and I have so many things to  
do. You have to associate. That is why, I called you. ...(Interruptions)... Okay, Mr. Tiwari,  
what do you want to say?

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी :** महोदय, मैं एक अत्यन्त राष्ट्रीय महत्व के विषय पर आपके माध्यम से  
ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मान्यवर, पटना में पचास हजार की चोरी होती है और एक  
करोड़ पन्द्रह लाख रुपए से ज्यादा पुलिस बरामद करती है। मान्यवर, मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना  
चाहता हूँ कि पटना में बम विस्फोट भी हुआ था, यह प्रधान मंत्री जी की सुरक्षा से जुड़ा हुआ  
मसला है और इसमें 500 डॉलर भी मिले हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री विजय गोयल (राजस्थान) :** ये यहां ऐसे कैसे उठा सकते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

**श्री प्रमोद तिवारी :** मान्यवर, अगर बहुत दूर तक आप देखें तो इससे जुड़ा हुआ  
...(व्यवधान)...

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

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : ...*(व्यवधान)*... क्या पटना का बम धमाका फर्जी था? ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैं सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहता हूँ आपसे कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the matter? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : मान्यवर, मैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you given a notice? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. Tiwari ji, have you given a notice? ...*(Interruptions)*... Have you given a notice?

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : यह बहुत ही ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री विजय गोयल : इसको कार्यवाही से निकाला जाए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : मान्यवर, मैं तो बधाई दे रहा हूँ इस सरकार को कि अच्छे दिन आ गए, पचास हजार की चोरी कराओ और आपको एक करोड़ पन्द्रह लाख रुपए वापस मिल जाएंगे। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not permitted. No, no. You are saying without my permission. Not permitted. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot raise this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Tiwari ji, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot raise anything allegatory against an hon. Member of the other House. ...*(Interruptions)*... What is the problem? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please.

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the convention of this House. What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Sir, nothing should go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Nothing should go on record, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of you sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Special Mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Tiwari ji, please ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. See, wherever he has referred to the Member of the other House, that portion will be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. That is against the Rules. What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do?



1.00 P.M.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: He has not taken any name. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : मैंने किसी का नाम नहीं लिया है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री विजय गोयल : हम भी बिना नाम लिए बहुत कुछ बोल सकते हैं। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us take up admitted Special Mentions.  
...(*Interruptions*)...

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### SPECIAL MENTIONS\*

#### **Demand to take strict action against officials responsible for tragedy at Larji Hydel Project in Himachal Pradesh and give adequate compensation to the victims**

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, माह जून, 2014 की हृदय विदारक घटना में वी.एन.आर. इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज, हैदराबाद के छात्रों को गांव थलोटे, व्यास नदी, जिला मंडी, हिमाचल प्रदेश स्थित लारजी हाइड्रो पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट के प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों द्वारा बिना किसी सूचना या चेतावनी के पानी छोड़ देने की वजह से 24 छात्रों को अपनी जान से हाथ धोना पड़ा। इस दुखद घटना से पूरा देश दुखी है। इस घटना से लगता है कि लारजी हाइड्रो पॉवर प्रोजेक्ट के अधिकारियों ने पानी छोड़ते समय बहुत बड़ी लापरवाही बरती है और नियमों का घोर उल्लंघन किया है क्योंकि नियमतः पानी की अधिकता को कम करने से पूर्व संबंधित विभाग को खतरे से बचने का सायरन बजाना होता है और सभी ऐसे प्रमुख डैम, नदियों और समुद्रों आदि में खतरे से बचने के लिए चेतावनी बोर्ड स्थापित किए जाते हैं, जिनको पढ़कर कोई भी पर्यटक अथवा अन्य व्यक्ति किसी भी दुर्घटना से बचने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाता है, परन्तु जिस प्रकार से यह घटना घटी है, उसको देखकर लगता है कि घटना से पूर्व हाइड्रो प्रोजेक्ट प्रशासन अथवा अन्य प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों ने किसी भी प्रकार से, संजीदगी से अपनी जिम्मेदारियों का निर्वहन नहीं किया है, जिसके कारण देश की 24 भावी आशाओं का जीवन समाप्त हो गया।

अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह मांग करता हूँ कि मेरे विशेष उल्लेख में अंकित घटना के दोषियों के विरुद्ध सख्त से सख्त विभागीय एवं दंडात्मक कार्यवाही किए जाने तथा प्रत्येक मृतक के परिवार वालों को आर्थिक सहायता के रूप में कम-से-कम 50-50 लाख रुपए अनुदान के तौर पर दिए जाने की कृपा करें तथा भविष्य में इस प्रकार की घटना घटित न हो, उसके लिए आवश्यक नियम बनाएं अथवा नियमों का अनुपालन कराना सुनिश्चित करें। धन्यवाद।

...(*Interruptions*)...

#### **Demand for withdrawing the RBI circular regarding dismantling of three-tier system of cooperative banks**

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, the RBI notification No. RBI 2013-14/631 dated June 5th, 2014 is intended to dismantle the three-tier system of cooperative banks. At

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\*Laid on the Table.

[Shri P. Rajeev]

present, the Kerala State Cooperative Banks (KSCB) alone is depositing its SLR, CRR with RBI securities which comes to Rs. 8,000 crore approximately. That causes a resource drain of Rs. 2,000 crore. If the notification is implemented, the District Cooperative Banks will have to directly deposit its SLR, CRR portion with RBI securities which comes to Rs. 8,000 crore approximately. That will cause a resource drain of Rs. 6,000 crore from the State.

The major drawback of the notification is that there are no operational guidelines along with it. Hence, there is utter confusion as to how it can be implemented without affecting its stakeholders.

So, I urge upon the Finance Minister to intervene and withdraw this RBI notification.

...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Sir, nothing will go on record. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already given my ruling. ...(Interruptions)...

**Demand to set up a regulatory authority to protect interests of consumers of the internet shopping and advertisements**

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब) : महोदय, देश भर में बहुत से लोग अलग-अलग सेवाएं देने का काम करते हैं। उन्होंने अपने-अपने केन्द्र, वेबसाइट आदि बना रखे हैं और उनके लिए विज्ञापन देने का काम बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में होता है। उदाहरण के तौर पर शादियां कराने के लिए अलग-अलग शादी ब्यूरो, शादी डॉट काम आदि वेबसाइट्स हैं। इसी तरह क्विकर डॉट कॉम सामान आदि बेचने के लिए एक वेबसाइट है। इस काम में हजारों लोग लगे हैं और लाखों लोग ग्राहक के रूप में उनके पास जाते हैं। क्या सरकार ने ऐसी सेवाओं को शुरू करने के लिए कोई पंजीकरण, कोई कानून, नियम व शर्तें बनाई है? ऐसा देखने में आया है कि इस व्यवसाय से जुड़े लोग कई बार जनता का बहुत शोषण करते हैं और जनता के लिए इनके खिलाफ शिकायत करने के लिए कोई निश्चित एजेंसी नहीं है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि जो लोग ऐसे व्यवसायों को शुरू करना चाहते हैं, उनके लिए कोई रेगुलेटरी अथॉरिटी, कानून या नियम व शर्तें जरूर बनाई जाएं।

...(Interruptions)...

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सदन में इस पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो पॉइंट रज किया है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me finish with this first. ...(Interruptions)...

He raised and whatever has to be expunged, I have expunged also. ...(Interruptions)...

Please. ...(Interruptions)...

### **Demand to take steps for prohibition of multi-digit lottery in the country**

**श्री विजय गोयल** (राजस्थान) : महोदय, हमारी संसद ने लॉटरी जैसी बुराई, जिसके कारण लाखों लोग बरबाद हो रहे थे, को रोकने के लिए एक अंक की लॉटरी पर पूर्ण रूप से पूरे देश में प्रतिबंध लगा दिया और इसमें सभी पार्टियों का पूर्ण योगदान था। इसलिए उस समय एक दूसरा बिल संसद में लाया गया, ताकि बहु-अंकीय लॉटरी पर भी पूर्ण प्रतिबंध लग सके।

किन्हीं कारणों से और लॉटरी माफियाओं के चलते इस पर आज तक कोई निर्णय नहीं हो पाया। लॉटरी आज भी अभिशाप है, चाहे वह बहु-अंकीय हो या फिर ऑनलाइन लॉटरी हो। कुछ लोग लॉटरी को ऐसे पेश करते हैं, मानो लॉटरी के अंदर केवल इनामों में गड़बड़ी हो और यदि उसे ठीक कर दिया जाए, तो यह बरबादी रुक जाएगी। इसलिए लॉटरी प्रोहिबिशन बिल को लॉटरी रेग्युलेशन बिल बना दिया गया। आज 8-10 राज्यों को छोड़कर ज्यादातर राज्यों में लॉटरी पर प्रतिबंध है।

आजादी के बाद अगर किसी सामाजिक बुराई पर रोक लगी है, तो वह लॉटरी ही है। लॉटरी के पक्ष में दो तर्क दिए जाते हैं – एक इससे राज्य सरकारों को आमदनी होती है और दूसरा, इससे रोजगार मिलता है। फिर तो ऐसे कई अनुचित कार्य हैं, जिनसे सरकार आमदनी कर सकती है और रोजगार भी दे सकती है, तो फिर क्या वे अनुचित कार्य भी शुरू किए जाएंगे? लॉटरी केवल गरीब और मध्यम वर्गीय आदमी खेलता है, अमीर आदमी नहीं।

मेरा अनुरोध है कि सभी प्रकार की लॉटरीज पर तत्काल प्रतिबंध लगाया जाए।

### **Demand to take concrete steps for repair works and to check accidents on NH-86 and NH-76 in Uttar Pradesh**

**श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उत्तर प्रदेश के चित्रकूट मंडल धाम जनपद बांदा, हमीरपुर, महोबा, चित्रकूट में कबरई से हमीरपुर, कानपुर राष्ट्रीय मार्ग (एन.एच. A1-86) तथा बांदा-चित्रकूट का इलाहाबाद राष्ट्रीय मार्ग (एन.एच.-76) और बांदा-तिन्दवारी फतेहपुर, लालगंज-बछरावां राष्ट्रीय मार्ग क्षतिग्रस्त होने के कारण तथा निर्माणाधीन पुलों-पुलियों के कारण मार्ग से गुजरने वाले यात्रियों के साथ आए दिन दुर्घटनाएं होती रहती हैं तथा सड़क पर जाम लग जाने के कारण गुजरने वाले यात्रियों को असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ता है। सड़कें ठीक न होने के कारण भयंकर दुर्घटनाएं होती रहती हैं, जिनमें हर वर्ष सैकड़ों लोगों की जानें जा रही हैं।

मैं सदन से मांग करता हूं कि उपरोक्त नेशनल हाईवे में हो रही दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने हेतु केन्द्र सरकार इस संबंध में शीघ्र ठोस कार्रवाई करे, जिससे कि हो रही दुर्घटनाओं को रोका जा सके और लोगों के जान-माल की रक्षा हो सके।

...(Interruptions)...

### **Demand for making a scheme or law on security of dams in the country**

**श्री प्रभात झा** (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, देश में विभिन्न परियोजनाओं के तहत बनाए गए बांधों के रखरखाव में प्रबंधन व कर्मचारियों की लापरवाही के कारण आए दिन हादसे होते रहते हैं। इन हादसों में जान-माल का भारी नुकसान होता है। हाल ही में हिमाचल प्रदेश में लारजी बिजली घर परियोजना के बांध से लापरवाहीपूर्ण तरीके से पानी छोड़ने के कारण आन्ध्र प्रदेश से छुट्टी मनाने आए कई छात्र पानी में बह गए। इस तरह के हादसे अब आम होते जा रहे हैं और मीडिया में

[श्री प्रभात झा]

इसकी खबरें आती रहती हैं, लेकिन इसकी सुध नहीं ली जाती है। हादसे के दौरान तत्काल आपदा प्रबंधन की व्यवस्था भी उपयुक्त नहीं होती। प्रबंधन, प्रशासन और सरकार, तीनों स्तरों पर इस गम्भीर मसले पर उदासीनता है। महानियंत्रक व लेखा परीक्षक ने अपनी एक अद्यतन समीक्षा में यह पाया है कि देश के अधिकांश बांध आपात योजना विहीन हैं। आपात योजना तैयार करने में परियोजना अधिकारियों द्वारा की जा रही लापरवाही को स्पष्ट चिह्नित किया गया है। जब तक बांध सुरक्षा प्रणाली को दुरुस्त नहीं किया जाएगा, तब तक हिमाचल प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड जैसे हादसे होते रहेंगे। बांध सुरक्षा प्रणाली पर सरकार तथा गैर-सरकारी संगठनों द्वारा चर्चाएं तो होती हैं, लेकिन राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अब तक कोई बांध सुरक्षा कानून नहीं बना है। 1975 में केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा आधे-अधूरे तरीके से एक बांध सुरक्षा कानून बनाया गया था, लेकिन यह कानून वर्तमान परिप्रेक्ष्य में सर्वथा अप्रभावी और अप्रासंगिक है।

अतः सरकार से मेरी यह मांग है कि शीघ्र एक राष्ट्रीय बांध सुरक्षा कानून अथवा नीति बनाई जाए, जिससे जान-माल व आर्थिक हानि को रोका जा सके।

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Y.S. Chowdary, not here. Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda, not present. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, not present.

#### **Need for audio books for visually impaired children**

DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, with the world's second largest population, India retains the unfortunate distinction of having the largest number of people with visual impairment globally. Some estimates put the figure of blind population in India, over 50 million. Most cases of child blindness can be prevented through proper eye care. 62.6 per cent of blindness in India is caused due to cataract, which is curable. However, proper eye care services are not available to everyone in this country. Hence most cases of child blindness are found in the rural or slum areas. The child in these circumstances is already impaired physically and socially; however, the unavailability of user friendly study material makes the problem even worse.

Sir, we cannot even begin to comprehend the trouble a visually impaired child has to go through to learn in India. However, we have chosen to turn a blind eye towards their problems. Most visually impaired children are presently unable to read their textbooks without being assisted by another person, in the absence of Braille textbooks and other disabled friendly learning material. Braille text books for most subjects and boards are not always readily available, which in turn makes it very hard for visually impaired children to acquire them. Other countries have tackled this problem, by drafting specific legislation making creation of audio textbooks for blinds, compulsory.

Sir, I urge the Government to seriously consider this matter and come up with a

compulsory provision for creating Audio books for blind children, thus bettering the lives of the children who need our help, the most.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chaturvedi, it is well-accepted convention of the House that we do not refer to or mention any allegation about an hon. Member of the other House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Nobody has mentioned any name. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: He did not mention ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at three minutes past one of the clock.

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The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

#### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held on the 11th of July 2014 has allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business as follows:-

Business	Time Allotted
General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2014-15.	To be discussed together with Budget (Railways), 2014-15 for which ten hours have been allotted.
Consideration and return of the following Bills after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-	
(a) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2014.	
(b) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2014.	
General Discussion on the Budget (General) for 2014-15.	
Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bill relating to Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2011-12 after it is passed by Lok Sabha.	To be discussed together for which twelve hours have been allotted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Raj Nath Singh, would like to make a statement regarding the alleged destruction of more than 1.5 lakh files in the Ministry of Home Affairs. I think the House agrees to it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

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#### STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

##### **Alleged destruction of more than 1.5 lakh files in the Ministry of Home Affairs**

**गृह मंत्री (श्री राजनाथ सिंह) :** डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, दिनांक 09.07.2014 को कुछ मीडिया रिपोर्टों के आधार पर एक माननीय संसद सदस्य ने इस सम्मानित सदन में यह उल्लेख किया कि प्रधान मंत्री के निर्देश पर गृह मंत्रालय ने 1.5 लाख फाइलों को नष्ट कर दिया है, जिनमें राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी की हत्या से संबंधित फाइलें भी शामिल थीं।

इस मामले में तथ्य इस प्रकार हैं:-

माननीय प्रधान मंत्री ने दिनांक 4 जून, 2014 को भारत सरकार के सभी सचिवों के साथ विचार-विमर्श किया था, जिसमें उन्होंने कार्यस्थल पर स्वच्छता एवं साफ-सफाई बनाए रखने सहित कार्य संस्कृति एवं कार्य के परिवेश को बेहतर बनाने पर जोर दिया था। इसके पश्चात कैबिनेट सचिव की ओर से लिखित निर्देश जारी किए गए थे, जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ निम्नलिखित शामिल था:-

“फाइलों और कागजातों का रिकार्ड रखने के नियमों के अनुसार छंटाई की जानी चाहिए...। यह कवायद 3-4 सप्ताह में पूरी हो जानी चाहिए।”

उपर्युक्त निर्देशों के अनुसार दिनांक 05.06.2014 से 08.07.2014 की अवधि के दौरान गृह मंत्रालय के विभिन्न अनुभागों में रखी गई फाइलों की समीक्षा की गई और कुल 11,100 फाइलों को नष्ट किया गया।

डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, मैं इस सम्मानित सदन को सूचित करना चाहूंगा कि नष्ट की गई 11,100 फाइलों में से एक भी फाइल महात्मा गांधी की हत्या से संबंधित नहीं थी। मैं यह भी सूचित करना चाहूंगा कि नष्ट की गई फाइलों में से एक भी फाइल डा. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद, श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री अथवा लार्ड माउंटबेटन से संबंधित नहीं थी, जैसा कि माननीय संसद सदस्य द्वारा आरोप लगाया गया है।

डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, मैं यह भी जानकारी देना चाहता हूं कि नेशनल आर्काइव्स की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर महात्मा गांधी के मर्डर से संबंधित 52 फाइल्स एवं 67 एग्जिबिट्स और एप्रोक्सिमेटली 11,186 पेजेज़ आज भी पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित हैं।

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, when can we seek clarifications?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that we have to decide on the course of action. This is Private Members' day. I think clarifications can be sought on Monday.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Agreed.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Does the Government agree to have clarifications on Monday?

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : ठीक है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government is agreeing to it.

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### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

#### The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2013

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will proceed to the Private Members' Legislative Business, Bills for introduction. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. Not here.

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

#### The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2013

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि अनैतिक व्यापार (निवारण) अधिनियम, 1956 का संशोधन करने के लिए विधेयक को पुनःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुनःस्थापित करता हूँ।

#### The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2013

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि मोटर यान अधिनियम, 1988 का और संशोधन करने के लिए विधेयक को पुनःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुनःस्थापित करता हूँ।

#### The High Court of Gujarat (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Surat) Bill, 2013

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि सूरत में गुजरात उच्च न्यायालय की एक स्थायी न्यायपीठ की स्थापना का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुनःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुनःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**The Distressed Veteran Sportspersons (Welfare) Bill, 2013**

डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि राष्ट्र द्वारा संकटग्रस्त वरिष्ठ खिलाड़ियों के लिए, निर्वाह हेतु वृद्धावस्था पेंशन, निःशक्तता सहायता, स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सुविधाएं, आवास सुविधाएं आदि जैसे कल्याणकारी उपाय करने और संकटग्रस्त वरिष्ठ खिलाड़ी कल्याण निधि की स्थापना करने तथा तत्संसक्त अथवा उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**The Homicide on Roads and Highways (Prevention and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2013**

डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि उतावलेपन में, लापरवाही में तथा नशे की हालत में वाहन चलाने के कारण सड़कों और राजमार्गों पर मानव वध का निवारण करने के लिए अभियुक्त को आजीवन कारावास का निवारक दंड देकर और पीड़ित व्यक्ति को समय पर चिकित्सीय उपचार प्रदान करने, सड़कों और राजमार्गों पर प्रमुख स्थानों पर सुविधाओं से सुसज्जित ऐम्बुलेंसों को उपलब्ध कराने, मृतक के परिजनों को क्षतिपूर्ति प्रदान करने और अभिघात केन्द्रों की स्थापना तथा तत्संसक्त और उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

डा. अखिलेश दास गुप्ता : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**The Girls and Women (Prevention of Beastly and Barbarous Brutality, Rape, Teasing, Molestation, Stripping and other Atrocities) Bill, 2013**

DR. AKHILESH DAS GUPTA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit and prevent the commission of atrocities and offences against the girls and women leading to beastly and barbarous brutality such as committing rape and inserting any foreign objects into the private parts thereby damaging the internal body parts, battering, killing after committing rape, chopping the body, burning alive, committing gangrape, publicly stripping and parading naked or raping pregnant women resulting in her miscarriage or death, committing rape on girl child of tender age, teasing, outraging modesty, molestation, branding or killing as witches, forcing into prostitution and such other offences and to provide for deterrent punishment including surgical castration and capital punishment and for the establishment of Fast Track Courts to try the offences and for the rehabilitation of victims and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.



*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

DR. AKHILESH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Fertilizer (Price Control) Bill, 2013**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the fixing of maximum retail price of all fertilizers by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (Insertion of new Article 323C)**

श्री दिलीपभाई पंडया (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि भारत के संविधान का और संशोधन करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री दिलीपभाई पंडया : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**The Central Bureau of Investigation Bill, 2013.**

श्री दिलीपभाई पंडया (गुजरात) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि कतिपय अपराधों के निवारण, अन्वेषण और अभियोजन के लिए केन्द्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो की स्थापना तथा तत्संसक्त या उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री दिलीपभाई पंडया : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूँ।

**The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2013**

SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2013**

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि संविधान

(अनुसूचित जातियां) आदेश, 1950 का और संशोधन करने के लिए विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

श्री नरेन्द्र कुमार कश्यप : महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करता हूं।

**The Exploited, Indebted and Poverty Stricken Farmers (Protection, Prevention of Suicides and Welfare) Bill, 2014**

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of farmers from exploitation by moneylenders, middlemen, unscrupulous traders and others, removal of indebtedness, remunerative prices for their produce, increasing farm yield by improving farming practices by modern techniques and allied occupations, extending protective umbrella against natural calamities in which crops are lost by way of compulsory insurance of crops and livestock and provision of adequate compensation, work, food, potable water, fodder, etc. during calamity, extending compulsory market intervention in case of bumper crops, old age allowance, soft loans from Banks and other institutions and other welfare measures to be undertaken by the State so as to prevent the distressed farmers from committing suicide and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2014**

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Onion and Cotton Growers (Remunerative Prices and Welfare) Bill, 2014**

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for remunerative prices for the produce of the onion and cotton growers of Maharashtra and other parts of the Country fixed on the basis of cost of production of onions and cotton by the Government and for compulsory market intervention by the Government in case of bumper crop of onions and cotton thereby ensuring that Government

agencies do purchase the produce, compulsory insurance of onion and cotton crops free of cost by the Government and for certain welfare measures for the growers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (Amendment of Article 124)**

SHRI H.K. DUA (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move:-

That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration.

Sir, I had introduced this Bill nearly two years ago in the House. Now I consider myself lucky it has found a place in the ballot and the Bill is before this House for consideration. It deals with a matter of high importance of public policy and it also has a bearing on the credibility and independence of the highest court of the land. Sir, during the last Sixty seven years, important institutions of the State Parliament, Judiciary and Executive have suffered a decline in their working, functioning and the values. I am not going into the working of the Parliament and the Executive in this Bill. My Bill focussed only on the working of the Judiciary at the highest level. The working of the Judiciary has become a subject of considerable conversation among the common people.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, may I make one request? Certainly, this Bill has been moved, but while debating on the Judiciary, a degree of restraint needed should be maintained. That is the only request I am making to the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is quite correct. Self-restraint is needed.

SHRI H.K. DUA: Certainly, Sir. No names will be given and restraint will be exercised. I am very conscious of that factor which the Law Minister has mentioned, and I am glad that he has reminded us of that. I, Personally, also believe in keeping the dignity and independence of the Judiciary in view in whatever I say, about it my speech will be brief and to the point.

Sir, this Bill is focused on only the working of the Judiciary, and it is sad that the Judiciary should become the subject of conversations among the people at different levels. The reason being that the functioning of the Lower Courts is really bad and people are feeling disillusioned with their working. The High Courts also, during the last few years,

[Shri H.K. Dua]

are coming up for adverse comments. Arrears are piling up by the day. Justice is delayed and denied, the quality of justice is suffering and the redress is not available. The last hope for the people is the Kacheri of the Supreme Court of India. This Bill focusses on one aspect of the Supreme Court's functioning not on the wider reforms in the functioning of the Supreme Court, which people talk about, say, appointments of judges, accountability, the functioning of the Collegium, etc. I am not going into all that. This Bill meant for amending Article 124, only clause 7 of this, which forbids retired judges of the Supreme Court, including Chief Justices, from doing Chamber practices, giving opinions in private—after their retirement, which I wish to emphasise again—indulging liberally in arbitrations where big companies of the corporate sector are involved. Now should they take up such assignments or not? Clause 7 of Article 124 forbids it. But then this clause is being violated or, to put a better word, ignored by retired judges of the Supreme Court, including some retired Chief Justices. They are liberally doling out opinions in their Chambers. They are liberally taking up arbitration cases and offering their opinions and awards. Hearings are held in Geneva, or London, or New York or Tokyo or wherever it is convenient for them, at a high cost. Personally, I think, the Supreme Court Judges should not take up those assignments. Clause 7 forbids it. But they are ignoring the spirit and the letter of clause 7 of Article 124.

Why are they attracted to it? Once upon a time, they were very eminent lawyers who became High Court Judges and then came to the Supreme Court, which is the Apex Court. The highest honour, which the country can give to a judge, is to make him a member of the Supreme Court. Should that kind of dignified status in the country's constitutional scheme of things go down in public esteem by doing legal practice for the sake of earning money, the kind of money which, apparently, they would not get while on the Bench? By choosing to dole out opinions in arbitration cases, where both the companies have to give the fee, their incomes go up and they earn much more than what they would have got through their salaries or retirement benefits. Not only is the spirit of clause 7 of Article 124 being ignored or violated, but essentially what forbidden is also being practised. Maybe, forbidden fruit is always sweeter and they are enjoying the fruits of retirement. Who suffers? It is the prestige of the Supreme Court that suffers and it is the prestige of the highest Court of the land. The last hope of people to seek justice is the Supreme Court. If the prestige and the credibility of the Supreme Court suffer, the country suffers and that loss of credibility leads to loss of respect of the people and if people lose respect of the highest court of the land, then, its independence can also suffer in a way. I would like this clause to be amended and made more tighter so that in future judges and Chief Justices of Supreme Court do not take post retirement engagement with dispensation of Chamber justice. I would read Article...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Duaji, what is the harm in using their experience and expertise by the Government? What is wrong in that?

**3.00 P.M.**

SHRI H. K. DUA: I will give a remedy for it. Article 124(7), Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, of the Constitution reads, "No person who has held office as a judge of a Supreme Court shall plead or act in any court or before any authority within the territory of India." This prohibition is very clear. There is no ambiguity about it. It is well settled principle of law that anything which is forbidden to be done directly cannot also be done indirectly. The judges of the Supreme Court and some of the former chief justices are doing what is forbidden. I am not giving the names. The names are known to the people and it is not proper to give their names when they are not present in the House. I would simply like this clause to be amended and the amended clause would read, "No person who has held office as a judge of the Supreme Court shall plead or act or express written opinion or engage in arbitration in any court or before any authority within the territory of India and outside India...." "...provided that he may do so upon a request made by the President or the Prime Minister of India or the Governor or the Chief Minister of a State in a matter of national importance." Supposing an inquiry commission has to be appointed or a retired Supreme Court judge is needed for appointment as Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, that is the matter of the State and is of the highest public importance. Those kinds of assignments are valid, but doing private chamber practice or arbitrations is forbidden and should not be availed by the judges. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, way back in 2004, a former Attorney General, Mr. Soli Sorabjee, expressed grave concern at a former chief justice of India filing affidavits on behalf of private litigants in the US Court.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE) in the Chair]

I am sure the Law Minister knows the name. I don't have to mention the name of the Judge, there are several other instances impinging upon the credibility of the institution on which lies the greatest responsibility for preserving of Constitution.

A former Chief Justice of India one of the more respected Chief Justices who is no more now none else than Justice J. S. Verma, even wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister on this vital question. I will quote from the letter. It was about accountability etc., but it is a related issue he referred to "A related issue assuming significance in recent years must also be addressed." He is pleading with the Prime Minister. "There is public disquiet voiced often in private about some post-retirement engagements of the Supreme Court judges and Chief Justices."

"Chamber practice in the form of written opinions, under signature, given for use in any court, tribunal or authority and paid arbitration work done while heading a

[Shri H.K. Dua]

Commission, availing the benefits and perquisites or salary of a sitting judge are some of the disturbing trends. It is a serious issue relating to judicial accountability requiring clarification without further delay. It is time that Article 124(7) is made more specific to remove any ambiguities or grey areas amenable to different individual interpretations in respect of prohibited activities after retirement from the Supreme Court”.

Chief Justice Verma never gave an opinion or took up any arbitration. Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah, and several other judges, before the 1980 liberal practice of private engagements or post-retirement engagements started taking place - he also never gave private opinion, and there are many other illustrious Chief Justices of India. But these days, well, the spirit and letter of Article 124 are being violated very extensively.

Through the amendment of the clause, I would recommend this august House to remove the grey area to ensure that the judges do not take up private practise. Certainly, they will lose income. It is a high income. I don't know whether they can spend that kind of money in their life time; they cannot. That kind of fees are available! But they should be compensated. We should not be unfair to the judges, and I would suggest, if the Law Minister should come forward with a Bill to enhance the judges retirement age. At the moment, the Supreme Court Judges retire at the age of 65. It can be raised up to 70. Give them five years more. So, the time they are spending and the effort they are spending in dispensing justice outside...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Like as long as the politicians.

SHRI H.K. DUA: Yes, that is right. For that, I think, another discussion would be needed, Sir, including the media, you might say. So, we give them five years extra, and the hard work they are doing in dispensing justice after retirement should be given to the country, to the Supreme Court itself. The Supreme Court continues to have the benefit of their background, prestige and experience in the dispensation of justice. So, let them have five years more. If the Law Minister brings forward that Bill - I have not included the superannuation clause in this amendment - I am sure, this House and the Parliament as such, the other House also, will support it. That will be a much better way. Their post-retirement perks can be improved so that there should not be any temptation to go in for extra curricular practice. Their families should not suffer because of the loss of income. But still no salary given by the Government or perks given by the Government or by the State can match the kind of incomes they get for arbitrations. But these judges should have known while taking up the judgeship of

the Supreme Court the most prestigious posts which a person can reach cannot give them the income which the corporate sector can give outside. But the demands of a prestigious post presume that there are limitations which you have to accept before taking up the demanding, prestigious, challenging and most respectable job.

Sir, I will repeat I have a great respect for the Judiciary. I have always supported the judiciary as a newsman, I have always supported, as an Editor, the judiciary's independence. There have been major controversies when its independence was sought to be throttled Court, but some journalists including me did stand up for the Supreme Court.

Another reason I respect the Supreme Court's independence is that it has always supported the Freedom of the Press. The Right to free expression. Also it has always supported fundamental right except during Emergency when it failed the common man. Even the Right to Life was also given up. But the same Chief Justice later on said it was a mistake. Second thoughts are also important if they are helping the people. Essentially, I have respect for Supreme Court. If I have moved this amendment, it is because I would like the Supreme Court to retain the kind of prestige it has enjoyed. It should not go down in the people's eye. I hope this House will support my amendment. I am sure the Law Minister will also support it. I take this opportunity to point out Mr. Vice-Chairman that nearly two years ago I had brought another Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): How long will you take?

SHRI H.K. DUA: Just one minute more. This is just an addition since I have got this opportunity for the first time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): But you have got a lot of supporters. I do not know if they are going to be your supporters or not, but there is a long list.

SHRI H.K. DUA: I will take one minute more. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would have met the new Law Minister otherwise also. But this is for the first time I have got a chance to speak when Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad is the Law Minister. He may remember that his response was positive and encouraging when I brought an amendment to prevent the misuse of resignation to sent by a Judge to the President who was sought to be removed by a motion in this House after the Judge appeared before the House.

[Shri H.K. Dua]

It was Mr. Soumitra Sen's impeachment motion. The House was unanimous that he should be removed. They passed the motion. Before it went to the Lok Sabha, he resigned. So, the entire process of removal envisaged in the Constitution was frustrated by a slip of paper called resignation. He wrote his resignation and sent it to the President. The President does not have to accept the resignation. The Constitution is very clear about it. So, I moved the amendment that so long as a Judge is sought to be removed, and removal proceedings in Parliament, including its inquiry instituted by Parliament, his or her resignation should be formally approved by the President and only then he can be relieved. No President will let an errant Judge to run away from the process of justice. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): I think the message was passed. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI H.K. DUA: I would like the Law Minister to look at the proceedings of that debate when my Bill was discussed two years ago. An assurance was given by the Government at that time that they will bring forward a Bill whether it is Constitution or otherwise. I do not think there is a way out but for the Constitution, but they said they would come forward. They accepted in principle. So, I do not know whether this Government would live up to the assurance of the previous Government, but I know Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad's views at that time. He was supportive and very encouraging and outside he told me, 'A very good Bill you have brought forward.' Sir, I am taking this opportunity to plead with him that he should accept that amendment also.

Thank you very much and I hope the House will accept my present amendment of article 124, Clause 7.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman.

*The question was proposed*

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I stand here to support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 moved by Duaji. Sir, the aspect of arbitration is not new in India. Let me first highlight the background of passing the arbitration laws in this country. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1966 which is the preset law replaced three legislations, namely, the Arbitration Act, 1940, the Arbitration and Protocol Convention Act, 1937 and Foreign Awards (Recognition and Enforcement) Act, 1961. These three legislations were replaced by the new legislation, namely, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1966. Now the alternate redressal mechanism which has become



very popular in this country and elsewhere also perhaps plays an important role in judicial dispensation.

As I said, we also had an old practice of resolving issues outside the forums of court. Our own *panchayats* have resolved lakhs and crores of day-to-day disputes of villages by calling them under a banyan tree. No doubt, aberrations have also occurred because of certain *khap panchayats* and others. But, by and large, petty issues, pertaining to villagers, were resolved through the panchayat mechanism. That was also the beginning of ultimate redressal mechanism. Many family disputes, before they are brought up before a court of law, are also resolved with the intervention of relatives and friends. This is also one of the ultimate redressal mechanisms. And, this mechanism prevails even today. Though we have got all the forums, that is, the High Courts, the Supreme Court, etc., In the present setup, the attendance before ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): But, Mr. Naik, this Bill is basically regarding the Supreme Court judges.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Please try to understand, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this refers to ...*(Interruptions)*... If this approach is taken, nobody will be able to say anything. It is a part of alternate redressal mechanism. Incidentally, I have been the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice. I have dealt with this matter. Therefore, I have a solid background. If you ask me only to speak whether Judges should be ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): I was just mentioning something. You can speak whatever you like on the redressal system.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Secondly, what I am trying to impress upon is, though the Judiciary is independent, yet the Government should have some mechanism to evaluate, not interfere, the judgements of the courts of law. It will help in day-to-day functioning of the Ministry of Law also. But, presently, I don't think any such mechanism is there. I would like to request the hon. Law Minister to study the judgements passed, especially with regard to corporate bodies, so that at the time of retirement also you know what types of judgements are given with respect to corporate bodies. This is absolutely required in the context of *Duaji's* Bill. Apart from this straightway alternate redressal mechanism, there is a very good legislation, that is, the Consumer Protection Act, under which also there is an alternate redressal mechanism. There are the district forums, the State forums, etc. But some people have not found

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it suitable. I do not know why. They say lawyers go there, they argue, a lot of petitions are pending, etc., etc. They compare arbitration and use these forums to make a point.

We tried to bring in the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill. This Bill is pending. Through this Bill we tried to lay down a code of conduct for Judges. Why did this occasion arise? Because, apart from certain provisions of Constitution, we, as a Government, found that there was no control over the functioning of the Judiciary. But there was a view that some conduct of theirs should be regulated. Therefore, a Bill has been introduced. But, unfortunately, there was a strong opposition from the Judiciary itself that such a Bill should not be there. In the course of that Committee, which I was presiding over, a subject also came that whether off the cuff remarks passed by the judges saying “Was Parliament sleeping? What were they doing?” should be allowed to be passed by the judges. This is also a subject which comes under this Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): You have another one minute. Is that okay? Because there are about 12 speakers.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: On Private Member's Bill, I have never been stopped, Sir. If you allow me only for five minutes, then, I will withdraw my name, because, ultimately, you can't speak on such a subject in five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): But this Bill has so much of enthusiasm from the Members that they all want to speak. Usually, only two, three Members speak.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Then, I stop here, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): I give you another two minutes. Please carry on.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: This should have been told to me in the beginning itself. On Private Member's Bill, we have many options.

Now, another reason why arbitration should not be taken up by the judges is this. This type of arbitration, despite the facilities being provided by the Government and the Law Ministry, takes place in Five Star hotels. And, as it has rightly been pointed out, most of these arbitrations also take place in foreign countries. That is the attraction for the Supreme Court judges to involve themselves in arbitration.

Secondly, there is a charge that judges provide for themselves a post upon retirement. There are various Corporations and Commissions. I am not blaming any Government. Even during our time, these laws were there. It is not that these laws have been created by them. But judges have got all arrangements made upon their retirement - Chairmanship of some Commission, some Inquiry Commission, etc. Apart from this, if they are also allowed to be an arbitrator and to also do Chamber practice, both have been included, then there will be no end to this. Therefore, there must be some limit laid down.

Thirdly, judges do not inspire. If you see their overall judgements, you will find that they don't inspire. They encroach day-in-and-day-out upon the Parliamentary realm. We have seen it. We have discussed it several times. Whatever legislations are passed by the Parliament of India, they pass in the name of guidelines. There are some powers which our Ministries and Department exercise now. The powers that you are exercising will be exercised by the Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court from time to time. Where is the Ministry of Environment today? The Ministry of Environment hardly has got any power. The Empowered Committee will decide what should be done with respect to environment. Now, the Special Investigation Team or criminal laws will be handled by them in most of the cases. Therefore, if these are to be allowed-this is what the inspiration from the Supreme Court is-then, I think, the Bill of Duaji should be respected and it should be allowed to be passed. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Avinash Raiji, Mr. P. Rajeeve wants to go and take a flight. If you are going to be in the House, can I request you to give him five minutes?

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Punjab): Okay, Sir.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Thank you Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. Very happy to see you on the Chair. All of us are well aware of the normal fate of the Private Members' Bills. But this is an opportunity to invite the attention of the Government to certain issues which need a legislation or which need an amendment to the existing Acts.

Sir, I rise to support this Bill and I would like to congratulate Duaji for moving this important Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Clause 124 (7) says, "No person who has held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court shall plead or act in any court or before any authority within the territory of India." This is a pre-globalization clause. At the time of framing this clause, the activities of companies were confined within national territories. This clause is suitable for that day. But now we are living in a globalized world. A company can run an office in the United States of America and

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they can run their activities in India as well. Indian companies are running several businesses outside the country in America, in Britain and in several other countries. The global capital flow from one country to another country wherever they get more-profit. Now, the global capital has no specific national interest. So, this clause should be amended because there is no confinement of any company within the territory of a nation. Therefore, this should be amended. That is the need of the day.

Sir, Duaji, in his speech, mentioned several incidents. But I would not like to take more time on this issue. From my memory, I recall that while participating in a debate, the Leader of the House—the then Leader of the Opposition—made a very valid point. Nowadays, the courts itself have created their own post-retirement vacancies. While hearing the case of an educational institution, the apex court made a verdict. In that verdict, it said, ‘it is the duty of the Executive to constitute a Committee under the leadership of a retired Judge.’ That is ensuring a post-retirement vacancy. Recently, hearing a case on accidents and traffic rules, the apex court made another verdict. In that verdict, the court itself created a Committee to review the laws.’ Sir, it is a responsibility of the Legislature to review an Act and come up with any amendment needed on a given day. But the Supreme Court in its verdict has created a Committee and appointed retired Judges in that Committee. So, on that day, the Leader of the Opposition correctly stated that the courts themselves created their own after-retirement vacancies. This should be noted and that should be included in a comprehensive Constitutional Amendment to avoid those types of activities.

The third point that I would like to make is regarding arbitration cases. The former Attorney-General publicly mentioned that not only the Judges of the apex court, but the former Chief Justice of the country are appearing for a private company in the United States of America. What would they think about the independence or the credibility of the judicial system of our country? We have a very good reputation about our judicial system. But our Chief Justices are appearing for a private company in a court in the United States of America. We are living in a globalized world. It is an era of globalization process. So, this clause should be amended. I think, the Government should take note of this and come up with a proper amendment to the Constitution.

Sir, I would like to make one more point. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, Duaji correctly stated that the proposed amendment in Article 124 of the Constitution is required to ensure and strengthen the judicial independence and maintain the credibility of the higher judiciary. Recently, the Chief Justice of our country made a public remark. It is a very important issue. It is an attack on the independence of our judicial system. We have a collegium system. All of us are well aware that there is no provision of a collegium in our Constitution. The last Government came with a Constitutional amendment on that. They were in very hurry;

without sending that Bill to the Standing Committee, all of us passed that Bill. But the Government was not ready to move that Bill in the other House. That was the fate of that Bill.

The collegium process is the rule of the day. The collegium sent their proposal to the Government. The Government segregated that one name and approved the other three names. I think, for the first time in history, the Chief Justice of India made a public remark against this Government. This is an attack on the independence of Judiciary. I think that such a thing should not happen. We have our own *lakshman rekha*. I fully support the idea that the existing system of judicial appointments should be amended and the Executive and Legislature should have some say in it. I fully agree with that argument, but this is the rule of the day. We are creating loopholes for the Judiciary to constitute a collegium because we fail to do our duty. But before amending the existing legislative mechanism, it is the duty of the Executive to ensure the independence of the Judiciary.

I think the Government should review the approach they had taken on that issue. I would also request the Government to come up with a judicial reforms commission, a judicial appointment authority, taking into account the views expressed by all stakeholders.

With these words, I conclude and support this Constitutional Amendment.

**श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना :** सर, श्री एच.के. दुआ जी ने इस बिल को मूव किया है, जिन्हें बतौर एक पत्रकार व एक पॉलिटिशियन बहुत अच्छा एक्सपीरिेंस है। मैंने उन्हें “द ट्रिब्यून” में काम करते हुए पर्सनली देखा है। वे बड़ी मेहनत से पॉइंट्स निकालकर लाते हैं और कोई-न-कोई नई बात करवाने की कोशिश करते हैं।

महोदय, हमारे मंत्री महोदय, जो खुद एक बहुत बड़े वकील हैं, इस बिल का जवाब देंगे। महोदय, मैंने भी 10-12 साल एज ए लॉयर प्रॉक्टिस की है और यह अनुभव किया है कि जजेज के बारे में लॉयर्स और आम लोगों का ऑपिनियन “नेक्स्ट टू गॉड” की तरह का होता है। जैसे कि एक डॉक्टर के बारे में कहा जाता है कि ही इज “नेक्स्ट टू गॉड” उसी तरह जो लिटिगेंट है, वह भी जज को परमात्मा के रूप में देखता है और जब वह उसे परमात्मा के रूप में देखता है, तो उसकी सेलरी क्या है, उसे क्या पर्स मिलते हैं, वे बातें छोड़कर वह क्या निर्णय देने वाला है, इस की बड़ी अहमियत रहती है। महोदय, मैंने इस लाइन में देखा है कि बहुत से एडवोकेट्स, जिनकी करोड़ों की प्रैक्टिस होती है, वे उसे छोड़कर जज के रूप में इसलिए अपॉइंट हो जाते हैं क्योंकि उन्हें लगता है कि वे एक रिस्पैक्टफुल पोस्ट पर जा रहे हैं।

महोदय, मैं अपना एक एक्सपीरिेंस आप से शेयर करना चाहूंगा। मैं जब लोअर कोर्ट में प्रैक्टिस कर रहा था, तो वहां दो कोर्ट्स बनीं। वहां की दूसरी कोई के उदघाटन के मौके पर

[श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना]

लोगों ने वहीं के रहने वाले हाईकोर्ट से रिटायर्ड एक जज को बुलाया और कहा कि आपके शहर में एक कोर्ट आ रही है, आप इसके उदघाटन के मौके पर आइए। वे बड़ा आग्रह करने के बाद वहां आए और उनसे बोलने के लिए भी कहा गया। उन्होंने उस मौके पर बोलते हुए कहा कि जितने समय मैं जज रहा, मैंने कभी भी अपने को इंस्पेक्टिंग जज के लिए ऑफ्ट नहीं किया। मुझे जब भी कोई इंस्पेक्टिंग जज बनाता था, तो मैं उसे रिफ्यूज कर देता था। इस का कारण यह है कि जिस ढंग से स्वागत हो रहा है, पार्टी हो रही है, यह सब कहां से और कैसे मैनेज होता है, इस से मुझे डर लगता है। यह उन्होंने वहां पब्लिकली कहा। वहां आज भी उन्हें इतने रिस्पेक्टफुल ढंग से देखा जाता है कि कभी ईमानदार जजों का नाम आता है, तो उनका नाम सबसे पहले लिया जाता है। तो एक आदमी के लिए एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के, पॉलिटिकल - सब रास्ते बंद हो जाएं, तो जूडिशियरी ही एक रास्ता होता है, जहां जाकर उस इंसान को रिलीफ मिलती है।

महोदय, अभी शान्ताराम नायक जी बात कर रहे थे कि जजेज जब आउटसाइड द कोर्ट कंप्रोमाइज करवाते हैं, तो उसका कितना इम्पैक्ट रहता है। महोदय, मैं एम.एल.ए. था और प्रैक्टिस भी करता था, तो एक 800 रुपए की लक्कड़ से संबंधित केस के सिविल और क्रिमिनल 16 केसेज बन गए। वहां जज बहुत अच्छे थे। उन्होंने मुझे कहा कि आप एक एम.एल.ए. हो, यह आपकी कांस्टीट्यूंसी का केस है और आप इसमें एक तरफ वकील भी हो, आप इसे खत्म क्यों नहीं करवाते? मैंने उनसे कहा कि यह खत्म नहीं होगा, लेकिन इसे आप खत्म करवा सकते हो। आप हमें बाहर निकालिए और दोनों पार्टीज को स्ट्रॉगली कह दीजिए कि मैं दोनों को अंदर भेज दूंगा, नहीं तो आप कंप्रोमाइज कर लीजिए। जब हम मालूम करने गए, तो हमसे कहा गया कि आप जरा, बाहर जाइए, मैंने क्लाइंट से बात करनी है। आधे घंटे बाद दोबारा आवाज लगी, तो उन्होंने डेट दे दी। उसके पांच मिनट बाद दूसरा क्लाइंट मेरे पास आया और कहने लगा कि साहब, हमारा राजीमाना करवा दो। उस एक राजीमाने ने, उस एक कंप्रोमाइज ने जज की इंटरवेंशन से 16 केस खत्म करवा दिए।

जज की अपनी एक इम्पोर्टेन्स रहती है। लोग जज को एक देवता के समान समझते हैं। कई जज या एडिशनल सेशन जज जब रिटायर होते हैं, तो अपनी प्रैक्टिस शुरू करते हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने सेल्फ स्टैंड रखा होता है, कि जो जज उनके नीचे कभी भी, किसी भी सर्विस के दौरान काम करके आया है, उनकी कोर्ट में कभी भी पेश नहीं होना है और वे कभी भी उनकी कोर्ट का कोई केस नहीं लेते। वह सेल्फ रिस्ट्रिक्शन होती थी। यह जो अमेंडमेंट आया है, मैं समझता हूं कि यह एक एथिकल अमेंडमेंट है। जब आर्टिकल 124 लिखा गया था, तो उस समय एक बहुत ही इम्पोर्टेंट बात इस आर्टिकल के सब-सेक्शन 7 में लिखी गई थी कि "No person who has held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court shall plead or act in any court or before any authority within the territory of India." यह ठीक बात भी है, क्योंकि जहां आपने एज ए जज ऑफ सुप्रीम कोर्ट काम किया हो, वहीं पेश होकर काम करना वैसे ही शोभा नहीं देता। समय में परिवर्तन आया, बहुत से कमिशन बने, बहुत से एक्ट बने, तो उनमें जो जूडिशियल और लीगल लोग थे, उनकी इन्वॉल्वमेंट आगे बढ़ने लगी और इसलिए फिर आफ्टर रिटायरमेंट असाइनमेंट्स लेने का समय आ गया। असाइनमेंट लेने के साथ-साथ पर्स, एलाउन्सेज भी इतने बढ़ते गए। मैं

मिश्रा साहब से बात कर रहा था कि कई बार आपका ओपीनियन, जैसे आपने कोई जज एपायंट किया है, आपने कोई रिटैन ओपीनियन दी है, जब वह ओपीनियन उस जज के पास चली गई, तो फाइल में उसका माइंड बायस्ड हो सकता है। हो न हो, वह बाद की बात है, उसे माने या न माने, बाद की बात है, लेकिन उसका माइंड है, हो सकता है कि ओपीनियन देते समय, इंटरप्रिटेशन देते समय बायस्ड हो।

महोदय, मैं ज्यादा लंबी बहस में नहीं जाऊंगा। इस देश में कभी भी किसी पैसे वाले की पूजा नहीं हुई। इस देश में बहुत पैसे वाले लोग हैं, मगर आप यहां पार्लियामेंट में देख लीजिए, हॉल में देख लीजिए, किसी के घर में देख लीजिए, कहीं भी किसी अमीर आदमी का चित्र नहीं देखेंगे। अगर हमारे बाप-दादाओं ने भी बहुत पैसे कमाए हो, तो ड्राइंग रूम में एक चित्र लग जाएगा, उसके गले में एक हार पड़ा होगा, जो इंट्रोडक्शन के लिए होगा कि यह हमारे दादा थे, इन्होंने बहुत पैसा कमाया, फैक्टरी बनाई, यह घर बनाया, लेकिन अगली जनरेशन आकर उसे भी उतार देती है, क्योंकि जब उसका दादा गुजर जाता है तो उसका चित्र वहां लग जाता है। कहने का मतलब यह है कि कभी भी किसी अमीर आदमी का चित्र किसी पड़ोसी के घर में नहीं लगता। किसका लगता है? उसका लगता है, जिसने देश के लिए, समाज के लिए काम किया होता है और वह भी ईमानदारी से काम किया होता है। ऐसे आदमी की हर जगह पूजा होती है। इस देश में पैसे का कोई महत्व नहीं है जब हम जज बनकर जाते हैं, तो उस समय हमें पैसे या पर्स का मोह नहीं रहता, हमारे मन में रहता है कि हमारी इज्जत बनी रहे, हम जो फैसला देने वाले हैं उस फैसले से हम देश का, समाज का या क्लाइंट का भला कर सकें, जजेज लॉ के अंतर्गत फैसला दें। हम देखते हैं कि हम उसका कितना पालन करते हैं, हम उससे कितना भला कर सकते हैं।

महोदय, मैं समझता हूं कि चाहे वह छोटी अमेंडमेंट है, लेकिन दुआ जी बहुत मेहनत से इसे लाए हैं और इसमें बहुत इंटेलिजेंटली एक प्रोविजो भी दिया है। अगर देश को ऐसे किसी जज की जरूरत है, जिसकी ओपीनियन प्रजीडेंट या प्राइम मिनिस्टर, चीफ मिनिस्टर या गवर्नर चाहता है, तो उसकी ओपीनियन आये, वह स्टेट को या देश को रिप्रजेंट करे। ऐसी कंडीशन में उसकी सेवाएं ली जा सकती हैं। मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे लॉ मिनिस्टर खुद एक बहुत काबिल वकील हैं, इसलिए मैं इस बहस को आगे न ले जाते हुए, उनसे निवेदन करूंगा कि कोई न कोई ऐसा रास्ता निकालें, जिससे इस बिल में जो कहा गया है, उसकी भावना की भी रिस्पेक्ट हो, सारे देश में और पब्लिक में हमारे जजों का मान-सम्मान बढ़े और जुडिशियरी में लोगों का और विश्वास बढ़े।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ एक बार फिर मैं आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद करता हूं और माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करता हूं कि इसका कोई न कोई रास्ता निकालें। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**सरदार सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा (पंजाब) :** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पहले तो मैं आपका आभारी हूं कि आपने मुझे पहले बोलने का समय दिया, क्योंकि मुझे ट्रेन पकड़नी थी। आपने मुझे थोड़ा सा पहले बोलने का मौका दे दिया, इसके लिए I am grateful to you. दूसरा, श्री एच.के. दुआ...



**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री वी.पी. सिंह बदनौर) :** ट्रेन वाली बात के लिए तो मुझे सबसे परमिशन लेनी पड़ती, लेकिन अभी आपका ही बोलने का नंबर है।

**सरदार सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा :** ओ.के., थैंक यू सर। तो अभी एच.के. दुआ साहब का जिक्र खन्ना साहब ने भी किया। दुआ साहब देश के बहुत बड़े जर्नलिस्ट हैं, बहुत बड़े-बड़े अखबारों के चीफ एडिटर रहे हैं, एडिटर-इन-चीफ भी रहे, इंग्लिश भाषा के तो बहुत सोचकर, देखकर, अपने एक्सपीरिएंस से ये इस बिल को लाए हैं और जैसा कि लॉ मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा कि यह बिल कोई ज्यूडीशियरी के खिलाफ नहीं है, बल्कि मैं समझता हूं कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जो जजेज रिटायर होते हैं, यह उनकी इज्जत बचाने के लिए है या ज्यूडीशियरी की इज्जत बचाने के लिए है। सर, चाहे ज्यूडीशियरी हो, एक्जीक्यूटिव हो, कोई भी हो, आप तो जानते ही हैं कि हर जगह सभी लोग तो अच्छे हो नहीं सकते। कोई न कोई, कोई भी एक शक्स रिटायर्मेंट के बाद ऐसा काम कर ले, तो सारी ज्यूडीशियरी बदनाम हो जाती है। तो यह एक ऐसा अमेंडमेंट है, जिसे मैं समझता हूं कि सारा हाउस एडॉप्ट करेगा। और यही नहीं, इन्होंने कुछ सुझाव भी दिए हैं, जिनको मैं सपोर्ट करता हूं और मैं इनके साथ हूं कि या तो उनकी एज बढ़ाई जाए, क्योंकि जजेज का बहुत बड़ा रुतबा होता है, खास कर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के ऊपर तो कोई होता नहीं। खन्ना साहब ने बिल्कुल ठीक कहा कि वे किसी को फांसी से बचा सकते हैं, किसी को फांसी दे सकते हैं और इससे बड़ा किसी के पास क्या अधिकार हो सकता है? लेकिन उनके ऊपर इतना विश्वास लोगों का रहना चाहिए कि कहीं ऐसा न हो कि किसी के साथ बेइंसाफी हो। तो उसके लिए जैसा खन्ना साहब ने कहा कि जिसने उसके अंडर काम किया हो या उन्होंने उसे जज बनया हो, तो यह कुदरती है कि उस जज के फैसले पर उसका असर होगा ही होगा। सर, मैं समझता हूं कि अमेरिका में जज रिटायर ही नहीं होते। जब तक उनकी डैथ नहीं होती, वे रिटायर ही नहीं होते। ऐसा ही कोई ऐसा प्रोविजन आप इसमें डाल दे कि वे रिटायर्मेंट तक चले या पांच साल उनकी एक्सटेंशन हो जाए, क्योंकि हजारों नहीं, लाखों केस पेंडिंग पड़े हैं। लॉ मिनिस्टर तो ज्यादा जानते हैं। जैसे खन्ना जी ने कहा कि लाखों केस पेंडिंग पड़े हैं, दस-दस, बीस-बीस, तीस-तीस साल के केसेज आज कोर्ट्स में पड़े हैं, तो उसके लिए भी हो सकता है कि उनको एक्सटेंशन दी जाए या कॉस्ट्रैक्ट बेसिस पर जजेज को नियुक्त किया जाए, ताकि उन केसेज का भी निपटारा हो सके। किसी को इंसाफ चाहिए, तो कभी-कभी चालीस साल तक केस चलते हैं, वह बेचारा आदमी इस दुनिया से भी चला जाता है, लेकिन उसका केस पेंडिंग पड़ा रहता है, तो उसका भी कोई न कोई इंतजाम होना चाहिए। उनको अगर एक्सटेंशन मिल सकती है तो एक्सटेंशन दें या उनकी एज बढ़ा दें, ऐसा किया जा सकता है।

सर, मैं लॉ मिनिस्टर साहब से एक रिक्वेस्ट करूंगा कि कुछ लोग ऐसी पोजिशन में बैठे होते हैं, जो कांस्टीट्यूशनल पोस्ट्स होती हैं, जैसे चीफ इलेक्शन कमिशनर, इलेक्शन कमिशनर या सी.बी.आई. का डायरेक्टर होता है। तो ये कुछ ऐसी पोस्ट्स हैं कि उनके रिटायर्मेंट के बाद उनको कोर्ट भी ऐसी जगह नहीं मिलनी चाहिए, क्योंकि वे मौके की सरकार को फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए कोई न कोई ऐसे फैसले कर देते हैं, जो मेरा ख्याल है कि उस पोजिशन को बचाने के लिए होते हैं। अब चूंकि श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की सरकार आई है, तो लोगों में बड़ा उत्साह है। लोग



चाहते हैं कि वे कोई नई चीज पैदा करेंगे, कोई कीर्तिमान स्थापित करेंगे, कोई अलहदा बात करेंगे, तो लॉ मिनिस्टर साहब भी कुछ न कुछ ऐसी बात करें कि लोगों को इंसोफ भी मिले। तो बड़े-बड़े ओहदों पर लोग बैठे हैं, रिटायरमेंट के बाद उनमें से कोई राज्य सभा में आता है, कोई किसी पोजिशन पर चला जाता है, कोई किसी संस्था का चेयरमैन बन जाता है, तो उनको रोकना चाहिए, ताकि लोगों को इंसोफ मिल सके। श्री दुआ एक ऐसा अमेंडमेंट लाए हैं, जिसको सारा हाउस सपोर्ट करता है, ऐसा मेरा ख्याल है। वाइस चेयरमैन सर, मैं इसको सपोर्ट करने के लिए ही खड़ा हूँ और ये बहुत सोच-समझकर इसको लाए हैं, जो ज्यूडीशियरी की इज्जत बचाने के लिए, सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जजों का stature बढ़ाने के लिए है।

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Odisha): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words on this important amendment. I rise to support the amendment moved by Mr. Dua who is one of the prominent journalists of our country. Sir, judiciary is one of the pillars of our democracy. Millions of our countrymen expect justice from our judiciary. At the same time, a democratic set up also needs the role of judiciary as a watchdog of our democracy. It is our duty to see that the independence and the dignity of the judiciary is maintained by Parliament and by our people also.

Sir, Article 124 of our Constitution mentions certain things, which strengthen the independence and the dignity of the judges of the Supreme Court. It is said that the judges of the Supreme Court are forbidden to take any assignment in any court of this country and also to participate in any arbitration inside India, and, now-a-days, abroad also. But it is found, in many cases, some of the judges could not uphold this principle laid down by our Constitution. They indulge in some works, in some arbitration works after their retirement, which hampers the prestige and dignity of the judiciary.

Sir, now-a-days, in many quarters, we see that the people, who view the judiciary as the last hope of getting justice, sometimes, criticize the judiciary by saying that these days, justice is not given, justice is sometimes purchased or bought. It is a great insult to our judiciary, to our democracy. So, it is also the duty of the Parliament to maintain the independence and dignity of the judiciary. In this declining trend of the prestige of judiciary in many cases, the Parliament should think of making some rules to strength the judiciary, its independence and its dignity as well. It will help to strengthen the democratic set up of our country. Mr. Dua has brought this amendment. It is a very important and also a very timely one. He mentioned that it took two years to bring this Bill to this House, but ultimately, it has come. I think everybody has acclaimed that our Law Minister is one of the leading luminaries of our judicial system. He has proved his credibility. And our Finance Minister is one of the topmost advocates of our country.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

I hope the intention of Mr. Dua is shared by us. We support his amendment and request the Government, especially our Law Minister, to make this amendment a part of our Constitution. Thank you, Sir.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. This Bill is a very important Bill. The seniormost journalist and the hon. Member, Mr. H.K. Dua, has taken up the second issue regarding the judicial regulations. We know that our hon. Law Minister is well-versed in law practices. He is having a very high reputation. He has got a chance now in the history to bring some sort of regulations in the judicial system. Within the four walls of the Constitution, many attempts were made by different Governments. Since there had been many types of coalitions, compulsions and other things for the last twenty years, the executive powers were more or less taken away from the Executive to the Judiciary, and in many of the cases, the Executive started to push their file to the Judiciary in order to let them be relieved of taking a decision. Therefore, Judiciary is now the highest accepted institution in India to give a clear verdict on any controversial issue. The Constitution makers were very clear in that aspect. When they made States, they thought about having the separate Judiciary for States just like the United States of America. But finally, they came to the conclusion, after two-three days of discussion, that we should have a unitary system of Judiciary, even though we might be having a quasi-federal system of the Executive and the Legislature. The Legislature is having a separate list of powers to make the laws in the State Governments. But, at the same time, the Executive is having exclusive way of implementing those laws and looking at the welfare of the state. In case of Judiciary also, looking at the same way, people were recruited from the same State and they were elevated to the Judiciary and they become the Chief Justice of a particular State to show that this is the ethnic group, this is the linguistic group. This is the way the States were thinking about the judicial aspect. This is the way India has run for many decades. Unfortunately, when the Executive becomes weak, the Judiciary started to take away certain things out of it. At that time, the Constitution makers had come out with a very good proposition that if there was a dispute between two States or between a State and the Union, that dispute could be solved by the Supreme Court of India. The original jurisdiction was also opened up for the Supreme Court. This was not happening in the United States of America. The United States of America is having a Supreme Court for every State. They are having district courts also.

Two types of judicial systems are available in the United States. But we are having only one system of judiciary. I want to quote one of the observations of Granville Austin, the famous author of *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation*'. He expired last week at the age of 84. It is given at page No. 230.

"Ambedkar was perhaps the greatest apostle in the Assembly of what he described as 'one single integrated Judiciary having jurisdiction and providing remedies in all cases arising under the constitutional law, the civil law, or the criminal law'. For him, such a judicial system, plus uniformity of law, were 'essential to maintain the unity of the country'."

This was the thinking of makers of the Constitution. Nowhere in the world such a powerful Supreme Court is available. It is only in India that a law made by Parliament or a Legislative Assembly can be set aside by the Supreme Court of India. They have this power of review. Even in the UK, the court cannot set it aside. The term used there is 'recommend' or that this has to be considered.

In the United States, they can comment upon it. But it is only in India that they can set it aside or annul it. After that, the Executive or the Legislature has to look into it whether they are within the powers of the Constitution. Such supreme powers are given to the Supreme Court Judges. They should come forward with certain things which could not be done by others. The restriction in the Article says that they should not practice after that. But we have to see the humanitarian aspect also. A judge stays there up to 65 years of age. Now many people become wise only after 65! Average period of a Supreme Court Judge is only around three years. If a judge has a tenure of five years, he retires at 65. His law practice and learning in the system should not go waste.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why not extend the retirement age of a Supreme Court Judge?

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Yes, Sir. I want to submit that also. We have borrowed from the systems of the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In both the countries, the judiciary does not have any age of retirement. They can voluntarily withdraw themselves. But they are entitled to all the perquisites which were given to a sitting judge. If India takes that position then we have to say that judges need not do other business. Globalisation has brought knowledge regime. They can go anywhere to deliver lecture. They can go for any training programme. Once the seat of the Vice-Chairman of the Rajya Sabha was adorned by the Chief Justice of a ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even the Chairman.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: This is the way the judiciary's well-trained people have to be accommodated. Many people are vying to occupy the statutory positions. Some of them even want to relinquish the post of the Chief Justice of a High Court to join the Supreme Court simply because the statutory positions are available for them after retirement. We have created many Human Rights Commissions, tribunals and many regulatory authorities. Even the matter relating to Competition Commission was pending before the Supreme Court till we accepted that the judiciary can be part of it. They allowed it to pass only when the Executive had accepted it. This is the way the judiciary is making demands. The question is whether they should be prohibited from doing any other practice by using that knowledge for the society, or they should be restricted only to Government nominations, or they should be asked to deliver lectures and get salary from the exchequer. This is the question which has to be answered. The Government can consider that question so that the judicial system is independent. They should not do something which will create stigma in their life to say that they have taken a decision in a particular judgment because they sought for Governorship or they sought for Rajya Sabha membership or they sought for a particular position in the Human Rights Commission or in a Tribunal or any such position. They should behave being an independent body as the Constitution makers have provided for. Thank you.

SHRI A.V. SWAMY (Odisha): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I have only three points to submit. After having such output of wisdom for Members and after their vast experiences having been shared, I don't have much to add to that. But I would quickly like to make three points.

Firstly, the society and most of the social workers like us have lost faith in the various Organ of The Government including Legislature, Executive and also other institutions which have been created. The only hope lies in judiciary for most of the people for justice and which has met the challenges of a society with depleting trust in the society's other instruments and, therefore, we should hold it up and do whatever is possible to keep up its prestige and credibility.

I congratulate Duaji for having brought forward this particular amendment to the Constitution, if it is not accepted, it will reduce the prestige of the judiciary further in the minds of the common man because they are resorting to chamber practice after retirement. That means, he is becoming another wage earners and not a person who dispenses justice. This is the second point which I wanted to make.

**4.00 P.M.**

Thirdly, Sir, I am not in favour of increasing the age limit of members of judiciary for the simple reason that age has its own impact on the reflex action of any person. I am 84. I have started feeling it even though I try my best to be what I was at 25. But, it is difficult. I think if you want to be kind to good judges, let them be given better benefits at the time of their retirements and not increase their age limit.

Sir, finally, I would thank Mr. Dua for having made one point very, very clear. He was concerned not so much about the system and all that. With the depleting values that we are facing in the society, some people to whom the common man can look up to and say here is someone he can trust, that is only judiciary. Therefore, I fully agree with the Constitutional amendment. Chamber practice would certainly affect the credibility, prestige and independence of the judiciary and also, the prestige of the nation as a whole. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity.

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, thank you very much. I want to be very brief because the Minister has also requested me. We have a brilliant Law Minister today who is a lawyer. You understand the academics too. So, I would not like to dwell on that because the debate has been stretched so long that every aspect of the judiciary, jurisprudence and arbitration has been taken up.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE) in the Chair]

The Minister wanted us to restrain ourselves, but in a relative term. So, I would rather like to be silent than to talk. Sir, today, the question is very simple. I have only one or two points to make. This is about a man who is holding the highest position after his experience and the nation has accepted his expertise and he has got into a big position. Now, should he take up the other position which is a bit little, I would not say, lower, but which perhaps compromises his own stands? The Deputy Chairman asked why we should not use the expertise of a person who has so much of expertise. What happens in arbitration, perhaps, he may run the risk of giving an arbitration award which may go against one of the awardees. That is one thing.

Mr. Dua was an Ambassador. He knows what kind of money people will give. It is not about the money, but it is about the prestige and dignity of the office that we hold. Let us not compromise on it. This is exactly what I wanted to say.

I want to say one more thing about the retirement. My hon. friend, Mr. Natchiappan says at 65 a man may feel young; and at 70 also he may feel young as long as he is in office. This is for the Government to do. As I said, we have a responsive Law

[Dr. K. Keshava Rao]

Minister, I am sure, he will respond to it. But today he is a popular Law Minister. He should know all the Members sitting in the House have supported Mr. Dua's Bill. He should also take the popular view of the House; and what exactly his answer should be. But anyhow I stand to commend the Bill.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I will be very brief. I rise to support the Bill moved by our beloved colleague, Mr. H.K. Dua.

Sir, the discussion make it very clear that a country like ours should have the National Judicial Commission. Once we have such a commission, we can discuss about the appointment, the removal, the character and the integrity of all Judges who are going to occupy the highest positions in the judiciary. I think the time has come and the Government will have to apply its mind. Last time the previous Government had moved the Bill but it is pending in the Ministry. I think it is time that we take up that Judicial Commission Bill. Even a country like South Africa has got a Judicial Commission, why not India? We have a long tradition of law, jurisprudence and everything. Thanks to Dr. Ambedkar and to our Constitution which are holding the system so far in a balanced manner. We all stand for judicial independence. But it does not mean that there should not be accountability. While we talk about judicial independence, we also insist that there should be judicial accountability.

Now, there are many charges against the Judges or against the functioning of the judiciary; and it is a fact of life also. That is why the judicial accountability has become an urgent issue that the Government cannot avoid to address.

Sir, this time we talk about reforms. When we talk of reforms, we mean only economic reforms. But really there are other reforms. We can talk of broader political reforms which include electoral reforms. We should strive for better police reforms and judicial reforms. Now India has to move along with the time. Fortunately, we have a good Constitution. But even a good Constitution can fail if it is in the hands of bad people. A bad Constitution can turn out to be good if it is in the hands of good people. In the same way, if the judiciary is in the hands of the good people it can deliver justice. We are all for timely justice to the common people. "Justice delayed is justice denied". At the same time, "Justice hurried is justice burried". These are all known to us, but how to strengthen and revamp our judiciary. There, I think, our friend, Mr. Dua has taken up this initiative, and I support his suggestion that in article 124 of the Constitution for clause (7), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(7) No person who has held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court shall plead

or act or express written opinion or engage in arbitration in any court or before any authority within the territory of India and outside India.”

As my friend, Dr. Sudarsana Natchiappan, has said, whether we can increase the age limit for judges and whether we can increase the perks or benefits to judges, are also the issues. Clause 2 of the Bill says, “Provided that he may do so upon a request made by the President or the Prime Minister of India or the Governor or the Chief Minister of a State in a matter of national interest.” Here he clarifies that thing. But what can we do for the rest? That is a separate question. We have a very energetic and eminent legal mind as the Law Minister. Let him apply his mind. Whether he accepts the Bill or not, that is a separate thing. But the Government should address these issues with an open mind. I urge upon the Government to consider bringing back the National Judicial Commission Bill and the Judicial Accountability Bill because the time has come. We will have to move along with the time. We cannot delay it any further. You have a chance now. You are in the Government and you will get cooperation from all sections of the House as far as these issues are concerned. I urge upon the Government to give due consideration to the amendments proposed by my friend, Shri H.K. Dua. Mr. Minister, in a longer perspective, you will have to consider the National Judicial Commission Bill. These are my points. Thank you.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am, indeed, very grateful that the hon. Member, my esteemed senior colleague, Shri H.K. Dua, evoked such a lively debate by a Private Members' Bill. I could see nine people speaking on the Bill, including Dr. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri D. Raja, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Shri P. Rajeeve, Shri Shantaram Naik, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, Shri A.V. Swamy and Dr. K. Keshava Rao. I am grateful to Dr. K. Keshava Rao for agreeing to my request which I made to him personally. Secondly, I am really touched by the kind words which have been used about me by most of the Members. I am grateful that I have been the beneficiary of their love and affection. In my new role as Law Minister also, they have used the kind words for me for which I am very, very grateful to all the Members.

Before I come to the matter, as Shri D. Raja and Shri Shantaram Naik have stated, we will have a structured debate on the Judiciary separately. Some of the issues have been raised and they are relevant issues. We need to debate them at some appropriate time; the issue of backlog, the need for expedition. Now being the Law Minister of India, I am seeing it from inside that there are issues to be addressed. Some of the initiatives, very briefly, I have taken. I have written five letters to the Chief Justice of



[Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad]

India. One, to fill up all the existing vacancies in the High Courts. There are nearly 200 vacant posts. Nearly 4,000 posts are vacant in subordinate judiciary, which must be filled up at the earliest. I have also requested, which the earlier Government, in principle, had agreed, to enhance the strength of judges in the High Courts of India by nearly 20 per cent. Six State Governments have consented and with others I am pursuing. I have also written to the hon. Chief Justice and the Chief Ministers to expedite the hearings on cases of women, children, infirm people and elderly people in criminal cases on a fast track basis. All these things I am doing. I propose to monitor it. Yes, pendency is there. Hon. Dr. Natchiappan has rightly pointed it out. We have about 2.68 crore cases pending in the various subordinate courts of India. It is a matter of concern. Some pendency has gone down. But we have to work as a mission. So far as the National Judicial Commission is concerned, Dr. Raja, I will come to it separately. I see the point in what Shri Dua has said. Hon. judges of the Supreme Court, after demitting office today, cannot practise anywhere in the country.

“High Court Judges, after retirement, cannot practise in their own High Courts or Subordinate Tribunals in their jurisdiction. What Duaji has sought to highlight is that they must stop taking arbitrations and they must stop giving legal advices. About the legal advice part, I, totally, agree with the sense of the House. Speaking for myself, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, when I used to appear in the Supreme Court, and when a client used to come with me, if he has the opinion of the Chief Justice of India, I would say gently, ‘We will decide it separately. There is no need to enclose it. Please don’t do it.’ And it will only be appropriate, in the fitness of things, taking into account the kind of concern expressed by Duaji that retired hon. Judges and retired hon. Chief Justices, even if they give their opinions, must say it very clearly and categorically that it should not be used for any pending legal proceeding.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): I am sure, he has not used the word ‘ex-Ministers’.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: No, Sir. There is a difference. The day we cease to be a Minister, we put on our black gowns and we are senior lawyers. Therefore, we don’t write ‘ex-Minister’s opinion’, but we only write, ‘senior lawyer’s opinion’. Mr. Natchiappan, after ceasing to be a Minister, I am sure, would have put on the black gown just as many of his other colleagues have done.

Sir, as far as the legal advice part is concerned, that has already caused deep distress in the Judiciary itself. And the Supreme Court, in the case of *Grenadiers*



*Association, Rohtak Versus the Union of India*, had itself come with the direction to the effect that if any case is filed, if any opinion of any retired Chief Justice or a retired Judge is imposed, then, the Registry must see to it that that is removed. This is a very salutary judgement given by the hon. Supreme Court of India. And based upon that, the Delhi High Court in a *Common Cause versus the Union of India* had also given it the same way that henceforward any written opinion of any retired judge or a retired Chief Justice shall not be made a part of any pending case or of the ones to be filed for any purposes. So, that concern of Duaji has been taken care of.

As far as the second plea of arbitration is concerned, I would like to say that the previous Government had already brought a Bill in February, 2014, called the Tribunals, the Appellate Tribunals and Other Authorities (Conditions of Service) Bill, 2014, which is pending in this hon. House. What does it say? It says, "If you become a member of any Tribunal, you will not undertake any arbitration. If you have any pending arbitration, you will complete it fully and you will not undertake any arbitration." That is point No.1. It further says, "If you are a member of the Tribunal, you shall not practise before the Tribunal in all these cases." Therefore, even that concern, Sir, with great respect, has been addressed by this Bill which is pending and which we will have the occasion to examine in detail. But there is a larger issue. The larger issue is that it is our Government's mission to make India a hub of international arbitration. I have also requested the Law Commission to kindly improve the existing Arbitration Act so as to make it more expeditious.

Now, Mr. Shantaram Naik was mentioning about an Alternative Dispute Redressal Mechanism. If we have to reduce the load of pending cases, then, we need to have an alternative forum. And we need judicial people trained for that alternative adjudication. Arbitration is a part of that. We have got very eminent Judges whose honesty, legal knowledge, judicial scholarship have been a matter of great standards. Therefore, Sir, I would request Duaji to kindly consider the fact that if we have a complete blanket ban that no retired judge can ever undertake any arbitration, then, maybe, wittingly or unwittingly, we are impinging upon the success of an alternative judicial mechanism. Even my friends would have had the experience that even Judges encourage parties to go for compromise, to go for arbitration, to go for variation and, at times, retired Judges of eminence are themselves chosen in the Court itself by a common consent. Now if we have a complete ban, then, that great window will be closed. Therefore, Sir, I note the concern of Duaji, but in the light of a healthy growth of alternative mechanism for judicial redress, I think, he will not insist upon that.

[Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad]

But the other concerns have been addressed by the Bill which I referred to and by the judgments of the Supreme Court I referred to. This is what I would like to say. The issue which Mr. D. Raja in his eloquent style mentioned is about the larger issue of judicial reform. Yes, National Judicial Commission is also a matter of priority for our Government. It was also a matter of priority for your Government because it is not a political issue. It is a national issue because collegium system came in the year 1993. Concerns have been expressed even by many hon. judges who wrote the judgments that this system needs improvement. I remember even Law Commission Chairman publicly said that this system needs improvement. We have to debate it and let me tell you, the mission of our Government is very clear, hon. Mr. Vice-Chairman. We respect complete independence of judiciary. It is an article of faith for us, hon. Mr. Vice-Chairman and I would just like to highlight many of us and many Members of this Government have suffered in the 70s fighting for Press freedom, individual freedom and independence of judiciary. I know Mr. Raja also have very strong views about independence of judiciary. We all have the highest regard for the offices of Chief Justice and Judges but as far as...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Somebody from Rajasthan for the first time is Chief Justice.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Yes. I am grateful, hon. Mr. Vice-Chairman. But as far as the appointment process is concerned, National Judicial Commission is a serious issue. I am very shortly going to have a consultation with jurists and others. I will also revert to all of you and I propose to bring this whole legislation after consultation. Sir, lastly Mr. Rajeev pointed out an incident. I don't wish to go into the name. Just to highlight that even in the collegium system of appointment, the Government has got the right to be consulted, the Government has got the right to seek a reconsideration of the proposal made. Such a right is available to the Government in the domain of Supreme Court itself laying down the collegium system. The Government only exercised that right of reconsideration based upon cogent ground, objective, fair ground and based upon the past precedents. This is how the matter stands. Now the matter is closed. I thought Mr. Rajeev raised that. But on the larger issue of independence we are all completely one. Sir, what is the real consequence of the growth of Indian democracy? Indian democracy has matured. Rule of law has matured. People of India know they can unseat any leader, any party from power and people of India know that judiciary is important and independence of judiciary is equally important. If this is the image of India, I think, all stakeholders need to

understand that also impose a great responsibility on us of proper conduct, of proper accountability and a kind of behaviour and a scholarship which becomes a beacon for the coming generation. This is the larger issue that I would like to flag. As far as the question of age is concerned, that is a debatable issue, Sir. The Government has not taken a call. There are views for it. There are views against it. People say, 'why only judiciary, raise the age of all other Constitutional functionary who is holding posts in institutions like Commissions and other things.'

SHRI D. RAJA: Here also there are two views.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Yes, we have to take a call on that. But, yes, those wishes are there. So, with this, may I request hon. Duaji that he has flagged an issue of great Importance? On behalf of the Government, I take note of those concerns, but the Government is alive to that. Whenever judicial reform issue will be there, this will addressed. One Bill is there and judgment has come. So with this, I would appeal to hon. Duaji to kindly consider withdrawing his Bill. That is all I would like to say.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Thank you very much. Mr. Dua, you will have to reply because the Minister does not reply to this. You have to reply.

SHRI H. K. DUA: Certainly, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I am very thankful and almost overwhelmed with the response of the Members from all sides, from the people right to the left and the middle and behind me have supported the Bill which I moved. In fact, they have extended the debate to many; many related issues concerning the judiciary. I am really overwhelmed and thank every one of you. I was encouraged and heartened at the spirited reply the Law Minister has given on the questions I raised given in the House, giving an idea of what kind of judicial reforms he has in mind.

And on a vast number of issues he has listed, which are seen to on the top of his agenda, which he wants to tackle. In fact, within just a few days of the new Government taking over, he has listed the subjects which are on the top of his table and going to get attention.

It is heartening to know that he has already written a letter to the Chief Minister to fill the vacant posts of judges. If all these posts are filled, then, the dispensation of justice in the country will become faster and some of the arrears would be cleared and people's faith possibly will be restored. There are 4,000 posts vacant in subordinate

[Shri H.K. Dua]

courts and 200 in the High Courts, I am sure, when he is at it, and soon he will be able to fill these vacancies. Sir, 4,000 vacancies in subordinate courts is a vast number. If these are filled, then, 2.6 crore cases will certainly come down faster.

That he is mulling over other issues of judicial accountability and appointments of judges also and wants to hold wider consultations, in the House and outside with the Judiciary also, is encouraging. He has always maintained, and again he has reiterated today the Government's faith in the independence of the Judiciary. Nobody in this House wants to do anything which may even cut into independence of the Judiciary by an iota.

About arbitration, he wants India to be the hub of arbitration, and I can well understand why this alternative settlement of disputes is being preferred all over the world, and why not in India, where courts are overloaded with the work. Justice should be speedier; possibly, it should be cheaper also.

I did not know about the Arbitration Bill he has spoken about it is still pending. I would like that since the Minister is going to review that Bill he should see how contemporary it is, whether it meets all the concerns, that needs to be examined. He should see whether he can provide guidelines for the arbitration process because this is outside the court, you can't lay down the laws for this, but you can regulate it. And, if there are some guidelines which can meet most concerns about arbitration process, I think, that will be helpful, when he reviews the Bill which is already pending. Another look at the Bill will be helpful.

However, the point which I was making is that the Supreme Court Judges and the Chief Justices are doing arbitration cases. There the problem still remains. I think this question needs to be looked into when you examine the arbitration laws. The question is about the high fees which the arbitrators charge from the corporate sector, from both the companies, and the high fees which are paid, and sometimes arbitration hearings are held abroad. Well, in the globalized world, that can't be avoided. But, sometimes, for holiday purposes, arbitration proceedings are held abroad. There are so many instances, which are, frankly speaking, not noble things, which go with the arbitration process. I don't want to list those, but some guidelines, I thought, should be provided when the Law Minister will examine the question.

But on the whole, the Law Minister has been very positive about the judicial reforms, and if this debate has focussed and crystallized some issues before him, I am very happy about it. It is encouraging that the Law Minister is seized of these issues, and he has been very positive about it. In view of his assurances, I won't press the amendment Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Does the hon. Minister want to say something more on to it?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I am really grateful for the indulgence and the highest consideration which Duaji in his very inimitable style has demonstrated, Sir. He has agreed. And, again, I repeat, Sir, when we will have a structured debate on national judicial reforms, all his concerns will be taken on board, Sir. About the other issue of guidelines, which he has mentioned, whenever the arbitration issues are discussed, surely, we will keep that in mind. I am really grateful to him, Sir.

SHRI H.K. DUA: I may ask what is Government going to do about the Bill, about the removal of the Judges which I had moved?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Earlier I was in opposition, Sir. Now as a Minister it is my new responsibility; I need to have a look at the entire Bill. I will surely look into it and revert.

SHRI H.K. DUA: His response to the Bill was very encouraging when he supported the Bill outside.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): I must say that we have had a very nice discussion on the Bill moved by Mr. Dua. Mr. Dua, are you withdrawing the Bill?

SHRI H.K. DUA: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

*The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.*

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## MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

### **The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2014**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules and Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2014, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th July, 2014.”

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS – Contd.****The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements)  
Amendment Bill, 2012**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): We shall now take up the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Amendment Bill, 2012 by Shri Shantaram Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I move:

That the Bill further to amend the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, be taken into consideration.

Sir, I am happy that I have secured a place in the ballot and thus this Bill has come up for discussion. Sir, I am tempted to read the Statement of Objects and Reasons for the simple reason; unless I read the text of my statement perhaps the House may not realise what the Bill is about. This is particularly because I am from Goa, they may be under the impression that this refers to drug issue which is there on the coastline. It has nothing to do with that. This is another issue and a very sensitive issue. I read the Statement of Objects and Reasons: "The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 is an important piece of legislation which is not being implemented in this country in its letter and spirit. The illiterate masses of this country are taken for a ride by quacks and touts who claim magical remedies for various diseases. They publicise and market their drugs which are either harmful or contain no medical ingredients. Medical remedies which include a talisman, *mantra*, *kavacha*, and any other charm of any kind which is alleged to possess miraculous powers for or in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of any disease in human beings or animals, are claimed by certain practitioners openly either in their 'dispensaries' which they open in hotels or even on streets. Womenfolk of the country are lured to make them believe that various medical problems related to them can be cured with these 'medicines' that these quacks prescribe. Unfortunately, some practitioners blend their treatment with divine blessings thus spreading superstitions at the same time. Section 7 of the Drugs and Magical Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, as it exists today, provides in the case of a first conviction, with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine or with both and in the case of subsequent conviction, with imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. This gives option to the magistrate to impose a mere fine on the accused in the event of his or her conviction. Considering the damage, that, those who claim magical remedies, cause to the social fabric, the penalty clause has to be made more stringent and harsher to act as a deterrent."

I have, in this Bill, only sought to increase the penalty. The provisions of the Bill are not implemented properly. My contention is that the provisions of the Bill should be implemented in letter and spirit.

The *jadi-booti* system, which flourished in the ancient times, has relevance even today. In ancient times, the allopathic medicines were not available, treatments were not available, it was only the *jadi-booti* that cured the people. And, there is no doubt in it. Even today the *jadi-booti* is quite effective, as far as mitigating an illness is concerned. But, today, steroids are mixed in the *jadi-booti*. And, the results, obtained because of the steroids, are claimed by the quacks as the results of *jadi-booti* treatment.

Worst is, self-styled Godman practise this. One or two Godmen are already in jail. Others are prominently seen on TV channels. I don't know how TV channels allow so-called Godmen to advertise what is banned under law in this country. Secondly, it is unfortunate that these so-called Godmen lure our young girls in such a manner that they make advances on them and spoil their lives. People, in our country, are very God-fearing. They respect the concept of godman or *sadhu* or whatever it is. Even parents take their young girls to such people believing that their illness will be cured. But these godmen take advantage of such a situation. They take them to isolated places. And, you all know what happens thereafter. This is the most tragic aspect of the entire thing. One of the Godmen, in the Northern India, also teaches physical exercises. Of course, frankly speaking, people have benefited also by that. But when his popularity spread throughout the country, he took benefit of that popularity and even indulged in politics. Somehow he, ultimately, withdrew.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHR V.P. SINGH BADNORE): They are not godmen, they are fake men.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Sir, it is not that only illiterate people indulge in such thing. It is our wrong impression. I would like to admit very frankly that even the politicians, from both sides, indulge in superstitious practices that are banned under the Constitution of India. I remember, even in her Twenty-Point Programme, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, had included the banning of superstitious practices. Our constitutional provisions also ban it. In spite of that, our politicians, I am again repeating, from all sides, go to *tantriks* and *mantriks*, especially during election times. Let somebody make an estimate, when the General Elections are announced how many of us go to such people. And, how many of us would like *tantriks* and others to do some ceremony, some ritual so that they get elected. By this, the Godmen have become so rich that it is said that one day their names will appear in the Forbes list, which is popularly the list of those people who amass vast wealth.

[Shri Shantaram Naik]

Another matter which I want to raise is also sensitive, but I cannot refrain myself from saying it. The practices regarding medicines, quacks and superstitious beliefs are all combined one. It is a wrong thing that people attach religion with this. Religion is a different thing. Everyone has got a right to practise his own religion and nobody can forbid that. But such mixtures, sometimes, give that impression. I was told that there is one temple in South India where people go with visa papers in their hands. They feel if visa papers are taken in that particular temple, then, they will be granted a visa. So, I am saying this, particularly, because you have to remove such impressions from the minds of the people, who believe that taking this and showing that in the temple will enable them to get that.

Another thing which is shocking is this. Our scientific community is considered to be much more rational. We are small politicians. Scientific community is adored in the sense that they think rationally and with sense. But when Space Research Organisation' people launch vehicles into satellites, a replica of that satellite and space launching pad is presented by them to their deity so that successful launching takes place.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): It is just a belief, I suppose.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: But that is what I am seeing. If scientific community goes to such an extent, then, there is a problem.

Another interesting aspect I would like to mention is this. We all are worried about who killed Dabholkar, an eminent nationalist person who fought against superstition, who fought against such quacks and other traders. You must be knowing about Shri Narendra Dabholkar. It is an international issue. In international magazines, newspapers, Dabholkar issue is prominently figuring and Maharashtra police is also embarrassed as to why they have not been able to catch him. Because, not only our country is watching, the world over also people are inquiring about the Dabholkar case. The other day I learnt that in the Police Commissioner's office at Pune, a *tantrik* was called by the Commissioner. The Commissioner told him, "Look here, we are not getting the killer of Dabholkar. You do something." He did something. Whatever it was, I am not going into that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): What was the result?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I do not know the results. So far, we have not heard that he has been caught. But, again, if people go to this extent, then, how can the police or any scientific community or literate people – lawyers, doctors, ask the people that they should not go in this manner?



Sir, I would also like to make another point. The land acquired by such alleged Godmen all over the country should be inquired into by the CBI and not by an ordinary agency, in general, irrespective of who has this thing. Everywhere, there is a land grabbed by these people. They must have taken it from the Government, private agencies, industrialists, corporate bodies, etc.

But the CBI must enquire into the land which has been amassed—I would say—by such people. They may be slightly superstitious people or they may not be superstitious also. For blood pressure, they prescribe particular mantra ‘हौं.’ They advise to chant that *mantra* one dozen times and the blood pressure gets minimized. That should be done with *punchmukhi rudkraksha*. For mild heart disease, they say to do it very cautiously. If you have got a mild heart disease, then chant ‘ॐ हौं जुं सः’ five hundred times before and after the sunset. That will cure your problem. For diabetes, they ask to do the same mantra two hundred times. What is this? Why is somebody not enquiring into these practices? It is taking place in a land of this magnitude. We are talking of going to 21st century, we are competing with China, we are competing with US and we want to be a world power. Can these things lead us any farther? With due respect to our culture, I am saying this. We have to protect our cultural ethos, we have to protect our religious feelings. But, at the same time, we have to ensure that these petty things do not come in the way of advancement of our citizens. We have to develop a scientific temper in the minds of the people which our Constitution mentions. If scientific temper is not maintained, if we don't pursue the scientific temper, then we may perhaps not go ahead.

With these words, Sir, I would request the House to take it up for consideration.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE): Is there any Member who would like to speak on this subject? It is because I have no names right now. So, we can call the Minister now. But before the Minister starts, I think, let me just say that even Shakespeare said, “The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves, that we are underlings.”

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for bringing this very important issue before this august House.

This Bill was enacted even before I was born, and, honestly speaking, most of the things that you have elaborated, I will not repeat them, but I can only say that I have no reasons to disagree with the basic sentiments that you have expressed. As a matter of fact, all these things are unfortunately happening in our society. Quacks with different names,

[Dr. Harsh Vardhan]

different ways of working, are using all sorts of techniques to, in fact, mislead the people, misguide them, exploit their sentiments, emotions, raise false hopes and things like that. But in spite of the fact that I agree with what you have said, unfortunately, since 1954 when this Bill was first enacted in Parliament, I don't think anybody has seriously been punished anywhere in this country on the basis of this law.

Sir, I have to make two-three submissions before you. Firstly, there is a definite need for either amending the overall Act as such or revisiting the contents of it and how we actually implement it. Secondly, my problem is that when we put this Act into implementation or make any changes in it - if you have read the Act carefully and in detail, and I am sure you have done it - you would agree with me that the State Governments have to actually be part of the whole activity. So, if, as the Minister of Health, I agree to any amendment that has been proposed by you, I cannot do so without taking the State Governments into confidence. That is the first point. The second point is, if we were not able to punish people for six months or one year, depending on whether they have committed the crime for the first time or the second time, I really am not sure whether just saying that on the first offence we are going to punish them for one year and then on the subsequent offence for five years we would actually be able to implement it. So, I have a very humble request to make to you. And, I can say that I was also like you; I have also been thinking like this all my life. Twenty years back, as Health Minister of Delhi, I used to think, "What is this law which has never been implemented"? We see all these advertisements appearing in newspapers; if you look at some of the newspapers today, you will find so many objectionable things there. But when this law was made there was no television channel or electronic media, and now there are so many mechanisms by which people are being deceived, fleeced, or whatever you may call it. I can only promise you that if you would please appreciate...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Please address the Chair.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Yes, Sir.

If you could appreciate our problem of not being able to consult the States within the short time that was available to us, I can assure the hon. Member that we will have a relook at the whole issue and see whether we want to actually do away with this Act or put some really strong amendments into it. We would like to work on it from the Government side and rather than making small changes here in terms of punishing for one year instead of six months or five years instead of one year, we would like to radically revisit the whole law.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Would you refer it to the Standing Committee?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I feel that it would be better if he could withdraw it right now.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): That is all right; what about the Bill that you have got otherwise?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: At the level of the Department and our Government, we would certainly look at it most seriously, because it involves very serious and crucial issues which actually involve the health of the people, and of course, the society and the nation. So, I would be extremely grateful if the hon. Member could withdraw this Bill.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Sir, I would like to make a few points. I am happy that in principle, the hon. Health Minister agrees to the contents of the Bill. I would request the hon. Health Minister to call a meeting of Health Ministers of all the States and come up with an exhaustive Bill, complete with amendments, at a future date, but it should be implemented in its spirit. As and when you are ready with a new Bill or amendments, the Bill with those amendments can be implemented. But right now there is a need to implement this Act as it is. If that is done, that is sufficient. Then my amendment for the purpose of increasing punishment, etc., doesn't matter much. The only thing is that a fine can be imposed by courts considering the situation. The courts will obviously exercise jurisdiction to impose punishment and also imprisonment. They will do it. But kindly call a meeting of Health Ministry and ask them to implement this legislation threadbare. That will suffice. With this, I seek leave of the House to withdraw this Bill.

*The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): The next Bill is Pathological Laboratories and Clinics (Regulation and Control) Bill, 2010. Hon. Member, Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda, is absent.

The next Bill is the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2011 (amendment of article 25). Hon. Member, Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, is absent.

Now, we will take the Special Mentions. Shri Motilal Vora; absent. Shri Y.S. Chowdary; absent. Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda; absent. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar; absent.

The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 14th July, 2014 at 1100 hours.

*The House then adjourned at fifty-three minutes past  
four of the clock till eleven of the clock on  
Monday, the 14th July, 2014.*