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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
RAJYA SABHA
OFFICIAL REPORT

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[P.T.O.]

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RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 15th May, 2012/25th Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

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

MEMBER SWORN

Ms. REKHA (Nominated)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*541. Questioner (Shri K.E. Ismail) was absent.

Shortfall in spending under MGNREGS

*541. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spending under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has gone down considerably this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith total funds released and total work days created under the scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment to find out the reasons for this shortfall;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government's attention has been attracted to the fact that delay in payments and low rate of wages is making the scheme unpopular; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The total expenditure incurred under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as reported by States/UTs for 2011 -12 was Rs. 37303.30 crore compared to Rs. 39377.30 crore in 2010-11. The data reported by States/UTs for 2011-12 is till 27.4.2012 with data from the States of Bihar, Jammu

& Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland yet to be fully updated and uploaded.

(b) The details of Central funds released and persondays generated under MGNREGA during 2011-12 as reported by States/UTs till 27.4.2012 are given in Statement-I. (*See below*)

(c) to (f) The primary objective of MGNREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households, by providing up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household for doing unskilled manual work on demand to be made following a prescribed process. As employment is provided on demand, persondays generated under MGNREGA and requirement of funds by the States/UTs depends on demand for employment. Demand for employment under MGNREGA is dependent upon several factors including availability of alternate employment opportunities or delay in payment of wages. There have been no reports to the effect that demand for work under MGNREGA has been affected by low rate of wages. Rather, some studies on MGNREGA by independent agencies have concluded that there has been increase in Agriculture Minimum Wages and wage earned per day due to impact of MGNREGA which has improved the bargaining power of the rural labour. To ensure that MGNREGA workers' wages are protected against inflation, MGNREGA wage rates have been indexed to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) and wage rates have been recently revised based on percentage increase in the CPI-AL, w.e.f. 1st April, 2012.

Statement - I

*Details of Central Funds released and persondays granted under
MGNREGA during 2011-12**

Sl.No.	State	Central Release (Rs. in crore)	Persondays Generated (in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	1477.58	2767.7
2	Arunachal Pradesh	60.79	0.3
3	Assam	426.86	353.3
4	Bihar	1300.73	589.1
5	Chhattisgarh	1638.56	1209.6
6	Gujarat	324.29	311.2
7	Haryana	275.12	108.8

1	2	3	4
8	Himachal Pradesh	311.38	258.8
9	Jammu and Kashmir	781.31	153.2
10	Jharkhand	1237.33	600.5
11	Karnataka	662.57	699.6
12	Kerala	951.05	631.6
13	Madhya Pradesh	2968.51	1541.5
14	Maharashtra	1040.44	647.2
15	Manipur	624.97	201.9
16	Meghalaya	284.98	157.8
17	Mizoram	329.57	119.2
18	Nagaland	673.47	179.5
19	Odisha	978.22	453.7
20	Punjab	114.29	64.3
21	Rajasthan	1619.70	2106.3
22	Sikkim	100.80	32.7
23	Tamil Nadu	2815.52	2989.2
24	Tripura	959.33	489.7
25	Uttar Pradesh	4240.48	2642.9
26	Uttarakhand	373.51	187.1
27	West Bengal	2597.03	1405.9
28	Andaman and Nicobar	16.44	8.1
29	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.00	NR
30	Daman and Diu	0.00	NR
31	Goa	2.60	3.1
32	Lakshadweep	0.35	1.5
33	Pondicherry	1.00	10.8
34	Chandigarh	0.00	NR
TOTAL		29189.77	20926.0

* 2011-12 data is provisional & reported till 27/4/2012 in MIS

NR=Not Reported

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any supplementaries?

SHRID. RAJA : Sir, I have one suggestion and one question for the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question, please.

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, the wages to workers under the MGNREGA Scheme are not paid on time. There is a delay in making payment. Here, I think the system of Andhra Pradesh of automatic payment of compensation for delayed payment in workers' bank account can be considered by the Government. My question is this. Despite several court orders — one by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and the other by the High Court of Karnataka — and despite the observations made by the Supreme Court in this matter, the wage given to workers under the MGNREGS is less than the minimum wages in many States. The House will be grateful to him if he throws light on the States where the wage given to workers under the MGNREGS is less than the minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act. What is the Union Government thinking of dealing with the issue of minimum wages given to workers under the MGNREG Scheme?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Sir, as far as the wages under the MGNREGA are concerned, these were revised on 22nd March this year. While laying the statement on the Table of the House, I had said that it's the policy of the Government to revise them every year and they would be linked with the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers. That is the policy of the Government and we will stick to it. Even after the revision of the minimum wage rates for the MGNREGA of March 2012, there are six States in the country where the minimum wage under the MGNREGA is lower than the minimum wage for unskilled agricultural labourer under the Minimum Wage Act of 1948. These States are Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and West Bengal. In all other States, the wage under the MGNREGA is higher than the minimum agricultural wage. Sir, the matter is in the Supreme Court. A Special Leave Petition has been filed by the Central Government. We are examining the issue whether we can amend the MGNREGA or the Minimum Wage Act to, once and for all, put an end to this controversy about the divergence between the agricultural minimum wage and the minimum wage under the MGNREGA. But I do want to tell the hon. Members that it is unfair to compare the minimum wage rate under the MGNREGA with the minimum wage rate under the Minimum Wage Act because the wage under the MGNREGA is subject to many other advantages. For example, any worker who completes 15 days of employment under the MGNREGA automatically enjoys the benefits of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna. The workers under the MGNREGA enjoy many benefits which other workers don't enjoy under the Minimum Wage Act.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, it is deeply disturbing that the number of persondays generated under NREGA is only about half, and perhaps slightly less than half, of the number of mandays that ought to be generated under a programme dedicated to the proposition that the unemployed agricultural labourers of India need 100 days of employment per year. And this is being justified on the ground that this is a demand-driven programme. Now, given the fact that in many of the States where it is self-evident that levels of unemployment in agriculture are much higher than in other States and yet it is precisely in these States that the number of mandays generated is lower - very, very much lower - than 100 days of employment for household, would the Minister kindly consider re-conceiving the MGNREGA Programme from being so-called demand-driven to be made into supply-driven because the fact of the matter is that in those parts of India where this programme is most needed, it is clear after five years that administrative arrangements are not such as to generally encourage and enable people looking for jobs to ask for it under MGNREGA or to receive it? In fact, it is not being treated as an entitlement programme but as a programme that is based upon the Budget funds that are allotted and the administrative arrangements that are being made.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Sir, as the hon. Member has conceded, MGNREGA is a demand-driven programme. It's a demand-driven programme whose primary responsibility for implementation lies with the Gram Panchayats. Sir, I readily admit to the fact that in the three States where the MGNREGA programme should have been implemented on a much larger scale, namely, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa, we have not seen the level of activity under MGNREGA which would be warranted by poverty and unemployment ratios. So, I take this criticism and this is a valid point. We are in the process of looking at strengthening the Gram Panchayat institutions in these States. We are looking at remedying the supply side deficiencies which the hon. Member has alluded to. Delayed payment has been one important reason in Central and Eastern India why demand has been falling. There are multiple reasons why delayed payments take place. There are lack of banking facilities and lack of post offices. The fact that we have 78 naxal-affected districts makes the job of disbursing wages all that more difficult. That is why, now, we have allowed cash payment of wages in many of these areas and I am glad to say, Sir, delays have come down but, I do want to reiterate that MGNREGA will remain a demand-driven programme. It will remain a programme that would be run by Gram Panchayats. But, we will make every effort to ensure that these three States, in particular, will receive adequate attention.

श्री विनय कटियार : माननीय सभापति जी, मनरेगा के कारण देश में एक राज्य से दूसरे राज्य में मजदूरी करने का एक क्रम रुका हुआ है और लोगों को अपने ही राज्य के अंदर रोजगार मिला है। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत से ऐसे स्थान हैं, जिनके लिए यह कह दें कि पूरा का पूरा भ्रष्टाचार मच गया है, तो गलत नहीं होगा। इसके कारण मजदूरों को जितना लाभ मिलना चाहिए या उनको जितना काम करना चाहिए, वे उससे विरत रहते हैं, क्योंकि उसी में कमीशन चल जाता है। इसके चलते देश को दोहरा नुकसान

हो रहा है एक तो गाँव के अंदर मजदूर नहीं मिलते, क्योंकि उनको बैठे बिठाए वेतन मिल रहा है, दूसरा भ्रष्टाचार तो है ही। मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप इस समस्या का कोई समाधान निकालेंगे, जो नक्सल प्रभावित इलाके हैं, क्या आप इस योजना को उन इलाकों में युद्ध स्तर पर चलाएंगे और उत्तर प्रदेश के फैजाबाद जिले के अंदर जो बड़ा भारी घोटाला हुआ है, क्या उसकी जाँच कराएंगे?

श्री जयराम रमेश : सभापति जी, मुझे खुशी है कि माननीय सदस्य ने माना है और स्वीकारा है कि मनरेगा के कुछ सकारात्मक असर भी हुए हैं। इसके कारण distress माइग्रेशन कम हुआ है, जो कि एक वास्तविकता है। जहाँ तक करप्शन का मामला है, घोटालों का मामला है, यह राज्य सरकार और ग्राम पंचायतों की प्राथमिक जिम्मेदारी होती है कि मनरेगा सही ढंग से चले।

हम इसमें ज्यादा हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकते। हम इसे राज्य सरकार की जानकारी में जरूर ला सकते हैं, ग्राम पंचायतों की जानकारी में जरूर ला सकते हैं, पर प्रत्यक्ष रूप से हम कुछ कार्रवाई नहीं कर सकते। अगर कार्रवाई करनी है, तो राज्य सरकारों को करनी है। फिर भी, चूंकि माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है, तो मैं कहूँगा कि पहली बार हमने सीएजी से निवेदन किया है कि वह परफॉर्मंस ऑडिट करे। अभी सारे राज्यों में सीएजी का नरेगा का परफॉर्मंस ऑडिट चल रहा है। नवंबर तक उसकी रिपोर्ट आएगी, जो पार्लियामेंट में पेश होगी और उसके ऊपर बहस भी होगी। इसके अलावा, हम पहली बार यह सोच रहे हैं कि हर ग्राम पंचायत में मनरेगा के खाते में जो पैसा जाता है, हर ग्राम पंचायत को हर साल करीब 18-19 लाख रुपए मिलते हैं, उसका अलग खाता रखने के बाद चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट से खाते का सर्टिफिकेशन होना अनिवार्य होगा। चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंट सीएजी की सूची से लिया जाएगा और 10 या 15 प्रतिशत केसेज में प्रत्यक्ष रूप से कागजात की भी जाँच होगी सीएजी और compulsory certification from Chartered Accountant होने से मैं समझता हूँ कि कुछ दबाव जरूर आएगा, जिससे घोटाले कम होंगे। इसके अलावा, जो कुछ जाँच की रिपोर्ट्स आती हैं, हम जाँच की रिपोर्ट्स भेजते हैं। जहाँ शिकायतें आती हैं, वहाँ जाँच की टीम भेजी जाती है और उस जाँच की टीम की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर हम राज्य सरकारों से निवेदन करते हैं कि वे कार्रवाई करें। कई ऐसे मामलों में कार्रवाई हुई है, पर मैं यह स्वीकार करता हूँ कि कई राज्यों में कार्रवाई करने में थोड़ा विलम्ब जरूर हुआ है। नक्सल प्रभावित जिलों के बारे में जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है, खास कर जो 78 नक्सल प्रभावित जिले हैं, उनमें हमने मनरेगा के लिए विशेष प्रावधान किया है। हमने यह पाया था कि भुगतान के विलम्ब के कारण डिमांड घट रही थी। इसलिए हमने नक्सल प्रभावित जिलों में कैश पेमेंट का प्रबन्ध किया है। मुझे खुशी है कि बालाघाट, जो मध्य प्रदेश में है; दंतवाड़ा, नारायणपुर, विजयपुर, कांकेड़, जो छत्तीसगढ़ में हैं, ऐसे जिलों में अभी मजदूरी की माँग बढ़ रही है।

Vacancies in PSUs

*542. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the top level posts in a number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are lying vacant for a long time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has taken a decision to fill up all top level vacancies in PSUs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per available information, the posts of Chairman & Managing Director/Managing Director (CMD/MD) are presently vacant in 21 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The details of these 21 CPSEs are as under.

Sl.No.	Post and CPSE
1.	MD (CW), HMT (Chinar Watches) Ltd.
2.	CMD, Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
3.	CMD, NEPA Limited
4.	MD, Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd.
5.	CMD, Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.
6.	CMD, Hindustan Cables Ltd.
7.	MD, RITES Limited
8.	CMD, HSCC (I) Limited
9.	CMD, Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.
10.	MD, Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.
11.	MD, Indian Medicines & Pharmaceuticals Corporation Ltd.
12.	CMD, Pawan Hans Ltd.
13.	CMD, National Fertilizers Ltd.
14.	CMD, National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
15.	CMD, National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Ltd.
16.	CMD, National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd.
17.	CMD, Central Electronics Ltd.
18.	CMD, Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.
19.	MD, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
20.	CMD, Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.
21.	CMD, MMTC Limited

(c) and (d) Of the above 21 vacant posts, the recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board are already available in respect of 11 posts and are awaiting vigilance clearance/approval of competent authority. The selection process has already been initiated for filling up remaining 10 posts.

SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Sir, the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House reveals that there are 21 vacant posts at the top level of the PSUs. For almost 18 months these top level posts of Chairman or Managing Director or CMD are lying vacant. Other than these 21 vacant posts, the posts of independent Directors numbering about 70 and whole-time Directors numbering 300 are lying vacant for years together. Is the Minister aware as to how it will affect the functioning of the PSUs where lakhs and lakhs of employees are involved and several million crores of rupees have been expended for all these industries to come up? The reason cited for such a delay is the wrangling between the administrative unit of the PSUs and the PESB, the Board which selects the candidates. The files have been tossed between pillar and post. The reason cited for such a delay is holding the post temporarily by someone at the Ministry level. Will the Minister take some initiatives to simplify the procedure in filling up the top level posts in the PSUs?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I would like to submit that the hon. Member's observation that all these top level posts are lying vacant for 18 months or more is not the accurate picture. Filling up the posts is an ongoing process. Barring one or two positions of companies which are not doing particularly well, most of the appointments to the top posts are ongoing process. As per existing procedure, filling up of these positions is notified by the PSUs, at least, a year in advance and the entire process kick-starts. While there may have been some delays due to procedural reasons, usually the PESB, after advertising and short-listing the candidates, conducts the interview, and post-interview, the administrative Ministry sends the names for the CVC clearance.

Sometimes, there are some delays on that account, but that should not be considered as a norm. Sometimes, there are aberrations where some complaints do take longer than normal time to get them cleared and examine. Notwithstanding that, the appointment of Independent Directors is done through the Administrative Ministry and, of course, it goes through the whole procedure. So far as the appointment of whole-time Directors is concerned, like the PESB has a procedure for appointments on top positions, the same process is adopted for appointment of whole-time Directors. So far as the number of vacancies cited by the hon. Member is concerned, I don't have the exact number, but the fact is that this is an ongoing exercise and it goes through the same procedure as is done in the case of appointment of CMDs.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : I am authentic to the fact that there was an RTI application made with regard to this question which says that 15 posts were vacant

for 18 months. If I am wrong, I stand corrected. But this is a report given by the PESB, that is, the Public Enterprises Selection Board. Sir, the Minister has stated on record that because of wrangling and delay in processing the papers and files by the Vigilance Commission, he has a succession plan in which the procedures would be simplified. Would the Minister state as to how the procedures would be simplified? How is the delay going to be reduced? Secondly, recently, the Department of Personnel has issued a Circular saying that there was an undue delay in such appointments at the Ministry's level and the Vigilance Commission's level. They have suggested that two months in advance before the vacancy arises, a proposal must be sent to the Department of Personnel....

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the question?

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Even the ACC, that is, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has to go through a long procedure. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these things would be simplified. Would he see to it that the heads are appointed on time?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to correct the hon. Member again. As I said earlier, the process for filling up these vacancies starts exactly one year prior to the superannuation or retirement of a particular head of the PSU. It is not that the procedure does not start well in time. As I said, there are some procedural delays along the way. Of course, the entire process is conducted through the DoPT. But we, as the Department of Public Enterprises, certainly have an interface with them. The fact is, there are some delays on account of CVC clearance which are, of course, beyond the control of the concerned Department or the Ministry. But, at the same time, I do appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member. We will, along with the DoPT, try our best to see that these processes are limited to a particular timeframe so that such delays do not occur.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, the Minister has given a list of PSUs where CMD posts are lying vacant. There are companies like the Brahmaputra Valley and the Hooghly Dock in which cases the BRPSE has recommended a revival package and that is in the process of operation. If the head is not there in those companies, then who will lead the whole revival exercise? Even if the package is so sound, how could it be effectively implemented to turn it around? I have got some reply that except in some of the companies not doing well, the heads are there in other companies. I think in the case of those companies which are not doing well, you must give them priority and see to it that the captain remains there to lead the show. Secondly, there is a procedural suggestion. The PESB makes the whole exercise, and after that the things are delayed because of the vigilance clearance. Why not there be the vigilance clearance of the list first and then it goes to the PESB for short-listing and then the Minister puts up the

final stamp? Sir, this point was suggested in the meeting of the Committee on Public Undertakings also. Sir, some of the blue chip public sector companies, where even the PESB has finalized the selection process, are suffering because of this reason and the things are getting unduly delayed.

Therefore, will the Minister consider getting vigilance clearance done for probable candidates first? Then, it should go to the PESB, and the PESB can do the shortlisting.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that delays in obtaining the Vigilance Clearance have been instrumental in some cases, but I am not saying that this is the reason in all cases. And there is a case for trying to look at the suggestion for implementation. But again, we will discuss this with the DoPT and see if this can be done. If that finds agreement at all levels, then, maybe, that could be a good suggestion. The other thing is about the heads of these PSUs. I think the bulk of the lists contain many companies which are not in good health or which are under the purview of the BRPSE. That is why we have been finding some difficulty in appointing the suitable people to head these companies which are not doing well. I do appreciate the sentiment. At the same time, the BRPSE and the Administrative Ministry are also equally responsible to see to it that these companies do function in the best manner possible. But I do agree that it will be much better to have regular CMDs looking after the turnaround and to see that these companies are back on good financial health.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I believe, the hon. Minister is just not the Minister of Heavy Industries but he is also the Minister of Public Enterprises. I am sure he would like to explain what he means by PSEs because even banks are under that. And the LIC does not have a head. There are also a lot of oil companies and others. So, there is a more comprehensive aspect about the public sector undertakings. But that is not my supplementary. My supplementary is very straight and specific. It is about appointments and role of PSEs. If I recall correctly, there is an organization called the NACIL, which is, now, the Air India. That was created in 2007, and it is one of the public sector undertakings. But there have been appointments made in such undertakings by something called the Search Committee. So, when the Government wants someone to come in the public sector enterprises, they create a Search Committee, and this Search Committee is created under the auspices of the Prime Minister who decides to appoint an individual or choose from a group of individuals. Similarly, I would like to tell the hon. Minister, who was heading the Department then, that they create a Search Committee, and thereby, appoint a person who may be manipulatively positioned there. And, when the matter was raised that the Search Committee had appointed someone as Chairman of the Air India who continued to be there for two years, then, the Government, subsequently, withdrew him and sacked him...

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your supplementary?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Subsequently, they appoint one more person as the Chairman of the PSE, who is, again, not an appointee of the Public Enterprises Selection Board. For the last seven years, the Government has chosen to appoint people and individuals to head Air India, who have not been appointees of the PESB. I would like to seek an explanation from him that apart from the mess which has come into existence, in what situation, when elections of the country are being held, they create a Search Committee...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your supplementary. Don't give a commentary.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : My supplementary is this. When the PESB is existing, why is it that Search Committees are created in a hurry to appoint individuals? What is the background and the basis of that with reference to Air India?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, basically, the thrust of this question is more directly to do with the DoPT, which is the concerned Department dealing with both the PESB and the CVC, and which deals with all other issues involved. But, notwithstanding, I can only say that in some cases, the Government does appoint people through a Search Committee, and it, ultimately, goes for the ACC's approval ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : What is the purpose?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, let the Minister finish.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : You discover some person and put him as the head.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I do not want to go into that debate at this moment because Mr. Rudy also, at some relevant time, had gone through the same process in appointing people of the Department he, then, headed. So, I don't want to go into the debate ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : It is no more Mr. Rudy's question. It is the question of the House. Let the Minister explain the purpose of the Search Committee.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I simply do not want to go into that debate. I am just telling him that what was done in the past was followed by this Government as well in the present.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister's reply is not convincing. In the main question, when Mr. Selvaganapathi was authenticating that the total number of vacancies of whole time Directors and the part time Directors are lying vacant for 18 months, the Minister denied it. I would like to urge upon the Minister, through you, Sir, that the Minister could furnish the House since when these vacancies are existing and how many vacancies are existing. This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my

question is, there are 21 PSEs. The Minister has given a list, out of which, many Public Sector Enterprises are very sick and are at a loss. One of the main reasons is that these organisations do not have a head for a long time. Sir, the Prime Minister is, time and again, insisting on the resilience of the Public Sector Enterprises. The Public Sector Enterprises are facing a very stiff competition with the private sector, and the Minister has to take it up. It is a very serious concern. Sir, I have only one point. The demand of the country in machine tools is Rs. 8000 crores, whereas the domestic production Rs. 2000 crores, out of which the PSE is only Rs. 200 crores. Sir, all these reasons have to be taken seriously when the economic situation indicates that the industrial slow down is one of the main reasons. The responsibility of the Minister for Heavy Industries is much more serious and one of that is, filling up of these vacancies and whole-time Directors. Let me know from the Minister, whether he has any time frame to fill up these things. And I submit to the Chair, kindly permit us to have a Half-an-Hour Discussion on the working of the PSEs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give a notice on that.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have answered bulk of the question which the hon. Member asked about, how do you fill up these vacancies, and I think, I have nothing more to add expect the fact that I share your concern, PSUs which are headless for a long time should not go through this state for long. I appreciate that. But, having said that, out of the 21 lists, which have been provided, bulk of them are of companies which are not doing very well. It is not that the process of the PSEs is taking unduly long or major companies of our country...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : The vacancies are not getting filled up. This is one of the main reasons.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : I appreciate, but, that is exactly what I am saying. The question was on the fact that PSUs are lying headless for a long time and of the 21 which have been listed out here, bulk of them are companies which are under BRPSE or companies which are not doing very well. Bulk of the companies which we consider, the so-called our blue chip PSUs or companies which, are doing well, are not facing this kind of a problem which you are trying to highlight here. I appreciate the other issues about machine tool industry and other things. That can be taken up separately. It is not part of this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question. No. 543.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : I asked about the time-frame. When will the vacancies be filled up?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think he has explained the process.

Allocation of funds for Bihar

*543. SHRI SABIR ALI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds given and spent in Bihar by the Ministry and its various organizations during the last three years and the current year so far;
- (b) the purposes for which these funds were given; and
- (c) the steps being taken to increase those funds?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises does not allocate funds to States. Consequently, no funds have been given and spent in Bihar by the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises and its various organizations during the last three years and the current year.

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

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I would also like to point out that we had explained to the Secretariat the inadmissibility of this question because there is nothing arising out of this question, which I can answer here. We had sent it. But, still, the question has been admitted. I will endeavour my best to answer in whichever way I can.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you have answered it. Let the supplementaries be raised.

श्री साबिर अली : सर, क्वेश्चन का जो आंसर आया है, वह बड़ा दुःखदायी है। क्वेश्चन का आंसर है: 'does not arise', यानी सवाल उठता नहीं है। सर, हमने सवाल सिर्फ यह किया था कि बिहार में आपने क्या कभी पैसे लगाने की चेष्टा की और अगर नहीं की तो उसकी क्या वजह रही? इस पर यह जवाब आता है कि सवाल उठता नहीं है, तो यह बहुत दुःखदायी है, सर। एक ऐसे प्रदेश के साथ, जो पिछड़ा हुआ हो, वहाँ के लिए कभी आपने चेष्टा नहीं की और इस तरह का जवाब आता है! सर, इस पर मुझे एक शेर याद आता है:

आने वाला लापता है जाने वाला बेखबर,

किससे पूछें मंजिले-मकसूद कितनी दूर है। ... (व्यवधान)...

सर, ऐसा लगता है कि सदन में वह प्रदेश, जो ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : आप जवाब का पार्ट-ए पढ़ लीजिए।

श्री साबिर अली : सर, सवाल का जवाब इतना दुःखदायी है कि जितना भी दुःख व्यक्त किया जाए, वह कम है।

श्री सभापति : नहीं, नहीं। This is wrong.

श्री साबिर अली : सर, यह बड़ा दुःखदायी है कि 'it does not arise.' सर, हमने पूछा कि इस देश की हेवी इंडस्ट्रीज़ का जो इतना बड़ा मंत्रालय है, जो देश में बड़े mechanism और instruments बनाता है, तो क्या आपको बिहार दिखायी नहीं दिया?

जहां साढ़े दस करोड़ लोग रहते हैं, वहां पर आप इण्डस्ट्रीज़ लगाएं और पैसा दें।

श्री सभापति : नहीं-नहीं, please ask your supplementary relating to the main Question.

श्री साबिर अली : सर, उसी से रिलेटिड है। मैं बिहार से आता हूँ, बिहार के बारे में क्वेश्चन है तथा वहां पैसा लगाने के बारे में पूछा है, जिसके उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा है कि question does not arise. इसके लिए मुझे यह कहना पड़ता है कि मैं कभी अपने क्वेश्चन के बारे में भाषण नहीं देता, लेकिन यह भाषण इससे रिलेटिड है। सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इसका प्रावधान किया है कि जो प्रदेश पिछड़ा हो, वहां पहले तवोज्जह देने की जरूरत है, वहां पर प्राइऑरटी देने की जरूरत है। आपकी वहां जो सबसे बड़ी इण्डस्ट्री है, भेल, वहां जितने भी आर्डर होते हैं, वे छः-छः महीने, एक-एक साल लेट होते हैं। आप बिहार में और इण्डस्ट्री लगाएं। क्या आपके पास कोई ऐसी सोच बनी है कि जो प्रदेश ज्यादा पिछड़ा है, वहां पर इण्डस्ट्री लगाएंगे?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, for the satisfaction of the House, I just want to read out the question. It says:

“(a) the details of funds given and spent in Bihar by the Ministry *i.e.*, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and its various organisations during the last three years and the current year so far;

the purpose for which these funds were given; and the steps being taken to increase those funds.

That is the question. Sir, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises do not have its own Budget. This Ministry is only a nodal Ministry for some sectors within the Department of Heavy Industries. If the Ministry of Heavy Industry has not spent money directly, how am to answer to the hon. Member as to what is the amount spent. I have no way to answer this question. In fact, this was clarified to the Secretariat vide our letter that it is inadmissible due to the fact that no money has been spent.

Having said that, since the hon. Member has enlightened us with *share-aur-shairi*, I can only say one thing. During the deliberations of the Ministry of Heavy Industries in the Consultative Committee, we made a small sub-group under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Singh, senior Member of Parliament, and there is one Member from Bihar, Shri Bhola Singh, and there are two other Members, along with our officers, to examine and to give us a small working paper how we can see more industrialization of Bihar. I can tell you that much and no more. But, I can tell you, as far as your concerns are concerned, I am sure, these are the concerns of the entire House and the Government of India.

श्री साबिर अली : सर, मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि गत तीन वर्षों में आपने किन-किन राज्यों में पैसा बढ़ाया है, जहां इण्डस्ट्रीज हैं, और उसका आपके पास क्या खाता है?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I seek your protection. Beyond that, I cannot say anything.

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सभापति महोदय, कहा जा रहा है कि बिहार ग्रोथ रेट में गुजरात से भी आगे बढ़ गया है। पिछले 6 साल में एक सुई का कारखाना भी नहीं लगा है। तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस राज्य में एक सुई का कारखाना भी न हो, उस राज्य की स्थिति क्या हो सकती है, यह आप समझ सकते हैं। ठीक है, उन्होंने कहा कि बिहार में पैसा देने का प्रावधान नहीं है। क्या बिहार सरकार ने सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से एप्रोच किया है कि वहां कोई कल-कारखाना या भारी उद्योग लगाया जाए? यदि हां, तो कब अनुरोध किया है?

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल : सर, मेरे मंत्रालय की जानकारी के अनुरूप, अभी कोई ऐसी योजना बिहार राज्य के लिए हमारे मंत्रालय के अधीन विचाराधीन नहीं है।

श्री तारिक अनवर : सर, बिहार की पीड़ा यह है कि जब बिहार का बंटवारा हुआ तो जितनी भी हेवी इण्डस्ट्री थीं, वे झारखंड में चली गईं। आज बिहार में कुछ भी नहीं बचा है हेवी इण्डस्ट्रीज के नाम पर। इसलिए आज जो प्रश्न उठाया गया है, खास तौर पर जो बिहार के लोगों को चिंता है वह इस बात की है कि किसी भी राज्य का जो आर्थिक विकास होता है वह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि उस प्रदेश में कितना औद्योगीकरण हुआ है। लेकिन बिहार का दुर्भाग्य है कि वहां कोई भी इंडस्ट्री नहीं है और प्राइवेट सेक्टर के लोग भी वहां नहीं जा रहे हैं। इसलिए हम मंत्री जी से जानना चाहेंगे कि क्या सरकार या उनका मंत्रालय कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था करेगा, जिससे अगर हेवी इंडस्ट्री के पास धन नहीं है, तो प्राइवेट सेक्टर को वहां attract करने के लिए वह कोई ऐसा फॉर्मूला तैयार करे ताकि प्राइवेट सेक्टर के लोग वहां जा सकें और उद्योग लगा सकें जैसे कि दूसरे राज्यों में लगा रहे हैं? महोदय, वहां उद्योग नहीं होगा तो बेरोजगारी होगी और बेरोजगारी होगी तो वहां से लोगों का पलायन होगा। महोदय, यह बिहार की एक बड़ी पीड़ा है जिसे समझने की आवश्यकता है।

श्री प्रफुल्ल पटेल : चेयरमैन सर, चूंकि क्वेश्चन अलग-अलग तरीके से रखा जा रहा है, मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि जहां तक हमारे मंत्रालय का सवाल है, भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स बिजली के यंत्र बनाता है, मशीनें बनाता है और बिहार में बिजली के जो कारखाने लग रहे हैं, वे सारे बीएचईएल के माध्यम से लगाए जा रहे हैं, लेकिन जहां तक industrialization का सवाल है, जैसा कि पासवान जी ने पूछा, अभी तारिक अनवर साहब ने पूछा, रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी भी हाथ ऊंचा कर रहे हैं, तो सभी की यह मंशा है और मैं समझता हूँ कि वहां की राज्य सरकार के मुख्य मंत्री और वहां के आप सभी वरिष्ठ सांसद बैठकर इस बारे में चर्चा करें। फिर जो कुछ भी हम कर सकते हैं, हम बिहार की प्रगति के लिए करने को तैयार हैं।

श्री तारिक अनवर : बिहार में प्राइवेट सेक्टर क्यों नहीं जा रहा है?

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : सभापति महोदय, आजादी के बाद से बिहार एक इंटरनल कॉलोनी के रूप में बना हुआ है। महोदय, बिहार की जो स्थिति है, उसका कारण इसका आंतरिक उपनिवेश होना है। महोदय, रेलवे ने वर्ष 1994 तक freight equalization की नीति चलायी जिसके चलते बिहार में सिर्फ आयरन ओर के मामले में 1 लाख 10 हजार करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा का नुकसान हुआ है। महोदय, आज भी वहां का C-D ratio नेशनल एवरेज के मुकाबले 32-33 परसेंट है। हमारे यहां का पैसा डवलपड स्टेट्स में जा रहा है और जहां हमारी पूंजी जा रही है, वहां हमारे यहां के लोग जा रहे हैं। फिर वहां उनके साथ बदसलूकी होती है। यह

हालत हमारे बिहार की है और आज भी वहां इसलिए पूंजी का निवेश नहीं हो रहा है चूंकि वहां बिजली नहीं है। आप देखेंगे कि बिहार में per capita electricity consumption lowest है। इसके बावजूद केन्द्र सरकार हमको कोयला नहीं दे रही है, कोल लिंकेज तक नहीं दे रही है जिससे हम अपने यहां बिजली व्यवस्था में सुधार करें और अपने यहां इनवेस्टमेंट ला सकें। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि फर्स्ट फाइव ईयर प्लान से बिहार में per capita investment lowest रहा है और वहां पब्लिक इनवेस्टमेंट भी और राज्यों के मुकाबले लगभग शून्य रहा है तो बिहार में पब्लिक इनवेस्टमेंट हो, क्या ऐसी कोई योजना भारत सरकार की है?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me clarify one thing, hon. Members. Supplementaries can only be asked within the ambit of the main question. It would simplify our working and save a lot of time if we were to observe this. Please go ahead. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you cannot. He is replying to another question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. चंदन मित्रा : सर, अगर उनके अख्तियार में कुछ नहीं, उनके पास पैसा भी नहीं है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a statement. It is not a question. Please go ahead, Mr. Minister.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I seek your protection here while I am attempting to answer questions. I have no issues in trying to satisfy the queries raised by hon. Members, but they will have to be within the purview of what I am looking after. Notwithstanding that, I would be more than happy, as I tell all the hon. Members, if we have a small get-together of all the hon. Members from Bihar, along with the State Government, and our Department and we can try and see what is the best way forward. I do not have any other recipe.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a good suggestion.

SHRI N.K. SINGH : Sir, with your permission, I would like to raise a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you cannot raise it. ...*(Interruptions)*... May I suggest something? The Minister has offered a discussion. Please give a notice for discussion. Let there be a proper discussion on a subject of considerable importance.

SHRI N.K. SINGH : Sir, I have a procedural point-of-order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot have a point-of-order in the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N.K. SINGH : Sir, I wish to draw a point for your kind attention. The questioner should not be penalized by the fact that this question has been wrongly allocated to the wrong Minister. On this question, the Chairman of the Planning

Commission was here and the hon. Finance Minister was here. It was more appropriate for the Secretariat to put this question to the right Minister instead of burdening the Minister who was replying on a matter on which he had no say. I think, this is the fault of the manner in which this question has been allocated wrongly to the wrong Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not the job of the Secretariat to come in for this work. The Members know where to direct the questions. The question is worded in a particular manner. Had it been worded differently, I am sure, the Government would have replied to it differently. But, if you read the question, then that is the plausible answer that is possible. Supplementaries on that answer can be asked. But we cannot make it into a debating exercise.

Now, Question No. 544, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... We can discuss that separately, this is not the time.

SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Sir, there is nothing wrong in that question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : These are theological questions and we cannot discuss that. Please sit down. Q.No. 544 now. बैठ जाइए, प्लीज। क्वेश्चन 544, ...(*व्यवधान*)... आप अपने साथी को सवाल पूछने दीजिए, प्लीज।

Control of chronic sinusitis among Indians

*544. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the estimates of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), about 134 million Indians suffer from chronic sinusitis;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for prevalence of sinusitis among large number of Indians;

(c) whether one of the reasons for sinusitis is pollution emanating from factories, ablution and other similar factors; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to control this chronic disease amongst Indians?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Recently a news item had appeared reporting that National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) USA, had estimated that about 134 millions

of Indian are suffering from chronic sinusitis. However, there is no authentic data on country wide prevalence of chronic sinusitis from India. Projections might have been made from some studies showing prevalence of 7-8 % of residents of urban areas suffering from sinusitis.

(b) There are no comprehensive studies about reasons for high prevalence of sinusitis in India. However, some studies have suggested that (i) individuals exposed to ozone, which is a secondary pollutant formed from Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen; (ii) cases of allergic rhinitis, (iii) second hand smokes, (iv) Women exposed to smoke due to cooking using biomass were more likely to suffer from chronic sinusitis.

(c) Yes. Pollution and diesel exhaust from the factories, exposure to Ozone as a secondary pollutant from Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen, Coal and petroleum associated pollution etc. are common factors associated with high incidence of sinusitis in the people working in the factories.

(d) Government has initiated following measures to reduce the exposures that will have beneficial effect on chronic sinusitis:-

- (i) Ban on smoking and other efforts of Tobacco Control Programme.
- (ii) Measures to reduce vehicular pollution.
- (iii) Measures aimed at reduction of indoor or pollution by replacing the biomass based cooking by improving design of the houses, Chullahs and alternate sources of fuel/cooking materials.
- (iv) Stringent measures in the factories to deal with the exhaust systems and better health check ups of the factory workers.

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह : मान्यवर, मेरा क्वेश्चन था कि नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ एलर्जी एंड इन्फेक्शन डिजीजिस के अनुसार साइनेसाइटिस भारत में कितना फैला हुआ है, इसका आंकड़ा क्या है? सरकार का जो जवाब आया है, उसमें जवाब यह दिया है कि इसका सही आंकड़ा हमारे पास उपलब्ध नहीं है। हमारे भारत देश में यह डिजीजिस फैल रही हैं और हमारे मंत्रालय को इसकी सही जानकारी नहीं है। दूसरे पैराग्राफ में मंत्री जी यह कहते हैं कि उच्च व्यापता के कारणों के बारे में व्यापक अध्ययन नहीं किया गया है। यह डिजीज क्या है, कितने लोग पीड़ित हैं, कहां-कहां पीड़ित हैं? तो बताया गया कि शहरी क्षेत्रों में 7-8 प्रतिशत के अध्ययन से अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी और सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब यह बीमारी पूरे व्यापक तौर पर फैल जाएगी, क्या तब इसका इलाज होगा?

श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद : सर, जैसा हमने उत्तर में बताया है, यह नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ एलर्जी एंड इन्फेक्शन डिजीजिस की सर्व हमारी कण्ट्री की नहीं है, बाहर की है। यह उन्होंने एक एस्टीमेट बताया है, जो कोई पापुलेशन बेस्ड नहीं है। इसलिए हमने कहा है कि जहां तक हमारे पूरे देश का सवाल है, तो पूरे देश में इस तरह से कोई सर्वे नहीं किया गया है, जो पापुलेशन बेस्ड हो। अलबत्ता दो-तीन रीजन में किया गया है और वह सेंट्रल पॉल्युशन बोर्ड के द्वारा किया गया है। दिल्ली में 2002 से लेकर 2005 तक एक ऐसा सर्वे किया

गया था कि हवा में कितना पॉल्यूशन है, तो दिल्ली की अर्बन पापुलेशन में 7 से 9 प्रतिशत लोगों में यह पाया गया कि यहां हवा में पॉल्यूशन की वजह से साइनेसाइटिस होता है।

विशेष रूप से यह मानसून के दौरान होता है। इस सर्वे के मुताबिक 3 से 4 प्रतिशत बच्चे इससे पीड़ित हैं। एक और सर्वे Central Pollution Control Board ने किया था। उन्होंने अध्ययन किया था कि fuel की वजह से क्या असर पड़ता है? उन्होंने नॉर्थ इंडिया और साउथ इंडिया में इस बात की स्टडी की कि चूल्हे की वजह से जो धुआं निकलता है, उसके कारण तकरीबन 25.9 प्रतिशत केसेज़ में sinusitis होता है। जहां पर LPG इस्तेमाल की जाती है, जहां चूल्हा इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जाता है, वहां पर 14.5 प्रतिशत केसेज़ में sinusitis होता है।

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह : सभापति जी, sinusitis की रोकथाम कैसे हो और इसका इलाज क्या है, इसके जवाब में मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि चूल्हे, कल-कारखाने, गाड़ी के धुएं से यह बीमारी होती है। जिन लोगों ने कभी चूल्हे का मुंह नहीं देखा, उनको यह बीमारी कैसे हो गई? * ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... आप सवाल पूछ रहे हैं या नहीं? ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण सिंह : सभापति जी, यहां प्रदूषण के संदर्भ में चूल्हे की बात हो रही है। क्या प्रदूषण को शुद्ध करने के लिए और गांवों में चूल्हों को हटाने के लिए स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय कुछ कर रहा है?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Sir, these are two different questions, but I am ready to reply both. I have said about the smoke only on the basis of a particular survey which was conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board in Delhi, in Southern part of the country and in the Northern part of the country. But there are other common causes also for sinusitis; these are not the only causes. The other causes are, nasal passage abnormality, such as, deviated nasal septum or nasal polyps, asthma, allergic conditions, indoor pollution, pollution due to petrochemicals, pollution due to diesel and petrol, and dust particles.

Sinusitis is also caused due to primary and secondary tobacco smoke and allergy associated with it and fungal infection. So, these are multiple reasons for sinusitis. There is not just one reason for it. One reason which I have mentioned is on the basis of the survey conducted. The other part of the question was...

MR. CHAIRMAN : One question, please.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Sir, it is related to that. The other part of the question was, as to what steps the Government of India has taken in this regard. The Government of India is not just the Health Ministry. On this issue, I think, the entire country shall have to rise to the occasion because it is not the Health Ministry alone, which is concerned with it. We are aware of the increasing number of cars and other vehicles across the country and the pollution caused by them. Yet, I would like to say

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

that so far as the Ministry of Health and other Ministries are concerned, there is ban on smoking—I said about it in the beginning; both primary and ‘secondary smokers’ are affected by this. One who is smoking is called ‘primary smoker’, and all those who are sitting there are called ‘secondary smokers’ or ‘passive smokers’. They are also affected by it. Then, the Government of Delhi and other Governments have taken measures to reduce vehicular pollution by introduction of CNG. Some measures have also been taken to reduce indoor pollution by replacing the biomass-based cooking, by improving the design of houses, *chulhas*, and also through introduction of cooking gas. So, significant measures have been taken in factories to deal with exhaust system.

श्री हुसैन दलवर्द : सर, मिनिस्टर साहब ने बहुत सारे उत्तर दिए हैं कि किस वजह से sinusitis होता है, लेकिन उसमें धूल का उपचार उन्होंने किया नहीं है। धूल की वजह से बड़े पैमाने पर ये बीमारी होती है। क्या धूल को कम करने के लिए मंत्री जी की कोई स्कीम है?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : सर, धूल कम करने के लिए तो इनको अल्लाह की तरफ नमाज़ ज्यादा पढ़नी पड़ेगी, ताकि जब ज्यादा गर्मी हो जाए, तो बारिश हो जाए और धूल बैठ जाए। वैसे धूल भी कारण है, डस्ट भी है और hay भी है, जो भूसा है, उससे ज्यादा होता है, बल्कि धूल से उतना नहीं होता है।

श्री अवतार सिंह करीमपुरी : सर, मंत्री जी ने जो मैजर्स initiate किए हैं, उनके बारे में उन्होंने अपने उत्तर में बताया है, खासतौर से ban on smoking and other efforts of tobacco control programme. इसके अलावा उन्होंने तीन और प्वाइंट्स दिए हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका out come क्या है? क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसी स्टडी करवाई है कि जो कम्पेन लांच किया गया है, उसका कोई पॉजिटिव रिजल्ट आ रहा है?

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद : सर, मैंने पहले ही बताया कि बहुत सारे contributory factors हैं और इसके लिए Environment मिनिस्ट्री बहुत कदम उठा रही है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को जितने कदम उठाने हैं, उतने कदम वह उठा रहा है। लेकिन जो Environment में पॉल्यूशन है, वह तकरीबन 9 से 10 प्रतिशत है ही, बाकी हम कहें 25 परसेंट, तो वह एडीशनल 10-15 परसेंट contributory हो सकता है, लेकिन 8 से 9 परसेंट हमारे देश में original पॉल्यूशन है, जिसके अलग-अलग कारण हैं, धुआं है, पेट्रोकेमिकल्स हैं, गैस है, ये तमाम चीजें हैं, इसके लिए तो समाज को और पूरे देश को काम करना पड़ेगा, कोई एक मंत्रालय या दो मंत्रालय उससे निपट नहीं सकते।

SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Sir, I am really surprised to see that while there is no data, no study and the hon. Minister has not been able to quote the primary source and the secondary source. Only a news item appearing about the National Institute, which is based in the United States, is being quoted by India’s Health Minister about a disease which is so much prevalent in my Himalayan area, in Uttarakhand, in Nagaland, in Arunachal and in Himachal. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, Sir, if at all, this kind of a cursory answer is given which says ‘ban on smoking and other efforts’. This takes care of hundred other diseases. What exactly is being done to check the prevalence of this disease which is so much spreading in the Himalayan areas especially? Has the

Minister any data, any Indian data, any data collected by any Indian analysts or his Ministry officers who can tell us that this is the quantum of the disease in Uttarakhand, especially in Bazpur, Kashipur areas, in Nagaland, in Delhi, in Himachal Pradesh and in Arunachal Pradesh? These are the areas which are suffering from this disease. Do we have to have the United States of America's report to address the Indian diseases?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have asked your question. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let the answer be given.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Sir, I think, I had said in the beginning and I think, the hon. Member could not listen to that ...(*Interruptions*)... Please, you have had your say. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... आप बैठ जाइए, आप जवाब सुन लीजिए। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD : It is not the Ministry or the Minister quoting the external data. It is the question put by the hon. Member that this is the estimated number. So, while answering this, I have said this is a number mentioned by a particular agency, which is not a population based but it is an estimate. I have already said that the Central Pollution Control Board has carried out an epidemiological study to find the effects of the pollution on human health.

Sir, I have mentioned about Delhi. I have already mentioned about the North and the South. I have also said that it is not only the Ministry of Health, but the Central and State Pollution Control Boards are also involved in this. The Ministry of Environment, both at the national and at the State levels are involved in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Now, Question No. 545. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Sir, the Minister has given wrong information. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Look, if you have a problem with the answer given, please give it in writing. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please Mr. Tarun Vijay. Now, Kumar Deepak Das.

Environmental offenders in the North Eastern Region

*545. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of environmental offenders in the North Eastern Region for the last three years;

(b) the details of the pending cases against environmental offenders in the region and the action taken against them; and

(c) the present status of the constitution of National Environment Protection Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJ AN) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per the information received from the North-Eastern (N-E) Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of the N-E Region, the details of environmental offenders is as follows:

Regional Office, MoEF		CPCB/SPCBs of the North-Eastern Region	
Year	No. of violations	Details of environmental offenders in the N-E Region	Details of environmental offenders in the N-E Region
2009	13	AS per Statement-I	
2010	11	As per Statement-II	As per Statement-IV
2011	10	As per Statement-III (<i>See</i> below)	

(b) As per the information received from Tripura SPCB, 2 cases are pending in the court of law in the State with the details given below:

1. M/s Sah Paint Industry for polluting River Haora by throwing paint materials.
2. Case for violation of plastic norms.

Action was taken by MoEF and its Regional Office at Shillong against the offending units based on the observed non-compliance of the Stipulated Environmental Clearance conditions by the respective projects including the issue of show cause notices to the violators and issuance of directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

CPCB and the concerned SPCBs of the N-E Region have also taken actions under relevant provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 etc. against the violating industrial units.

(c) The proposal to establish a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) earlier known as National Environment Protection

Authority (NEPA) with domain expertise, technological finesse and field outreach in order to strengthen and professionalize the regimes of environment impact assessment and coastal zone management under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has not yet been finalised.

Statement - I

Details of offenders during 2009

SI. No.	Name of the Project	State
1	M/s ONGC Ltd: Exploratory drilling for Oil & Gas at North Assam Shelf Block in Satelite Area of Geleki in Sivsagar District in Assam.	Assam
2	M/s Assam Roofing Ltd: Asbestos Cement Sheet Unit (58,000 TP at Bonda, Panikheti.	Assam
3	M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited: Kopili HEP Stage -I Extension.	Assam
4	M/s North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited: Kopili HEP Stage-II Extension.	Assam
5	M/s ONGC Ltd: Exploratory drilling for Oil & Gas at South Assam Shelf Block in Kalyanpur & Borholla Areas in Jorhat District.	Assam
6	M/s ONGC Ltd: Assam Renewal project of Expansion of ONGC Oil Field in Sibsagar and Jorhat Districts, Assam.	Assam
7	M/s ONGC Ltd: Exploratory drilling for Oil & Gas at South Assam Shelf Block in Babeja, Hazarigaon & Ganakarai Areas in Golaghat District, Assam.	Assam
8	M/s ONGC Ltd: Nazira, OIL Duliajan, ONGC Jorhat.	Assam
9	M/s Lafarge Umiam Pvt. Ltd: Opencast Limestone Mining project at Phlangkaruh, Nongtraï.	Meghalaya
10	M/s Meghalaya Energy Corporation Ltd: Myntdu-Leshka HEP.	Meghalaya
11	M/s Departments of Power and Electricity Govt. of Mizoram: Serlui B-HEP.	Mizoram
12	M/s ONGC Ltd: Exploratory Drilling at Assam Arakan Fold Belt Block in Konaban-Manikyanagar Area.	Tripura
13	M/s ONGC Ltd: Exploratory Drilling for Oil & Gas at Assam Arakan Fold Belt Block in Kunjabam-Bamutia Area.	Tripura

Statement - II*Details of offenders during 2010*

SI. No.	Name of the Project	State
1	M/s Hindustan Oil Exploration Company: Oil and gas exploratory drilling at On-Shore block AAP-ON-94/1 in Distt. Tinsukia in Assam.	Assam
2	M/s North Eastern Coalfields Ltd: Re-opening of Tikak Opencast Mines (Coal) Assam.	Assam
3	M/s Hills Cement Co. Ltd: Cement Plant (200 TPD) at 15th Mile, G.S. Road, NH-40, Village Byrnihat, Taluk Sonapur, District Kamrup, Assam.	Assam
4	M/s Hill Cements Company Limited: Integrated Cement Plant (Cement 3,000 TPD, Clinker 2,500 TPD) and Coal Based Captive Thermal Power Plant (10 MW) at Village Mynkre. P.O. Khliehriat, District Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.	Meghalaya
5	M/s Meghalaya Cements Ltd: Expansion of Cement Plant (from 900 TPD to 2600 TPD) and Captive Power Plant (18 MW) at Thangskai, District Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.	Meghalaya
6	M/s JUD Cement Pvt. Ltd: Integrated 900 TPD Cement Plant along with 10 MW Captive Power Plant at Wahiajer, District Jaintia Hills Meghalaya.	Meghalaya
7	M/s Amrit Cement Industries Ltd: Cement Plant (Clinker 1.42 MTPA and Cement 1.5 MTPA) along with Captive Power Plant (25 MW) near Village Umlaper, District Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya.	Meghalaya
8	M/s Dharampal Premchand Ltd: Steel Plant (Cold rolled Products, 1.5 LTPA, and Galvanized Sheet / Strips, 0.5 LTPA) along with gas based captive power plant (3.6 MW) at Bodhjunganagar Industrial Growth Centre, Bodhjunganagar, R.K. Nagar, Agartala, Tripura West.	Tripura
9	M/s ONGC Ltd: Onshore Exploratory drilling for 67 wells for Oil and Gas in Agartala Dome-Baramura-Khowai-Kalyanpur-Kunjaban-Gojolia-Teliamura-Sundalbari-Sonamura-Konaban-Manikyanagar-Tichna Areas District West & South.	Tripura
10	M/s Air Port Authority of India: Airport Project at Pakyong, Sikkim.	Sikkim
11	M/s SNEHA Kinetic Power Projects Ltd: Dikchu Hydro-electric Project (96 MW).	Sikkim

Statement - III*Details of offenders during 2011*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State
1	M/s NHAI Ltd: NHDP project for 4/6 laning from km 163.895 to km 231.00 of Khanapara, Guwahati Road Junction to Dharamtul of NH-37 and km 5.000 to 38.000 of Nagaon Doboka Section of NH-36 in Assam.	Assam
2	M/s Radiant Manufacturers Pvt. Ltd: Distillery Unit (Grain Based; 45 KLPD) at Khatkhati, Block Bokajan, District Karbi Anglong, Assam.	Assam
3	M/s Guwahati Waste Management Company Pvt. Limited: Development of Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management Site at Boragaon, Guwahati, Assam.	Assam
4	M/s NaftoGaz India Pvt. Ltd: Exploratory drilling in block AA-ONN-2004/4 in Assam.	Assam
5	M/s Oil India Ltd: Exploratory drilling (4 no. of wells) in Amguri Block AA-ONN-2004/1 in Sivasagar and Jorhat District, Assam.	Assam
6	M/s Oil India Limited (OIL): Setting up of two Development Projects viz. Oil Collecting Station (OCS) a Barekuri, Assam.	Assam
7	M/s Yaswi Commercial: Cement Grinding Unit (500 TPD) along with Captive Power Plant (4 MW) at Dag No. 34 & 44, Village Koraihari, Changsari, District Kamrup, Assam.	Assam
8	M/s Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority: Passenger Ropeway between South Bank and North Bank of Brahmaputra River via Umananda Island at Guwahati, Assam.	Assam
9	M/s RDB Industries: Construction of Residential Complex Regent Paradise at Bishnuravapath, Ghoramara, Bhetapara, Barsojai, Guwahati, Assam.	Assam
	National Highway Authority of India: Four lane divided carriageway configuration from Jorabad - Shillong Section (from km 0.000 to 61.8000 km) in Meghalaya State.	Meghalaya

Statement - IV

*Details of Environmental Offenders in the North-Eastern Region for the last 3 years
as per the information received from CPCB/SPCBs*

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Type of Industry	State
1	2	3	4
2009			
1.	Geo Enpro Petroleum Limited, Kharsang Oil Field	Oil and Gas Exploration and Drilling	Arunachal Pradesh
2.	Cipla Limited, Village Kumrek, Ranghpoh, East Sikkim-737136	Pharmaceutical formulation	Sikkim
3.	Oil India Limited, Duliajan, Assam	Oil and Gas Exploration and Drilling	Assam
4.	Rice Mill of Sri Phanindra Das, S/o Late Jogendra Das, Village Ratiabari, P.O. Pabiacherra, Kumarghat	Rice Mill	Tripura
5.	Poultry Farm of Sri Prabir Modak, S/o Sri Kumud Modak, South Indranagar, Agartala	Poultry Farm	Tripura
6.	M/s Mahalaxmi Aluminium Industries, Prop; Sri Gopal Debnath, College Road, Shibnagar, Agartala	Aluminium utensils	Tripura
7.	M/s Biswakarma Steel Factory, Prop: Sri Amar Ch. Saha, Khayerpur, Trinath, West Tripura	Steel Manufacturing Unit	Tripura
2010			
1.	Virgo Cement Limited, Damas, Meghalaya	Cement	Meghalaya
2.	Yuksom Breweries Limited, Malli Bazar, South Sikkim 737128	Brewery	Sikkim

1	2	3	4
3.	Sheela Foam Pvt. Limited, Ranghpoh, East Sikkim 737136	Industrial Foam Manufacturing	Sikkim
4.	Cachar Paper Mill, Panchgram, Assam	Pulp and Paper Unit	Assam
5.	Cement Corporation of India Limited, Bokajan, Assam	Cement	Assam
6.	Tirupati Plywood Industries, Makum Pathar, Margarita, Assam	Plywood	Assam
7.	Gattani Industries, Chinamara, Jorhat, Assam	Plywood	Assam
8.	DG Set of Sri Biswajit Banik, Ramnagar Road No. 4, Agartala, West Tripura	DG Set	Tripura
2011			
1.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Nazira, Assam 785685	Oil and Gas Exploration and Drilling	Assam
2.	Guwahati Refinery. Noonmati, Guwahati, Assam	Petroleum Refinery	Assam
3.	J.K. Avtar Pvt. Ltd., 15 Mile, G.S. Road, Byrnihat, Assam	Cement Manufacturing Unit	Assam
4.	Cashew Processing Unit of NERAMAC Ltd., A.D. Nagar Industrial Growth Centre, West Tripura	Cashew Processing	Tripura
5.	M/s Debnath Welding House, Prop: Sri Sumil Debnath, Baldakhal, P.O. West Champamura, Agartala, West Tripura	Steel Factory	Tripura
6.	ONGC	Oil and Gas Exploration and Drilling	Mizorum

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Sir, in the reply, the hon. Minister has given some of the glaring examples of offenders in our North-Eastern Region, including the

coal sector, oil sector and the cement sector. Sir, this is being done in connivance with the State Pollution Control Boards. The State Pollution Control Board is also involved in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Sir, I am coming to that. Recently, the National Green Tribunal has also submitted a report to the Government of India about various anti-environmental activities in the National Parks of our State, including Kaziranga. Not a single such offender is included in the list. There exists unchecked growth of hospitality in close confines of the park. Quarrying and mining activities are being carried out there. There are some environmental offenders. So, what steps have you taken in this regard?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Sir, there are very specific rules about offences in National Parks. Environmental offender is a different kind of question. As far as the National Parks are concerned, we implement the rules very strictly. Even recently, there was a news report, in another State, of one of our Forest Guards being killed by tourists. We take these issues very strictly. Rules in National Parks are enforced very stringently. If the hon. Member wants more information, I will be happy to share it with him, ...*(Interruptions)*... This question relates to environmental offenders.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Sir, my second supplementary is regarding construction of the Subansiri Hydro Project, where the Ministry of Environment and Forests has given the green signal for continuation of the work. Sir, a minimum of three metre depth should be maintained in the dolphin habitat around Brahmaputra and other rivers. For survival of such species, what steps have you taken? There is a need for taking steps for preserving Dolphins. The minimum water depth has not been maintained in the construction of the Subansiri Hydro Project.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Sir, with regard to each of the Dam projects in the North-East, there are specific steps for wildlife management; that are laid down in the rules of environment clearance and wildlife clearance. These are all considered by the National Board for Wildlife. Specific rules are laid down. Sir, the dolphin has been declared a 'National Aquatic Animal.' We are extremely conscious of the need to preserve the dolphins. We will continue to take steps to make sure that there is no danger to any dolphin in any area, either in the Subansiri area or in any other area. It is not the depth of the dam alone, it is the entire run of the river that we need to see.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA : Sir, what is the reason? The hon. Minister said that the National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority has not been established till today. When are you going to establish it? Whether the reason is that, mainly, the ONGC, Hindustan Oil Corporation and all other State-owned Corporations

are offenders, as per you. Is this the reason that you are not establishing this Authority, which you just mentioned? When are you going to establish it?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Sir, it is not like that. I would like to assure the hon. Member that that is not the reason. Already, the NGT has been established and we are in the process of setting up the infrastructure for the NGT. You will appreciate that we have shared with you exactly who are the offenders, never mind whether they are PSUs or whoever it is. Steps are being taken against whoever is the offender.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA : But when are you going to establish it?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : I am telling you. Regarding NEAMA, the reason is, it is a very large infrastructure.

We need a large number of people to create this infrastructure. The matter has been sent to the Finance Department. The matter is under consideration. The hon. Finance Minister is also here. We need that infrastructure to be set up; people should be appointed. It is just a matter of putting the infrastructure in place with the formalities and the expenditure approved. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no other reason. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Strategic reserves of water resources

*546. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering creation of strategic reserves of water resources to provide safe drinking water, keeping in view of future needs and to meet demand of sharply rising population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has communicated or is in the process to issuing advisory to the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) The National Water Policy 2002 stipulates that adequate safe drinking water facilities should be provided to the entire population both in urban and rural areas. Irrigation and multi-purpose projects should invariably include a drinking water component, wherever there is no alternative source of drinking water. Drinking water needs of human beings and animals should be the first charge on any available water.

The National Water Policy, 2002, *inter alia*, asks all State Governments to formulate State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan to achieve the desired objectives.

Frequent outbreaks of vector-borne diseases

*547. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is concerned over the frequent outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, including malaria, dengue, chikungunya and Japanese encephalitis;
- (b) If so, whether Government has asked the State Governments to undertake effective control activities during the inter-epidemic period; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to prevent large scale outbreak of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD) : (a) to (c) Vector-borne diseases like Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis are reported from different parts of the country, particularly during monsoon and post-monsoon period, due to ecological, climatic and man-made factors. The Government of India, with active support of State/UT Governments, implements measures for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases under National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) within the overall framework of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). With a view to improving preparedness for effective prevention and control of vector-borne diseases before the onset of the monsoon, the Government of India issued an advisory to all the States/UTs in March, 2012 emphasizing on intensified vector and disease surveillance, and vector control measures like source reduction of breeding sites, indoor residual spray and distribution and use of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs). The State/UT Governments have intensified surveillance, prevention and control activities, and have prepared area-specific action plans for vector-borne diseases as part of the disease control component of Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) for their respective States/UTs under NRHM.

Health insurance for senior citizens

†*548. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that K.S. Shastri Committee had been appointed to consider provisioning of health insurance for people above the age of sixty years in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the responsibilities entrusted to the Committee;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and
- (d) if so, the details of action taken so far on the basis of the report?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) had constituted a Committee on “Health Insurance for Senior Citizens” under the chairmanship of Shri K. S. Sastry, Ex Chairman, National Housing Bank. The Committee was entrusted, *inter-alia*, with the task of identifying the problems in extending health insurance to the senior citizens without any age limit and at affordable cost. This Committee submitted its report to the IRDA in November, 2007.

(d) On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee the IRDA has issued the following directions:

- i. All insurance companies to have an entry age at least up to 65 years and no exit age limit for renewal of all new health insurance products;
- ii. The health insurance policies shall be ordinarily renewable except on the grounds such as fraud, misrepresentation, etc. and renewal cannot be denied on arbitrary grounds;
- iii. The insurers to devise a mechanism to reward policy holders for early entry and continued renewals;
- iv. Premium charged for health insurance from senior citizens should be fair, justified, transparent and duly disclosed upfront;
- v. Any denial of proposal for health insurance for senior citizens, on any ground should be made in writing with proper justification;
- vi. The insurers to establish a separate grievance channel to address health insurance complaints from senior citizens; and
- vii. To allow portability of health policies to enable the policyholders to switch from one insurer to another without losing the past credit of waiting periods for pre-existing disease with the previous insurer.

Revival of sick PSUs

*549. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether a number of sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have either been closed down or are on verge of closure;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of PSUs recommended by the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSC) for revival till date;
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to revive sick units including those under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model, till date; and
- (e) the number of employees rendered jobless or affected due to the closure or sickness of PSUs during the last three years, PSU-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) As per information available in the Public Enterprises Survey (2010-11), (2009-10) and (2008-09) that were laid in the Parliament in successive years, only 1 sick Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) namely Brushware Ltd. has been closed during the last three years.

(c) The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has made recommendations in respect of 62 CPSEs (59 CPSEs have been recommended for 'revival' and 3 for 'closure').

(d) Various measures are taken to revive the sick and loss making CPSEs. These include financial restructuring, business restructuring, manpower rationalization, technological upgradation and cost reduction. As part of business restructuring, Joint Ventures (JVs) with private sector and PPP model have also been recommended for revival of sick & loss making CPSEs.

(e) Thirteen employees were rendered job less in the case of Brushware Ltd., which was closed. Table below gives the number of sick CPSEs with nil or negative net worth, and the number of employees (affected) in these CPSEs.

Year	No. of sick CPSEs	Number of Employees
2008-09	51	218429
2009-10	53	225380
2010-11	49	210801

PSU-wise list of these CPSEs alongwith their employees are given in Statement-I, II and III.

Statement - I*Employment in CPSEs having nil or negative net worth for the year 2010-11*

Sl. No.	Name of the CPSEs	Employment (in numbers)
1	2	3
1	Air India Air Transport Services Ltd.	1683
2	Air India Charters Ltd.	NA
3	Air India Ltd.	28085
4	Airline Allied Services Ltd.	648
5	Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.	1362
6	Assam Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	75
7	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	67934
8	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	1109
9	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.	860
10	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	396
11	Birds Jute & Exports Ltd.	4
12	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	1084
13	British India Corporation Ltd.	2132
14	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	990
15	Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	390
16	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	81128
17	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	33
18	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	2769
19	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	1174
20	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	2141
21	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	23
22	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	154
23	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	751
24	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	2731

1	2	3
25	Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.	751
26	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	119
27	HMT Bearings Ltd.	197
28	HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	112
29	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	3652
30	HMT Watches Ltd.	1417
31	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd.	56
32	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	215
33	J&K Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.	4
34	Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	57
35	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	765
36	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	270
37	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.	178
38	National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd.	1905
39	Nepa Ltd.	1299
40	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	110
41	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	71
42	Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	48
43	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	59
44	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	500
45	Scooters India Ltd.	1012
46	STCL Ltd.	56
47	Triveni Structural Ltd.	140
48	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	100
49	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	52
TOTAL		210801

Statement - II*Employment in CPSEs having nil or negative net worth for the year 2009-10*

Sl. No.	Name of the CPSEs	Employment (in numbers)
1	2	3
1	Air India Air Transport Services Ltd.	1071
2	Air India Charters Ltd.	956
3	Airline Allied Services Ltd.	644
4	Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.	1431
5	Assam Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	74
6	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	71838
7	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	1250
8	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.	882
9	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	406
10	Birds Jute & Exports Ltd.	4
11	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	1157
12	British India Corporation Ltd.	2300
13	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	1398
14	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	1079
15	Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	412
16	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	85617
17	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	38
18	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	2870
19	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	1201
20	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	2389
21	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	27
22	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	156
23	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	820
24	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	2800

1	2	3
25	Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.	1007
26	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	119
27	HMT Bearings Ltd.	234
28	HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	147
29	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	3808
30	HMT Watches Ltd.	1420
31	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	602
32	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd.	56
33	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	218
34	J &K Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.	4
35	Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	56
36	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	802
37	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	317
38	National Aviation Co. of India Ltd.	29630
39	National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	138
40	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.	216
41	National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd.	1918
42	Nepa Ltd.	1355
43	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	116
44	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	73
45	Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	48
46	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	60
47	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	473
48	Scooters India Ltd.	1205
49	STCL Ltd.	56
50	Triveni Structural Ltd.	142
51	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	101
52	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	187
53	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	52
TOTAL		225380

Statement - III*Employment in CPSEs having nil or negative net worth for the year 2008-09*

Sl. No.	Name of the CPSEs	Employment (in numbers)
1	2	3
1	Air India Air Transport Services Ltd.	1340
2	Air India Charters Ltd.	170
3	Airline Allied Services Ltd.	692
4	Andaman & Nicobar ISL. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.	1508
5	Assam Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	74
6	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	76369
7	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	1370
8	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	1587
9	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	418
10	Birds Jute & Exports Ltd.	4
11	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	1255
12	British India Corporation Ltd.	2566
13	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	1455
14	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	1159
15	Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	423
16	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	90470
17	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	46
18	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	2868
19	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	1222
20	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	2909
21	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	31
22	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	159
23	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	812
24	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	3424

1	2	3
25	Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.	1248
26	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	121
27	HMT Bearings Ltd.	263
28	HMT Chinar Watches Ltd.	228
29	HMT Watches Ltd.	2050
30	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	605
31	ITI Ltd.	12556
32	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd.	57
33	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. .	335
34	J &K Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.	5
35	Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	114
36	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	847
37	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	297
38	National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	189
39	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.	1144
40	National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd.	2035
41	Nepa Ltd. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom	1271
42	Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	119
43	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	79
44	Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	48
45	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	65
46	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	493
47	Scooters India Ltd.	1366
48	Triveni Structural Ltd.	196
49	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	104
50	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	209
51	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corpn. Ltd.	54
TOTAL		218429

CSR spending by private/public sector oil companies

*550. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that various public sector oil companies are spending 1 per cent of their net profit on social welfare schemes;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of social welfare works done by various public sector oil companies in North Eastern States, particularly in Nagaland;
- (d) whether Government proposes to make private oil companies bear the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that amount sanctioned for the purpose is spent properly?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) As per the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) are required to spend on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in the range of 0.5 % to 5.0 % of their net profit depending upon the quantum of net profit earned by them during previous year, in the following manner:-

Type of CPSEs	Expenditure range for CSR in a financial year (% of Profit)
1. Less than Rs. 100 crore	3% - 5%
2. Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 500 crore	2% - 3% (Subject to a minimum of 3 crore)
3. Rs. 500 crore and above	0.5% - 2%

The amount spent by major oil Public Sector Undertakings (whose net profit during the previous year *i.e.* 2010-11 was more than Rs. 500 Crore) on CSR activities during 2011-12 is given below:-

Sl. No	Name of Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)	Expenditure on CSR (Rs. in crore) (Provisional)	%age of previous year's Profit After Tax (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
1	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	117.32	0.62

1	2	3	4
2	Oil India Limited (OIL)	50.19	1.95
3	Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	95.0	1.99
4	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	7.76	0.5
5	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	26.54	1.72
6	Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)	47.21	1.32

(c) The Oil PSUs have been spending in the following major areas under the Corporate Social Responsibility including North Eastern States:

1. Education including vocational courses
2. Health care
3. Water conservation
4. Women empowerment
5. Entrepreneurship (self help and livelihood generation) schemes
6. Development of infrastructure/roads and bridges
7. Environment protection, ecological conservation
8. Protection, preservation and promotion of heritage sites
9. Promoting sports/sportspersons
10. Community development
11. Rural Development
12. Clean drinking water
13. Scholarship to the meritorious students
14. Release of one time grant to Below Poverty Line families in the rural areas for release of new LPG connection under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen LPG Vitaran Yojana
15. Hospital facilities
16. Relief and rescue works during natural calamities

17. Sanitation

18. Other community development project identified in consultation with local authorities.

Major Oil PSUs have informed that they have not undertaken any CSR activity in the Nagaland in the year 2011-12.

(d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs has released the National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Economic and Environmental Responsibilities of Business, for Companies in July 2011. These guidelines are voluntary in nature.

(e) CSR activities form part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed every year between the Ministry and Oil PSUs. It is one of the parameters to measure their performance. During implementation of CSR projects, CPSEs officials monitor the projects and visit the locations. In most of the cases, utilisation reports from implementing agencies are also asked for to reconfirm the utilisation of allocated funds. Social Audit Committees also monitor the implementation of CSR projects.

Proposal for upgradation of PMGSY roads in Gujarat

*551. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has re-submitted a proposal of ₹ 466 crore for upgradation of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in February, 2011, which was earlier rejected by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the difficulties in approving the said proposal which is pending for long with the Union Government;

(c) whether the Union Government intends to approve any roads under PMGSY in 2012-13;

(d) whether the Union Government has approved previous proposals for upgradation of rural roads in other States; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not approving the proposal of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) and (b) No proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat for upgradation of rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in February, 2011. As per Advisory dated 12th June 2009 proposals of only following categories were being considered:

(i) Residual new connectivity coverage envisaged under phase-1 of Bharat Nirman.

- (ii) Projects to be taken up with the assistance of World Bank and Asian Development Bank,
- (iii) New habitation connectivity in the identified LWE affected districts,
- (iv) Special road connectivity packages announced for the border areas.

(c) to (e) The above Advisory has been relaxed on 15th February 2012 *vide* circular number 2/2012 (as Statement (*See* below). Project proposals received from the States, eligible under programme guidelines and falling under provisions of circular No.2/12 are being considered.

Statement

No. P-17025/6/2010-RC
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-1
Dated: 15th February, 2012

CIRCULAR No. 2/2012

Subject: Proposals of New Connectivity for Habitations eligible under PMGSY.

Ministry of Rural Development had issued an Advisory letter No. H-12013/1/2009-RC dated 12th June, 2009 regarding proposals under PMGSY and the Circular No. 14/2011 of 12th December, 2011, relaxing the same. This Circular aims at to provide further relaxations.

2. It may be recalled that as per the above advisory, dated 12th June, 2009, only the following categories of proposals were to be considered for clearance under PMGSY:

- (a) Residual new connectivity coverage envisaged under Phase-I of Bharat Nirman.
- (b) Projects to be taken up with the assistance of World Bank and Asian Development Bank.
- (c) New habitation connectivity in the 33 identified LWE affected Districts.
- (d) Special road connectivity packages announced for the border areas.

Later on, relaxation given to the 33 identified LWE districts as at (c) above was extended to 60 Selected Tribal and Backward districts covered under Integrated Action Plan (IAP), for which proposals of New Connectivity for eligible unconnected habitations of population of 250 and above (2001 census) are already being considered.

3. In view of progress made in clearance of aforesaid categories of proposals, the aforesaid advisory had been revisited and the Circular No. 14/ 2011, dated 12th December, 2011 was issued, which is also being further relaxed through this Circular and comprehensive mechanism to forward proposals is covered in ensuing paragraphs.

4. The following course of action would be adopted for consideration of proposals for eligible unconnected habitations having a population of 500 and above persons (as per 2001 census) in plain areas and above 250 persons (2001 census) in Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand), Desert Areas (as identified in the Desert Development Programme), and Tribal (Schedule V) areas other than Selected Tribal and Backward districts covered under Integrated Action Plan (IAP).

(i) In respect of Plain Areas:

(a) Such States which furnish a certificate that works have been awarded for over 90% of their eligible unconnected habitations having population of 1,000 persons and above (as per 2001 census) under PMGSY, can send proposals for eligible unconnected habitations having population between 800-999 persons (2001 census).

(b) Once work is awarded for over 90% of eligible unconnected habitations having population between 800-999 persons (as per 2001 census) under PMGSY, then States after furnishing such certificate, can send proposals for eligible unconnected habitations having population between 600-799 persons (as per 2001 census).

(c) Once work is awarded for over 90% of eligible unconnected habitations having population between 600-799 persons (as per 2001 census) under PMGSY, then States after furnishing such certificate, can send proposals for eligible unconnected habitations having population between 500 to 599 persons (as per 2001 census).

(ii) In respect of Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand), Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and Tribal (Schedule V) areas other than Selected Tribal and Backward districts covered under Integrated Action Plan (IAP):

(a) Such States which furnish a certificate that works have been awarded for over 90% of their eligible unconnected habitations having population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 census) under PMGSY, can send proposals for eligible unconnected habitations having population between 400-499 persons (as per 2001 census).

(b) Once work is awarded for over 90% of eligible unconnected habitations having population between 400-499 persons (as per 2001 census) under PMGSY, then

States after furnishing such certificate, can send proposals for eligible unconnected habitations having population between 300-399 persons (as per 2001 census).

(c) Once work is awarded for over 90% of eligible unconnected habitations having population between 300-399 persons (as per 2001 census) under PMGSY, then States after furnishing such certificate, can send proposals for eligible habitations having population between 250-299 persons (as per 2001 census).

Works dropped, works covered under other schemes, works in the Selected Tribal and Backward districts covered under Integrated Action Plan (IAP), works pending for completion due to court cases, forest clearance, Stage-I sanctions and for any other specific reason (to be given) may be deducted from the total works sanctioned while calculating the percentage of works awarded as required in para 4 (i) and (ii).

States having areas covered under Para 4 (i) and (ii) above, can send proposals under both the above categories, along with the relevant certificates.

5. The following information should also be sent in formats with the proposals as per Annexure:

- (i) Number of SQM inspections due and carried out since April, 2011, till the last quarter, in Part A of Annexure.
- (ii) Information about the amount of maintenance funds required, credited to the Bank Account of SRRDA and actual expenditure made by SRRDA during 2010-11 and subsequent years as per Part B of Annexure .
- (iii) Details of completed roads out of the total sanctioned works till period ending 12 months ago (excluding the works dropped, works covered under other schemes, works in the Selected Tribal and Backward districts covered under Integrated Action Plan (IAP), works pending for completion due to court cases, forest clearance, Stage-I sanctions and for any other specific reason (to be given) in Part C of Annexure.

6. All data relating to roads, habitations and expenditure should tally with the OMMAS, which may accordingly be updated as per procedure.

7. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Sd/-

(SR Meena)

Director (RC)

Enclosed: Annexure as above

To:

All Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries dealing with PMGSY in the States.

R&D investment by CPSUs

*552. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are general norms for the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) to invest a certain percentage of their total turnover in the Research and Development (R&D) activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the monitoring mechanism to ensure the compliance of these norms?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The Research & Development (R&D) Expenditure as a Percentage of Profit after Tax (PAT) of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) is a parameter for the purpose of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is a mutually negotiated agreement between the management of the CPSUs and Government of India and is fixed as per Guideline on R&D issued vide Department of Public Enterprises (DPEs) OM No. 3(9)/2010-DPE (MoU) dated 23rd September, 2011.

(b) The prescribed minimum amount for expenditure as a Percentage of PAT under R&D by CPSUs for the purpose of MoU is as under:

Sl. No.	Category of CPSEs	Minimum Expenditure on R&D as a Percentage of Profit after Tax (PAT)
1	Maharatna and Navratna	1 % of Profit after Tax (PAT)
2	Miniratna-I , II and Below	0.50% of Profit after Tax (PAT)

(c) Periodic monitoring and review is done by the concerned CPSUs and Administrative Ministries/ Departments for Performance under MoU which includes the R&D parameter. The Performance Evaluation of MoU of the CPSUs is done by DPE at the end of the year on the basis of actual achievements *vis-a-vis* the MoU targets.

Impact of increased level of air pollution on human health in Delhi

†*553. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the Centre for Science and Environment's report, according to which the increasing level of air pollution in Delhi

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

is causing several health problems, including cancer, heart attack and respiratory diseases;

(b) whether according to the report, every year 3,000 deaths are caused in Delhi due to air pollution;

(c) whether one of the main reasons of high level of pollution in Delhi is the ever rising number of vehicles;

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

(e) the steps being taken by Government to check pollution in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a non-governmental organization, has compiled observations of various institutions with regard to health impacts studies in India and published a report titled 'Mobility Crisis Agenda for action 2010'. According to some epidemiological studies, health effects such as manifestation of respiratory and cardiovascular ailments etc. could be associated with air pollution. However, there is no conclusive data available to confirm these figures.

(c) to (e) Emissions from vehicles, suspended roadside dust, industries, thermal power plants, construction activities etc. are the main source of air pollution. Steps taken by the Central Government for control of air pollution include formulation of a Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal, hazardous and bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening the network of air quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load, source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities and critically polluted areas, public awareness etc.

Assistance to Rajasthan under Janani Suraksha Yojana

†*554. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds made available to Rajasthan by Government during the last two years under Janani Suraksha Yojana;

(b) the number of women benefited from this scheme in the State; and

(c) the percentage decline in child mortality rate as a result of this scheme?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Rs. 341.57 crores has been made available to Rajasthan during the last two years *i.e.* 2010-11 and 2011-12 under the Janani Suraksha Yojana Scheme.

(b) 50.17 lakh pregnant women in Rajasthan have benefitted from Janani Suraksha Yojana since the launch of the scheme in 2005.

(c) Child Mortality Rate has declined by 14% in Rajasthan *i.e.* a decline of 11 points from 80 per 1000 live births in 2008 to 69 per 1000 live births in 2010. This decline in child mortality has resulted due to multiple factors, increased institutional delivery due to Janani Suraksha Yojana being one of them.

Pollution of Yamuna river

*555. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the MINISTER of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest report of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Yamuna water is full of excreta and resembles drain water;

(b) if so, the effective measures taken to save water of Yamuna from stinking in due course;

(c) whether the Central Government, in collaboration with the concerned State Governments, has been able to detect the sources making Yamuna water filthy;

(d) whether Government has taken action against those who are allowing to flow untreated sewage and effluents in Yamuna; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) As per the analysis of the regular monitoring undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), river water quality of Yamuna River deteriorates especially in its stretch between Wazirabad barrage at Delhi till its confluence with Chambal River in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.). High values of Biochemical Oxygen Demand, high count of Total and Faecal Coliform along with no or very low Dissolved Oxygen level in the river water, indicate the wastewater discharges in the river Yamuna, predominantly from domestic sources. The water quality of the river shows improvement only during monsoon period.

(b) To supplement the efforts of State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna, Government of India is implementing Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in a phased manner. YAP-I, which commenced in April, 1993, was completed in Feb,

2003 at a total cost of Rs. 682 crore covering various pollution abatement works, including creation of Sewage Treatment capacity of 753.25 million litres per day (mid). YAP-II was approved in 2003 at an estimated cost of Rs. 624 crores with major items of work such as rehabilitation of sewerage network and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and construction of new STPs. Further, under YAP-III project for Delhi with an estimated cost of Rs. 1656 crores has been approved.

(c) Central Pollution Control Board has carried out survey of river Yamuna and identified the major point sources which deteriorate the water quality of river. These sources are located in various urban centers which include Yamuna Nagar, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, NCT of Delhi, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Palwal, Vrindavan, Mathura and Agra. In addition, there is contribution to pollution also from the non-point sources such as from bathing ghats, open defecation and runoff from catchment areas.

(d) and (e) The Central Pollution Control Board and the concerned State Pollution Control Boards initiate action against the non-complying units under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Gas prices under new exploration licensing policy

*556. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) prescribe that the gas prices have to be approved by Government on the basis of similar arm-length sales in the region;

(b) if so, the prices at which natural gas from different sources are being sold in Gujarat and along with HBJ pipeline;

(c) whether NELP gas prices are lower from non-APM gas, being sold in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REPDY) : (a) In terms of the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) under NELP regime, the contractor of a block shall endeavour to sell all Natural Gas produced and saved from the Contract Area /Field/Development Area at arms-length prices to the benefit of Parties to the Contract. The Government as per the provisions of NELP PSCs shall approve the formula or basis on which Natural Gas prices shall be determined.

(b) The prices at which natural gas from different sources are been sold in Gujarat and along with HBJ pipeline is given in Statement. (See below)

(c) and (d) This Ministry vide its letter dated 28.06.2010 finalized a policy for pricing & commercial utilization of Non-APM gas produced by National Oil Companies (NOCs) viz., ONGC and OIL from their nominated blocks. The price of Non-APM gas produced from the nominated blocks of NOCs was fixed at \$ 5/million metric british thermal unit (mmbtu) for Western & Northern zone in accordance with broad principle of delivered price parity with dominant non-APM gas i.e. KGD6 which is priced at \$4.2/mmbtu . Further, a premium of \$0.25/mmbtu for production of non-APM gas from offshore fields has been provided, as higher investment is required in development and production of offshore fields.

Statement

The prices at which natural gas from different sources are been sold in Gujarat and along with HBJ pipeline

Source	Description of Customers	Gas Price to customer
1	2	3
NOCs (APM)	APM Customer outside North East	\$4.2/mmbtu
NOCs APM gas supplied to Non-APM customers	Western & Northern zone (covering Maharashtra, Gujarat and other States covered by HVJ/ DVPL viz., Rajasthan, M.P., U.P., Haryana & Delhi except Rajasthan, South Gujarat & isolated customers in Gujarat who are getting gas from identified onshore fields)	\$5.25/mmbtu
NOCs APM gas supplied to Non-APM customers	Rajasthan, South Gujarat & isolated customers in Gujarat who are getting gas from identified onshore fields	\$5/mmbtu
NOCs Non-APM price	To all customers from offshore fields in Western and Northern regions	\$5.25/mmbtu
PMT	Weighted average price of PMT	\$5.65/mmbtu
CB/OS-2 (Cairns)	GPEC (Gujarat Phaguthan Energy Corporation)	\$4.75/mmbtu
	GGCL -GTCL	\$5.62/mmbtu
	GGCL-GTCL-GBAGas	\$6.22/mmbtu
Hazira (Niko)	Gujarat State Energy Generation	\$5.346/mcf
	GSPC Gas	\$2,673/ mcf

1	2	3
CB-ONN-2000/2	GGCL	\$6.6/msf
Dholka	Small Consumer	Rs. 4.80/ scm
Kanwara	Small Consumer	Rs.9.02 & 11.67/ scm
Barkol	Small Consumer	Rs.10 & 10.48/ scm
North Balol (HOEC) GSPC		Rs.4.541/scm

Note :

- Panna Mukta gas price is \$ 5.73/mmbtu & Mid Tapti gas price is \$ 5.57/ mmbtu (Panna-Mukta-Tapti) (PMT)
- All the prices are excluding marketing margin.
- APM Prices Including Royalty & Excluding marketing margin.

Tax relief to corporate and non corporate tax payers

†*557. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that Government grants special tax relief to tax payers, category-wise;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether it is also a fact that corporate tax payers and non-corporate tax payers were offered relief through rebates during 2006-07 to 2010-11; and
- if so, the amount of relief received by both of the categories of tax payers during the aforementioned period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. So far as direct taxes are concerned, the Income Tax Act, 1961 provides for direct tax incentives to taxpayers in both corporate and non-corporate categories. These are mainly in the form of profit-linked deductions and other deductions under Chapter VI-A, investment-linked deductions, additional depreciation and weighted deduction. With regard to indirect taxes, some exemptions from Customs duty, Central excise duty & Service tax are available to the corporate sector. These exemptions have been given from time to time in public interest for the fulfillment of policy objectives such as protection of small scale sector, development of Khadi & village sector, industrial development of backward areas, encouragement of domestic value addition

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and regulation of prices of essential commodities. Service tax exemptions have been provided to social infrastructure sectors such as education, health etc. as well as to services provided to the agriculture sector. Some exemptions are also available to the physical infrastructure sector such as highways, dams, bridges, power etc.

(d) The relief on account of tax incentives is maintained in the form of a Revenue Foregone statement in the Receipts Budget which is a part of the Annual Budget. The estimates of revenue forgone on account of direct tax incentives, availed by both corporate and non-corporate categories, during 2006-07 to 2010-11 are as under:-

(Rs. In crore)

Financial Year	Corporate Sector	Non-corporate Sector	Total
2006-07	45034	32143	77177
2007-08	62199	38057	100256
2008-09	66901	37570	104471
2009-10	72881	45142	118023
2010-11	57912	36826	94738

The revenue forgone on account of various exemptions for Central Excise and Customs during 2006-07 to 2010-11 are as under.

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Excise	Customs
2006-07	75475	137105
2007-08	87468	153593
2008-09	128293	225752
2009-10	169121	195288
2010-11	198291	174418

excludes revenue foregone on account of input tax neutralization schemes for export.

Estimates of revenue foregone on account of service tax exemptions are not computed.

**Recommendations of Ashok Chawla Committee on allocation of
natural resources**

*558. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ashok Chawla Committee, set up in early 2011 to suggest a transparent and corruption free process for allocation of natural resources, has submitted its report in May, 2011 and was accepted by the GoM in October, 2011; and

(b) if so, the details of the main recommendations made therein and the measures being taken to implement the recommendations in the allocation of natural resources thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Group of Ministers (GoM) on Measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption, in its meeting held on 16th June 2011, had considered the Report of Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources (CANR) and directed that the Report may be examined by the Committee of Secretaries (COS). All the 81 recommendations of the CANR were examined by the Committee of Secretaries, in its meetings held on 14th July, 2011, 9th August, 2011 and 29th September, 2011.

The GoM in its meetings held on 30th September, 2011 and 22nd February, 2012 has accepted 69 recommendations of the CANR. One recommendation was not accepted by the GoM. Eleven Recommendations of CANR are still under consideration.

(b) The details of recommendations made in the Report of the CANR is [See Appendix 225 Annexure No. 35]. Implementation of the CANR recommendations will be done by the concerned Ministries after obtaining due approvals.

Definition of poverty line

*559. SHRI UPENDERA KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state?

(a) the definition being used by Government to define the poverty line for providing funds under different centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) whether Government has commenced the BPL Survey to identify the exact number of persons living below poverty line in this country as on date;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has any data regarding the number of families moved from BPL to APL during the last five year; and

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) The Ministry of Rural Development implements the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations that benefits the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population. Allocation of funds to States/UTs is made based mainly on poverty and other criteria. Planning Commission defines poverty line on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2005 to review the methodology for estimation of poverty.

(b) and (c) The Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC- 2011) commenced in June 2011 simultaneously for rural and urban areas and is conducted by respective States/UTs with technical and financial support from the Ministry of Rural Development to identify persons/households with specific socio-economic characteristics in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas, which will enable the determination of eligibility and entitlements for different Central Government Schemes as per a methodology to be suggested by an Expert Committee.

(d) and (e) Planning Commission has updated the poverty lines for the year 2009-10 as per the recommendations of the Tendulkar Committee using National Sample Survey (NSS) 66th round (2009-10) data of Household Consumer Expenditure Survey and released poverty estimates for 2009-10 on 19th March 2012. According to this Press Note, reduction in the numbers of BPL persons in rural areas is from 3258.1 lakh in 2004-05 to 2782.1 lakh in 2009-10. In urban areas, the reduction is from 814.1 lakh to 764.7 lakh during the same period.

Allocation of funds to Bihar under NSAP

*560. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bihar has been provided Central assistance under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP);
- (b) if so, the funds released during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, year-wise; and
- (c) the extent to which the programme has achieved its objectives?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

- (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is under State Plan since 2002-03. The funds are released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) by the Ministry of Finance to the States and by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Union Territories in a combined manner for all the schemes under NSAP together. The funds released to the State of Bihar under NSAP during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, year-wise is as under:

(Rs. In lakh)

Year	Releases
2007-08	25909.42
2008-09	49996.41
2009-10	59776.00
2010-11	56002.00
2011-12	97147.75
TOTAL	288831.58

(c) NSAP at present comprises five schemes namely Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) and National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), meant exclusively for beneficiaries belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in addition to Annapurna meant for destitute persons. The number of beneficiaries estimated to be covered and the actual number of beneficiaries reported by the State of Bihar under the schemes of NSAP, during 2011-12, is as under:

Sl.No.	Scheme	Estimated number of beneficiaries	Coverage reported
1	IGNOAPS	3415645	3203771
2	IGNWPS	241332	331650
3	IGNDPS	167243	17999
4	NFBS	41684	20819
5	Annapurna	166601	166601

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**In-house availability of safe drinking water**

4186. SHRI PRABHAT JHA :
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :

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

- (a) whether as per the report of Census Directorate more than half of the population do not have access to pure and safe drinking water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether 20 per cent population of the country have to carry drinking water from a distance of half kilometre;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government would take steps to provide in-house safe drinking water facilities in those households;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and by when; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) As per Census 2011, 87.10% of the households of the country have access to improved sources of drinking water. State-wise details are given in Statement-I. (*See below*)

(c) As per the Census 2011, 22.1% of the rural households have to fetch drinking water from a distance of more than 500 metres in rural areas and 8.1% of the households in urban areas have to fetch drinking water from a distance of more than 100 metres.

(d) The state wise details of availability of drinking water as per Census 2011 is given in Statement-II. (*See below*)

(e) to (g) The Government of India administers the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) under which financial and technical assistance is provided to States to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to the rural population. Under NRDWP, the Government of India has given priority to cover

partially covered habitations and quality affected habitations with safe drinking water for which up to 62 percent of allocation to States can be utilized. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 10,500 crores has been provided for NRDWP in 2012-13. The Government of India is taking steps to cover all rural habitations and households with safe and adequate drinking water supply on a continuous basis.

Statement - I

Census 2011 - % of households with access to drinking water from improved sources

Sl. No.	State	Tap Water	Covered Well	Hand Pump/ Tubewell	Total %
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Jammu and Kashmir	63.90	1.90	12.80	78.60
2	Himachal Pradesh	89.50	1.50	4.20	95.20
3	Punjab	51.00	0.20	46.60	97.80
4	Chandigarh	96.70	0.10	2.60	99.40
5	Uttarakhand	68.20	0.70	24.00	92.90
6	Haryana	68.80	0.70	25.00	94.50
7	Delhi	81.30	0.10	13.70	95.10
8	Rajasthan	40.60	1.20	37.50	79.30
9	Uttar Pradesh	27.30	0.60	67.90	95.80
10	Bihar	4.40	0.70	89.60	94.70
11	Sikkim	85.30	0.40	0.10	85.80
12	Arunachal Pradesh	65.50	1.40	13.10	80.00
13	Nagaland	47.20	6.60	6.70	60.50
14	Manipur	38.60	2.80	6.80	48.20
15	Mizoram	58.70	2.00	1.70	62.40
16	Tripura	33.20	2.90	34.30	70.40
17	Meghalaya	39.30	6.90	5.40	51.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
18	Assam	10.50	1.70	59.40	71.60
19	West Bengal	25.40	0.70	66.80	92.90
20	Jharkhand	12.90	1.90	47.30	62.10
21	Odisha	13.80	2.20	61.40	77.40
22	Chhattisgarh	20.70	0.80	65.60	87.10
23	Madhya Pradesh	23.40	1.10	54.60	79.10
24	Gujarat	69.00	2.30	21.20	92.50
25	Daman and Diu	75.20	0.50	23.50	99.20
26	D and N Haveli	46.50	1.40	45.00	92.90
27	Maharashtra	67.90	2.20	15.50	85.60
28	Andhra Pradesh	69.90	0.50	20.60	91.00
29	Karnataka	66.10	1.00	21.50	88.60
30	Goa	85.40	4.00	0.30	89.70
31	Lakshadweep	20.30	6.90	2.50	29.70
32	Kerala	29.30	14.70	4.20	48.20
33	Tamil Nadu	79.80	1.20	12.80	93.80
34	Puducherry	95.30	0.10	2.50	97.90
35	A and N Islands	85.00	0.70	0.80	86.50
INDIA		43.50	1.60	42.00	87.10

Statement - II
Distance of availability of Drinking Water from households

Sl. No.	State	Rural					Urban					Total	
		Within the premises	Near the premises (<500 m)	Away (> 500 m)	Within the premises	Near the premises (<100)	Away (> 100 m)	Within the premises	Near the premises	Away			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
1	Jammu and Kashmir	35.50	35.10	29.40	84.80	10.20	5.10	48.20	28.70	23.10			
2	Himachal Pradesh	51.90	37.90	10.20	84.70	11.70	3.60	55.50	35.00	9.50			
3	Punjab	81.70	12.70	5.70	92.70	5.70	1.60	85.90	10.00	4.10			
4	Chandigarh	85.40	13.00	1.60	86.20	11.60	2.20	86.20	11.70	2.20			
5	Uttarakhand	45.40	34.50	20.10	88.70	7.80	3.50	58.30	26.60	15.20			
6	Haryana	56.30	27.50	16.20	83.90	11.00	5.10	66.50	21.40	12.10			
7	Delhi	64.10	25.50	10.40	78.80	15.20	6.10	78.40	15.40	6.20			
8	Rajasthan	21.00	47.10	31.90	78.20	14.10	7.70	35.00	39.00	25.90			
9	Uttar Pradesh	44.10	41.90	14.10	78.80	16.00	5.20	51.90	36.00	12.10			
10	Bihar	47.10	40.40	12.60	75.50	17.50	7.00	50.10	37.90	12.00			
11	Sikkim	42.10	35.10	22.80	79.80	15.70	4.50	52.60	29.70	17.70			
12	Arunachal Pradesh	31.40	42.20	26.40	69.70	23.10	7.30	41.10	37.40	21.60			
13	Nagaland	20.10	48.50	31.40	52.10	27.20	20.70	29.30	42.40	28.30			
14	Manipur	8.00	51.30	40.70	31.80	36.20	32.10	16.10	46.20	37.80			
15	Mizoram	6.40	61.60	32.10	53.50	33.20	13.30	31.20	46.70	22.20			

16	Tripura	24.50	35.90	39.60	69.60	16.70	13.70	37.10	30.50	32.40
17	Meghalaya	14.80	47.30	37.90	57.70	28.40	13.90	24.10	43.20	32.70
18	Assam	50.40	29.30	20.40	78.80	12.80	8.40	54.80	26.70	18.50
19	West Bengal	30.50	37.90	31.50	56.20	27.80	16.10	38.60	34.70	26.60
20	Jharkhand	11.70	51.90	36.40	59.10	23.10	17.80	23.20	44.90	31.90
21	Odisha	16.00	45.50	38.50	56.90	24.70	18.50	22.40	42.20	35.40
22	Chhattisgarh	10.30	59.30	30.30	49.70	37.40	12.90	19.00	54.50	26.50
23	Madhya Pradesh	13.00	50.90	36.10	55.40	30.10	14.50	23.90	45.60	30.50
24	Gujarat	48.30	33.20	18.50	83.70	11.50	4.80	64.00	23.50	12.40
25	Daman and Diu	72.60	24.60	2.80	77.40	21.50	1.10	76.40	22.10	1.50
26	D and N Haveli	30.60	48.4	19.00	71.50	25.10	3.40	52.60	36.40	11.00
27	Maharashtra	42.90	37.50	19.60	79.30	15.60	5.20	59.40	27.60	13.10
28	Andhra Pradesh	31.50	44.60	23.90	67.90	21.80	10.30	43.20	37.30	19.50
29	Karnataka	26.60	48.60	24.80	70.90	20.60	8.50	44.50	37.30	18.20
30	Goa	71.20	20.60	8.20	85.10	12.30	2.70	79.70	15.50	4.80
31	Lakshadweep	79.80	19.90	0.30	84.90	12.60	2.50	83.70	14.30	2.00
32	Kerala	72.90	16.30	10.80	83.30	11.50	5.20	77.70	14.10	8.20
33	Tamil Nadu	17.00	74.80	8.20	54.00	40.20	5.70	34.90	58.10	7.00
34	Puducherry	60.70	37.20	2.10	85.10	14.20	0.70	77.40	21.50	1.10
35	A and N Islands	47.10	35.30	17.60	83.90	12.80	3.40	60.60	27.00	12.40
	INDIA	35.00	42.90	22.10	71.20	20.70	8.10	46.60	35.80	17.60

Minimum standards for quality of drinking water

4187. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI :

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM :

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

(a) whether on account of growing industrialization, unhealthy agricultural practices, pollution, over exploitation of ground water, etc. the quality of water as well as availability of water has suffered significantly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the measures taken to provide safe drinking water to rural populace;

(c) whether Government has laid down standards for the quality of drinking water; if so, the reasons for not maintaining the said standards;

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal to lay down minimum standards for quality of drinking water; and

(e) the measures taken to provide safe and quality drinking water to rural populace?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Due to various reasons like geogenic leaching, excessive use of fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides, industrial pollution, disposal of untreated/partially treated domestic sewage, over-exploitation of ground water etc., there is likelihood of contamination of drinking water sources. The availability of water becomes problematic in critical and over-exploited blocks especially during summer season due to depleted ground water table.

(b) to (e) The Bureau of Indian Standards have prescribed the drinking water specifications vide its Standards IS 10500. If any parameter exceeds the prescribed limits of IS 10500, the water source is termed as contaminated. The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines define safe drinking water as that water wherein the chemical and bacteriological parameters fall within the limits as prescribed under BIS standard IS 10500. The Government of India assists the State Governments technically and financially through the centrally sponsored NRDWP to supplement their efforts for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 10,500 crore has been made for the NRDWP in 2012-13. Under NRDWP, up to 62 per cent of the allocation made to the States could be utilized for provision of safe drinking water in water quality affected habitations. In addition, Government of India provides 3 per cent NRDWP funds on 100 per cent central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which *inter alia* includes taking up works relating to setting up of new or upgradation of district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, hiring of trained manpower for the laboratories, providing field test

kits/refills to Gram Panchayats and certain administrative expenses. Further, up to 20 per cent of funds allocated to States could be utilized for sustainability of drinking water sources through artificial recharge of ground water and other methods, which *inter alia* may also dilute the level of contamination in aquifers.

Personal hygiene, sanitation and waste management in rural areas

4188. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is willing to improve the quality of personal hygiene, sanitation and solid as well as liquid waste management in rural areas through enhanced technical, financial support to all rural households;
- (b) if so, the proposed enhancements in technical and financial measures; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government of India administers Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme started in the year 1999 to facilitate States to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main objective of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. TSC is a demand driven project based programme taking district as a unit covering total rural population of the districts not having sanitation facilities. TSC, at present, is being implemented in 607 rural districts of the country. The main components under the programme are incentives for Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), School Sanitation and Hygiene Education (SSHE), assistance for Community Sanitary Complex (CSC), Anganwadi toilets and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). To improve the sanitation coverage in rural areas, the Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Human Resource Development (HRD), the key components to generate and meet demand for sanitation have been strengthened. Suitable technical materials on these components are made available to the States and project districts. The Government has increased the allocation under TSC from Rs.1500 crore in the year 2011-12, the last year of the XI Five Year Plan to Rs.3500 crore as Budget Estimate during the year 2012-13, the first year of the XII Five Year Plan.

- (c) Does not arise.

Conference of state secretaries-in-charge of NRDWP

4189. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of State Secretaries-in-charge of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) of all States was held on 1 June, 2011 wherein the progress achieved under NRDWP was reviewed;

(b) if so, the details of the observations and suggestions made in that Conference; and

(c) the details of action proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) A conference of State Secretaries in-charge of Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation of All States was held on 1st June, 2011 wherein progress achieved under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) was reviewed. In the conference, good practices adopted in various states were shared. The following observations/ suggestions were made in the conference.

- (i) States need to accelerate utilization of funds under NRDWP.
- (ii) All audit requirements under NRDWP need to be completed.
- (iii) Coverage of quality affected habitations and partially covered habitations needs to be prioritized.
- (iv) Data entry on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry needs to be up to date.
- (v) Use of Support funds released under NRDWP to States has to be planned properly to improve the quality of the programme.
- (vi) The Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme (WQM&SP) should be implemented to ensure setting up of an effective drinking water testing mechanism.

The suggestions were also reviewed in February-March 2012 during the Annual Action Plan (AAP) discussions with states for 2012-13. States have suitably incorporated the suggestions of the Conference in their Annual Action Plan for 2012-13.

Hike in twelfth plan outlay for clean drinking water

4190. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the National Sample Survey (NSS) 2008-09, only 30 per cent of households get tap water; and

(b) if so, to what extent the unprecedented hike in the Twelfth Plan 312 per cent over Eleventh Plan outlay for drinking water would help the Ministry to achieve its objectives relating to supply of clean and safe drinking water to the people?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A hike of 312 percent in the Twelfth Plan over the Eleventh Plan outlay has been proposed by the Working Group on Rural Domestic Water and Sanitation for drinking water. This would enable the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation to:

- (i) target to provide atleast 55% of rural population in the country with access to 55 lpcd within their household premises or at a distance not more than 100 metres.
- (ii) target to provide 35% of rural population with individual household tap connections.
- (iii) strengthen convergence between drinking water supply and sanitation by taking up villages that are open defecation free for coverage with piped water supply.

Villages covered under NRDWP in Karnataka

4191. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state the number of villages covered so far under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in Karnataka for providing safe drinking water, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation maintains data regarding coverage of drinking water supply, habitation wise. The number of habitations covered so far under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) district wise in Karnataka is given in Statement.

Statement

Status of Rural Habitations with Respect to Drinking Water Supply in Karnataka as in 1.4.2012

Sl. No.	District	Total Habitations	Habitations		
			Fully Covered	Partially Covered	Quality Affected
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Bagalkot	1010	512	388	110
2	Bangalore Rural	1272	728	447	97
3	Bangalore Urban	1037	455	482	100
4	Belgaum	1790	483	1204	103
5	Bellary	1012	300	126	586

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Bidar	881	545	251	85
7	Bijapur	1050	798	213	39
8	Chamarajanagar	830	288	542	0
9	Chik Ballapur	1921	627	967	327
10	Chikmagalur	3477	1722	1538	217
11	Chitradurga	1633	593	789	251
12	Dakshin Kannad	3592	1869	1602	121
13	Davangere	1134	262	283	589
14	Dharwad	388	249	98	41
15	Gadag	344	72	154	118
16	Gulbarga	1269	501	401	367
17	Hassan	3814	1434	2224	156
18	Haveri	711	422	275	14
19	Kodagu	532	357	173	2
20	Kolar	1960	512	506	942
21	Koppal	737	242	327	168
22	Mandya	1986	641	581	764
23	Mysore	2003	1332	458	213
24	Raichur	1443	611	661	171
25	Ramanagaram	2117	327	1754	36
26	Shimoga	4633	1446	3007	180
27	Tumkur	5312	1579	2108	1625
28	Udupi	3497	696	2782	19
29	Uttar Kannada	7402	3841	3530	31
30	Yadgir	745	332	286	127
TOTAL		59532	23776	28157	7599

Contamination of drinking water in the country

4192. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether excessive quantity of arsenic and other chemicals have been found in drinking water in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether some cases of adverse effects on health due to presence of such chemicals in drinking water have also been reported in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, during last two years till date, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to check such health hazards and to provide safe drinking water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) As reported by the States into the online IMIS (Integrated Management Information System) developed by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation as on 01.04.2012 there are 99,380 lakh habitations with one or more of their drinking water sources contaminated with excess arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity or nitrates, which are yet to be provided with safe drinking water. Statewise and contamination-wise break up of these habitations is given in Statement. (*See below*) Prolonged use of water contaminated with arsenic may cause arsenicosis while prolonged use of fluoride may cause fluorosis which have adverse effect on bones and teeth especially in children.

(e) Rural water supply is a State subject. This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 10,500 crore has been made for the NRDWP in 2012-13. Up to 62 per cent of the NRDWP funds allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas of the country. In addition to this, Government of India provides 3 per cent NRDWP funds on 100 per cent central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which *inter alia* includes taking up works relating to setting up of new or upgradation of district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, hiring of trained manpower for the laboratories, providing field test kits/refills to Gram Panchayats and certain administrative expenses. Further, up to 20 per cent of NRDWP funds allocated to States could be utilized for sustainability of drinking water sources through artificial recharge of ground water and other methods, which *inter alia* may also dilute the level of contamination in aquifers.

Statement*Contamination wise Status as on 1/4/2012 of habitations remaining to be covered*

Sl. No.	State	Total	Arsenic	Fluoride	Iron	Salinity	Nitrate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	396	0	332	0	64	0
2	Bihar	14478	942	2653	10883	0	0
3	Chhattisgarh	6305	0	132	6057	116	0
4	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	1	0	1	0	0	0
6	Haryana	10	0	8	0	2	0
7	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Jammu and Kashmir	25	0	2	1	22	0
9	Jharkhand	393	1	38	353	0	1
10	Karnataka	6104	36	2470	1574	658	1366
11	Kerala	914	0	108	576	186	44
12	Madhya Pradesh	2418	0	2236	3	178	1
13	Maharashtra	1521	0	489	313	293	426
14	Orissa	13267	0	384	11867	994	22
15	Punjab	45	0	19	2	24	0
16	Rajasthan	27849	5	7478	46	19244	1076
17	Tamil Nadu	432	0	3	399	28	2
18	Uttar Pradesh	404	9	144	23	227	1
19	Uttarakhand	14	0	1	11	0	2
20	West Bengal	3981	1330	822	1336	493	0
21	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Assam	15230	1158	80	13992	0	0
23	Manipur	2	0	0	2	0	0
24	Meghalaya	98	0	0	98	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	Nagaland	130	0	0	130	0	0
27	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Tripura	5363	0	0	5363	0	0
29	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		99380	3481	17400	53029	22529	2941

Working group on rural domestic water and sanitation

4193. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission had set up a Working Group on Rural Domestic Water and Sanitation to prepare a report, reviewing and making recommendations in these sectors;
- (b) if so, whether the report has been presented;
- (c) if so, the observations and recommendations made therein; and
- (d) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Planning Commission had set a Working Group on Rural Domestic Water & Sanitation to prepare a Report reviewing and making recommendations in the Sectors for the formulation of the XIIth Five Year Plan. The Working Group has since submitted its report to the Planning Commission.

(c) The main recommendations in the Report pertaining to rural domestic water and sanitation are:

Rural Water:

1. The vision for rural domestic water supply should be to cover all rural households with safe piped drinking water supply *at 55 lpcd for the 12th FYP.*

2. By 2017, it should be targeted that at least 55% of rural population in the country will have access to 55 lpcd within their household premises or at a horizontal or vertical distance of not more than 100 meters from their households without barriers of social or financial discrimination. Individual States can adopt higher quantity norms. By 2017, it should be targeted that at least 35% of rural population have individual household connections.
3. Convergence between drinking water supply and sanitation should be strengthened by concrete measures to reduce bacteriological contamination. Villages that have achieved open defecation free (ODF) status should be covered with piped water supply on priority and *vice versa*.
4. The Government of India, through the NRDWP, in the 12th FYP, should primarily focus on funding the provision of piped water into the household premises through piped water supply schemes from the nearest feasible sources or roof water harvesting
5. Subsidiarity principle has to be followed and decisions should be made at the lowest level possible especially on issues like location, implementation, sustainability, O&M and management of water supply schemes, while retaining an umbrella role for the Gram Panchayats for effective implementation.
6. A holistic aquifer and surface water management approach with active community and PRI participation in villages at aquifer or at hydrological unit level, should be followed to ensure drinking water supply.
7. A Water Safety Plan to address water quality problems should be prepared for every habitation with technical inputs.
8. The weakest aspect of rural water supply is O&M and there is need for raising O&M allocations. It recommended that allocation for O&M be increased from 10% of NRDWP allocation at present to 15%.
9. Higher per capita cost should not be an obstacle to cover SC, STs and PTGs. Norms of handpump per population, minimum population for coverage with piped water supply schemes followed by some States should be relaxed in cases of SC, ST and Primitive Tribal Group concentrated habitations.

Sanitation:

i. Community Saturation approach:

A saturation approach should be undertaken with creation of Nirmal Grams by covering whole Gram Panchayats (GPs) through provisioning of Individual Household Latrines for every household (BPL+APL).

Institutional & environmental sanitation should be ensured for community outcomes especially in sectors of health including reduction of malnutrition and disease burden, education and women's empowerment.

ii. Conjoint planning & execution of Sanitation & Water schemes

Priority in toilet construction should be given in areas of whole functional Piped Water Supply Systems (PWSS) in GPs and *vice versa* to take water supply to areas of good sanitation coverage.

iii. Incentives to be more realistic:

The current incentive amount should be made more realistic so that toilets constructed are technically sound and sustainable. Moreover, for community outcomes, funding should not be restricted to only BPLs but made available to the entire community.

iv. Capacity Building:

Local wage earners/SHGs must be trained in trades such as masonry work, brick-making, toilet pan making and plumbing under TSC/National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). 'Nirmiti Kendras' may be set up for development and manufacture of cost effective construction materials. The existing Production Centres and Rural Sanitary Marts may also be considered in this regard to work on a business model.

State Resource Centres and Regional / District Resource Centres should be identified for conducting training. NGOs/CBOs of repute should be engaged.

v. Prioritizing Solid and Liquid Waste Management:

Solid Liquid Waste Management should be prioritized by developing a clear roster of options and adequate funding. Capacity building of PRI representatives and other stake holders on SLWM needs to be prioritized.

(d) The 12th Five Year Plan is being prepared by the Planning Commission.

Rajiv Gandhi drinking water mission for Uttarakhand

†4194. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of drinking water in the village Bapta in Tehsil Thalishain Patti Bangarshyon of Pauri district in Uttarakhand and this problem becomes more acute during summers;

(b) whether Government proposes to include this Panchayat (Bapta) under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when this scheme would be implemented and the amount estimated to be spent on this scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Yes, it is true that village Bapta under Block-Beerankhal, Tehsil-Thalisain in district Pauri Gharwal (Uttarakhand) is partially covered and the crisis of water increases during summers.

(b) As per information obtained from the Government of Uttarakhand, the Panchayat (Bapta) is included under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission but no formal request has been received for reorganization of existing schemes or preparing a new scheme from the Gram Panchayat.

(c) Not applicable in this case.

(d) As reported by the State, from November 2006, all rural water supply schemes in the state are proposed on the basis of the demand driven approach, the Sector Wide Approach (SWAp mode) under Sector Programme. However, demand from Bapta village has not been received. If a formal demand is received from the community, action can be taken to prepare a scheme in SWAp mode for execution in about 18 months.

Drinking water and Sanitation facilities in rural areas

4195. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in the country and out of them how many villages have been provided potable drinking water, State-wise;

(b) the total number of households in villages in the country and out of them how many households have been provided sanitation facilities, State-wise; and

(c) the road-map for covering remaining villages/households?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation maintains data regarding coverage of drinking water supply, habitation wise. The number of rural habitations covered so far under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in the country (state-wise) is given in Statement-I. (*See below*)

(b) Government of India administers Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme started in the year 1999 to facilitate States to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main objective of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. TSC is a demand driven project

based programme taking district as a unit covering total rural population of the districts not having sanitation facilities. Demand for sanitation facilities are generated through IEC activities undertaken under the programme covering the entire population. TSC has provisions for incentives to BPL households on completion and usage of toilet in recognition of its achievement. APL households can access interest free loans for construction of toilets from revolving fund available with the project districts under the programme as a part of district project outlay. A total objective of 12.57 crore IHHLs has been identified under TSC at present for all the 607 rural district projects together. State-wise IHHLs constructed under the programme as per progress reported by the States through online monitoring system maintained by the Ministry is given in Statement-II. (See below)

(c) The target for coverage of habitations under NRDWP in a year is decided in the beginning of that year in the Annual Action Plans prepared by the States and discussed with the Ministry. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 10,500 crore has been provided for the NRDWP in 2012-13. Government of India alongwith the State Governments is taking steps to cover all remaining habitations with safe and adequate drinking water supply on a continuous basis.

As regards sanitation, to cover the remaining identified rural households in the project districts, Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Human Resource Development (HRD), the key components to generate and meet demand for sanitation, have been strengthened. The Government has also increased the allocation under TSC from Rs. 1500 crore in the year 2011-12, the last year of the XI Five Year Plan to Rs.3500 crore as Budget Estimate during the year 2012-13, the first year of the XII Five Year Plan. Thus, it is expected that present project objectives under TSC will be completed by the year 2017.

Statement - I

*Status of Rural Habitation with Respect to Drinking Water Supply
(as on 1.4.2012)*

Sl. No.	District	Total Habitations	Habitations		
			Fully Covered*	Partially Covered	Quality Affected
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	72407	44469	27542	396
2	Bihar	107642	82772	10392	14478
3	Chhattisgarh	72329	40392	25632	6305
4	Goa	347	302	45	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Gujarat	34415	34033	381	1
6	Haryana	7385	6169	1206	10
7	Himachal Pradesh	53201	42111	11090	0
8	Jammu and Kashmir	12826	5815	6986	25
9	Jharkhand	120154	118652	1109	393
10	Karnataka	59532	29750	23678	6104
11	Kerala	11883	10969	0	914
12	Madhya Pradesh	127197	90803	33976	2418
13	Maharashtra	98842	88780	8541	1521
14	Orissa	141928	74861	53800	13267
15	Punjab	15338	12236	3057	45
16	Rajasthan	121133	70919	22365	27849
17	Tamil Nadu	94500	91914	2154	432
18	Uttar Pradesh	260110	245868	13838	404
19	Uttarakhand	39142	28035	11093	14
20	West Bengal	95395	87668	3746	3981
21	Arunachal Pradesh	5612	3076	2536	0
22	Assam	86976	49010	22736	15230
23	Manipur	2870	1588	1280	2
24	Meghalaya	9326	5528	3700	98
25	Mizoram	777	711	66	0
26	Nagaland	1432	1015	287	130
27	Sikkim	2498	1805	693	
28	Tripura	8132	2722	47	5363
29	Andman and Nicobar	491	433	58	0
30	Chandigarh	18	18	0	0
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	70	0	70	0
32	Daman and Diu	21	0	21	0
33	Delhi	0	0	0	0
34	L.akshadweep	9	0	9	0
35	Puducherry	248	244	4	0
TOTAL		1664186	1272668	292138	99380

* with provision of 40 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water.

Statement - II*State-wise IHHL project objectives and achievements under TSC*

Sl. No.	State	Objectives (IHHL Total)	Achievement till March 2012
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	10265917	7998752
2	Arunachal Pradesh	133861	84507
3	Assam	3381037	1916897
4	Bihar	11171314	3839093
5	Chhattisgarh	3392453	1910832
6	D and N Haveli	2480	37
7	Goa	45323	34553
8	Gujarat	5378487	4437241
9	Haryana	2095434	2020603
10	Himachal Pradesh	850750	1025623
11	Jammu and Kashmir	1470803	424836
12	Jharkhand	3729495	1593929
13	Karnataka	5870915	4160845
14	Kerala	1073742	1120749
15	Madhya Pradesh	8467193	6627893
16	Maharashtra	9728343	7082491
17	Manipur	263254	135016
18	Meghalaya	301833	218198
19	Mizoram	108878	93777
20	Nagaland	211346	127955
21	Orissa	7056648	3859352
22	Puducherry	18000	2268

1	2	3	4
23	Punjab	1167568	768184
24	Rajasthan	6984333	4244745
25	Sikkim	87014	94600
26	Tamil Nadu	8667088	6888626
27	Tripura	623774	602492
28	Uttar Pradesh	20676487	17198517
29	Uttarakhand	886301	712532
30	West Bengal	11616656	8136957
TOTAL		125726727	87362100

Diversion of forest land for road construction

4196. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR :
SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal for diversion of land in Kutch Desert Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary, Gujarat for construction of a road from Gadhuli Santalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this road is important from view point of national strategy and security; and

(d) if so, by when it will obtain permission of National Board of Wild Life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for diversion of 79.474 ha of forest land in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of Gaduli to Hajipur-Odma-Khavda-Kunaria-Dholavira-Maovana-Gadakbet-Santalpur Road (S.H. Road). The proposal involves development of border roads to meet security needs of the Border Security Forces (BSF). Since the proposal involves diversion of land from Wildlife Sanctuary, it was placed for consideration of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 25 April 2011 wherein it was decided to carry out a site inspection before

taking a view in the matter. The site inspection report has since been received in the Ministry and would be placed before the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for its consideration. However, no specific time can be attributed for this.

Reclamation of land from sea for Mumbai city

4197. SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

SHRI ANIL DESAI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in South Mumbai, a part of the Arabian Sea is being reclaimed for providing civic amenities to the public;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has given its approval to such a project; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received the proposal for reclamation of Arabian Sea, in South Mumbai, for providing civic amenities to the public.

Falling population of tigers and peacocks in the country

4198. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the rates at which population of our national animal, tiger, and the national bird peacock are falling in the country;
- (b) the number of tigers and peacocks, died/killed during 2011;
- (c) the pockets in the Indian States where they are found and well-preserved; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to conserve, preserve and nurture these species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) The country level tiger population, estimated once in every four years using the refined methodology, has shown an increasing trend with a population estimate of 1706, lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively in the recent all India estimation (2010), as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. There are no specific data to indicate that population of peacock is decreasing.

(b) The number of tiger deaths during 2011, as reported by States, are given in Statement-I (*See* below). The information relating to peacock mortality is not compiled at country level by the Ministry.

(c) The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts, as revealed in the recent (2010) All India Tiger Estimation using the refined methodology. The list of Tiger Reserves / project tiger areas are given in Statement-II (*See* below). The peacock has a wide distribution in our country.

(d) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government to protect and foster tiger conservation, *inter alia*, including other wild animals are given in Statement-III.

Statement - I

*Number of Tiger death during 2011
(as reported by States)*

Year	Tiger
2011	56*

* Excludes seizure of one old trophy during the year

Statement - II

List of Tiger Reserves in India

Sl.No.	Year of creation	Name of Tiger Reserve	State
1	2	3	4
1	1973-74	Bandipur	Karnataka
2	1973-74	Corbett	Uttarakhand
3	1973-74	Kanha	Madhya Pradesh
4	1973-74	Manas	Assam
5	1973-74	Melghat	Maharashtra
6	1973-74	Palamau	Jharkhand
7	1973-74	Ranthambore	Rajasthan
8	1973-74	Similipal	Orissa
9	1973-74	Sunderbans	West Bengal
10	1978-79	Periyar	Kerala
11	1978-79	Sariska	Rajasthan
12	1982-83	Buxa	West Bengal

1	2	3	4
13	1982-83	Indravati	Chhattisgarh
14	1982-83	Nagarjunsagar	Andhra Pradesh
15	1982-83	Namdapha	Arunachal Pradesh
16	1987-88	Dudhwa	Uttar Pradesh
17	1988-89	Kalakad-Mundanthurai	Tamil Nadu
18	1989-90	Valmiki	Bihar
19	1992-93	Pench	Madhya Pradesh
20	1993-94	Tadoba-Andhari	Maharashtra
21	1993-94	Bandhavgarh	Madhya Pradesh
22	1994-95	Panna	Madhya Pradesh
23	1994-95	Dampa	Mizoram
24	1998-99	Bhadra	Karnataka
25	1998-99	Pench	Maharashtra
26	1999-2000	Pakke	Arunachal Pradesh
27	1999-2000	Nameri	Assam
28	1999-2000	Satpura	Madhya Pradesh
29	2008-2009	Anamalai	Tamil Nadu
30	2008-2009	Udanti-Sitanadi	Chhattisgarh
31	2008-2009	Satkosia	Orissa
32	2008-2009	Kaziranga	Assam
33	2008-2009	Achanakmar	Chhattisgarh
34	2008-2009	Dandeli-Anshi	Karnataka
35	2008-2009	Sanjay-Dubri	Madhya Pradesh
36	2008-2009	Mudumalai	Tamil Nadu
37	2008-2009	Nagarahole	Karnataka
38	2008-2009	Parambikulam	Kerala
39	2009-2010	Sahyadri	Maharashtra
40	2011-2012	Biligiri Ranganatha Temple	Karnataka
41	2012-2013	Kawal	Andhra Pradesh

Statement - III

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government to protect and foster tiger conservation, inter alia, including other wild animals

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions towards constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.
2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel / home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication / wireless facilities.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. The in-principle approval has been accorded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for creation of five new tiger reserves, and the sites are:, Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh), Sunabeda (Orissa) and Mukundara Hills (including Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambal Wildlife Sanctuaries) (Rajasthan) and Satyamangalam (Tamil Nadu). Final approval has been accorded to Kudremukh (Karnataka) for declaring as a Tiger Reserve. Besides, the States have been advised to send proposals for declaring the following areas as Tiger Reserves: (i) Bor (Maharashtra), (ii) Suhelwa (Uttar Pradesh), (iii) Nagzira-Navegaon (Maharashtra), (iv) Guru Ghasidas National Park (Chhattisgarh), (v) Mhadei Sanctuary (Goa) and (vi) Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel / Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuaries / Varushanadu Valley (Tamil Nadu).

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 33472.01 sq. km. has been notified by 16 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal). The State of Bihar has taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitat of Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

Financial steps

10. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

11. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
12. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
13. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an

intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

14. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat has issued a notification to Parties to submit reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20.10.2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.).

Reintroduction of Tigers

15. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers / tigresses have been done.
16. Special advisories issued for *in-situ* build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

17. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *inter alia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police as an option-II, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars. During the year 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 3 crores has been provided to the Similipal Tiger Reserve for raising, arming and deploying the STPF.
18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, an online tiger crime data base has been launched, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.

Recent initiatives

1. Implementing a tripartite MOU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.

2. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done.
3. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.
4. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.
5. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection, besides launching 'M-STRIPES' for effective field patrolling and monitoring.
6. Steps taken for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the ongoing all India tiger estimation.
7. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
8. Action initiated for using Information Technology to strengthen surveillance in tiger reserves.
9. The second round of country level tiger status assessment completed in 2010, with the findings indicating an increase with a tiger population estimate of 1706, lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively, as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively.
10. The second round of independent assessment of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves done in 2010-11 for 39 tiger reserves based on globally used framework.
11. Increase in the allocation for Project Tiger with additional components.
12. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.
13. As an outcome of the fourth Trans-border Consultative Group Meeting held in New Delhi, a joint resolution has been signed with Nepal for biodiversity / tiger conservation.
14. Regional Offices of the National Tiger Conservation Authority sanctioned at Nagpur, Bengaluru and Guwahati.
15. Launching of Phase-IV tiger reserve level monitoring.
16. A protocol on conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarban signed between India and Bangladesh in September, 2011.

Protection of wild animals in the country

†4199. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any new action plan for development of National Parks for protection of wild animals in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is a scheme to relocate the villages around these parks by declaring them as buffer zones; and
- (c) if so, the number of such National Parks in the country for which Government has formulated such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) The Central Government is already implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.*, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' wherein technical and financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments for management of Protected Areas including National Parks. Presently, there is no proposal to formulate any new scheme for development of National Parks for protection of wild animals in the country.

- (b) There is no such scheme for relocation of villages around parks by declaring them as buffer zones.
- (c) Does not arise.

Negotiations on climate change

4200. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) how far the developing countries of Asia and Africa have been benefited by the current ongoing negotiations on climate change;
- (b) whether the Prime Minister has urged the Asian and African nations to get the best out of these negotiations; and
- (c) if so, the strategy proposed to be adopted for Rio+20 Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) International negotiations on Climate Change under the aegis of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are aimed at advancing global actions to stabilise climate and address the urgent mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries including those from Asia and Africa. Parties to the UNFCCC are obliged to take adaptation and mitigation of climate change on the basis of the principles of equity and Common but

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR). In furtherance of this principle, the recently held Climate Change Talks in Durban in December 2011 have helped operationalise the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Committee and the Technology Mechanism which would facilitate support to developing countries in terms of finance and technology for effective mitigation and adaptation actions.

(b) During his inaugural address at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Afro-Asian Rural Development Programme held in Delhi on March 5, 2012, the Prime Minister urged Asian and African countries to work jointly to build a favorable international regime that enables access to funds and green technologies for rural growth. He stressed on the need to enhance international cooperation with a view to secure best outcomes at the climate change negotiations and the forthcoming Rio+20 Conference.

(c) India's approach to Rio+20 Conference is guided by the Rio Principles, in particular the principles of equity and CBDR. India, also coordinates its approach on the relevant issues with the like minded developing country members from Group of 77 and China including those from Asia and Africa.

Environmental clearance for Sapali Dam in Maharashtra

4201. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to State:

(a) the status of the environmental clearance for Sapali Dam project proposal submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra; and

(b) how much time is expected by Government to complete the entire procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) The environmental clearance for the Upper Penganga Irrigation Project Stage-II (Sapli Dam) of Government of Maharashtra has been recommended by the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro Power Projects. A representation against the Project has been received in the Ministry, clarification pertaining to which have been received recently from the Government of Maharashtra.

Connecting all the wild life sanctuaries in the country

†4202. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to connect all the Wild Life Sanctuaries in the country through some modern techniques based on technology;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to use any new technique to determine the exact number of animals in these Sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) Presently, there is no proposal with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to connect all the Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country through modern technology based techniques.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Census of major wild animals is carried out by the respective State/Union Territory Governments periodically using the available methodology. However, there is no specific proposal to use new technology to determine the exact number of animals in the Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Proposals under national lake conservation plan

4203. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals submitted by Odisha under the National Lake Conservation Plan;
- (b) the status of consideration of each of the proposals; and
- (c) the time by when the final decision is expected to be taken on such plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country, on 70:30 funding pattern through an integrated ecosystem approach.

For Odisha, the Ministry has sanctioned a project on 'Conservation and Management of Bindusagar lake' in Bhubaneswar under NLCP at a cost of Rs.3.36 crore. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation is implementing agency for the project. No other Detailed Project Report is received by this Ministry from the State Government.

Leasing of forest land for mining activities

4204. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has leased the forest land for mining activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the areas of forest land so leased out for mining along with the terms and conditions, State-wise;
- (c) whether mining agencies are following the terms and conditions satisfactorily;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Use of forest land for non-forest purpose including mining requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State/ UT-wise details of the approvals accorded for diversion of forest land for mining projects along with General conditions and standards conditions applicable to mining projects stipulated in the approvals accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for mining projects is given in Statement. (*See* below)

Apart from the general conditions and standard conditions applicable to mining projects, Central Government after examination of the proposals seeking its prior approval under the afore-mentioned Act for mining projects also stipulates project specific conditions to mitigate certain project specific impact(s) of such mining projects.

(c) to (e) The Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests located at Chandigarh, Lucknow, Bhubaneswar, Shillong, Bhopal and Bangalore monitor compliance to conditions stipulated in the approvals accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose, including mining projects. The Ministry of Environment and Forests takes appropriate action, in accordance with law, as and when non-compliance to conditions stipulated in the approvals accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose including mining projects are brought to its notice by its Regional Offices or any other persons/ organizations.

Statement

A. *State/ UT-wise details of the approvals (in-principle and final) accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for mining projects from the date it came into force on 25.10.1980 till 09.05.2012*

Sl. No.	States	Final Approval		In-principle approval		Total (in-principle+final)	
		No. of proposals	Area Diverted (in ha)	No. of proposals	Area Diverted (in ha)	No. of proposals	Area Diverted (in ha)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	19.59	0	0	8	19.59
2	Andhra Pradesh	177	17,021.36	37	4,341.34	214	21,362.70
3	Arunachal Pradesh	13	99.275	3	4.196	16	103.471
4	Assam	78	155.781	6	13.095	84	168.876
5	Bihar	9	417.567	1	0.607	10	418.174
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattishgarh	102	18,777.07	31	11,157.69	133	29,934.76
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	48	1,797.65	5	147.007	53	1,944.65
12	Gujarat	53	9,792.28	2	134.83	55	9,927.11
13	Haryana	1	0.145	0	0	1	0.145
14	Himachal Pradesh	55	959.831	8	701.147	63	1,660.98
15	Jharkhand	104	11,240.53	31	4,349.13	135	15,589.66
16	Karnataka	141	11,225.21	28	834.506	169	12,059.72
17	Kerala	1	29.196	0	0	1	29.196
18	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Madhya Pradesh	158	12,188.39	27	3,908.56	185	16,096.95
20	Maharashtra	105	3,319.59	15	495.479	120	3,815.07
21	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Meghalaya	1	116.589	0	0	1	116.589
23	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Odisha	154	16,759.88	33	5,069.30	187	21,829.18
26	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Punjab	1	0.002	0	0	1	0.002
28	Rajasthan	144	5,507.95	21	1,130.91	165	6,638.86
29	Sikkim	1	0.046	0	0	1	0.046
30	Tamil Nadu	29	375.654	2	4.683	31	380.336
31	Tripura	12	19.018	6	12.86	18	31.878
32	Uttar Pradesh	5	2,006.44	0	0	5	2,006.44
33	Uttarakhand	16	249.654	4	24.52	20	274.174
34	West Bengal	5	276.91	1	4.89	6	281.8
TOTAL		1,421	112,355.59	261	32,334.76	1,682	1,44,690.35

Note: The statement does not include information for Jammu & Kashmir as the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 do not extend to Jammu & Kashmir.

B. General Conditions and Standard Conditions Applicable to Mining Projects Stipulated in the Approvals Accorded by the Central Government Under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of Forest Land for Mining Projects

1. Legal status of forest land to remain unchanged.
2. Compensatory afforestation as per guidelines.
3. Transfer and mutation of non-forest land identified to raise compensatory afforestation in favour of Forest Department, if applicable.
4. Notification of non-forest land identified to raise compensatory afforestation as Reserved Forests/Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or local forest Act.
5. Payment of Net Present Value (NPV) at the applicable rates.
6. Undertaking to pay additional amount of NPV, if so determined by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
7. Transfer of funds realized from the user agency to *ad-hoc* Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

8. User Agency to provide alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage & pressure on adjacent forest areas.
9. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
10. Demarcation of lease area to be done on the ground at project cost using four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars with serial numbers, forward & back bearings, distance from pillar to pillar and DGPS coordinates.
11. Settlement of Rights, if any, in accordance with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
12. Rehabilitation of Project affected families, if any.
13. Environmental clearance, if required.
14. Submission of annual self-monitoring report on compliance to conditions stipulated in the approval.
15. The User Agency and the State Government to ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
16. Phased reclamation of mined area.
17. Safety zone area, its afforestation and fencing.
18. Afforestation on one and half times degraded forest land in lieu of the area used for safety zone.
19. In case of underground mines, areas on surface to be fencing and afforested.
20. Gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
21. De-silting of the village tanks and other water bodies located within five kilometers from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies, whenever required;
22. Period of approval to be co-terminus with period of mining lease to be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
23. Following activities to be undertaken by the User Agency at the project cost:
 - (a) A plan containing appropriate mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams shall be prepared and implemented;

- (b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion;
- (c) Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour;
- (d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching so as to ensure that that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°; and
- (e) Strict adherence to the prescribed top soil management.

Levy of cess for National Clean Energy Fund

4205. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to levy a cess on coal to generate resources for the National Clean Energy Fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to assess the impact of such a cess;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has considered a proposal of a clean energy cess of Rs. 50 per tonne is applicable on coal produced in India and imported coal with effect from 1st July 2010. Government has announced that the proceeds of the cess will build the corpus of National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF). The National Clean Energy Fund will be used for funding research and innovative projects in clean energy technologies. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted by the Ministry of Finance to draw guidelines for the use of the Fund.

- (c) to (e) No study has been conducted to assess the impact of such a cess.

Drinking water supply from water bodies having hotels in Rajasthan

†4206. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

- (a) the number of hotels situated in reservoirs or lakes in Rajasthan;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the number of such reservoirs or lakes where hotels are situated and from where water is distributed for drinking purposes to the population of that area;
- (c) whether there is any appropriate drainage arrangement for sewage of dirty and polluted water of toilets etc. of these hotels out of these water bodies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) As per information available, Hotel Lake Palace and Jagmandir Restaurant are situated in Pichola lake and Silver Shadow Export Pvt. Ltd. in Jaisamand Lake in Udaipur. Nahargarh Palace is situated in Lake Nahargarh in Chittorgarh. The water from Pichola and Jaisamand lakes is supplied to public for drinking purpose.

(c) to (e) It is reported that all these hotels have drainage arrangement for the toilets. Hotel Lake Palace, Jagmandir Restaurant and Silver Shadow Export Pvt. Ltd have provided sewage treatment plants. After treatment, treated waste water is used for plantation and excess if any, is discharged into the municipal sewers. For Nahargarh, septic tank and up-flow filter have been provided for treatment of waste water, which is pumped to the shore and used for plantation on its own land, and no waste water is discharged into the lake.

Environmental clearance to power plants

†4207. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of power plants accorded environmental clearance by the end of 31 December, 2011 and the quantum of installed capacity of these plants;
- (b) the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the number of coal-based and gas-based plants out of total power plants cleared separately; and
- (d) the number of proposals regarding setting up of power plants pending before the Ministry and their total power generation capacity in megawatts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) A total of 127 coal and gas based thermal power plants were accorded environmental clearances during the last three years. The total capacity of these 127 power plants is- 1,30,623.20 MW. The state-wise details are given in Statement-I and Statement-II. (*See below*)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Out of the 127 power plants accorded environmental clearances in the last three years, 105 are coal based and 22 are gas based power plants.

(d) A total of 31 coal and gas thermal power plants with a total generation capacity of 38,997 MW are pending with the Ministry for environmental clearance as on 30.04.2012.

Statement - I

Numbers of Coal based Thermal Power Projects Granted Environmental clearance during 2009 to 2011, year-wise, and state-wise

Sl.No.	State Name	2009	2010	2011	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Arunachal Pradesh				0
2	Assam				0
3	Andhra Pradesh	8	4	0	12
4	Bihar	1	1	1	3
5	Chhattisgarh	3	7	4	14
6	Delhi			0	0
7	Goa	1			1
8	Gujarat	1	4	3	8
9	Haryana				0
10	Himachal Pradesh				0
11	Jammu and Kashmir				0
12	Jharkhand	2	1	3	6
13	Karnataka	3	0		3
14	Kerala				0
15	Madhya Pradesh	3	5	0	8
16	Maharashtra	5	6	3	14
17	Manipur				0
18	Meghalaya			1	1

92	Written Answers to	[RAJYA SABHA]	Unstarred Questions		
1	2	3	4	5	6
19	Mizoram				0
20	Orissa	2	4	2	8
21	Punjab				0
22	Rajasthan	3	1	1	5
23	Sikkim				
24	Tamil Nadu	3	6	6	15
25	Tripura				0
26	Uttarakhand		0	0	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	4		2	6
28	West Bengal			1	1
TOTAL		39	39	27	105

Statement - II

Number of Gas based Power Projects Granted Environmental clearance during 2009 to 2011, year-wise, capacity-wise and state-wise.

Sl.No.	State Name	2009	2010	2011	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Arunachal Pradesh				
2	Assam				
3	Andhra Pradesh		5	1	6
4	Bihar				
5	Chhattisgarh				
6	Delhi			1	1
7	Goa				
8	Gujarat		2	3	5
9	Haryana				

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Himachal Pradesh				
11	Jammu and Kashmir				
12	Jharkhand				
13	Karnataka		1		1
14	Kerala				
15	Madhya Pradesh			1	1
16	Maharashtra			3	3
17	Manipur				
18	Meghalaya				
19	Mizoram				
20	Orissa				
21	Punjab				
22	Rajasthan				
23	Sikkim				
24	Tamil Nadu			1	1
25	Tripura				
26	Uttarakhand		1	3	4
27	Uttar Pradesh				
28	West Bengal				
TOTAL		-	9	13	22

Harmful effects of mercury emission

4208. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- whether emissions of mercury is harmful to human life;
- the level of mercury emissions in the country;
- whether any reports of harmful effects of mercury are available with the Ministry; and
- the steps taken by the Ministry by way of remedial action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (d) Mercury could be harmful to human health depending on its chemical form, dose, duration and route of exposure. Mercury is not included in the notified ambient air quality standards which are monitored. Caustic soda manufacturing industries had been directed to switch over from mercury cell to membrane cell technology. Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted a Task Force to evolve a policy on "Environmentally Sound Management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamps". A Technical Committee, constituted by this Task Force, had prepared "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamps Sector". These guidelines prescribe the best practices at various levels, such as at manufacturer's level and include aspects relate to mercury consumption, process technology, raw mercury distillation, on-site storage, treatment, recycling and disposal of mercury bearing wastes, mercury spill management. The best practices at consumer's level include handling of used/broken lamps, consumer awareness pertaining to collection, transport, treatment and disposal of used fluorescent lamps. Ministry of Environment and Forests and Central Pollution Control Board have written to all the State Governments and Union Territories to encourage establishment of recycling units so that the fused Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and Fluorescent Tube lights (FTLs) are properly collected and the mercury is recovered and recycled scientifically and safely.

Deaths of tigers in different sanctuaries

†4209. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tigers killed in different sanctuaries of the country, during the last three years along with reasons therefor and the details thereof, sanctuary-wise;
- (b) the number of tigers died outside the sanctuaries during said period along with reasons thereof, State-wise, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken so far, by Government to prevent the deaths of tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Details of tiger mortality (due to natural and other causes / poaching) inside and outside Tiger Reserves during the last three years, as reported by States are at Statement-I and II respectively. (See below)

- (c) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection and conservation of tigers are at Statement-III.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement - I
Details of tiger mortality inside tiger reserves during the last three years and the current year (as reported by the States)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	State	2009		2010		2011		2012	
			Natural & Other Causes	Poaching	Natural & Other Causes	Poaching	Natural & Other Causes	Poaching	Natural & Other Causes	Poaching
1	Kaziranga	Assam	9	0	6	0	3	1	2	0
2	Valmiki	Bihar	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
3	Nagarhole	Karnataka	4	2	0	0	1	2	2	0
4	Bandipur	Karnataka	4	0	2	2	1	0	1	0
5	Bhadra	Karnataka	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
6	BRT	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
7	Periyar	Kerala	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
8	Kanha	Madhya Pradesh	7	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
9	Pench	Madhya Pradesh	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
10	Bandhavgarh	Madhya Pradesh	1	3	1	1	3	0	1	0
11	Satpuda	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
12	Melghat	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
13	Tadoba-Andhari	Maharashtra	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
14	Simlipal	Odisha	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
15	Sariska	Rajasthan	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
16	Ranthambhore	Rajasthan	3	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
17	Anamalai	Tamil Nadu	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
18	Mudumalai	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
19	Corbett	Uttarakhand	6	0	2	0	7	1	3	0
20	Dudhwa	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
21	Sundarbans	West Bengal	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
TOTAL			40	6	18	11	25	6	12	2

Statement - II
Details of tiger mortality outside tiger reserves during the last three years and the current year (as reported by the states

Sl. No	State	2009			2010			2011			2012		
		Natural & Other Causes	Poaching	Natural & Other Causes	Natural & Other Causes	Poaching	Natural & Other Causes	Natural & Other Causes	Poaching	Natural & Other Causes	Natural & Other Causes	Poaching	
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	Assam	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	
3	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
4	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	
5	Delhi	0	2	0	0	0	0	0#	0	0	0	0	
6	Goa	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	
8	Kerala	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	
9	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
10	Maharashtra	0	3	2	4	4	1	4	2	2	2	2	
11	Odisha	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13	Tamil Nadu	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	
14	Uttarakhand	2	1	2	1	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	
15	Uttar Pradesh	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	
16	West Bengal	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	
TOTAL		5	15	7	17	15	15	10	6	12	12	12	

Excludes 1 old tiger trophy seized

Statement - III

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection and conservation of tigers

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions towards constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.
2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel / home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication / wireless facilities.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered' Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. The in-principle approval has been accorded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for creation of five new tiger reserves, and the sites are:, Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh), Sunabeda (Orissa) and Mukundara Hills (including Darrah, Jawahar Sagar and Chambal Wildlife Sanctuaries) (Rajasthan) and Satyamangalam (Tamil Nadu). Final approval has been accorded to Kudremukh (Karnataka) for declaring as a Tiger Reserve. Besides, the States have been advised to send proposals for declaring the following areas as Tiger Reserves: (i) Bor (Maharashtra), (ii) Suhelwa (Uttar Pradesh), (iii) Nagzira-Navegaon (Maharashtra), (iv) Guru Ghasidas National Park (Chhattisgarh), (v) Mhadei Sanctuary (Goa) and (vi) Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel / Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuaries / Varushanadu Valley (Tamil Nadu).

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 33472.01 sq. km. has been notified by 16 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal). The State of Bihar has taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitat of Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

Financial steps

10. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

11. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
12. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
13. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an

intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

14. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat has issued a notification to Parties to submit reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20.10.2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.).

Reintroduction of Tigers

15. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers / tigresses have been done.
16. Special advisories issued for *in-situ* build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

17. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *inter alia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police, as an option-II, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars. During the year 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 3 crores has been provided to the Similipal Tiger Reserve for raising, aiming and deploying the STPF.
18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, an online tiger crime data base has been launched, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.

Recent initiatives

1. Implementing a tripartite MOU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.

2. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done.
3. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.
4. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.
5. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection, besides launching 'M-STRIPES' for effective field patrolling and monitoring.
6. Steps taken for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the ongoing all India tiger estimation.
7. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
8. Action initiated for using Information Technology to strengthen surveillance in tiger reserves.
9. The second round of country level tiger status assessment completed in 2010, with the findings indicating an increase with a tiger population estimate of 1706, lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively, as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively.
10. The second round of independent assessment of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves done in 2010-11 for 39 tiger reserves based on globally used framework.
11. Increase in the allocation for Project Tiger with additional components.
12. Providing special assistance for mitigation of human-tiger conflicts in problematic areas.
13. As an outcome of the fourth Trans-border Consultative Group Meeting held in New Delhi, a joint resolution has been signed with Nepal for biodiversity / tiger conservation.
14. Regional Offices of the National Tiger Conservation Authority sanctioned at Nagpur, Bengaluru and Guwahati.
15. Launching of Phase-IV tiger reserve level monitoring.
16. A protocol on conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarban signed between India and Bangladesh in September, 2011.

**Strengthening of research capacity for climate change
observation and assessment**

4210. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry have any policy to strengthen scientific research capacity and strategic knowledge for climate change observation and assessment during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the budget estimate for that; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Planning Commission has approved 'Climate Change Action Programme' to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests during the 12th Five Year Plan. The programme aims *inter alia* at advancing scientific research into and assessment of the phenomenon of climate change, building an institutional and analytical capacity for research and studies in the area of climate change, and supporting domestic actions to address climate change through specific programmes and actions at the national and state level. The scientific schemes under the programme include National Carbonaceous Aerosols Programme; setting up of Long Term Ecological Observatories for Climate Change Studies; Coordinated Studies on Climate Change for North Eastern Region; and setting up of Centre for Climate Change Studies.

India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) includes National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change which has the objective of strengthening and building research capacity and generating strategic knowledge for climate change. Besides, each of the other 7 (seven) Missions made the NAPCC also have research components.

(c) and (d) The budget for scientific programmes and building institutional capacity for research in the area of Climate Change is provided by the respective Ministries under their respective plans.

The proposed budget allocation for the 12th Five Year Plan period for the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change is Rs. 1050 Crore.

National Ganga river basin authority

4211. SHRI M. VENKAI AH NAIDU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) is not able to hold its regular meetings;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in the last three years, the Authority held only two meetings and, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Magsaysay Award winner, Shri Rajendra Singh, has quit the authority in disgust; and
- (d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) So far three meetings of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) have been convened under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 5th October 2009, 1st November 2010 and 17th April 2012 respectively. Meetings are convened as per the need for taking decision on policy issues.

(c) and (d) Shri Rajendra Singh, non-official expert member of the Authority, had conveyed his resignation vide e-mail dated 10.03.2012 in support of the demands of Prof. G.D. Agarwal (now Swami Gyan Swarup Sanand) on issues concerning conservation of river Ganga. It was mentioned in the communication that no action has been taken in spite of request for immediate intervention by the Government in the matter. However, his resignation was not accepted by the Chairman and he attended the 3rd meeting of NGRBA held on 17.04.2012.

Contaminations from field trails of GM crops

4212. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a mechanism in place to regularly and systematically monitor contaminations from field trails of GM crops: and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including who does it, when such trials were conducted, the locations and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The activities involving the GM crops including their monitoring during the confined field trials are regulated under the "Rules for the manufacture, use/import/export and storage of hazardous microorganisms/genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989" (Rule, 1989) notified under the 'Environment (Protection) Act, 1986'. These rules and regulations are implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and State Governments. Six competent authorities and their composition have been provided for in the Rules, 1989 to handle various

aspects. While the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RDAC) is advisory in function, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) are of regulatory function. The State Government through the State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC) and District Level Committees (DLCs) have a major role in monitoring the safety regulations during both pre and post release stage. RCGM/GEAC has also issued 'Guidelines and SOPs for the conduct of Confined Field Trials of Transgenic Plant', 2008' which prescribes procedure and Proforma for conduct of GM crop field trials including those for monitoring.

Presently, the monitoring of multi-location confined field trials including Biosafety Research Level-1 (BRL-I) and Biosafety Research level -II (BRL-II) trials is done by Central Compliance Committees (CCC) deputed by DBT and MoEF, which are specific for each of the events under BRL-I and BRL-II trials, respectively. CCCs have been given the responsibility of determining whether the conduct of a trial is in compliance with the term and conditions stipulated in the permit.

BRL-1 trials are conducted to generate data on efficacy, stability and environment safety in two-three locations not exceeding 1 acre per location. BRL-II trials are conducted to reconfirm the replicability of the data generated on efficacy, stability and environment safety over a larger area. The size and number of locations varies from crop to crop. Data generated during these trials are a pre-requisite for biosafety assessment. Accordingly, these trials are conducted with respect to all GM crops which are under various stages of regulatory process in institutions/universities, companies own field or farmer's field leased out by the companies in various states subject to 'No Objection Certificate' from the respective states. The results of the CCCs which have undertaken monitoring till date showed the compliance to be satisfactory with respect to stipulated conditions.

Tigers' deaths in the country

4213. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is the fact that over 300 tigers lost their lives in and outside various reserves in the country during the last decade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has taken any action to analyse the reason for the grim situation of tiger population in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and actions taken by Government to save the national animal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Details of tiger

mortality, as reported by States are at Statement-I. (*See below*) The tiger population has shown an increasing trend with a population estimate of 1706, lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively in the recent all India estimation (2010), as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively.

(c) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection and conservation of tigers are at Statement-II. [Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer in USQ No. 4209 (Part C)]

Statement - I

*Details of year-wise tiger mortality
(as reported by States)*

Year	Natural (Animals)	Poaching (Animals)	Total (Animals)
2001	8	36	44
2002	23	36	59
2003	24	20	44
2004	17	5	22
2005	17	-	17
2006	17	5	22
2007	20	10	30
2008	22	9	31
2009	49	17	66
2010	29	24	53
2011	47	9	56*
2012 (as on 07.05.2012)	18	14	32
TOTAL	291	185	476

* Excludes seizure of one old trophy during the year.

Loss of forests due to wild fire

4214. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of acres of loss of forests because of wild fire in forests;
- (b) whether Government has any information of loss of the forest area per year in the country during last three years, State-wise, including Odisha; and

(c) the strategy and preventive measures being taken by Government to prevent wild fire in forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) There are no cases of loss of forests because of wild fire in forests in India. Forest Fires in the country including Odisha are generally ground fire in which dried fallen material on the forest floor is burnt and there is no loss in tree cover. The forest regenerates after rainfall subsequently.

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

(c) For prevention of forest fires, State Forest Departments regularly create and maintain fire lines in forest areas. They also engage fire watchers and establish forest camps for prevention and control of forest fire. Regular patrolling by forest personnel is also done to prevent forest fires. Support of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) is also taken in this regard. In some States like Odisha, cash incentives are also provided to these committees for preventing fire. Government of India implements a scheme 'Intensification of Forest Management Scheme' (IFMS) which supplements the efforts of State Governments in protection from forest fires. In addition the Forest Survey of India (FSI) monitors forest fires on a daily basis during hot summer months using satellite data and information is sent to State to take immediate action for controlling these fires.

Conservation of rivers and lakes in the country

4215. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large cities and towns cause major pollution to rivers and lakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has prepared any conservation plans to protect such rivers and lakes in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) The discharge of partially treated and untreated wastewater from towns along the rivers and lakes constitutes the major source of pollution load in these water bodies. According to a recent report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), against an estimated sewage generation of about 38254 million litres per day (mld) from the Class I cities & Class II towns of the country, treatment capacity for 11787 mld is only available.

(c) and (d) Conservation of rivers and lakes is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement in identified river stretches under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) which presently covers 40 rivers in 190 towns spread over 20 States. Interception, diversion and treatment of sewage have been among the major pollution abatement works taken up. Sewage treatment capacity of 4664 million litres per day has been created so far under the Plan. This Ministry is also implementing the scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country, which presently covers 61 lakes in 14 States.

CAG observation on conservation of rivers and lakes

4216. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has slammed the Ministry for its failure to deliver with more than 80 per cent of its ambitious projects to conserve lakes and rivers which could not be completed on time and some are not being utilised despite being constructed;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that National Lake Conservation Plan have been ineffective in achieving the objectives as these programmes were not based on comprehensive survey to assess pollution levels across the country ; and

(d) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has conducted performance audit of water pollution in India during the period from July 2010 to February 2011. The CAG has observed that the Ministry focused only on the sewage as the source of pollution of river and not industrial pollution as also that majority of the projects were completed after scheduled date due to variety of reasons such as delay in land acquisition, legal problems and disputes, delay in matching funds release by the State Government. Even after completion of the projects, O & M cost is not made available by local bodies resulting in to improper functioning of assets created.

(c) and (d) The National Lake Conservation Plan was started in June 2001 for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country on a 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central Government and the respective State Governments (90:10 for North-Eastern States). The Ministry

has sanctioned 61 projects at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1031.18 cr for rejuvenation of lakes in 14 States under the Lake Conservation Programme. Out of 61 projects, 23 projects have been completed resulting in improved lake water quality and enhanced lake aesthetics.

Clearance issuance mechanism under new CRZ notification

4217. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the clearance issuance mechanism in the new Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification is based on the pollution potential of the projects within the CRZ areas;

(b) if so, the mechanism for the projects which have low pollution potential and does not attract provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification;

(c) whether it is a fact that some State Government have taken up the issue of revising issuance process for the projects, which only attract provisions of CRZ Notification 2011; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (b) No Sir. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 prohibits setting up of new Industries and expansion of existing industrial units in CRZ areas. Only activities which require foreshore facilities *viz.* Ports, fishing harbour and pipeline for sea water intake / outfall, transmission lines etc. are permissible within CRZ.

(c) No sir.

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

Pollution due to incinerators in the country

4218. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any pollution control measures for incinerators operating in the country;

(b) the details of the types and numbers of incinerators working in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether there have been cases of hazardous pollution due to these incinerators during the last three years;

(d) the details of the action taken by the Ministry to ensure that such incinerators do not pose a threat to adjoining residential areas; and

(e) the details of the number of incinerators that will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) A number of incinerators are installed at common facilities for disposal of hazardous waste, bio-medical waste and municipal solid waste. Besides, such incinerators are also installed in health care facilities and at individual industries. Air Pollution Control Device (APCD) is required to be provided with the individual incinerator.

There exist 177 incinerators for Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBMWTF), 692 incinerators at health care facilities (IHCF), 22 common hazardous waste incinerators and 127 captive hazardous waste incinerators. Out of these 1018 incinerators, 273 incinerators are operating without APCDs, as reported by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

(c) and (d) Environmental standards have been notified for various categories of incinerators. Concerned State Pollution Control Board and CPCB seek compliance of the notified norms, as applicable. 29 non-compliant CBMWTF, five non-compliant IHCF and two industry specific captive incinerators have been directed under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by the CPCB. In case of one captive incinerator in Gujarat, Gujarat State Pollution Control Board has been directed under the Air Act, 1981 by CPCB for ensuring compliance of environmental norms.

(e) Data on the number of incinerators likely to be set up is not available in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Sale of NPA properties by public sector banks

4219. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI D. RAJA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Banks resort to sale of NPA properties in order to recover NPA dues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such NPA property sold during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether Government has made any assessment of total cost of such NPA properties at present;

- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (f) the details of Government programme to bring down the NPAs of Public Sector Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (e) Banks, under the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and Rules made there under, are empowered to sell Non-Performing Asset (NPA) properties in order to recover their dues. In addition, other tools for recovery of NPA dues *i.e.* filing suit for recovery in Debt Recovery Tribunals, entering into One Time Settlement proposals or compromise settlements, Lok Adalats etc. are also available with Bank.

The details of such NPA property sold during the last three years, State-wise are not available in the data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- (f) Banks are required to monitor NPAs and take steps to bring them down through recovery/other channels. RBI also monitors the NPA levels in banks. This aspect is reviewed during Annual Financial Inspections and monitored on an ongoing basis through regulatory returns submitted by banks and periodical meetings with banks. The channels of recovery available to banks include recourse to SARFAESI Act, 2002, Debt Recovery Tribunals, Lok Adalats etc. As per RBI, NPAs amounting to Rs.7514 Crore and Rs.15,642 Crore were recovered during the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively through the channels of Lok Adalats, Debt Recovery Tribunals and SARFAESI Act, 2002.

Recommendation of Ashok Chawla Committee

4220. SHRI ANIL DESAI :

SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Group of Ministers has accepted the Ashok Chawla Committee's recommendation to distance the administrative Ministry from the appointment and removal of regulators in various sectors;
- (b) if so, the details of the report; and
- (c) whether the committee's recommendation would be extended to financial regulators such as SEBI and IRDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Yes sir. However, the Committee's recommendations are only with regard to the eight natural resources identified by it, *viz.*, coal, minerals, petroleum, natural gas, spectrum, forests, land and water.

(b) The Committee has suggested a few broad institutional ground rules for regulators and allocation of functions. These include (i) distancing the administrative ministry from appointment and removal of regulators and entrusting it to a statutorily defined body, (ii) having an independent cadre for the regulator with appropriate remuneration and service conditions and ensuring that it has a stable budget, (iii) appropriate support for the staffing of the regulator to create conditions for ensuring that the regulator possesses substantial technical capacity and have the ability to access specialized technical knowledge and use it effectively, and (v) appropriate definition of the power to issue policy directions to the regulator accompanied by suitable justification, and (vi) providing suitable budgetary provisions before implementation.

The GoM in its 6th meeting dated 30th September, 2011 considered the advice of the CoS on recommendations of the CANR and accepted *inter alia* the recommendation at S.No. 77 in the Report of the Committee with the following formulation:

“The Committee has suggested a few broad institutional ground rules for regulators and allocation of functions. These include distancing the administrative ministry from appointment and removal of regulators and entrusting it to a statutorily defined body, having an independent cadre for the regulator with appropriate remuneration and service conditions and ensuring that it has a stable budget. Appropriate support for the staffing of the regulator is essential to create conditions for ensuring that the regulator possess substantial technical capacity and have the ability to access specialized technical knowledge and use it effectively. The power to issue policy directions to the regulator also needs to be appropriately defined, accompanied by suitable justification and approved by the Minister concerned. Any financial impact of such directions needs suitable budgetary provisions before implementation.”

(c) No Sir.

Impact of recession in Europe

†4221. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cautioned through World Economic outlook report that the adverse effects of recession in Europe are still continuing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government on the report and whether the measures to ward off the adverse effects have been considered upon?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in World Economic Outlook (WEO) April, 2012 observed that after suffering a major setback during 2011, global prospects are gradually strengthening again, but downside risks remain elevated. Euro area is still projected to go into a mild recession in 2012 as a result of sovereign debt crisis and a general loss of confidence, the effects of bank deleveraging on the real economy, and the impact of fiscal consolidation in response to market pressure. Because of the problems in Europe, activity will continue to disappoint for the advanced economies as a group. The growth estimate and projections by IMF are given below:

	2011 (per cent)	2012 (per cent) Projections	2013 (per cent) Projections
World Output	3.9	3.5	4.1
Advanced Economies	1.6	1.4	2.0
Euro Area	1.4	-0.3	0.9
Emerging and Developing Economies	6.2	5.7	6.0
India	7.2	6.9	7.3

Source: World Economic Outlook (WEO) April, 2012, IMF

(c) The euro zone sovereign debt crisis is having global repercussions. The unfolding of the euro zone crisis has also impacted the Indian economy through lower growth, falling business sentiments, declining capital inflows and exchange rate and stock market volatility with attendant implications for investor confidence.

Government has taken several steps to shore-up the capital flows to meet the rising infrastructure financing requirements, which would enhance short and medium term growth prospects. The External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), portfolio investment and access to corporate bond market has been liberalized together with the Reserve Bank of India initiating measures to ease foreign currency flows and availability of export credit.

Increase in number of tax payers

4222. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of tax payers in the country has increased during 2006-07 to 2010-11;

- (b) if so, the number of tax payers during this period;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that amount of revenue collected during this period has also increased; and
- (d) if so, the amount of revenue collected during 2006-07 and 2010-11 and the details of sources which contributed to this increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The number of effective income tax assesses as well as the number of registered Central Excise and Service Tax assesses during the years 2006-07 to 2010-11 are as under:

Financial year	Income Tax Assesses	Central Excise	Service Tax
2006-07	31903137	92035	947970
2007-08	33662801	96719	1070068
2008-09	32650627	100163	1221846
2009-10	34085426	101709	1224316
2010-11	33739124	113482	1300226

(c) and (d) The amount of revenue collected from direct and indirect taxes during the period 2006-07 to 2010-11 is given below:

(Rs. In crore)

Financial year	Direct Taxes	Indirect Taxes
2006-07	230181	241538
2007-08	314330	279031
2008-09	333818	269433
2009-10	378063	245367
2010-11	446935	345127

Details of sources which contributed to increase in revenue collection is not separately maintained. However, the primary reason for increased revenue collection are increase in GDP, changes in tax legislation, improved efficiency of tax administration, etc.

Concern of credit rating agencies on Indian Economy

†4223. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several credit rating agencies of the world has expressed concern about Indian economy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) Government's reaction on the views of these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) India's sovereign debt is usually rated by six major Sovereign Credit Rating Agencies (SCRAs) viz. Moody's Investor Services, Standard and Poor's (S&P), Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS), Fitch Ratings, Japanese Credit Rating Agency (JCRA) and Rating and Investment Information (R&I).

The assessment and ratings given by the various agencies differ from each other. In past two years, India's credit ratings were either affirmed or upgraded by the above mentioned SCRAs. India received these assessments when many nations, including some of the strongest economies, were downgraded during the period.

In June 2011, DBRS upgraded the outlook on India's ratings and also appreciated the Government's efforts towards fiscal consolidation. In their June 2011 report, Fitch affirmed the credit rating issued in the previous year and also appreciated the management of the economy stating that "India's medium-term economic growth prospects remain strong, as potential GDP growth remains greater than 8%, well above the "BBB—' range median." In December 2011, Moody's upgraded the rating on India's sovereign debt in four segments. S&P, in its latest rating of India's sovereign credit ratings on 25th April 2012, affirmed its BBB (-) long term and A-3 short term sovereign rating of India.

However, all of the SCRAs have not favourably commented on India's fiscal deficit and debt. In their April 2012 report, S&P had revised the outlook on the long-term ratings on India from Stable to negative. In its report, S&P also stated that the outlook has been revised "to reflect at least a one-in-three likelihood of a downgrade if the external position continues to deteriorate, growth prospects diminish, or progress on fiscal reforms remains slow."

- (c) Government has taken note of the concerns expressed by various SCRAs and is taking necessary steps in this regard.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In particular, Government has taken note of S&P's report released on 25th April 2012. In this regard, Government is taking a number of measures with a view to reducing the current account deficit, improving growth prospects of the economy, and reducing the fiscal deficit.

The measures being taken include steps to restrict the expenditure on central subsidies to under 2% of GDP in 2012-13 and to further bring it down to 1.75% of GDP in the next three years. In addition, Government has made a determined attempt to come back to the path of fiscal consolidation by reducing the budgeted fiscal deficit to 5.1% of GDP in BE 2012-13 from 5.9% of GDP in RE 2011-12.

Negative economic growth rate

4224. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether global rating agency 'Standard and Poor' has stated that Indian economic growth will be negative; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to analyse the parameters which have made the global rating agency to arrive at such conclusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir.

Standard and Poor's (S&P) released their latest research update on India's sovereign credit ratings on 25th April 2012. In this report, S&P affirmed their BBB (-) long term sovereign rating on India. Further, S&P have not stated anywhere in their report that India's economic growth will be negative.

(b) Question does not arise.

Amendment in FRBM act

4225. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions under the existing Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, particularly regarding the fiscal deficit;

(b) the major concerns regarding domestic economy particularly the fiscal deficit, which the Governor of RBI has highlighted in his recent statements;

(c) whether it is also a fact that figures of fiscal deficit and current account deficit breach the provisions under the FRBM Act and are worse than those in 1991;

(d) whether Government proposes to amend the FRBM Act; and

(e) If so, the provisions likely to be amended and the objective of proposed amendments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) As per section 4(1) of the FRBM Act, 2003, the Central Government shall take appropriate measures to reduce the fiscal deficit and revenue deficit so as to eliminate revenue deficit by the 31st March, 2009 and thereafter build up adequate surplus. Further as per section 4(2)(a), the Central Government shall, by rules made by it, specify the annual targets for reduction of fiscal deficit and revenue deficit during the period beginning with the commencement of this Act and ending on the 31st March, 2009. According to Rule 3(2) of FRBM Rules, 2004 specifies annual target of fiscal deficit of not more than 3 per cent of GDP by 31st March, 2009.

(b) In the Annual Monetary Policy Statement 2012-13, the RBI has stated that - “the fiscal deficit of the Central Government has remained elevated since 2008-09. The fiscal slippage in 2011-12 was also significantly high. Even though the Union Budget envisages a reduction in the fiscal deficit in 2012-13, several upside risks to the budgeted fiscal deficit remain.....Any slippage in the fiscal deficit will have implications for inflation.”

(c) There is no provision regarding Current Account Deficit in FRBM Act, 2003. Though India’s current account deficit is higher in 2011-12 (4.0 per cent of GDP during April-December, 2011) *vis-a-vis* 1990-91 (3.0 per cent of GDP), the present situation is robust and cannot be compared to 1990-91 due to the following facts :

- (i) the level of foreign exchange reserves is much higher now as compared to 1990-91. Foreign exchange reserves as percentage of GDP was 1.9 per cent in 1990-91. This figure has risen to 16.9 per cent of GDP in 2011-12.
- (ii) Import cover provided by reserves was 2.5 months in 1990-91 as against 7.3 months in 2011-12.

Due to unprecedented global financial crises, the Government had to take fiscal expansionary measures to protect Indian economy from the adverse impact of global financial crises. Accordingly fiscal deficit at 5.9 % of GDP in RE 2011-12 and 5.1% of GDP in BE 2012-13 has exceeded the mandated targets. However, fiscal deficit as percentage of GDP is less than 7.6 per cent as in 1990-91.

(d) Yes. A detailed amendment proposal, in the FRBM Act, 2003, has been prepared and presented in the Parliament on 16.03.2012, in the Budget Session, 2012-13, as part of Finance Bill 2012.

(e) In the proposed amendments to FRBM Act, a new parameter namely Effective Revenue Deficit has been introduced and it has been proposed to eliminate

this deficit by March, 2015 and reduce revenue deficit to not more than 2 per cent of GDP by March, 2015. Other amendments to FRBM Act, 2003 relate to :

- (i) introduction of definition of 'Effective Revenue Deficit';
- (ii) introduction of definition of 'Grants for Creation of Capital Assets';
- (iii) introduction of a new Medium Term Expenditure Framework Statement. This statement would set forth a three year rolling target for expenditure indicators with specification of underlying assumptions and risk involved; and
- (iv) the periodic review regarding the compliance of the provisions of this Act by the Comptroller & Auditor-General of India.

The objective of amendments is to bring out consistency in the conduct of government's fiscal policy with shifting of priority towards quality of expenditure and not only reduction of deficit.

Exodus insurance agents from LIC

4226. SHRI S. THANGAVELU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the first three quarters of the financial year 2011-12 more than 3 lakh active insurance agents have quit profession owing to lesser incentive to agents when compared with other similar industries;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to stop such mass exodus of agents of Life Insurance Corporation of India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that during the period 1st April 2011 to 31st December 2011, 471068 life insurance agents were terminated in the sector. The termination of an agent occurs due to various reasons - primarily non fulfillment of the minimum business guarantee, while other reasons could be death, resignation, termination owing to disciplinary reasons etc.

(c) and (d) IRDA has informed that there were 195326 terminations in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) during the period April-December 2011. However LIC added 204554 agents during this period and thereby ended with 1315413 agents as at the end of December 2011 as against an opening balance of 1306185 agents at the

beginning of April 2011 showing a slight increase in the number of agents. A lot of focus is laid on ushering professionalism among agents through proper pre recruitment training as well as by stipulating that renewal commission is payable across the term of the policy. This would ensure a perennial income to the agent thereby enabling him to make agency a full time career.

Access to banking

4227. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is launching a scheme to give greater access to banking in terms of both Geographical spread and services;

(b) if so, whether this was done as a follow up of Finance Minister's 2010-11, Budget Speech as interpreted by the RBI; and

(c) the comparative record of private banks in priority sector lending *vis-a-vis* public sector banks during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) In pursuance to the announcement made in the Budget Speech for the year 2010-11, and as indicated by the Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the Annual Policy Statement for the year 2010-11, RBI prepared a Discussion Paper on licencing of new banks in the private sector. RBI also placed this Discussion Paper on its website for public comments / suggestions. Based on the comments and suggestions received, RBI prepared draft guidelines in consultation with the Government and placed the same on its website on 29.08.2011. In the draft guidelines it has been indicated that only entities / groups in the private sector that are owned and controlled by residents shall be eligible to promote banks. Further, the promoters / promoter group should have diversified ownership, sound credentials and integrity, and have a successful track record for at least 10 years in running their business. Grant of additional banking licenses is aimed at to foster greater competition in the banking sector and thereby reduce costs and improve the quality of service, and to hasten the process of financial inclusion to support inclusive economic growth of the Country. However, RBI has not issued final guidelines in this regard. Further, in view of the continuing need for opening more bank branches at smaller centres, RBI has granted general permission to the domestic scheduled commercial banks (other than Regional Rural Banks RRBs) to open branches in Tier-2 to Tier-6 centres, and to RRBs in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres, with reporting requirement.

(c) The details of priority sector lending by the public sector banks and private sector banks during the last 3 years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Public Sector Banks		Private Sector Banks	
	Advances to Priority Sector	% age of Priority Sector Advances to ANBC	Advances to Priority Sector	% age of Priority Sector Advances to ANBC
2009	7,24,150	42.7	1,87,849	46.2
2010	8,63,777	41.6	2,14,669	45.8
201*	10,28,615	41.3	2,48,828	46.6

(*Data Provisional)

(ANBC - Adjusted Net Bank Credit)

(Source: Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India)

Control on unnecessary expenditure

†4228. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken steps to check the unnecessary expenditures in different Ministries and departments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has estimated these unnecessary expenditures; and
- (d) if so, the annual average amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) In terms of Rule 21 of General Financial Rules (GFRs) expenditure should not be *prima facie* more than the occasion demands. Further, in terms of Rule 64 of GFRs, the Chief Accounting Authority of a Ministry/Department shall take effective and appropriate steps to ensure that his Ministry/Department avoids unauthorized, irregular and wasteful expenditure. Government also issues instructions on expenditure management from time to time. The last set of instructions on expenditure management were issued in May, 2011 and July, 2011. The instructions advise adherence to budgeted estimates of 2011-12 and contain economy measures related to Seminars/Conferences, Purchase of vehicles, Foreign Travel, Consultancy Assignments etc. and guidelines for observance of discipline in fiscal transfers and balanced pace of expenditure.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The responsibility for implementing the instructions rests with the respective Ministries/Departments and data is not maintained centrally.

Revision of India and Mauritius tax treaty

4229. SHRI SALIM ANSARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Mauritius are working on revising their tax treaty to prevent misuse by third country or offshore country players;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during the recent meeting of Mauritius President with Indian Prime Minister in February, 2012, the details of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) was discussed; and

(d) if so, the details of agreement arrived at between two leaders on DTAA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has proposed to review the India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) to incorporate appropriate amendments to the DTAC for prevention of treaty abuse and to strengthen the mechanism for exchange of information on tax matters between India and Mauritius. A Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising members from the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius was constituted in 2006 to *inter-alia*, put in place adequate safeguards to prevent misuse of the India-Mauritius DTAC. Seven rounds of discussions have taken place so far. There was unwillingness on the part of Mauritius to co-operate in addressing this problem. Consistent efforts are being made by the Indian Government to find mutually acceptable solutions for addressing India's concerns. Next round of JWG meeting is yet to be scheduled.

(c) There was no meeting between Mauritius President and Prime Minister of India in February, 2012. However, during the State Visit of Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius to India in February, 2012, the two leaders discussed wide-ranging bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest and, among other issues, the DTAC matter also came up for discussion.

(d) During discussions between the two Prime Ministers, the Mauritian side submitted proposals to the Indian side. The proposal is under examination of the Indian side. Both sides agreed to continue discussions at the next JWG meeting, dates for which would be decided through diplomatic channels.

IRDA guidelines for training of insurance agents

‡4230. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the companies, societies, trusts and institutes have not taken directives of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (IRDA) seriously regarding the training of insurance agents;

(b) whether any action has been taken against them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that as on 29.02.12, there are 3068 Agents Training Institutes (ATIs) accredited by the Authority and they are complying with the directions issued by the Authority. As a routine exercise accreditation of 252 ATIs were made inactive due to non-compliance of the guidelines on ATIs and 76 ATIs were suspended for a quarter due to non submission of Form-B in time.

Demand for clarity on GAAR

4231. SHRI SALIM ANSARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Financial Institutions (FIIs) have cautioned Government that there could be disruption in the Capital markets in India if Government does not bring clarity on General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider the various representations received from FIIs and clarify on GAAR in the interest of investors; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir representations have been received in this regard.

(c) The representations have been examined and the following government amendments have been proposed in the provisions relating to General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) contained in the Finance Bill 2012–

(i) to remove the onus of proof from the tax-payer to the Revenue Department before any action can be initiated under GAAR.

‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) to introduce an independent member, not below the rank of Joint Secretary from the Ministry of Law, in the GAAR approving panel to ensure objectivity and transparency.
- (iii) to provide that both resident or non-resident tax-payers can approach the Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) for a ruling as to whether any arrangement to be undertaken is permissible or not under the GAAR provisions.
- (iv) to provide more time to both tax payers and the tax administration to address all related issues, it is proposed to defer the applicability of GAAR provisions by one year *i.e.* with effect from financial year 2013-14.
- (d) Does not arise in light of the above.

Sale of insurance policy by PNB

4232. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Punjab National Bank (PNB) has started insurance business in collaboration with METLIFE;
- (b) if so, the share of PNB in it;
- (c) whether PNB has invested in METLIFE from the corpus of PNB employees PF Fund;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether to achieve insurance target under METLIFE Schemes borrowers are being targeted particularly KCC applicants are pressurized to take METLIFE Policy;
- (f) the number of KCC accounts disbursed after the inception of METLIFE insurance business; and
- (g) the number of policies including amount sold to KCC holder farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Punjab National Bank (PNB) has informed that it is functioning as Corporate Agent of METLIFE for life insurance business. The Bank has not yet acquired any share in METLIFE.

(c) and (d) The PNB has informed that PNB Employees PF Trust Fund has no investment in METLIFE. However, PNB Employees Pension Fund has invested Rs. 129.41 crore in METLIFE.

(e) to (g) The Bank has informed that no borrower is being pressurized to take Met Life Policy. The METLIFE Insurance business has been started from 13.10.2011. The KCC disbursement from 1st October, 2011 to 31st March, 2012 is in 2.78 lac accounts. The Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) guidelines do not require compilation of policy holders' data profession-wise.

Bailout package for Debt Stressed States

4233. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal falls within the category of Debt Stressed State; along with Kerala and Punjab as per F. No. 4(5)/FRU/2004, issued by Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs on 4th August, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken any steps to bailout these Debt Stressed States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) *Vide* office memorandum No. 4(5) /FRU/2004 dated 4th August, 2004, States were advised to obtain concurrence of the Department of Expenditure before availing loan from external agencies. A debt stressed State was defined as one whose ratio of consolidated debt and liabilities to total revenue receipts exceeded 300% (200% in case of special category states). Subsequently, *vide* office memorandum No. 4(5)/FRU/2004 dated 24th October, 2005, States were asked to obtain concurrence of the Department of Expenditure before availing external assistance for structural adjustment loans as also for projects. A debt stressed State was defined as one with interest payments to total revenue receipts ratio higher than 20 percent. A tentative indicative list of debt-stressed States, based on the States' 2004-05 (RE), was annexed to this office memorandum, in which Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal were three of the eleven States included.

(b) to (d) In accordance with the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC), whose award period was 2005-10, the following public debt and interest relief measures have been extended to the States, upon their enactment of the prescribed Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Acts (FRBMA):

- i. Central loans from Ministry of Finance contracted till 31.3.2004 and outstanding as on 31.3.2005, amounting to Rs. 113601.14 crore, were consolidated for a fresh tenure of twenty years from 1.4.2005 at an interest rate of 7.5% per annum, for 26 States that had enacted their FRBMAs.

- ii. Debts owed to the Ministry of Finance, amounting to Rs.19725.81 crore have been waived for States based on their fiscal performance during TFC's award period.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission, the following public debt and interest relief measures have been extended to the States, upon their enactment/amendment of the prescribed FRBMA:

- i. Central loans from Ministry of Finance contracted till 31.3.2004 and outstanding as on 31.3.2010, amounting to Rs. 113.45 crore and Rs.8633.50 crore in respect of the two States, Sikkim and West Bengal respectively, which enacted their FRBMAs in 2010-11, were consolidated for a fresh tenure of twenty years from 1.4.2010 at an interest rate of 7.5% per annum.
- ii. A decision to write-off loans for Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Central Plan Schemes (raised from ministries other than Ministry of Finance) outstanding at the end of 31.3.2010 has been taken. Central loans amounting to Rs.2050 crore have been written off so far.
- iii. Loans contracted by States from the National Small Savings Fund till 2006-07, and outstanding at the end of year preceding the year of amendment/enactment of FRBMA, have been reset at 9% interest rate from the date of amendment/enactment of the FRBMA. Interest relief benefit of Rs.36.08 crore for 2010-11 and Rs.1060.21 crore for 2011-12 has been extended to the States so far.

Insurance penetration in the country

4234. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that insurance and life insurance penetration has fallen in 2010-11 as compared to 2009-10;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps or measures taken to improve the awareness level about insurance policies across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that the total insurance penetration, which is the ratio of insurance premium as a percentage of GDP has increased from 2.32 in 2000-01 to 5.10 in 2010-11. The life insurance penetration has decreased from 4.60 in 2009-10 to 4.40 in 2010-11, whereas the non-life insurance penetration has increased from 0.60 in 2009-10 to 0.71 in 2010-11.

The insurance penetration is impacted by several macro-economic factors such as growth, inflation, interest rates, small savings return and returns of competing financial products offered by banks and mutual funds.

(c) The IRDA undertakes a sustained insurance education campaign under the brand name *Bima Bemisaal*. The campaign seeks to educate the uninsured and the insured about the need for insurance, rights, obligations of policyholders etc. through various media channels viz. print, radio and television. IRDA also supports consumer bodies in conducting seminars and workshops on insurance in various parts of the country in order to create awareness about insurance. The *Bima Bemisaal* campaign is carried out in various Indian languages including Hindi, apart from English. IRDA has also brought out educational material for the public and policyholders. Further, to create awareness, IRDA over the last two years has started conducting yearly seminars exclusively on policyholder protection and welfare that brings together all stakeholders including consumer representatives.

New measures for assessment of PSB performance

4235. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has recently decided to measure the performance of Public Sector Banks across the country by adopting new rules;
- (b) if, so the details thereof;
- (c) whether the level of credit and deposit growth rate parameter have been kept away in measuring performances of Public Sector Banks; and
- (d) if so, to what extent the new parameter adopted by Government to measure performances of Public Sector Banks will impact the functioning of such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (d) Annual targets on parameters under Statement of Intent (SOI) are fixed and performance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) on these parameters is reviewed by the Government. The targets on percentage growth in advances and deposits have been deleted for the year 2011-12. However, the productivity targets of 'advances per employee' and 'deposit per employee' remain in the SOI. The review of performance, therefore, would be based on these productivity parameters in so far as performance of PSBs on 'advances' and 'deposits' is concerned.

Amending bilateral investment treaties

4236. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rattled by threats from foreign companies to drag India to international courts over breach of investment promises, Government has decided to

erase a key clause in bilateral investment treaties that allows for international arbitration in order to protect itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is negotiating with countries to amend the investment treaties so that any supposed violation of an investment promise through Indian Government action can be challenged only in Indian courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

Zero cost option structure

4237. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in July, 2006 an amendment to RBI Act resulted in losses of around Rs. 32,000 crores as per RBI estimates;

(b) the need for such amendment allowing “Zero-cost option structures”;

(c) whether there exists a RBI note providing that this amendment was brought at the behest of authorised forex dealers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it was a case of supervisory failure on the part of RBI actions taken by then Finance Minister; and

(f) the reasons for penalizing only 19 banks in 2011 by RBI just Rs.10-15 lakhs for violating derivatives guidelines where “either 5 lakh or twice the amount involved and whichever is more” clause exist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (e) The amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 had taken place in 2006 by inserting Section 45U. The Section 45U defines ‘Derivatives’ as an instrument comprising among other products - Foreign currency swaps, foreign currency Rupee swaps, foreign currency options or such other instruments as may be specified by the bank from time to time. The amendment to the Act does not specifically refer to Zero Cost Option structure. RBI has, further, informed that as part of the updation of Master Circular on Risk Management and Interbank Dealings in July 2006, it was clarified that Authorised Dealers (ADs) can also undertake Zero Cost Option structures.

RBI has also informed that they do not have the data on estimated losses on foreign exchange derivative trades. However, the data as collected separately from 22 banks for marked to Market (MTM) positions regarding customers for December 2008 was at Rs. 31,719 crores. The above cannot be termed as estimated losses as MTM is basically an accounting concept wherein all outstanding financial contracts are marked to market at fair value. Hence, MTM value is dynamic in nature and changes in line with the market movements and represents the replacement cost of the derivative contracts.

(f) Section 47A of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 provides that penalty may be imposed “where the contravention or default is of the nature referred to in sub-section (4) of Section 46, a penalty not exceeding five lakh rupees or twice the amount involved in such contravention or default where such amount is quantifiable, whichever is more, and where such contravention or default is a continuing one, a further penalty which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees for every day, after the first, during which the contravention or default continues.”

To rationalize the punitive action, the 19 banks were categorised into three groups based on the number of significant contraventions established during the course of the proceedings. Of the 19 banks, six banks that had five or more such contraventions were penalized Rs. 15.00 lakh each, eight banks that had less than five but more than two such contraventions were penalized Rs. 10.00 lakh each and five banks that had two such contraventions were penalized Rs.5.00 lakh each.

Revenue collection from Madhya Pradesh

‡4238. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revenue collected directly or indirectly as central taxes from Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years; and

(b) the allocation made by the Union Government to the State Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The information about state-wise collection of revenue is not maintained.

(b) The allocation made by the Union Government to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh as a State share in Central Taxes during each of the last three years is as under:

‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Allocation made (Rs. In crore)
2009-10	11076.98
2010-11	15638.51
2011-12	18219.13

External debt position of the country

4239. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether country's external debt raised by 9.4 per cent in the past one year;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible for increase in external debt;
- (c) whether Government proposes to restrict its commercial borrowings and short term trade credits; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government on such external debt position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) At end-December 2011, India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 334.9 billion recording an increase of 9.4 per cent over the level of US\$ 306.1 billion at end-March 2011. The rise in external debt is largely attributed to higher commercial borrowings and short term debt.

(c) and (d) India's external debt has remained within manageable limits due to prudent debt management policy that emphasizes raising sovereign loans on concessional terms with longer maturities, regulating external commercial borrowings through end-use and all-in-cost restrictions, rationalizing interest rates on Non Resident Indian (NRI) deposits and monitoring long as well as short-term debt.

ED probes against Bharti Airtel

4240. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Enforcement Directorate (ED) is probing various cases of money laundering etc. against Bharti Airtel Ltd.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any top officer of the company has been questioned or interrogated for FEMA violations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) Directorate of Enforcement is investigating cases

under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) involving M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd. It may not be in the interest of the ongoing investigations to provide any further details.

Formation of Indian Ports Ltd.

4241. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Expenditure has approved the formation of Indian Ports Ltd. (IPL) under the Ministry of Shipping for Overseas investments in ports;

(b) if not, whether it is a fact that such a body had been constituted and started functioning with a few appointments already made; and

(c) if so, the reasons for constituting IPL without approval and stand of the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

Outward FDI by Indian companies

4242. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rising outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by Indian companies;

(b) if so, net outward FDI flows between 2000-01 to 2004-05 and 2005-06 to 2009-10;

(c) the factors responsible for this increase;

(d) whether RBI proposes for close monitoring of outward FDI flows; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) comprising equity, loan and guarantee invoked by Indian parties has increased from US\$ 7210.32 million during 2000-01 to 2004-05 to over US\$ 72037.17 million during 2005-06 to 2009-10.

The increased outward FDI by Indian parties has been primarily driven by resource seeking or market seeking or technology seeking motives. It is also a part of corporate strategy to promote the brand image and utilisation of raw materials available in the host country.

(d) and (e) An Indian party, who complies with the applicable provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Regulations is allowed to make FDI abroad under the general permission. The onus of ensuring/adhering to the terms and conditions of the ODI regulations rests with the Indian Party.

Waiving off commodities Transaction Tax

4243. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representation to waive off commodities Transaction Tax (CTT) on commodity derivative trading; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No Sir, as there is currently no Commodities Transaction Tax (CTT) on commodity derivative trading.

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

Transfer of IT officers

4244. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that officers of income tax deptt. are not transferred at regular intervals thereby creating a vicious nexus which results in corruption, harassment and extortion from income tax assesses;

(b) whether Government is also aware that some officers in IT deptt. in Varanasi have continuously been posted at the same place for more than a decade even after getting promotions regularly;

(c) by when such officers would be transferred and a vigilance or CBI enquiry against them would be initiated; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Transfer/Posting of Group 'A' officers in the IT Department are affected as per the Transfer Placement Guidelines.

(b) No Group 'A' officer has been continuously posted at Varanasi for more than a decade. However, one Group 'B' officer has been retained for a longer period at Varanasi on grounds of being physically handicapped.

(c) and (d) Instructions have been issued to Cadre Controlling Authorities in the regions to transfer the officers periodically within the region.

Depreciation of rupee due to balance of payment deficit

†4245. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has utilized more foreign exchange than its reserves since the collapse of the Lehman Brothers in 2008;

(b) whether there has been a deficit of US \$ 12.8 billion in the balance of payment this year for the very first time against last year's \$ 4 Billion after the above situation;

(c) whether this would result in further depreciation of Rupee now;

(d) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to get out of this situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The current account deficit CAD is financed by capital account surplus and drawdown of foreign exchange reserves when CAD exceeds capital account balance. The details are given below:

Years	Current Account Deficit		Capital Account Balance (inclusive errors & omission)		BoP Overall Balance	Accretion (-)/ Drawdown(+) of Foreign exchange reserve on BoP basis	Foreign Exchange Reserve (at end period)
	US\$ billion	as per cent of GDP	US\$ billion	as per cent of GDP			
2008-09	27.9	2.3	7.8	0.5	(-) 20.1	(+) 20.1	252.0
2009-10	38.2	2.8	51.6	3.8	13.4	(-) 13.4	279.1
2010-11	45.9	2.7	59.0	3.7	13.1	(-) 13.1	304.8
2011-12 (Upto Dec. 2011)	53.6	4.0	46.5	3.5	(-) 7.1	(+) 7.1	296.7

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The main reasons for rupee depreciation are the supply-demand imbalance in the domestic foreign exchange market, mainly due to widening of CAD, slowdown in FII inflows, and heightened risk aversion due to the euro area sovereign debt crisis.

(d) and (e) The current account deficit (CAD) increased to 4.0 per cent of GDP in 2011-12 (upto December 2011) as compared to 3.3 per cent during the same period of 2010-11 due to widening of trade deficit on account of higher imports of POL and gold & silver.

To lower the impact of gold imports on CAD under balance of payment (BoP), Government in the Union Budget 2012-13 has proposed to increase basic custom duty on standard gold bars; gold coins of purity exceeding 99.5 per cent and platinum from 2 per cent to 4 per cent and on non-standard gold from 5 per cent to 10 per cent.

Further, the Reserve Bank of India has taken certain prudential measures in respect of Non-Banking Financing Companies (NBFCs) predominantly engaged in lending against collateral of gold jewellery, to restrict the loans against gold.

Sovereign rating of the country

4246. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that global agency Standard and Poor has warned that India's sovereign rating may come under pressure if the Government fails to arrest rising inflation, widening fiscal deficit and slowdown;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Standard and Poor's (S&P) released its latest research update on India's sovereign credit ratings on 25th April 2012. In this report, S&P has affirmed its BBB (-) long term and A-3 short term sovereign rating on India.

However, S&P has revised the outlook on the long-term ratings on India from Stable to negative. In its report, S&P mentions that the outlook has been revised "to reflect at least a one-in-three likelihood of a downgrade if the external position continues to deteriorate, growth prospects diminish, or progress on fiscal reforms remains slow."

(c) Government is taking a number of measures with a view to reducing the current account deficit, improving growth prospects of the economy, and reducing the fiscal deficit. Government's budget proposal for the fiscal year 2012-13 that has been presented before the Parliament describes many such measures.

In particular, these measures include Government's endeavour to restrict the expenditure on central subsidies to under 2% of GDP in 2012-13 and to further bring it down to 1.75% of GDP in the next three years. In addition, Government has made a determined attempt to come back to the path of fiscal consolidation by reducing the budgeted fiscal deficit to 5.1% of GDP in BE 2012-13 from 5.9% of GDP in RE 2011-12.

Proposal to close-down loss making branches of banks

4247. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a proposal to close-down the loss-making branches of public sector banks;
- (b) if so, whether Government has made any study of such banks including the reasons for making losses etc.; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are governed by their Board driven policies. Expansion or closure of branches of banks is decided by their Board in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the regulator. Recently, the Government has advised Public Sector Banks to firm up strategy for turn-around of their loss-making branches.

Impact of rising interest rate on MSMEs sectors

4248. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that interest rates have been rising the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any assessment of the impact of rising interest rates on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had raised the repo rate by 375 basis points between mid March 2010 and October 2011 as part of the

anti inflationary stance. Taking cues from the policy action by RBI, Banks raised their lending rates leading to increase in interest rates in the economy. Based on the assessment of decline in inflation and deceleration in the growth of the economy, RBI in its Annual Monetary Statement, 2012-13, reduced the repo rate by 50 basis points to 8 per cent on 17th April, 2012 and this move is expected to soften the lending rates by banks.

(c) to (e) High interest rates have an overall impact on the economy including on Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Thus, no separate assessment on the impact of rising interest rates on MSME has been undertaken recently.

Condition for NBFCs for opening their subsidiaries abroad

4249. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India's nod is must for NBFCs to open their subsidiaries abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received so far from such decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued circulars under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and also from regulatory perspective, advising the NBFCs to obtain its prior permission before opening branch / office / joint venture / subsidiary / representative office abroad. Broadly, the following conditions have been prescribed by RBI in this regard:-

(i) Investment in non-financial services sectors shall not be permitted;

(ii) Direct investment in activities prohibited under FEMA or in sectoral funds will not be permitted;

(iii) Aggregate overseas investment should not exceed 100% of the Net Owned Fund (NoF);

(iv) Overseas investment should not involve multi layered, cross jurisdictional structures;

(v) The level of NPA of NBFC should not be more than 5% of the net advances; and

(vi) The NBFC shall comply with the regulation issued FEMA, 1999 from time to time; and shall also comply with the KYC norms.

RBI has also clarified that any permission issued by it in this regard is independent of the approval process of the overseas regulators.

- (c) RBI has given permission to 28 companies to open subsidiaries abroad.

Measures for cutting non-plan expenditure

4250. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the non-plan revenue and capital expenditure is on the rise in the recent times;
- (b) if so, the details of such expenditure during each of the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (c) the steps taken or proposed by Government to cut down such expenditure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the estimated savings to accrue on the implementation of such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The details of non-plan expenditure during the last three years *i.e.* 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 (RE) and 2012-2013 (BE) are as under:

	(₹ in crore)			
	Actuals		RE	BE
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Revenue	657925	726491	815740	865596
Capital	63171	91808	76376	104304
Total	721096	818299	892116	969900
As % of GDP	11.2%	10.7%	10.0%	9.5%

Therefore, while the non plan expenditure has gone up in absolute terms over last three years, however, as a percentage of GDP, it has shown declining trend.

(c) and (d) Government is committed to carry on the process of fiscal consolidation vigorously. In order to adhere to the fiscal targets set in Budget and for better expenditure management, Government has issued orders in May and July, 2011 for enforcing 10% cut on budgetary allocations for holding seminars, workshops and conferences, ban on holding meetings and conferences at 5 star hotels, ban on purchase of vehicles except for the operational requirements of Defence Forces, Central

Paramilitary Forces and security related organisations, restrictions on foreign travel and adhering to the quarterly ceilings under foreign travel expenses, ban on creation of Plan and Non Plan posts, except for new organisations which are set up based on approved schemes, strict discipline in employing consultancy assignments. Fiscal transfers to States, Public Sector Undertakings and Autonomous Bodies at Central/ State/Local level are also required to be monitored strictly for default in furnishing utilisation certificates, fulfilment of conditionalities attached to releases of Plan funds in case of matching funds and adjustment of unspent balances in the current releases.

(e) Steps have been taken for greater fiscal discipline and may not be quantifiable.

Liquidity crunch at banks

4251. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the banks in the country are facing a liquidity crunch even after the RBI cutting CRR;

(b) if, so the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the RBI and Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that liquidity conditions remained in a deficit mode throughout 2011-12. RBI reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 125 basis points (50 basis points effective January 28, 2012 and 75 basis points effective March 10, 2012), injecting primary liquidity of about Rs. 0.8 trillion. The reduction in CRR was undertaken in order to mitigate tight liquidity conditions and to ensure smooth flow of credit to productive sectors of the economy. This along with the open market operations conducted by the Reserve Bank (of about 1.3 trillion) combined with decline in government cash balances have resulted in an improvement in the liquidity conditions. Resultantly, the net injection of liquidity under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), which had peaked at Rs 2.0 trillion on March 30, 2012, declined to about Rs.1.2 trillion on May 10, 2012.

(c) RBI has informed that they have been constantly monitoring the situation and has initiated prompt corrective action from time to time. RBI has taken the following measures to manage banking system liquidity:

(i) RBI has ensured that adequate liquidity is injected on a daily basis by accepting all bids on the LAF window (RBI can use discretion in terms of the amount of injection under daily (LAF). RBI has taken care of the

liquidity stress arising from advance tax outflows. For instance, with a view to providing flexibility to SCBs in their liquidity management, the Reserve Bank conducted additional repo operations under LAF on December 16, 2011. Similarly, additional repo operations under LAF were conducted on March 30 and March 31, 2012.

- (ii) RBI began to inject durable liquidity in the system, through outright open market operation (OMO) purchases effective from November 24, 2011. An amount of around Rs. 1,29,252 crore has been injected under OMOs during this year so far (till March 30, 2012).
- (iii) RBI decided on December 21, 2011 to permit banks to avail funds on overnight basis, under the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), against their excess SLR holdings, in addition to the existing facility where they are already allowed to avail themselves of funds, up to one per cent of their respective net demand and time liabilities (NDTL).
- (iv) The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was reduced by 50 bps with effect from January 28, 2012 and further by another 75 bps with effect from March 10, 2012, thereby injecting primary liquidity to the extent of Rs. 80,000 crore.
- (v) In response to suggestions from some of the market participants and with a view to providing flexibility to market participants in their liquidity management, it was decided to re-introduce additional Repo under LAF (Second LAF Repo) on reporting Fridays, with effect from February 10, 2012.

RBI has informed that they have always proactively managed the evolving liquidity conditions effectively, by meeting the liquidity needs in the system.

Disinvestment in profit making PSUs

4252. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government is aware that U.K. based Children's Investment Fund (TCI), a minority shareholder of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is threatening legal action against CIL;
- (b) The present shareholding of such minority foreign investors in PSUs other than CIL;
- (c) whether such threats are undermining Executive/Parliament control over PSUs;

(d) if so, whether Government will desist from disinvestment in profit making PSUs; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Government of India has received correspondence from the management of the Children Investment Fund alleging breach of provisions of Bilateral Investment Protection Treaties (BIPA), between Government of India and Government of Cyprus and United Kingdom.

(b) The foreign, equity shareholding in PSUs other than CIL as on 31st March, 2011 is given in Statement. (*See below*)

(c) No sir. Grievances, if any, of minority shareholders' are handled as per the existing legal provisions.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement

The foreign equity Shareholders in PSUs other than CIL

Sl. No.	Name of the CPSEs	Shareholding pattern (Foreign Equity) (Rs. in lakh)	% of Share
1	2	3	4
1	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	44	2.70
2	Balmer Lawrie Investments Ltd.	49	2.21
3	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	535	12.81
4	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	433	5.41
5	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	6317	12.90
6	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	2526	6.99
7	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	2918	19.58
8	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	3538	27.22
9	Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.	52	1.86
10	Eastern Investment Ltd.	1	0.69
11	Engineers India Ltd.	1109	6.58

1	2	3	4
12	GAIL (India) Ltd.	17045	13.44
13	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	3	0.01
14	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	20	1.02
15	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	2972	8.77
16	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	4152	25.61
17	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	7193	11.42
18	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	463	2.76
19	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	5812	4.51
20	National Fertilizers Ltd.	6	0.01
21	Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	392	0.23
22	NHPC Ltd.	23235	1.89
23	NTPC Ltd.	29121	3.53
24	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	19260	4.50
25	Power Finance Corporation	4150	3.62
26	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	60390	13.04
27	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	36	0.07
28	Rural Electrification Corpn. Ltd.	20582	20.84
29	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	1311	2.81
30	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	17637	4.27
TOTAL		231302	

Under-five malnourished children

4253. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY :

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 42 per cent of children below the age of five are malnourished;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to mitigate this problem; and

- (c) the details of malnourished children, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) Report 2005-06. 42.5% children under five were underweight.

(b) Government has been taking the following measures to improve nutritional status of the children in the country:-

1. Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges was set up in October, 2008 for policy direction, review & effective coordination between Ministries which all will have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of Nutrition.
2. A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government.
3. Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:
 - Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding.
 - Promotion of ORS with zinc supplementation for a period of two weeks during the diarrhea management.
 - Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.
 - Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.
 - Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A, Iron & Folic Acid. Vitamin A supplementation for children till the age of 5 years. Iron & Folic Acid syrup to children from the age of 6 months to 5 years.
 - National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) for promotion of adequately iodated salt consumption at household level.
4. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS).
5. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY).
6. Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution System.

7. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification is being encouraged under both Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

(c) State-wise percent of underweight children is as follows:

State	% of underweight children (6-59 months)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	32.5
Assam	36.4
Arunachal Pradesh	32.5
Bihar	55.9
Chhattisgarh	47.1
Delhi	26.1
Goa	25.0
Gujarat	44.6
Haryana	39.6
Himachal Pradesh	36.5
J and K	25.6
Jharkhand	56.5
Karnataka	37.5
Kerala	22.9
Madhya Pradesh	60.0
Maharashtra	37.0
Manipur	22.1
Meghalaya	48.8
Mizoram	19.9
Nagaland	25.2
Orissa	40.7
Punjab	24.9
Rajasthan	39.9

1	2
Sikkim	19.7
Tamil Nadu	29.8
Tripura	39.6
Uttar Pradesh	42.4
Uttrakhand	38.0
West Bengal	38.7
India	42.5

Recruitment of ASHA group coordinators

‡4254. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has started the recruitment process for the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in order to create the posts of ASHA group coordinators at the State level under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some State Governments including Maharashtra have abolished the posts of ASHA group coordinators;
- (d) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) if not, the reasons for not issuing the appointment letters to the persons selected for the above mentioned posts; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) No. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the selection of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) is carried out by the State Government. The States, including the State of Maharashtra, have been supported through State Programme Implementation Plan for Selection, Training and for creation of ASHA support structure. As part of strengthening of ASHA support structure and to monitor the work of ASHAs States are encouraged selections of ASHA coordinators / ASHA facilitators.

(c) and (d) ASHA coordinators are engaged as per the requirement projected by the States, including the State of Maharashtra, in the State Programme

‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Implementation Plan (PIP) which is considered and approved by GoI based on the recommendations of National Programme Coordination Committee. As per information received from Government of Maharashtra, 2356 ASHA Block facilitators have been engaged so far.

(e) and (f) Public Health, being a State subject, the matters regarding selection, training etc of ASHA coordinators/ASHA facilitators are done at the level of State Governments. As per information from Government of Maharashtra, no appointment orders of ASHA Block facilitators are pending to be issued.

Mandatory re-registration of medical practitioners

4255. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry for mandatory re-registration of medical practitioners to enhance their professional skills;
- (b) by when Government will issued any directives in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken up this matter with State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NASI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Ministry, after holding consultations with State Governments and other stakeholders, has introduced the National Commission for Human Resources for Health (NCHRH) Bill in the Rajya Sabha. NCHRH will be an overarching regulatory body for medical education and allied health sciences with the dual purpose of reforming the current regulatory framework and enhancing the supply of skilled manpower in the health sector. The NCHRH Bill also envisages updation of professional knowledge and skill of medical professionals by making it mandatory for them to attend seminars, conferences, workshops or any other programme of minimum standard for re-registration in a periodic manner.

Proper implementation of NRHM

4256. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is conducting National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in various States with a view to improve rural health;
- (b) if so, the details of the programmes under it, State-wise:

- (c) whether NRHM has any targeted beneficiaries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Ministry has received many complaints from a number of States that the programme could not be properly implemented due to bad infrastructures; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof with a list of works that had been undertaken for proper implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) Yes. Government launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005 with a view to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable sections. The programmes covered under the Mission include Reproductive and Child Health Programmes, various Communicable Disease Control Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness, Iodine Deficiency Diseases Control Programme and Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. All these programmes are implemented in all States/UTs.

(c) and (d) The NRHM is targeted primarily for the rural population of the country. Further, with a view to reduce maternal and child mortality, special focus has been given under NRHM to pregnant women and children from both rural and urban areas through various programmes/initiatives in Reproductive and Child Health Programmes which include Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Immunization Programmes, Family Planning Programmes etc.

(e) No such complaints received. In fact, NRHM also aims at health systems strengthening and provides funding for infrastructure and Human Resources among others.

(f) In view of the reply at (e) above, the question does not arise.

Use of toxic preservatives in food items

4257. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the use of highly toxic chemicals and preserving agents for preserving food items for long term;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ill effects on human body by these materials have been studied;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures in place for preventing this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) The accepted and tolerable limits of metal contaminants, pesticides etc. are prescribed under Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

(c) and (d) The Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) a joint WHO- FAO Expert Group, has assessed detailed risk assessments based on which, harmful effects, safe limits, margins of safety, acceptable daily intakes of all the permitted additives and preservatives are arrived at.

(e) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India issues advisories to all States/U.Ts to collect food samples for testing them for the presence of contaminants, residues and toxins including toxic chemicals (pesticide residues, heavy metals, crop contaminants).

Life-style related diseases amongst children

4258. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI :
SHRI N.K. SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of schools going children are suffering from life-style related diseases, particularly diabetes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any school health programme and also launched diabetic screening scheme for the school children across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with their status of implementation in various States?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes. Several studies have contributed to overwhelming evidence that indicates the increase in type 2 diabetes amongst children and adolescents. Major risk factors of diabetes are un-healthy diet, obesity and lack of physical exercise.

(c) and (d) The School Health Programme (SHP) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) as the public sector programme specifically focused on school

going children and adolescents in the 6-18 years age group enrolled in Government and Government aided schools is already in place.

The SHP was launched to address the health needs of school going children. The Program at the National level has been developed to provide uniformity / guidance in implementation of operational framework for State initiatives. The National School Health Programme includes biannual health service provision through screening, health care and referral for disease, deficiency and disability. The main focus is to address the health needs of children, both physical and mental, and in addition, it provides for nutrition interventions, physical activities and counselling. Identified children, who require further service support, are connected with secondary and tertiary facilities within Public Health Infrastructure. Weekly supervised provisions of Iron-Folic acid tablets and biannual deworming is included.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI has also initiated a school-based screening program for diabetes on pilot basis in six Districts namely Nainital (Uttarakhand), Theni (Tamil Nadu), Nellore (Andhra Pradesh), Dibrugarh (Assam), Bhilwara (Rajasthan), Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh). Fund to each district has been released for the purpose. The screening is primarily focused on school children of 1st to 10th standards in the age group of 5 to 15 years. The screening programme is in progress in the above cited 6 Districts.

Setting up of new medical colleges

4259. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA :
SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals to set up new medical colleges and starting of new post graduate medical courses, increase of seats in existing medical colleges and increasing seats in post-graduate medical courses in Gujarat which are pending with the Medical Council of India (MCI) as on date; and

(b) by when these proposals will be approved by the MCI?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Medical Council of India, 03 applications each for establishment of new medical colleges and increase of MBBS seats in existing medical colleges in Gujarat have been received. The last date for grant of permission is 15th June, 2012 for the academic year 2012-13. The applications received for starting/increase of postgraduate broad speciality courses for the academic year 2012-13 are not pending with the MCI.

Hike in wages of ASHA workers

4260. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that the wages being paid to ASHA workers working throughout the country is not sufficient;
- (b) if so, whether any hike in wages is under consideration; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) ASHA being a Community Health Volunteer are not paid regular wages. However, ASHAs are being given performance based incentives for carrying out various activities under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for the services rendered by her under programme.

- (b) and (c) in view of (a), question does not arise.

Special package for combating encephalitis

4261. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that encephalitis is fast catching up with children in the country;
- (b) if so, the status of this disease, UT/ State-wise;
- (c) whether it is proposed to give special package to such regions that are fast catching up this disease to help them out;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the action plan to overcome this menace especially in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) State/UTs -wise details of reported cases of Japanese Encephalitis/ Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (JE/AES) are given in Statement. (*See below*)

(c) and (d) Government of India (GOI) constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) in November, 2011 to evolve a multi-pronged strategy to address multiple issues relating to Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (JE/AES). GoM held 4 meetings and finalized its recommendations pertaining to public health interventions, expansion of JE vaccination, improved case management, medical and social rehabilitation, improved provisions of drinking water and sanitation in rural and urban areas and

improved nutrition. The GoM recommendations have been submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat.

(e) Government of India is implementing an integrated National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases including JE under the overarching umbrella of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the country including Odisha. The various measures undertaken for prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis are integrated vector control, vaccination, early case detection, appropriate treatment, disease & vector surveillance, Behavior Change Communication (BCC) activities and capacity building.

Statement

State/UTs-wise reported JE/AES cases during the last 3 years

Sl. No.	Affected States/ UTs %	2009 Cases	2010 Cases	2011 (Provisional) Cases
1	Andhra Pradesh	49	139	73
2	Assam	462	469	1319
3	Bihar	325	50	821
4	Delhi	0	0	9
5	Goa	66	80	91
6	Haryana	13	1	90
7	Jharkhand	0	18	303
8	Karnataka	245	143	397
9	Kerala	3	19	88
10	Maharashtra	5	34	35
11	Manipur	6	118	11
12	Punjab	0	2	0
13	Tamil Nadu	265	466	762
14	Uttarakhand	0	7	0
15	Uttar Pradesh	3073	3540	3492
16	West Bengal	0	70	714
17	Nagaland	9	11	44
	TOTAL	4521	5167	8249

Promotion to School Health Programme

4262. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to promote School Health Programme all over the country in Government schools and Government-aided schools; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) The School Health Program (SHP) already exists under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and caters to school going children enrolled in Government and Government - aided schools.

(b) The National School Health Programme includes screening, health care and referral where necessary for disease, Deficiency and Disability so as to comprehensively address the health needs of children. Identified children, who require further service support, are connected with secondary and tertiary facilities within Public Health Infrastructure.

Weekly supervised provisions of Iron-Folic acid tablets for adolescent children and biannual deworming is also included in the programme.

PPP projects in CGHS

4263. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has appointed any agency house to carry-out projects under Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS); and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes.

(b) Two projects are in operation in CGHS under PPP Model, the details of which are as under: -

- (1) Dialysis Centres: CGHS and Alliance Medicorp (India) Limited, a joint venture Company of Apollo Health and Life Style Limited have jointly set up a stand-alone dialysis unit as a pilot project in CGHS dispensary at Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi, to provide dialysis facilities for CGHS beneficiaries. The Stand-alone dialysis unit has started functioning from 6th September, 2010.

- (2) Dental Care Services at 13 Wellness Centres (5 in Central Zone 8 in South Zone) in collaboration with a Private Health Care Institute, namely M/s. Forsan Health Care Private Limited, for providing 22 dental procedures.

Deaths due to water pollution

4264. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of deaths due to water pollution in the country. State-wise, during last five years;
- (b) the observations of WHO in this regard;
- (c) the programmes being run by Government to prevent water borne diseases; and
- (d) the details of achievements made thereof, programme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Drinking of polluted water may cause Water Borne Diseases such as Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases, Viral Hepatitis and Typhoid (Enteric Fever). State-wise number of deaths reported due to Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases, Viral Hepatitis and Typhoid (Enteric Fever) during the years 2007-2011 are given in Statement-I to IV. (*See below*)

(b) As per WHO publication “Global Health Risks - mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks”, inadequate sanitation, hygiene or access to water increase the incidence of diarrhoeal diseases. Most diarrhoeal deaths in the world (88%) are caused by unsafe water, sanitation or hygiene.

(c) and (d) Provision of safe drinking water is the main strategy to prevent water borne diseases. Responsibility for providing safe drinking water primarily lies with the State Governments. As reported by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the Ministry supplements efforts of the states by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. Upto 62% of the NRDWP funds allocated to states can be utilized for provision of drinking water facilities to habitation with water quality problems in rural areas of the country.

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issues technical guidelines from time to time to State Governments on prevention and control of water borne diseases and helps them in carrying out investigation of outbreaks of such diseases under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project

(IDSP). Under IDSP, the districts and States have been strengthened by providing additional manpower, training of identified Rapid Response Team (RRT) members for outbreak investigations and strengthening of laboratories for detection of epidemic prone diseases. Surveillance units have been established in all States/Districts. Training of State/District Surveillance Teams and Rapid Response Teams has been completed in all states. 90% of districts report weekly surveillance data on epidemic prone diseases including water borne diseases.

Statement - I

State-wise number of reported deaths due to Cholera reported during the years 2007 - 2011

Sl. No.	State/UT	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	4	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	NR	0	0	0
4	Bihar	NR	NR	0	NR	NR
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	0	0	0	1	0
8	Haryana	0	0	1	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	3	0
11	Jharkhand	NR	NR	NR	NR	0
12	Karnataka	2	1	0	3	0
13	Kerala	1	0	2	0	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	4	0	0
15	Maharashtra	0	0	1	1	2
16	Manipur	0	NR	NR	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0	NR	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20	Orissa	0	NR	NR	0	0
21	Punjab	0	0	0	1	0
22	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	2
25	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
26	Uttarakhand	0	0	NR	NR	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
29	A and N Islands	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	NR	0
31	D and N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
32	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	0	0	NR	0	0
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
35	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		3	1	12	9	5

Source: National Health Profile issued by CBHI, Dte.GHS.

Notes: 1. Data for the years 2007 and 2011 are provisional.

2. NR means Not Reported

Statement - II

State-wise number of reported deaths due to Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases reported during the years 2007 - 2011

Sl. No.	State/UT	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	198	16	111	214	99
2	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	2	7	3	7
3	Assam	911	745	0	0	16
4	Bihar	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	Chhattisgarh	11	37	11	2	5
6	Goa	0	1	0	5	2
7	Gujarat	3	2	3	3	0
8	Haryana	30	46	33	43	19
9	Himachal Pradesh	33	17	24	28	51
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	4	5	5	0
11	Jharkhand	6	4	5	0	0
12	Karnataka	80	84	81	62	49
13	Kerala	12	1	4	2	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	302	148	134	107	87
15	Maharashtra	199	401	39	12	4
16	Manipur	16	4	9	12	39
17	Meghalaya	60	39	24	16	14
18	Mizoram	10	41	17	12	11
19	Nagaland	6	0	0	0	1
20	Orissa	68	76	91	104	83
21	Punjab	84	31	51	39	14
22	Rajasthan	38	41	27	11	7
23	Sikkim	9	3	6	2	2
24	Tamil Nadu	140	16	18	49	30
25	Tripura	19	39	33	88	83
26	Uttarakhand	18	29	70	42	24
27	Uttar Pradesh	137	107	159	164	185
28	West Bengal	1118	829	725	398	288
29	A and N Islands	4	0	0	8	0
30	Chandigarh	7	NR	7	NR	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31	D and N Haveli	3	1	0	1	1
32	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	70	86	107	89	62
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	1	0	0
35	Pondicherry	11	15	16	5	3
TOTAL		3603	2865	1818	1526	1186

Source: National Health Profile issued by CBHI, Dte.GHS.

Note: 1. Data for the years 2010 and 2011 are provisional.

2. NR-Not Reported

Statement - III

State-wise number of reported deaths due to Viral Hepatitis reported during the years 2007 -2011

Sl. No.	State/UT	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	47	71	53	60	61
2	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	0	2	6	5
3	Assam	0	0	0	0	25
4	Bihar	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
5	Chhattisgarh	0	1	13	4	1
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	7	3	99	0	0
8	Haryana	2	5	4	4	2
9	Himachal Pradesh	4	7	5	13	10
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	2
11	Jharkhand	1	3	4	0	0
12	Karnataka	30	25	19	16	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	Kerala	14	24	13	6	8
14	Madhya Pradesh	18	42	17	15	12
15	Maharashtra	59	34	30	36	29
16	Manipur	2	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	2	1	3
18	Mizoram	8	11	7	12	14
19	Nagaland	1	0	0	0	0
20	Orissa	18	30	82	62	56
21	Punjab	15	10	7	21	12
22	Rajasthan	16	8	2	1	0
23	Sikkim	7	2	3	2	0
24	Tamil Nadu	41	13	1	3	0
25	Tripura	3	5	3	8	0
26	Uttarakhand	18	15	17	12	17
27	Uttar Pradesh	20	12	19	9	28
28	West Bengal	104	128	121	68	105
29	A and N Islands	3	1	2	6	5
30	Chandigarh	34	NR	2	NR	0
31	D and N Haveli	0	2	0	2	0
32	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	59	62	40	61	68
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	1
35	Pondicherry	13	22	33	2	12
TOTAL		544	536	600	430	484

Source: National Health Profile issued by CBHI, Dte.GHS.

Note: 1. Data for the years 2010 and 2011 are provisional.

2. NR-Not Reported

Statement - IV

State-wise number of reported deaths due to Typhoid (Enteric Fever) reported during the years 2007-2011

Sl. No.	State/UT	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	18	17	8	5	7
2	Arunachal Pradesh	NR	1	23	10	8
3	Assam	37	75	0	0	5
4	Bihar	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	5	0	0
6	Goa	0	1	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	1	0	1	0	0
8	Haryana	1	1	31	2	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	2	4	3	2
10	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	1	0
11	Jharkhand	0	5	10	0	0
12	Karnataka	5	16	11	6	2
13	Kerala	4	5	2	1	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	38	37	39	25	18
15	Maharashtra	14	8	12	0	1
16	Manipur	1	1	3	0	7
17	Meghalaya	2	0	0	1	1
18	Mizoram	2	9	4	0	1
19	Nagaland	5	0	0	0	2
20	Orissa	22	32	33	29	85
21	Punjab	6	4	1	6	9
22	Rajasthan	0	8	0	0	0
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	Tamil Nadu	128	1	1	51	0
25	Tripura	4	4	1	5	0
26	Uttarakhand	0	0	49	2	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	53	31	72	158	80
28	West Bengal	82	74	78	74	34
29	A and N Islands	1	0	0	1	1
30	Chandigarh	3	NR	0	NR	0
31	D and N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
32	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
33	Delhi	24	32	47	60	55
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
35	Pondicherry	1	2	1	0	0
TOTAL		452	366	436	440	320

Source: National Health Profile issued by CBHI, Dte.GHS.

Note: 1. Data for the years 2010 and 2011 are provisional.

2. NR-Not Reported

Misleading labels on food packages

4265. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been several instances where labeling on food packages have been misleading;

(b) if so, the number of violations reported and action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government has communicated such issues to food companies and manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BAND YOPADHYAY) : (a) to (d) There have been some cases of misleading labeling of food packages reported by Media cell of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), consumers and stakeholders. Based on that, FSSAI has issued notices to 20 manufacturers.

Shortage of specialist doctors

4266. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year the country is producing around 500 specialist doctors;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that even then the country is in need of 6 lakh doctors, 10 lakh nurses and 2 lakh dental surgeons more;

(c) whether Government has taken any step to produce specialized medical persons in pre and para-clinical disciplines like anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, forensic and community medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD) (a) As per information available, the number of postgraduate medical seats in the country in 2009-10 was 14,470 which has increased to 22,194 in 2012-13.

(b) The Government is aware of shortage of availability of doctors and nurses in the country.

(c) and (d) In order to produce specialized medical persons in pre and para-clinical disciplines like, Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Bio-Chemistry, Forensic and Community medicine, the Medical Council of India (MCI), with the prior approval of the Central Government, has amended Establishment of Medical College Regulations providing that the medical colleges which are not yet recognized for award of MBBS degree are also eligible to apply for starting postgraduate courses in such disciplines at the time of 3rd renewal.

Recommendation of expert group on universal healthcare

4267. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recommendation of the High Level Expert Group on Universal Healthcare to increase public spending on drug procurement to 0.5 per cent of the GDP and provide free essential medicine to all;

(b) if so, the measures which have been initiated to give effect to this recommendation; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to bring under the regime of drug price control more number of essential drugs which were deregulated in the first flush of new liberal economic reform in the early nineties of the last century to enable the poor and impoverished persons to afford such medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) Yes. The High Level Expert Group on Universal Healthcare has recommended that the availability of free essential medicines should be ensured by increasing public spending on drug procurement from 0.1% to 0.5% of GDP to ensure universal access to essential drugs.

(c) No decision has been taken so far by the Government on the recommendations of the HLEG.

(d) Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) in which it has been proposed to bring the prices of 348 drugs in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)-2011, which is based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and associated medicines under price control. The views/comments received on the draft NPPP-2011 have been examined and the issue of price control of NLEM-2011 has been placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM).

Male-female sex ratio

4268. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has outlined any comprehensive long term policy to improve declining male-female sex ratio in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of those measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry is committed to strengthen effective implementation of the PC&PNDT Act to address the declining male female sex ration in the country. The drive to curb sex determination has been intensified through effective implementation of the PC&PNDT Act as per details mentioned below:

- I. Central Supervisory Board (CSB) under the PNDT Act has been reconstituted. The 17th and 18th meetings of CSB have been held at an interval of six months on 4th June, 2011 and 14th January 2012.
- II. Inspections by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee have been scaled up. NIMC has been reconstituted and apart from inspections further empowered to oversee follow-up action by Appropriate Authorities against organizations found guilty of violations under the Act during inspections.

- III. Government of India has notified important amendments in rules under the Act, including :-
- Amendment to Rule 11 (2) of the PC & PNDT Rules, 1996 to provide for confiscation of unregistered machines and further punishment under the Act
 - Amendment to regulate the use of portable ultrasound equipment and services offered by mobile genetic clinics.
- IV. 17 states with the most skewed child sex ratio have been identified for concerted attention. A meeting of Health Secretaries of these States was first convened on 20th April 2011, followed by several review meetings.
- V. Operational guidelines for Grant in Aid to Non-Governmental Organizations have been revised to ensure targeted use of resources for awareness generation of the Act.
- VI. States have been asked to take advantage of funding available under NRHM for strengthening infrastructure and augmentation of human resources required for effective implementation of the PC & PNDT Act.

Besides above, to bring about change in mindset of gender discrimination in society, support is being provided for BCC campaign in State's PIPs under NRHM.

Cancer with gastric origin

†4269. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to a report by the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital, more people die in cases of cancer caused due to gastric problems in this country which is prevalent in majority of the people;
- (b) if so, whether Government will make people more and more aware of this fact and the measures and precautions to be taken to prevent this; and
- (c) the number of people succumbed to this type of cancer in the country during the last three years and the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) ; (a) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), as per paper published by Tata Memorial Hospital

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Researchers, the second most common fatal Cancer among men and women, in the age group of 30-69 years, is stomach Cancer.

(b) Health is a State Subject and the Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by focusing on early detection of Cancer, health education, creating awareness through print and electronic media.

(c) Exact data regarding incidence of Cancer and deaths therefrom is not centrally maintained. However, as per information collected by Population Based Cancer Registry functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR, the estimated number of deaths due to stomach Cancer for the last three years, State/ UT-wise is given in Statement.

Statement

Estimated number of Cancer deaths due to Stomach Cancer (2009-2011)

Sl.No.	States	Year		
		2009	2010	2011
1	2	3	4	5
1	Jammu and Kashmir	242	247	252
2	Himachal Pradesh	133	135	137
3	Punjab	541	549	555
4	Chandigarh	20	21	21
5	Uttaranchal	195	199	202
6	Haryana	492	501	511
7	Delhi	146	149	152
8	Rajasthan	1323	1348	1374
9	Uttar Pradesh	3860	3931	4004
10	Bihar	1992	2038	2084
11	Sikkim	25	26	26
12	Arunachal Pradesh	27	27	28
13	Nagaland	39	39	39
14	Manipur	70	71	72

1	2	3	4	5
15	Mizoram	125	127	130
16	Tripura	71	72	73
17	Meghalaya	56	57	60
18	Assam	794	806	817
19	West Bengal	1777	1799	1823
20	Jharkhand	634	646	660
21	Orissa	814	824	835
22	Chhattisgarh	489	500	509
23	Madhya Pradesh	585	595	607
24	Gujarat	1168	1189	1210
25	Daman and Diu	4	5	6
26	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	7	8
27	Maharashtra	2182	2215	2249
28	Andhra Pradesh	1646	1664	1683
29	Karnataka	955	969	984
30	Goa	28	29	29
31	Lakshadweep	2	2	2
32	Kerala	641	650	661
33	Tamil Nadu	3476	3525	3578
34	Pondicherry	23	24	24
35	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	8	8
TOTAL		24589	24994	25413

*Based on the data of NCRP (2006-08) and using M/I ratio of Mumbai PBCR.

Special incentive scheme for ASHA workers

4270. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared special incentive scheme for Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers involved in the population and birth rate control programme in rural areas; and

(b) whether Government has included ASHA workers working under NRHM in any social security or health care insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), ASHAs have been selected and engaged as community health volunteer to act as a link between community and health care facilities. Performance based monetary incentives are paid to ASHAs to undertake a set of approved activities under NRHM. Government has decided to use the services of ASHAs for counseling eligible couples for ensuring healthy spacing between births and to incentivize them for this activity.

(b) No.

Recommendations on universal health coverage

4271. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government appointed expert group for developing a plan to ensure universal health coverage has presented its recommendations to the National Advisory Council (NAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expert group has proposed substantial increase in spending on healthcare and providing free life saving medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and stance of Government on the recommendations of the expert group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) Yes. In the 19th meeting of the National Advisory Council held on 21.03.2012 under the chairpersonship of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, a presentation was made by Prof. K.Srinath Reddy, Chairman of the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) constituted by the Planning commission on Universal Health Coverage on the salient features of the Report of the HLEG for the information of the NAC.

(c) and (d) Yes. The HLEG has recommended that the Government should increase public expenditure on health from the current level of about 1.2% of GDP to at least 2.5% by the end of the 12th plan and to at least 3% of the GDP by 2022. It has

also recommended that availability of free essential medicines should be ensured by increasing public spending on drug procurement. The full report may be seen at:

http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/rep_uhc0812.pdf

No decision has been taken so far by the Government on the recommendations of the HLEG.

Financial assistance for Arogyasri Healthcare Insurance Scheme

4272. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested his Ministry in June, 2009 for Central assistance of 300 crores for expanding the coverage area of States under the ongoing Arogyasri Healthcare Insurance Scheme for the benefit of BPL families;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the amount of assistance released so far on this request; and

(d) by when the remaining amount, if any, is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted a proposal for financial assistance of Rs. 307 crore for implementation of the Rajiv Arogyasri Health Insurance Scheme for the benefit of BPL families.

Planning Commission was of the view that the Rajiv Arogyasri Scheme needed a comprehensive review and evaluation by an independent organization. Accordingly the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) had been entrusted with this task. The PHFI in its critical evaluation have not supported the adoption of the route of insurance for healthcare for BPL families. The Planning Commission is also not supportive of such a grant.

This Ministry is of the view that since Arogyasri Scheme deals with tertiary care and is not in consonance with the objectives of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which focuses on primary and secondary health care, the funding would not be possible from the NRHM. However, this Ministry does not have any objection to the scheme if the expenditure on it, is met through the State Government.

(c) and (d) The Central Government had received proposals regarding 'Arogyasri programme from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the PIPs under National Rural Health Mission for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. After

appraisal by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) of the NRHM, the Government of India had approved a token grant of Rs. 10 crore during 2007-08 and 2008-09. However, no grants were approved during 2009-10.

Misuse of NRHM funds

4273. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the details of funds utilized by the States, year-wise, during the last three years;
- (c) whether some complaints have been received by Government regarding misuse of funds under the scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details of action Government has taken/proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the Allocation, Release and funds utilized State-wise and year-wise under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) during the last three Financial Years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 is given in Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The complaints regarding irregularities in the implementation of the NRHM have been received from the States of Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu. & Kashmir, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Health being a State subject, its implementation and monitoring primarily rests with the State Governments. Complaints received from time to time are sent to the States for investigation and to initiate action against the guilty in case allegations are found true.

Statement
Statewise Allocation, Release and Expenditure under NRHM for F.Ys. 2009-10 to 2011-12

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	2009-10			2010-11			2011-12		
		Allocation	Release	Exp.	Allocation	Release	Exp.	Allocation	Release	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16.82	8.23	20.11	20.28	15.84	17.66	22.64	8.85	14.35
2	Andhra Pradesh	717.30	708.32	764.91	816.11	610.23	693.92	931.81	934.11	522.71
3	Arunachal Pradesh	51.14	57.32	66.16	66.67	73.76	78.64	56.02	75.62	64.08
4	Assam	906.72	813.93	763.71	894.01	736.45	1093.37	851.35	877.39	577.36
5	Bihar	860.29	649.71	826.20	977.40	1035.18	1454.98	1122.10	787.28	700.18
6	Chandigarh	9.86	7.59	8.25	11.20	6.91	9.25	11.72	8.69	7.37
7	Chhattisgarh	292.01	261.65	240.41	345.76	327.24	308.60	392.54	421.53	308.17
8	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	4.27	3.27	4.62	4.77	6.30	5.58	5.92	4.81	4.16
9	Daman and Diu	3.51	2.33	3.46	3.92	3.06	3.96	4.98	2.57	3.33
10	Delhi	121.25	83.03	75.89	136.74	108.48	90.13	145.27	102.36	62.65
11	Goa	12.90	12.43	18.59	16.68	17.21	18.37	20.47	19.88	20.62
12	Gujarat	464.90	500.55	634.27	528.69	556.79	722.26	600.61	620.98	367.24
13	Haryana	179.72	206.17	336.78	203.94	219.69	287.78	233.52	297.34	185.45
14	Himachal Pradesh	97.07	115.41	167.81	110.68	113.22	164.74	123.89	197.20	106.35
15	Jammu and Kashmir	134.94	130.34	155.59	153.87	173.80	210.76	175.54	252.48	175.36
16	Jharkhand	349.39	179.34	195.45	398.78	356.90	381.09	458.88	467.46	265.18
17	Karnataka	505.17	436.86	680.84	551.80	586.38	700.62	612.69	672.66	444.41
18	Kerala	284.34	237.62	385.19	308.59	253.41	385.95	345.37	582.51	300.94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19	Lakshadweep	2.09	1.09	2.86	2.28	2.54	3.44	3.99	1.62	2.95	
20	Madhya Pradesh	705.88	604.79	741.28	766.66	784.40	996.80	870.33	959.47	657.93	
21	Maharashtra	860.39	959.72	1044.71	981.28	903.36	1271.53	1078.51	1309.24	838.19	
22	Manipur	90.09	81.45	64.11	98.67	67.98	68.21	88.45	61.29	49.92	
23	Meghalaya	85.75	79.78	75.13	88.95	52.50	91.99	94.25	62.31	69.55	
24	Mizoram	50.72	49.87	58.66	62.15	70.49	77.33	63.46	67.13	40.58	
25	Nagaland	78.30	73.87	64.26	82.47	66.40	81.84	83.31	88.00	61.39	
26	Orissa	457.57	470.18	646.74	494.09	549.44	664.37	568.53	693.89	447.11	
27	Puducherry	11.32	12.04	13.34	13.94	16.32	17.36	15.17	15.83	13.69	
28	Punjab	209.58	359.53	241.41	246.77	252.81	339.34	276.56	336.45	228.39	
29	Rajasthan	633.19	748.96	1001.74	743.41	863.97	1172.06	824.17	1045.55	656.41	
30	Sikkim	26.73	25.80	35.73	35.54	32.94	33.45	34.01	27.07	23.98	
31	Tamil Nadu	568.68	639.10	691.93	659.92	702.09	825.22	765.42	774.89	654.87	
32	Tripura	125.20	111.98	81.10	116.91	85.47	105.43	117.46	68.39	81.12	
33	Uttar Pradesh	1867.65	1965.82	2230.74	2079.73	2191.36	2693.30	2224.00	1863.69	1298.09	
34	Uttarakhand	117.75	130.35	144.00	129.18	147.39	206.31	169.95	208.45	158.25	
35	West Bengal	678.81	741.25	730.24	771.41	680.79	836.68	870.31	931.34	578.99	
	TOTAL	11581.30	11470.18	13216.05	12923.46	12871.11	16112.45	14283.72	14848.55	9981.35	
Others (Training and Central Component under NRHM)											
	GRAND TOTAL	11531.30	11470.18	13216.05	12923.25	12871.11	16112.45	14291.52	14960.43	10064.89	

Note:

1 Expenditure for the FYs 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 (upto 31.12.2011) are provisional.

2 Release figures for the F.Y. 2011-12 are upto 31.03.2012.

3 Figures indicate the initial allocation as per the Mission Steering Group Formula. However, due to some States not being able to fully utilized the funds allocated for the, additional releases were made to those States that had utilized the initial allocation.

The above Releases relate to Central Govt. Grants & do not include state share contribution.

Constituting NOPDO

4274. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating any plan to constitute a National Organ Procurement and Distribution Organization (NOPDO);

(b) if so, whether this organization will increase the availability of organs from cadaver donors and build capacity for retrieval of organs and transplantation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes. The Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011, provides that the Central Government may establish a National Human Organs and Tissues Removal and Storage Network at one or more places in the country.

Establishment of such a network will increase the availability of human organs and tissues from cadaver donors for transplantation.

Annual health survey in N.E. states

4275. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of North Eastern (NE) States where annual health survey has been conducted under the Annual Health Survey Scheme, district-wise;

(b) the details of the result of the said survey and the shortcomings found during the survey;

(c) whether funds have been allocated to the North Eastern States for the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD) : (a) and (b) The Annual Health Survey (AHS) is implemented in all districts of Assam and eight Empowered Action Group (EAG) States, namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha. The first round of the survey was conducted in 2010-2011 and the AHS Bulletin containing the district level indicators such as Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Crude Death Rate (CDR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Neo-natal Mortality Rate, Under five mortality Rate (U5MR), Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) was released in August 2011. A statement containing district-wise information

on these indicators for Assam is given in Statement (*See* below). It is observed from the results of the survey that there are large variations in the value of these indicators across districts.

(c) and (d) No funds have been allocated to any State Government as the survey is being conducted by the Office of the Registrar General, India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Statement

District-wise information on the indicators of Assam

Sl. No.	State/District	CBR	CDR	IMR	Neo-natal Mortality Rate	U5MR	MMR	Sex Ratio Birth (SRB)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	ASSAM	21.9	7.2	60	39	78	381	925
1	Barpeta	20.8	6.7	48	33	65	366	887
2	Bongaigaon	19.7	6.2	53	31	68	366	931
3	Cachar	26.5	7.5	57	36	79	342	929
4	Darrang	20.8	8.3	69	39	90	366	953
5	Dhemaji	23.0	4.5	44	27	52	367	950
6	Dhubri	22.1	7.1	72	50	91	366	893
7	Dibrugarh	20.1	7.5	55	37	71	430	912
8	Goalpara	22.5	6.9	56	39	74	366	878
9	Golaghat	21.9	8.0	62	47	82	430	923
10	Hailakandi	32.1	7.0	55	36	91	342	810
11	Jorhat	20.0	8.2	57	43	71	430	962
12	Kamrup	18.7	5.9	46	30	57	366	947
13	Karbi Anglong	21.2	6.9	59	36	77	342	930
14	Karimganj	25.8	6.6	69	46	83	342	913
15	Kokrajhar	23.1	7.7	76	41	103	366	892

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16	Lakhimpur	24.4	6.9	56	41	68	367	984
17	Marigaon	23.5	8.5	72	44	93	367	920
18	Nagaon	24.6	8.1	66	41	86	367	943
19	Nalbari	18.8	7.4	64	48	88	366	937
20	North Cachar	18.6	5.5	58	35	78	342	884
21	Sibsagar	19.7	8.1	58	37	79	430	926
22	Sonitpur	19.8	6.5	68	46	80	367	949
23	Tinsukia	21.1	7.5	55	39	74	430	942

Note:

CBR : Number of births per 1000 Population.

CDR : Number of deaths per 1000 Population

IMR : Number of Infant deaths (less than 1 year of age) per 1000 live births

Neo-natal Mortality Rate : Number of infant deaths (0-28 days) per 1000 live births

U5MR : Number of under five deaths per 1000 live births

MMR : Number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births

Sex Ratio at Birth : Number of female births per 1000 male births

* MMR is estimated at the Administrative Division level, so same value is repeated for districts in the respective Division.

Doctor-patient ratio in the country

4276. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Health Organization (WHO) has Recommended norm of one Doctor per 1,000 people;

(b) if so, the present ratio in India, Statewise; and

(c) by when Government would achieve the WHO target and the steps being taken to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per available information, there are no specific standards/norms by WHO which prescribes doctor-population ratio. However, the current doctor-population ratio in the country is estimated to be around 1:2000.

(c) The Government has taken a large number of steps to address shortage of doctors, specialists and faculty in the country which include:

- i. Relaxation in norms for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed strength/bed occupancy and other infrastructure have been relaxed.
- ii. Teacher-student ratio has been relaxed to increase the seats at Postgraduate level.
- iii. DNB qualifications have been recognized for appointment to various faculty posts in medical colleges.
- iv. Maximum intake capacity at MBBS level has been increased from 150 to 250.
- v. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/extension/re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/ principal/director in medical colleges from 65 to 70 years.
- vi. 46 new medical colleges have been set up between 2009-11.
- vii. Under the scheme of 'Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges', financial support to State medical colleges is being provided to increase postgraduate seats in various disciplines or start new postgraduate medical courses.

Fund earmarked under NRHM for strengthening human resource

4277. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) how and on what basis the fund under NRHM is delegated to the individual States;
- (b) the components covered under Central grant under this Mission;
- (c) the percentage of expenditure made for each component under this Mission;
- (d) the quantum of money under this Mission earmarked for strengthening the human resource;
- (e) whether the States are utilising the existing human resource for this Mission or a new cadre is supposed to be created for NRHM; and
- (f) the quantum of fund allocated to Madhya Pradesh during the last five years and how much fund was actually released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) Funds are allocated to the States/UTs on the basis of a transparent formula by using population as the basis. The High Focus States *i.e.* Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are given a weightage factor of 1.3, States of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand are given a weightage factor of 1.5, North-Eastern States are given a weightage factor of 3.2 and the remaining States are given a weightage factor of 1.

(b) The components covered under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of NRHM are Reproductive & Child Health-II, Mission Flexible Pool, Routine Immunization, Pulse Polio Immunization, Infrastructure Maintenance and National Disease Control Programmes *i.e.* Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness, National Leprosy Eradication Programme, National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme and Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme.

(c) A statement showing the percentage of expenditure/utilization reported by the States against various components under the Mission is given in Statement-I. (*See below*)

(d) The quantum of money under this Mission earmarked for strengthening the human resource, which includes remuneration of Specialists, Nurses, Para-medics, provision of AYUSH Doctors in rural areas, other Health Workers etc. is based on the Programme Implementation Plans submitted by each State annually. Funds for the State PIPs are released after appraisal by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) in the Ministry.

(e) States are utilizing the existing human resource also for NRHM.

(f) A statement showing the Allocation, Release and Expenditure under National Rural Health Mission for the F.Ys. 2007-08 to 2011-12 in respect of Madhya Pradesh is given in Statement-II.

Statement - I

The percentage of expenditure/utilization reported by States against various components under the Mission

Sl. No.	Programme	% of Expenditure/Utilization Against Release	
		2010-2011	2011-2012 ^(C)
1	2	3	4
1	RCH-II	108%	71%
2.	Additionalities under NRHM	144%	59%
3	Routine Immunization	112%	48%
4	P.P.I.	116%	63%
5	Infrastructure Maintenance	129%	72%
6	National Disease Control Programmes		
a.	Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme	98%	119%
b.	National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme	82%	87%
c.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme*	106%	96%
d.	National Programme for Control of Blindness*	120%	7%
e.	National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme*	89%	91%
f.	Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme*	102%	73%
GRAND TOTAL		125%	67%

Note:

- (A) * Denotes inclusive of kind grants.
 (B) The percentage of utilization against release for the F.Ys 2010-11 and 2011-12 are provisional.
 (C) The percentage of utilization against release for the F.Y. 2011-12 is up to 31.12.2011.
 (D) Expenditure reported can be more than 100% if it is inclusive of previous years unspent balances and State Share contribution.

Statement - II*The Allocation, Release and Expenditure under National Rural Health Mission for the F.Ys. 2007-08 to 2011-12*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. Programme No.	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10			2010-11			2011-12		
	Alloca- tion ³	Release	Exp.	Alloca- tion ³	Release	Exp.	Alloca- tion ³	Release	Exp. ¹	Alloca- tion ³	Release	Exp. ¹	Alloca- tion ³	Release ²	Exp. ¹
1	264.25	230.65	327.93	183.00	316.84	350.57	194.07	244.07	340.74	220.34	271.34	396.10	242.84	329.40	369.36
2	186.73	152.24	102.83	157.51	157.51	109.54	207.59	147.82	149.61	244.36	219.86	245.88	298.98	270.38	195.97
3	7.00	7.40	9.88	8.00	4.60	13.19	14.75	9.10	16.32	12.34	12.34	17.33	12.32	23.72	16.80
4	10.97	10.97	10.52	19.57	19.57	18.78	55.20	14.72	0.00	14.72	15.00	13.27	15.00	14.93	2.51
5	172.33	172.33	158.15	188.52	174.34	156.61	186.95	139.73	199.42	220.27	220.27	251.72	226.92	237.21	243.94
6. National Disease Control Programmes															
a	3.30	2.00	2.77	1.83	0.00	2.09	2.07	2.01	1.94	1.65	1.98	2.44	2.89	0.88	1.60
b	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.13	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.24	0.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
c National Leprosy Eradication Programme*	1.37	0.42	1.26	3.34	2.73	1.71	2.57	0.60	1.39	2.57	1.57	1.36	2.60	1.53	1.31		
d National Programme for Control of Blindness*	8.67	12.49	4.83	12.08	12.08	14.49	12.90	12.87	4.29	10.00	10.00	36.33	15.57	19.77	0.00		
e National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme*	21.79	16.31	16.31	20.12	7.40	7.40	14.44	18.14	13.46	23.31	18.25	15.64	34.29	39.20	39.42		
f Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme*	13.41	12.28	11.22	14.86	12.69	12.59	15.14	15.74	14.10	16.90	13.80	16.73	19.19	22.20	15.62		
GRAND TOTAL	689.95	617.09	645.70	609.02	707.88	686.97	705.88	604.79	741.28	766.66	784.40	996.80	870.83	959.47	886.53		

Note:*

Denotes

inclusive of kind grants.

1 Expenditure for the F.Ys 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 (upto 31.12.2011) are provisional.

2 Release figures for the F.Y. 2011-12 are upto 31.03.2012.

3 Figures indicate the initial allocation as per the Mission Steering Group Formula. However, due to some States not being able to fully utilize the funds allocated for them, additional releases were made to those States that had utilized the initial allocation.

The above Releases relate to Central Govt. Grants & do not include state share contribution.

Universal health coverage

4278. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up a High Level Expert Group on the Universal Health Coverage under the Chairmanship of Dr. Srinath Reddy;
- (b) if so, its main recommendations;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure universal health coverage to realize the principle enunciated by the Bhore Committee in 1946 that no body should be denied access to health services for his inability to pay; and
- (d) the percentage of the Gross Domestic Product is spent on health in India and how does it compare with that in Sri Lanka, China and Thailand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) Yes. The High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has proposed that every citizen of the country should be entitled to essential primary, secondary and tertiary health care services that will be guaranteed by the Central Government. In order to fulfill this vision, the HLEG in its report, has made specific recommendations in the following six critical areas :

- (i) Health Financing and Financial Protection;
- (ii) Health Service Norms;
- (iii) Human Resources for Health;
- (iv) Community Participation and Citizen Engagement;
- (v) Access to Medicines, Vaccines and Technology;
- (vi) Management and Institutional Reform.

The full report of the HLEG may be seen at:

http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/rep_uhc0812.pdf

(c) Health being a State subject, its implementation primarily rests with the State Governments. However, under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the States have been financially and technically supported by the Government through their State Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) to strengthen the healthcare service system to facilitate universal health coverage through the following means:

1. (i) Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a safe motherhood intervention which aims reduction in maternal and infant mortality by improving the coverage

of institutional delivery among pregnant women by providing cash assistance, (ii) Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), a new initiative launched on 1st June 2011, which entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including Caesarean section. The initiative stipulates free drugs, diagnostics, blood and diet, besides free transport from home to institution, between facilities in case of a referral and drop back home. Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick newborns accessing public health institutions for treatment till 30 days after birth;

2. Improved access to healthcare at household level through the female health activist (ASHA);
3. Strengthening sub-centre through better human resource development, clear quality standards, better community support and an untied fund to enable local planning and action and more Multi Purpose Workers (MPWs);
4. Access to good hospital care through assured availability of doctors, drugs and quality services at PHC/ CHC level and assured referral transport system to reach these facilities;
5. Strengthening existing (PHCs) to function as 24x7 PHCs through better staffing and human resource development policy, clear quality standards, better community support and an untied fund to enable the local management committee to achieve these standards;
6. Provision of services as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) through CHCs for improved curative care to a normative standard;
7. Operationalization of First Referral Units to provide emergency obstetric care including cesarean sections;
8. Formulation of transparent policies for deployment and career development of human resource for health;
9. Promotion of public private partnerships for achieving public health goal;
10. Mainstreaming AYUSH - revitalizing local health traditions;
11. Health Day at Anganwadi level on a fixed day/month for provision of immunization, ante/post natal check ups and services related to mother and child health care, including nutrition;
12. Improve access to universal immunization through induction of Auto Disabled Syringes, alternate vaccine delivery and improved mobilization services under the programme;

13. Improved outreach services to medically underserved remote areas through mobile medical units;
14. Grants to Rogi Kalyan Samities so that patients who do not have capacity to pay are not denied access to health;
15. Assistance is being provided under NRHM for State PIPs to provide free drugs of EDL from Public health facilities.

(d) According to the World Health Statistics 2011 published by World Health Organization (WHO), the total expenditure on health as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2008 is 4.2% for India as compared to Sri Lanka 4.1%, China 4.3% and Thailand 4.1%.

Vitamin a deficiency in children

4279. SHRI H.K. DUA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of children suffering from Vitamin A deficiency in the country;
- (b) the number of children who lose eye sight every year, due to aforementioned reason; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to tackle this serious problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) There is no national level data available for the number of children suffering from Vitamin A deficiency.

As per the report of the survey carried out in 8 states by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (in 2006), the overall prevalence of Bitots Spots (an objective sign of Vitamin A deficiency) among 1-5 years children is about 0.8 percent and ranges from nil in the state of Kerala to 1.4 percent in MP.

(b) There are no estimates available on the number of children who lose eyesight on account of Vitamin A deficiency.

(c) Under the National Rural Health Mission, the following health interventions are being implemented to tackle this problem:

- Specific Micronutrient Supplementation Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of vitamin A. Vitamin A supplementation is provided to all children in the age group 6 to 60 months as part of routine immunization. Funds are provided under NRHM for procurement of Vitamin A solution and administration.

- Promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices.
- Nutrition education to mothers and caregivers of children in village Health and Nutrition Days.

Rural service by doctors

4280. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether doctors refused to serve in PHCs and sub-centres in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, with special reference to Andhra Pradesh during the Eleventh Plan period;
- (c) the present status of doctors working in rural areas compared to urban areas, State-wise, with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the encouragement being given to doctors who are posted in rural areas in comparison to urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) A state-wise statement including Andhra Pradesh showing the position of doctors serving at PHCs in rural areas as per RHS in India, 2011 is given in Statement. (*See below*) Sub Centre [SC] in rural areas has no sanctioned post of a Doctor. Public Health being a state subject, all administrative and personnel matters *i.e.* appointment, Recruitment Rules, pay scales, posting, transfers of staff of SCs and PHCs and other day to day functioning of health centres including refusal of doctors to serve at PHCs in rural areas are managed by respective State/UT Governments. They are impressed upon from time to time to have appropriate recruitment, transfer policy etc. to fill up the vacant posts.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that no doctor has refused to serve in PHCs in the rural areas of their state.

(c) State-wise separate data on doctors working in urban areas is not maintained by the Union Ministry of Health & FW. As per the information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh a comparative statement showing the status of doctors in urban areas and rural areas is as under :

Area	Sanctioned	In Position
Urban	218	200
Rural	2036	1846

(d) Various monetary and non monetary incentives provided by various State Governments in their Programme Implementation Plans to attract skilled medical professionals to work in rural areas are being approved under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM]. Some of these are enumerated below:

1. Monetary incentives are provided under NRHM for both regular , *ad hoc* and contractual staff posted in hard to reach and difficult areas.
2. The Central Government in consultation with the MCI, made the following amendments to its PG Medical Education Regulations to encourage doctors to serve in rural areas :
 - (i) 50% reservation in PG Diploma courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who served for at least three consecutive years in remote and difficult areas;
 - (ii) Incentive at rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in PG Medical course.
3. Improved accommodation for healthcare personnel has been provided through NRHM at many rural facilities. Also, many health facilities have been upgraded and better equipped.

Statement

Doctors⁺ at Primary Health Centres

(As on March, 2011)						
Sl. No.	State/UT	Required ¹ [R]	Sanctioned [S]	In Position [P]	Vacant [S-P]	Shortfall [R-P]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	1624	2424	2348	76	*
2	Arunachal Pradesh	97	NA	92	NA	5
3	Assam	938	NA	1557	NA	*
4	Bihar##	1863	2078	3532	*	*
5	Chhattisgarh	741	1482	424	1058	317
6	Goa	19	46	41	5	*
7	Gujarat	1123	1123	778	345	345
8	Haryana	444	651	530	121	*
9	Himachal Pradesh	453	582	451	131	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	Jammu and Kashmir	397	750	881	*	*
11	Jharkhand	330	330	392	*	*
12	Karnataka	2310	2310	2089	221	221
13	Kerala	809	1204	1122	82	*
14	Madhya Pradesh	1156	1238	814	424	342
15	Maharashtra	1809	3618	2292	1326	*
16	Manipur	80	240	192	48	*
17	Meghalaya	109	127	104	23	5
18	Mizoram##	57	57	37	20	20
19	Nagaland	126	NA	101	NA	25
20	Odisha	1228	725	525	200	703
21	Punjab	446	487	487	0	*
22	Rajasthan	1517	1478	1472	6	45
23	Sikkim	24	48	39	9	*
24	Tamil Nadu	1204	2326	1704	622	*
25	Tripura	79	NA	119	NA	*
26	Uttarakhand	239	299	234	65	5
27	Uttar Pradesh#	3692	4509	2861	1648	831
28	West Bengal	909	1807	1006	801	*
29	A and N Islands	19	40	28	12	*
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
31	D and N Haveli	6	6	6	0	0
32	Daman and Diu	3	3	5	*	*
33	Delhi##	8	22	19	3	*
34	Lakshadweep	4	4	10	*	*
35	Puducherry	24	37	37	0	*
ALL INDIA ²		23887	30051	26329	7246	2866

Notes:

Data for 2010 repeated

Sanctioned data for 2010 used

NA: Not Available

+ Allopathic Doctors

* Surplus All India figures for Vacancy and Shortfall are the totals of State-wise Vacancy and Shortfall ignoring surplus in same States UTs

1 One per each Primary Health Centre

2 For concluding the overall percentages of vacancy and shortfall the States UTs for which manpower position is not available may be excluded.

Unauthorised drug trials

4281. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unauthorized medical clinical drug trials having been conducted in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise during the periods 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12;

(b) the details of action taken, so far, with regard to unauthorized medical clinical drug trials having been conducted in Andhra Pradesh during the aforementioned period; and

(c) the details of action taken and proposed to be taken to put an end to such unauthorised medical clinical trials in Andhra Pradesh and in various other States?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) There are no reports of unauthorized clinical drug trials (*i.e.* without due permission) conducted in Andhra Pradesh. There have, however, been media reports about irregularities in the conduct of clinical trials, in Andhra Pradesh as well as in other parts of the country. A Statement containing the details of cases investigated in Andhra Pradesh and action taken thereon during 2010 and 2011 is given in Statement. (*See below*) The Government has taken various steps to strengthen the regulation and monitoring of clinical trials in the country, which are as follows:

- (i) All clinical trials, the permissions for which have been granted by the office of DCG(I) on or after 15 June 2009, have to be mandatorily registered on the clinical trial registry at www.ctri.in of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- (ii) CDSCO has issued guidelines for conducting inspection of clinical trial sites and Sponsor / Clinical Research Organisations (CROs).
- (iii) Twelve New Drug Advisory Committees (NDACs) and Six Medical Device Advisory Committees (MDACs) have been constituted to evaluate clinical trials proposals. These committees consist of leading experts from Central and State Government medical institutions.
- (iv) A draft notification has been issued for incorporation of a new rule in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945, which provides the following:
 - medical treatment and financial compensation to the trial subjects in case of trial related injury or death;
 - Procedure for payment of financial compensation;

- Enhancement of responsibilities of Ethics Committee (EC), Sponsor & Investigator to ensure that financial compensation as well as medical care is provided to the trial subjects who suffer trial related injury or deaths and such information is provided to DCG(I).
- Amendment of the format for obtaining informed consent of trial subjects to include the details of address, occupation, annual income of the subject so as to have information regarding socio-economic status of the trial subjects.

Statement

Details of cases investigated in Andhra Pradesh and Action taken thereon during 2010 and 2011

Sl. No.	Year	Name of Firm	Name of Site	Drug	Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2010	Path (in Colloboration with ICMR), A-9, Qutab Institutional Area, USO Road, New Delhi-110067, India.	1. Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh, 2. Vadodara District, Gujarat	Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine (HPV Vaccine)	This was a Phase-IV post licensure Clinical trial. The trial was initiated by PATH (Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health), an NGO. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh & Gujarat were the collaborating partners. 14091 girls received the vaccine in Andhra Pradesh whereas 10686 girls received the vaccine in Gujarat. Media reported death of 7 girls during the trial. The trial was suspended by ICMR on 7th April 2010. A Committee was appointed to enquire into "Alleged irregularities in the conduct of studies using Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine by Path in India" reported certain discrepancies in the conduct of the trial. The PATH submitted clarifications in respect of irregularities observed in the conduct of trial which is under examination. However, the trial is still under suspension.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	2011	Axis Clinical Limited, Andhra Pradesh	Axis Clinical Limited (Unit No. 1) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th Floor, H.O. 1-1211/1, Sy. No. 66 (Part) & 67 (Part), Miyapur, Hyderabad-500050 & (Unit No. 2) Plot No. 33 to 35, Mirra Hospital, 1st Floor, Alluri Seetaramraju Colony, Opp. JPN Colony, Miyapur, Hyderabad.	Bioavailability & Bio-equivalent studies of Anti Cancer Drugs (Exemistane 25mg Tablets)	M/s Axis Clinical Research, Hyderabad was reported to have conducted clinical trial of an anticancer drug on poor people without proper informed consent. The investigations revealed that the firm conducted bioequivalence study on an already approved anticancer drug and there were certain irregularities with respect to informed consent process, review and decision making process of Ethics Committee. The permission granted to the firm for conducting bioequivalence and bioavailability study was suspended on 22.06.2011. Consequent to this, the firm, on 04.07.2011, has submitted corrective actions being taken by them including revised Standard Operative Procedures (SOP's) for subject recruitment process, informed consent process, review and decision making process of the Ethics Committee. Based on further investigations and verifications, M/s Axis Clinical Research, Hyderabad was granted 'NOC' to conduct Bio-equivalence study subject to fulfillment of various condition regarding Informed Consent Process including documentation of the Informed consent process through Audio-Video means, functioning of Ethics Committee and investigators.

Shifting of NPPA under the health ministry

4282. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are many medicines on which manufacturers earn huge profits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to shift the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to the Union Health Ministry; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers has informed that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under its administrative control fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs / formulations as per the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order {DPCO}, 1995. No one can sell any scheduled drug / formulation covered under the DPCO at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA / Government. Accordingly, in respect of drugs covered under DPCO, MAPE (Maximum Allowable Post-Manufacturing Expenses) is allowed not exceeding 100% to the manufacturer from the stage of ex-factory cost to the retailing and includes trade margin and margin for manufacturers for indigenously produced scheduled formulations. In case of prices of the imported finished scheduled medicines, the margin not exceeding 50% of the landed cost is allowed to cover the selling and distribution expenses including interest and importer's profit.

In respect of drugs - not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government / NPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&D, cost of utilities / packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. There are, thus, wide variations in the prices of non scheduled drugs of different brands based on same chemical combinations as there is no control on the launch price of these medicines, though the prices of non-scheduled drugs are monitored and suitable action is taken by NPPA in cases where price increase is more than 10% in a period of one year on moving basis. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. Based on monitoring of prices of non-schedule formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 30 formulation packs under and companies have reduced the prices voluntarily in case of 65 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 95 packs of non-scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Effective implementation of PNDT act

4283. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of clinics and doctors who have been punished under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (PNDT) Act during 2011;

- (b) the details of the convicted cases during 2011, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to ensure that Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (PNDT) Act is implemented more effectively across the country to prevent female foeticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) 21 clinics and 22 doctors have been punished in 2011, for violations of the Pre Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

(b) The details of convicted cases during 2011 are given in Statement. (*See below*)

(c) Government of India has intensified the drive against sex determination through effective implementation of the PC & PNDT Act as per details mentioned below:

- I. Central Supervisory Board (CSB) under the PNDT Act has been reconstituted. The 17th and 18th meetings of CSB have been held on 4th June, 2011 and 14th January 2012, respectively.
- II. Inspections by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee have been scaled up. NIMC has been reconstituted and apart from inspections further empowered to oversee follow-up action by Appropriate Authorities against organizations found guilty of violations under the Act during inspections.
- III. Government of India has notified important amendments in rules under the Act, including :-
 - Amendment to Rule 11 (2) of the PC & PNDT Rules, 1996 to provide for confiscation of unregistered machines and further punishment under the Act
 - Amendment to regulate the use of portable ultrasound equipment and services offered by mobile genetic clinics.
- IV. 17 states with the most skewed child sex ratio have been identified for concerted attention. A meeting of Health Secretaries of these States was first convened on 20th April 2011, followed by several review meetings.
- V. Operational guidelines for Grant in Aid to Non-Governmental Organizations have been revised to ensure targeted use of resources for awareness generation of the Act.

- VI. States have been asked to take advantage of funding available under NRHM for strengthening infrastructure and augmentation of human resources required for effective implementation of the PC & PNDT Act.
- VII. To bring about change in mindset of gender discrimination in society, support is being provided for BCC campaign in State's PIPs under NRHM.

Statement*Details of Convicted Cases in 2011*

Sl. No.	State	Name of Doctor	Date of conviction/ details
1	2	3	4
1	Haryana	Dr. J.L.Mahajan	25-01-2011, 3 years imprisonment & fine of Rs. 1000
2		Dr. M.S. Talekar	25-01-2011, 3 years imprisonment & fine of Rs.1000
3		Dr. P.B. Lal	25-01-2011, 3 years imprisonment & fine of Rs.1000
4		Dr. D.B. Lal	25-01-2011, 3 years imprisonment & fine of Rs.1000
5		Dr. Rajiv Bhatia	22-07-2011, 3 years imprisonment & fine of Rs.5000
6		Dr. Brij Sharma	16-08-2011, Three years imprisonment & fine of Rs. 10000
7		Dr. K.K. Saraswat	25-01-2011, 3 years imprisonment & fine of Rs.1000
8	MP	Dr. Nirmal Jaiswal	27-01-2011, Fine of Rs.1000/ one month imprisonment.
9		Dr. Manvinder Singh Gill	2011, Fine of Rs. 1,000/- and imprisonment of one month.
10	Maharashtra	Dr. Ambadas Kadam	14-11-2011, Three years Imprisonment and fine of Rs.130000
11		Dr. Rajesh Tukaram	29-11-2011, Two year Imprisonment and fine of Rs 10000/-
12		Dr. M.B. Nagane	Dec.2011, 3 years Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 7000
13		Dr. Mohan Hari Pharne	17-12-2011, Two years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs.70000/-
14		Dr. Shree Shinde	17-12-2011, Two years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs 38000/-
15		Dr. Sampada Shinde	17-12-2011, Two years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs 38000/-

1	2	3	4
16		Dr. V.B. Patil	23-12-.2011, Three month Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 1000/-
17		Dr. Yojana Raval	23-12-2011, 2 years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 52000/-
18		Dr. Yogendra Shinde	23-12-2011, 3 years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 21000/-
19		Dr. Pradip Gandhi, Akluj	30-12-2011, One year Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 25000/-
20		Dr. Viththal A. Kavitate	30-12-2011, One year Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 25000/-
21		Dr. Shivaji Madhavrao Eklare	31-12-2011, Two years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 2000/-
22		Dr. Shivaji Sadashiv Mane	30-12-2011, Three years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 60000/-
23		Mrs. Umja Patel	Three years Rigorous Imprisonment
24		Ramling Sutar	Three years Rigorous Imprisonment
25		Ankush Bobade	23-12-2011, 3 years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs. 11000/-
26		Prakash Devkule	23-12-2011, 3 years Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs.11000/-

Note: S.No. 23-26 are employees of clinics/facilities.

National programme for healthcare of the elderly

4284. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) to address various health related problems of elderly people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas selected for the implementation of NPHCE and the number of beneficiaries likely to be covered thereunder;

(d) whether Government has worked out the financial modalities and operational guidelines for the implementation of the programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the year and the manner in which NPHCE is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes. Government of India has launched the "National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly" (NPHCE) in 2010 to address health related

problems of elderly people. The basic aim of the NPHCE programme is to provide separate and specialized comprehensive health care to the senior citizens at various level of state health care delivery system including outreach services.

(c) Eight Regional Medical Institutions (Regional Geriatric Centres) in different regions of the country and 100 districts of 21 States were selected for the implementation in the 11th Five Year Plan. So far 91 out of 100 districts and all the eight regional geriatric centres identified during 2010-12 have been given financial assistance to take up the programme activities. People above the age of 60 years will be the beneficiary of the Programme.

(d) and (e) As stated above, the NPHCE has been launched in 2010. Operational and Financial Guidelines under the programme has been developed and disseminated to the participating States and Institutes.

Expansion of Ayush dispensaries

4285. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel on Health and Family Welfare in its recent report has been critical of Health Ministry's policy paralysis in opening Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ayush) dispensaries;

(b) whether it is a fact that while the Directorate General of Health Services had sent a proposal for opening of 13 new Ayush CGHS units, the Ministry was not allowing any expansion of infrastructure for the CGHS in the name of introducing of health insurance scheme for the Central Government employees and pensioners; and

(c) the target set for Ayush facilities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period and the achievements made thereunder, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN) : (a) and (b) The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, in its Fifty-Fifth Report on Demands for Grants 2012-13 (Demand No. 47) of the Department of AYUSH has observed the policy paralysis in regard to opening of the AYUSH dispensaries under the CGHS.

The Department of AYUSH has, already conveyed its 'in-principle' approval for opening 13 new CGHS Centres and conversion of one part-time Ayurvedic Unit into a full-fledged Ayurvedic Wellness Centre to the CGHS Hq under the Department of Health and Family Welfare. This has no relation with the proposed Health Insurance Scheme for the Central Government employees and pensioners.

(c) The target and achievement under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of AYUSH Hospitals and Dispensaries have been given in Statement.

Impact of consumption of polluted water on human health

†4286. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the types of diseases that could occur due to drinking of polluted or unclean water; and

(b) the number of adults and children falling ill and dying due to consumption of polluted water in the country and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Drinking of polluted or unclean water may cause Water Borne Diseases such as Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases, Viral Hepatitis and Typhoid (Enteric Fever).

(b) Number of reported cases and deaths due to Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases, Viral Hepatitis and Typhoid (Enteric Fever) reported during 2009-2011 are given below:

Disease	2009		2010 (Provisional)		2011 (Provisional)	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Cholera	3482	12	5004	9	1706	5
Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases	11984490	1818	10742327	1526	10065120	1186
Viral Hepatitis	124085	600	89117	430	91683	484
Typhoid (Enteric Fever)	1099331	436	1084859	440	998132	320

Source: National Health Profile issued by CBHI, Dte. GHS.

Mental healthcare professionals

4287. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has only 23 per cent of the required psychiatrists and 25 per cent of the required psychiatric nurses;

(b) if so, whether Government will come forward with a strategy to increase the number of mental health care professionals; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The number of psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses available in the country based on available records is as under:

Manpower	Requirement	Availability
Psychiatrists	11500	3800 (33.04%)
Psychiatric Nurses	3000	1500 (50.00%)

(b) and (c) With the objective to address the shortage of mental health professionals in the country, the Government of India is implementing the schemes for establishment of (i) Centres of Excellence in Mental Health, and (ii) PG training departments in mental health specialties with an objective to increase the PG training capacity in mental health as well as improving the tertiary care treatment facility in mental health. Eleven Institutes have been funded under the Centre of Excellence Scheme and 11 institutes have been funded for establishment of 27 PG training departments in mental health specialties.

Decrease in intake of proteins and nutrients

4288. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the calorific value of food consumed per day per person has come down from 2,266 kilocalories in rural areas in 1972-73 to 2,020 kilocalories in 2009-10 and from 2,107 kilocalories in urban areas in 1993-94 to 1,946 kilocalories in 2009-10;

(b) whether the protein consumed per person per day has also come down from 60.2 grams in 1993-94 in rural areas to 55 grams in 2009-10 and in urban areas from 57.2 grams to 53 grams during the same period, respectively; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind this alarming decrease in intake of protein and nutrients and how the Ministry is planning to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Organisation Report on Nutritional Intake in India 2009-10, the calorie consumption has come down from 2,226 kilocalories in rural areas in 1972-73 to 2,020 kilocalories in 2009-10 and from 2,071 kilocalories in urban areas in 1993-94 to 1,946 in 2009-10. Further the protein consumption has come down from 60.2 gram in 1993-

94 to 55 grams in 2009-10 in rural areas and from 57.2 gram to 53.5 gram during the same period in urban areas.

(c) There could be multiple reasons for decrease intake of protein and calorie.

Government has been taking the following measures to improve nutritional and health status of the population living in rural and urban areas of the country:

1. Targeted Public Distribution System for essential foods.
2. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for reducing hunger among the poorest segments of the BPL Population.
3. Annapurna Scheme; Indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are eligible for old age pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) but are not getting the pension are covered.
4. Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS).
5. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls [RGSEAG] -(SABLA).
6. National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Programme).
7. Reproductive Child Health Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) includes:
 - Emphasis on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding.
 - Promotion of ORS with zinc supplementation for a period of two weeks during the diarrhoea management.
 - Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.
 - Treatment of severe acute malnutrition through Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) set up at public health facilities.
 - Specific Programme to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A, Iron & Folic Acid. Vitamin A supplementation for children from 9 months to till the age of 5 years. Iron & Folic Acid syrup to children from the age of 6 months to 5 years. Iron & Folic Acid Supplementation to pregnant and lactating women & adolescent girls.
 - National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) for promotion of adequately iodated salt consumption at household level.

8. Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges was set up in October, 2008 for policy direction, review & effective coordination between Ministries which all will have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of Nutrition.
9. A National Nutrition Policy has been adopted in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1995) is being implemented through various Departments of Government.
10. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification is being encouraged under both Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Prevention of arthritis in children

†4289. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any policy to prevent the rise in cases arthritis amongst children;
- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Arthritis amongst children also called Juvenile Arthritis is not a single disease, but a subset of many diseases with different causative factors of bacterial, virus, immunological origins.

The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) has been initiated by the Government in 2010. Under the cardiovascular component programme, there is a specific intervention for Rheumatic heart disease which is associated with arthritis. Intervention has been outlined in the programme through creation of public awareness on rheumatic heart disease, reorientation of health care providers for early detection of Rheumatic Fever and referral services to higher centres.

Besides this, Government has implemented the "National School Health Programme" promoting basic health check up of children for a variety of health related problems.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Checks on quality of foods sold at railway stations and airports

‡4290. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Food Safety and Standards Bill was passed in the year 2006 by the Parliament;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that this Act has been implemented *w.e.f.* 5 August, 2011 throughout the country;
- (c) the details of the mechanism in place to examine the food items sold at railway stations, trains and airports; and
- (d) the number of samples of food items collected from railway stations, trains and airports during last six months and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : (a) and (b) Yes.

- (c) As per Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration) Regulations, 2011, railway stations, trains and air ports are covered under central licensing.
- (d) No separate details of food items collected from Railway Stations, trains and airports are centrally maintained.

‘Re-employment in PSUs’

4291. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA :
DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any employee of a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) can quit his job after availing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and afterward apply for employment in the same organization on deputation;
- (b) whether the said organization can engage him on contract basis on a consolidated pay and then regularize him; and
- (c) if so, whether such appointments could be considered as fresh appointments?

‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) As per the existing policy relating to Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), an employee availing of Voluntary Retirement from a CPSE under the Scheme is not allowed to be re-employed in the concerned CPSE in any capacity and is also not allowed to take up employment in another CPSE. Only after an employee refunds the VRS compensation received by him to the CPSE concerned, can he be considered for employment in another CPSE.

Contribution of PSUs in accelerating economic growth of the country

4292. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has asked the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to increase public expenditure and contribute more the manufacturing sector and national Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the move is expected to accelerate economic growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes. Sir. The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address to the CEO's of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) at the MoU and SCOPE Awards Function in New Delhi on 31.1.2012, stated, 'We must increase the share of the manufacturing sector in our GDP from the present unsatisfactory level of 15%. The Central Public Sector Enterprises have a significant presence in areas such as machine tools, heavy transport, earth moving and mining equipment, shipbuilding, defense equipment, aerospace, heavy electrical equipment and nuclear power generation. I would urge the Central Public Sector Enterprises in these areas to embark upon ambitious plans of expansion to make the target of 12 to 14 percent growth in the manufacturing sector a living reality'.

All the sectors mentioned above by the Prime Minister have been identified as priority sectors under the National Manufacturing Plan. Together with the Private Sector, including the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, the share of manufacturing is envisioned to go upto 25% of India's GDP by 2025. Every job created in manufacturing sector has a multiplier effect of creating two to three additional jobs in related sectors. A higher share of manufacturing in GDP, will entail creation of 220 million jobs by 2025 and will result in consequent inclusive economic growth.

Establishment of big industries in states by Central Government

†4293. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the aid provided by the Central government for establishing big industries in States; and

(b) the amount of aid provided to industries, in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years, along with the details thereof, industry-wise and work-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises has not provided aid for establishing big industries in States in recent years.

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

Revival plan for HMT

4294. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANA PATHI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to allocate funds to Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) to revive it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to produce more value added products from HMT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Revival plan is under consideration of the government.

Cut in oil import from Iran

†4295. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government has substantially reduced oil import from Iran;

(b) if so, the details of the oil imported by the public and private sector companies from Iran during the period 2010-11 and 2011-12 and the target fixed for import of oil in the year 2012-13;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the reasons for reducing the import of oil from Iran; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to fill the gap left by above cut in the import of oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total crude oil imported from Iran by Indian companies during the period 2010-11 and 2011-12 is 18.50 MMT and 17.44 MMT (provisional) respectively. The target fixed for import of crude oil from Iran for the year 2012-13 is approximately 15.5 MMT subject to techno-commercial and other considerations.

(c) and (d) The quantum of crude oil imported by Indian refineries from various sources is decided by them on the basis of technical, commercial and other considerations. In order to reduce its dependence on any particular region of the world, India has been consciously trying to diversify its sources of crude oil imports to strengthen the country's energy security. Currently, India is importing crude oil from more than 30 countries spread across different continents and there is no shortage or gap envisaged in crude oil procurement by our refineries.

New LPG distributorship in Uttar Pradesh

4296. SHRI PRABHAT JHA :
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of representations received from Member of Parliament regarding opening up of LPG distributorship in Ballia district along the national highway from Ghazipur to Hajipur;
- (b) whether Government has instructed IOCL to carry out survey for opening of LPG distributor at the said location ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) by when distributors would be appointed against the locations represented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (d) A reference from Hon'ble Member of Parliament was received for opening of LPG distributorships in Ballia district. Indian Oil Corporation Limited has reported that the feasibility study for opening of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran (RGGLV) distributorships have been found to be feasible at Narahi, Majharia and Daulatpur.

The advertisements for setting up of RGGLV distributorships in these locations have been released on 16.04.2012 and selection process is in progress as per policy.

However, the setting up of LPG distributorship is a long process involving receipt/scrutiny of application forms, selection of the candidates, field verification, setting up of the infrastructure, procurement of various mandatory licences and approvals followed by commissioning.

Low pricing of natural gas in the country

4297. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :
SHRI SALIM ANSARI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, according to a technical report from Bernstein Research, the current gas prices are too low in India to justify more investment in the sector;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (c) the immediate steps Government proposes to take to increase the price of Gas from KG-D6 basin to match the prevailing price of international market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any such report.

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

(c) The price of gas produced from the block KG-DWN-98/3 operated by the consortium of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and NIKO Resources Limited (NIKO) is fixed by Empowered Group of Minister (EGOM) for a period of 5 years upto 31.03. 2014 and there is no proposal to revise this at this juncture.

Complaints against LPG distributors in U.P.

4298. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :
SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of those IOCL's LPG distributors against whom complaints have been received, charges have been established and penalized for violations of IOCL guidelines along with the penalties imposed in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) since 2009 till date, district-wise and LPG dealer-wise;

(b) whether in spite of several complaints against some LPG distributors of IOCL in U.P., which have been established after investigations, their distributorships have not been cancelled; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for ignoring the repeated violation and plight of thousands of customers of U.P., particularly in Hasanpur, JP Nagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Based on the established complaints of various irregularities, action was taken in 782 cases against the erring LPG distributors of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), including termination of 4 LPG distributorships, in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the period from 2009-10 to February, 2012 under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement (DA). The district-wise details are given in Statement. (See below) The dealer-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of IOC.

(c) Several complaints received against M/s. Hasanpur Indane Gas at Jyotiba Phule Nagar district during the years 2010-11 and 2011-12 for various irregularities such as blackmarketing of LPG, not giving cash and carry rebate, delay in refill delivery, out of turn delivery and non-home delivery of LPG refill were investigated. Action was taken in one established case under the provisions of MDG/DA and an amount of ₹ 95,736 has been imposed as penalty on the distributor. In another two instances, explanation was called for from the distributor and the reply of the distributor has been received by IOC, as at present.

Statement

District-wise details of Established Cases for various irregularities in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the period from 2009 to 2012

Sl.No.	Name of Districts	No. of established cases
1	2	3
1.	Agra	43
2.	Aligarh	16
3.	Allahabad	44
4.	Baghpat	15
5.	Ballia	01
6.	Banda	04
7.	Barabanki	03
8.	Bareilly	09

1	2	3
9.	Bijnor	42
10.	Badaun	05
11.	Bulandshahar	36
12.	Chandauli	06
13.	Deoria	06
14.	Etah	02
15.	Etawah	05
16.	Farrukhabad	16
17.	Firozabad	02
18.	Gautam Budgh Nagar	31
19.	Ghaziabad	74
20.	Ghazipur	06
21.	Gorakhpur	22
22.	Hardoi	21
23.	Hathras	08
24.	Jalaun	14
25.	Jhansi	13
26.	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	20
27.	Kanpur Rural	08
28.	Kanpur Urban	43
29.	Kashi Ram Nagar	21
30.	Kushinagar	05
31.	Lalitpur	07
32.	Lucknow	33
33.	Maharajganj	04
34.	Mahoba	05
35.	Mainpuri	05
36.	Mathura	13

1	2	3
37.	Meerut	36
38.	Mirzapur	03
39.	Muradabad	03
40.	Muzaffarnagar	38
41.	Pilibhit	01
42.	Pratapgarh	11
43.	Raibareli	10
44.	Rampur	02
45.	Saharanpur	11
46.	Sant Ravi Nagar	08
47.	Shahjahanpur	04
48.	Sitapur	13
49.	Sonebhadra	04
50.	Unnao	12
51.	Varanasi	18
TOTAL		782

Production of petrol from garbage

†4299. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scientists of Indian Petroleum Institute has developed a technique to produce petrol from garbage; and

(b) if so, by when petrol production with the help of this technique will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun has informed that they have not developed the process for production of Petrol from garbage. However, they have developed the process for production of petrol and diesel from waste plastics *i.e.*, High Density Polyethylene, Low Density Polyethylene, Linear Low Density Polyethylene and Polypropylene. The process is yet to reach the commercial production level.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Timely delivery of LPG cylinders in Chhattisgarh

4300. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of complaints regarding distribution of gas cylinders by gas agencies operating in Chhattisgarh received during 2011 and 2012, so far;
- (b) whether various State owned gas agencies do not distribute gas cylinders to consumers in time in the State ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the details of guidelines of Government for timely delivery of cylinders to consumers ;
- (d) whether Government has assessed the performance of call centres set up by various State-owned agencies;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of steps taken by Government for timely delivery of LPG cylinders to consumers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) The number of established irregularities received in the State of Chhattisgarh are 35 out of which action has been taken in respect of 4 cases in complaints of delay of supplies of LPG refills against LPG distributors under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Distributorship Agreement (DA).

(b) and (c) Presently, the LPG refill supplies position is reported to be normal in most of the markets in Chhattisgarh. However, delay in refill supplies may occur in the event of backlog due to non-availability of filled LPG cylinders with the distributors for unavoidable reasons such as road breaches, floods, strikes, incidents of bandhs, shortage of bulk LPG, non-availability of trucks etc.

In order to effect domestic LPG supplies in time, OMCs are monitoring Bulk LPG stock on daily basis to ensure uninterrupted bottling operations to feed the markets as per requirement. Also, in order to meet the peak demand, operation of plants is undertaken on Sundays and holidays on need basis and also on extended hours on regular working days. Field officers of OMCs are regularly monitoring all the distributorships and any additional supplies required by the distributors to meet the increase in demand, are released accordingly so as to ensure that market remains backlog free.

Periodical/ surprise inspections of the LPG distributors and checks including customer contacts are carried out to ensure that customers get cylinders in time.

(d) and (e) Effectiveness of the call centres is monitored through Area Offices/ State Offices located throughout the country and corrective action is taken in case of any deficiencies. However, no specific assessment on the performance of the call centres has been done so far.

Investments by OVL for equity oil

4301. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has so far invested 10 billion US dollars for 38.8 million barrels per annum of equity oil;
- (b) if so, the details of country-wise investment *vis-a-vis* equity oil availability;
- (c) whether only Mangala oil field of Cairn India in Rajasthan is set to produce about 54 million barrel oil per annum; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for investment of less than 10 billion dollar for taking over majority stake in Cairn India found uneconomical by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has invested in total about 14.7 billion US dollar upto March, 2012 since inception which includes producing assets, development assets, exploratory assets, closed projects, corporate office etc.

The country-wise total investment is given in Statement. (*See below*). Currently OVL is producing from 10 assets in 8 countries. OVL's share of production in 2011-12 was 8.753 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) of oil and oil equivalent gas. OVL's share of production in 2010-11 was 9.448 MMT of oil and oil equivalent gas. The last year (2011-12) oil production was lower as compared with the previous year (2010-11) due to difficult geo-political situation in Syria and Sudan.

(c) Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under this Ministry reported that the crude oil production from Mangala field in RJ-ON-90/1 block, operated by M/s Cairn Energy India Limited, has been ramped upto 150,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd) *w.e.f.* 20.04.2012, subsequent to Management Committee (MC) approval accorded on 19.04.2012 for enhancement of peak oil production from 1,25,000 bopd upto a maximum of 150,000 bopd from Mangala field. Consequently, the total crude oil and condensate production from RJ-ON-90/1 block has increased to about 175,000 bopd, which is the highest production rate achieved so far from this block. The total crude oil & condensate production comprises of the following (as on 22.03.2012):

- Mangala: 150,018 bopd

- Bhagyam: 24,512 bopd
- Saraswati 250 bopd
- Raageshwari: 260 bopd

The crude oil production on 22.03.2012 is about 175,040 bopd.

(d) M/s Cairn had approached Government of India for approval of the deal for selling its shares in Cairn India. For giving the approval, Government of India had laid several conditions and one of the conditions was to obtain the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from ONGC for the deal. After examining the document submitted by Cairn Energy PLC, the Board of Directors of ONGC decided that the acquisition cost by Vedanta to Cairn for the proposed transaction of sales of shares of CIL is much above of the ONGC evaluated value of the proposed transaction and therefore, ONGC did not find merit in the acquisition on commercial consideration. Hence, after examination ONGC had conveyed its “no objection” to Cairn India Limited (CIL) on 1.12.2011 for the proposed Cairn Vedanta deal.

Statement

Country-wise total investment by OVL

Sl.No.	Country	Plan Expenditure upto 31.03.2011 (in USD Mn)	Provisional Plan Expenditure upto 31.03.2012 (in USD Mn)
1	2	3	4
1.	Australia	7.92	7.92
2.	Brazil	668.34	964.80
3.	Colombia	815.40	932.20
4.	Congo	15.01	15.01
5.	Cuba	68.23	94.88
6.	Egypt	279.55	279.55
7.	Iran	35.10	35.32
8.	Iraq	1.03	1.03
9.	Ivory Coast	11.95	11.95
10.	Kuwait	0.14	0.14
11.	Libya	102.10	102.10

1	2	3	4
12.	Myanmar	219.11	379.24
13.	Nigeria	165.54	169.04
14.	Qatar	78.74	78.74
15.	Russia	6,927.74	7,465.55
16.	Sudan	2,502.59	2,625.20
17.	Syria	318.37	354.19
18.	Turkmenistan	11.30	11.30
19.	Venezuela	263.40	363.80
20.	Vietnam	382.40	476.41
21.	Kazakhstan	-	96.11
22.	BD Projects and Delhi Office	206.93	217.77
TOTAL		13,080.88	14,682.21

Selling of natural gas at different rates

†4302. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether natural gas in the country is being sold at different rates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the maximum and minimum rates of the natural gas being sold by private and Government sectors; and
- (d) the reasons for differences between sale-prices of gas by Government and non-Government sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The consumer price of gas from different gas sources is given in Statement. (*See below*) At present, there are broadly two pricing regimes for gas in the country - gas priced under Administrative Pricing Mechanism (APM) and non-APM. The price of APM gas is set by the Government. As regards non-APM gas, this could be broadly divided into two categories, namely, (i) imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and (ii) domestically produced gas under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and pre-NELP fields.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

While the price of LNG imported under term contracts is governed by the Sale & Purchase Agreement (SPA) between the LNG seller and the buyer, the spot cargoes are purchased on mutually agreeable commercial terms. As regards NELP & pre-NELP gas, its pricing is governed in terms of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government & the Contractor. These rates are determined from time to time as per provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC).

Statement

The consumer price of gas from different sources

Source	Customers	Gas Price	Gas Price (US \$/MMBTU)
1	2	3	4
NOCs (APM)	Customer outside North East	\$4.2/mmbtu	4.2
NOCs (APM)	Customer in North East	\$ 2.52/mmbtu	2.52
NOCs (MDP)	Western & Northern Zone (Covering Maharashtra, Gujarat and other States covered by HVJ/DVPL)	\$5.25/mmbtu	5.25
NOCs (MDP)	Southern Zone (KG-Basin)	\$4.5/mmbtu	4.5
NOCs (MDP)	Southern Zone (Cauvery basin)	\$4.75/mmbtu	4.75
NOCs (MDP)	North -East	\$4.2/mmbtu	4.2
NOCs (MDP)	(Rajasthan, South Gujarat & isolated customers in Gujarat, who are getting gas from identified onshore fields)	\$5/mmbtu	5
PMT	Weighted average price of PMT	\$5.65/mmbtu	5.65
Ravva	GAIL	\$3.5/mmbtu	3.5
Ravva Satellite	GAIL	\$4.3/mmbtu	4.3

1	2	3	4
CB/OS-2 (Cairns)	GPEC (Gujarat Phaguthan Energy Corporation)	\$4.75/mmbtu	4.75
	GGCL -GTCL	\$5.62/mmbtu	5.62
	GGCL- GTCL - GBA Gas	\$6.22/mmbtu	6.22
Hazira (Niko)	Gujarat State Energy Generation	\$5.346/mcf	5.19
	GSPC Gas	\$2.673/ mcf	2.63
CB-ONN-2000/2	GGCL	\$6.6/msf	6.39
Dholka	Small Consumer	Rs. 4.80/ scm	2.2
Kanwara	Small Consumer	Rs.9.02 & 11.67/ scm	5.13 & 6.64
Barkol	Small Consumer	Rs.10 & 10.48/ scm	4.76 & 5.28
North Balol (HOEC)	GSPC	Rs.4.541/scm	3.14
KG-D6	All Consumers	\$4.2/mmbtu	4.2
Focous	GAIL	\$4.11/MMBTU	4.11
PY-1 (HOEC)	GAIL	\$3.63/mmbtu	3.63
Term R-LNG	For all	\$9.76/ mmbtu	9.76
Spot-R-LNG	For all	\$ 16/ mmbtu	16

Note:

- Term RLNG price changes every month on the basis of a formula agreed between seller & buyer. The above price is for March-2012
- Spot RLNG prices vary from cargo to cargo
- Panna Mukta gas price is \$ 5.73/mmbtu & Mid Tapti gas price is \$ 5.57/ mmbtu
- All the prices are excluding marketing margin.
- APM Prices Including Royalty & Excluding marketing margin.

Reviewing of profit sharing mechanism of oil and gas contracts

4303. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is reviewing the profit sharing mechanism of oil and gas field contracts in view of CAG and Chawla Committee reports that the present mechanism provides substantial incentive to private contractors to increase capital expenditure;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for KG D6 has any provision for Government share in 7.2 billion dollars earned through sale of 30 per cent share to M/s BP by M/s RIL-NIKO;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) has carried out on request by this Ministry special audit for four block including the block KG-DWN-98/3 for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08. The C&AG have submitted report for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. In their report, C&AG have recommended that for future PSCs, the IM-linkage with the profit sharing formula (even with the linear sliding scale introduced from NELP VII onwards) be removed by Government of India and instead, the biddable profit sharing percentage should be a single percentage. Further, Ashok Chawla Committee Report on allocation of natural resources has also made observations regarding the IM-based profit-sharing formula.

Government has appointed Boston Consulting Group (India) Private Limited (BCG) to undertake study on the review of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), which would help to draw insights, implications and best practices associated with the commercial contracts entered between the Government and the Operators.

(c) to (e) The Government and the Contractor(s) share the Profit Petroleum in accordance with the stipulations under the Article 16 of PSC of the block KG-DWN-98/3. The consideration received by M/s RIL from M/s BP through sale of its 30% Participating Interest (P.I) to BP, does not fall under the provision of Article 16 for arriving at the Profit petroleum payable to Government of India.

Postponement of production of crude oil by OVL from South China sea

†4304. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) had accepted the responsibility for the production of crude oil from the deep water of South China sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) whether it is also a fact that China had registered protest against this; and
- (d) whether the production work has been postponed in view of the said protest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) OVL acquired Block 6.1 in Vietnam offshore in May, 1988 and holds 45% Participating Interest (PI). OVL's share of production in financial year 2011-12 was 2.023 BCM of gas and 0.036 MMT of Condensate.

OVL had also acquired two offshore exploration Blocks (*i.e.* 127 & 128) Vietnam as Operator with 100% PI under Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with effect from 16th June 2006. A well was drilled in Block 127 in 2009 and no hydrocarbon was found. After fulfillment of PSC obligations, the Block was relinquished. Efforts to drill a well in Block 128 was not successful due to severe logistic constraints in anchoring the rig on a hard sea bottom at the proposed drilling location. Considering previous experience and perceived risk-reward analysis, block 128 was found to be techno-commercially not viable and the Board of OVL has decided to relinquish the said block.

(c) and (d) Sovereignty over areas of the South China Sea is disputed between many countries in the region. India is not a party to this dispute. As two developing countries with growing energy needs, India and Vietnam have been cooperating in the oil and gas sector to enhance their energy security. China, which is a party to the South China Sea dispute, has raised its concerns on India's hydrocarbon exploration projects in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam. Government of India has clearly conveyed that such activity by Indian companies is purely commercial in nature and that sovereignty issues must be resolved peacefully by the countries which are parties to the dispute in accordance with the international law and practice.

Sharing of revenue earned from oil production in Rajasthan

†4305. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue received by the Union Government till date since oil production was started in Barmer district in Rajasthan by Cairn Energy and the amount allocated to Rajasthan out of the total revenue earned and the head under which it is allocated;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up more refineries in Rajasthan keeping in view the oil reserves found in the State; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, crude oil production commenced *w.e.f.* 29.08.2009 from Pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) block RJ-ON-90/1, located in Barmer and Jalor districts in Rajasthan, operated by M/s Cairn Energy India Pvt. Limited (CEIL). Following payments have been made to Central and State Governments, in line with the provisions laid down in the PSC.

- Cumulative Profit Petroleum paid to the Central Government upto 31.03.2012 from the revenue earned on crude oil production in the above block is to the tune Rs. 2217.38 Crores.
- Cumulative Royalty paid to the Government of Rajasthan on crude oil production from the above block upto 31.03.2012 is about Rs.5511.03 Crores.

(b) and (c) Consequent to de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998, a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a private or public sector company depending on its techno-commercial viability. There is no concrete proposal to set up a refinery in Rajasthan.

Dues owed by airlines to oil companies

4306. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether airlines companies have dues in terms of petrol bill to the oil companies in the country;

(b) if so, the names of airlines whose dues are pending, names of oil companies and period since these dues are pending; and

(c) the efforts made by these companies to recover payment, from time-to-time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) have dues in terms of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) supplied to airlines in the country. Airline-wise and OMC-wise details of pendency of dues is as under :

Name of the OMC	Name of Airline	Date from which principal amount pending with Airline	Date from which interest on delayed payment pending with Airline
IOC	Air India	01.04.2011	01.04.2008
BPC	Air India	01.04.2011	01.04.2008
	Jet Airways	Nil	01.04.2008
HPC	Air India	01.04.2011	01.04.2008
	Kingfisher Airlines	01.01.2012	01.04.2009
	Paramount Airways	01.05.2010	01.05.2010

(c) In case airlines fail to pay their dues, OMCs take action for recovery of dues in line with the mutually-agreed commercial terms. Such action includes 'Cash and Carry' system, charging interest on overdue payments, encashing of bank guarantee, securing post dated cheques for recovery of outstanding dues and legal action, as applicable.

PNG connections in South Delhi

4307. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in South Delhi where PNG connections, have been provided by the Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL);

(b) the criteria for selecting any colony/area for providing PNG connection by the IGL; and

(c) the reasons that a number of areas like Malviya Nagar etc. have been left out in between where PNG connections have been provided to colonies/areas around and beyond it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) The list of areas in South Delhi where PNG connections has been provided so far is given in Statement. (*See below*)

(b) New colonies/areas are included for expansion of PNG network by Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) based on pipeline connectivity, technical feasibility/permissions from land owning agencies and response of residents.

(c) IGL has reported that it has not excluded Malviya Nagar from its plans to provide PNG connections. PNG network has already reached up to the contiguous areas of Malviya Nagar, namely, Navjeevan Vihar, Geetanjali Enclave, Shivalik etc.

Statement*The List of areas in South Delhi where PNG connections have been provided*

Sl.No.	Area	Sl. No.	Area
1	Andrews Ganj	29	Safdarjang Enclave
2	Sadiq Nagar	30	Ansari Nagar
3	Asiad Games Village	31	Masjid Moth
4	Gulmohar Park	32	Safdarjung Development Area
5	Mayfair Garden	33	Sadhna Enclave
6	Neeti Bagh	34	Pamposh Enclave
7	HUDCO Place	35	Panchsheel Enclave
8	Anand Lok	36	Geetanjali Enclave
9	Gulmohar Enclave	37	New Friends Colony
10	Panchsheel Park	38	Friends Colony
11	A V Nagar	39	Maharani Bagh
12	Defence Colony	40	Bharat Nagar
13	South Extension-II	41	Zakir Bagh
14	Swami Nagar	42	Sarita Vihar
15	Lajpat Nagar-IV	43	Sukhdev Vihar
16	Mohammad Pur	44	Kalindi Colony
17	Sarojini Nagar	45	Ishwar Nagar
18	Nauroji Nagar	46	Taimoor Nagar
19	Netaji Nagar	47	Lajpat Nagar
20	South Moti Bagh	48	Sriniwaspuri
21	R.K. Puram	49	Jasola Vihar
22	Som Vihar	50	Sant Nagar (East of Kailash)
23	Green Park & Green Park Extn.	51	Greater Kailash Enclave-II
24	Hauz Khas	52	Vasant Kunj
25	Pushp Vihar	53	Vasant Vihar
26	Munirka Vihar	54	Munirka DDA
27	Vasant Enclave	55	Munirka Enclave
28	Adhchini		

Gas connections on priority basis for rural and tribal areas

†4308. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of estimated demand of LPG at present along with number of gas connections provided, State-wise;
- (b) the number of gas connections estimated to be provided during the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is providing gas connections to rural and tribal areas on priority basis; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have assessed the requirement/demand of domestic LPG for the entire country at 16627 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) for the year 2012-13. As on 01.03.2012, OMCs are serving about 1365.34 lakh LPG customers in the country. The State-wise details are given in Statement. (*See below*)

(b) It is not possible to indicate the exact number of LPG connections likely to be released in each State as the same are being released to prospective customers on demand, after completing the necessary procedural guidelines laid down by the OMCs. However, OMCs continue to enroll new LPG customers and release new LPG connections on demand, subject to the applicant residing within the area of operation of the distributorship and fulfilling requisite documentation for availing a new LPG connection, and after due verification.

(c) and (d) Distributorships under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana are being set up especially for making LPG available to rural areas, including tribal areas.

Statement*The Statewise details of LPG connections*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Number of LPG connections (in lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	155.74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.79

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
3.	Assam	24.53
4.	Bihar	38.47
5.	Chhattisgarh	13.77
6.	Delhi	50.28
7.	Goa	4.88
8.	Gujarat	68.35
9.	Haryana	41.37
10.	Himachal Pradesh	15.08
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	16.68
12.	Jharkhand	14.69
13.	Karnataka	79.52
14.	Kerala	70.09
15.	Madhya Pradesh	55.23
16.	Maharashtra	172.04
17.	Manipur	2.74
18.	Meghalaya	1.47
19.	Mizoram	2.39
20.	Nagaland	1.80
21.	Odisha	20.21
22.	Punjab	58.03
23.	Rajasthan	62.38
24.	Sikkim	1.84
25.	Tamil Nadu	142.64
26.	Tripura	3.24
27.	Uttar Pradesh	143.60
28.	Uttarakhand	19.58
29.	West Bengal	74.13

1	2	3
UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.64
2.	Chandigarh	3.79
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.54
4.	Daman Diu	0.56
5.	Lakshadweep	0.03
6.	Puducherry	3.22
TOTAL		1365.34

Opening of closed Reliance Industries petrol pumps

†4309. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Reliance Industries' petrol pumps lying closed in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the owners of these petrol pumps spent approximately ₹ 1 crore in setting up each of these pumps;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Reliance Industries started operating these pumps in some of the States but in Uttar Pradesh these pumps have been lying closed since the last four years;

(d) whether Government is contemplating to acquire these pumps and operate these with the help of Government mechanism; and

(e) if so, by when and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) 134 Retail Outlets (ROs) of M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) are lying closed in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The normative investments for setting up a RO vary from ₹ 3 lakh to ₹ 1.5 crores depending on the format of the RO.

(c) The ROs of M/s. RIL has suspended supplies to all ROs since April, 2008 in all States including Uttar Pradesh.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal as M/s. RIL is a private company and thereby Government has no role to play in their activities.

Import of crude oil from Latin America

4310. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India imports crude from Latin America;
- (b) if so, the average landing cost of Latin American crude annually during the last three years; and
- (c) the main importers of Latin American crude oil in India and quantity imported annually during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average cost of crude import from Latin America is given under:

Year	Rate (\$/MT)
2009-10	445.22
2010-11	544.85
2011-12 (Prov.)	706.57

Source: Oil companies and compiled by PPAC

(c) The details of the companies in India importing Latin-American crude oil alongwith the quantity imported during the last three years is given in Statement.

Statement

Company-wise and Country-wise Crude oil Imports from Latin America from 2009-10 to 2011-12 (Provisional)

(Million Metric Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Country	2009-10			2010-11			2011-12 (Prov.)		
		RIL*	EOL^	Total	RIL	EOL	Total	RIL	EOL	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Venezuela	5.37	1.93	7.30	9.99	0.30	10.29	9.50	0.00	9.50
2	Brazil	2.48	0.09	2.56	2.54	0.23	2.77	3.60	0.00	3.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	Colombia	0.85	0.00	0.85	1.24	0.00	1.24	0.81	0.17	0.99
4	Ecuador	1.31	0.00	1.31	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.34	0.00	0.34
5	Panama	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Maxico	1.89	0.00	1.89	1.33	0.15	1.47	1.92	0.28	2.20
		11.96	2.02	13.98	15.48	0.68	16.16	16.17	0.46	16.63

Source: Oil companies and compiled by PPAC

* RIL : Reliance Industries Limited

^ EOL: Essar Oil Limited

Cut in prices of jet fuel

4311. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the oil companies cut jet fuel prices by about 4 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the impact of such cut on the companies and the industry overall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (c) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is a de-regulated product, price of which is revised on a fortnightly basis, based on its price in the international market and the exchange rate of Rupee *vis-a-vis* US\$ in the previous fortnight. The details of the price of ATF at the four metropolitan cities with effect from 1.1.2012 onwards, alongwith the quantum of change, is given in Statement. (See below)

As the effect of International price changes are passed on to the consumer, there is no impact of the same on the oil company/industry.

Statement

The details of the Posted Air Fuelling Station (AFS) price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) with effect from 1.1.2012 till date alongwith the quantum of change

Date	Delhi			Kolkata			Mumbai			Chennai		
	Final Selling Price	Difference	% change over last revision	Final Selling Price	Difference	% change over last revision	Final Selling Price	Difference	% change over last revision	Final Selling Price	Difference	% change over last revision
1.1.12	63076.67	(662.43)	(1.04)	71358.17	(662.97)	(0.92)	64053.73	(676.50)	(1.05)	67911.67	(684.19)	(1.00)
16.1.12	64882.11	1805.44	2.86	73238.84	1880.67	2.64	65920.87	1867.14	2.91	69838.56	1926.89	2.84
1.2.12	62907.82	(1974.30)	(3.04)	71155.22	(2083.62)	(2.84)	63864.31	(2056.56)	(3.12)	67702.22	(2136.33)	(3.06)
16.2.12	62557.12	(350.70)	(0.56)	70818.97	(338.25)	(0.48)	63499.00	(365.31)	(0.57)	67339.19	(363.04)	(0.54)
1.3.12	64596.36	2039.24	3.26	72941.18	2124.21	3.00	65636.74	2137.74	3.37	69545.33	2208.15	3.28
7.3.12	64650.46	54.10	0.08	72941.18	0.00	0.00	65636.74	0.00	0.00	69545.33	0.00	0.00
16.3.12	65949.34	1298.88	2.01	74415.95	1474.77	2.02	66989.74	1353.00	2.06	71025.41	1480.07	2.13
1.4.12	67800.30	1850.96	2.81	76383.08	1967.13	2.64	68808.82	1817.08	2.71	73066.21	2040.81	2.87
16.4.12	67631.45	(168.85)	(0.25)	76220.72	(162.36)	(0.21)	68630.93	(175.89)	(0.26)	72912.62	(153.59)	(0.21)
1.5.12	67319.71	(311.73)	(0.46)	75909.53	(311.19)	(0.41)	68306.21	(324.72)	(0.47)	72577.51	(335.11)	(0.46)

Source: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)

Control on prices of petrol and diesel

4312. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has dismantled the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) in petrol and diesel sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is controlling prices of petrol and diesel inspite of dismantling; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (d) With effect from 1.4.2002, the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) for petroleum products was dismantled and it was decided that the prices of Petrol and Diesel would be market-determined. However, in view of the steep increase and high volatility in the international oil prices since 2004-05, the Government started modulating the Retail Selling Prices (RSPs) of Petrol and Diesel sold by the three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to protect the consumer from the inflationary impact of international oil prices.

Later, in the light of the recommendations made by the Expert Group set up to advise on a viable and sustainable system of pricing of petroleum products under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, the price of Petrol has been made market-determined with effect from 26.6.2010. Since then, the OMCs take decision on price of petrol in line with prices in international market and domestic condition. Further, the Government took a decision 'in principle' on 25.06.2010 that the price of Diesel would be made market-determined, both at Refinery Gate and Retail Level.

However, in order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices and the domestic inflationary conditions, the Government continues to modulate the retail selling prices of Diesel, resulting in incidence of under-recovery to the OMCs.

Delay in LPG delivery in Himachal Pradesh

†4313. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cylinders are now being supplied to Himachal Pradesh from Jalandhar instead of Baddi by Indian Oil Corporation resulting in late supply thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no supply of gas cylinder in Chirgaon Tehsil of Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh between December, 2011 and January-February, 2012; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and, if not, the place, time and date of supply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the markets in Himachal Pradesh are being fed ex-Jalandhar bottling plant. However, there is no disruption of supplies to these markets because of linkage to Jalandhar bottling plant but on account of non-availability of adequate bulk LPG.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Regular supplies are being made by the IOC to Chirgaon district of Himachal Pradesh. During the period from December, 2011 to February, 2012, IOC has supplied 1,836 domestic LPG cylinders to Chirgaon market to meet the demand of the customers registered with the LPG distributors. The details of supplies made to Chirgaon market are as under :-

Date	No. of domestic LPG cylinders supplied.
30.12.2011	306
04.01.2012	306
20.01.2012	306
25.01.2012	306
17.02.2012	306
22.02.2012	306

Demand for decontrolling prices of petroleum products

4314. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for decontrolling prices of diesel and other petroleum products; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) While considering the recommendations made by the Expert Group set up to advise on a viable and sustainable system of pricing of petroleum products under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh,

the Government, *inter-alia*, took a decision 'in principle' on 25.06.2010 that the price of Diesel would be made market-determined, both at Refinery Gate and Retail Level.

However, in order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices and the domestic inflationary conditions, the Government continues to modulate the retail selling prices of Diesel.

Self-sufficiency in production of oil and gas

4315. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the projected exploration and production of oil and natural gas likely to be achieved during the next three years;
- (b) whether the country is lagging behind in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas as compared to the other developed/developing countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective action taken by Government in the matter including steps initiated to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of oil and natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) In next 3 financial years from 2012-13 to 2014-15, projected crude oil and natural gas production is about 133.127 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and 135.047 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) respectively. Year-wise projection for crude oil and natural gas production is as below:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Crude oil production (MMT)	42.305	45.580	45.242	133.127
Natural gas production (BCM)	43.177	43.771	48.099	135.047

In the corresponding period, the projections of exploration are 106324 line kilometer of 2D seismic, 60934 sq. km. of 3D seismic and 833 exploratory wells.

(b) and (c) India is not lagging behind in exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas and new technologies are being inducted on the need basis. The experience and knowledge gained by multinational companies in other sedimentary basins of the world is being tapped through participation in exploration in the country.

(d) Government/Exploration & Production (E&P) companies have taken actions for enhancing crude oil and natural gas production which *inter-alia* include: (i) Increasing hydrocarbon exploration and production in the country, (ii) Development of unconventional sources of hydrocarbon, and (iii) Acquisition of overseas oil and gas assets by Indian companies.

Break-even price for oil extraction

4316. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the average break-even price to extract one barrel of oil in off-shore and on-shore oilfields in India; and

(b) whether it is comparable to break-even prices of 30 to 40 dollars per barrel in other countries like Oman, Saudi Arabia etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, the production cost of crude oil for major fields/blocks during 2010-11 are as under:

Field/Block	Unit Cost of Production of crude oil (in US \$ per barrel) including levies
Panna-Mukta (Western Offshore)	18.84
Ravva (Eastern Offshore)	11.12
RJ-ON-90/1 (Onshore)	32.10

As far as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is concerned, the per unit cost of production of crude oil (including levies) in Onland and Offshore during 2010-11 are US\$ 35.87 and US\$ 38.09 per barrel respectively.

As far as Oil India Limited (OIL) is concerned, OIL is producing crude oil from its Onland oilfields in North East region only and the average cost of production of crude oil during 2010-11 was US\$ 33.72 per barrel (including levies).

In view of increase of Cess on crude oil from Rs. 2500/Metric Tonne (MT) to Rs. 4500/MT *w.e.f.* 17.3.2012, the cost of oil production will further increase by US\$ 5.7 per barrel approximately.

(b) Average cost of crude oil & natural gas production varies from company to company depending upon size/type of the reservoir, location of reservoir, operating cost, financing cost, depreciation, depletion & amortization applicable and accounting policy followed by various Exploration & Production companies as well as taxes and duties levied by the Government. Therefore, comparison of production cost with other countries will not be appropriate.

IPI gas pipeline project

4317. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project;
- (b) whether any Government has taken any step forward for speedy and favourable outcome;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (d) A number of Tripartite Joint Working Group meetings among the participating countries and Bilateral meetings have already been held to discuss the modalities of the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project including various important issues, *inter-alia*, pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, payment of transportation tariff, transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan and security of supply. However, no agreement relating to the project has been signed so far.

Deregulation of all petro-products

4318. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to deregulate the price of all petroleum products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has received stiff opposition to the move of deregulation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (d) In the light of the recommendations made by the Expert Group set up to advise on a viable and sustainable system of pricing of petroleum products under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, the price of Petrol has been made market-determined both at the Refinery Gate and at the Retail level with effect from 26.06.2010. Further, the Government took a decision 'in principle' on 25.06.2010 that the price of Diesel would be made market-determined, both at Refinery Gate and Retail Level.

However, in order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices and the domestic inflationary conditions, the Government continues to modulate the retail selling prices of Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG.

LPG outlets in J&K

4319. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of LPG outlets in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K);
- (b) the details of LPG outlets advertised for allotment and expected date of their operation;
- (c) the number of LPG outlets expected to be opened in Pampore Town of District Pulwama, J&K and by when; and
- (d) the proposed sites of CNG outlets in J&K and when these are expected to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 165 LPG distributorships in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) The advertisements for setting up of 8 regular LPG distributorships and 65 Rajiv Gandhi LPG Vitaran (RGGLV) distributorships have been released in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and selection process is in progress as per policy.

However, setting up of LPG distributorship is a long process involving receipt/scrutiny of application forms, selection of the candidates, field verification, setting up of the infrastructure, procurement of various mandatory licences and approvals followed by commissioning.

(c) One RGGLV distributorship is pending for commissioning in Kakapura in Pulwama district.

(d) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) forms part of the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network. Authorized entities set up CNG dispensing stations within the respective authorized geographical areas (GAs) based on techno-economic feasibility.

Depending on the natural gas pipeline connectivity/availability, Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) includes GAs in bidding rounds for grant of

authorization to develop CGD networks. So far, PNGRB has not issued authorization for development of CGD networks in any of the GAs in the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

New satellite blocks in KG-D6 block

4320. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UK energy major, British Petroleum, has informed Government that the only way to arrest the decline in production from India's largest gas block, Krishna-Godavari D6 (KG-D6), is to focus on developing new and satellite blocks;

(b) if so, whether a follow-up meeting was held between BP Group's CEO and high level Government officials on 28 September, 2011; and

(c) whether pre-development activities in this regard were organized around December, 2011 or later on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under this Ministry has informed that in the meeting convened on 20.04.2012, the Management Committee (MC) of the block KG-DWN-98/3 operated by the consortium of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and NIKO Resources Limited (NIKO), has approved the Pre-Development activities proposed by the Contractor in respect of four satellite gas discoveries (D-2, 6, 19 and 22), for which Field Development Plan (FDP) has been approved by the MC and D-34 gas discovery, for which Declaration of Commerciality (DoC) has been reviewed by the MC, with conditions. Subsequently, the Contractor has initiated Pre-Development activities related to development of four satellite gas discoveries in this block.

Payment of commission to petrol pump dealers

†4321. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Apurva Chandra Committee had been constituted to give suggestion about the commission to the dealers of petrol;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any decision to fix the commission to dealers of petrol on the basis of the report of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government has given approval to the dealers of petrol to charge fees for the services being provided by them for public conveniences; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Joint Secretary (Marketing), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for devising a suitable mechanism for fixing the Dealers' Commission on Petrol and Diesel based on several demands raised by Dealers Associations. After due consideration of the recommendations of the Committee, the Dealers' Commission on Petrol has been revised from ₹ 1218/KL to ₹ 1499/KL and on Diesel from ₹ 757/KL to ₹ 912/KL effect from 1.7.2011.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Bio-metric smart cards for PDS consumers of kerosene and LPG

4322. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to issue bio-metric smart cards to all PDS consumers of kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said scheme is likely to help in solving the problem of irrational subsidy, consumption and adulteration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (d) Government has constituted a Task Force in February, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to recommend and implement a solution for direct transfer of subsidies on PDS Kerosene, domestic LPG and Fertilizer to the intended beneficiaries with the use of Aadhaar.

The Chairman, UIDAI has submitted the Interim Report of the Task Force on Direct Transfer of Subsidies on Kerosene, LPG and Fertilizer to Hon'ble Finance Minister on 05th July, 2011. The Interim Report of the Task Force envisages implementation for transfer of cash subsidy on Kerosene, LPG and Fertilizer in phases.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are presently conducting a pilot in Mysore for Aadhaar enabled LPG delivery and direct transfer of cash subsidy. The pilot commenced in January, 2012.

A Pilot Scheme for direct transfer of cash subsidy on PDS Kerosene has been launched in Kotkasim Tehsil of Alwar District (Rajasthan) in December, 2012.

These schemes aim to plug leakages in Kerosene and LPG distribution and reduce resultant outgo of subsidy.

At present there is no proposal of Central Government to issue biometric Smart Cards to LPG / Kerosene consumers.

Gas pipeline connectivity from KG-D6 basin

4323. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allocated domestic natural gas from KG-D6 basin to fertilizer units on priority basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether gas pipeline connectivity to these units have been approved;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of works related to laying of pipelines from various units set up so far; and
- (f) the time by which gas pipeline connectivity will be completed in these fertilizer units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) for pricing & commercial utilization of gas produced from New Exploration Licencing Policy (NELP) blocks has accorded highest priority to gas based fertilizer plants and accordingly Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) in consultation with Department of Fertilizers has allocated 15.668 MMSCMD of gas produced from the block KG-DWN-98/3 to various fertilizers plants. The Plant wise allocation to fertilizers Plants are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Plant	Located in State	Gas allocated on firm basis (in mmscmd)
1.	NFCL-Kakinada-I & II	Andhra Pradesh	1.749
2.	Kribhco-Hazira	Gujarat	1.370
3.	GSFC - Vadodara	Gujarat	0.720
4.	IFFCO - Kalol	Gujarat	1.273
5.	GNFC-Bharuch	Gujarat	0.342
6.	NFL - Vijapur I & II	Madhya Pradesh	0.610
7.	RCF-Trombay-V	Maharashtra	0.950
8.	RCF - Thal	Maharashtra	2.100
9.	Deepak Fertilizer	Maharashtra	0.178
10.	CFCL - Gadepan-I & II	Rajasthan	1.150
11.	SFC-Kota	Rajasthan	0.620
12.	IFFCO - Aonla-I & II	Uttar Pradesh	1.750
13.	IFFCO-Phulpur-I & II	Uttar Pradesh	0.520
14.	KSFL - Shahjahanpur	Uttar Pradesh	0.978
15.	TCL-Babrala	Uttar Pradesh	0.880
16.	IGFL-Jagdishpur	Uttar Pradesh	0.478
TOTAL			15.668

(c) to (f) All the above fertilizer units are supplied gas through GAIL's [GAIL (India) Ltd.] existing Hazira-Vijapur-Jagdishpur (HVJ), Dahej-Uran Pipeline (DUPL)-Dhabol-Panvel Pipeline (DPPL) and KG basin pipeline network approved by the Ministry.

Measures for increasing gas production from KG basin

4324. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps to increase gas production from KG basin as there is sharp decline in gas production from this gas field compared to estimated projection which is adversely impacting the economic growth of the country;

(b) the action taken by Government on observation of CAG regarding irregularities and sharp loss to Government from KG basin; and

(c) the details of gas producers engaged in drilling of gas from this field and how much quantity they are producing currently and estimate target for next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under this Ministry has reported that under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, the average gas production from KG-DWN-98/3 block operated by M/s Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) in KG Basin, has decreased from 55.89 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) in 2010-11 to about 42.65 MMSCMD in 2011-12. The following steps have been taken to increase gas production from the block:-

- The Contractor has been advised to drill, complete and put on production more gas wells in D1 & D3 gas fields as well as to adopt appropriate remedial measures such as wells intervention in D1, D3 & MA fields to revive the sick wells in order to increase the gas production from the block.
- The Field Development Plan (FDP) for 4 satellite gas discoveries (D-2, 6, 19 & 22) has been approved and Declaration of Commerciality (DoC) for another gas discovery (D-34) in the block has been reviewed by the MC.
- The Contractor has submitted the revised FDP for MA field, as directed by MC.

Further, three gas discoveries in the block KG-OSN-2001/3 block in KG Basin, operated by M/s Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL), are currently under development and the commercial gas production is likely to commence in Mid 2013.

(b) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) has carried out on request by this Ministry special audit for four block including the block KG-DWN-98/3 for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08. The C&AG have submitted report for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, C&AG have not quantified any loss of revenue to the Government in the blocks for the audited years.

(c) Details of production of natural gas from KG basin in 2011-12 and targets/projections for next five years under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, based on estimates by the Contractors and current understandings, are as under:

[In Billion Cubic Meter (BCM)]

Field/ Block	Producer (Operator)	Gas Production 2011-12 (Actual)	Estimated Gas Production Target				
			2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
KG- DWN- 98/3	RIL	15.611	10.109	8.332	7.521	7.044	10.220
Ravva	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Limited (CEIL)	0.633	0.450	0.373	0.260	0.240	0.200
KG- OSN- 2001/3	GSPCL	-	-	0.292	1.204	1.912	1.912
TOTAL		16.244	10.559	8.997	8.985	9.196	12.332

Review of PMGSY scheme

4325. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE :

SHRI N.K. SINGH :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the physical and financial targets fixed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period along with the achievements made therein. State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to review the criteria and scope of work under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such proposals received from the States;

(d) whether some projects undertaken by some States are suffering due to non-availability of funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) Year-wise estimated physical and financial targets for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Twelfth Five Year Plan are given in Statement-I. (See below). State-wise and year-wise physical progress under the Programme is given in Statement-II. (See below)

(b) and (c) The objective of PMGSY is to provide an All-weather connectivity to all eligible Unconnected Habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in plain areas and 250 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in Hill States, Tribal (Schedule V) areas, the Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and in the 78 Selected Tribal and Backward districts (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission), the criteria under the programme is population as per Census 2001.

(d) and (e) No Sir. The resources for the programme are made available to the States as per provisions under PMGSY guidelines.

Statement - I

Estimated Targets for the Twelfth Five Year Plan

Period	No. of habitations to be Covered	Length for New Connectivity (km)	Length for Up-gradation (Funded Under PMGSY) (km)	Length (km) for Renewal (to be borne by the State Governments)
2012-13	6,000	13,000	10,000	10,000
2013-14	12,000	26,000	10,000	12,000
2014-15	18,000	39,000	10,000	15,000
2015-16	20,000	42,000	10,000	15,000
2016-17	20,000	42,000	10,000	15,000
TOTAL	76,000	1,62,000	50,000	67,000

Statement - II*Physical progress under PMGSY since 2000-01 to 2011-12*

Sl. No.	States	2000-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)	No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)	No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)	No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)	No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)
1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	504	6618.12	75	202.88	262	1404.35	21	2194.94	1	1656.80
2	Arunachal Pradesh	106	729.85	11	208.92	0	136.37	16	272.05	36	271.90
3	Assam	813	620.28	75	183.01	228	477.90	826	1546.97	843	1141.00
4	Bihar	273	457.14	0	249.47	0	895.26	1073	1078.54	229	1665.35
6	Chhattisgarh	624	1762.75	52	914.25	601	2005.09	902	2988.89	1097	2719.36
7	Goa	0	156.86	0	0.00	2	1.84	0	0.00	0	0.00
8	Gujarat	423	1286.90	188	421.75	343	652.65	280	585.80	255	830.24
9	Haryana	0	631.10	0	155.07	0	321.68	0	373.55	0	670.21
10	Himachal Pradesh	403	1040.69	88	276.31	302	1361.72	307	1502.93	295	1555.20
11	Jammu and Kashmir	28	32.38	0	33.67	12	25.25	0	46.82	49	140.69

12	Jharkhand	290	779.42	343	932.48	149	519.47	139	308.60	130	277.15
13	Karnataka	240	3645.01	14	473.78	3	802.09	0	366.45	12	1427.01
14	Kerala	112	152.51	49	146.78	7	46.52	57	77.27	24	100.54
15	Madhya Pradesh	950	5295.00	647	1786.28	1010	2961.98	1427	3788.50	2032	5231.45
16	Maharashtra	321	2092.66	173	829.97	93	322.96	332	1599.23	41	2942.19
17	Manipur	2	0.00	18	394.77	40	282.58	0	199.55	0	265.99
18	Meghalaya	30	533.19	13	53.65	35	75.07	13	38.35	9	52.47
19	Mizoram	30	415.02	9	378.53	13	174.37	1	146.81	14	207.43
20	Nagaland	14	389.50	3	828.61	14	355.76	0	9.50	5	398.42
21	Orissa	1136	2055.63	357	1036.31	568	1494.44	543	2069.85	490	1836.04
22	Punjab	279	591.49	52	112.92	52	96.86	23	440.50	0	1036.49
23	Rajasthan	1380	6825.95	1073	3502.00	1398	4014.99	1998	6216.63	3055	9887.50
24	Sikkim	0	1088.60	0	206.09	44	191.99	11	204.22	10	142.47
25	Tamil Nadu	1051	2181.35	218	367.30	220	501.00	147	519.03	185	747.90
26	Tripura	97	345.75	16	87.72	12	3.60	80	175.61	75	59.51
27	Uttar Pradesh	3840	10155.10	304	916.30	1499	2452.87	1497	2656.39	1268	3551.98
28	Uttarakhand	31	301.79	26	107.67	20	92.61	21	105.89	72	842.08
29	West Bengal	710	1327.07	111	657.92	1275	1220.02	1087	1197.58	1109	1573.81
GRAND TOTAL		13687	51511.11	3915	15464.41	8202	22891.29	10801	30710.44	11336	41231.17

Statement - II

Physical progress under PMGSY since 2000-01 to 2011-12

Sl. No.	States	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		Total	
		No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)	No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)	No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)	No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)	No. of Habitation connected	Phy. Performance (Roads constructed in Km)
1	2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	1885.00	80	30.92	291	2121.48	119	932.14	1354	20107.71
2	Arunachal Pradesh	29	317.43	19	622.55	38	366.87	40	419.21	295	3345.15
3	Assam	1642	1985.11	1046	2095.88	696	2057.11	444	2131.43	6613	12238.69
4	Bihar	968	2532.20	902	2843.27	1551	2515.13	2447	7539.82	7443	19776.18
6	Chhattisgarh	1037	2427.08	1200	4020.44	335	1570.66	291	1053.69	6139	19462.21
7	Goa	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	2	158.70
8	Gujarat	315	1262.07	243	1511.02	242	605.97	173	431.44	2462	7587.84
9	Haryana	0	969.87	1	7853.45	0	3892.45	0	188.31	1	4484.38
10	Himachal Pradesh	330	1360.10	66	15056.06	35	661.82	46	761.09	1872	10025.46
11	Jammu and Kashmir	220	469.80	366	661.54	108	474	201	999.62	984	2883.77

12	Jharkhand	173	214.97	408	15309.01	1059	1599.25	459	1123.03	3150	7285.27
13	Karnataka	0	2099.13	0	3019.75	0	1848.93	0	1858.64	269	15540.79
14	Kerala	63	240.22	35	2640.95	7	245.87	8	214.14	362	1487.93
15	Madhya Pradesh	2414	7893.72	1027	10398.01	618	9163.26	776	2926.66	10901	49444.86
16	Maharashtra	82	4138.65	30	311.15	0	3718.27	48	2592.46	1120	21347.89
17	Manipur	54	78.95	29	879.68	35	487.42	63	374.61	241	2963.55
18	Meghalaya	10	30.80	23	97.92	8	83.31	6	44.67	147	1009.43
19	Mizoram	9	195.18	16	202.71	35	252.13	4	130.90	131	2103.08
20	Nagaland	24	298.53	15	273.66	9	86.00	6	24.89	90	2664.87
21	Orissa	1644	2641.00	367	3838.43	971	494.19	574	3167.06	6650	23080.66
22	Punjab	0	751.62	0	710.00	0	622.72	0	71.76	406	4434.36
23	Rajasthan	1400	10349.93	79	4350.11	35	3019.47	20	450.78	10438	48617.36
24	Sikkim	32	308.57	27	988.15	18	85.72	24	74.98	166	2401.46
25	Tamil Nadu	96	609.59	6	1940.49	2	2229.01	9	814.10	1934	9909.76
26	Tripura	301	361.27	383	5199.26	260	4321.14	201	352.17	1425	2337.66
27	Uttar Pradesh	2002	6461.02	436	9526.81	228	3593.79	55	522.53	11129	39836.79
28	Uttarakhand	132	645.60	159	764.49	120	551.88	68	639.58	649	4051.59
29	West Bengal	1497	1877.11	914	1452.04	883	138.52	455	1154.79	8041	11845.54
GRAND TOTAL		14475	52404.51	7877	60116.99	7584	45108.53	6537	30994.50	84414	350432.94

Payment delays under MGNREGS

4326. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :
SHRI D. RAJA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry's attention has been drawn to the fact that the workers registered under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) projects are not receiving their wages even after the completion of their work in various States;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has set up any mechanism to find out the causes for long delays that itself would beat the purpose of the scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by Government to stop the delay in payment of wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) The Ministry receives a large number of complaints of all types about implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country. 48 such complaints related to delay in payment of wages have been received in the Ministry as on 31.3.2012. All complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action, including investigation, as per law since implementation of MGNREGA is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act.

(b) to (d) As per feedback received from States, delays in payment are attributed mainly due to the following factors:-

- (i) Shortage of staff leading to delays in measurement of work and other related processes.
- (ii) Limited outreach of bank and post office branches, especially in remote, tribal areas.

The steps taken to reduce such delays in wage payments include the following:

- (i) Use of information technology to automate the manual processes is being promoted.

- (ii) Payment of wages in cash has been allowed in IAP districts where outreach of Banks/Post Offices is inadequate as an interim arrangement subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) To strengthen the institutional outreach for wage disbursement, it has been decided that State Governments should roll out the Business Correspondent Model to make wage payment through Banks with Bio-metric authentication at village level.
- (iv) Permissible administrative expenditure limit was enhanced from 4% to 6% for deployment of dedicated staff for MGNREGA, strengthening management and administrative support structures for social audit, grievance redressal and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure.
- (v) States have been instructed to establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for greater flexibility in management of funds for MGNREGA.

Funds for capacity building of Panchayats

4327. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has proposed that 1 percent of its budget for rural development schemes be transferred to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for capacity building; and

(b) whether the Planning Commission, which has reservations on an earlier proposal to pool 2 percent of the funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for capacity building of Panchayats, has approved, or is required to approve, the present proposal of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation offered to transfer one per cent of the allocation of resources to Ministry of Panchayati Raj for strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRJs) in the country. The proposal was considered by Planning Commission and has agreed to in principle.

Sanctioning of projects under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Yojana

4328. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Minister is aware that a proposal under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Yojana (MKSY) which provides better living opportunities to women farmers of Tumkur district of Karnataka was submitted to the Ministry in July, 2011 by the State Government of Karnataka;

(b) whether the proposal has been examined in the Ministry;

(c) if so, the progress in consideration of the proposal; and

(d) by when it will be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) Ministry of Rural Development has received a project proposal under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) from the Initiatives for Development Foundation with the recommendations of the State Government of Karnataka in July, 2011, which covers parts of Tumkur and Belgaum Districts of Karnataka.

(b) Yes Sir. The proposal has been screened by the Project Screening Committee (PSC) constituted under MKSP.

(c) After screening the proposal, the PSC has recommended that the proposal may be placed before the Project Approval Committee (PAC) of MKSP.

(d) The proposal will be taken up for consideration by the PAC in their next meeting.

Quality of IAY houses in NE states

4329. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the break-up of houses allotted to the women, weaker sections and backward classes under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during each of the last three years, North Eastern State-wise;

(b) the mechanism on place to monitor the quality of construction carried out under the scheme;

(c) whether any deficient quality of construction was carried out under the scheme; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) A Statement showing the State-wise, number of houses sanctioned/allotted to women, Scheduled castes/ Scheduled tribes (SCs/STs) and the minorities under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years in North Eastern States is given in Statement. (*See below*)

(b) to (d) Under IAY, houses are constructed by the beneficiaries themselves. As per IAY guidelines, Zilla Parishad/DRDA are required to contact various organizations/institutions for seeking expertise information on innovative technologies, materials, designs and methods to help beneficiaries in the construction/upgradation of durable, cost effective and disaster resistant houses. The State Governments may also arrange to make available information on cost-effective environment friendly technologies, materials designs etc. at district/block level. Further, the IAY scheme is being closely monitored through various mechanisms such as review meetings and field visits by the Area Officers. National Level Monitors (NLMs) are appointed and deputed for independent inquiry and monitoring of the scheme. The State Governments are advised from time to time to ensure that good quality houses are constructed under IAY. In order to improve the quality of houses under IAY, this Ministry had constituted a Task Force. The Task Force recommended that the efforts should be made to ensure that the house is a pucca one with permanent walls and permanent roofing.

Statement

Number of Houses Sanctioned to women and weaker section under Indira Awaas Yojana during 2009-10 to 2011-12.

Sl. No.	States	2009-10							2010-11							2011-12(*)		
		SC	ST	Minority	Women and Husband & Wife Jointly	Physically Handi-capped	SC	ST	Minority	Women and Husband & Wife Jointly	Physically Handi-capped	SC	ST	Minority	Women and Husband & Wife Jointly	Physically Handi-capped		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
1	Arunachal Pradesh	0	6063	0	4475	66	0	10265	0	7725	200	0	1616	0	1454	12		
2	Assam	57830	79529	40551	199348	19846	45432	54402	30289	121443	4902	42234	50939	29154	133671	4007		
3	Manipur	170	3436	422	5775	194	83	2178	481	3302	95	10	4969	70	4973	124		
4	Meghalaya	97	9799	180	9067	256	10	12860	58	9167	200	685	12459	190	12847	219		
5	Mizoram	0	4851	0	4740	111	0	4916	0	3133	55	0	3177	0	3120	107		
6	Nagaland	0	12145	0	11780	365	0	16175	0	15690	485	0	11332	0	10992	340		
7	Sikkim	326	839	911	2165	220	345	670	1015	1660	64	288	433	721	1604	66		
8	Tripura	3037	7123	1953	13464	349	3064	11267	2036	18582	510	3433	22653	1395	20360	615		
TOTAL		61460	123785	44017	250814	21407	48934	112733	33879	180702	6511	46650	107578	31530	189021	5490		

(*) Provisional

Capacity building and training under NRLM

4330. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Aajivika Programme of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) it is proposed to spend ₹ 7500/- per beneficiary for capacity building and training;

(b) if so, the action plan for the same;

(c) whether there is any time period specified for the training period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) prescribes provision of upto ₹ 7,500 per beneficiary for training and capacity building which also includes training and capacity building of all other stakeholders, including programme officers and staff, community professionals, concerned government officials, NGOs, PRI functionaries etc.

(b) NRLM follows a demand driven strategy. The States have the flexibility to develop their State Perspective and Implementation Plan (SPIP) and Annual Action Plans (AAPs) for poverty reduction, which will include the action plan for training and capacity building.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, training and capacity building of beneficiaries and stakeholders under NRLM will be on-going activity hence no time period can be specified.

Proposal of flexi funds for road development

4331. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has recently advocated flexi funds for States for the development of roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to ensure that road development in a particular State is the prime responsibility of the concerned State Government out of the flexi funds; and

(d) if so, the views of the State Governments on flexi funds for the development of roads in their States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing, *inter alia*, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the

rural areas of the country which envisages connecting all eligible unconnected habitations, as per Core-Network, with an All-weather road. The Scheme is implemented in accordance with the guidelines laid down for the purpose, which are made more effective from time to time.

(c) and (d) The “Rural Roads” is a State subject and the responsibility for implementation of PMGSY lies with the State Governments.

Reservation for SC/ST temporary employees

4332. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of regular and temporary employees, grade-wise, in December, 2011 in the Ministry;
- (b) the percentage of SCs and STs in these grades, and
- (c) the policy of reservation in employment of temporary employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) Government employees on their initial appointment would be on probation for a specific period and are treated as temporary employees till such time they are substantially appointed to the entry post on successful completion of the probation period. Hence these temporary Government employees are also regular employees from the date of initial recruitment in Government service. The Group-wise incumbency position as on 31.12.2011 in the Ministry of Rural Development including the Department of Land Resources is as under:-

Group A	Group B	Group C
101	200	156

(b) There are a total of 17.3% SC and 6.8% ST in position in the Ministry of Rural Development as on 31.12.2011 out of which 8.9 % SC and 9.9% ST are in Group A, 12.5% SC and 5% ST are in Group B and 28.8% SC and 7% ST are in Group C.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development follows the policy on reservation as per instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time and there are no such separate guidelines on reservation for temporary Government servants.

Implementation of IGNOAPS in Maharashtra

†4333. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of amount allocated to Maharashtra during the last three years under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) by Government;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether the State Government is utilising the funds cent per cent;
- (c) the number of old persons/women from rural and urban areas of Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar districts who are getting the benefit of pension;
- (d) the amount of pension given to every old woman/man during the last three years and in current year; and
- (e) the norms/guidelines fixed for inclusion under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). NSAP is under State Plan and funds are released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) by Ministry of Finance to States as a combined allocation for all the schemes under NSAP together. The funds released to Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year under NSAP is as under:

(Rs. in Lakh)			
2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto April 2012)
41540.00	28573.00	20505.99	7311.00

- (b) The expenditure reported by the State Government during the last three year is as under:

(Rs. in Lakh)		
2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
17089	35184	28678

- (c) As per the information received from State Government, 61639, 34111 and 36680 old persons are covered under IGNOAPS in Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar districts respectively.

- (d) The amount of old age pension given to every beneficiary upto 31/10/2010 including state contribution was Rs. 500/- per month and since 1/11/2010 including state contribution is Rs. 600/- per month.

- (e) IGNOAPS is applicable, *w.e.f.* 1.4.2011, for persons who are 60 years and above and belonging to household living below poverty line as per the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

Authority for regulating quality of Ayush medicines

4334. SHRI SABIR ALI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any regulatory authority to regulate the quality of Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathic etc. medicines, produced and marketed in the country;

- (b) whether quality of these medicines has been prescribed; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when a regulatory authority will be constituted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN) : (a) Yes, under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 and the Rules thereunder, there is a provision for the State Government to appoint licensing authorities by a notification in the Official Gazette to regulate the manufacture for sale of Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathic medicines. Accordingly, licensing authorities are appointed in the States to enforce the regulatory provisions for quality control of these medicines.

(b) Yes, as per the regulatory provisions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, the standards to be complied with for identity, purity and strength of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathic Medicines are specified in the respective Pharmacopoeias for the time being in force and other standards as may be prescribed.

(c) Does not arise.

Actual reality of performance of TSC

4335. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister at the launch of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific report on Millennium Development Goals had himself admitted that till date 60 per cent of our country's population are relieving themselves in the open as reported in Hindustan Times on 18 February, 2012;

(b) if so, the details of the statement;

(c) whether on the one hand the Ministry claims that under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) they had achieved about the 90 per cent of goal and on the other hand the Minister's claim is only 40 per cent;

(d) the actual ground reality on this and why there are two different versions with such a wide gap; and

(e) how the Ministry will achieve 100 per cent goal and by when?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) As per the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report 2012 Updates published by World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), nearly 60% of those practicing open defecation live in India. The information presented in the report includes data from household surveys

and census up to the period of 2008-09 only of usage of sanitation facilities and do not reflect the recent efforts of Government of India to eliminate the practice of open defecation and promote the use of toilets under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

(c) and (d) Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is a demand driven project based programme taking district as a unit covering total rural population of the districts not having sanitation facilities. TSC, at present, is being implemented in 607 rural districts of the country. Sanitation coverage under TSC is referred to as the percentage of project objectives achieved for Individual Household Latrines (IHHL). A total objective of 12.57 crore IHHLs has been identified under TSC at present for 607 rural district projects together. A cumulative achievement of 8.71 crore households has since been reported by the States through online monitoring system maintained by the Ministry indicating that the sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country against project objectives reached 69% approximately as of March 2012.

(e) Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Human Resource Development (HRD), the key components to generate and meet demand for sanitation are being strengthened. The Government has increased the allocation under TSC from Rs.1500 crore in the year 2011-12, the last year of the XI Five Year Plan to Rs.3500 crore as Budget Estimate during the year 2012-13, the first year of the XII Five Year Plan. The States have been advised for engagement of Swachchhata Doots to accelerate sanitation coverage. Thus, it is expected that present project objectives under TSC will be completed by the year 2017.

Guaranteed employment under MGNREGS

4336. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has submitted proposal for convergence of the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to meet the labour component of the beneficiary of around 70 to 80 man-days;

(b) if so, what is Government's decision thereon; and

(c) whether Government would consider this in addition to the 100 days guaranteed employment under MGNREGS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) and (b) Proposals for inclusion of rural housing for BPL families in list of activities in schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have been received from some States. Since creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural

poor is also an important objective of the Act and choice of works suggested in the Act is to address causes of chronic poverty through employment generation on a sustainable basis, it has not been found feasible to include houses for rural BPL as an activity to be taken up under MGNREGA.

(c) No sir.

Feasibility of integrating TSC and IAY scheme

4337. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to Answer to Unstarred Question 1537 given in Rajya Sabha on 27 March, 2012 and state:

(a) the outcome in physical terms, State-wise, both in absolute numbers and as a proportion Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) houses built, of “dovetailing” the Toilet Sanitation Campaign (TSC) with the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) with effect from 20 December, 2006, more than five years ago; and

(b) whether the Ministry would be prepared to move from dovetailing the two schemes to integrating them into a single scheme, given that diseases caused by open air defecation, are responsible for a large proportion of health costs incurred by IAY beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) scheme was dovetailed with Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) Programme *w.e.f.* 20th December, 2006. A statement showing the State-wise number of houses constructed under IAY and toilet constructed under TSC and their percentage from the year 2008-09 to 2011-12 is given in Statement. (*See* below)

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of both the Ministries. Both the schemes are being implemented by different Ministries. However, to ensure that each IAY house is provided a sanitary latrine simultaneously, a joint letter was issued by Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation on 18th May, 2011 to the State Governments to make it mandatory that all IAY beneficiaries, if eligible, simultaneously are sanctioned one toilet each under TSC.

In so far as Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is concerned, TSC is a demand driven project based programme wherein provision exists for incentives to identified BPL households on completion and usage of toilet in recognition of its achievement. As per TSC guidelines, all houses constructed for BPL families under Indira Awaas Yojana are invariably be provided with a toilet under TSC for that district.

Statement

Number of Houses and Sanitary Latrine Constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana during 2008-09 to 2011-12.

States/UTS	(In numbers)												
	2008-09			2009-10			2010-11			2011-12 (*)			
	Houses Constructed	Sanitary Latrine	%age	Houses Constructed	Sanitary Latrine	%age	Houses Constructed	Sanitary Latrine	%age	Houses Constructed	Sanitary Latrine	%age	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Andhra Pradesh	266654			434733			257104			249013			
Arunachal Pradesh	7236	1279	17.68	6026	420	6.97	9915	1387	13.99	1400			
Assam	112706			181162	40762	22.50	156911	24074	15.34	143770	27815	19.35	
Bihar	484197	5031	1.04	653214	24939	3.82	566148	28885	5.10	323904	8823	2.72	
Chhattisgarh	30023	2562	8.53	58449	32137	54.98	58419	17133	29.33	43149	35579	82.46	
Goa	586			1864	1	0.05	667			1087			
Gujarat	122412			166760	166269	99.71	167313	150398	89.89	111999	78821	70.38	
Haryana	13302	9281	69.77	24138	21379	88.57	18055	10142	56.17	17282	16729	96.80	
Himachal Pradesh	4501		0.00	9295	5285	56.86	5834	2986	51.18	6019	5972	99.22	
Jammu and Kashmir	13211	157	1.19	18594	596	3.21	19666			7264			
Jharkhand	56180			87524	691	0.79	167254	3226	1.93	90448	1291	1.43	
Karnataka	87051			158417	120680	76.18	95567	13657	14.29	26965			
Kerala	53133	49598	93.35	51590	44165	85.61	54853	36713	66.93	54499	38496	70.64	
Madhya Pradesh	74651	2054	2.75	96877	9105	9.40	79097	79097	100.00	97502	39126	40.13	
Maharashtra	118611	2629	2.22	207695	25577	12.31	156575	156575	100.00	135476	24637	18.19	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Manipur	514			3296	1579	47.91	4682	895	19.12	2956	46	1.56
Meghalaya	5619			9875	2375	24.05	11439	1564	13.67	13147	3001	22.83
Mizoram	5179			4851	3059	63.06	3517	2063	58.66	3227	1586	49.15
Nagaland	24717			11645			15514			8083		
Orissa	62447	1217	1.95	170766			171223			141398		
Punjab	11700	897	7.67	27108	7203	26.57	20483	3573	17.44	16622	3815	22.95
Rajasthan	52654	2229	4.23	86992	21444	24.65	63464	19335	30.47	125642	20716	16.49
Sikkim	1774			1819			2739			1805		
Tamil Nadu	94160			169753	114250	67.30	96256	14523	15.09	60578	9455	15.61
Tripura	26389			8322			12310			26529		
Uttar Pradesh	267543	10567	3.95	483949	102349	21.15	305376	55073	18.03	307012	55699	18.14
Uttarakhand	12696	9652	76.02	20373	16616	81.56	15924	11644	73.12	15573	11210	71.98
West Bengal	123808	29026	23.44	230155	136201	59.18	178832	95970	53.66	171375	124843	72.85
Andaman and Nicobar	124			242			316	202	63.92	578	222	38.41
Dadar and N. H.	41			0								
Daman and Diu				0								
Lakshadweep	190			88	246	279.55						
Pondicherry	52	42	80.77	47								
TOTAL	2134061	126221	5.91	3385619	897328	26.50	2715453	729115	26.85	2204302	507882	23.04

Note: Blank column shown not reported by States/Districts.

(*) Provisional

Skill development and training of BPL youths

4338. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted in November, 2010 a proposal to the Ministry for provision of skill development and training for the benefit of BPL youths in the districts of Davangare and Chitradurga in Karnataka at an estimated cost of Rs. 629.70 lakhs; and

(b) the progress of consideration of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project proposal which complies with the basic parameters of the guidelines is appraised through two Inter-Ministerial Committees for screening and approval. The proposal received from the Government of Karnataka will be placed before the Project Screening Committee/Project Approval Committee with in a period of 6 months.

Trade centres in villages

4339. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to set up trade centres in villages and District Headquarters particularly in Patan, Banaskantha and Mehsana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds sanctioned for this scheme;

(d) whether Government proposes to provide funds up to Tehsil level; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN) : (a) to (c) Under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), a major self employment programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, there is a provision for setting up of permanent marketing centres or Haats at Village, District and State levels in all States including Gujarat. Funds upto Rs.15 lakhs for creation of Village Haats, upto Rs.1.5 crores for a district level Haat and upto Rs.3.00 crores for a Haat at the State capital are permissible under this component. These funds are shared between Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 while in case of Centre and North Eastern States, the funds are shared in the ratio of 90:10.

During the financial year 2008-09, Ministry of Rural Development released funds amounting to Rs.421.875 lakhs as first installment to 25 District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) of Gujarat, including Patan, Banaskantha and Mehsana districts, for creation of 75 Village Haats (3 Village Haats per DRDA). Ministry of Rural Development has not received any proposal for setting up of haats in District Headquarters in Gujarat State from the Government of Gujarat.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal as the Ministry of Rural Development has already provided funds to the various States for setting up of Village Haats during the year 2008-09.

Jatropha plantation on wasteland in North Eastern States

4340. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of wasteland in the North Eastern States;
- (b) whether there is any scheme to promote plantation of Jatropha and any other trees in the wasteland in these States;
- (c) if so, whether Government has conducted any survey regarding suitability of the wastelands in the States for Jatropha cultivation; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action Government has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SISIR ADHIKARI) : (a) As per the Wasteland Atlas of India 2011, the total area of wasteland in the North Eastern States is 47588.21 sq. km.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of answer (b) above.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Notification of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

II. Report and Accounts (2010-11) of JIPMER, Puducherry and related papers

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) Sir, I lay on the Table —

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health) Notification No. G.S.R. 899 (E), dated the 27th December,

2011, publishing the Drugs and Cosmetics (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2011, under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6806/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6932/15/12]

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

MOUs between Govt. of India and EPI and CCI

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : 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 Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises) and the Engineering Projects (India) Limited (EPI), for the year 2012-13. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6892/15/12]
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry) and Cement Corporation of India Limited (CCI), for the year 2012-13. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6893/15/12]

Notifications of Ministry of Environment and Forests

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Environment and Forests:—

- (1) S.O. 2866 (E), dated the 27th December, 2011, amending Notification No. S.O. 489 (E), dated the 30th April, 2003, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6826/15/12]
- (2) G.S.R. 277 (E), dated the 31st March, 2012, publishing the Environment (Protection) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2012. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6825/15/12]

Notifications of Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification No. LAD-/NRO/GN/2011-12/38/4290, dated the 21st February, 2012, publishing the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2012, under Section 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6813/15/12]

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Notification No. G.S.R. 257 (E), dated the 28th March, 2012, publishing the Coinage of the Sixty Rupees and Five Rupees coined to commemorate the occasion of the 60th Year of India Government Mint, Kolkata, Rule, 2012, under sub-section (5) of Section 24 of the Coinage Act, 2011. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6812/15/12]

Notifications of Ministry of Finance

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), 1962, under Section 159 of the Customs Act, along with Explanatory Memoranda :—

S.O. 338 (E), dated the 27th February, 2012, regarding exchange rate of conversion of foreign currency into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.

S.O. 350 (E), dated the 29th February, 2012, amending Notification No. S.O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

S.O. 426 (E), dated the 15th March, 2012, amending Notification No. S.O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

G.S.R. 232 (E), dated the 20th March, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 185 (E), dated the 17th March, 2012, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

S.O. 522 (E), dated the 21st March, 2012, amending Notification No. S.O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

S.O. 564 (E), dated the 22nd March, 2012, amending Notification No. S.O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

G.S.R. 258 (E), dated the 28th March, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 185 (E), dated the 17th March, 2012, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

S.O. 625 (E), dated the 28th March, 2012, regarding exchange rate of conversion of foreign currency into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6810/15/12]

G.S.R. 273 (E), dated the 30th March, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 185 (E), dated the 17th March, 2012, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6936/15/12]

S.O. 703 (E), dated the 30th March, 2012, amending Notification No. S.O. 970 (E), dated the 31st August, 2004, to insert certain entries in the original Notification.

S.O. 704 (E), dated the 30th March, 2012, amending Notification No. S.O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6810/15/12]

G.S.R. 284 (E), dated the 4th April, 2012, prohibiting import into India and export out of India of hazardous wastes specified in Schedule VI to the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6935/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 296 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961, along with Explanatory Memoranda:—

S.O. 227 (E), dated the 6th February, 2012, publishing the Income-Tax (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2012.

S.O. 343 (E), dated the 28th February, 2012, specifying the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), as a body constituted, by the Central Government in respect of the specified income arising to NSDC.

S.O. 344 (E), dated the 28th February, 2012, specifying the Competition Commission of India, as a body constituted by the Central Government in respect of the specified income arising to the Competition Commission of India.

S.O. 626 (E), dated the 28th March, 2012, publishing the Income - Tax (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2012. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6809/15/12]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944, along with Explanatory Memoranda:—

[SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA]

G.S.R. 220 (E), dated the 19th March, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 117 (E), dated the 1st March, 2011, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

G.S.R. 225 (E), dated the 19th March, 2012, publishing the Pan Masala Packing Machines (Capacity Determination and Collection of Duty) Second Amendment Rules, 2012.

G.S.R. 226 (E), dated the 19th March, 2012, publishing the Chewing Tobacco and Un-manufactured Tobacco Packing Machines (Capacity Determination and Collection of Duty) Second Amendment Rules, 2012.

G.S.R. 253 (E), dated the 27th March, 2012, publishing the CENVAT Credit (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2012. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6815/15/12]

G.S.R. 275 (E), dated the 30th March, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 163 (E), dated the 17th March, 2012, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.

G.S.R. 276 (E), dated the 30th March, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 169 (E), dated the 17th March, 2012, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6934/15/12]

IV. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, along with Explanatory Memoranda:—

G.S.R. 231 (E), dated the 20th March, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 798 (E), dated the 31st December, 2007, to add certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6814/15/12]

G.S.R. 285 (E), dated the 4th April, 2012, rescinding Notification No. G.S.R. 14 (E), dated the 13th January, 2012.

G.S.R. 286 (E), dated the 4th April, 2012, seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of phosphonic acid of all grades and all concentrations originating in, or exported from, Israel and Taiwan and imported into India.

G.S.R. 287 (E), dated the 4th April, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 567 (E), dated the 29th August, 2007, to add certain entries in the original Notification.

G.S.R. 290 (E), dated the 12th April, 2012, amending Notification No. G.S.R. 683 (E), dated the 30th October 2007, to add certain entries in the original Notification. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6936/15/12]

I. Notifications of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**II. Reports and Accounts (2010-11) of various Yoga Council and Institute and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN) : Sir, I lay on the Table—

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of AYUSH) Notification No. 12-6/2001-CCH (Pt.), dated the 14th October, 2011, publishing the Establishment of New Medical College, (Opening of New or Higher Course of Study / or Training and Increase of Admission Capacity by a Medical College) Regulations, 2011, under sub-section (2) of Section 33 of Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, along with delay statement. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6816/15/12]
- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of AYUSH) Notification No. F. 12-6/2001-CCH (Pt.) 25500, dated the 21st February, 2012, publishing Corrigendum for making certain corrections in Notification No. 12-6/2001-CCH (Pt.), dated the 28th September, 2011 of the Central Council of Homoeopathy. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6816/15/12]
- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6941/15/12]
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6942/15/12]

I. Notifications of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**II. MOUs (2012-13) between Govt. of India and various - Petroleum corporations**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Notification F. No. M(C)/2012, dated the 22nd March, 2012, publishing the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Determination of Network Tariff for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks and Compression Charge for CNG) Amendment Regulations, 2012, under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6803/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas) and the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), for the year 2012-13. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6802/15/12]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas) and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), for the year 2012-13. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6800/15/12]

I. Notifications of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

II. Reports and Accounts (2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11) of MNI Institute of Oncology, RCC, Hyderabad and Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY) : Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Notification No. G.S.R. 80 (E), dated the 9th February, 2012, publishing the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Amendment Rules, 2012, under Section 34 of Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6817/15/12]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the MNJ Institute of Oncology, Regional Cancer Centre, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Annual Report and Accounts of the MNJ Institute of Oncology, Regional Cancer Centre, Hyderabad, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6821/15/12]
- (ii) (a) Annual Reports and Accounts of the Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (National Population Stabilisation Fund), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6951/15/12]

Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, I lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2012: No.4 of 2012-13: Union Government—Department of Space—on hybrid satellite digital multimedia broadcasting service agreement with Devas; and [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 6847/15/12]
- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2011: No.32 of 2011-12 and No. 3 of 2012-13 - Railways Finances: Union Government (Railways) and Appropriation Accounts of Railways—Parts—I and II including Annexure—G, for the year 2010-11. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7054/15/12]

STATEMENT OF DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat) : Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Action Taken by the Government

[SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL]

on the recommendations contained in Chapter-1 and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the Thirteenth Report of the Committee (2010-11) (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2010-11)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Reported plight of widow of a renowned AIR commentator Late Shri Melville De Mellow

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa) : Sir, as a nation, it is our duty to recognise the talent in our citizens, and it is all the more necessary that the talent of individuals is not forgotten when the talented persons are no more alive.

Melville de Mellow carried an iconic stature as a commentator and newscaster in the All India Radio.

He created a record by his moving non-stop account for seven hours from a van of All India Radio on Mahatma Gandhi's last journey from Birla House to Rajghat in 1948.

His radio commentary of India-Pakistan Hockey Match was an event to remember.

His commentary of Republic Day Parade, rendered by him for several years, is remembered, even today, decades after he passed away at the age of 76 in 1989.

The widow of this most talented citizen of India, Mrs. Coralie Emma De Mellow, aged 95, is longing to get a paltry sum of Rs. 1500 given to her by Prasar Bharati.

It is strange that the pension that was granted to her in March, 2008 was discontinued on the grounds that there was no provision to that effect.

There was also a talk of Prasar Bharti's intention to give Mrs. De Mellow a lump sum amount, but the same was not materialised. The lady herself is not making much efforts as she is 95 years of age and is herself helped by some well-meaning people to remain alive, and, secondly, she feels awkward to beg with the Government in view of the great service rendered by her husband to the nation, of which she is extremely proud of.

In the circumstances, I urge upon the Government, particularly, Prasar Bharati, to immediately sanction a reasonable lump sum amount to Mrs. De Mellow and help her to live with dignity in her last days. Thank you, Sir.

Tragic condition of Indian Labourers in Angola

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला (गुजरात) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सदन का और भारत सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि दक्षिण अफ्रीका के अंगोला में 1200 भारतीयों को बंधक बनाया गया है, जिनमें 40 आदमी गुजरात के हैं। हमारे देश के कुछ लोग वहाँ आपनी रोजी-रोटी कमाने के लिए गए थे। गुजरात के पेटलाड के विजय नामक एक आदमी ने वहाँ से बात की और यह बताया कि वहाँ पर एक महीने से हड़ताल चल रही है। वहाँ की सिमेंट कम्पनी के मालिक ने स्थानीय पुलिस के साथ मिलकर, लोगों पर फायरिंग की है। वे लोग अपनी जान बचाने के लिए जंगल में मारे-मारे फिर रहे हैं। हम टेलीविजन के चैनल्स पर उनके परिवारों को क्रन्दन करते हुए देख रहे हैं। मुझे यह बताते हुए बहुत दुःख हो रहा है कि यह मामला मीडिया में 15 दिनों से छाया हुआ है, मैंने भारत सरकार की तरफ से किसी को भी इस बारे में कुछ कहते हुए नहीं सुना है। भारत के 1200 लोग अफ्रीका की धरती पर बंधक बने हुए हैं और वे हम लोगों से गुहार लगा रहे हैं। गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने प्राइम मिनिस्टर को पत्र लिखकर सारी बातों से अवगत करवाया है। आन्ध्र प्रदेश का एक लड़का घायल हो गया है और एक बेंगलुरु का आदमी भी बंधक बनाया गया है। इस देश के 1200 आदमी यह उम्मीद लगाकर बैठे हैं कि हम कभी दूरदर्शन पर या मीडिया में, भारत सरकार के किसी मंत्री को इस बारे में यह कहते हुए देखें कि हम इस इश्यु पर यह कह रहे हैं।

सर, मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि जो वहाँ पर 1200 आदमी फंसे हुए हैं, उनके पासपोर्ट जब्त कर लिए गए हैं। यदि वे आना भी चाहें, तो बिना पासपोर्ट के कैसे आ सकते हैं? वे लोग अपनी जान बचाने के लिए जंगल में मारे-मारे फिर रहे हैं। उन लोगों को खाने की कोई सुविधा नहीं है। वे लोग जंगली पशुओं के बीच में बिना खाने के, बिना पानी के अपनी जान बचाते फिर रहे हैं। अभी तक भी यहाँ पर उस बारे में कुछ नहीं हो रहा है। अध्यक्ष जी, आप से और इस सदन के सभी सदस्यों से मेरी प्रार्थना है कि यदि भारत का कोई नागरिक विदेश की धरती पर इस तरह से बंधक की हालत में है, तो हम सभी सदस्यों का फर्ज बनता है कि सरकार को मजबूर करें, ताकि वह इस विषय में कुछ काम करे और हमें स्टेटस दें। 1200 परिवार सरकार से उम्मीद लगाए बैठे हैं, इसलिए सरकार उनको आश्वासन दे। यहाँ पर आकर राज्य के मुख्य मंत्री भी गुहार लगा रहे हैं, फिर भी उनके प्रति सरकार कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं दिखा रही है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आपका टाइम खत्म हो गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आपका टाइम खत्म हो गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... बैठिए, बैठिए।

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला : *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani to associate. ...**(Interruptions)**... You may associate. The next speaker is Shri Kumar Deepak Das. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री अविनाश राया खन्ना (पंजाब) : सर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं उससे अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Sir, this is a serious matter. सरकार को ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : It would not go on record. ...**(Interruptions)**... बैठिए, बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Shri Kumar Deepak Das. ...**(Interruptions)**... आप लोग बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजीव शुक्ल) : माननीय सदस्य ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, यह निश्चित रूप से बहुत महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। अंगोला की घटना के लिए हम सभी चिंतित हैं। मैं विदेश मंत्री जी को सदन की भावना से तत्काल अवगत करवाता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : The Minister is very considerate. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मंत्री जी यहां आकर तत्काल जवाब दें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Shri Kumar Deepak Das. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... The next speaker has been called. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप लोग बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : अध्यक्ष जी, यह तो गोल-मोल करने वाली चीज हो गई। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : He has said whatever he could have said. ...*(Interruptions)*... ठीक है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : सर, यह हिन्दुस्तान के 1200 आदमियों का मामला है। अब तक भारत सरकार ने कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की है। अगर सभी सदस्य चाहते हैं तो ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : He has said whatever he could have said.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : आप अभी बुलाइए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : No. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Agrawal, Government has taken note of it. He has said it. That is enough. ...*(Interruptions)*... बैठिए।

This is not discussion time. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you want a discussion, give another notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is Zero Hour. If you want a discussion, give another notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिए, अग्रवाल जी, यह जीरो ऑवर है, discussion के लिए दूसरा नोटिस दीजिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... रूपाला जी बैठिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... Not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... मैंने बोल दिया है ...*(व्यवधान)*... Government has taken note of it. That is enough. ...*(Interruptions)*... Kumar Deepak Das. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

विनय कटियार : *

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला : *

श्रीमती जया बच्चन : *

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : मैडम जया बच्चन जी, दूसरा नोटिस दीजिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... बैठिए; Let the Minister say. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिए ...*(व्यवधान)*... मैंने बोल दिया है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हमारे साथ प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्री श्री वायालार रवि जी हैं, मैं उनसे अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे इसका जवाब दें।

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : Sir, two days ago, I have seen a report on the statement of the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi, regarding some forty Indians in Angola facing problems. He has written a letter to the Minister of External Affairs or somebody else; not to me. As soon as I saw this, we immediately sent a letter to the Ambassador in Angola to get a detailed report. I could not go to office and find out whether that report has come or not. We are in touch with the Ambassador. We will take all necessary steps to give all possible assistance to them. Earlier also, we have brought people back by paying money from our own funds. So, I can tell the hon. Members that as soon as I get the report, we will take all the steps to bring them back to India.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Under what rule? You have to tell the rule.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I am really amazed at the way we are functioning. There was a report in the papers today that there were 13 Indians who have died in a plane crash. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : It is not a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to go by rules. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : There is a new report about people in Angola who are ...*(Interruptions)*... यह आज से नहीं, कितने दिनों से आ रहा है, आज मुद्दा उठाया तो मंत्री जी बोल रहे हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : You can give notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Member can give a notice. You can give a notice if you want a discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL : Sir, if we give a notice, will you accept it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : No. It will be considered. ...*(Interruptions)*... Notice will be considered. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : So, we are at your mercy, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Not at mercy ...*(Interruptions)*... You have every right. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Of course ...(*Interruptions*)... Of course, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please understand the rule. In Zero Hour, if you had given the notice in advance to the Chairman, Chairman would have considered it and allowed it. Thus, ten notices were allowed. During the Zero Hour, to react or not to react, it is up to the Government. Here, the Minister was very kind enough to come and reply. So, that is over. You cannot raise it again. That is what I am saying. Still, if you want a discussion, I advise you to give a notice. Hon. Chairman will consider it. The rule is same for everybody. Madam, please understand it. I have a lot of consideration for you. But what can I do? The rule is same for everybody. ...(*Interruptions*)... Agrawalji, please ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, डेमोक्रेसी में * मत कीजिए। सदन में अगर कोई जीरो ऑवर में विषय रखना चाहे और आप रखने नहीं दें तो यह * है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : * is expunged. ...(*Interruptions*)... That word is expunged. आप discussion के लिए नोटिस दीजिए।

Frequent tremors in North-Eastern Region of the country

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam) : Sir, this is a very serious issue regarding saving the North-Eastern Region from quakes' devastation.

Sir, on 11th May evening, the 5.4 magnitude strong tremors rocked Assam and some other parts of the North-East whose epicentre was in Nagaon district. It was a reminder of the vulnerability of the North-Eastern Region to tectonic shift. The North-Eastern Region is seismically most active, as it is located in Zone-V.

During the last hundred years, the North-Eastern Region has experienced 210 tremors between 5 and 5.9 magnitude, 128 tremors between 6 and 6.9 magnitude, 15 tremors between 7 and 7.9 magnitude, and 4 tremors between 8 and 8.5 magnitude. So, one can understand how vulnerable we are to earthquakes.

Recently, we had the worst experience of disaster management in Assam. The force deputed by the Disaster Management Authority took 27 hours to reach Dhubri from Jorhat, where 300 people died in recent ferry accident. We mourned the death of the people who died in this accident in this House. In Madertari, 300 people have died and the force has rescued only 80 people. Then, just imagine what will happen if an earthquake of major magnitude rocks Assam. This is the scenario of preparedness in our Region.

Sir, after the latest Sikkim devastation, it has become urgent to take more steps to invest our energies and also to bring expertise from professionals from outside in disaster management.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

There is need for mock exercises to enhance the level of preparedness and to generate mass awareness on what they should do in the eventuality of massive quake. It is also the need of the hour that the Department of Science and Technology should come out with imperative quality research in earthquake engineering which might pave the way for earthquake forecast.

In the North-Eastern Region, though there is a need to generate mass awareness, the Assam Government, for instance, has done nothing worthwhile except publishing a few advertisements in the local newspapers just for the sake of maintaining that the Government is on the right track in the matter of disaster management and has concern for the lives of people. We need a dedicated wing for disaster management exclusively for spreading awareness.

There is a possibility of devastation before the people of the North-Eastern Region unless corrective measures are taken to save their lives ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Yes, your time limit is over.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam) : Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Kumar Deepak Das.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal) : Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Kumar Deepak Das.

Kali Ma Beer being produced by a brewing company in USA

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से एक बहुत ही गम्भीर और संवेदनशील विषय सदन के सामने उठाने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं अपने सभी आदरणीय मित्रों से इस विषय पर ध्यान देने का आग्रह करूँगा। अमेरिका की एक कंपनी है, बर्नसाइड ब्रिउइंग कम्पनी, यह पोर्टलैंड में है। इसने एक बीयर बनाया है, जिसका नाम रखा है—“काली माँ बीयर”। इसका पूरा फोटो भी छपा है, यह मेरे पास है, यह हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में छपा है। इसका जो विज्ञापन निकला, उसमें लिखा हुआ है “The advertisement for the beer read, Come worship ‘the black one’ Kali as the ultimate reality or Brahman this Tuesday!”

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हम सभी विचार और आस्थाओं का आदर करते हैं। यही हमारे देश ने सिखाया है। लेकिन किसी भी आस्था का अनादर नहीं होना चाहिए। अमेरिका में यह कोई पहली बार नहीं हुआ है। इसके पहले एक टॉयलेट पर लक्ष्मी जी की तस्वीर लगाई गई थी, तो आपत्ति हुई थी। उसके पहले एक ब्रा पर किसी भगवान की फोटो लगाई गई थी। वहाँ की एक बहुत बड़ी सुपर मॉडल हैं, वे एक नाइट क्लब में माँ काली बन कर चली आईं। वहाँ पर एक टॉक शो चलता है, जो ह्यूमर शो है, उसमें भगवान गणेश को एक सेक्स ऑब्जेक्ट बना कर दिखाया गया। यह कौन-सी बात हो रही है? यह बहुत पीड़ा की बात है।

अभी जब आपत्ति हुई, तो उन्होंने कहा कि हम इसको रोकते हैं। हमारा आपसे विनम्र निवेदन है, भारत सरकार, यूपीए की सरकार अमेरिका के साथ अच्छे सम्बन्धों का दावा करती है, लेकिन इस देश और दुनिया की इतनी बड़ी आस्थाओं के प्रतीक का वहाँ इस तरह से असम्मान होता है! क्या वहाँ कोई कोड नहीं है? क्या वहाँ कोई एडवर्टिजमेंट कोड नहीं है? क्या वहाँ पर मेन्युफेक्चरिंग का कोई कोड नहीं है?

[श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद]

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह एक बड़ा सवाल है, जिसे मैं बहुत पीड़ा से उठाना चाहता हूँ कि किसी अन्य आस्था के ईश्वर को अमरीका की कम्पनी क्या इस तरह से दिखा सकती है? यह बहुत बड़ा सवाल है। हम लोगों ने यह विषय बार-बार उठाया है, लेकिन भारत सरकार हमारी चिन्ता को गंभीरता से नहीं लेती है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से आग्रह करूँगा, यह विषय बहुत गम्भीर है, सरकार इस पर जवाब दे। अमरीका के राजदूत को विदेश मन्त्रालय बुलाया जाए, उनसे बात की जाए और अमरीकी सरकार इसके लिए माफी मांगे। अगर यह कोई पहली गलती होती फिर भी समझ में आता है, लेकिन बार-बार यही हो रहा है, आस्थाओं के साथ खेल हो रहा है, भावनाओं के साथ खेल हो रहा है, यह बहुत ही अनुचित है।

महोदय, मैं इसकी भर्त्सना करता हूँ और आपसे आग्रह करता हूँ कि आप सरकार को निर्देश दें, विदेश मंत्री यहाँ आकर उत्तर दें। अमरीका के राजदूत को बुला कर आप अपनी प्रतिक्रिया और हमारा रोश एवं विरोध सब दर्ज कराएं। यही मुझे कहना है।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I also associate myself with this important matter raised by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, मैं इसके द्वारा उठाए गए इस गंभीर विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री विनय कटियार (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सर, मैं इनके इस गंभीर विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Odisha) : Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : सर, मैं इनको एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, हम इनके द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करते हैं।

श्री प्रभावत झा (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, मैं इनको एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हम इनके इस गंभीर विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करते हैं।

श्रीमती स्मृति जुबिन ईरानी (गुजरात) : सर, मैं इनके इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Okay. ...(*Interruptions*)... All are associating.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर मंत्री महोदय उत्तर तो दें, यह बहुत गंभीर विषय है ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सर, यह बहुत गंभीर मसला है ...(*व्यवधान*)... ।

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : सर, माननीय सदस्य श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी ने यह गंभीर मुद्दा उठाया है। हम यही कह सकते हैं कि हम इनकी चिन्ता से विदेश मंत्री जी को अभी, आज ही बात करके अवगत करा देंगे।

लेकिन इसके साथ मैं एक बात और जोड़ना चाहता हूँ। कुछ साल पहले, जहाँ रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी बैठे हैं, वहाँ मैं बैठा था और रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी यहाँ मंत्री बन कर बैठे थे। इस समय भी यह विषय आया था कि गणेश जी और शंकर जी की फोटो अमेरीका के एक स्टोर में चप्पलों पर थी ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : उस समय हमने विरोध किया था ...(व्यवधान)... हमारी सरकार ने विरोध किया था ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : जब यह विषय हम लोगों ने उठाया था, उस समय न कोई कार्यवाही हुई थी और न ही कोई विरोध हुआ था, यह बात आप ध्यान में रखें, बस ...(व्यवधान)... आप यह बात ध्यान में रखें ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : उस समय सरकार ने विरोध किया था ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय मंत्री जी भारत सरकार के मंत्री हैं और वह इस तरह का बयान ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : उस समय कुछ नहीं हुआ था ...(व्यवधान)... न वहां के मंत्री को बुलाया गया न ही कुछ और हुआ ...(व्यवधान)... कुछ नहीं हुआ था ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : मंत्री जी सदन की भावनाओं के साथ राजनीति न करें ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल : जब आप बोलें तो भावना है और जब हम बोलें तो भावना नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)...सिर्फ आपकी भावनाएं हैं? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : उस समय हमने विरोध किया था ...(व्यवधान)... वे ऐसी बात न करें ...(व्यवधान)... आज जो विषय उठाया गया है, आप उसका उत्तर दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)... सरकार से कहिए कि ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (बिहार) : सर, यह तो दोनों दलों के सदस्यों में कुश्ती हो रही है ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Next, Shri Prabhat Jha. ...*(Interruptions)*... They can settle it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Prabhat Jha ...*(Interruptions)*... They can settle it. No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Prabhat Jha ...*(Interruptions)*... ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री विनय कटियार : सर, इस गंभीर विषय को हंसी में क्यों उड़ाया जा रहा है? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : मैं आपसे हाथ जोड़ कर कहूंगा, हम लोगों की भावनाओं के साथ इस प्रकार ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : He has reacted. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Minister has said ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री विनय कटियार : सर, यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है ...(व्यवधान)... दूसरे पर आरापे लगा कर ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो पी.के. कुरियन) : विनय जी ...(व्यवधान)... विनय जी, बैठिए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री विनय कटियार : हम कैसे बैठें, सर? ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : The Minister has already said that it will be brought to the notice of the External Affairs Minister for necessary action. What more do you want? ...*(Interruptions)*... विनय जी, बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... सुनिए ...(व्यवधान)... मिनिस्टर ने यह बोला है कि वह एक्सटर्नल अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर के नोटिस में यह लाएंगे

[PROF. P.J. KURIEN]

for whatever possible action. That is an assurance. What more do you need? Sit down. No, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... That is an assurance. Next is Mr. Prabhat Jha. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Minister is kind enough to give an assurance. What more do you want? ...(*Interruptions*)... No, no. Mr. Pabhat Jha, please speak. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Disregard and carelessness shown towards the CGHS cardholders by Private Hospitals in Delhi

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे पास एक आइडेंटिटी कार्ड होता है, जिससे मैं गाड़ी चलाता हूँ, एक आइडेंटिटी कार्ड से मैं राज्य सभा में आता हूँ, एक आइडेंटिटी कार्ड से मैं बैंक में जाता हूँ, इस तरह बहुत सारे ऐसे आइडेंटिटी कार्ड होते हैं।

केन्द्र सरकार ने लाखों लोगों को सीजीएचएस के माध्यम से भी एक कार्ड दिया हुआ है कि जब आप बीमार पड़ें तो जहाँ पर इसकी मान्यता है, तत्काल वहाँ जा कर आप भर्ती हो जाएं, लेकिन इस कार्ड का इतना बड़ा मजाक हो रहा है। पिछले दिनों आपने सांसद महोदय के केस में देखा कि जगजीवन राम अस्पताल में उनके साथ क्या हुआ, एक्सपायर होने के बाद उनके शव को प्राप्त करने के लिए क्या-क्या किया गया।

1954 में यह अधिकार केवल दिल्ली में दिया गया था। इसके बाद देश के कुछ अन्य प्रान्तों में इस योजना को लागू करने के लिए भेजा गया। कुछ अस्पताल सिलेक्ट किए गए, उन अस्पतालों में आप यह कार्ड ले जाइए, आप रिटायर्ड हैं, पेंशनधारी हैं, उप-राज्यपाल हैं, पूर्व-राज्यपाल हैं, न्यायाधीश हैं, ऐसे तमाम लोगों को यह सुविधा दी गई।

जब परसों रात FCI का एक रिटायर्ड कर्मचारी इस कार्ड को लेकर दिल्ली के एक अस्पताल में पेट दर्द की शिकायत लेकर पहुंचता है, तो उस अस्पताल में उसका अल्ट्रा साउण्ड, आदि चेक अप करने के बाद उससे कहा जाता है कि आपको कुछ नहीं है, आपका इस अस्पताल में कोई इलाज नहीं होगा, क्योंकि तब तक उसको मालूम हो गया कि यह पेंशनर है और इसके पास कार्ड है और इसका पैसा जल्दी नहीं मिलेगा, इसलिए उसने उसको टरका दिया। इसके बाद उसका दर्द बढ़ने लगा, पेट फूलने लगा और उसकी हालत सीरियस होने लगी, तो फिर वह दूसरे अस्पताल में जाता है। उस अस्पताल में भी वह कार्ड को दिखाता है, उस कार्ड को दिखाने के बाद उसके साथ वही ज्यादती होती है। वह आदमी मौत से जूझ रहा है, लेकिन उसको कहा जाता है कि आप सरकारी अस्पताल में जाइए, राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल में जाइए। आपने लाखों लोगों को यह कार्ड दिया है। आपने यह कार्ड उनको इसलिए दिया है, ताकि उनकी हिफाजत हो, उनका इलाज हो। इसके बाद वह, यानी के.के. शारदा नाम का कर्मचारी प्राइवेट अस्पताल में एडवांस में पैसा जमा करके एडमिट होता है और वहां उसका ऑपरेशन होता है, लेकिन उस कार्ड का कोई उपयोग नहीं होता है। ऐसे एक नहीं अनेक मामले हैं।

“कैंग” ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में बताया है कि तमाम सारे ऐसे बिल्स के अम्बार लगे हुए हैं, लेकिन उनका निराकरण नहीं हो रहा है और इस कारण से अस्पतालों को पैसा नहीं जाता है। जिंदगी और मौत से जूझते आदमी के लिए यह कार्ड आशा की किरण होती है, तो मैं अस्पताल में जाकर दिखाऊंगा, लेकिन ऐसा होता नहीं है। देश में लाखों कर्मचारी हैं और पेंशनधारी हैं। ...(*समय की घंटी*)... ...(*व्यवधान*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Your time is over. ...(*Interruptions*)... Your time is over. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री प्रभात झा : महोदय, मेरी यह मांग है कि लोगों की जिंदगी के साथ इस तरह का मजाक बंद हो और सरकार इस पर तत्काल ध्यान दे। धन्यवाद।

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANIL DESAI (Maharashtra) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Sexual abuse of girls at Kids' shelter

SHRIMATI JHARNADAS BAIDYA (Tripura) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me a chance to speak on the subject. The subject of my Zero Hour mention is Sexual Abuse of Girls at Kids' Shelter.

Sir, I want to tell you about the children living at a shelter home run by an NGO, namely, Apna Ghar, where they were sexually abused, beaten, molested and made to work as labourers on farms and construction sites. The shelter home which is run by an NGO, namely, Apna Ghar, had won a Haryana State award for women's empowerment in March this year. Around 12 girls, in their teens, alleged that they were exploited by the owner to earn money. One of them said that she was forced to sleep with a man. They were molested by various people. If any girl protested, she would be paraded naked and beaten. The girls had, in fact, been shifted to the Rohtak home from an orphanage in Gurgaon following allegations of sexual abuse there. Although they have been arrested for exploiting children and booked for sexual harassment and molestation of the inmates, the Government should take stringent action against the culprit in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and issue immediate directions to ensure that these crimes are properly investigated and the criminals are apprehended. Thank you.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member. How can they be awarded by the State Government? This should be enquired into, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member. This is a very serious issue, Sir.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री मंगल किसन (ओडिशा) : महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI (Gujarat) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Okay, I agree with you. I hope the Government will take note of it.

Sufferings of travellers due to cancellation of Air India Flights

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu) : Thank you, Sir. My Zero Hour mention today is on the important subject of 'sufferings of the travelling public due to cancellation of Air India flights'. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi ji, said the customer is our God. But the Government, without any notice to the travelling public, has cancelled all the international flights. This has resulted in lots and lots of sufferings to the travelling public.

Great inconvenience has been caused to passengers. Passengers wait for hours but nobody gives them any information. Neither food facility nor accommodation facility is given to them. Air India failed to make any alternate arrangements for passengers. Air India flies to Europe, the US and Canada. All the flights have been cancelled. Over 50 flights were cancelled since the pilots suddenly reported sick. The airline operates 16 international flights a day with large, wide-body aircraft to the US, Europe, the Far East and South-East Asia. All the sectors are affected by the agitation of a section of pilots. Flights to London, Paris, Frankfurt, New York, Toronto, Shanghai and cities in the Gulf region were also affected.

On Sunday, it was reported that the Mumbai Airport's International Terminal had passengers waiting to be accommodated on other flights or waiting to hear about the status of their flights. Angry passengers tried to block the road outside the Mumbai Airport because they were frustrated with the lack of information given to them by Air India officials. Some of them were waiting for three-four hours without proper information. There was another testimony of a passenger in tears, whose last date of joining duty had lapsed. He exhausted all the money that he had brought for his day-to-day expenses while waiting at the airport. The expenditure includes cost of a bottle of water which is being sold at more than Rs.50 there. This happens after the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines! There is a disparity in giving promotion to the employees of these airlines. No employee should be placed at a disadvantage at any stage and no unilateral decision relating to service matters be forced upon the employees. The IPG is aware of its responsibility towards the travelling public. They have worked for more than four months without salary. It is surprising that though the pilots were ready for talks, the management was not prepared for it. It sacked them without any notice. It preferred sacking without giving them any notice. Considering the just demands of the pilots and considering the sufferings of the travelling public, I hope the Ministry will rise to the occasion and see to it that all the problems are solved. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY (Nominated) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Bihar) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : All the hon. Members are associating themselves with it.

Reported clash between officers and jawans of artillery unit in Ladakh

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra) : Sir, I rise to express grave concern over something that happened last week at Leh, which is India's border area. It was reported and I only hope that the newspaper report would be false. But that did not happen. Four days have passed. So far, the Defence Ministry has not contradicted that. The report is that at Leh, Indian Army Officers and *Jawans* clashed with each other. It was not just a clash. Colonel Prasad Kadam, Commanding Officer of the 226 Field Regiment, was admitted to a hospital. Ultimately, the artillery unit on the border had to be disarmed. The arms of *jawans* were taken away from their possession. They remained without arms for three days. It is a matter of grave concern. I can understand there must be some problem. We are proud of our Army because it is a disciplined force. If indiscipline on the part of *our jawans* and officers like this takes place on our border areas, I, as a citizen, feel insecure. If they are fighting with each other, how would they protect me?

Sir, here, I am not blaming either the *jawans* or the officers. What I want to say is that the Defence Minister, the Defence Ministry, the *babus* in the Defence Ministry or the senior Army Officers should take immediate cognizance of what has gone wrong and take appropriate measures. You should see what is their plight when they are in this type of situation. We must understand their plight and resolve their issues because

[DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT]

this type of indiscipline would cost too dear to the nation and no Indian would like that. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Dr. Bharkumar Raut.

SHRI PRABHAT JHA (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Dr. Bharkumar Raut.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Punjab) : Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Dr. Bharkumar Raut.

Issue of import of oil from Iran

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, during her recent visit to Kolkata, the US Secretary of State commended the steps India has taken to reduce import of oil from Iran. For long, officially, the Government has been taking the stand that India's energy needs Iranian oil. Even the Finance Minister, on a visit to the USA, declared that India cannot cut back on oil import from Iran. Similar assurance has been given by the Finance Minister in Parliament. But, the reality is something different. In 2008-09, India imported 21.8 million tonnes of oil from Iran which came down to 18.5 million tonnes in 2010-11. And in 2011-12, it further came down to 14 million tonnes. Thus, the Government is adopting an official stand that India cannot do without Iranian oil but, at the same time, it is providing assurances to the United States that steps are being taken to cut back Iranian oil import. Facts show that India is succumbing to the US pressure. Considering the national importance of the issue, I demand a statement from the hon. Prime Minister. Thank you.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (KERALA): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

Media reports on leakage of Army Chief's letter

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ (Odisha) : Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to raise a matter which has great implications for national security.

Sir, the Army Chief, General V.K. Singh, had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on 12th March, 2012. The letter basically focussed on the shortage of equipment

and ammunitions in artillery and armoured requirements. Sir, this was not the first time that an Army Chief was writing to the Prime Minister about the prevailing situation of shortages and problems of the Army. And, maybe, General Singh, who was to retire shortly, was putting on record his assessment about the requirements of the Armed Forces. Sir, after 16 days, that is, on March 28, the letter was leaked and it found its way to the media. That created a lot of sensation within the country. Sir, in-between, one more important thing happened. General Singh went on record and made a media disclosure that he was offered a bribe of Rs.14 crore by a former retired Lieutenant-General in a Defence deal. After that disclosure, this letter was leaked and there was insinuation inside the House and outside the House as if General Singh was behind this leak in order to embarrass the Government because of the controversy relating to his date of birth. But, I would say, Sir, General Singh acted very honourably and he went on record to call the act of leakage as 'high treason' and he also sought a probe into it. He also said, "Guilty be dealt with ruthlessly." Sir, 47 days have passed and we do not know as to who was responsible for the leak. The letter originated from the Office of the Army Chief. It landed in the Prime Minister's Office. There has to be leakage somewhere and we have no reason to doubt what the Army Chief has said. There are media speculations and the Government owes it to the people of India and to this House as to who was responsible for this leak.

An inquiry must be conducted. If an inquiry has been conducted, we don't know the results. The speculation in the media is that somebody in the Cabinet was involved. At least, the Prime Minister ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : The time is over. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री रामविलास पासवान (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैंने भी नोटिस दिया है। एक मिनट सुन लीजिए। सर, बिहार के दो युवक श्री राजीव महतो और राकेश महतो, रेलवे की परीक्षा देने अहमदाबाद गए थे। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : आपने नोटिए दिया है? ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री रामविलास पासवान : हां, दिया है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... I have already given notice. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : No, please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have given notice. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have already given notice. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Sir, have you approved it? ...(*Interruptions*)... We have also given notice. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have been permitted also. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Sir, are you permitting him? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : It is not permitted for today. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not permitted for today. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रामविलास पासवान : उन्हें चलती गाड़ी से फेंक दिया गया ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सर, हमने भी नोटिस दिया है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : It is not included today. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not being included today. ...*(Interruptions)*... Ram Vilas Paswanji, this subject is not included today. ...*(Interruptions)*... You give notice to the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : सर, यह कैसे होगा? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : It is not included for today. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not there. आप बैठिए। ...*(Interruptions)*... No. Ram Vilas Paswanji, if you want, you give a fresh notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... Notice must be given before 10 a.m. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not in the list, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, it is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have told him that it is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not included. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not admitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... I told you, Ram Vilasji. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Ram Vilasji, you can give a fresh notice tomorrow before 10 a.m. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Chairman may consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I have given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Maharashtra) : It is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : It is not permitted. ...*(Interruptions)*... Take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Ram Vilasji, आप बैठिए। ...*(Interruptions)*... I told you to go by the rules. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप रूल्स के अनुसार नोटिस दीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The Chair has all the rights. ...*(Interruptions)*... You told me that you would give me two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : मैं कह रहा हूँ कि आप रूल्स के अनुसार कल नोटिस दीजिए, चेरमैन consider करेंगे। The Chairman may consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, Special Mentions will be taken up immediately before the House adjourns for the day.

Now we will take up the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2012 and the Finance Bill, 2012. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : We can lay it on the Table of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : “ले” करेंगे? You agree. It is only laying. I have no objection. Special Mentions, Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani.

SPECIAL MENTIONS*

Demand to strengthen security along the coast of Gujarat

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI (Gujarat) : Sir, the State of Gujarat has the longest coastline in the proximity of Pakistan and furthermore development of mega-power projects, major ports, mega-petroleum refineries, SBMs, etc., in the coastal areas of Kutch and Jamnagar have increased vulnerability and sensitivity of the area from the angle of national security. Coastal security in Gujarat, therefore, needs to be given highest priority by the Government of India. The Government of India should accept and implement the Gujarat Government's comprehensive scheme sent on 30.05.2005 on coastal security involving an amount of Rs.392.47 crore. Thirty-one high-speed patrol boats sanctioned under Coastal Security Phase-II to Gujarat State should be delivered immediately and Regional Service Centre of Goa Shipyard Ltd., should be set up in Gujarat so that day-to-day maintenance and repair of boats can be done immediately, which currently takes 2 to 4 weeks. BSF (Water Wing) and the Coast Guard need ultramodern marine resources to cover the critical coastal stretch between Jakhau and Medi in Kutch District since the small islands in this stretch remain vulnerable as boats cannot navigate in less than 3 metre of water.

In the Creek area (extending from Kori Creek to Sir Creek), the Water Wing of BSF deploys three floating Border Outposts (BOPs), which function as the base for operating high-speed patrol boats. However, during the monsoon, these floating BOPs are withdrawn and brought to shore. Consequently, for nearly five months in a year (May to September), the Creek area is not effectively patrolled. There is an immediate need to deploy suitable vessels or erect appropriate structure to have permanent presence of BSF in the Creek area.

Demand to address the issues pertaining to problems being faced by widows in the country

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Odisha) : Among the worst practices of tradition and belief still practised in India, the socio-economic discrimination and stigma faced

* Laid on the Table.

[SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA]

by the widows is one of them. These hapless women are considered inauspicious in their own homes and driven out to fend for themselves. They often turn to the last hope in travelling to Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh, where they get some solace. There is equally a good number of such population in Varanasi and Puri. A majority of such population leads a miserable existence. Sanitation, regular meals, safe drinking water medical care and a roof on their heads remain a major concern for them. A majority of them live in *ashrams* or open spaces like streets, railway stations, bus stops and *ghats*, where they face sexual or other such harassment - physical or mental. They do not have any kind of regular income, that is, pension or financial aid through welfare schemes. They often fall sick and suffer from diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases on account of water contamination.

When the country is marching ahead in the economic field, there is an imperative need for organising welfare schemes for such hapless women by way of providing them access to regular pension, BPL cards, medical facilities to meet their basic needs and above all, a regular system for dissemination of such information to them.

Though there may be certain Government schemes to address most of the issues faced by widows of all age groups, there is no organised system to create awareness among them about such schemes. The Government must look into this to address the above issues.

Demand for making a proper drainage system to maintain cleanliness and make proper use of ponds in villages

श्री ईश्वर सिंह (हरियाणा) : देश के हर गाँव में तालाब हैं, जो ग्रामीण बस्ती के साथ-साथ होते हैं। गाँव की सारी बस्तियों का पानी गाँव के साथ लगते तालाब में इकट्ठा हो जाता है। वाटर सप्लाई, सिवरेज व बरसात का पानी इन्हीं तालाबों में इकट्ठा हो जाता है। इस पानी की निकासी कहीं नहीं होती, अतः इसमें सड़न पैदा हो जाती है। कुछ समय के बाद यह पानी इतना दूषित हो जाता है कि न तो इसे पशु पीते हैं और न ही यह कपड़े धोने या बर्तन साफ करने के काम आता है। इस पानी की सड़न सारे वातावरण को दूषित कर देती है और यह प्रदूषण आस-पास के सारे इलाके को प्रभावित करता है।

इस समय ऐसे हालात पैदा हो गए हैं कि यह तालाब महामारी का रूप धारण करते जा रहे हैं। राज्य सरकारों के पास ऐसी कोई नीति नहीं है, जो इस पानी को खेतों में पहुंचाया जा सके या रिफाईंड करके प्रयोग में लाया जा सके। राज्यों में इतना बजट भी नहीं है कि हर गाँव में पानी की निकासी की जाए।

अतः मेरा केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह राज्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर ऐसी नीति बनाए ताकि गाँव के दूषित पानी की निकासी हो सके।

Demand to declare a day as National Human Duties Day on the lines of Human Rights Day in the country

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब) : महोदय, मानव अधिकार एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विषय बन चुका है। मानव अधिकारों का हनन न हो, इसके लिए राष्ट्रीय एवं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर तरह-तरह के कार्यक्रम, जागरूक

अभियान, सेमिनार करके लोगों को मानव अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक किया जाता है और इसी तरह मानव अधिकारों के हनन को रोकने के लिए मानव अधिकार कमीशन, राष्ट्रीय एवं राज्य स्तर पर बनाए गए हैं। बहुत-सी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कॉन्फ्रेंस भी होती हैं। यह मानव अधिकार हनन क्यों होता है? वह तब होता है, जब कोई अपना कर्तव्य पूरा करे, इसके लिए जन-जन में अपना कर्तव्य पूरा करने की भावना पैदा की जाए, इसके लिए इस तरह का एक वातावरण तैयार करना होगा।

आज मानव अधिकारों के लिए बड़ी-बड़ी लड़ाईयाँ अलग-अलग ढंग से लड़ी जा रही हैं, लेकिन अपने कर्तव्य को पूरा करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय या प्रदेश स्तर पर ऐसा कोई मंच नहीं है, जो लोगों और अधिकारियों को अपना कर्तव्य पूरा करने के लिए कोई मंच प्रदान कर सके। कुछ कार्यक्रम सिर्फ प्रयोजन हेतु हो जाते हैं, लेकिन वे सामाजिक जिम्मेवारी निभाने के लिए सक्षम नहीं होते। मानवता के प्रति लोगों की एवं अधिकारियों की कोई जिम्मेवारी है, ऐसा एक वातावरण बनाने के लिए देश भर में कोई दिन निश्चित हो। जिस प्रकार 10 दिसम्बर मानव अधिकार दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है, उसी प्रकार सरकार को चाहिए कि कोई एक दिन तय करे, जिसे राष्ट्रीय मानव कर्तव्य दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाए। यह संदेश सारी दुनिया को भारत की धरती से दिया जाए और भारत इसका नेतृत्व करे। ऐसी सरकार से अपेक्षा है।

Demand to take immediate steps to hold elections for the vacant posts in local bodies in Lakshadweep

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (Kerala) : Sir, in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, the authorities are violating the provisions of Panchayati Raj Act. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments mandate the authorities to fill the vacancies in local bodies within six months. But in Lakshadweep, the authorities are not holding elections to the vacant seats. In ward number 3 of Kavaratti Panchayat, the elected member resigned last year. The seat is vacant for more than a year. In Kalpeni Panchayat, the Chairperson, who was elected from ward number 5, has also resigned. This seat is also vacant for the last one year.

The administration of Lakshadweep is under the direct control of the Union Government. The responsibility of holding by-elections to the vacant posts rests with the Union Government. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to hold elections to the vacant seats.

Demand to restore financial assistance to spinning sector under TUF Scheme in Maharashtra

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra) : Sir, Maharashtra is one of the largest producers of cotton which is grown in the backward regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada, etc. Maharashtra Government has announced new Textile Policy with an intention to process maximum cotton in these backward regions of the State. The new policy is applicable to textile projects approved under the TUF Scheme of the Government of India. Hence the extension of the TUF Scheme in present shape is completely beneficial to the cotton growers of the State. The re-structured TUF Scheme has been launched in April, 2011, after an evaluation by CRISIL. CRISIL has observed

[DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT]

in its report that as spinning sector operates on low margin and needs high investment, there is a need to continue the financial support to spinning industry.

Now, there is a proposal to reduce Central assistance or altogether removal of the subsidy to the spinning sector under TUF during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. In this regard, I would submit that reducing assistance to spinning mills will further deny opportunity of value creation in the country and hurting cotton growers further.

The country has been exporting about 30 per cent of cotton without adding value. Value addition in textile chain starts with spinning. Hence reduction in the assistance or altogether removal of subsidy to spinning sector under TUF Scheme shall further adversely affect the value addition process in the distress regions of the State like Vidarbha and Marathwada.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that assistance to spinning sector under the TUF Scheme during Twelfth Five Year Plan may not be reduced.

**Demand for speedy clearance and allocation of funds for four-laning of
Mumbai-Goa National Highway in Maharashtra**

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra) : The Government of Maharashtra is making all efforts for early completion of four-laning of the Mumbai-Goa National Highway No.17, which is around 600 km long and passes through Panvel-Mahad-Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg-Panaji. There are 40 accident-prone spots on this Highway. During the last five years, 1,562 people died in accidents and 8,056 were injured as a result of heavy traffic.

This project has been approved by the Central Government under the National Highway Development Programme. Indapur-Zarap Section of this Highway has been divided into four phases costing Rs.3,500 crore. The Government of Maharashtra has submitted the feasibility report in this regard to the Central Government.

The work on Zarap-Patradevi Section has been taken up with the help of funds provided from the Central Government Budget. The Government of Maharashtra intends to complete this project at an early date but the Central Government is taking a lot of time in sanctioning the work and providing environmental clearance.

The traffic on this Highway has increased more than three times. This is resulting in accidents, and their number has increased in recent years. The Central Government should ensure that all formalities are cleared speedily and required funds are sanctioned to the Government of Maharashtra for taking up this project. I urge upon the Central Government especially the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to ensure speedy clearance and allocation of funds for this project.

**Demand to provide modern passenger amenities at railway stations
in the country**

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala) : Sir, the railway stations in India need a lot of additional infrastructure to cater to the ever increasing passenger traffic. The country has around 65000 kilometres of rail route and commands fourth position among world railways according to the size. But, when we consider the facilities and services to the passengers, our position is pathetic. The facilities are not added and upgraded with the passing of time and growth of passenger traffic. The major stations have very low number of Foot Over Bridges and, that too, built to cater to the passenger traffic of sixties and seventies, which has now become inadequate. Stampede like situation prevails when passenger trains arrive.

Thiruvananthapuram Railway Station which is in the Capital of Kerala has got only three Foot Over Bridges. Other major stations in Kerala also have only minimum facilities. Even the New Delhi Station which caters to 300 trains and five lakh passengers daily has got very meagre facilities.

Apart from Foot Over Bridges, the facilities for old people, patients and physically challenged are least cared for by the Railways. Escalators and lifts for those who need special care are not a luxury now. It is a matter of human right. But, even railway stations in State Capitals lack these people-friendly infrastructure facilities.

So, I request the Central Government and the Railways to take urgent and special initiatives to provide more facilities including escalators, lifts and more Foot Over Bridges at major railway stations.

**Concern over horrendous scenario of corporal punishment to
children in schools**

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan) : Sir, according to the survey conducted in 2009-10 academic year by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), 81.2 per cent students in schools across the country are humiliated by teachers who tell them that they are not capable of learning. Only nine out of 6,632 students in seven States who were surveyed denied that they received any kind of punishment in schools. “99.86 per cent of children reported experiencing one or the other kind of punishment. Getting beaten by a cane, being slapped on the cheeks, being hit on the back and ears getting boxed are the other four major punishments”. “These four punishments do not lag behind much in terms of their occurrence. Out of the total, 75 per cent reported that they had been hit by a cane and 69 per cent had been slapped on their cheeks”, the survey said. Even the “cruel practice of giving electric shocks” finds a mention.

[DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA]

The survey was conducted to study the scale and magnitude of corporal punishment in the every day school experiences of India's children, types of violent punishment prevailing in Indian schools and analyse by age the prevalence.

In view of the above horrendous scenario of corporal punishment to kids in schools, I would request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to initiate curative steps.

Demand to strengthen rural credit network so as to cover entire farming community

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, farmers are facing a terminal crisis of their livelihood. Despite good crops this year, farmers' suicide continues and a majority of the farmers are facing deepening impoverishment. Gains in production are not accruing to producers but expropriated by the rural vested interests and traders-cum-money lenders. Two-thirds of the farming community of the country, mostly small and marginal farmers, are not having access to institutional credit, this being one of the factors for crisis despite good crop this year. Need of the hour is to widen and strengthen rural credit by focussing on flow of rural credit to small and marginal farmers. But, unfortunately, the rural credit institutions, viz. NABARD and Regional Rural Banks are being weakened and their functional autonomy impaired. As recommended by the US Consultant, BCG, 15 District Development Managers' Offices of NABARD are being closed, besides putting a stop on recruitment of manpower. The Government has decided to off-load its share of Regional Rural Banks to their sponsor commercial banks. This will weaken autonomy of RRBs, dilute their functional focus towards rural credit and establish dominance of sponsor commercial banks provoking diversion of deposits for commercial purposes. The Government must stop such moves of dismantling time-tested institutions for rural credit for benefiting the trade-money, lender-corporate-nexus in the rural economy. Rather, the NABARD and Regional Rural Banks network must be widened and strengthened with resources, enhanced manpower and greater autonomy with a determined bid to cover the entire farmers' community in institutional credit network. Thank you.

Demand to take immediate action to ensure the availability of sanitation facility, drinking water and health in scheduled tribe regions

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I would like to bring the attention of this hon. House to the current situation of sanitation, drinking water and health in the Scheduled Tribe areas.

Indian tribals are under-privileged in comparison to rest of the population, being weaker both socially and economically. A major reason for this is ill-health. Impediments

in the system as administered by both the Centre and the States, and non-availability of timely medical assistance and Government sponsored health care projects are responsible. Additionally, since many tribals live in remote areas lacking in basic facilities, they become even more vulnerable to diseases.

Not enough dedicated health professionals work in rural areas, deterred by challenges such as wide forest areas, inaccessibility and resistance from extremist elements there. This is evident in the fact that, at present, there is only one Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) or community health worker for a population of 1,000 in rural and tribal areas.

The situation is exacerbated by absence of such basic amenities as drinking water since most available resources are put to use for irrigation purposes and industry, leaving the tribals bereft. Consequently, they resort to unfiltered water from natural sources such as surrounding rivers. This is despite flagship undertakings such as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme.

The dire health status is also contributed to by lack of sanitation. There is almost nil access to toilets or running supply of water, and in the absence of sewerage systems, there is no way to get rid of waste other than through natural water systems, which contributes further to prevalence of diseases.

This aids transmission of oral-fecal diseases like diarrhoea, amongst other infections, and is the breeding ground for mosquitoes carrying Malaria and Dengue fever, fatal in the context of such low health standards.

It is requested that the Government take urgent notice of this sorry state of affairs and take steps to provide relief accordingly.

Demand to take early steps for eradication of malaria from the country

श्री प्रभात झा (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य नीति तथा पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं में तय की गयी प्राथमिकताओं के आधार पर केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा स्वास्थ्य देखभाल हेतु कई नीतियों एवं कार्यक्रमों को चलाया जा रहा है। इन नीतियों एवं कार्यक्रमों का प्रमुख उद्देश्य विकेन्द्रीकृत जनस्वास्थ्य प्रणाली एक पहुँच बढ़ाते हुए आम जनता में स्वास्थ्य के स्वीकार्य मानक प्राप्त करना है। इन नीतियों एवं कार्यक्रमों पर प्रति वर्ष करोड़ों-अरबों रुपए खर्च किए जाते हैं, लेकिन आम जनता में स्वास्थ्य के स्वीकार्य मानक प्राप्त करने में ये नीतियाँ एवं कार्यक्रम सिफर साबित हो रहे हैं।

केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री ने लिखित प्रश्न के जवाब में स्वीकार किया है कि वर्ष 2010 के दौरान मलेरिया से देश भर में 1018 लोगों की मौत हुई। मलेरिया से ओडिशा में सर्वाधिक 247 लोगों की मौत हुई, जबकि महाराष्ट्र में इस बीमारी से 200 लोगों की और अरुणाचल प्रदेश में 103 लोगों की मौत हुई। देश में मलेरिया नियंत्रण के इस दयनीय प्रदर्शन से यह साबित होता है कि केन्द्र सरकार का स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय महज खानापूति के लिए है, जिसका काम केवल नीतियों और कार्यक्रमों पर पानी की तरह पैसा बहाना एवं आंकड़े जारी करना है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र सहस्राब्दी विकास लक्ष्य के तहत मलेरिया से निपटने की

[श्री प्रभात झा]

बात है, तो मोर्च पर भारत में कोई खास प्रगति नहीं हुई है। अन्य वेक्टर जनित रोगों के उन्मूलन के मामले में भी स्थिति यही है।

अतः सरकार से मेरी मांग है कि मलेरिया सहित विभिन्न रोगों के उन्मूलन के कार्य में तेजी लाने हेतु शीघ्र कदम उठाए जाएँ, ताकि स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में सहस्राब्दी विकास लक्ष्य को पूरा किया जा सके।

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2012 and the Finance Bill, 2012

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (RPOF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2012 and the Finance Bill, 2012. Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2012-13, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.” I also beg to move:

“That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2012-13, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, normally it is not the practice that at the consideration stage details of the provisions are discussed. But this year's Finance Bill had some important features. After the presentation of the Budget on 16th of March, while having general discussion in both the Houses, and outside the Houses, a large number of comments and observations were made on various provisions of the Finance Bill and also on the budgeted proposals. Thereafter, in the interregnum period, between the presentation of the Budget, obtaining the Vote-on-Accounts and the related Appropriation Bill, I thought certain amendments would be required in the financial Bills and I introduced them and obtained the approval of the Lok Sabha on those amendments. The Bill, which we have placed before this House, is not the original Finance Bill; it is the Finance Bill, as amended, by Lok Sabha. Therefore, you will notice on top of the Bill, it is written 'As passed by Lok Sabha'.

As all the hon. Members are aware, the Finance Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on 7th and 8th and with the passage of the Finance Bill by this august House, curtains would be drawn on almost three months of strenuous exercise of Budget-making, particularly in a very difficult year, nationally and internationally, so far as the past fiscal year is concerned. So far as direct taxes are concerned, the

recommendations of the Standing Committee on direct taxes were received only on 9th March, 2012.

I presented the Budget, and along with the Budget, the Finance Bill was also introduced on 16th March, 2012. Therefore, it was quite natural that I could not take into account all the major recommendations of the DTC. And, as I mentioned in the other House, I will have an opportunity, after the Budget Session is over, to go through all the recommendations, and thereafter, with the approval of the Cabinet, in the next Budget Session, I will bring the DTC Bill for the approval of both the Houses. And, at that stage, many of the recommendations of the Standing Committee will be accepted. But I have already incorporated certain amendments. These include removal of the cascading effect of the Dividend Distribution Tax, allowing Venture Capital to invest in all sectors, introduction of Advance Pricing Agreements and raising the threshold limit for audit and presumptive taxation to Rs.1 crore, which have been endorsed by the Standing Committee. Those are a part of the Finance Bill. However, as I mentioned, I could not consider all other recommendations.

Certain provisions relating to General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) have also been proposed in the Finance Bill, 2012. In the light of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on GAAR provisions in the DTC Bill, 2010, I have proposed an amendment to the GAAR provisions in three areas; (i) Remove the onus of proof entirely from the taxpayer to the Revenue Department before any action can be initiated under GAAR; (ii) Introduce an independent member in the GAAR approving panel to ensure objectivity and transparency. One member of the panel will now be an officer of the level of Joint Secretary or above from the Ministry of Law. So, it is not confined to the Department of Revenue alone as it was the original policy; and (iii) Provide that any taxpayer (resident or non-resident) can approach the Authority for Advance Ruling for a ruling as to whether an arrangement to be undertaken by her/him is permissible or not under the GAAR provisions. These will provide additional safeguards to the taxpayer. A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Director General of Income Tax (International Taxation) to give recommendations for formulating the rules and guidelines for implementation of the GAAR provisions and to suggest safeguards so that these provisions are not applied indiscriminately. The Committee has already held several rounds of discussions with various stakeholders including the Foreign Institutional Investors. The Committee will submit its recommendations by 31st May, 2012. Realising that more time is needed to put in place the administrative structure to implement GAAR and to address various apprehensions and concerns expressed by the industry, I propose to defer the applicability of GAAR provisions by one year. The GAAR provisions will now apply to income of the Financial Year 2013-14 and subsequent years.

[SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE]

The hon. Members are aware that a provision in the Finance Bill which seeks to retrospectively clarify the provisions of the Income Tax Act relating to capital gains on sale of assets located in India through indirect transfers abroad, has been intensely debated within the country and outside the country, inside the Houses and outside the Houses. I would like to confirm that clarificatory amendments do not override the provisions of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement which India has with 82 countries. It would impact those cases where the transaction has been routed through low tax or no tax countries with whom India does not have a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. The retrospective clarificatory amendments now under the consideration of Parliament will not be used to reopen any cases where assessment orders have already been finalized.

I have asked the Central Board of Direct Taxes to issue a policy circular to clearly state this position after the passage of the Finance Bill. Currently, the long-term capital gain arising from sale of unlisted securities in the case of Foreign Institutional Investors is taxed at the rate of ten per cent while other non-resident investors, including Private Equity investors are taxed at the rate of twenty per cent. In order to give parity to such investors, I have proposed a reduction in the rate, in their case, from twenty per cent to ten per cent, on the same lines as applicable to others. To promote further depth of the capital markets through listing of companies, extension of the benefit of tax exemption on long term capital gains to the sale of unlisted securities in an initial public offer has now been proposed. For this purpose, I propose to provide the levy of Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at the rate of 0.2 per cent on such a sale of unlisted securities. It has been proposed in the Finance Bill that any consideration received by a closely held company in excess of the fair market value of its shares would be taxable. Considering the concerns raised by 'angel' investors who invest in start-up companies, I propose to provide an enabling provision in the Income Tax Act for exemption to a notified class of investors. In order to augment long-term low cost funds from abroad for the infrastructure sector, the Finance Bill proposes a lower rate of withholding tax of five per cent for funding specific sectors through foreign borrowings. To further facilitate access to such borrowings, I propose to extend the lower rate of withholding tax to all businesses. This lower rate of tax would also be available for funds raised through long-term infrastructure bonds in addition to borrowing under a loan agreement. The Reserve Bank of India is formulating a scheme for subsidiarisation of Indian branches of foreign banks to ring fence Indian capital and Indian operations from economic shocks external to the Indian economic scenario. To support this effort, I propose to provide tax neutrality for such subsidiarisation. The Finance Bill proposes that every transferee of immovable property (other than agricultural land), at the time of making payment for transfer of the property, shall deduct tax at the rate of one

1.00 P.M.

per cent of such sum. I have received a number of representations pointing out the additional compliance burden this measure would impose. I, therefore, propose to withdraw this provision for levy of TDS on transfer of immovable property. To curb the flow of unaccounted money in the bullion and jewellery trade, the Finance Bill proposes the collection of tax at source (TCS) by the seller at the rate of one per cent of the sale amount from the buyer for all cash transactions exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs. Responding to the representations made by the jewellery industry, that this would cause undue hardship, I propose to raise the threshold limit for TCS on cash purchases of jewellery from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs. The threshold limit for TCS on cash purchase of bullion shall be retained at Rs. 2 lakhs. However, it is being clarified that bullion will not include any coin or other articles weighing ten grams or less. As far as Customs and Central Excise is concerned, a related proposal was the imposition of Central Excise duty on unbranded precious metal jewellery at the rate of one per cent. In view of the outpouring of sentiment, both within and outside the House, the Government has decided to withdraw the levy on all precious metal jewellery, branded or unbranded, with effect from 17th March, 2012.

The House would recall that certain amendments were proposed to the Customs and Central Excise Law in respect of the classification of offences as cognizable and non-bailable. In response to concerns expressed by hon. Members that the proposal regarding grant of bail only after hearing the public prosecutor is too harsh, I have proposed omission of this provision. In addition, only serious offences under the customs law invoking prohibited goods or duty evasion exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs shall now be cognizable. However, all these offences shall be bailable.

As hon. Members are aware, taxation of services has undergone a paradigm shift with the introduction of a Negative List. This initiative has been widely welcomed.

The Negative List has been drawn keeping in view the federal nature of the policy. Some of the States, through the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, have expressed their concerns. I have decided to address their concerns by making changes in the definition of "service" which will exclude the activities specified in the Constitution as "deemed sale of goods." The definition of "works contract" has also been enlarged to include movable properties.

Exemption for specified services relating to agriculture in the Negative List has also been extended to agricultural produce enlarging the scope of the entry.

There are some other minor changes in the definitions based on the feedback and suggestions that we have received from various stakeholders and are specified in the revised draft.

[SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE]

I look forward to the views of my distinguished colleagues from this august House on the proposals in the Finance Bill.

Sir, with these words, I commend these two Bills for consideration of the House simultaneously. Thank you.

The questions were proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at
two minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at four minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Discussion on Appropriation Bill and the Finance Bill. Shri Piyush Goyal.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL (Maharashtra) : Thank you very much, hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir.

I rise to speak on the Finance Bill and the Appropriation Bill. Though they have already been approved by the Lok Sabha, we are still concerned and pained about many issues, especially those that have arisen from this Finance Bill. And, I thank you, Sir, for giving us this opportunity to discuss this Bill and bring our issues to the kind attention of the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, it is a sad day to have this debate listed in this House, because the first thing we do when we get up early in the morning is to read the Economic Times, and right from page 1 to the last page all you read is '*Economic gloom to deepen: India Inc.*', '*No Confidence on Business and the Political Economy*', '*Foreign investments expected to slow down*', '*Populism to worsen*', '*Low on confidence; low on certainty*', '*A Wake-up call for UPA*'. There is nothing in this newspaper, Sir, which would give some confidence to me or, bring some enthusiasm to a young man like me, who is looking to investing in India and looking to the future of India.

As they rightly say, Moody's add insult to injury. The rating of three of our best banks is downgraded and brought at par with the sovereign rating which, in the first place, is not something to be proud of. The rupee stays in a hole at Rs.53.97 to a dollar. There is nothing to enthuse the world. There is nothing to enthuse the Indian investor. There is nothing to enthuse even the middle-class, the poor people, and the corporate world. Nobody is enthused in the present economic climate in the country. The Finance

Minister mentioned in his Budget that he had to be cruel to be kind. Cruel he was and kind only in certain parts. I am glad that he was kind enough to correct some of the mistakes that I hope were inadvertent when he presented his Budget. But, I hope, he will repair them, rectify them and bring them in a better form. We have put in a lot of effort in the Standing Committee recommendations on the Direct Tax Code, which he has very kindly said he would take into consideration. I can only appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister to look at these recommendations in the true letter and spirit. Do not let them get bogged down in bureaucratic hurdles which typically happens when good ideas or good recommendations come to the political leadership of the day.

Sir, we have just celebrated 60 years of the Indian Parliament. This is also a time to reflect, as we did on Sunday, on the state of the Indian economy. After Independence, we have gone through six decades of distinct characteristics in the India growth story. In the '50s, we had the pain of partition; the planned model, the socialist model where State investments in core manufacturing and heavy industries with technologies largely from the eastern block gave us the GDP growth of about 4 per cent. In the '60s, we had the pain of three wars. But, we also had the Green Revolution initiative in 1963 and the nationalization of many sectors such as banking. We got a growth of about 3 per cent during that period. In the '70s, there was the pain of political instability. In the Emergency, many of our colleagues, sitting in this House, were imprisoned. We went through a period of turmoil in the country. A Government which had come on the slogan of *garibi hatao* in 1971, which I personally believe sowed the seeds of vote-bank-politics in this country, was absolutely unable to manage the political environment and we had a situation of turmoil. Despite that, the GDP grew by 4.5 per cent. In the '80s, there was hope. A young man was elected as the Prime Minister for addressing some of the security issues that were prevailing in certain parts of the country. We had a great hope at that point of time. I was a young man; I was in my teens at that time. Unfortunately, Sir, despite averments to say that he would stop leakages in the Government system—which had gone as high as 85 per cent, as quoted by the hon.-Prime Minister at that time—the country was saddled with major corruption scandals. And, once again, we saw a period of uncertainty. We saw the rise of sectarian politics and the GDP growth remained at about 5 per cent. As my colleague was saying, we saw for three decades the 'Hindu rate of growth'.

Sir, '90s was a decade of extraordinary challenges and extraordinary changes with the collapse of the Centrally-planned economies. It started with the Gulf War which led to a sharp increase in oil prices. The payment crisis of 1991 that the country faced, the hon. Finance Minister referred to it in his speech in the other House, was not simply due to deterioration of the trade account. It was accompanied by other adverse developments on the capital account reflecting the loss of confidence in the Government's ability to manage the situation. I am quoting this from a statement of

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the Government of India titled, 'The Payment Crisis of 1991'. The cost of credit rose sharply. There was an outflow of NRI deposits. The IIP, Sir, fell during August 1990 to November 1991, from 10.9 per cent to minus 1.5 per cent.

There was also evidence of expectation of default; therefore, of devaluation also. And these were creating significant imbalances in the economy. All this happened in a short span of nine months, Sir. I am saying all this to highlight that when we see the situation today, we are coming very close to a situation like that. The hon. Finance Minister has used some statistics, in the other House, while replying to the debate, where he said that we still have seven months of foreign exchange to cover our imports. Our short-term debt to the GDP has reduced significantly. Our external position is not as bad as it was. But, Sir, I beg to differ with the hon. Finance Minister. Today's situation shows that the foreign exchange reserves are at 16.9 per cent of the GDP, as the hon. Finance Minister himself said. The import cover has come down to 7.3 months from 14 months. External debt is still 20 per cent as a proportion of the GDP, and the short-term debt is now 26.3 per cent. Sir, the situation may look quite cozy in terms of numbers to the Hon. Finance Minister, but it is not so when you juxtapose it to the high level of 130 billion dollars of repayment in the next 12 months with the FII investments of 200 billion dollars, in the Indian market, and large NRI deposits, all of which, Sir, is hot money, in all of which, Sir, there can be a flight of capital in the climate that the country is in today, the negative mood, the negative sentiment prevailing. All of these, Sir, are worrying whether in the next six to nine months, the hon. Finance Minister, often quoting coalition trouble, will be able to handle the situation and improve the fiscal position. Of course, I don't subscribe to this theory of coalition compulsion because we have run a coalition also, Sir. We have had almost the same allies that this Government has. While Mr. Vajpayee ran the Government, I think, he ran it very credibly; he ran it taking the coalition partners into confidence; he respected the sentiments of the coalition partners, and he respected State-Centre relations and federalism. I am sure, if this Government was to look at these issues more seriously with an open heart and an open mind, they would also not have such serious problems with their partners.

Sir, after the new Government came up in 1991, there was a period of economic liberalisation and substantial reforms. Some structural reforms on trade and industry, and the policy framework was improved, and certainly, there was some fiscal correction, some fiscal discipline, which was necessary to restore the macro-economic balance in the economy. But, then, we cannot deny that the economy came back on track only for a few years. But what did they leave behind for the NDA to inherit in 1998? There was inflation at 9.3 per cent; the growth was at five per cent of the GDP; agricultural growth was negative; industrial production down; export performance less than three

per cent growth from last year; fiscal deficit at 6.1 per cent of the GDP; capital market in the doldrums; and huge infrastructure bottlenecks. The NDA was given a Government with all these problems. Apart from that, the NDA Government also had to face an unprecedented financial turmoil, the East-Asian Financial Crisis in 1998; followed quickly by economic sanctions, after the famous Pokhran Nuclear Tests, which finally brought India into the league of nuclear nations and made us a proud country. We also had to face the Kargil War. Despite all that, in the decade of 2000, the NDA Government focussed on fiscal consolidation, business and trade liberalisation. We had insurance, banking, telecom, power, land-ceiling laws, political reforms, the FRBM Act, huge road development and airport privatization programme, a very successful disinvestment programme, and over all, we strengthened the macro-economic parameters.

Sir, the UPA Government came back to power in 2004, and I quote from the Economic Survey of 2004-05, prepared by the UPA Government. They said that the economy had registered a growth of 8.5 per cent in 2003-04; Agriculture grew at 9.6 per cent; industry, 6.6 per cent; services maintained 9.1; inflation was down to 5.5 per cent; the Consumer Price Index in April, 2004 grew only 2.2 per cent. The external debt position, thanks to prepayment of costly debt and rationalization of interest rates, had improved significantly.

We had low interest rate. The Forex reserves had gone up to 113 billion dollars which showed almost 40 per cent growth annually for 6 years. The current account surplus was there for the last three years of the NDA rule. The debt sustainability indicators were in the positive. The external debt as a proportion of the GDP was at 17.8 per cent and the share of short-term debt, which the hon. Finance Minister was very happy to report at 20 per cent now, was only 4.3 per cent when we laid down office. Fiscal deficit was at 4.6 per cent. This is what we gave them in inheritance, Sir. And look at what they have done in the last eight years of UPA rule. Every economic parameter has deteriorated. Look at the current year, 2011-12, figures. GDP growth has been revised to 6.9 per cent. I humbly submit that figure is not going to be achieved. Look at the last quarter's number as they are coming out. Every number is showing less than projected. I suspect the GDP will be at 6.5 per cent last year. We had double-digit inflation. Forex reserves have fallen in the last year to 293 billion dollars. The fiscal deficit is at 5.9 per cent and again the last quarter results can make that deteriorate further. Sir, S&P's downgrade says it all. They have projected a negative outlook on long-term credit servicing capability of India. This could lead to a possible downgrading of the sovereign rating within the next 24 months. There is little progress in economic reforms they say. The GDP growth rate will decline further. Fiscal deficit is unmanageable and will shoot up as subsidies will rise. Sir, when the NDA was in power, we are proud to say, the ratings had improved. It was from a negative to a positive outlook when the NDA Government ran. Even the Fitch ratings had improved

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during the NDA Government. But what has happened now? Sir, please do not take the ratings lightly. This decline in the Sensex following the ratings, this rush of FII flowing out of the country, the stoppage of any new proposals, no FII no FDI coming into the country. Well the Government may claim that in March eight billion dollars came out. But as an investment banker, I would like to submit that the 8.1 billion dollars included a deal which was consummated six months before, over 6 billion dollar of that was only from that deal. Right now there is absolutely no business in the market. All new investments have stopped, Sir. There is impetus for outflow of funds rather than inflow of funds. Indian businessmen, the Economic Times report says that the Indian businessmen are looking to invest outside the country. They have no confidence in my country any more. This is despite the fact that we have one of the most learned, one of the most experienced Finance Ministers at the helm of affairs. Well, the Hon. FM said that it is a timely warning and there is no need to panic. I submit, Sir, he did not need the S&P to be giving this timely warning. In this very House, when I spoke on 11th August, 2011 on the Appropriation Bill No. 3, I had said and I quote: "India could get into a situation of downgrade similar to the USA situation now and the country cannot afford any downgrade at this stage which will result in an increase in the cost of our international borrowings." A common man can tell you what is happening in the economy, Sir. Of course, the Economic Advisor has revealed all when he said this in the IMF in Washington about the state of affairs of this Government. Sir, please do not blame every thing on global factors alone. We have a huge domestic economy, a huge domestic consumption demand. We have a huge demographic dividend to benefit from. The business environment is today shattered. The business environment wants confidence. The Indian entrepreneur, the investor is more than enough to overcome all these difficulties. If only the Government of the day would give an impetus to their efforts. But in the aftermath of the series of scandals, governance issues which have come to the fore, have left this Government paralysed. Licences get cancelled. There is no clear policy on spectrum allocation. We do not know what will happen in the arbitration that global companies had initiated against India, and many of them are talking of withdrawing from India. Sir, the message has gone out that the Government of India no longer cares about attracting investment.

I, very respectfully, submit that the hon. Finance Minister did not do justice when he said in the other House that India can live without 'foreign investment.' Certainly, India can live without 'foreign investment.' I will be the last fellow to say we need only 'foreign investment'. But I have tonnes and tonnes of cuttings here of the hon. Finance Minister, of the hon. Prime Minister, of the hon. Commerce Minister going all over the world, almost begging for foreign investment, coming to this House and almost pleading with this House to support multi-brand retail FDI. Is that the only form of

FDI to attract investment? FDI is permitted in a hundred other sectors. Why is that FDI not coming? What makes you to believe that multi-brand FDI will come? But FDI will not come in setting up cold storages, infrastructure, roads, and airports. That is because of the policy paralysis that this Government has gone into. The benchmark indices have declined drastically since March 16, the date of presentation of the Budget. As we all know, the rupee is depreciating. FDI investments have dried up in the last two months. Sir, this Budget was an opportunity to change all this negative perception about India. We had no elections round the corner. It could have laid a road map for the future. However, all sections of society were let down, as I will explain a little further. There is total policy paralysis, non-movement of reforms, no focus on energy security, no focus on investment in infrastructure, no focus on health and education, and no focus on farmers on whose sweat and toil this country runs. What is this Government giving to the people of India? The power sector is starved of coal and raw materials. They are lying idle. There is no coal; there is no oil; there is no gas. Infrastructure development is stagnating, because Ministries within the Government don't see eye to eye. The Ministry of Environment is out to stymie all the projects. The Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank together have made investments so expensive that it is unviable today. In health and education, there is an incremental increase in spending, that the Budget shows. But there is no focus on quality. We have huge NRHM scams and we have also huge MNREGA scams. Social spending is good, Sir; we are not against it. But social spending should be directed; social spending should result in creation of infrastructure and in the well-being of the people. There are no concrete measures to promote agriculture in this Budget, as I will show later.

Sir, the disinvestment targets are not met. Disinvestment is not a year-end phenomenon. You didn't do disinvestment of ONGC until the last quarter of the year. Then, when you do it, you mess it up. Your bureaucrats advised you to keep the share price over and above the market price of that day. I am amazed that this Government has such Advisers. They should be sacked forthwith, if that is the level of advise that they give to this Government. When only five per cent of the disinvestment amount is subscribed on that crucial day, what does the Government do? The Finance Ministry steps in. They put pressure on a PSU like LIC, and make the LIC subscribe to 95 per cent of the issue, after closing hours. I demand that an investigation should be done on this and a White Paper should come out. Is that the cause of LIC being downgraded in the current Moody's round? We must know where the truth lies, Sir. There are residual stakes of Hindustan Zinc Ltd. and BALCO, which are low-hanging fruits this Government can encash. I don't know why they can't take decisions on anything. I don't think they need coalition partners' approvals for day-to-day decision making. I think, Sir, India's finances are held hostage to political whims. We need to move out of vote-bank politics. We need to see fiscal prudence, we need to see cost of borrowing going down, capital investment being encouraged; we need to respect investors'

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sentiments and domestic consumption. Sir, in the last few years, tax revenue has only been used to fund short-term political gains. Investment activities have been given only lip service. As I had mentioned in this House earlier, in the last eight years of this Government, revenue expenditure has gone up by over 300 per cent at an average, Plan and Non-Plan, whereas capital expenditure has not even gone up by 100 per cent. Sir, the future generations are going to hold all of us responsible for the situation we are leading this country to and for what we will leave behind for them to suffer.

Sir, there is this policy flip-flop. The Finance Bill, not this year but the last year, provided for MAT and DDT on Special Economic Zones. Now, 'Special Economic Zones' was a visionary policy introduced by the NDA. We had expected them to be large format zones in rural hinterland, largely on wastelands with independent and new infrastructure, tax benefits and easier operating laws to reduce the pressure on existing cities. We wanted to create jobs, we wanted exports to grow, and we wanted Indian competitiveness in manufacturing to be there. But, Sir, what did this Government do? In UPA-I, they approved over 700 SEZs. Against the two that were approved by the NDA, they approved over 700 SEZs, as small as 20 acre SEZ in the heart of Mumbai — and I don't know how many SEZs are there in Gurgaon, outside Delhi. They messed up a beautiful law and then when they realized that it has gone out of hand, they bring in MAT and DDT without any grandfathering provisions. This uncertainty has led to a complete loss of confidence in the ability of this Government to attract foreign investment.

Sir, investments and saving rates are falling. The monetary policy, which is being used to arrest inflation, is only causing more pain. In this climate of policy flip-flop, they bring in a large number of retrospective amendments in the Finance Bill. Nobody is against taxing foreign incomes which relate to assets in India. I think, this whole House can unanimously support such a Resolution. But do not make it retroactive in nature and don't make the people lose confidence in the judicial system of India when the Supreme Court of India gives a certain ruling. When the Supreme Court could not understand and interpret the law—anyway, it was the Congress Government which was in power when the IT Act came—when all of us, Chartered Accountants, could not interpret it, when lawyers could not interpret it, the bureaucrats — I am not blaming the Finance Minister because, I am sure, he has been misled with information — say, 'no', the law has to be retrospectively clarified. In 1961, we meant it as follows. Now, if they had to bring a clarification to just attack one Company, they should have done it in 2007, in 2008, as the United Kingdom has done, as China has done. The hon. Finance Minister has referred to this. Sir, I have all the details here. There is not much time. I could have dealt on each of the retrospective amendments that took place in USA, China and the UK. All of them, Sir, grandfathered the past. The UK amendment,

Sir, that you talked about, grandfathered the decisions of the Court when they brought in retrospective amendments. And, I spoke to the hon. Finance Minister of UK. He said, 'It was brought within two months of the event occurring and it was to tax 'a particular transaction.' It was discussed with that Corporate and it was settled that 'yes, this is how it is; this is how we are clarifying it.' There is a complete absence of consistent and coherent decision-making in this Government.

Sir, the oil and gas sector is suffering. Inequalities in the country are increasing and overall, there is a sense of doom and gloom which is stated in the newspapers every day.

Sir, I want to make a few suggestions. Let us focus on agriculture with 15 per cent of the GDP, but 55 per cent of the population dependant on it. I think, the Plan target of 4 per cent growth is not enough. We need to look at incremental growth.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PRO. P.J. KURIEN) : Mr. Goyal, please conclude.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Sir, I have talked to my leaders. We have only one speaker. He needs two-three minutes. So, don't worry.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : But even then, please stick to the time.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Don't worry. We will stick to the time unless the hon. FM tells me to sit down.

Sir, the Plan target of four per cent growth is not enough. We need to look for incremental gains in productivity. We need massive requirements to meet the Food Security Bill that the extra constitutional bodies are now forming, and, possibly, we will see in this House. That additional requirement will have to be met by imports and that level of import will make international prices of foodgrains rise exponentially and the Forex strain on the country will be huge. Not to say, Sir, I am against food security. Ensure food security, but not by imports; food security by encouraging my farmer to produce more, by giving him low-cost credit, by giving him money when he needs it most, by giving him low-cost high quality seeds, by not making fertilizer prices increase by 250 per cent in one year between 2010 and 2011, by giving storage facilities and warehouse chains so that his foodgrains are not allowed to rot, and, if I may just add, by giving him jute bags in time, so that he doesn't have to suffer an ignominious loss of his produce.

Sir, that is what we need to address. The way forward would be to infuse technology in our farms. The way forward would be to invest in infrastructure in the farms, make prices commensurate with the cost of production, incentivize private sector participation in farm infrastructure by giving viability gap funding, because by

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itself, it is not viable and work closely with the States, this being a State Subject, to bring in uniform laws all over the country.

Sir, there is a risk of food insecurity in the coming years, and the problem of water shortages is looming large. There is a risk to ecology in Punjab and Haryana due to deterioration of soil and fall in the Water Table. We need to encourage crop rotation and stop grain mono-cropping there. Overall, Sir, I think, agriculture needs a focus, which is, sadly, lacking in this Government.

Health, Sir, is the other sector which I would like to talk about. Outlays have been increased, but there is no strategy to address the lack of infrastructure in the public healthcare delivery mechanism. Primary Health Centres are in a mess. There is a huge shortage of doctors and nurses. There is no effort in capacity building. It is so difficult to get a medical college from this Government, because they can't even get appointments and elections to the Medical Council of India, done.

Sir, the Budget is all about *asha*, but I think, it has left all of us with *nirasha*! The NRHM corruption and misuse of funds needs to be stopped. I think, the Government should seriously look at investing more of the GDP in health, and increase the health linkages with the private sector, something like the UK model, where doctors set up their Primary Health Centres and the Government funds their budgets, or the *Vatsalya* Hospitals or the *Narayanan Hridayalaya* experiment in Andhra Pradesh, with their own Government there.

Sir, in education, the less said, the better. They can keep tom-tomming any figures of literacy but they don't mean anything. Their own esteemed colleagues in the Treasury Benches point out to us that a IX Standard student can't read a III Standard textbook! We need 500 million more skilled people in this country in the next ten years. And what kind of capacity building do we have? We can, at best, make five million people developed in skills annually in this country. We have a very illustrious person in Mr. Ramadurai to head the Skill Development Corporation, but I think, unless we dovetail some more projects, unless we dovetail education, skill development—and I would also suggest MNREGA—into one, we will never achieve skill development, because the poor man is not going to come for skill development, losing wages. I was going to recommend that MNREGA should be dovetailed with skill development and people given money to develop their skills over a period of time. That way, we can actually invest, not just Rs.3000 crores in skill development, which they have provided, but possibly, even Rs.40,000 crores.

Sir, job creation is the need of the hour. Jobs can come in manufacturing, jobs can come in tourism and jobs can come in housing. And, what have we done? We have

just announced some manufacturing policy, but have dismally failed to create new jobs. The share of manufacturing has fallen to 16 per cent. None of the issues relating to availability of land, connectivity, infrastructure, skills and finance at a reasonable cost have been addressed. There are multiple levels of taxation. Labour laws need to be rationalized. There is a shortage of power and water. About the Environment Ministry, the less said, the better. Manufacturing is at a standstill in this country.

Sir, talking of tourism, this Budget allocates Rs.1282 crores for tourism, which is just one per cent of the Budget. Malaysia allocates 5.1 per cent, China, 3.8 per cent and Singapore, 9.1 per cent of the Budget. We had 6.27 million international tourists last year. We can only hang our heads in shame; even Singapore and Dubai, which are one-city States, have more international tourists than the whole of India. The USA had 62 million international tourists last year.

And what do we do? We increase the burden of service tax on tourism. We don't create any infrastructure in tourist locations. We don't provide any incentives to the private enterprises. We don't give any tax holiday from Civic, State and Central taxes because tourism is like export and there is adequate possibility to earn forex revenues out of tourism to help the hon. Finance Minister manage debts. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Mr. Goyal, you have taken 31 minutes. Only 12 minutes are left for your colleague.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : He is my colleague. He is right here. You can ask him. ...*(Interruptions)*... On housing, Sir, the Budget is silent, except providing 150 per cent Weighted Deduction. There is nothing else to give a push to affordable housing and to give encouragement and impetus to the housing sector. We need easier regulatory and environmental approvals and low interest cost to make houses available to all in this country. Infrastructure, Sir, which is the most important sector is begging for this Government's mercy. We need to give an impetus to infrastructure projects through effectively using the Viability-Gap Funding mechanism. Environmental and regulatory approvals should be obtained by the Government before they allocate projects to the private sector, rather than private sector running from pillar to post and failing to get any approvals in time. The high cost of interest and unavailability of long-term capital make infrastructure projects unviable. In fact, Sir, in another scheme for MNREGA ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : You could possibly dovetail MNREGA with Viability-Gap Funding and promote Rs.1 lakh crore worth of projects. Using that, it would still put Rs.40,000 crore into the people's hands because labour cost is 40 to 50 per cent of

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infrastructure projects. Sir, the Roads Programme is at a complete standstill. Hardly, four or five kilometers of roads a day are coming up. The telecom industry, which was the blue-eyed boy and which was a showcase industry, is in a complete mess. They are in a state of flux with uncertainty. The regulatory regime is completely messed up. Owing to scandals and policy paralysis, costs to the consumers are increasing rapidly. Some recommendations have come out, which will take the country back to pre-NTP-99 days and you will be in a situation where we will again start paying Rs.2 or Rs.3 per minute from mobile phones that we are so liberally using now. Overall, the telecom sector has plunged into uncertainty and a total policy failure. We need to create 200 new airports in this country to connect the length and breadth of this country through low-cost airports. Please also make the taxes competitive. Don't kill the whole industry. Look at Goa. They halved the ATF and are encouraging the airlines industry to come in a bigger way. Your major airports in the country are so costly that nobody in the world wants to come there. Our Indian airports are ten times the cost of the Dubai International Airport. How are we going to encourage the airport sector?
...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please conclude.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : We need to bring in new ports in the country. Expand the rail network. In the power sector, there is complete policy paralysis. We have been hearing that the Government will address these issues. But so far we don't see any light at the end of the tunnel. I wish there would be focus on renewal energy, solar, wind and bio, which can remove the shortages of power.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, please conclude.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : I have been unwell for the last two-three days.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : For the sake of your health, you should conclude now ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Sir, in the Finance Bill, I am going to highlight one or two things. Well, it is very good that section 35AD provides Weighted Deduction for investment in various sectors. It should be allowed to be set off against the other business income of the company. Otherwise, it is a failed section. You allow it to be set off against the income of that same project, which will come over ten years. That benefit doesn't accrue to the business and it doesn't have any impact on making infrastructure cheaper.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, you have to conclude.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Also, Sir, they have withdrawn GAAR.
...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, you have to conclude.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Sir, in the direct taxes, in the taxes which are applicable on indirect transfers, they have not yet clarified the position regarding FII investment and for up-stream investors. ...(Interruptions)...

I think the Government needs to address various issues in the Finance Bill and bring in a sense of confidence in the economy.

Thank you.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR (Nominated) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to express my views on the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2012, and the Finance Bill, 2012, as passed by Lok Sabha, which I strongly support.

Sir, I begin by congratulating the Hon. Finance Minister because under the prevailing domestic and global financial conditions, probably, nobody would have presented a better Budget and a Finance Bill than the ones presented by the Hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee for 2012-13. Sir, taking into account the entire structure of the Budget and the Finance Bill, there is no doubt in my mind that he is more kind and less cruel, if at all 'cruelty' is defined in that way. Sir, it is ridiculous to judge the performance of the economy of the Indian size on the basis of what happened during the last two months, three months, or, last one quarter.

Before I proceed to analyse the Finance Bill and the Appropriation (No.3) Bill and the provisions of the Budget, I must make two broad observations in the beginning. Sir, in the entire history of Parliamentary Democracy, probably, an Opposition Party is yet to be born which will find any merit at a point of time in any of the policies formulated by the Ruling Party. Second qualification is that there is difference between political economy and abundantly mixing politics with economics. In my presentation, whatever time is available to me, I shall be speaking about more of economics of the Budget and the Finance Bill rather than mixing more politics with economics.

Sir, under what condition the Finance Bill and the Budget have been prepared? The world economy is limping under the global financial crisis of September, 2008. International prices of crude oil have been rising and hovering around between \$100 and \$120 per barrel. Some countries have been manipulating the exchange value of their currencies which have been distorting the world commodity prices which have

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been showing an upward trend. The EURO Zone is still in deep sovereign debt crisis, so much so that the credit ratings of Portugal and Greece, during 2007 and 2012, have fallen by 32.79 and 74.52 per cent, respectively. Once upon a time, the EURO was itself on the verge of collapse. The entire Arab world is in turmoil. The world economy continues to be volatile. As a result, the economies of developed countries could barely grow at the annual average rates between two to three per cent during 2011. During the first three quarters of 2011, even the Brazil and Russia registered growth rates of 3.2 and 4.2 per cent respectively. Only China and Argentina, of all the countries in the world, could register growth rates of 9.2 and 10 per cent respectively. Sir, Indian economy's performance of 6.9 per cent growth for the last year is to be viewed in this international background.

Sir, as against the targeted growth rate of 7.5 per cent for 2011 -12, the growth rate, as I mentioned, was 6.9 per cent. One reason for this was 13 times increase in the repo rate in 19 months by the Reserve Bank of India to control inflation that raised the cost of credit to the industry. The objective of the Reserve Bank of India is very noble, but it could not be fairly achieved, because the problem of Indian inflation is essentially a structured problem. But, Sir, let me compare the growth scenario during the NDA and the UPA-rules. Under the UPA rule, between 2005-06 and 2010-11, the rate of growth ranged between 6.7 per cent in 2008-09, which was the lowest, and 9.6 per cent in 2006-07, which was the highest. This means, even the lowest growth of 6.7 per cent in 2008-09 during the UPA-rule was higher than that for the four years of BJP-led NDA Government, ranging between barely 4 per cent in 2003-04 to 6.7 per cent in 1998-99.

All said and done, the BJP-led NDA must gracefully accept that the UPA has outpaced them so far as the growth scenario is concerned. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra) : This is not politics! This is economics! ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : These are the figures. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Mr. Javadekar, please. Please take your seat. ...(*Interruptions*)... This is his view. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Sir, throughout my professional career, I have always argued that higher rate of growth is *necessary* but *not sufficient* condition for raising the levels of living of the people. Equally important, it depends upon the pattern and structure of the distribution of the benefits of economic growth. But it would be absolutely absurd to underestimate the importance of higher rate of growth because in the absence of higher rate of growth, we shall have job only of distribution of poverty.

Sir, there is wide variety of views, criticism and evaluation of Budget, 2012-13. Some have found it reasonable, pragmatic, routed in the ground, cautious, balanced and broadly acceptable to all sections of the population. Some have described it as second worst since 1970-71, and, some have, as usual, described it as “anti-people.”

Sir, in a highly in-egalitarian society like India, Budget is an exercise to balance, not only different but conflicting claims of different sections of the population. This is what is, in classical sense, political economy of the Budget.

Sir, Budget is not merely a mechanism of allocation of resources. It is also the mechanism of distribution of income among different sections of the society. Sir, with what is known in economic theory as the *Budget constraint*, the Finance Minister, according to me, has tried to the best of his ability, to address major concerns of the economy. Personally, I would have liked him to do many more things, and, also to do, whatever he has done, on a larger scale; but I know his constraints.

Sir, first and the foremost, all the critics have miserably failed to understand that the Finance Minister has emphasized on the domestic *demand-driven growth recovery*. Sir, it is common knowledge in economic that there is difference between the size of population and the size of domestic market. The latter comprises only that section of the population that is relevant from the viewpoint of demand for consumption goods and services; and, investment goods, what Lord Keynes had described as *Aggregate Demand*, which, at a given point of time, through famous Keynesian principles of multiplier and acceleration, determines the level of income and employment, and, speeds up the process of economic growth. The size of potential market of Indian economy is just huge, the point which was all along emphasized by prominent Indian economists such as Nirmal Kumar Chandra, Ashok Mitra, Sukhamoy Chakravarty, and, K.N. Raj. I, therefore, compliment the Finance Minister for explicitly underlining the crucial importance of domestic demand-driven growth for accelerating the process of economic development in the country.

Sir, the Finance Minister has tried to address the concerns with respect to supply-bottlenecks, again within the Budget constraints, in agriculture, energy, coal, transport, and, other infrastructure areas. Other steps include, stimulating private sector investment, tackling malnutrition through effective intervention in 200 affected districts, ensuring improvement in the delivery system through transparent governance, addressing the question of corruption in public life, and, bringing out a ‘White Paper’ on black money.

Sir, the Eleventh Five Year Plan, during the UPA rule, under the able leadership of hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, is a turning point in India’s post-Independence economic planning. Not only was the Plan committed to securing faster and more inclusive growth, but for the first time since Independence, it was the Eleventh

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Plan, which ushered an era of *rights-based approach to development*. It brought Right to Free and Compulsory Education to Children, Tribal Forest Land Rights Act, the Right to Information, and, most importantly, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Let me now briefly deal with some important proposals and programmes initiated by the hon. Finance Minister, and, while mentioning this, I shall take note of certain points, that I think, important, raised by hon. Member from the Opposition.

Firstly, let me take agriculture. Sir, despite two decades of economic reforms concentrating mainly on services sector to be followed by industry, agriculture still provides 55 per cent of country's total employment and more than two-thirds of the people depend upon it for their livelihood. But its share in GDP has declined to 13.9 per cent in last

This is a disproportionate crisis. Agriculture is a State subject and the States must invest more in this sector without giving any excuse. In my first speech in the Rajya Sabha, Sir, I had suggested to the Government that let there be a special meeting of the National Development Council to deal exclusively with the problems of agriculture. The Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 20,208 crore to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Rs. 9,217 crore to the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna and Rs. 14,242 crore to the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. Most importantly, agricultural credit is enhanced by Rupees One lakh crore—from Rs. 4.75 lakh crore in 2011-12 to Rs. 5.75 lakh crore this year. I hope the small and marginal farmers who constitute about 70 per cent of the total farmers in the country shall get their due share from this substantial enhancement of the farm credit.

Sir, we saw a furore in the country, including the Parliament, over the poverty estimates recently released by the Planning Commission. I don't want to enter into the controversies relating to the methods of poverty estimation. But I must pay my tribute to my friend, late Prof. Suresh Tendulkar, who brought poverty estimates in this country out of calorie norms, and for the first time included expenditure on education and health. But, Sir, whatever method one may use, the extent of poverty in India has undoubtedly declined, though the rate of reduction has slowed down due to growing inequality in the distribution of benefits of economic growth. Sir, in this context, unlike what my earlier colleague said, I compliment Shrimati Soniaji Gandhi for championing the National Food Security Scheme which is a very important scheme because at least 60 years after declaring this country as a Sovereign, Democratic Republic, poor people in this country have a legitimate right to adequate food entitlements. Sir, the National Food Security Scheme has also an ethical dimension; it is not merely an economic programme, because economics minus ethics would lead us to a jungle of figures and statistics.

The allocation to the Integrated Child Development Scheme has been enhanced by 58 per cent. The Mid Day Meal Scheme, among other things, may have played an important role in reducing the dropout rates at the primary school level and has been given approximately Rs. 12,000 crore.

Sir, contrary to severe criticism in some corners, I am proud of the achievements of the Nehruvian- model of socio-economic development that laid down the foundation of an emerging Indian nation state, and that too, against all odds. Therefore, I discount the discovery of some professional economists and social scientists, some of them being even Lords, that the Nehruvian-period was a wastage of time. There is a growing fashion of dismissing everything that happened before 1991.

But, Sir, as Prof. Michael Lipton argued in 1981 in his celebrated book, *Urban Bias in World Development*, I am constrained to say that even the Indian economic planning in the initial years was not totally free from urban bias. This was particularly true with respect to access of rural people to good quality education and health facilities, drinking water, sanitation, roads, housing, electricity, entertainment and so on. It will be absolutely unfair to say that this was intentional. In fact, several schemes and programmes were initiated during the intervening period by different Governments, and all of them happened to be the Congress Governments. One such revolutionary intervention was made by Shrimati Indiraji Gandhi when in 1969, she nationalized major commercial banks and brought agricultural credit under priority lending. Sir, I distinctly remember, as a student of Economics, that the then Bharatiya Jana Sangh and Swatantra Party vehemently opposed nationalization of banks, and as far as my understanding goes, left the House when the decision was taken in the Parliament. Napoleon once said, "Had there not been Rousseau, there would not have been French Revolution". I say with a sense of pride, had Shrimati Indiraji Gandhi not nationalised the banks and brought the agriculture credit under the priority lending, there would not have been Green Revolution.

The second revolution was brought in the area of communications and information technology for which the country shall permanently remain grateful to late Shri Rajivji Gandhi who knew the pulse of the 21st century. He was also the architect of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution that gave a new life to the Panchayati Raj institutions, that empowered the rural people in general and women in particular through 33 per cent reservation for them in these institutions.

Thereafter, only the Congress-led UPA Government has made a decisive intervention through initiating the rights-based approach to development.

Sir, the Finance Minister has provided Rs.14,000 crore for rural drinking water and sanitation and Rs.24,000 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. According to an important study by the International Food Price Research Institute,

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access to good quality all-weather roads is shown to have a stronger poverty-reduction impact than even irrigation, due to the former's multi-dimensional linkages.

Widening inter-State and intra-State economic disparities have a crucial bearing on our federal polity. I, therefore, appreciate that the Finance Minister has allocated Rs.12,000 crore to the Backward Region Grant Fund and Rs.20,000 crore to the Rural Infrastructure Fund.

The Eleventh Plan had allocated 20 per cent of its total resources to education sector. That had made the Hon. Prime Minister describe the Eleventh Plan as the 'Education Plan'. This time too, the Finance Minister has provided adequate amount for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education.

Sir, during the last several years, due to growing privatisation of health facilities, the relatively poor people are forced to spend much larger population of their income on medication than before. I, therefore, compliment the Finance Minister for providing Rs.20,822 crore under the Rural Health Mission. I am happy to know that the Government shall be soon launching the Urban Health Mission also.

Sir, creation of productive skills in the labour force is one of the key and critical requirements for accelerating the process of economic growth, as was argued by Professor Theodore Schultz. Sir, we all know that in our labour-abundant country, barely 8-9 per cent of the formal training workforce is endowed with training; three per cent and about seven per cent on the job training. I am sorry to say that our entire university education system is largely irrelevant to induce employability in our youth. We have to seriously deal with this syndrome by totally restructuring our higher education system. In view of this, I congratulate hon. Prime Minister on initiating the National Skill Development Mission during the Eleventh Plan followed by the formation of the National Skill Development Corporation, which is working satisfactorily with adequate financial provision.

Sir, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has become a toy in the hands of politicians and mainstream economists for criticism. According to me, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is the most novel programme that the UPA Government gave to the nation. Sir, nowhere in the world such scheme is thought of, let alone implemented. I gratefully mention the contribution of the Congress President, Smt. Soniaji Gandhi, in initiating this scheme and Shri Rahulji Gandhi initiative in making it nationwide. Sir, the successive Economic Surveys have shown that about 50-60 million poor rural unskilled households are annually given assured jobs with varying number of days and with minimum wages. And who are these people working on it? The share of the Scheduled Castes and the

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Scheduled Tribes in the total persondays of employment in the country was 61 per cent in 200 districts in 2006-07; about 56 per cent in 330 districts in 2007-08; and about 52-54 per cent in all districts during 2008-09 to 2010-11. The remaining are from the most backward classes and the poor in general. I am sure the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has played a crucial role in reducing the rural poverty.

Sir, I am closely aware of the shortcomings of the implementation of this scheme. There is enough scope for improvement. But I am also aware that the pressures are being developed from some corners to dilute the scheme in one way or the other, or, for one reason or the other. I strongly disagree with such views.

Sir, some influential mainstream economists in this country spend a lot of their intellectual energy like some politicians in condemning all schemes meant for the poor as sops, doles and electoral gimmicks. They distressingly fail to take into account the fact that at the aggregate level, such extraneous schemes become extremely important, because the mainstream growth process by itself is not able to address the concerns of the poor in the country, particularly when the employment elasticity of growth is declining and due to market imperfections.

Sir, in this context, I would like to quote the Economic Survey, 2011-12. It says, "The critical task of inclusion, (*i.e.* inclusive growth) cannot be left to the free market. The untrammelled laws of the market play an important role in growth and efficiency but, they do not have a natural propensity to reach out to the poor and vulnerable. **"That has to be the responsibility of the Government"**.

Sir, some have criticised the Finance Minister heavily for not containing the fiscal deficit to the promised level of 4.6 per cent of the GDP, which is revised to be 5.9 per cent of the GDP for 2011-12, which we heard just now. What surprises me is that the criticism is so harsh, as if, the fiscal consolidation is the only objective of economic policy. Sir, not much knowledge of economics is required to criticise the Finance Minister or any one for increase in the fiscal deficit. But, in view of the constraints that the Finance Minister explained in his Budget speech, the criticism is fully unfounded and misplaced. Sir, I cannot afford to be naive to even remotely justify the profligacy on the part of the Government. I am convinced that more expenditure does not automatically mean more welfare. It also depends upon the quality of expenditure, transparency, speed of governance, weeding out of vested interests and elimination of leakages in the system. And, yet, since day one, from my days in the Planning Commission, when the FRBM Act was in the making, I have always been surprised as to how in a growing and emerging economy like India with wide poverty, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy and pervasive inequalities, fiscal deficit could be rigidly

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controlled by legislation, through preparation of annual time-table. One could imagine as to what would have happened to the Indian economy had the Government, ten years ago, strictly followed the time table given by the Tarapore Committee for introducing “full convertibility” of the Indian Rupee, particularly today, when the global financial market is so uncertain, so unstable and so volatile in an unprecedented manner and scale. Sir, if I am not wrong, the Indian economy is still not fully equipped to go for full convertibility, particularly post-2008 global financial crisis. I am addressing to all the mainstream economists, who have spent a disproportionately large energy in criticising the Finance Minister for not containing the fiscal deficit.

Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister for intending to amend the FRBM Act. I am also happy to know that in the area of expenditure reforms, he has rightly introduced the concept of ‘Effective Revenue Deficit’. Some people have criticised that as a gimmick to which I disagree. That would reduce the consumptive component of revenue deficit and create space for increased capital spending.

Sir, let me come back to fiscal deficit. For 2011-12, the revised fiscal deficit is estimated to be Rs.5,21,980 crore, that is, 5.9 per cent of the GDP. Let us remember that. I repeat again, it is 5.9 per cent of the GDP. But, the critics have distressingly failed to know the accompanying facts. What are the accompanying facts? Sir, available information shows that the total tax revenue forgone due to exemptions, deductions and incentives by the Central Government, as estimated by the Union Finance Ministry, in the year 2011-12 was about Rs.5,29,432 crore, that is, six per cent of the GDP, which was 0.1 percentage point higher than the fiscal deficit. Let alone politicians, not a single serious economist can ignore the fact that the total tax revenue forgone was 0.1 percentage higher than the total fiscal deficit. This is not all. Of this, the revenue of Rs.57,063 crore was forgone only due to tax exemption given for the import of diamond and gold. And some political parties and some sections were demanding that the exemption should be restored. In 2010-11, this amount was Rs.49,164 crore.

I am unable to reconcile to the Finance Minister’s decision of giving exemption on the import of gold and diamond in the preceding two years knowing fully well that exemption once given is hundred times difficult to withdraw.

Besides forgoing revenue, what are the other economic consequences of tax exemptions given for import of gold and diamond? First, the most valuable foreign exchange of the equivalent value was spent, or rather misspent, for this purpose, that would have been used for other productive use. Second, to that extent the current account deficit was widened. The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech had categorically mentioned this, and I quote:

“One of the primary drivers of the current account deficit has been the growth of almost 50 per cent in imports of gold and other precious metals in the first three quarters of this year, that is, 2011-12”.

Third, due to the progressive weakening of the rupee, the better-off sections consider gold as a substitute to financial investment that has been pushing its price to the sky level. Sir, looking at the gold price today, nearly Rs.28,000 crores, sometimes, I take pleasure that I got married before this gold crisis because, I could not have bought even the *mangal sutra* according to the Hindu tradition. It is no more true that the demand for gold is insatiable mainly for the ornamental purposes as in the olden days. Fourth, this has also affected the rates of savings and investment. For instance, the rate of gross domestic saving and that of investment, in 2007-08, was 36.8 per and 38.1 per cent, respectively. These rates declined to 32.3 per cent and 35.1 per cent, respectively in 2010-11. Let us not forget the fact, and I want to emphasise this in the presence of the hon. Finance Minister, that whatever the rate of growth during the last four or five years, say, 8.5 per cent plus, was mainly *consumption-driven and not investment-driven*. For an emerging economy like India, this is certainly not a happy situation. What is most disturbing in this regard was that the Finance Minister was forced to roll back rationalisation of some tax measures with respect to the import of gold and other precious metals despite the adverse consequences that I mentioned above, which he also knows.

Sir, I am also disturbed over the fact that the Finance Minister has postponed to the next year the review of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement Treaty with Mauritius. Sir, Indian economy can't depend permanently, as the people argue with some sense of leisure, on Foreign Institutional Investment. By definition it is not money and can fly out any time. It is not desirable for of any stable economy in the changing global financial situation. According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, cumulative Foreign Institutional Investment inflows from Mauritius into India—we all know the size of Mauritius—amounted to US \$55.20 billion accounting 42 per cent of the total Foreign Institution Investment inflows into the country, making Mauritius the single largest FII source. The foreign investors having presence in Mauritius are legally exempted from the capital gains tax. According to Government's own admission, India is losing annually over 600 million dollars annually, for the 12 year period the amount is being estimated to be about US\$ 7.2 billion.

Of late, the subsidies have rightly emerged as a major contestable issue which the politicians are not discussing. In 2011-12, of the Revised Estimates of total non-Plan expenditure of Rs.8,92,116 crore, subsidies alone accounted to Rs.2,16,297 crore and constituted 24 per cent of the total non-Plan expenditure. Of this, the subsidy on food, fertilizers and petroleum products amounted to about Rs.1.42 lakh crore and constituted 65 per cent of the total subsidy. This invariably contributed to the increase

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in fiscal deficit. Food subsidy comprises four components: support prices to the farmers, transport, storage and distribution charges. All these constitute economic costs and the difference between the economic costs and issue prices of foodgrains constitute foodgrain subsidy. The rising food subsidy bill is also largely due to the continuous increase in the support prices. I want to ask in this House: Which political party—people are talking about widening fiscal deficit and rising inflation rate—can dare say that support prices should not be raised when the cost of production in agriculture is increasing and when productivity is virtually stagnant and lakhs of farmers are committing suicide for the last seven or eight years?

The farming community has been under distress, that makes rise in support prices imminent.

I support the initiatives of the Government to rationalize the prices of fertilizers and petroleum products. The former shall help correct the distortions in the use of fertilizer-mix resulting into over use or rather misuse of urea.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please conclude.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : I will take only five minutes more.

The same is true about the prices of petroleum products—this is the crucial point on which the Government is being criticized—particularly in view of the facts that about 80 per cent of the country's crude oil requirement is imported and the prices are rising. Second, relatively cheaper kerosene is used for adulteration of the diesel. The inflationary effect of the rise in petrol prices can partly be moderated by rationalizing the tax structure. Diesel should be partly decontrolled in course of time, and be subsidized strictly for public purposes such as transporting food grains. The prices of LPG cylinders should not be raised, but its supply should be strictly regulated to ensure that better-off sections are not subsidized. Kerosene should be made available only on “kerosene coupons” and its potential misuse should be severely punished. I hope, the issue, as usual, is not politicized.

Sir, sound, realistic and rational taxation policy is a major instrument to mobilize resources for economic development and also for distributive justice, that could also help contain fiscal deficit. What is the scenario in the country? Let me quote the figures from the “IMF - Revenue Mobilization in Developing Countries, 2011”. The Tax-GDP ratio in the developed countries like Sweden is 50.1 per cent; Denmark – 49.1 per cent; France – 44.7 per cent; Netherlands – 39.5 per cent; the UK – 37.4 per cent and the USA - 27.3 per cent. Developing countries: Brazil – 34.2 per cent; Ghana – 22.4 per cent and China – 16.6 per cent. What is the situation in India? In India, according to the Economic Survey, 2011-12, the Centre's Tax-GDP ratio in 2011-12 stood at 10.5

per cent and our aim is 13 per cent by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan, that is, by 31st March, 2017. Thus, India is probably the lowest taxed country in the world. I, therefore, fully support raising the service tax from 10 per cent to 12 per cent, that is expected to yield around Rs. 18,660 crores and I find no reason for any fuss on that front. Even its potential inflationary impact and regressive character cannot be used as an excuse for not raising the service tax. The share of services sector in GDP in 2011-12 was 59 per cent, while the proportion of the services tax in the GDP was abysmally low at 0.9 per cent and it has continued to remain so almost since 2006-07.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please conclude.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Sir, just one minute more.

If we do not adopt some of the urgent economic measures, I apprehend that we are awaiting a bigger economic crisis.

In order to bring food inflation under control, we have to urgently manage the structural imbalance. Having said this, I must say that if inflation has to be permanently controlled, we have to adjust ourselves to about six-seven per cent inflation.

With questionable relevance of the recommendations of the Bretton wood twins, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, from the viewpoint of the emerging economies, I appreciate the BRICS countries' recent decision to establish World Bank-like organization for financing their infrastructure development. I also congratulate the Government for taking firm stand with respect to import of oil from Iran disregarding the contrary suggestion of Mrs. Hilary Clinton, Secretary of the State. Our total annual trade with Iran amounts to about US\$ 14 billion.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, securing faster and sustainable growth in the fast changing and complex world environment is indeed a great challenge. But still greater challenge is to make growth truly inclusive in a highly differentiated, in-egalitarian and exclusive society like India. The ultimate aim of our socio-economic policies must be to increasingly share the benefits of economic growth with the toiling masses.

Sir, America is presently facing a dilemma of one per cent vs. 90 per cent. Let us avoid the dilemma between 25 per cent and 75 per cent. Thank you.

श्री वीर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बहुजन समाज पार्टी की ओर से वित्त विधेयक 2012-13 पर बोलने का अवसर दिया, मैं इसके लिए आपका धन्यवाद देता हूँ। किसी भी देश के विकासशील होने का प्रमाण उस देश के बजट से ही मिलता है। भारत का लोकतंत्र दुनिया में मजबूत हुआ है, जिसे हमने 60 वर्ष पूरे होने पर 60वीं वर्षगांठ के रूप में मनाया है।

लेकिन, भारत सरकार का बजट आज देश को खुशहाली व प्रगति के पथ पर ले जाने में असमर्थ लग रहा है। 2012-13 के आम बजट को पढ़ने के बाद ऐसा लगता है कि यह बजट देश के पूंजीपतियों, उद्योगपतियों के फायदे के लिए बनाया गया है तथा इस देश में रहने वाले गरीब लोग तथा अनुसूचित जाति व जनजाति के लोग इस बजट से अपने को ठगा हुआ महसूस कर रहे हैं।

[श्री वीर सिंह]

मान्यवर, भारतवर्ष कृषि प्रधान देश है। देश के 70 प्रतिशत लोग कृषि पर निर्भर करते हैं, लेकिन आज कृषि का, जी.डी.पी. में मात्र 14 प्रतिशत का योगदान रह गया है, जिसके फलस्वरूप यह असंतुलन पैदा हो रहा है। आज 70 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा लोग ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में रहते हैं तथा कृषि पर निर्भर करते हैं। कृषि आज जीवन-मरण का प्रश्न बन गया है। आज केवल आन्ध्र प्रदेश के तेलंगाना, महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ क्षेत्र के ही नहीं, बल्कि सारे देश के किसान परेशान व बेहाल हैं। कहीं सूखा पड़ रहा है, तो कहीं ओलावृष्टि हो रही है और कहीं बाढ़ का प्रकोप है, इसलिए किसानों को दी जाने वाली राज्य सहायता बढ़ानी चाहिए व उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए, जिससे वे प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से निपट सकें व अपना सही जीवन-यापन कर सकें। किसानों को आधुनिक कृषि यंत्र, उन्नतशील बीज व उर्वरक भी सस्ते दामों पर व समय पर उपलब्ध कराये जाएं।

महोदय, किसान देश का अन्नदाता कहलाता है। वह कड़ी ठण्ड, धूप और बरसात में रहकर अनाज पैदा करता है, किन्तु उसको अपनी फसल का वाजिब दाम नहीं मिलता है। जब किसान अपने अनाज को बेचता है तो उसका मूल्य बहुत सस्ता होता है, लेकिन जब वही अनाज मार्केट में, व्यापारी के पास चला जाता है तो उसका दाम बढ़ जाता है और किसान हाथ मलता रह जाता है।

मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह बताना चाहूंगा कि देश के कुछ प्रांतों में गन्ने की खेती होती है, लेकिन पूरे देश में किसान को गन्ने का वाजिब भाव नहीं मिलता है। सिर्फ उत्तर प्रदेश में, बहुजन समाज पार्टी की राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष, उत्तर प्रदेश की पूर्व मुख्य मंत्री एवं इस दल की नेता ने गन्ने का दाम 250 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल किया था, जोकि किसानों को मिला था। गन्ने की इस बढ़ी हुई कीमत से उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों के चेहरे पर मुस्कान व खुशहाली आ गई थी। अन्य प्रदेशों में गन्ने का भाव बहुत कम है और उन किसानों को गन्ने का वाजिब मूल्य नहीं मिल रहा है, इसलिए उत्तर प्रदेश की तरह, हर प्रदेश में उनको गन्ने का पूरा मूल्य मिलना चाहिए।

मान्यवर, जब कभी सूखा पड़ता है या बाढ़ आती है, तो किसानों को राहत सहायता मिलती है। किसानों को तो राहत सहायता मिल जाती है, किन्तु जो खेतिहर मजदूर होते हैं, जो खेती से जुड़े होते हैं, उनको कभी कोई सहायता नहीं मिलती है। जब भी कभी ऐसा कोई प्राकृतिक प्रकोप आता है या फसल मारी जाती है, तो जो खेतिहर मजदूर होते हैं, उनको भी उसी प्रकार से मुआवजा मिलना चाहिए, जिस प्रकार से किसानों को मिलता है।

मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी को अवगत कराना चाहूंगा कि आज हमारे देश में आवास की सबसे बड़ी समस्या है। आज इंसान के लिए रोटी, कपड़े के साथ-साथ आवास भी बहुत आवश्यक हो गया है। आज पूरे देश में यह एक बहुत बड़ी मूलभूत समस्या है। करोड़ों ऐसे लोग हैं, जो जुल्म-जबर्दस्ती के कारण देहातों से, गाँवों से शहरों की तरफ, बड़े-बड़े महानगरों की तरफ पलायन कर गए हैं। आज करोड़ों लोग, बड़े-बड़े महानगरों में कहीं रेल की पटरी के किनारे, कहीं गन्दे नाल के किनारे झुग्गी-झोपड़ी डालकर अपना जीवन व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। केंद्र सरकार ने आज तक उनकी तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है। मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि आदरणीय बहिन मायावती जी ने अपने मुख्यमंत्रित्व काल में उन गरीबों के लिए, जो शहरों में रहते हैं, एक विशेष योजना चलाकर सराहनीय कार्य किया है।

मान्यवर, श्री कांशी राम शहरी गरीब आवास योजना चला कर महानगरों, शहरों में रहने वाले हर वर्ग के गरीब व्यक्तियों को मकान बना कर दिया गया। जब उन झुग्गी-झोपड़ी में रहने वाले, गन्दे नाले के किनारे रहने वाले, रेल की पटरी के किनारे रहने वाले गरीबों को, लाखों लोगों को, हर वर्ग के व्यक्ति को मकान मुहैया कराया गया, तो उनके चेहरे पर भी मुस्कान आ गई, क्योंकि उनको भी एक छत मिली। मैं निवेदन करना

चाहूँगा कि जैसे उत्तर प्रदेश में लाखों लोगों को, शहरों में रहने वाले गरीब लोगों को मकान मुहैया कराया गया है, उसी तरह केन्द्र सरकार हर प्रदेश में ऐसी योजना लागू करे, जिससे महानगरों में झुग्गी-झोपड़ी में रहने वाले लोगों को आवास मिल सके।

मान्यवर, केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से मनरेगा नामक एक योजना चलाई जा रही है। इस मनरेगा कार्यक्रम के ऊपर सरकार द्वारा समय-समय पर काफी बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर चर्चा होती है। यह कह कर इसकी तारीफ की जाती है कि इस योजना के तहत देश के गरीबों का बहुत भला हुआ है। मान्यवर, मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूँगा कि इस मनरेगा योजना से कोई बड़ा फायदा नहीं हुआ है। यह योजना पूरी तरह से फ्लॉप हो चुकी है। 2010-11 के बजट में मनरेगा के लिए करीब 39 हजार करोड़ धन का आवंटन किया गया था, जबकि इसको 2011-12 में घटा कर 37 हजार करोड़ कर दिया गया। बजाय बढ़ाने के इसको घटा दिया गया। इसको बढ़ाना चाहिए था, लेकिन इसको घटा दिया गया। इसका मतलब मनरेगा के नाम पर मखौल किया जा रहा है, मजाक बनाया जा रहा है।

मान्यवर, इसके साथ-साथ मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी को बताना चाहूँगा कि केन्द्र सरकार ने मनरेगा के तहत गाँव में रहने वाले गरीब मजदूरों को 100 दिन के रोजगार की बात कही है। एक साल में 365 दिन होते हैं, जबकि रोजगार सिर्फ 100 दिन का। 265 दिन आदमी बेरोजगार रहेगा, उसको सिर्फ 100 दिन मजदूरी मिलेगी। इसका मतलब वह न इधर का रहा, न उधर का रहा। इन 100 दिनों में भी कितनी मजदूरी? जैसे उत्तर प्रदेश में 2010-11 में यह 100 रुपए थी और 2011-12 में इसको बढ़ा कर 130 रुपए प्रति दिन कर दिया गया। क्या 130 रुपए में वह अपना गुजारा कर पाएगा? वह भी उस गाँव के सरपंच या प्रधान के रहमोकरम पर है। जो पक्ष उसको सरपंच या प्रधान के चुनाव में वोट देता है, उसी को मजदूरी मिलती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... यह गाँवों में प्रधान के द्वारा ही किया जाता है। आपके यहाँ सरपंच कहा जाता है, हमारे यहाँ प्रधान कहा जाता है। यह उसी के रहमोकरम पर है। जो लोग उसे वोट देकर सरपंच या प्रधान बना देते हैं, उनको काम मिल जाता है, बाकी लोगों को काम नहीं मिल पाता है। मैं यह निवेदन करूँगा कि जो 130 रुपए मजदूरी दी जा रही है 100 दिन के लिए, इसको 100 दिन के बजाय 365 दिन किया जाए और इसको 130 रुपए से बढ़ा कर कम-से-कम 250 रुपए किया जाए।

मान्यवर, पूरे देश में बीपीएल की समस्या है। बीपीएल के माध्यम से गरीब लोगों को चिन्हित किया जाता है। पूरे देश में अभी भी बहुत से गरीब लोग ऐसे हैं, जिनके पास बीपीएल का कार्ड नहीं है। हर प्रदेश से समय-समय पर माँग उठती रही है कि इसका सर्वे कराया जाए और सर्वे करवा कर बीपीएल का कार्ड बनाया जाए। यदि सही ढंग से बीपीएल का कार्ड बनेगा, तो काफी हद तक समस्या का समाधान हो जाएगा।

मान्यवर, योजना आयोग की सर्वे रिपोर्ट को देख कर तो ऐसा लगता है कि देश के गरीबों के साथ उपहास किया जा रहा है। सर्वे रिपोर्ट में गाँव में रहने वाला 26 रुपए में और शहर में रहने वाला 32 रुपए में अपना खर्चा चला सकता है। इसका मतलब तो यह हुआ है कि पूरे देश में कोई गरीब ही नहीं बचा। आप 130 रुपए एक दिन की मजदूरी दे रहे हैं, जो कि कम से कम है और 250 रुपए वह कमा रहा है, फिर आप कह रहे हैं कि वह 26 रुपए या 32 रुपए में अपना खर्च चला सकता है। यह कैसी रिपोर्ट है? इस पर क्यों नहीं ध्यान दिया जा रहा है? सरकार ने इस पर उनसे क्यों नहीं जवाब मांगा कि यह कैसी रिपोर्ट है?

मान्यवर, आज हमारे देश में महंगाई एक बहुत बड़ा मुद्दा है, बहुत बड़ी समस्या है, हर क्षेत्र में महंगाई ने त्राही-त्राही मचा रखी है। यूपीए सरकार के द्वारा डीजल, पेट्रोल, गैस और केरोसिन की कई बार कीमत बढ़ाई गई, जिससे गरीब परेशान हैं। इतनी कीमतें बढ़ाई गई हैं कि गरीब का चूल्हा ठंडा हो गया है, उसकी थाली से इस सरकार ने रोटी छीन ली।

[श्री वीर सिंह]

मान्यवर, हमारे देश में इतना गेहूँ का उत्पादन होता है, इतना चावल का उत्पादन होता है कि वह हमारे देश की आबादी से कहीं अधिक ज्यादा है, किन्तु जब सरकार के द्वारा उसको खरीदा जाता है और खरीद कर भंडार में रखने का समय आता है, तो उसके लिए भंडारण की व्यवस्था ही उपलब्ध नहीं होती है, जिसके कारण अनाज सड़ जाता है, गल जाता है। 2011-12 की सरकारी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 5,500 करोड़ रुपए का अनाज गल गया। माननीय उच्च न्यायालय को इसमें दखल देना पड़ा और कहना पड़ा कि आप जो अनाज सड़ा रहे हैं, उसको गरीबों में क्यों नहीं बांट देते हैं। फिर भी सरकार नहीं चेती। (...समय की घंटी)। अभी तो एक मिनट बाकी है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : हां, आपका एक मिनट बचा है।

श्री वीर सिंह : आप एक मिनट के बाद घंटी बजा लेते। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मान्यवर, यदि यह अनाज गरीबों को दिया जाए या सड़ने से बचाया जाए, तो इससे कितने ही गरीबों का भला हो सकता है। यह यूपीए की सरकार गेहूँ सड़ाने के लिए तो तैयार है, किन्तु उसको गरीबों को देने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। एक तरफ तो यह सरकार गरीबों की बात करती है और दूसरी तरफ गरीबों के साथ अन्याय करती है।

मान्यवर, आज हमारे देश में शिक्षा का बड़ा अभाव है। आज हमारे देश में शिक्षा की दोहरी प्रणाली है। एक तरफ गरीबों के बच्चे सरकारी स्कूल में पढ़ते हैं, जिसका भवन भी सही नहीं होता है, बैठने की जगह भी सही नहीं होती है और अध्यापक भी उपलब्ध नहीं होते हैं और दूसरी तरफ अमीरों के बच्चे कॉन्वेंट स्कूल में पढ़ते हैं। जब नौकरी की बात आती है, तो बोलते हैं कि एक जैसे अंक आने चाहिए। अगर एक जैसे अंक की बात करते हैं, तो आपको उनको पढ़ाने की व्यवस्था भी एक जैसी करनी चाहिए। उनके लिए पढ़ने की सुविधा तो है नहीं, लेकिन जब सलेक्शन की बात होती है, तब कहते हैं कि एक जैसा होना चाहिए। रिजर्वेशन की जो बात होती है, उसको भी पूरा नहीं किया जाता है। आज पूरे देश में backlog पूरा नहीं है, जिसके कारण हर विभाग में तमाम पद रिक्त पड़े हैं, उनको भी नहीं भरा गया है। मैं चाहूंगा कि जो अध्यापकों की कमी है, भवन की कमी है, उनको पूरा किया जाए।

इसके साथ-साथ, मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगा कि Special Component Plan के तहत SC, ST के लिए जो 750 करोड़ रुपए था, उसको कॉमनवेल्थ गेम में खर्च कर दिया गया। जब यह बात हमारी पार्टी ने उठाई थी, तब माननीय मंत्री जी ने आश्वासन भी दिया था कि SC, ST के लिए जो पैसा था, उसको वापस कराया जाएगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि SC, ST का जो पैसा कॉमनवेल्थ गेम में खर्च किया गया था, वह वापस किया गया या नहीं किया गया?

इसके साथ-साथ, आज हमारे देश में स्वास्थ्य की बहुत बड़ी समस्या है। हमारे देश में डॉक्टरों की कमी है। गांवों में जब आदमी बीमार पड़ता है, तब शहर तक जाते-जाते उसकी मृत्यु हो जाती है। यहां तक कि शहर तक जाते-जाते कभी-कभी किसी महिला की डिलीवरी भी रास्ते में हो जाती है और ऐसे में कभी-कभी उसकी मृत्यु भी हो जाती है। सर्वे रिपोर्ट के आधार पर एक हजार की आबादी पर एक डॉक्टर होना चाहिए, किन्तु दो हजार की आबादी पर भी एक डॉक्टर नहीं है, क्योंकि डॉक्टरों की काफी कमी है। मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि सरकार को स्वास्थ्य की तरफ पहल करनी चाहिए और गांवों में रहने वाले लोगों की तरफ भी ध्यान देना चाहिए। ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

मान्यवर, मैं यही निवेदन करूंगा कि देश में अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति के जो गरीब लोग हैं, उनके स्वास्थ्य के बारे में, उनकी शिक्षा के बारे में, उनके आवास के बारे में, उनके सामाजिक, राजनीतिक एवं आर्थिक उत्थान के बारे में बजट में प्रावधान किया जाए। धन्यवाद, जय भीम, जय भारत।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, I rise to make my observations on the Finance Bill and the Appropriation Bill, though with a little bit of frustration. I believe and, probably, the Government would also believe, that the need of the hour is to plug the loopholes and rein in tax theft, tax evasion and black money generation. I believe, when the Budget and the Finance Bill was prepared initially, they did try to build in an architecture to deter such kinds of tax theft and tax avoidance, but, unfortunately, as the Finance Bill was being considered in Parliament, one by one, all parts of that deterrent architecture got dismantled, sending a message to a bunch of thieves to have a go at the public exchequer, and to go on evading tax. That was the message being given to the speculators and manipulators, and both international and domestic corporate players. That is how the Bill was taken up with the introductory announcement of the hon. Finance Minister. It is abjectly frustrating.

Sir, the gist is that amendments were proposed to dilute the general anti-avoidance rules, for modification in the retrospective Income-tax amendment, diluting many provisions, cut in long-term capital gains tax on private equity, cut in withholding tax on foreign borrowings and withdrawal of tax on property transactions, and all these are to make the Foreign Institutional Investor, merger-acquisition brokers, stock-market manipulators and real estate players happy. Is there any reason for the Parliament or the people of the country to be happy over this kind of indulgence in financial crime? I must say, no other word can describe it absolutely because these are all financial crimes. Tax evasion is a financial crime. You have dismantled all the deterrence; you have made a non-bailable offence a bailable one. And you are giving the message, 'go on committing the crime on the country's economy'. That is the most frustrating thing and I strongly oppose that.

Sir, the entire concern is to make the manipulators happy. That is the hallmark of the entire economic policy regime and that is the message the Finance Bill gives. The whole concern is to bow down to the pressure from the FIIs, speculators and manipulators. There is no concern for the people of this country. Only out of that concern, you have dismantled all restrictions on tax evasion. But, on the contrary, when from within your own Government, a request is made to reduce the excise duty on petroleum by six rupees per litre, which, at present is Rs.14 per litre, in a situation where for every one rupee petroleum price, fifty paise is the tax burden, in that situation, when a request comes, not from the Left, not from the Opposition, but from within your Government, to make the common people happy, you ignore that, and while ignoring that, you put further burden on them. You add an increased cess to the crude oil produce in the domestic market, that is, ONGC and Oil India. From Rs. 2500, you increase it to Rs.4500 and finally, that burden gets passed on to the consumer. It puts an additional burden of Rs.5000 crores on the common people. You are lessening the burden on the FIIs, the manipulators and the speculators and you are increasing the

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burden on the people by refusing the request of the Petroleum Ministry to reduce excise duty on petrol and also, by adding an additional burden of Rs.2000 per ton on crude oil, which would ultimately be borne by the consumer.

What is this cess for oil industry development? In 1974, this cess was imposed for the development of the oil industry, through the Oil Industry Development Board. Till December, 2011, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the cess collected was Rs.99,428 crores. Out of this Rs.99,000-plus crores, how much has gone to the OIDB? Only Rs.902 crores. The rest is consumed by the revenue expenditure. Is that fair? Will that speak of financial prudence? Sir, it is absolutely shameful. The manner in which the common man's issues are treated and tackled by the Government is shameful. Their entire concern is for the business lobby, for the investors' lobby, the manipulators' lobby, by taking 99 per cent of the people of country to hell. I seriously disagree with my friend, Shri Mungekar, on that side. Not an iota of Keynesianism, no trickling down is possible through this Finance Bill. Rather, you may find that infamous Milton Friedman with this infamous theory of trickling down, "Pumping for the haves but don't bother about the have-nots; it will not trickle down to the have-nots." Sir, I seriously oppose this with all the might at my command. These roll backs were not asked by your coalition partners. These roll backs were not asked by the opposition partners. What is the compulsion? It is the corporate compulsion. It is the business compulsion. Otherwise, you have an alternate route—by reducing the petroleum price, you can tax on the windfall profits gained by the stand-alone refineries in the private sector who are earning crores of rupees by selling in the international markets. They are not catering to the internal market. If Australia can impose export duty on coal for its own resource mobilization, why not we impose duty on exports of petroleum and iron ore for our resource mobilization? Why can we not? If Brazil and South Korea can impose similar tax on derivatives, impose tax on FII transactions, why can we not? What is our compulsion to make a non-bailable offence a bailable one, to make a financial crime legitimate, which cut into our own economy? Why? Precisely, the same approach is reflected everywhere.

Sir, let me talk about 5 crore productive workers. You have reduced their PF interest rate from 9.5 to 8.25 per cent, unilaterally. The workers do not have business dailies to plead their case. They do not have FIIs or corporates to plead their case. They have to plead their case themselves. Why should you not consider raising the rate to the earlier level, at least, above the GPF rate of interest? At the time of my Budget intervention, I had demanded a consideration on this without ignoring it. I seek a reply to this question. I am ready to hear even a 'no'. But, do not skirt the question. What are you going to do on the employees' pension scheme? The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour made a unanimous recommendation to the Government

to contribute at least half of the employee's contribution, at 4 per cent. It was a unanimous recommendation; it is a political consensus. You are talking so much for the same political consensus on reforms. I think, the hon. Finance Minister, while replying to the debate, will again appeal to the Opposition, "Please, let there be a consensus for reforms." But, for the pro-worker reforms, when there is already unanimity, why are you not implementing it? What is the monetary implication of Government's contribution towards the pension fund? It is just Rs.4,000 crores. Is it heavier than the direct tax concession you have given to the tune of Rs.4,500 crores to a handful of corporates? The relief under direct tax relief is given to a maximum of 50,000 or 70,000 persons. But, by giving this just Rs.4,000 crores relief on the pension fund, you will benefit 5 crore workers, who are actually making your GDP grow; it is not those 50,000 people who are taking your direct tax concession. Whom do you give priority? Is it for the 50,000 people or 5 crores? Please make it clear. Please reply to this question and debate on it. With whom are you standing? With the 50,000 is business or the 5 crore workers who are making the GDP grow?

Sir, I demand that the Government must enhance its contribution to the Pension Fund; the Government must ensure that the Rural Bank employees get the same pension as the sponsor bank. They are the part of it. They are agitating over this issue. You must reply to this question. Sir, there is precisely the same bias against the 99 per cent. In favour of just one per cent of the population, this approach is reflected in every line and in the entire body of your Finance Bill. That is why you give a relief of Rs.4,500 crores in Direct Taxes to 50,000 persons, and you suck billions of persons by putting ten times more burden on them on account of Indirect Taxes to the tune of Rs.45,940 crores. In this way, you are burdening billion by ten times more, and you are giving a relief of Rs.4,500 crores to a handful of corporates. The same bias is reflected in your entire tax management. You are giving concessions to only those who are already indulging in tax default and tax theft, which is a financial crime. As per your CAG Report, from 2005 to 2010, tax default has increased by 135 per cent. From 2009-10 to 2010-11, there is another tax default increase of 38 percent. You are allowing deliberate tax default to these communities by not collecting the tax, and you have allowed to accumulate the tax default to the tune of rupees three lakh crores. Whose money is it? Is it anybody's personal money? You are here to govern the country. This is the business of your governance. Instead of that, you are patronizing tax thefts, sitting in the seat of governance. You are dismantling the deterrence to tax thefts and financial crimes. From this seat, I accuse the Government of this. Why are you allowing tax thefts? Why are you patronizing deliberate tax defaults, and, then lamenting on resource crunch, and, then opening the floodgates of the country's economy to the manipulators of foreign investors, FIIs. In this way, you are provoking a similar situation which the entire Western economy is facing today. This is the market fundamentalism, as against orientation towards the people, that this Government is suffering. I demand that they need to be changed.

[SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN]

Sir, the Government has set a target to prune the subsidy to 1.75 per cent on the billion of common people. What is your target to cut the tax thefts? What is your target for that rupees three lakh crores' accumulation? What is the target for your collection? Come out with a clear reply. Because they are one per cent, because they are closer to your power corridors, how long will you allow them to commit this financial offence? You must come out with a clear reply. At the same time, my humble suggestion is this. Why should we not tackle them in the same line with the common people? When the common people pay tax, what do they do? They pay first, according to the...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I am concluding, Sir. According to the tax authority, they pay first; then, they lodge a claim for refund. You treat them the corporate defaulters on the same path. They are all citizens of the country. That is the constitutional mandate. You make the same system applicable for them also. That is the only way to tackle deliberate tax default. There is no other way than this.

Sir, at the end, I would like to say this. When the demand of the situation is to address the grave employment situation in the country, my friend, Dr. Mungekar, who is not here, was talking loud about the Eleventh Plan achievements. What have you achieved in the Eleventh Plan? Yes, you have achieved a respectable GDP growth of 8.6 per cent per annum. But, on employment front, from 2000 to 2005, employment generation growth was 2.7 per cent. During the Eleventh Plan period, despite having 8.6 per cent annual average growth, your employment generation has gone down to 0.8 per cent. No Keynesianism here, Mr. Mungekar,...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : No, no; you don't have to address Mr. Mungekar. You address the Chair.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, this is my last point. I have finished.

I missed many points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : You have said many points. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : There is a need for reversal of this pro-gambler policy in favour of pro-employment generation. Do not consider your *, the manipulators in the foreign and domestic money market. Please do the employment generation. You need to take the call from the Left ...*(Interruptions)*...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : You have taken extra five minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Just allow me for two minutes, Sir. Please do not take the call from the Left; you take the call from within your party, within your Government. You take the call, however feeble it may be than your FII lobby, for cutting down the petroleum tax and not go in for FDI in retail. You must tell me that by playing on our national resources, oil and gas fields, by Reliance, British Petroleum deal and Cairn Vedanta deal 15 billion dollars were earned.

How much has come to your exchequer, please come out. Please see that FDI in retail is not allowed. Please see the contractors are not allowed to extract illegitimate premium from the natural and national resources of the country. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... And they should not be allowed to cheat the country through the loopholes of Double Tax Avoidance Agreement which is nothing but an instrument of recycling the black money in the country. Please do not allow that to happen. Please do not take the call from us, but take the call from within in order to save the country. ...(*Interruptions*)... With this, I want a total reversal of the policy and conclude. Thank you.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar) : Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. It is now 60 days that the Budget-2012 was presented. The economic outlook even during the short period of 60 days has deteriorated further. Since the Finance Minister is so fond personally of reading Shakespeare with some amount of interest, one cannot but recall in Hamlet itself in which Horatio utters his utter desperation but with imagination. Of course, the Finance Minister has come up with very imaginative solutions but would perhaps be suffering from desperation that none of these suggestions have so far fructified. In fact, they are continuing in the same strain of Hamlet speaking of the moral decline and corruption in the State of Denmark. Marcellus had remarked that there is something rotten in the State of Denmark. Perhaps the analogy is clear enough to be understood. While we are still on the continuing strain of the Shakespeare, one cannot but recall what in Julius Caesar, Shakespeare had said, "Men are at some time masters of their own fate. The fault dear Brutus is not in our stars, but in ourselves that we are so helpless." The helplessness of the Finance Minister to craft a strategy which is credible enough to address the deteriorating micro economic environment is a telling story of a line which I have just quoted from Julius Caesar of Shakespeare. In fact, if you look at the last 60 days, look at the broad facts and perspective, look at the key micro economic parameters, first and foremost, long-term saving rates have declined, from 36.8 per cent to just 31 per cent, according to the annual statistics of the Central Statistical Office which has just been released. This is indeed lower, therefore, the investment gearing ratio, which will make a climb back with a high growth trajectory, if not impossible, but, certainly very, very difficult. The fiscal deficit remains uncorrected with little twilight in the sky because given the deceleration in growth,

[SHRI N.K. SINGH]

given the lower rate of expected realisation from declining tax buoyancy, given the likelihood of lower disinvestments and given the fact of hesitation, Mr. Finance Minister, your colleagues prompt you not to bite the bullet, the chances of the fiscal deficit being corrected remain very grim.

To compound this problem, Sir, the borrowing programme of the Government this year, which is entailing a borrowing of Rs.5.6 lakh crores for this fiscal year, which is 1.52 lakh crores higher than the borrowing target for the last year, completely cramps the room for financing of credible private investment. The other deficit, Sir, remains equally problematic, namely, the Current Account Deficit, which has now crossed four per cent of the GDP. Given the fact that exports, year on year, fell from a credible 11.5 per cent to -5 per cent in the figures of March released last year and given the fact that imports continue to remain very robust and the import penetration continues to be very high and given the fact, Sir, that, as opposed to last year, the decline in the reserves has been 7.1 billion during April-December, 2011, financing, Sir, of this Current Account Deficit remains problematic. In fact, the Finance Minister, your very good friend, and also a good friend of mine, only last week in Mexico, while attending a Think Tank, Larry Summers and Pascal Lamy told me that India's problem is not the high Current Account Deficit; India's problem would be the mode of financing this Current Account Deficit and the either of the two options, of lowering its reserves which could become vulnerable or financing this Current Account Deficit through volatile FII flows, is, something, which can further compound the problem. To add to the worries, Sir, inflation has begun to show its ugly heads, which circumscribes the flexibility of the Central Bank to further moderate its monetary policy.

The manufacturing sector, Sir, as you know, remains in doldrums, the services sector remains subdued and hopes on agriculture are tenuously pinned on the fact that the El Nino is not replaced by La Nina in the last year's Monsoon phase, which will, then, make, therefore, agricultural growth some more problematic. To make matters worse, Sir, the successive lowering of the investment rating by Standard & Poor increased the cost of borrowing and increased access to external funds even more difficult. This will further deepen investors' skepticism and continue to give negative signals to investors' community, both in India and abroad. These, Sir, are the configurations, broadly, of the macro-economic scenario.

I am not a prophet of doom; I have continued to be an optimist. I continue to have immense faith on your ability to craft the magic, pull out a rabbit from your hat, since Finance Ministers are known to pull out rabbits from their hats. Let me, at this point, therefore, make eight suggestions for your consideration. First and foremost, Sir, yes, the postponing of GAAR was positive, but the world is yet to reconcile itself with the

fact that not necessarily legal, but moral, retrospective taxes to rectify judgements of the Supreme Court have queered the pitch and lent uncertainty in the minds of the investors' community. Sir, I do not know your experience in Washington with Tim Geithner and others, but my experience with Larry Summers, Pascal Lamy and a host of other investors suggests that their sentiments remain frail and they remain anxious. I would suggest for your consideration, Sir, the constitution of an Investment Commission with domain experts to actively engage in a dialogue with the investor community to allay their fears and to encourage their tangible investments. Whenever I travel abroad, Sir, I am also asked the question: what will happen if the Government were to change? Is there likely to be a continuity of Economic Policy? I would, therefore, suggest this for your consideration. Just like many other countries have done, you could also consider setting up a Bipartisan Committee of Parliamentarians to allay investors' concerns, since the India's growth story is too important and the India's growth story must go beyond partisan politics. So, an Investment Commission and a Bipartisan Growth Commission to hold dialogue with investors could be a credible step forward.

Secondly, Sir, no words can substitute action.

You must begin to bite the bullet. I leave the timing to you, I leave the choice to you, I leave the sequencing to you, but not biting the bullet is not an option or a luxury, Mr. Finance Minister, which you have at this moment.

My third suggestion, Sir, is this. You promised in Washington, in April, 2012, of the impending legislations on banking, insurance and pension reforms. In fact, just to remind you, Mr. Finance Minister, the Prime Minister had made this promise exactly seven years ago, again in April, 2005. The fact that the Cabinet postponed the decision and did not bring these legislations forward during the current Session of Parliament in spite of a strong bipartisan support, which you have on these legislations, is a matter which cannot fill any of the investor community with comfort.

My fourth suggestion is this. You must not delay the constitution of a Debt Management Office and you must not further delay the implementation of the Rangarajan Committee Report on the classification of Government accounts.

Then, Sir, I come to my fifth suggestion. Just to remind you, you had very kindly agreed to a suggestion made in this House by some hon. Members, including myself, when I ventured to make this suggestion. I am grateful that you accepted the constitution of a Chief Ministers' Committee for Eastern India on Agriculture. This Committee, Sir, is yet to be constituted, and, perhaps, it would be a fulfilment of an assurance given by you during the Budget speech. I will be grateful if this could be done.

[SHRI N.K. SINGH]

Also, Sir, since the Central Government has happily crossed the FRBM limits prescribed, this degree of flexibility, during difficult transition period, could be given to some States, including poor disadvantaged States like Bihar.

Coming to my sixth point, Sir, you know very well that at the end of it, all expenditure must result in credible implementation. The time and cost overruns and the efficacy in Government expenditure, when in over 300 projects, costing over Rs. 100 crores, is facing huge time and cost overruns; they are not easy problems to solve. There are problems of coordination. There are problems of inter-departmental coordination. There are problems of coordination with federal Governments. Consider, Sir, the constitution of a Chief Ministers' Economic Council—since the Centre-State Council remains a dead letter—to be headed by you, which could look into some of these problems of difficult project implementation, and also of a coordinated framework in a federal polity.

Now, I go on to my seventh suggestion. With regret, I have to say that this has been an era of jobless growth, an era in which high rates of economic growth have not been matched by a growth in employment coefficients to take care of the backlog in employment, much less, the accretion of people to the new labour force. Consider, Sir, the constitution of a Cabinet Committee on Employment to really take care of employment trends, to monitor employment creation, to monitor job creation and to periodically report to Parliament.

Eighth, and my final suggestion, Sir, is that policy paradigms of a Central Banker are always riddled with a difficulty in fulfilling the impossible trinity, the impossible trinity of a free monetary policy, a free exchange rate regime and a moderating inflation. You, Mr. Finance Minister, face a different kind of an impossible trinity, the impossible trinity of reconciling austerity with growth, fiscal rectitude with populist expenditure and moderating subsidies while benchmarking with best global practices. Sir, you need to reconcile these in a manner that the 'India Growth Story' can be reinvigorated.

Finally, Sir, if I may say so, media is flooded, with stories—and you must be undergoing this yourself—of your impending elevation. I see, Sir, that you are caught up in the miasma of yet another Shakespearean saying "to be or not to be". If you are to be, Sir, leave behind a legacy, even over the next two months, which addresses the serious macro economic concerns and puts India back on the high growth trajectory by taking actions which are credible and decisive. If you are not to be, then the task is even more rigorous of consolidation and true reckoning of what are immediate economic measures necessary to restore the investor confidence and revive the magic of India. Thank you, Sir.

4.00 P.M.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal) : Sir, it is always very difficult to follow Nandu Singh. I can call him by his name as he has been a friend for the last, perhaps, 40-45 years.

Sir, my point is slightly different. I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and the Finance Bill. I do so, not because I happen to be an ally of the UPA, but because I think it is ethically necessary to do so.

Sir, I must congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, at the outset, for having shown the human face in the Ministry of Finance. A Minister of Finance, as he said, is basically cruel; he hardly ever has a kind face. But the Minister has shown that in withdrawing the duties on gold ornaments, by ensuring one-and-a-half crore employment for workmen, and today, he has given some waivers, which are likely, or not likely, give impetus to the investment climate.

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

Sir, I do congratulate him for believing in a focus on domestic demand-driven growth, and not on foreign export based growth. We have such a huge market and such a huge population. If we could only activate that and make their latent demands effective, we could do miracles. I am very happy that the Finance Minister has chosen that route.

Sir, it is well-known that the growth does not immediately trickle down if positive and affirmative actions are not taken to cure the ills that the growth process in a free market economy itself creates. We have, therefore, today, huge and unacceptable levels of inequality and very low levels of employment. As my friend, hon. Shri N.K. Singh, has said, we expected that the average growth rate of eight per cent would result in, at least, some increase in employment. On the other hand, employment in the organized sector has decelerated to even below one per cent. It is, if my memory is correct, 0.8 per cent. This is not the way we could have an inclusive growth. We have growth, certainly, but is it inclusive or is it exclusive? That is where we have to put our minds.

Sir, one unsavoury feature is the continuing poverty ratio. I am not going into figures. There is the Tendulkar Committee figure of 37 per cent; there is the Arjun Sengupta Committee-figure of 77 per cent; there is a new figure, which I saw in the *Times of India*, of 68 per cent. I couldn't care less, but the broad figure is, roughly between 300 and 330 million men, women and children are below the Poverty Line and, at least, 200-220 million men, women and children go to bed hungry every night. This is not an acceptable situation in the growth trajectory that he has brought in. Things may be beyond his control. I never suspected his honesty or his desire to do something, but things are happening in a way which may be beyond his control.

[SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY]

Sir, I would just illustrate what poverty means. I do not have many data, I have just got some figures. I got them from the very senior hon. Member, Dr. Pilia, who, in fact, made a short notice mention here that according to the International Food Policy Research Institute, we are 67th in a list of 80 hunger-ridden countries with 21 per cent of the population being under-nourished, nearly 44 per cent below-5 years children underweight and seven per cent of them dying before reaching the age of five years.

This is a situation which no civilized country can accept. I do admit that neither the UPA Government, nor our friends in the opposition will accept that situation. But I must say one thing that we have been able to withstand a lot of vicissitudes in the international affairs because we still have, however badly we criticize it, the Nehruvian structure. We still have the residue of socialist pattern with not-so-dominant yet important public sector undertakings. We have some controls, particularly in the capital account. Otherwise, we might have gone the Indonesian or Philippines' way. That is where I salute the vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and, to some extent, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Though he started the liberalization in a different way, yet foundations are so strong that in spite of the tsunami of marketism, we can survive, and we have survived it. I request the hon. Finance Minister that be in the same tradition of the socialist Congress, please do not dismantle everything which is protecting us from international marketism. Sir, while we are discussing about this poverty scenario, there is something else which is highly disturbing. At the same time, vulgar, ostentatious and conspicuous consumption goes on unabated and unashamedly. Gross competitive demonstration of wealth and opulence among the rich, verging on obscenity, is causing discomfort. It loudly proclaims the existence of a parallel economy about which all of us know, but hardly anyone does anything. I very earnestly request our hon. Finance Minister, he knows all about it; he has the White Paper on this subject, to initiate such action so that some excesses of this parallel economy could be curbed. Sir, here, I would just quote, with your permission Prof. Amartya Sen. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Time is over. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : He says, "There is probably no other example in the history of world development of an economy growing so fast for so long with such limited results in terms of broad-based social progress." Naturally, it raises an important question, 'Whose growth is it anyway?' Sir, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for increasing the allotment for agriculture by 18 per cent. But, Sir, our agriculture is in such a bad state because of continuous deceleration of public investment that 18 per cent increase may not be sufficient unless you have a long-term plan to

sustain public investment in agriculture. I know that he knows everything as to what is to be done. Sir, crisis in agriculture—in spite of the fact that we have the best output this year, but for the past 7 or 8 years we have been in the crisis—has led to secular decline in per capita availability of cereals. Five year average per capita/availability between 1991 to 1995 was 440 grams.

Between 2001 and 2005, it came down to 413. And, between 2006 and 2010, it came down to 4.03. Sir, the 37-point programme...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : The time allotted to you is over.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY : I will conclude by saying that I have a small agenda for West Bengal, and that is very simple ...(*Interruptions*)... It is for the hon. Minister to accept it or not to accept it. My point is very simple and it is known to him. West Bengal Government has inherited a huge burden of debt, and our tax revenue is almost equal to our debt service amount. Therefore, we require moratorium and restructuring of debt. That is what we want. Sir, through you, I implore him to bail us out from this predicament.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, UPA के संकट मोचक, मैं कहूंगा कि सबसे योग्य और मंत्री परिषद् में सबसे वरिष्ठ मंत्री, हो सकता है कि दो महीने बाद महामहिम राष्ट्रपति हो जाएं, के विभाग पर मुझे बोलने का मौका मिला है। दादा, मुझे आलोचना करने में थोड़ी हिचक हो रही है, लेकिन मैं देश के हित में जो कहने जा रहा हूँ कि आप आलोचना को आलोचना के रूप में मत लीजिए, बल्कि सुझाव के रूप में लीजिए। मैंने अपने राजनीति सफर में थोड़ा बहुत सीखा है, उसको आपके सामने रख रहा हूँ।

श्रीमन्, सन् 2000 से पहले देश में जो बजट प्रस्तुत होता था, वह करीब 28 फरवरी को पेश होता था और आज भी होता है। एक प्रक्रिया थी, एक नियम था कि एक साल के लिए वह बजट फिक्स होगा। बजट में जो भी टैक्स लगता या छूट दी जाती थी, तो उस बजट को पूरा देश सुनता था और टी.वी. पर देखता था कि हमारे घर का एक साल का बजट क्या होगा? देश एक साल के लिए किस रास्ते पर चला जाएगा, देश की सोच क्या होगी? मैं यह नहीं समझ पाया कि 2000 के बाद कौन सी फ्री इकॉनमी की बात आई कि आज बजट पेश करने का कोई महत्व रह ही नहीं गया। अब लोग बजट पर विश्वास नहीं करते हैं, क्योंकि हर महीने आप टैक्स बढ़ा रहे हैं, हर महीने नई पॉलिसी ला रहे हैं, पेट्रोलियम की मार्किट फ्री कर रहे हैं। WTO में जाने के बाद आप इकॉनमी को फ्री कर रहे हैं। हमें पता ही नहीं लग रहा है कि हमारा हर महीने का क्या बजट होगा? लोगों का बजट से धीरे-धीरे विश्वास उठता जा रहा है। हम घाटे का बजट पेश करते हैं। हमने घाटे का बजट पेश किया था, जब एक तरीके से यह कम्युनिस्ट इकॉनमी थी, लेकिन आज फ्री इकॉनमी में हम घाटे का बजट क्यों पेश कर रहे हैं? आखिर हमें इसका कारण भी सोचना चाहिए। अगर हम इसका कारण नहीं सोचेंगे, तो ठीक नहीं होगा। आज इन्टरनेशनल क्रेडिट रेटिंग एजेंसी ने हमारी रेटिंग नकारात्मक की है, तो उसके क्या तात्कालिक परिणाम होंगे। श्रीमन्, हिन्दुस्तान की रेटिंग नकारात्मक होने के बाद आज हमारा फॉरेन इन्वेस्टमेंट कट गया, शेयर बाजार में गिरावट आ गई, विदेशी निवेशकों की बिकवाली हो गई, फॉरेन एक्सचेंज कम आने लगा और हमारी कंट्री की स्थिति, पूरे विश्व में मखौल के रूप में खड़ी हुई। हम हर रोज कहते हैं कि हमारी GDP बढ़ रही है, कंट्री ग्रो कर रही है। लेकिन अगर आंकड़ों पर जाएं, अधिकारियों की आंकड़ों की जो बाजीगरी है, वह देश को तरक्की की ओर नहीं ले जा सकती। हमें रियल्टी पर आना पड़ेगा।

[श्री नरेश अग्रवाल]

अखबारों ने लिखा कि देश की स्थिति, हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति के कारण औद्योगिक उत्पादन में महा गिरावट आई। मार्च में वृद्धि दर शून्य से तीन परसेंट नीचे चली गई, जो पिछले वर्ष 9.4 परसेंट थी। अगर इंडस्ट्रियल डिवेलपमेंट रुकता चला गया, वैसे भी कंट्री की ग्रोथ गिर रही है, आपका नॉन प्लान का खर्चा बढ़ रहा है, प्लान का खर्चा घट रहा है। आप बोरोइंग इतनी कर रहे हैं कि टोटल रिवेन्यु का करीब 22-23 परसेंट उसके बोरोइंग में, उसके ब्याज में जा रहा है। एक समीक्षक ने जो समीक्षा लिखी है, मैं उसको पढ़ कर सुना रहा हूँ, “Between 2007-08 and 2011-12, the Union Government revenue receipts galloped by 41.5 per cent. Total expenditure galloped by a whopping 85 per cent from 2007-08 to 2011-12. Non-Plan expenditure rose by nearly 76 per cent largely due to subsidies which increased by 298 per cent, and interest payment and debt servicing up to 73 per cent.”

इमने इन तीन सालों में 270 परसेंट borrowing की है। अगर हमारी यह स्थिति बन गई है, तो यह हमें देखना पड़ेगा कि आगे आने वाले दिनों में हमारी फाइनेंशियल स्थिति क्या होगी। आपने कह दिया कि हम एफ.डी.आई को लाएंगे। चलिए, यह तो हम सभी विपक्ष के लोगों के कारण यह एफ.डी.आई विरोध में रही, लेकिन आप एफ.डी.आई. में देख लीजिए, आप जिस वॉलमार्ट के लिए एफ.डी.आई. लाना चाहते थे, उस वॉलमार्ट का सालाना टर्न ओवर 421 अरब डॉलर है। 421 अरब डॉलर वॉलमार्ट का सिर्फ सालाना टर्न ओवर है, जबकि हमारी कंट्री का 314 अरब डॉलर सिर्फ विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार है। आप भी बैठे हैं, राज्य मंत्री जी यहाँ बैठे हैं, अगर मैं गलत फिगर दे रहा हूँ, मेरी फिगर गलत हों, तो आप कह दीजिए कि मैंने गलत फिगर दी हैं, लेकिन जो सत्यता आई है, वह यह है कि हमारे हिन्दुस्तान की जो खुदरा मार्केट है, वह आज, इस समय करीब 500 अरब डॉलर सालाना टर्न ओवर की है। यह आंकड़ा 2020 तक 1250 अरब डॉलर पर पहुंच जाएगा। आप उन लोगों को हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में आने के लिए आमंत्रित कर रहे हैं, जिनकी टर्न ओवर बहुत ज्यादा है। मैंने तो W.T.O. को हरदम, इसी मारे ओपोज किया था, लेकिन आप लोगों ने कहा कि W.T.O. अच्छा है। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी अर्थशास्त्री हैं, मैं नहीं शब्द नहीं कह सकता, क्योंकि वे अर्थशास्त्री रहे हैं। आज आप, वे और मोंटेक सिंह अहलुवालिया जी, ये तीन लोग देश के सबसे बड़े अर्थशास्त्री हैं, लेकिन अर्थशास्त्री होने के बाद यदि अर्थ ही नहीं रह जाएगा, तो हम शास्त्री का क्या करेंगे? अर्थ निकलता चला जा रहा है और शास्त्री रहते चले जा रहे हैं। आखिर हमें यह सोचना पड़ेगा कि अगर अर्थ नहीं रहा और शास्त्र लेकर घूमोगे, तो क्या फायदा? सेना में Head न रहे और सेना को औजार पकड़ा दो, तो सेना क्या करेगी, आप इसको खुद समझ सकते हो। आज वही स्थिति हमारी इकॉनॉमी की हो रही है। अगर हमने इस अर्थव्यवस्था को नहीं सुधारा, इस पर जोर नहीं दिया तो स्थिति बहुत विस्फोटक होगी। आज डॉलर 44 से 54 रुपये पर पहुंच गया है। आज भी आपकी इकॉनॉमी कहीं भी stability पर नहीं है। डॉलर की बढ़ती दर में आपका एक्सपोर्ट खत्म हो जाएगा, क्योंकि एक्सपोर्ट करने वाले जिस तरह से बढ़ी डॉलर दर पर गए हैं, उससे इम्पोर्ट बढ़ता चला जाएगा। हमारे पास जो विदेशी मुद्रा है, यदि वह घटती चली गई, अगर हमारा खजाना खाली होता चला गया तो फिर हमारी economic स्थिति क्या होगी, आप समझिए। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि इस पर विचार कीजिए। अगर आप इस पर विचार नहीं करेंगे तो उचित नहीं होगा, क्योंकि स्थिति भयंकर होती चली जा रही है और इस भयंकर स्थिति को बचाने के लिए आपको कोई न कोई एक निर्णय लेना ही पड़ेगा। अगर निर्णय नहीं लिया तो देश में कहीं न कहीं विद्रोह होगा।

श्रीमन्, जितनी इन्कम कोई कमाता है, पूरे वर्ल्ड में उसका 30 परसेंट स्लैब टैक्स है। टैक्स का एक रेट है कि 30 परसेंट टैक्स दे दो। पूरे यूरोप में पेपर मनी नहीं है, वहाँ प्लास्टिक मनी है। उन पर 30 परसेंट टैक्स लगा हुआ है। आदमी 30 परसेंट डायरेक्ट टैक्स देने से मना नहीं करता है, क्योंकि उसके बाद उसकी इन्कम

70 परसेंट है। दादा, आप तो रोज ही इतने टैक्स लगाते जा रहे हैं कि हम समझ नहीं पा रहे हैं। मैं कहता था कि देश में इतने कानून हैं। श्रीमन्, जब मैं वकालत पास करके, अपने सीनियर के पास वकालत करने गया तो उन्होंने हर बात पर इतने कानून दिखाते शुरू किए कि मैं थोड़ा घबरा गया कि पढ़कर क्या आया था और देख क्या रहा हूँ। वही हाल यहाँ पर हो गया है। 100 रुपये पर आपका करीब 130 रुपये टैक्स हो गया है। आपने जितना टैक्सेशन किया है, आप उसको निकाल लीजिए। आप जो उनको दिखा रहे हैं, उस संदर्भ में मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि मार्च में इन्कम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट वाले, कस्टम एक्साइज वाले तमाम व्यापारियों से एडवांस टैक्स ले लेते हैं। आप एडवांस टैक्स दिखाकर आमदनी दिखा रहे हैं। आपने एडवांस टैक्स जमाकर के यह दिखा दिया कि हमारा इतना रेवेन्यू बढ़ गया। उसके बाद, हम उसमें से करीब 25 परसेंट रिफंड करते हैं। मीणा जी, आप बता दीजिए कि हम जो रुपया जमा करते हैं, उसका हर साल इन्कम टैक्स और कस्टम एक्साइज में कितना रिफंड होता है। आपने तो उसको दिखा दिया और वह हमारी रेवेन्यू में आ गया, लेकिन जब आपने उसका 25 परसेंट रिफंड कर दिया, तब टोटल बजट में आपने जो इन्कम दिखाई है, उस इन्कम में जब 25 परसेंट चला गया, तब घाटा तो बढ़ता चला गया। आपने कहा हम वोडाफोन से 40,000 करोड़ रुपये लेंगे। कैसे लेंगे, आप यह बता दीजिए। हम लोग आखिर वह मैकेनिज्म भी तो समझ जाएं। इस सदन में जवाब देते वक्त आप कम से कम उस मैकेनिज्म को भी हमें बता दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... श्रीमन्, अभी तो शुरू किया है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Agrawal ji, your allotted time is over. Please conclude.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आप तो बड़े कृपालु हैं। दादा, मैं आपसे कह रहा हूँ कि आपने दिखाया है कि इस वर्ष वोडाफोन की वसूली से हमारी अनुमानित आय 40 हजार करोड़ रुपए होगी। वोडाफोन की वसूली से कैसे होगी?

मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपकी नेता, यूपीए की लीडर, आदरणीया सोनिया जी ने घोषणा कर रखी है कि “फूड फॉर ऑल” और “एजुकेशन टू ऑल”, दो बिल हम इसी वर्ष लाएँगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उन्होंने दो बिल के लिए कहा था। हेल्थ फॉर ऑल, वे तो चाहते हैं कि हेल्थ जितनी खराब हो जाए, उतना अच्छा है। हम तो कह रहे हैं कि “फूड फॉर ऑल” और “एजुकेशन टू ऑल”, आपने ये दो बिल लाने की बात की, लेकिन जब वे बिल आएँगे, तो उनके लिए पैसा कहाँ से आएगा, आपने बजट में उनके लिए कितना प्रावधान किया? क्या आपने कोई कॉलम छोड़ा, एक रुपया डाला, दो रुपए डाले, बजट में कहीं पर शुरुआत की? अगर आपने शुरुआत नहीं की, तो इसका मतलब यह है कि आप इन्हें लाना नहीं चाहते हैं। अगर आप लाना चाहते हैं और आपने शुरुआत नहीं की है, तो फिर आप अगले सेशन में सप्लीमेंटरी लाएँगे। आप हम लोगों को, देश को रोज-रोज क्यों गुमराह कर रहे हैं? एक बार गुमराह कीजिए, जो कहना हो, देश के सामने एक बार कह दीजिए, हम लोग एक बार में समझ लेंगे, लेकिन अगर रोज-रोज पॉलिसी को कहीं इधर बदल कर, कहीं उधर बदल कर लाएँगे, तो इससे देश का हित नहीं होने जा रहा। इससे इकॉनॉमिक बैलेंस नहीं होगा। अगर अर्थव्यवस्था बैलेंस नहीं हुई, तो आप चाहे जितना कहिए कि हम बहुत अच्छी गवर्नमेंट चला रहे हैं, लेकिन जब तक इम्पैक्ट नीचे नहीं जाएगा, आपको इसका रिटर्न नहीं आएगा।

मैं बहुत बार कहता रहा, लेकिन आपने बैंकों को फ्रीडम दे दी।

उपासभाध्यक्ष (डा. ई.एम. सुदर्शन नाच्चीयप्पन) : आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ।

माननीय मीणा जी, बैंकों के लिए यह कम्पलसरी था कि वे स्टेट के डेवलपमेंट के लिए सीडी रेशियो बनाएँ, 60:40 का रेशियो। यहाँ तमाम लोग बैठे हैं, बंगाल के, यूपी के, बिहार के। हमारे स्टेट में बैंक जितना

[श्री नरेश अग्रवाल]

रुपया जमा कर रहा है, मुश्किल से उसका 20 परसेंट हमारे स्टेट में खर्च कर रहा है। वह 80 परसेंट बॉरोइंग कर रहा है, उन पूँजीपतियों को, जो उनको पैसा दे रहे हैं। हमारे स्टेट पर कहाँ खर्च हो रहा है? माननीय दादा, माननीय मीणा जी, मैं आपसे सिर्फ इतना पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप बता दीजिए कि पूरी कंट्री में हर स्टेट में बैंकों में कितने रुपए प्रति वर्ष जमा होते हैं और उनमें से कितना पैसा उस स्टेट के डेवलपमेंट के लिए खर्च होता है? आप बैंकों के लिए यह कम्पलसरी कीजिए कि वे जो रुपए जमा करेंगे, उनका 60 परसेंट उस स्टेट के डेवलपमेंट पर लगाएँगे, तब वह टेट डेवलप करेगी।

अंत में मैं सिर्फ इतना कहूँगा, वैसे तो बहुत कुछ कहना था, दादा, मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहूँगा कि जब तक आप इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर पर रुपए खर्च नहीं करेंगे, तब तक कंट्री डेवलप नहीं होगी। पूरे विश्व में टोटल इन्कम का 35 परसेंट इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के डेवलपमेंट पर खर्च किया जाता है, आप तो 10 परसेंट भी खर्च नहीं कर रहे हैं। अगर कंट्री ही नहीं डेवलप करेगी, आप वोटों के लिए सब्सिडी के माध्यम से चलते रहेंगे, बीपीएल-एपीएल का झगड़ा चलता रहेगा, और चीजों का झगड़ा चलता रहेगा, तो कंट्री कहाँ रहेगी? दादा, मैं तो नहीं चाहता हूँ कि आप अंत में यही कहें कि “हम छोड़ चले हैं महफिल को, याद आएँ कभी तो मत रोना”। बस इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ। दादा, मुझे विश्वास है कि आपके जैसा योग्य व्यक्ति मेरे जैसे एक छोटे व्यक्ति के मुँह से निकली हुई बातों को गम्भीरता से लेते हुए, उनको कहीं समायोजित करते हुए, इस देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में सुधार लाते हुए हमारे देश को विश्व में जो स्थान बनाना है, विश्व में वह स्थान दिलाएगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI (Tamil Nadu) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Sir, while I rise to support these two Bills, The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2012 and the Finance Bill, 2012, I would like to raise two important issues concerning the State of Tamil Nadu before my time gets exhausted. Tamil Nadu is the hub of textile business. It accounts for one-third of the textile business of this country, employing nearly fifty lakh workers directly under this industry. It is in a serious trouble, Sir. This industry is earning foreign exchange of almost rupees fifty thousand crore, which have invested over rupees one lakh crore during the last ten years. But, the unfortunate, unprecedented and huge price fluctuation of all the fibres and the demand recession for all textile products globally rendered these units incur a huge loss because of the serious draw back in the domestic market.

Sir, out of 308 textile units in the country, almost all the textile units are incurring a heavy loss; only a few are making a marginal profit. Because of acute power shortage in the southern region, the textile industry in Tamil Nadu is the worst affected. It is not that the problem is company specific. All these losses have resulted from external factors. Today, industrialists are suffering for no fault of theirs. The present outstanding loans of this sector are estimated to be around Rs.50,000 crore. The industrialists' forum, namely the South India Millowners' Association has already made their representation before the hon. Finance Minister and the Textile Ministry. The Textile Ministry has also made a favourable recommendation for a deferred payment of this loan. Neither do they demand interest waiver, nor do they demand any other concession.

They only want a deferred payment of two years which will save this industry. The only concern is that the rules of the Reserve Bank of India do not permit the second moratorium. The first moratorium was announced by the Government in 2008-09 on the eve of global recession and the restructuring facility was given to these industries *suo motu*, not on the demand of industrialists. Now, this cannot be considered as a second restructuring. It is not even a restructuring. They want only a deferred payment. I think the Finance Minister, who always stands for reason and prudence, would sympathetically consider this. Otherwise, the industry will go to dogs and we would not be in a position to reshape it in future.

The other issue is related to tapioca sago industry. It is known as 'sabudana' in Hindi. It is consumed as a food item in the northern India. During the festival season, sabudana is consumed mostly after the fasting. It is a food item, which is widely consumed in almost seven-eight States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra during the festival season. In the recent Budget of 2012-13, the excise duty levied on sabudana has been increased from one per cent to two per cent. Last year, it was one per cent. Prior to that, there was no excise duty on this particular product. Now it is being increased to two per cent without CENVAT credit facility under the tariff heading No. 1903.

Sir, the problem is that tapioca is grown especially in the State of Tamil Nadu in an area of 3.1 lakh hectares. Almost 20 lakh agricultural families mostly belonging to tribal sections of society are working in it. It is a rainfed crop. It is not a waterfed crop. It is cultivated on dry land. There is no intermediate product emerging in producing sabudana. Even the Department of Industries has recommended to waive this two per cent duty in order to help the manufacturers and farmers. There are nearly 750 SSI units in the State of Tamil Nadu which has an investment of less than Rs. five crore. If this is not removed, both the farmers and the industrialists will have a serious problem in the forthcoming year because of rising input cost and the level of prices they will get which they already take into consideration. Being an ally of the UPA II, not an ally but a trusted ally of the UPA II, the people of our district and the State expect this demand to be considered sympathetically in order to save these two industries.

Sir, coming to the core issues, we are happy to note that the proposed amendments to the General Anti Avoidance Rules in the Finance Bill would target the tax avoidance of those who are not genuine investors and normally try to take advantage of the low or zero tax countries which give them the shelter. Sir, I compliment the Minister for initiating an amendment against those who really do not pay the taxes. Though the amendment is laudable, we would only like to know: Why is it that the hon. Minister is planning to defer the implementation of the General Anti Avoidance Rules for one year?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Thank you. Please conclude quickly.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Sir, you are my custodian and I would like you to grant me two more minutes to express my points on the main issues of the Budget. Therefore, this one year could be utilised by the hon. Minister to see that the FIIs are not hampered which will have a bearing on the growth of the economy. Therefore, this one year could have been utilised to find out the reasons how this money could be garnered in order to benefit the economy. We also compliment the amendment to the Income Tax Act which has been proposed after the Supreme Court verdict on the Vodafone issue in order to bring overseas mergers and acquisitions in tax net. Sir, my apprehension is: Will it stand the test or the scrutiny of law, especially when the courts have declared that the Income Tax Department cannot tax such companies and there is no provision? The retrospective effect that is given in the amendment would certainly lead to protracted litigation in the courts. The Minister is anticipating Rs.35000 crore to Rs.40000 crore but, what would happen in that situation? Therefore, the anticipated protracted litigation must be taken into consideration and see that how it could be compensated on a different occasion.

Sir, the other important issue is relating to the increase in indirect taxes, that is, excise duty and service tax from ten per cent to twelve per cent. It is another area of concern. Our apprehension is: Will it not indirectly result in raising prices of essential commodities, especially when we have been already facing serious inflationary pressure for the past two years?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Kindly conclude. We have to complete it.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Yes, Sir. I am coming to the end. Sir, the increase in the service tax and the hike in excise duty would adversely affect the growth prospects of the industry and result in higher cost to the consumers which, in turn, will lead to inflation. Sir, this is one point which we must take into account because with the increase in service tax, we see a phase that we are turning to GST. Sir, while introducing the GST, the hon. Minister must take the States and the allied parties into confidence, otherwise, they would be the sufferers because the States are already reeling under serious financial crisis. Sir, in that situation, the oil subsidy and the fertiliser subsidy, the non-food subsidy, will hit the agricultural sector.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Okay. Thank you.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Sir, now, I am making the last point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : I have to call the last next speaker.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Sir, I would make a humble submission. The petroleum subsidy is projected to fall from Rs.68000 crore to Rs.43000 crore. What is the cascading effect? Will it not affect the inflationary pressure already felt?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Thank you very much. Please conclude.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Sir, now, I come to the last point. In respect of the Fertiliser Subsidy Bill, I am constrained to add that the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers was opposed to the reduction or removal of the subsidy for fertilisers.

But still the Government of India had gone ahead with the complete abolition of the subsidy on the fertilizer front. In 2011-12, it was Rs.60,000 crores and now it is estimated to be Rs.74,000 crores which would earn an additional revenue of Rs.7,199 crores.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Okay, thank you. Dr. Yogendra P. Trivedi.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : This would definitely be passed on to the farmers who are supposed to pay the fertilizer price.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Please conclude.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Already the agricultural farmers whose input cost is more and do not get the price, then, again, the farmers are going to be affected because of this move.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Okay. Thank you. Dr. Yogendra P. Trivedi.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Therefore, I urge upon the Government to have a relook at this issue. These are cases in which the farmers are affected, the common man is affected. So, it should be relooked. Thank you.

DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI (Maharashtra) : Thank you, Sir. I rise here to support the Appropriation Bill as well as the Finance Bill, not merely because we are allies of the UPA-II, but I also believe sincerely that the Finance Minister was working under tremendous constraints. Under these circumstances, he has to bring out the finance proposals which would have satisfied some and dissatisfied some.

At the opening of the Budget Session we were expecting four important Finance Bills which should have tremendous effect on the financial horizon of the country. One was the Direct Tax Code; the second was Goods and Services Act; the third was the Companies Act; and the fourth was the Insurance Bill and the FDI in retails. Out of

[DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI]

these, the Direct Tax Code, which should have changed the Income-Tax Act, 1961, after 50 years, which was overdue, was most eagerly awaited and was to come into effect from 1st April, 2012. The Finance Minister promised that he would bring the Direct Tax Code into operation from 1st April, 2012, but he could not succeed. But he brought some of the provisions of the Direct Tax Code in the Finance Bill like General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR). The GAAR is prevalent in many countries in different forms. In some countries, they have the Strategic Anti-Avoidance Rules (SAAR). In some countries, they have the Targeted Anti-Avoidance Rules (TAAR). But most of the countries have accepted that avoidance of tax by unfair means can't be tolerated. Now, the Finance Committee, when the proposals of Direct Tax Code came, gave certain suggestions. If these suggestions had been incorporated in the Finance Act, probably, there would have been a little opposition. One of our suggestions was that there should not be unbridled power in the hands of the officers and the Commissioners of Income-Tax. The second thing that we have suggested was that the burden of proof should not be put on the income-taxpayer. It should be considered to be the primary duty of the officer to find out whether there is a desire to avoid tax. Both these suggestions were not taken into consideration and under the provisions with which they came up in the Finance Bill, the burden of proof was on the assessee, but, at the same time, unbridled powers were given to the officers. There was a lot of opposition. As a result of that, the Finance Minister has postponed the implementation of these provisions till 2014. I am afraid, this is a retrograde step. This is like throwing the baby with the bath water. These were good provisions, which are necessary provisions, but they were to be abandoned because of the hasty way in which they were brought.

Then, I must admire the Finance Minister's courage for taking a firm stand on Vodafone. It is true that there was a Supreme Court judgement. But most of the people forget that before the matter came before the Supreme Court, on two occasions, the Bombay High Court had to study the very same case.

Justice Radhakrishnan, in an interim application, came to the conclusion that this transaction was taxable in India. That is why the notice which was issued by the TDS authorities was correct. Thereafter, when the matter came for final hearing before Justice Chandrachud and others, Justice Chandrachud also took the view that it was taxable in India. You can't have provisions by which you do not pay tax anywhere in the world. The matter then came to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court took a divergent view. There was considerable pressure on the Finance Minister that the Supreme Court judgement should now be followed and he should not go in for any amendment. But he had the courage. He said, "The country can't afford to lose such a large amount of money." This is a transaction in which we must look at the commercial substance. The assets were here; sixty-seven per cent of the assets were in India. If

you go outside and make a transaction and say that there is no liability of capital gains tax, it is not permissible. The Finance Minister stuck to his guns. I must say one thing that this was a transaction which was also blessed by the World Bank Chief, Robert Zoellick. He also said that this was not correct. In any event, a company which is entering into a transaction of this nature has to ultimately pay tax somewhere. They cannot say that we are not liable to pay tax anywhere. He has taken the right step. This has to be taxed. The country cannot afford to lose such a large amount of money. At the same time, I must also admit that he has been gracious enough. He has said that all these retrospective amendments, which he has made, by virtue of which Vodafone becomes liable to pay tax here, will not be operative beyond six years, which is the period for reopening the assessment. Probably, he is also thinking that Vodafone should not be penalized. Otherwise also, I think, if it is a view which is taken by the Supreme Court, there will be no penalty for concealment. But he has said that he will go to the extent that there is no concealment on this transaction. I am not against that. But at the same time I must also mention some of the aspects which are very important. I was reading a lead article in a very influential daily yesterday. I found therein that some of the things stated about our economy require consideration. There was a mention about Adidas, which has suffered a loss of Rs. 1,350 crores. They have closed down their shops, 300 shops of Adidas and 200 shops of Reebok shoes, because there was a fraud by some of the employees. This happens in this country because our legislative machinery is so slow and our procedure so prolonged that as a result thereof the criminals are not brought to justice. In this country, unfortunately, what has happened is....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) : Please conclude.

DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI : Earlier it used to be said, "Crime does not pay", but in our country, sometimes, we feel that crime pays. This is something which has to be looked into.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

Then there was this case of pharmaceutical products. There was lack of quality audit, as a result of which a Japanese company, Daiichi Sankyo suffered a loss of 3.8 billion dollars. They said that there was absence of quality audit in the country. As a result of which we find that the Standard and Poor's has downgraded us considerably. Institutions like LIC, ICICI, Axis Bank have been downgraded. Now, the thing is, people forget. People are now becoming despondent. They are saying that in this country there is no future.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please conclude.

DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI : I am concluding. I am only giving suggestions. When they are crying foul, they forget one thing which is very important. Our country is first in the production of cotton in the world. We are second in the production of sugar in the world. We are first in the production of milk in the world. We forget one thing which is very important. I found in an article that one-fifths of Europe's car-making capacity is idle, while sales in India are growing double-digit. I think people have to come to us. There is no hope; there is no scope anywhere else.

People will come; there will be inflow of foreign capital. But we have to bear in mind two things which are very important here. The Finance Minister has increased the duty on gold to four per cent, as a result of which, I am afraid, there will be a large amount of gold smuggling. I am making a suggestion here. In this country, a large amount of gold is lying in private hands, in temples and trusts. Why don't you have Gold Bank so that people can go and deposit their gold? The Gold Bank will be in possession of gold worth trillions of dollars, and that will give some sort of support to our economy.

Finally, Sir, the Government must consider about the large amounts of money which have been stashed abroad. This is the question of black money, and much has been said about it. And what we have seen is that the Finance Minister had to bite the bullet. This money will not come in the automatic channel. By all these tax treaties or these tax avoidance treaties, the money will not come. There is a necessity for a voluntary scheme for payment of taxes by those who have parked their money abroad. This can be done if the Finance Minister takes courage in both hands and brings about this legislation, before his elevation, by way of an ordinance. Then, I am sure, trillions of dollars will come in as a result of this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Hon. Members, we have to have the reply today itself. So, I have to conclude the discussion by 6 O' clock. Therefore, every hon. Member is requested to stick to their allotted time. Whatever time is due to them, they will get, but not more. So, accordingly, you plan your speech. Now, Shri Shashi Bhusan Behera. You have six minutes.

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA (Odisha) :** Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the Finance Bill. I would like to speak in Oriya. The Members may face some constraint because they have to listen to the interpretation. But, I think, this will not be a constraint for the Finance Minister, Pranabda, who hails from West Bengal. It is well-known to Members that Odisha and West Bengal are neighbouring States, and the Oriya and Bengali languages are quite similar. So, I want to speak in Oriya. I can all the more touch the heart of Pranabda this way, and also, because this may be his last stint as the Finance Minister, I want to get closer to him through my language.

** (English translation of original speech delivered in Odia.)

At the outset I would like to congratulate to Hon'ble Finance Minister for trying his best in tackling the recession so bold and efficiently. But our economy is still not fully free from the bad effects of recession. During my speech I will certainly respond to the points raised by my colleague Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar who has tried to defend to government. It is but natural that the budget of the Government shall face criticism on the demerits found in the budget. But I would like to welcome the step taken by Dada for rolling back the 1% duty on jewellery. This will go a long way in providing relief to the craftman and small traders dealing in gold jewellery. The craftman and small traders of Odisha and West Bengal are deeply grateful to the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Sir, India has a population of 120 crores. I do not wish to discuss again the problem of poverty of our country. It has been discussed many times in this august House. But I wish to caution the Hon'ble Finance Minister about the difficulties he will be facing in tackling the acute problem of recession. A deficit budget will contribute to create further inflation in the country.

Sir, this government has miserably failed in controlling inflation. The steps taken by this Government have proved fruitless with regard to the production of food grains. The government has failed to put a check on the rising price of petrol and diesel, which has an adverse impact on inflation in general as well as the price rise of essential commodities. Government is a miserable failure in controlling price-rise and this has badly affected the poor and down-trodden of the country. It has become a habit with this Government for pre-budget increase of the prices of petrol and diesel. The common man has been facing problem in service sector due to an increase of a 2% increase in excise duty. The interest of the common man has been badly affected. States like Orissa and West are taking steps to provide infrastructure. But the 2% increase of duty on cement will certainly affect the interest of these States.

Sir, the Government has failed to achieve the target of 7.9% of growth rate of the GDP. You could just manage to achieve 6.9%. In the field of agriculture also the target of 4% growth has not been achieved. These are not adequate provision for providing irrigation facilities to the farmers and also providing greater infrastructure in the country. The worst sufferers are the small and medium farmers due to rising prices of chemical fertilizers and seeds. I just hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will take steps for safeguarding the interest of small and medium farmers.

Sir, there is an urgent need to take steps scientifically in order to take care of the lakhs of tons of food grains which are rotting in the godown, while people are starving in our country.

Sir, unless genuine efforts are made in providing health care, education facilities by the government the economic condition of the people will never improve.

[SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA]

Sir, there are tremendous potential for tourism in Orissa. But unfortunately there has been not even 1% financial allocation for tourism. This fact has been raised by my colleague Shri Piyush Goyal. There is no provision in the budget for encouraging tourism in States like West Bengal and Odisha, where there is tremendous potential for tourism. We need to take steps for utilizing coal and other mineral resources for the development of our economy. There is also a need for opening more ports in India. About 14 Ports are in the pipeline in Odisha. So there is a need to give financial support for creating this infrastructure. Sir, It is unfortunate that States are getting only Rs. 27 out of Rs. 250 of royalty in iron-ore. We feel that our State has incurred a loss of one lakh crores of royalty. Hence there is a need to review the royalty policy with regard to minerals. I also make the demand for declaring Odisha as a special category State.

Thanking you.

SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD (Tamil Nadu) : Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for the bold decision he has taken in the case of amending the tax laws retrospectively. He has categorically said that India cannot be a tax avoiding or tax evading country for a few shrewd foreign companies. Sir, a question on paying taxes to the Roman conquerors was asked to Jesus Christ. Jesus, whom I consider as one of the greatest revolutionary of all times, said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's." Sir, who is Caesar in a democracy like ours? Is it not the people? Peraringar Anna, in whose fond memory my party is named, said, which means, let us see God in the joy of the poor. Let us see God in the smiles of the marginalised. When the hon. Finance Minister spoke so patriotically in the other House and I quote, "We were not eating lizards or cockroaches before the foreign investors came." I was reminded of my own leader, another revolutionary whom I admire Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. He sang, which means what is that this sacred country is lacking that you will stretch a begging arm to foreign countries? Toil with all our strength in the fields of the motherland and you will be respected in other countries. This is what Dr. MGR was said in 1968. What FDI does Cuba get? But, look at the medical miracles of Cuba. Sir, not only Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro but every single citizen of Cuba gets cured and gets an excellent medical treatment. Hence, we, once again, reiterate our support to all actions of patriotism and pro-poor legislation.

Sir, I also suggest that retrospective amendments to clarify the position of law should be done at the earliest point of time when the issue stems up *i.e.*, at the beginning of the controversy, rather than allowing controversy to reach the highest court of the land.

5.00 P.M.

We, in Tamil Nadu, are celebrating the first anniversary of Madam Jayalalitha's Government. One of the marvelous achievements of Madam Jayalalitha, which will have far-reaching consequence for the young men and women of the country and the economy in general, is the cost-free laptops given to the millions of students in my State. Only a visionary leader like Madam Jayalalitha, who rules the State like a missionary, totally dedicated to the cause, can think of such fantastic scheme.

Sir, in the Finance Bill, the hon. Finance Minister talks and I quote, "Additional surcharge, for the purposes of the Union, to be called the 'Secondary and Higher Secondary Cess on income tax,' calculated at the rate of one per cent of such income tax and surcharge so as to fulfill the commitment of the Government to provide and finance secondary and higher secondary education." Sir, the Government of India might have collected huge sums through Higher Education Cess *w.e.f.* 2008-09. We are asking for our dues. We demand what is legitimately ours. The hon. Finance Minister promised higher education subsidies and collected cess for it. Now, let him keep his promise and give us our share. How much of educational cess, both elementary and higher education, have the Government of India collected so far? Please share this with the States generously. In Tamil Nadu, we give everything free of cost to all students. We give geometry boxes, colour pencils, atlas, dictionaries, bicycles, school bags, text books, note books, hostel fee, enhanced food allowances, etc., to millions of students. So, please share the educational cess with the States generously.

With these words, I support the Finance and Appropriation Bills. Thank you.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY (Andhra Pradesh) : Thank you very much, Sir, for having given me this opportunity. To begin with, I may be permitted to quote a few headlines—from one of the financial newspapers—which show our country's economic situation today. These headlines are, and I quote, 'Gloom to Deepen: India Inc', 'Moody's Adds Insult to Injury, Scissors Rating of 3 Banks', and 'Rupee Stays in a Hole, Sinks to 53.97 vs Dollar'.

Sir, today, every sector in India, whether it is steel, cement, telecom, power or infrastructure, is facing huge financial imbalance, mainly due to indecisions at various levels of the Government. Unfortunately, for the past couple of years, the Government has been reeling under scam after scam like 2G scam, Commonwealth scam, iron ore scam and so on. Because of indecision at the highest levels of the Government, the country has been losing its direction which is reflecting very clearly in every economic activity and which is also directly resulting in weakening of our rupee. Sir, corporates, because of this indecision, are forced to refer their cases to CDR for financial restructuring, which does not augur well for an economy that has seen an unprecedented growth in the last couple of decades. If this trend continues, I am afraid, ultimately, all

[SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY]

our banks and financial institutions, which are the backbone not only of our industry but the whole of our economy, may land in big trouble losing their credibility in the international market. Ultimately, the country will lose its credit rating. Sir, as we are all aware, yesterday, LIC's rating was downgraded. A few months ago SBI's rating was also downgraded. These are great institutions of trust and faith. They are the leaders in their respective sectors. Downgrading of the leader in a sector is a clear reflection as to what is happening in that sector. Sir, post-Independence, all our Indian entrepreneurs have worked very hard and created industrial growth which has helped all the banks in developing their own networks.

Sir, today, our farmers want support for sustainable farming but not doles. But Government after Government has preferred to give doles, for obvious reasons! Subsidies on fertilizers, oil, power, etc. are nothing but doles. Instead of giving these doles, Government should formulate good and balanced policies, have a level-playing field in business, so that different sectors of our economy can improve their financial health and, indirectly, will help the country's economy. The Government has to come out with aggressive plans, particularly in reducing imports which can go a long way in helping the farming community in improving their technology, agricultural implements and in yield-improvement technologies. The Government has been continuously silent about any aggressive policy in regard to production of renewable energy which can produce a lot of power, whether hydel or solar.

Sir, today many banks and Government departments are not taking any decision due to the 'fear of the unknown' which is a well-known fact. Unfortunately, we all agree that there is a complete breakdown and a paralysis of our decision-making process. It looks as if the Government is surviving with the support of ventilator. The country have had many scams and many problems like various by-elections, demands for smaller States, etc. I strongly request that the Government should deal with all these scams, etc. by appointing a task force exclusively for this purpose, without affecting the growth of the country.

Sir, in every developing economy, some systemic failures are bound to happen. But, we have to deal with such kind of failures in a matured manner and not in haste.

Sir, in any case, the time has also come for all the political parties to work with cooperation and coordination rather than confrontation and competition in the interest of the country. In any case, this Bill is a *fait accompli* approval. Thank you.

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY (Nominated) : Sir, I support both the Bills that have been put forward by the hon. Finance Minister. I would not wish repeat many of the points that have been made by Hon. members but I compliment the hon. Finance

Minister for having accepted some key recommendations and for having acknowledged that, possibly, the time-frame, for introduction, needs to be moderated. Thank you, hon. Finance Minister for the consideration. However, I wish to share with the House and the Finance Minister a rather gloomy prognosis in the Indian and world economy. We can be critical, but, the point of the fact is that the world is going through a very difficult time. I am not paranoid. I have worked internationally; but, I sometimes wonder whether the rating agencies are playing a role that they are not supposed to play. I think, we need to question and challenge the rating agencies rather than converting them into headlines in our newspapers.

The second thing I want to warn is that the banking institutions around the world are again in very serious trouble. A major funding institution has just lost 2-3 billion dollars due to trading mistakes. Therefore, the crisis of the global financial system is far deeper and we have to be very alert about the games the international financial institutions also play. I think, it is the legitimate right of every country to have its own taxation system and bilateral taxation treaties. But, there cannot be any system which can be discovered where you do not pay any tax anywhere in the world. Therefore, it is our country's legitimate right; every country around the world is doing it, to explore ways and means, to charge people taxes that legitimately belong to the nation. I will never be defensive, regarding some of the measures that the hon. Finance Minister is proposing. However, let us also not forget that we are yet to come to the Monsoon Session of the House. The Finance Minister is always praying to the Rain God rather than depending on the meteorologists because on that depends the bulk of our people and our economy.

I think, the allocation for Second Green Revolution, particularly in the five eastern States, is going to be critical, Mr. Finance Minister, and I hope then adequate funds will be made available. My worry is, there is going to be a slowdown in investment, there is going to be a slowdown in growth. But, the bigger worry is the slowdown in employment. I do not want our demographic dividend to become a demographic burden. There is very little you can do about it, because you are yourself facing the challenge of the national fiscal deficit which is a very significant issue. I did not hear, across the room, any suggestion that would be helpful for you to tackle the framing fiscal deficit. However, you are a great asset to the nation because when you address audiences in this country, and in conferences at international forum, you can change the mood of the world about the attractive Indian opportunities. However, I do not underestimate the latest threat that the world is facing and that is the slowdown of the Chinese economy, and the Chinese foreign trade. Just imagine, if China were to quite selectively devalue the Yuan, the competitive threat to India would indeed be grave.

And, therefore, Mr. Finance Minister, while we talk, we can say everything we want; you have an enviable task along with your hon. Ministers of State as well. In

[DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY]

order to manage, possibly, one of the most difficult periods in the last 20 years that is going to face this country, between now and the next Budget in 2013-14, I can only wish you well. I know that you rise above criticism; you rise above the analysis, paralysis that travels through this House. You have a long experience. And while I do not want to wish to speculate which way you will choose your own political future, I can only selfishly hope that the people can have some say in the decision about your continuing to guide the future of this country, as you have done for so many years. I wish you all the best. I thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this subject. Sir, you know that I never take extra time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.K. KURIEN) : I must specially thank you for that.

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY : Thank you, Sir. I wish the Finance Minister all the best.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.K. KURIEN) : Dr. Bharatkumar Raut, you should emulate the example of Gangulyji with regard to timing.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it so happens that whenever a discussion takes place, we forget that we are Council of States; we are Rajya Sabha. All these parties which are represented here are regional parties. We may be small in number here, but we are giants in our States. And, this House is meant for raising the voice of States.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.K. KURIEN) : Therefore, you take five minutes.

DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT : Okay, Sir.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, while talking on the Appropriation and the Finance Bill, I would not be touching the macro issues, which my other colleagues have already touched and deliberated. But I am going into micro issues, which touch my State. I come from Mumbai, which is called *urbs prima*. We want to make it the financial hub of the world. So, I just want to highlight the plight of my city, the city of Mumbai, in this House. Sir, I am only touching those points which have financial implications, and in which, the Centre is supposed to provide finance to the city for its benefit.

Sir, I am going into bullet points, and I will not speak more. Sir, my first point is about Brihan Mumbai Storm Water Drainage Project, which is popularly known as BRIMSTOWAD. Sir, on 26th July, 2005, the big floods affected Mumbai. Then, we decided to improve our drainage and sewage system, for which we kept an amount of Rs. 1,200 crores. For that, the State was supposed to pay Rs.200 crores, and the Centre

was supposed to provide Rs.1,000 crores. Sir, I want to remind the hon. Finance Minister as to how much has come. Now, after seven years, the project cost has gone up to Rs.3,535 crores. So, it has gone up from Rs.1,200 crores to Rs.3,535 crores. It is only because the finance did not come on time. Sir, the State has already paid some amount. And, now, what is required is Rs.2,335 crores. That amount is required from the Centre. Sir, I would suggest that this amount should come as fast as possible.

Sir, another thing is about the development of the Mithi River. The world has heard about the Mithi River only after the worst floods that hit the city. After that, MMRDA, the State Government body, and the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, together, created a project. Because six years have passed, the revised Budget for the Project is Rs.1,657 crores; for which, the Centre is supposed to pay Rs.1,100 crores immediately. Sir, I am saying immediately because every day's delay is costing us something like Rs. 1 crore per day, apart from the hazards to the city.

Sir, the third project that I would like to bring to your notice is the heliport project that was also developed with the help of the Central Government. Mumbai has only length, we do not have breadth. Therefore, to decongest the traffic, particularly, during the busy time, the proposal was that we have a heliport one at Marine Drive or at Colaba which is the Southern tip of the city and the other in northern tip and here it can be in Navi Mumbai. Sir, the Environment Ministry has given clearance to the Navi Mumbai heliport but it has not given clearance to the south tip. So, how does it work? From where do the helicopters take off? Sir, here also we need financial help from the Centre. This is because unless we get finance from the Centre, this will not work. Sir, I am saying this because Mumbai has population from all over the country. We have more Hindi-speaking people than any city of Uttar Pradesh. We have more Gujarati-speaking people than any city except Ahmedabad. I am not going into the regionalism. I am saying that people from all over the country come here and they do their business. In order to help them to commute, at least, you should have heliports, otherwise, we cannot do anything. ...(*Time-bell rings*)... Sir, I am coming to the last point. There is another project of floating jetties. In order to decongest the city, the project is to have floating jetties near Gateway of India and near Andheri or near Chambur. Sir, that project is also waiting for financial assistance for the last ten years. In ten years you can imagine how much traffic has gone up. So, my suggestion to the Centre is that, please look into these issues very urgently. There are many issues of Maharashtra. I am not touching them because this time I thought I should concentrate on the *urbs prima*. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Thank you, Sir. The Finance Bill, 2012 is clearly biased towards the corporates and the rich. This is evident from the fact that while the Direct Taxes being levied on the rich will result in a loss of Rs.4500 crores, more after the concessions announced by our hon. Finance Minister on 7th May, 2012. Increase

[SHRI D. RAJA]

in Indirect Taxes and Service Tax and Excise Duties will yield additional revenue of more than Rs. 45,940 crores. This is in line with Government's policy of last several years where poor and common people have been overburdened to subsidize the rich and the corporates. There is huge amount of Rs.5.3 lakh crores revenue forgone in 2011-12, out of which over Rs.55,000 crore were tax concessions to the corporates. This is the irony when the Government claims it rules for *aam adami*, finally, this is what happens in our country. At the same time, the Budget gives slew of concessions to investment in the stock markets at a time when developed countries are trying to control the volatility in stock markets by tax regime against speculations. The Budget cuts security transaction tax by 25 per cent and new tax exemption has been announced to encourage retail stock market investors. Sir, India is among the few countries with the lowest tax GDP ratio which has been declining over the years.

The tax GDP ratio is the lowest not only among the G-20 countries but also among the middle income countries. On the other hand, the global community has been taking all measures to tax the rich. The newly elected French President, Francois Hollande, has proposed a 75 per cent tax rate for the rich.

However, in our country, due to the sustained campaign by the rich and corporates, the Government swiftly acted to reduce the tax burden and tax compliance provisions even more to boost the stock market. The announcements made by our hon. Finance Minister deferring the implementation of the General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) by one year and diluting many of its provisions is a meek surrender to finance capital, multi-national corporations and the US Administration.

Sir, the GAAR are meant to strengthen India's tax laws to prevent foreign investors from avoiding paying taxes on capital gains in India. This was also needed to plug the loopholes in the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) with tax havens like Mauritius. I don't need to explain what Mauritius means to India. It is noteworthy that over 40 per cent of FDI inflows into India are routed through Mauritius, in order to facilitate crores of rupees of tax savings by foreign companies at the cost of the Indian exchequer. GAAR have been implemented in countries across the world to crack down on such tax avoidance which leads to a loss of revenue to the sovereign governments. India is a sovereign Government. Even South Africa and China have GAAR in place. Dilution of GAAR in India has, apparently, been done to please the corporate houses and the rich who have been using the provisions of DTAA for siphoning money out of the country. That is the source of black money, Sir.

Sir, the fact that the Government, the Finance Ministry, has been acting in favour of corporate houses is evident from their announcements such as cut in capital gains tax on private equity, cut in withholding tax on foreign borrowings and withdrawal of

tax on property transactions. These are all meant to favour big financiers and real estate players. A recent report by the Ministry of Finance's Intelligence Wing—if I am wrong, I stand to be corrected, Sir,—has confirmed that the real estate sector is the biggest culprit as far as tax and black money is concerned. The Government has also absolved the corporates from proving their tax liabilities with the proposed change, putting the onus on the Government. This is what is happening. Here, many people referred to Vodafone. This is to give benefits to companies such as Vodafone by proposing to exclude from the proposed amendments those companies whose cases have already been settled.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please conclude.

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, I am coming to the end. This is a big concession with huge losses to the Government.

While the Government has gone overboard in pleasing the corporates, lack of resources has been used as an excuse to reduce fertilizer subsidy, expenditure on MGNREGA and other social welfare expenditures. It is obvious that the political economy of the Finance Bill is clearly a reflection of the politics of the Congress-led UPA-II Government of exploiting the common man to benefit the corporate houses. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

Finally, Sir, Pranabda, at this age, with his rich experience, need not be in a dilemma, to be or not to be. I want him to be decisive. I want him to take a decisive step in correcting the neo-liberal policies which have proved to be disastrous. I hope he leaves an imprint in taking such a bold step. The macro-level economic and financial policies need a thorough review, and course-correction is necessary at this point of time. With this request, I conclude my intervention. Thank you.

श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी को मैं दो साल, तीन साल पूर्व के काल खंड में वापस ले जाना चाहूंगा, जब वे नई ऊर्जा, नया जनादेश, नई नीति, नई दिशा लेकर इस सदन में आए थे, तब उन्होंने 6 जुलाई, 2009 को इस संसद के माध्यम से देश की जनता को कई अभिवचन दिए थे। उन्होंने अपने शब्दों में कहा था, “हम इस राष्ट्र की भलाई के लिए अपनी सम्पूर्ण सामर्थ्य से प्रयत्नशील रहेंगे,” लेकिन हम यह देख रहे हैं कि प्रत्येक वस्तु के मूल्य निरंतर बढ़ रहे हैं। महंगाई राक्षस की तरह से मुंह फाड़ कर दौड़ी चली आ रही है और हर व्यक्ति को वह तेजी से निगलने की चेष्टा कर रही है। इतना ही नहीं, एक के बाद एक ऐसे घोटाले सामने आ रहे हैं, जिनसे यह प्रश्न हमारे मन में उठता है कि देश विकास की ओर जा रहा है या भ्रष्टाचार की ओर जा रहा है? इस कारण से मैं उनको उनकी कुछ वचनबद्धताएं स्मरण दिलाना चाहूंगा कि हम किस दिशा में जाना चाहते हैं।

महोदय, 6 जुलाई, 2009 को उन्होंने अपने अभिवचन में कहा था कि कम से कम 9 प्रतिशत विकास दर प्रति वर्ष बनाए रखेंगे, क्या यह रख पाए? 12 मिलियन नए कार्य अवसर सृजन करेंगे, क्या यह कर पाए? गरीबी रेखा के नीचे जीवनयापन करने वाले अनुपात को 2014 तक आधे से कम कर देंगे, अभी तक कितना कर पाए?

महोदय, हां, हम यह कह कर सारे राष्ट्र में हास्यास्पद अवश्य हो गए हैं, क्योंकि हमने जीवनयापन के लिए जो मापदंड तय किया है, वह 28 रुपए तय किया है। क्या एक व्यक्ति अपना जीवन निर्वाह 28 रुपए के

[श्री रघुनन्दन शर्मा]

आधार पर कर सकता है? यह आकलन करके हमने अपने आपको हास्यास्पद बना लिया है। अगर ग्रामीण व्यक्ति की बात करें, तो वहां की हालत और खराब है, उसको तो आपने 22 रुपए में ही रोक दिया है, वहीं खड़ा कर दिया है। यह एक व्यक्ति के जीवनयापन के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है।

महोदय, मैं वित्त मंत्री जी को ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा कि उन्होंने 2009 में ही अपने भाषण में कौटिल्य को याद किया था और उन्होंने कहा था, “मैं कौटिल्य की सलाह मान कर राजकोषीय घाटे के एफ.आर.बी.एम. लक्ष्य को पुनः प्राप्त करने का इरादा रखता हूँ।” वर्ष 2004-05 में राजकोषीय घाटा 1,25,794 करोड़ रुपए था, जो आज 5,25,000 करोड़ रुपए तक जा पहुंचा है और यह चार गुना से अधिक है। इसी प्रकार से सकल बाजार ऋण 46,031 करोड़ था, वह 4,80,000 करोड़ हो गया है, जो दस गुना से अधिक है। आज तो केवल ब्याज का भुगतान ही 3,20,000 करोड़ रुपए हो गया है।

यदि राजकोषीय घाटा तथा ब्याज भुगतान को मिला दिया जाए, तो 8,33,349 करोड़ रुपए होते हैं। इस प्रकार आपके पास 14,90,000 करोड़ में से केवल 6,57,576 करोड़ रुपए ही बचते हैं, जब कि आपका गैर आयोजना व्यय ही 9,69,000 करोड़ का है। इसकी पूर्ति के लिए 3 लाख करोड़ रुपए से अधिक की आवश्यकता होगी। उसका कोई उपाय हमारे सामने दिखाई नहीं देता है। अगर योजनाओं पर व्यय की बात करेंगे, तो वह कहां जाएगी? इसका अर्थ यह है कि हम विकास को गौण मान कर अन्य कार्य प्राथमिकताएं दे रहे हैं। इस स्थिति में आपके तीन वर्ष पूर्व के अभिवचन का क्या होगा? मैं यह माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को स्मरण दिलाना चाहूंगा।

महोदय, कभी ये कहते हैं कि विश्वव्यापी मंदी का हम पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा और कभी कहते हैं कि यदि हम सब क्षेत्रों में पिछड़ रहे हैं, तो विश्व में जो विश्वव्यापी मंदी आई है, उसका हम पर प्रभाव पड़ा है। अब सच क्या है? कभी एक बात बोलते हैं, तो कभी दूसरी बात बोलते हैं।

मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि भारत में जब से काले धन को लाने की आवाज़ उठी है, तब से वह काला धन रिस-रिस कर, धीरे-धीरे एक स्रोत की तरह, एक झरने की तरह इस देश में गुप्त मार्ग से, प्रच्छन्न मार्ग से आ रहा है और उस काले धन ने ही महँगाई का पहाड़ खड़ा किया है। वह इस महँगाई के शक्तिशाली राक्षस पर हावी हो गया है और हमारे कदमों ने, हमारी नीतियों ने इस महँगाई को नियंत्रित करने की बजाय आग में घी डालने का काम किया है।

माननीय महोदय, ग्रामीण अंचल में आज गरीबों और निर्धनों की जो हालत है, उसे देख कर मुझे फिल्म “पीपली लाइव” की याद आती है, जिसमें एक गरीब आदमी आत्महत्या करने के लिए लालायित रहता है और उसके घर के लोग, उसके घर की महिलाएँ गाती हैं, “सखि सड़ियां तो खूब ही कमात है, महँगाई डायन खाये जात है।” यह महँगाई गरीबों को खा रही है और आप उसको रोकने के उपाय नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। मुझे नहीं मालूम कि आपकी यह विवशता किस कारण से है और आप जैसे सशक्त वित्त मंत्री उसको रोकने में असमर्थ क्यों दिखायी दे रहे हैं।

आपने किसान को सात प्रतिशत ब्याज पर ऋण देने की बात कही है और समय पर भुगतान करने वाले को तीन प्रतिशत की छूट दी है, लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री ने वहाँ पर एक प्रतिशत पर किसानों को ऋण देना प्रारम्भ किया है। आखिर एक प्रदेश का मुख्य मंत्री एक प्रतिशत पर ऋण दे रहा है और हम केन्द्र में बैठ कर सात प्रतिशत की बात कर रहे हैं! आप विचार करें, किसानों को क्या हम उसी प्रकार से सस्ता ऋण उपलब्ध नहीं करा सकते?

इसी प्रकार, आयात और निर्यात का मामला भी हमारे सामने है। आपके इस वर्ष के बजट के संदर्भ में मैं यह बात कहना चाहूँगा कि आपने निर्यात में 23 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि और आयात में 29 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज करवायी है, ये अच्छे लक्षण नहीं हैं। कुशलता तो इसमें थी कि निर्यात 29 प्रतिशत होता और आयात में 23 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि होती। आयात के ऊपर निर्यात का दबाव हमेशा बना रहना चाहिए, यही कुशल नीति है। मैं सोचता हूँ, देश के हित में इस चिन्तन की आवश्यकता है, लेकिन हम देशी चिन्तन की बजाय विदेशी चिन्तकों की ओर जाने लगे हैं, उनको प्रेरणा का केन्द्र मानने लगे हैं। कौटिल्य को आपने छोड़ दिया, शुक्र को आपने छोड़ दिया, आपने उपनिषद की *तेन त्यक्तेन भुञ्जिथा* की बात को छोड़ दिया, हम मिल-बाँट कर खाएँगे और स्वर्ग में जाएँगे, इस विचार का भी आपने परित्याग कर दिया और आप शेक्सपीयर के पीछे दौड़ पड़े, जो निर्दयी होने की बात कहता है। वह कहता है कि निर्दयी हो जाओ। निर्दयी होने की दृष्टि से आज देश की क्या हालत हो गयी है? हम दयाविहीन हो गये और हमारी करुणा समाप्त हो गयी। वह करुणा समाप्त होने के कारण और हमारी दया की भावना समाप्त होने के कारण हम गरीबों को जो सहूलियतें देना चाहते थे, वे नहीं दे पाए और हम देश को विकास की जो दिशा देना चाहते थे, वह भी नहीं दे पाए।

महोदय, देश में रेलों की हालत खराब है, सड़कों की हालत खराब है, किसानों की हालत खराब है, मजदूरों की भी यही स्थिति है और आपने भविष्य निधि पर कम ब्याज देकर भी लोगों का पेट काट लिया। आज सारे देश में हाहाकार मची हुई है। यह तो आपने सब लोगों की दुआ से सद्बुद्धि प्राप्त करके स्वर्णकारों और देशी कारीगरों को फिर से आजीविका चलाने का अवसर प्रदान कर दिया है, उसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहूँगा कि आपने देश की जनता की भावना को समझा है। शेक्सपीयर ने आपको निर्दयी होने के लिए जरूर कहा, लेकिन मैं चाहूँगा कि आप टैगोर को अपने सामने रखें, तुलसी को आप अपने सामने रखें और किसी देशी नीति निर्देशक को, प्रेरणास्रोत को सामने रखें। अगर आप किसी को नहीं, तो कबीर को ही अपने सामने रख लेते, तो आपके मन में करुणा जाग्रत होती और कबीर के शब्दों में आप कह उठते:

*कबीरा हाय गरीब की कबहूँ न निष्फल जाए,
मरी खाल की हाय से लौह भस्म हो जाए।*

मैं चाहूँगा कि आप कम से कम गरीबों की हाय मत लीजिए, गरीबों का साथ दीजिए, देश के विकास के लिए कदम उठाइए और ऐसी नीतियाँ बनाइए, जिनसे यह देश विश्व में आर्थिक महाशक्ति बन कर उभर सके। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha) : Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2012 and the Finance Bill, 2012. Our hon. Finance Minister has already accepted the suggestions given by the Standing Committee. About the DTC, he has clearly mentioned, while moving the Bill, that all partners will be consulted and their suggestions will be taken and accommodated, and only then the decision will be taken. Sir, I do not want to go into the details of the Bill, but I want to give some suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister. Sir, some days ago here in the Parliament, we raised the issue of old-age pension, for which thousands of farmers and people are agitating on the streets. This old-age pension was implemented as per the recommendations of the Agriculture Commission. It is Rs.200 only. But for people of 80 years of age, it is Rs.500. In course of life, the life span has increased. But son, daughters and family members are not taking proper care of old and aging people, so these people are demanding Rs.2,000 per month. However, Government can consider

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enhancing this amount so that aging people can get the assurance and confidence of getting some support of the Government. Secondly, I want to raise an issue about agriculture insurance. Many farmers are committing suicide. Everybody is concerned about the problems of farmers with respect to crop and agriculture. But the irony of the fact is that, till today, we have not been able to cover all the agriculture products and fields by way of insurance. If full insurance coverage is there and if farmers get compensation, I think, that will be one way to support the farmers. For that purpose, all the villages, not the blocks, should be taken as one unit. Sir, I am very much grateful that this UPA Government has taken a decision for skill-upgradation and skill-training. Hon. Finance Minister has also made the Budget provision for it. The target is to get 500 million skill-upgraded people in our country by 2023. But we have only Rs.1000 crore per annum for the Skill Upgradation Fund. Is it possible, by giving Rs.1000 crore per year, to get 500 million skilled people by 2023? I do suggest that these multi-nationals and industrial houses, who are using the skill of this country, should also contribute to the Skill Upgradation Fund so that this Fund can be increased. Sir, my another suggestion is regarding contract labourers working in Customs, Excise and Income Tax Departments, especially in the Eastern Zone—West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Assam and in the North-East area. Almost in all areas, contract labourers have been regularized. But these people are working as contract labourers. We all know that Excise, Customs and Income Tax Departments are very sensitive Departments. If these people will work there as contract workers, how can they be able to dictate those people who are not paying the tax, or, those who are involving themselves in all sorts of work? So, these workers, who are working as contract labourers in Excise, Customs and Income Tax Departments in the Eastern Zone, should be regularized. Sir, I am very much thankful to this UPA Government for the State Bank Pension Scheme. The UPA Government has taken a decision for giving pension to all nationalized banks' workers and officers. The only bank which is left out is Gramin Bank and its 65,000 officers and employees. I would like to remind the hon. Finance Minister that it was only his creation when Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. At that time, on the suggestion of hon. Finance Minister, Gramin Bank was created to provide cheap credit. All these bank people are covered by the secured pension scheme, but these Gramin Bank people are dependent only on Provident Fund Scheme. When an officer retires, he gets Rs.1000 or Rs.1200 as pension, whereas peons and Class-IV employees working in Central Government and State Governments offices get pension higher than those. I think, that is under the consideration of the Government.

And, that estimation is there. The requirement for this purpose is Rs.7,000 crore. They have around Rs.2,000 crore in Provident Fund and, I think, the Government should also consider and find out a way. They are also prepared to give their contribution

so that the pension scheme could be developed and finalised for the Grameen Bank officers and employees.

Sir, about education loans, we are thankful that the Government has taken a decision to give interest-free loan to the students belonging to income group of less than Rs.4.5 lakhs. But, above Rs.4.5 lakh income group, the students have to pay interest rate of 11 to 14 per cent. When there are some commercial loans on cars and other items with interest rates of 10 or 11 per cent, why should students, even though they belong to income group of above Rs.4.5 lakh, have to pay more interest? I think, this is also not correct and I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to consider this point. They may be asked to pay the interest, but it must be a minimum interest of 5 to 6 per cent, so that it is reasonable. So, that should also be taken into consideration by the Government.

Sir, I want to mention one thing regarding the expenditure on the State Plan. When the Plan is being finalised for various States, the Plan size is very big. We are very happy to know that in a Plan, so many thousands of crores of rupees are sanctioned for a State Government. But, is this Plan money being utilised properly? I want to know the position in this regard from the hon. Finance Minister. Some States are telling that the Central Government is not giving adequate funds to them. But, has the total Plan allocation, given to the States, been utilised? Are they able to raise internal sources to utilise the Plan allocation? If that is not the case, then I think there is no justification in saying that the Central Government is not giving money. We are with the States. Our State, Odisha, should also get more money. But, we must also try to spend the money which has been given by the Central Government. Now, the other day, the hon. Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Jairam Ramesh, was telling here that in case of Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha, the money released for the drinking water and sanitation has not been properly utilised. If this is the fact, then the State Government would not be in a position to ask for more money. The States must have the capacity to utilise the funds.

Sir, I want to mention about MPLAD fund. There are allegations that MPLAD fund is not utilised by the Members of Parliament and the percentage of amount utilised is given in the media reports. But, I want to mention in this House the case of Odisha. We are getting Rs.5 crore per annum per Member. We have 31 Members from Odisha—21 in Lok Sabha and 10 in Rajya Sabha. We get about Rs.155 crore per annum. It is not a small amount. But, the fact remains that the State Government and the district authorities are not taking interest to utilise the MPLAD fund. It is irrespective of any party politics. They are not taking any interest. For example, in the case of Odisha, if the State Government will not take interest to utilise Rs.155 crore, which will be given by our hon. Members of Parliament, then the developmental work will not happen. And, it is the case of all the States all over the country. I want to draw the kind attention

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of this House towards this fact. I am sorry to say that in 2008, when I was elected to this House, I had given Rs.3,00,000 to Tarini Mahavidayala in Panikoili. This has not been utilised till date. In 2008-09, I gave Rs.86,00,000 to Kodai Block for 36 projects. It has also not been utilised till now. I have given a project for 84 tube wells in Kodai Block, for which, around Rs.45,00,000 have been given. It was given two years back and it has not been utilised till today. And, sometimes, it is being said that Members are not giving the projects. Sir, I have given the project for 2012. Even if full money is paid, my project is pending in the district level court. If we have given the project, then we have not committed any mistake.

We are also not changing our project. In that case, I think, it is high time that the Central Government, the hon. Finance Minister talk to all the State Governments, State Finance Ministers and the concerned departments to take appropriate action for proper utilization of MPLAD fund, instead of blaming the Members of Parliament for non-utilization of these funds. We are trying to utilize the funds for the development of the State. We are also not recommending to do this and that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please conclude.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : So, I urge upon the Government to talk to the State Governments for proper utilization of the MPLAD fund. Sir, as a disciplined Member, I obey your order to conclude my speech. Once again, I support this Appropriation Bill and the Finance Bill introduced by the hon. Finance Minister, and, I also expect that the Finance Minister will consider my proposals. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Thank you, Mr. Khuntia, for being disciplined. Now, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. आपने भी पांच मिनट में खत्म करना है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हमेशा मेरे से झगड़ा करते हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (बिहार) : सर, मैं आपके निर्देशों को भी सुन रहा हूँ और घड़ी को भी देख रहा हूँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, आपने कहा कि मिनिमम पांच मिनट और मैक्सिमम दस मिनट। आपने यही कहा है, न?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : नहीं, पांच मिनट।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : सर, मुझे ऐसा पता चला है कि आज मंत्री जी जवाब नहीं दे रहे हैं। इसलिए आप मुझे बोलने दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सबसे पहले माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी, जो हमारे अभिभावक हैं, नेता हैं, जो एक अनुभवी वित्त मंत्री हैं, विशेष तौर पर उनके प्रति मैं आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ। आपने इस देश के स्वर्णकार भाइयों के लिए कदम उठाकर एक्साइज ड्यूटी को वापस लिया है। पूरे देश में जिस तरह से स्वर्णकार भाई पेरशान थे और पूरा सदन एजीटेटेड था, सदन के अंदर और सदन के बाहर भी इसको लेकर प्रदर्शन हो रहा

था, उन भावनाओं को समझते हुए उनके अनुरूप, उन स्वर्णकार भाइयों के लिए आपने यह एक बड़ा कदम उठाया है। इसके लिए मैं अपनी तरफ से और पूरे सदन की तरफ से आपके प्रति आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, इस देश को आजादी मिले साठ वर्ष से अधिक हो गए हैं और अभी हमने संसद का साठवां वर्ष भी मनाया है। देखकर आश्चर्य होता है कि देश के हालात आज ठीक नहीं हैं। देश की 78 प्रतिशत आबादी आज मात्र 20 रुपए पर निर्भर करती है। इस बात को समझा जाए कि 20 रुपए पर जो निर्भर करने वाला व्यक्ति होगा, वह अपना जीवनयापन किस तरह से गुजर कर रहा होगा? माननीय मंत्री जी इसको जरूर समझ रहे होंगे और इस तरफ ध्यान देने का काम करेंगे कि किस तरह से ऐसे लोगों को ऊपर उठाने का काम किया जाए। यह 78 परसेंट आबादी एक बहुत बड़ी आबादी होती है। आप देखें, इस देश में गरीबी बहुत ज्यादा है। मैं यहां आंकड़ा प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे देश में जो गरीबी की हालत है, सबसे अधिक बिहार जैसे प्रदेश में है, जहां बहुत पहले से ही पिछड़ापन है, गरीबी है। जब प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना में राशि का आवंटन हुआ, उस समय से ही बिहार को नेगलेक्ट किया गया और आज तक वह नेगलेक्टेड है। मैं आपको बताऊं कि 53.3 परसेंट बिहार में, उसके बाद छत्तीसगढ़ में 48.7 परसेंट, मणिपुर में 47.1 परसेंट, झारखंड में 39.1 परसेंट, असम में 37.9 परसेंट और उत्तर प्रदेश में 37.7 परसेंट लोग गरीबी रेखा से नीचे गुजर-बसर करने वालों की संख्या में आते हैं। खासकर के जो गरीब खेतिहर मजदूर हैं, उनकी हालत तो बहुत खराब है। यह 50 परसेंट गरीब खेतिहर मजदूर हैं, जो खेत में काम करते हैं। अपने खून-पसीने से अन्न पैदा करने का काम करते हैं और उसे देश में हम सब लोगों को खिलाने का काम करते हैं, वे गरीबी रेखा से नीचे गुजर-बसर करने वालों की संख्या में आते हैं। वैसे श्रमिक वर्ग ही, मैं समझता हूँ कि गरीब तबके के लोग हैं, जैसा मैंने कहा खेतिहर मजदूर 50 परसेंट, 40 परसेंट वह श्रमिक हैं, जो शहरी इलाकों में बसते हैं और 47.1 परसेंट अस्थाई श्रमिक गरीब हैं। खास तौर पर जो सम्पन्न हरियाणा और पंजाब है, वहां के खेतिहर मजदूरों की स्थिति भी ठीक नहीं है। हरियाणा में 55.9 परसेंट और पंजाब में 35.6 परसेंट खेतिहर मजदूर गरीब हैं।

ये हालात हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस देश में गरीबी रेखा के नीचे गुजर-बसर करने वालों की संख्या लगातार बढ़ रही है। गरीबी रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले लोगों को यदि मौत आ जाए तो ज्यादा अच्छा है, क्योंकि वे दो वक्त की रोटी नहीं कमा पा रहे हैं, अपने बच्चों को पढ़ा-लिखा नहीं पा रहे हैं, उनके पास रहने के लिए घर नहीं हैं, वे खुले आकाश के नीचे रह रहे हैं। यह अजब विडंबना है। माननीय मंत्री जी, मैं आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि आप इनकी तरफ निगाह रखने का काम करें। महंगाई लगातार बढ़ रही है और इसने सुरसा की तरह मुंह बना लिया है। लगातार महंगाई बढ़ रही है। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने और स्वयं वित्त मंत्री जी ने बार-बार कहा है कि हम इसको नियंत्रित करने का काम करेंगे, लेकिन नियंत्रण नहीं हो पा रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें जो वृद्धि हो रही है, आप इस पर कुछ कंट्रोल करने का काम कीजिए, इसके लिए कुछ उपाय कीजिए। आप कोशिश कर रहे हैं, लेकिन आपकी कोशिश सफल नहीं हो रही है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों के दाम लगातार बढ़ रहे हैं। हमें जानकारी मिली है कि अब आप डीज़ल और केरोसिन ऑयल के दामों को ओपन मार्केट पर छोड़ने के बारे में सोच रहे हैं। यदि ऐसा हो गया तो इन पर आपका नियंत्रण नहीं रहेगा। यह चिंता का विषय है। यदि पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की कीमतें बढ़ जाती हैं, तो वे हर चीज पर प्रेशर डालने का काम करती हैं और हर वर्ग, हर तबका इससे प्रभावित होता है। सबसे बड़ी चीज यह है कि हमारे यहां बेरोजगारी की समस्या बढ़ रही है। अभी गवर्नमेंट का एक आंकड़ा आया है, मेरे प्रश्न के जवाब में माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया था कि 21 दिसम्बर, 2009 के आंकड़ों के हिसाब से 15 से 35 वर्ष की आयु के 3.53 करोड़ लोग रोजगार कर्णालयों में रजिस्टर्ड हैं। इसके अलावा जो बिना पढ़े-लिखे लोग हैं, जो अनरजिस्टर्ड हैं, उनकी संख्या इससे भी अधिक है। आज देश के सामने यह समस्या है।

[श्री राम कृपाल यादव]

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, एक समस्या यह भी है कि जो हमारे छोटे-छोटे घरेलू उद्योग थे, उन पर कुठाराघात हो रहा है। जब से नयी इकनॉमिक पॉलिसी आई है, उसके कारण बाहर की जो सामग्री है, वह हमारे देश में आ रही है और इससे छोटे उद्योगों पर काफी असर हो रहा है और हमारे उद्योग-धंधे चौपट हो रहे हैं। अब चीन से इतना ज्यादा माल आ रहा है - छोटे-छोटे खिलौने, घरेलू उपयोग की छोटी-छोटी चीजें, खाने का सामान, इसका हमारे व्यापार पर असर पड़ रहा है और इसके कारण बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है। हमारी economy भी इससे प्रभावित हो रही है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : अब आप समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : क्या मैं बैठ जाऊं?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : अच्छा, आप एक मिनट में समाप्त कीजिए।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : नहीं सर, मैं तीन मिनट और लूंगा। सर, यह सदन की राय है और आपकी राय भी इसमें शामिल है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैंने निवेदन किया है कि एक तरफ तो गरीब, फटेहाल मजदूरों के लिए आप subsidy हटाने की बात कर रहे हैं और वहीं एक ऐसी पॉलिसी के तहत इस देश के जो बड़े घराने हैं, कॉरपोरेट हाउसेज़ हैं, बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति हैं, उनको एक्साइज़ में छूट दे रहे हैं, उनको सीमा शुल्क में छूट दे रहे हैं, जिसकी वजह से एक साल में आपने लगभग 88.26 करोड़ रुपए की छूट दी है। पिछले छः वर्षों में 21 लाख करोड़ रुपए की छूट आपने दी है। यह छूट न देकर, अगर आप इस पैसे को गरीबों पर खर्च करते, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि देश में जो गरीब तबके के लोग हैं, उनके साथ बड़ा न्याय हुआ होता। जो कमा रहे हैं, खिला रहे हैं, उन किसानों की हालत क्या है? **...(समय की घंटी)...** सर, मैं एक मिनट और लूंगा। जो खुद भूखे रह कर हम सब लोगों को खिला रहे हैं, आप उनके लिए कुछ ठोस उपाय कीजिए। आप किसानों के लिए अलग बजट बनाइए, क्यों नहीं बनाते हैं? किसान आयोग ने आपको अनुशंसा करने का काम किया। अगर किसान खुशहाल रहेगा, तो देश खुशहाल रहेगा।

अंत में मैं बिहार की बात करना चाहता हूँ। जैसा कि हमारे माननीय साथियों ने कहा, हमारा बिहार बहुत पिछड़ा प्रदेश है। वहां गरीबी, फटेहाली, बेरोजगारी सब कुछ है। आप पर्याप्त पैसा भी दे रहे हैं, मगर मैं समझता हूँ कि जब तक बिहार में आप दिए गए पैसे पर नियंत्रण नहीं रखेंगे **...(समय की घंटी)...** बिहार में भारी पैमाने पर लूट हो रही है। बिहार भ्रष्टाचार के आकंठ में डूबा हुआ है। मनरेगा का पैसा, शिक्षा का पैसा, रोड का पैसा, इनकी बड़े पैमाने पर लूट वहां की जा रही है, इसलिए मैं यह कहता हूँ कि आप पैसा ज़रूर दीजिए, लेकिन उस पर नियंत्रण रखिए। निश्चित तौर पर आज बिहार फटेहाली और गरीबी के हालात से गुज़र रहा है। हम वहां की सरकार को ज़रूर कहेंगे कि हम विकसित होकर पूरे देश में आगे बढ़ेंगे, मगर बिहार की जो जायज़ मांग है, उसकी तरफ आप ज़रूर ध्यान दीजिए। अगर बिहार पिछड़ा रहेगा, तो देश आगे नहीं बढ़ेगा। वहां बेरोजगारी है, गरीबी है। बाढ़ और सुखाड़ की वजह से लोग परेशान हैं, तो निश्चित तौर पर **...(व्यवधान)...**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो. पी.जे. कुरियन) : आप बोर्ड पर नहीं देखते हैं, यही प्रॉब्लम है।

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ। I am going to conclude. इसलिए माननीय मंत्री जी, मैंने निवेदन किया कि आप उदार दिल से बिहार को अतिरिक्त सहायता देकर उसे मुख्य धारा में लाएं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (Punjab) : Sir, I would like to compliment the hon. Finance Minister for showing flexibility with regard to certain provisions of the Budget proposals. GAAR have been widely criticised by the investing community, both in India and abroad, and it was sending wrong signals in a difficult year when we require more FDI. Sir, I am glad that he has decided to postpone it for the time being. At the same time, I appreciate the hon. Finance Minister's very clear signal to the world investing community that they should not consider India as a tax haven. All companies and individuals that do business in India must pay taxes either in India or in their own country. Also, Sir, irrespective of the size of the company, nobody can twist India's arm. That is another message which the hon. Finance Minister has sent very loud and clear. The Finance Minister would also listen to the voice of reason as far as the small jewellery business is concerned. A large section of our small traders and artisans would now benefit from it. Sir, I understand the adverse economic situation that the country is passing through and the hon. Minister's difficult position to balance the Budget and, at the same time, keep the fiscal deficit under control. However, Sir, the rural sector on which 70 per cent of India depends urgently requires some succour. I have a suggestion for the hon. Finance Minister. Even though it may be morally incorrect for me to suggest it and I would probably be criticised by the media for saying so, I would still venture to do so. It requires some out-of-the-box thinking in these difficult times for our economy. The figures of black money, both in the country and stashed abroad, which have been coming in the public domain, are truly mind-boggling. Since the hon. Finance Minister has made a lot of efforts to unearth black money, it has certainly created a lot of scare amongst a lot of people who are willing to come clean and declare their illegal hoardings both in India and abroad. Sir, I would suggest that the hon. Finance Minister should announce an amnesty scheme on the lines of 1997 Scheme which mopped up more than Rs.20,000 crore. I am sure, today, he would come up with such a scheme that the country will get over a lakh crore of rupees for sure. I would only add one rider to it. The entire amount that he collects should be earmarked for rural development and especially for two schemes: clean drinking water and sanitation. It is a matter of shame that after 65 years of Independence, a large section of our rural population has no access to safe drinking water. Similarly, a large section of our rural women have no access to toilets. We must protect their honour and dignity. Sir, I know it is not right to suggest that one should encourage tax evasion. But if you can collect over a lakh crore of rupees this way, you must do so and inject it into the rural economy in one go. This would certainly give a fillip to our economy. Sir, also it is high time that the Government got rid of all the loss-making PSUs, especially the ones like the Air India and the Hotel Corporation which have been bleeding the Government for a long time. The Government has no business to be in service industry. It is best left to the private sector. Air India is expected to lose Rs.10,000 crore this year and the MTNL is fast catching up.

6.00 P.M.

[SHRI NARESH GUJRAL]

Besides, there are so many other PSUs which are bleeding the economy very heavily. Kindly privatise them as soon as possible and use this money for productive purposes. ...*(Interruptions)*... चलिए, अब उनको अपनी जरूरत नहीं है, इसलिए शायद कर लें।

Finally, Sir, there is a lot of speculation that you are about to declare a fiscal package for your home State, as was recommended by the Finance Commission. I welcome it. You must do so. But, kindly do not forget Punjab and Kerala in the bargain.

Now, I am concluding. Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has been a Member of this House or the other House now for almost 43 years and is likely to move to a bigger house very soon. I only hope that the best wishes of the entire House are with him. I do hope that before he demits office, he will take care of his State and my State. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. He is not here. So, the discussion is over. The hon. Finance Minister will reply tomorrow. Now, we will take up Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS – *Contd.*

***Demand to resolve the problem of proliferation of slums along the Mumbai coast posing security threats to the city**

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY (Nominated) : I have been requesting the Bombay Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra State Government regarding proliferation of new slums on the Haji Ali sea coast of Mumbai City. In response, the BMC has reported that whenever these slums are removed, they are immediately rebuilt and cannot be prevented from doing so because of lack of help from Mumbai Police. This is a serious matter related to coastal security, as was experienced on 26th November, 2008, during the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. In addition, these slums promoted by local slumlords are in gross violation of the coastal zone regulations. Due to absence of any response from the State Government, the BMC and Mumbai Police Commissioner, I am forced to bring this major security risk to the attention of the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests. I have also made two successive requests to raise this extremely important issue during the Zero Hour and have not been permitted to do so. I now request protection to raise and record this issue concerning National Security in the Rajya Sabha and request that immediate measures are taken to clean and protect the coastal areas off Mumbai coast from slums.

* Laid on the Table.

Concern over the rivers in Goa getting polluted due to mining activities in Maharashtra

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa) : Sir, environmental experts in Goa have expressed fears that increasing mining activities in Maharashtra, a State bordering Goa, specially in its areas of Dodamarg and Sawantwadi areas, is causing pollution of waters of two rivers in Goa. Therefore, I would like to urge upon appropriate authorities in Maharashtra to take steps under the Environment Protection Act, Water Pollution Act and laws dealing with mining activities to curb the menace.

Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra, according to these experts, has the highest forest cover of 49 per cent in Maharashtra, but it has 49 mining leases, out of which, 32 mining permits have been given in the Sawantwadi and Dodamarg zone, which has the highest forest cover within Sindhudurg.

Out of eleven rivers, two important rivers of Goa, Tiracol and Colvale, originate in Maharashtra. Tiracol originates in Manohargad area of Sawantwadi whereas Golvale originates in Tudiye of Changad in Kolhapur district.

Experts also contend that Tiracol and Colvale rivers are the lifeline of Pernem, Bicholim and Bardez talukas, which are getting polluted and permanent damage is caused to wildlife habitat.

Presently, mining activities have already begun in Kalane, Sateli-Satarda, Redi areas of Maharashtra. Mining in Sateli has polluted the River Tiracol whereas Kalane's mine has posed a serious threat to the River Kalane, the main feeder of the River Colvale. Rivers in Goa are also getting polluted on account of mining in Goa itself. These issues require joint attention of both the Governments.

***Demand to take measures to contain unsustainable levels of Current Account Deficit of the country**

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar) : India's Current Account Deficit crossed four per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the previous quarter when three per cent is considered to be the proverbial 'Lakshman Rekha'. The RBI has warned that this inflated level of Current Account Deficit (CAD) is unsustainable and may widen further given the global economic sentiment and lack of meaningful Government action. During April to December 2011, the CAD widened to US \$ 53.7 billion from US \$ 39.6 billion in April to December 2010, largely reflecting a higher trade deficit. Even though net FDI inflows were higher in the April-December quarter than in the comparable period of the previous year, portfolio flows were lower resulting in a decline in overall capital inflows. Consequently, there was a drawdown of reserves to the extent of US \$7.1 billion during the aforementioned period. This is interpreted as a sign of structural

* Laid on the Table.

[SHRI N.K. SINGH]

weakness in the economy. Higher CAD has been on the back of a widening trade deficit. Indeed, India's merchandise trade deficit came in at a record high of US \$160.4 billion in financial year 2011-12, equivalent to 8.6 per cent of nominal GDP. Crucially, despite major rupee weakness, no impact is being witnessed on exports. Export growth has collapsed from 36.4 per cent year-on-year in September to -5.7 per cent in March 2012. On the flip side, import penetration has remained robust, expanding by a four-month high of 24.3 per cent year-on-year in March. Additionally, the downside risks—ranging from deep Eurozone recession to weaker capital inflows as a result of harsher taxes on foreign investors—are significant. These times are eerily similar to the worst the country faced in more than two decades economically. I, therefore, urge the Government to immediately address this problem by increasing exports and avoid implementing policies that are likely to hurt investor sentiment and reduce capital inflows into the country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, not here. Now, Shri Nandi Yellaiah.

Demand to expedite the process of setting up a Thermal Power Plant of NTPC at Shankarpalli in Andhra Pradesh

श्री नंदी येल्लैया (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : महोदय, वर्ष 1999 में नेशनल थर्मल पावर कारपोरेशन (एनटीपीसी) ने आन्ध्र प्रदेश के मेदक जिले में शंकरपल्ली गांव में 650 मेगावाट का एक पावर प्लांट लगाने की पेशकश की थी, जिससे हैदराबाद सिटी को बिजली की मांग पूरी की जा सके। मगर तमाम क्लियरेंस मिल चुकने के बाद भी कई कारणों से इस प्रोजेक्ट पर अब तक काम शुरू नहीं हो पाया।

अब ग्रेटर हैदराबाद की लगातार बढ़ती जा रही बिजली की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए इस प्रोजेक्ट को तैयार करना बेहद जरूरी हो गया है। इसके लिए कृष्णा नदी से बहुत पानी मिल सकता है। इसके अलावा गुजरात-मुम्बई से गुजरने वाली कृष्णा-गोदावरी गैस पाइप लाइन भी शंकरपल्ली से गुजरती है, जो इस प्रोजेक्ट से सिर्फ एक किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। ये सब हालात इस प्रोजेक्ट को लगाने के लिए बहुत अच्छे हैं।

इसलिए आपकी मार्फत मेरा केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह एनटीपीसी के इस पावर प्लांट को लगाने का काम शीघ्र शुरू करे क्योंकि अन्य मेट्रो सिटीज के पास अपनी बिजली की जरूरत पूरी करने के लिए अपने पावर प्लांट हैं। धन्यवाद।

श्री आनंद भास्कर रापोलू (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य के वक्तव्य से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Shrimati Renubala Pradhan. She is not there. Shri Prabhat Jha. He is not there.

The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at six minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 16th May, 2012.

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No. 30



Tuesday
15 May, 2012
25 Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

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[P.T.O.]

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