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Friday
8 August, 2014
17 Sravana, 1936 (Saka)

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

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RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 8th August, 2014/17th Sravana, 1936 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

Homage to the martyrs of Quit India Movement

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : सर, कल लोक सभा में ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह (ओडिशा) : सर, ओडिशा में जो ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, please. There is a reference. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. There is a reference. ...*(Interruptions)*... ये लोग यह क्या कर रहे हैं? ...(व्यवधान)... one minute, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, tomorrow, the 9th of August, 2014, will mark the 72nd Anniversary of the historic day, when the Quit India Movement was launched in the year 1942 by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Men, women and even children responded to the clarion call of Gandhiji and came out in large numbers to participate in the Movement with total dedication. This upsurge of nationalistic sentiments culminated in our attaining independence five years later. On this occasion, we pay our solemn tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives and to those who underwent immense suffering for the cause of our freedom. I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

MATTERS RAISED ABOUT DIGNIFIED DRESS AND MASSIVE FLOOD IN ODISHA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 441 ...*(Interruptions)*... One at a time, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री भूपिंदर सिंह : सर, ओडिशा में ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सर, कल लोक सभा में ...(व्यवधान)... यह बहुत जरूरी है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you all shout, nobody will be heard. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, one at a time. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप क्या कहना चाहती हैं, यह बताइए?

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सर, कल लोक सभा में एक एम.पी. ने हमारे ऊपर प्रहार किया है कि dignified dress पहनें। What does he mean by 'dignified dress'? क्या हम इस तरह से आती हैं? उसका दिमाग, उसका मेंटल सेटअप देखिए। जो लोग ऐसे विचार अपने दिमाग में रखते हैं, उनको यहां से निकालना चाहिए। हम इसके लिए प्रोटेस्ट कर रहे हैं।

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI (Punjab): Sir, the House must condemn it.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर, इसकी भर्त्सना होनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसकी निन्दा होनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. ...**(Interruptions)**... What do you wish to say, Mr. Parida? Let us hear you. ...**(Interruptions)**... What do you want to say? ...**(Interruptions)**... What are you doing? You cannot speak from there. ...**(Interruptions)**... I am sorry. You cannot speak from there. Go back to your place. ...**(Interruptions)**... You cannot shout from there. Please, go back to your place. ...**(Interruptions)**... I will allow one person to speak. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO (Odisha): Sir, we would like to know what action has been taken by the Central Government. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: One person, please. All others please sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... I cannot hear you if your colleagues are standing. ...**(Interruptions)**... Please sit down. Mr. Parida, what do you wish to say?

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Odisha): Sir, there is a massive flood in Odisha. Half of the State is submerged. Hundreds of villages are washed away. 35 people are already dead. ...**(Interruptions)**....

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : सर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधु (मध्य प्रदेश) : सर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार) : सर ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सभापति महोदय, महिला मेम्बर्स कुछ बोलना चाहती हैं।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : उन्होंने कहा ...**(व्यवधान)**... वे बोल चुकी हैं, कृपया आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, I want a reply from the Government side. What steps they have taken for the State? ...**(Interruptions)**... Sir, I ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव (तेलंगाना) : सर, महिलाएं कुछ बोलना चाहती हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : वे बोल चुकी हैं, कृपया आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... I am sorry. You can't do like this. I think, one of the hon. Members has already spoken about this matter in the discussion yesterday. It is on record.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Sir, if the hon. Member has given a notice and if the Chair has considered it, then, there is no problem. The question is, now we are in Question Hour. We will decide whether we are suspending Question Hour. Are we suspending the Question Hour?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not, definitely not.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Let us have the Question Hour and then afterwards we can take it up. We will take it up later ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधू : सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What am I to do? ...*(Interruptions)*... You all can't be shouting at the same time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव : सर, महिलाएं कुछ बोलना चाहती हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : वे बोल चुकी हैं, कृपया आप बैठ जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Ambikaji,...

श्रीमती अम्बिका सोनी : सर, ये घटनाएं बढ़ती जा रही हैं, ...*(व्यवधान)*... जब राजनीतिक दल के नेता या सांसद महिलाओं के प्रति इस तरह की अपमानजनक सोच रखते हों और टिप्पणियां करते हों ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसका असर सब जगह होगा ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री विजय गोयल (राजस्थान) : सर, यह मामला लोक सभा में समाप्त हो चुका है ...*(व्यवधान)*... ये जान-बूझकर ...*(व्यवधान)*... लोक सभा में यह मामला समाप्त हो चुका है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned for 15 minutes.

The House then adjourned at seven minutes past eleven of the clock.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Number 441...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Number 441, please ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Odisha is facing with severe floods ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It cannot be taken up at this time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 441 ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Sir, Odisha is facing with floods and hundreds of people died ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Sir, kindly permit us to raise this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Number 441.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Allowing use of BSNL Infrastructure by private players

*441. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), which was flagship vehicle of communication in the country, has been overtaken by private companies competing in the field;
- (b) whether it happened due to a conscious policy of Government;
- (c) whether Government, instead of modernising technology and equipments of BSNL, is allowing its infrastructure to be used by private players; and
- (d) whether Government considers it important to have an efficient official communication system for it and people to have a secure channel to exchange and store information and knowledge?

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

Statement

- (a) BSNL has informed that its overall market share was 15.66% as on 31.03.2010 which has declined to 11.70% as on 31.05.2014.

(b) The decline in market share of BSNL can be attributed to various reasons, namely:-

- Inadequate investment in infrastructure expansion in recent years leading to delay in expansion of mobile network.
- Legacy issues of excessive manpower having inadequate skill set for customer centric services in sales and marketing, distribution channels and customer service management.
- High employee cost as compared to industry standards.
- Decline in traditional wireline business due to fixed to mobile substitution.
- Payment of market rates for both 3G and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum in all License Service Areas (LSA) in its jurisdiction of ₹18,500.38 crores in 2010.
- Poor perception of quality of service provided by BSNL.

(c) BSNL has taken several steps for modernisation of its network, namely:-

- Migration from Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to Next Generation Network (NGN) to provide Enhanced Value Added Services (VAS) like Personalized Ring Back Tone, Broadband Value Added services, Multi Media Video Conferencing, Wide Area Centrex, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services and fixed- mobile services convergence etc.
- BSNL is expanding its mobile network across the country through installation of 15 Million lines at a cost of ₹ 4804 crores under Phase-VII expansion plan.
- Augmentation of network elements/expansion of Broadband network has been planned by BSNL keeping in view the traffic growth.

BSNL has informed that it has signed Master Sharing Agreements (MSAs) on Pan-India basis with private operators with the objective of generating additional revenue through unlocking its business potential. The total number of mobile towers being shared with private service providers is 2973 as on 31-03-2014 and the total revenue earned in financial year 2013-14 was ₹ 98.88 crores.

(d) Government is committed to the revival of BSNL, so that it can play an effective role in providing affordable public communication services.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Sir, Question Number 441. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let it be answered ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Sir, it is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... Kindly permit us to raise it after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanan, please ask your supplementaries ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Sir, my entire State is suffering. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government has to come forward to enhance and revise the relief rate ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... This is the Question Hour. Please do not disrupt ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Sir, now, the Government is giving ₹ 8,000 per hectare for loss of paddy ...*(Interruptions)*... I want the Government to enhance this ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I am afraid ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Narayanan, you ask your supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Sir, my first supplementary is this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yesterday, you have already spoken on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot claim a right to speak again and again ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... Allow your colleague to ask his questions ...*(Interruptions)*... You are infringing on his right ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Sir, the farmers are also not getting proper insurance ...*(Interruptions)*...

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु) : क्वेश्चन ऑवर के बाद आप चेयरमैन से मिलिए, हम इसका कुछ समाधान निकालने की कोशिश करेंगे।

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Okay; thank you, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This kind of agitational approach cannot work. Please, ask your supplementary, Mr. Narayanan.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Sir, I have read the reply given by the hon. Minister. I have some doubts.

My first doubt is this. The BSNL was formed in 2000. By 2002, it was given permission to start mobile connections. By 2006, it became the second largest mobile company in the country in terms of providing the number of mobile connections. But, after that, we find a decline. This decline is due to 3-4 reasons and I want clarification on these.

Sir, ₹ 40,000 crores balance was there when the BSNL was formed. But, BSNL cancelled tenders three times to purchase mobile equipment. Due to this reason, by 2008-09, it could not give mobile connections even for 2-3 lakh customers while other companies were giving 20-30 lakh connections in a month.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: So, I want the hon. Minister to explain why this decline has happened when BSNL had surplus funds.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, hon. Member is right. The BSNL was in a very good health. But, certain decisions were taken in the past which created a problem. One of the decisions on infrastructure procurement for equipment, etc., was delayed due to reasons into which I do not wish to go. At the expense of BSNL, the private players did very well.

The second issue was that more than ₹ 6,000 crores of broadband wireless access spectrum was given to BSNL which was not viable. So, ultimately, they had to pay, because the auction price was determined. So, they had to withdraw from that. That became a very heavy burden, both in terms of non-availability of infrastructure and almost giving more than ₹ 6,000 crores on BWA spectrum. But, yes, this Government is committed to improve the health of the BSNL by giving logistic support, by giving monetary support and also I wish to ensure that a large framework of growth for the hilly areas, for North-East region and Left-wing areas has been met. And, I am sure, the Government is committed to improving the health of the BSNL.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Sir, my second supplementary is this.

Sir, the hon. Minister in reply said that it is overstaffed. During the last ten years 1,30,000 people retired and, in their place, only 30,000 were appointed. So, there are over 1 lakh vacancies. Sir, there is a Report of Deloitte which recommended that out of 1,70,000 middle cadre employees, 85,000 should be laid out. Now, if you are doing such things, it is not good. One reason given for that is they are not equipped for new things. Usually, we train them. If we follow this company's recommendation, I think, BSNL will crumble down like anything. And, it will be like killing a golden goose for the private players.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I wish to assure the hon. Member and this hon. House that BSNL will not be allowed to die. We will ensure that it improves its health. I am personally monitoring it. And, I am happy to inform this House that in my own chamber in Sanchar Bhawan I have instituted NOC feed where I particularly notice the working of all the BTS transmission towers all over the country of the BSNL and the MTNL.

But, as far as manpower planning is concerned, it is very important that there is no question of removing anyone. They need to be trained. But, consistent with the needs of the competition, some kind of manpower planning has to be done. I think, all the hon. Members need to help and understand the situation which we are trying to follow.

श्री चुनीभाई कांजीभाई गोहेल : सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड का बहुत बड़ा विस्तार है। यह ऐसा नेटवर्क है जो हिन्दुस्तान में नम्बर एक पर है, फिर भी हमें इसके मोबाइल नेटवर्क से कोई संतुष्टि प्राप्त नहीं होती है। इस प्रश्न के लिखित जवाब में यह बताया गया है कि इसके 3,177 टॉवर्स हैं, लेकिन जब हम दिल्ली से अहमदाबाद जाते हैं तो रास्ते में हमें इसका नेटवर्क नहीं मिलता है, जबकि दूसरी कम्पनियों का नेटवर्क मिल जाता है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी इस क्षतिपूर्ति के लिए आप क्या करेंगे?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैंने पहले ही यह स्वीकार किया है कि बी.एस.एन.एल. के स्वास्थ्य के बारे में बातें कही जा सकती हैं और यह स्थिति पिछले पांच, छह, सात वर्षों में बहुत उत्साहवर्धक नहीं रही है, लेकिन जब मैंने कहा कि हमारी सरकार की यह प्रतिबद्धता है कि हम बी.एस.एन.एल. को सुधारेंगे तो प्रामाणिक है। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि हम बड़ी संख्या में लगभग 27,465 बी.टी.एस. को इम्पूव करने जा रहे हैं। जो पूरे पब्लिक स्विचड टेलिफोन नेटवर्क हैं, उनको हम नेक्स्ट जनरेशन नेटवर्क में प्रोवाइड कर रहे हैं, बाकी हम चाहते हैं कि वह अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धा में आए, कॉम्पिटीटिव बने और उसमें पूंजी का निवेश हो। मैंने पदाधिकारियों से स्वयं बात की है और मैं मानता हूँ कि बी.एस.एन.एल., जो कि टेलिफोन और मोबाइल के क्षेत्र में भारत का एक ऐसा बड़ा उपक्रम है जो देश में काम करता है, उसकी सेवा में सुधार हो।

आपने विशेष रूप से अहमदाबाद के रास्ते में इसके नेटवर्क का जिक्र किया है, मैं इस बारे में पदाधिकारियों को निर्देश दूंगा कि जो भी उचित कार्रवाई करने की आवश्यकता है, वह की जाए।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, hon. Minister has mentioned, among other things, adequate investment in infrastructure expansion. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the special measures to improve infrastructure that the Government is taking, because infrastructure is the basic thing, especially in the North-East and hilly regions. The Standing Committee visited there and made several recommendations to improve the infrastructure. So, I would like to draw the attention of the House to this

and request the Minister to state as to what is the initiative they have taken in this regard. How far would it take them, and what is the timeframe within which they would get the infrastructure improved and make this competitive with the private sector?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, support is being extended at two levels. One is the Governmental support. And as I told you, Sir, the Cabinet has decided to waive off return of ₹ 6,724.51 crores to BSNL which they have to dole out while paying the auction charge of BSNL spectrum. The waiver of loan to BSNL involves ₹1,411 crores. But the other steps are being taken by the BSNL. As I said earlier, the entire technology in the whole exchange system, namely, this PSTN Technology to NGN Technology, the modern technology, is being done. As I said, 24,765 base transmissions are sought to be set up in Phase-VII Plan. As far as the North East is concerned, as the hon. Member very rightly pointed out, a proposal for investing ₹5,363 crores for the development of infrastructure in North East of BSNL is already approved. It will go to the Cabinet. Improving the North East first; thereafter, the hilly areas, the border areas, the Left-Wing areas are the priority areas, apart from the entire system in the country.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : माननीय मंत्री जी, पहले आपको बधाई कि कम से कम आपने गलतियां स्वीकारीं, कमियां स्वीकारीं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि मुझे पार्लियामेंट से as an MP टेलीफोन मिला, उस नम्बर को मैंने एयरटेल में इस कारण कन्वर्ट कराया, श्रीमन्, जो नम्बर हम लोगों को मिले हैं, वे काम नहीं करते हैं खराब क्षमता के कारण। सत्यता यह है कि आपके कर्मचारी प्राइवेट सैक्टर के लोगों से मिलकर बी.एस.एन.एल. को डेमेज कर रहे हैं, टॉवर बंद कर देते हैं, सिग्नल बंद कर देते हैं, रात में क्षमता घटा देते हैं। तो मैं आपसे सिर्फ इतना पूछना चाहता हूँ, चूंकि मैंने as an MP टेलीफोन लौटाया है, मेरे पास अब एम.पी. वाला कोई फोन नहीं है, मैंने उसको हटाकर एयरटेल का वही नम्बर कर लिया है। प्रोफेसर साहब भी उस दिन आपसे शिकायत कर रहे थे।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : क्वेश्चन प्लीज।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक जांच में कितने कर्मचारी आपने दोषी पाए, जो बी.एस.एन.एल. का नुकसान कर रहे हैं निजी कम्पनियों से मिलकर और कितनों के खिलाफ आपने कार्यवाही की?

एक सम्मानित सदस्य : डीजल भी बेचते हैं।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : हां, डीजल वगैरह सब बेच लेते हैं।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : माननीय सभापति महोदय, जो माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल पूछा है, मैं बहुत ही ईमानदारी से स्वीकार करूंगा कि वे ही नहीं, कई सांसदों ने मुझे शिकायत की है कि एम.टी.एन.एल. की सुविधा को सुधारने की जरूरत है। मैं दो बार इस बारे में एम.टी.एन.एल. के लोगों से बैठक ले चुका हूँ। उन्होंने इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर की कमी की बात बताई है इस इलाके में और

बाकी में टॉवर की कमी है। मैं उसको मॉनिटर कर रहा हूँ। मेरे ख्याल में नरेश जी आप वरिष्ठ सांसद हैं, इतना स्वीपिंग आरोप लगाना कि प्राइवेट सैक्टर से मिलकर लोग काम करते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : बिल्कुल सही आरोप हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : नरेश जी, no disturbance, please. ...**(Interruptions)**... Let the Minister finish the reply. ...**(Interruptions)**... आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मैं ऑन ओथ कह सकता हूँ। मैं आपको नाम बता सकता हूँ कि कौन-कौन उनसे मिले हुए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the ...**(Interruptions)**... There is no practice of taking oath in the House. ...**(Interruptions)**... नहीं-नहीं, आप खत्म करिए।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : मैं नरेश जी का बड़ा सम्मान करता हूँ, मैं उनकी बात का जवाब दे रहा हूँ। लेकिन अगर इस बारे में कोई स्पेसिफिक आरोप मुझे बताएंगे तो मैं आपको आश्वस्त करता हूँ कि मैं कार्यवाही करूंगा। जहां तक ऐसे पदाधिकारी हैं, कर्मचारी हैं उनके बारे में समय-समय पर कार्यवाही होती रहती है। मैं स्वयं उसको मॉनिटर कर रहा हूँ। मेरे ख्याल में हमारे पदाधिकारी सदन की इस भावना को समझ रहे हैं और प्रामाणिकता से काम करने की जरूरत है। यह आपने सही कहा कि कल माननीय राम गोपाल जी ने मुझे बताया था, कई एम.पी.जे. के फोन मेरे पास आए थे। मैंने पदाधिकारियों को उनके पास भेजा था, मैं नाम बताने की जरूरत नहीं समझता। लेकिन आपने चूंकि कहा था, मैंने पदाधिकारियों से कहा है कि वे आपसे सम्पर्क करें। ऐसी स्थिति क्यों हुई है, मैं अध्ययन कर रहा हूँ और यह जो पूरा Lutyens दिल्ली है, जहां बी.एस.एन.एल. नहीं है, एम.टी.एन.एल. है वहां की व्यवस्था सुधरे, इसकी हम पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

Sale of camel milk

*442. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether there is a ban on sale of camel milk in the country;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- whether there is a demand to review this ban in view of its nutrition value?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- No, Sir.
- and (c) Do not arise.

श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर : थैंक्यू सर।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any supplementary on this? ...*(Interruptions)*... Do you have any supplementary on this question? सप्लीमेंट्री है इस पर?

श्री अशक अली टाक : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो ऊंटनी का दूध है, इसके बारे में प्रामाणिकता से यह पाया गया है कि डाइबिटीज़ के पेशेंट को अगर ऊंटनी का दूध दिया जाता है तो उससे लाभ होता है। क्या यह तथ्य सही है और अगर है तो उस पर राज्य सरकार क्या विचार कर रही है?

श्री सभापति : भाई, सवाल क्या था?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : सर, सवाल यह है कि ऊंटनी के दूध पर प्रतिबंध है क्या?

श्री सभापति : बस। That is it. अगर बैन है ही नहीं, तो फिर क्या प्रॉब्लम है।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने बताया कि प्रतिबंध नहीं है, लेकिन हमारे माननीय सांसद ने कहा कि यह डाइबिटीज़ में फायदा करता है। अब अगर इस देश में दूध की कमी है और यह भ्रम फैलाया जाता है कि ऊंटनी का दूध पीने से गड़बड़ी हो जाती है? मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में जांच कराई गई है?

श्री सभापति : इसे आप हेल्थ मिनिस्टर साहब को सजैस्ट कीजिए।

डा. अनिल कुमार साहनी : महोदय, आम जनता द्वारा इस दूध को पीने से कोई नुकसान नहीं होता है, क्या इस बारे में जांच कराई गई है?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you; thank you very much.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : सर, ऊंटनी के दूध में काफी औषधीय गुण हैं और न सिर्फ हैपेटाइटिस बल्कि डायबिटीज़ के रोग पर भी इसका काफी अच्छा प्रभाव होता है। इस दृष्टि से आई.सी.आर. ऊंट पालकों को ट्रेनिंग दे रहा है कि इसका उत्पादन बढ़े और इसके जितने प्रजनन क्षेत्र हैं, वहां कैंप भी लगाए जा रहे हैं। सर, राष्ट्रीय ऊंट अनुसंधान केन्द्र, बीकानेर में इसका मिल्क पार्लर, कॉफी हाउस, टी. हाउस ऐसे खोले गए हैं। सरकार इसके लिए बजटीय सहायता भी दे रही है और खासकर जिन क्षेत्रों में जिस नस्ल के ऊंट की संख्या 10 हजार से कम पाई गई है, उसके लिए सरकार ने पैसा दिया है। दसवीं योजना के तहत 55 लाख रुपए जम्मू कश्मीर के इलाके के लिए मंजूर किए गए थे और ग्यारहवीं व बारहवीं योजना में गुजरात में पाए जाने वाले कच्छी ऊंट के संरक्षण के लिए 126 लाख रुपए मंजूर किए गए थे।

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, thank you. Since it has now been brought out that this helps in diabetes – he is saying cancer also – a number of our friends suffer from diabetes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a discussion on health.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Would the provision be made in the Central Hall to serve this milk also so that all our friends take the benefit of it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Give the suggestion to the appropriate quarters. Thank you very much.

Now, Question No. 443. Is the questioner, Shri A.V. Swamy, present or not? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Now, Question No. 443. Is the questioner present? Not present. Are there any supplementaries on Q.No. 443? None.

Now, Question No. 444.

Funds for telecom connectivity in Odisha

*443. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Government of Odisha, for provision of funds for telecom connectivity in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of Odisha, is pending with the Department of Telecommunications; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for immediate decision thereon and communication thereof to the State Government?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Government of Odisha had submitted a proposal for installation of mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of the State.

An integrated proposal covering 2199 locations in LWE affected areas including 253 sites in Odisha, for installation of mobile towers, was approved by the Union Cabinet on 4.6.2013 at an estimated project cost of ₹ 3046.12 crores. The project will be funded from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and executed and maintained by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

The project cost discovered by BSNL through open tender process is ₹ 3567.68 crores. At its meeting held on 13.6.2014, Telecom Commission recommended that the proposal be placed before the Union Cabinet for approval. The proposal is expected to be placed before the Union Cabinet shortly.

Drip irrigation system that saves water and power

*444. SHRI KALPATARU DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Punjab has initiated certain drip irrigation system for agriculture that saves water and power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers in the State are proposed to be granted subsidy in the matter;

(d) whether this project is equally proposed for implementation in other States to boost agriculture and save water and power; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Sir, Central Government has been providing financial assistance since 2005-06 under National Mission on Micro Irrigation to farmers in all States, including Punjab, for installation of micro irrigation systems. From this year, such assistance is being provided under "On Farm Water Management" (OFWM) component of "National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture" (NMSA). Under OFWM, Central assistance is provided to farmers in all States for installation of micro irrigation systems, namely, drip and sprinkler irrigation system, for an area up to 5 ha per farmer, at the rate of 35% for small and marginal farmers and 25% for other farmers.

As per OFWM guidelines, in addition to the Central assistance, 10% assistance is required to be provided by the State Governments to the farmers. However, some States are providing enhanced financial assistance to farmers from their own resources. Government of Punjab has decided to provide additional subsidy of 45%, in addition to the Central assistance and mandatory 10% State share. For area beyond 5 ha, entire subsidy is borne by the Government of Punjab.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questioner not present. Any supplementaries?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, drip irrigation is the only micro irrigation which uses the water fully. But, there is a hurdle in using the drip irrigation now though all the States are now encouraging it. Even some States are giving a 100 per cent subsidy.

But, availability of fertilizers is the problem. There is non-availability of water soluble liquid fertilizers. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has got any idea of importing the water soluble liquid fertilizers and give it to the farmers on subsidised rates. Thank you, Sir.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : महोदय, फर्टीलाइजर का मामला मेरे मंत्रालय से संबंधित नहीं है।

SHRI D. RAJA: This is related to this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : सर, मैं इसे गंभीरता से ले रहा हूँ और इस संबंध में बात करूंगा।

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल : सभापति महोदय, इस देश की 72 प्रतिशत आबादी किसानों की है, उनके लिए ओ.एफ.डब्ल्यू.एम. (On Farm Water Management) के तहत एन.एम.एस.ए. (National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture) के द्वारा सूक्ष्म सिंचाई, ड्रिप और स्प्रिंकलर लगाने के लिए पंजाब सहित सभी राज्यों में 2005-2006 से वित्तीय सहायता दी जा रही है। जमीनी हकीकत यह है कि गत दो-तीन सालों से यह जो सहायता है, या सब्सिडी है, वह किसानों तक नहीं पहुंची है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने उन्हें सीधे सहायता देने लिए कोई कदम उठाए हैं?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : सभापति जी, यह सहायता हम राज्यों को दे रहे हैं और लगातार दे रहे हैं। कई राज्यों ने तो इसमें अपनी सहायता की जो लिमिट है, उसको बढ़ाया भी है। पंजाब में तो इसमें अब लगभग किसानों को 90 प्रतिशत सहायता दी जा रही है।

श्री रामदास अठावले : सभापति महोदय, यह योजना 2005-2006 से शुरू हुई है और पंजाब में तो 90 प्रतिशत तक किसानों की मदद हो गई है, लेकिन सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र में अब तक कितने किसानों को कितनी सहायता, कितने हेक्टेयर्स के लिए दी है? पूरे देश भर में इस योजना में आपने कुल कितना पैसा खर्च किया है? आप तो अभी दो महीने ही इधर आए हैं, लेकिन इन दो महीनों में आपने इस योजना के लिए देश को कितना दे दिया है?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : महोदय, इस प्रश्न का सीधा संबंध पंजाब से है, फिर भी महाराष्ट्र के संदर्भ में मैं इतना बताऊंगा कि महाराष्ट्र की सरकार को हम 35 परसेंट स्माल फार्मर्स के लिए देते हैं और 25 परसेंट जनरल के लिए देते हैं। इसके अलावा महाराष्ट्र सरकार अपनी ओर एस.सी./एस.टी. को 20 परसेंट और जनरल को भी 20 परसेंट राजसहायता, जो 10 प्रतिशत अनिवार्य है, उसके अलावा कर रही है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 445. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर : सर, मैंने कितनी बार हाथ उठाया, मुझे भी पूछना है।

श्री सभापति : आपका तो सवाल ही था। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर : सर, अभी इसमें कितनी सप्लीमेंटरी हुई हैं? इंपोर्टेंट प्वाइंट तो वहीं था, जिसका मुझे पता करना था।

MR. CHAIRMAN : See, I have to rotate. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Cotton production in Vidarbha

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

- (a) whether Government has advised the farmers in Vidarbha region to desist from sowing of Bt. Cotton due to deficient rainfall in this season;
- (b) if so, the expected decline in cotton production as a result of following this advisory;
- (c) what alternatives have been suggested by Government; and
- (d) whether these alternatives would cause a decline in the cotton farmers' income?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) In view of forecast for South West monsoon, the Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur advised that dry seeding of varieties can be taken up during 16 to 20 June, 2014 for non Bt. cotton. For Bt. cotton, sowing should be done only after receipt of about 75-100 mm rainfall. After receipt of about 75-100 mm rainfall, intercropping of mung, urd, bean and short duration soyabean was recommended to avoid risk.

Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has received 411.7 mm rainfall against the normal of 515.7 mm during the period from 1.6.2014 to 3.8.2014. Delay in onset of monsoon initially resulted in slow area coverage under cotton in Vidarbha. However, area coverage subsequently improved with increased rainfall in the region. The area sown under cotton in Vidarbha region was 12.81 lakh hectares as on 28.7.2014 against the area of 12.30 lakh hectare sown up to the corresponding date last year. Sowing of cotton is still continuing. It is expected that production of cotton in Vidarbha region would be close to normal provided rains during remaining kharif season is normal and well distributed.

SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how the farmers are expected to make up these losses. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how the farmers are expected to make up these losses in income. Is the Central Government planning to provide any financial assistance to make good for the decline in farmers' income and ensure that investment in agriculture for the next season is not adversely affected?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : महोदय, यह विदर्भ क्षेत्र से संबंधित प्रश्न है और विदर्भ क्षेत्र में इस वर्ष जो इसकी बुआई हुई है, पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में ज्यादा हुई है। मानसून प्रारंभ होने के समय थोड़े कम की रिपोर्ट आई थी, लेकिन अभी जो रिपोर्ट आई है, उसकी तुलना में जो गत वर्ष 28 जुलाई तक 12.30 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन में इसकी बुआई हुई थी, वह इस वर्ष 28 जुलाई तक 12.81 लाख हेक्टेयर जमीन में हो चुकी है। यह उसके बाद हुआ है, जब मानसून में सुधार हुआ है। यह जो 4 अगस्त की रिपोर्ट है, उसके अनुसार 14 लाख 20 हेक्टेयर तक बुआई हो गई है। सवाल यहां उत्पादकता का है और हमारे यहां स्थिति यह है कि जो उसका घनत्व है, वह अन्य देशों की तुलना में ज्यादा है और इस कारण उत्पादकता में असर पड़ता है। इसलिए इंटर-क्रॉप के लिए, अन्तर्फलन के लिए राज्यों को सलाह दी गई है। अन्तर्फलन करने से और खासकर जो इस समय दलहन की खेती की जाती है, उसमें नाइट्रोजन ज्यादा मिलती है, जिससे उत्पादकता बढ़ती है। इस दृष्टि से हमारे वैज्ञानिक भी उन क्षेत्रों में पहुंचे हैं और इसके लिए हमने विदर्भ क्षेत्र के लिए अलग से राशि का एलोकेशन भी किया है।

श्री अविनाश पांडे : सर, जिन क्षेत्रों में सूखा पड़ रहा है, उसके कारण कपास की उत्पादकता में कमी आई है और उस कारण से किसानों को बहुत नुकसान हुआ है। इसके लिए सरकार की ओर से उन्हें एडवाइज़री भी दी जाती है, उनको सलाह दी जाती है कि वहां पर कब बुवाई करनी चाहिए, लेकिन वहां जो नुकसान उनको हुआ है, उसके लिए मैंने स्पेसिफिक प्रश्न पूछा है कि क्या उस नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए सरकार ने कोई नियोजन किया है, क्या कोई ऐसी योजना बनाई है, इस पर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से स्पष्टीकरण चाहूंगा।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : इसके लिए हमारा सतत प्रयास चल रहा है और सतत योजनाएं चल रही हैं, जिनमें हम उनकी राजसहायता करते हैं।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : माननीय सभापति महोदय, विदर्भ के अंदर बी.टी. कॉटन एक बहुत बड़ा कारण रहा है, जिसकी वजह से वहां किसानों की आत्महत्याएं हुई हैं और विशेष तौर पर जिस प्रकार का बीज कई बीज कंपनियां तैयार कर रही हैं, उनका नॉन-जर्मिनेशन भी एक बहुत बड़ा कारण रहा है। इसी प्रकार से भारतीय किसान संघ के प्रमुख मोहन भागवत जी ने...

श्री सभापति : आप क्वेश्चन पूछ लीजिए।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : जेनेटिकली मॉडिफाइड सीड्स के बारे में अपनी कुछ आपत्तियां पेश की हैं। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस बारे में कुछ बताना चाहेंगे?

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : महोदय, यह सवाल किसी व्यक्ति की आपत्ति का नहीं है। सवाल यह है कि इस संबंध में...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : This is about genetically modified seeds.

श्री सभापति : ठीक है, ठीक है।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : इस समय यह विषय वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय और सुप्रीम कोर्ट के अधीन है, तो निश्चित रूप से हम सबको निर्णय की प्रतीक्षा करनी चाहिए।

श्री सभापति : थैंक यू, डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रामदास अटावले : सर, मुझे भी सवाल पूछना है।

श्री सभापति : आप पहले सवाल पूछ चुके हैं, प्लीज़ Let somebody else get a chance.

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ : सर, बी.टी. कॉटन के बारे में यहां चर्चा की जा रही है, जैसे माननीय दिग्विजय सिंह जी ने कहा कि बी.टी. कॉटन के कारण विदग्ध और जहां से मैं आती हूं, मध्य प्रदेश का निमाड़ क्षेत्र, वहां भी कॉटन लगाया जाता है। वैसे वैज्ञानिकों का यह कहना है कि बी.टी. कॉटन जमीन में ज्यादा पानी सोखता है और दिन-प्रतिदिन जमीन की उर्वरक क्षमता कम होती जा रही है, तो क्या वैज्ञानिकों ने यह बात सरकार को बताई है? सर, ज्यादातर किसान बी.टी. कॉटन की वजह से आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि इसमें पेस्टिसाइड्स भी ज्यादा लगते हैं और किसान को मेहनत भी करनी पड़ती है, तो क्या सरकार के पास कोई ऐसी योजना है कि किसानों को वह अन्य वैराइटी की कपास बोनो के लिए कहे? ...(व्यवधान)...

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : It is wrong, Sir.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : महोदय, बी.टी. कपास की खेती अपने देश में बड़े पैमाने पर हो रही है और हमारा जो कृषि विज्ञान अनुसंधान केन्द्र है, उसने दक्षिण-पश्चिम मॉनसून का जो पूर्वानुमान लगाया था, उसमें प्रारंभ में कम वर्षा होने की संभावना थी, तो विदग्ध के किसानों को सलाह दी गई थी कि अब 16 जून से 20 जून तक गैर बी.टी. कपास की लगाएं, क्योंकि उसमें ज्यादा पानी की जरूरत होती है, तो शुरू में बुवाई इस कारण से कम हुई और अब जब वर्षा ज्यादा हुई है, वहां मॉनसून अच्छा हुआ है, तो बीटी कॉटन की बुवाई शुरू हो गई है। ...(व्यवधान)...

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ : सर. बी.टी. कॉटन से जमीन की उर्वरक क्षमता क्या प्रतिदिन कम होती जा रही है? क्या वैज्ञानिकों ने ऐसा आपको कहा है? ...(व्यवधान)... सर, मेरे क्वेश्चन का जवाब नहीं आया है।

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : मैंने यही बताया कि बी.टी. कॉटन के लिए ज्यादा moisture की जरूरत है, ज्यादा पानी की जरूरत है और बी.टी. कॉटन बोनो की इजाजत देश में दे दी गई है। तो हमने, हमारी संस्था ने किसानों को सलाह दी कि वर्षा कम हो रही है, तो आप गैर-बी.टी. कॉटन लगाइए और जब मॉनसून अच्छा हो, तब बी.टी. कॉटन लगाइए, तो पूरे देश में यह चल रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That is enough.

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ : सर, मेरा जवाब नहीं आया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; you cannot continue.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the cotton production is having a lot of importance not only in Vidarbha but also, in its neighbouring State, Telangana. The trade and production is interdependent between Vidarbha and Telangana. In the usage of Bt cotton, as the hon. Minister has specified, there are a lot of complications, besides several advantages. We are yet to understand the real perception of the agricultural scientists, as far as the production is concerned. But farmers are showing some interest in growing the Bt. cotton. In such a situation, are we in a position to ensure the Indianized ideonised Bt. cotton seed availability within the country? This is what I would like to know from the Minister.

श्री राधा मोहन सिंह : जो बी.टी. बीज का जनरल सवाल है, इसके बारे में मैंने पहले भी कहा कि यह मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में है और उसने एक टीम गठित की है। उस टीम में हमारे वैज्ञानिक भी हैं, उसकी रिपोर्ट भी आ गयी है। मुझे लगता है कि उस पर जल्दी निर्णय होने वाला है।

Loss of foodgrains

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

(a) the quantum and value of foodgrains lost due to pilferage, unsafe storage and damage during transit, during each of the last three years and the current year, so far, State-wise/Union Territory-wise, including Haryana;

(b) the total storage space available and foodgrains procured and stored during the same period, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to prevent loss of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Quantity and value of Central Pool foodgrains lost due to pilferage and in transit during last three years and current year, State-wise including Haryana is at Statement-I and II respectively (*See below*). Central pool foodgrains are stored safely after procurement till distribution. However, some quantity of foodgrains may get damaged / become non-issuable during storage due to various reasons such as storage pest attack, leakages in godowns, procurement of poor quality stocks, spillage during handling of

foodgrains, exposure to rains, floods, negligence on the part of concerned persons in taking precautionary measures etc. Quantity and value of central pool foodgrains damaged/ became non-issuable during last three years and current year State-wise including Haryana is given in Statement-III (See below).

(b) Storage capacity available for central pool foodgrains as on 30.6.2014 with FCI and State agencies is 762.87 lakh tons. State-wise details are given in Statement-IV (See below). Details of procurement of rice, wheat and coarse grains during last three years and current year are given in Statement-VA, VB and VC.

(c) Details of steps taken by the Government for safe and scientific storage and to prevent loss of foodgrains in storage are given in Statement-VI.

Statement-I

State-wise quantity of central pool foodgrains lost due to pilferage and its value during last three years and current year

Year	State	No. of cases	Quantity lost in tonnes	Value in ₹
2011-12	Punjab	1	0.50	7000/-
	Uttar Pradesh	1	9.75	288075/-
	Rajasthan	2	3.865	81216.34/-
2012-13	Uttar Pradesh	1	8.0	152800/-
	Rajasthan	1	0.1	Foodgrain recovered
2013-14	Madhya Pradesh	2	6.1	95770/-
	West Bengal	1	6.298	185808/-
	Punjab	9	27.35	579190/-
2014-15		Nil	Nil	Nil

Statement-II*State-wise quantity of central pool foodgrains lost in transit and its value during last three years and current year*

Sl. No.	Region	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15 (upto 30.6.14)	
		Loss (in tonnes)	Value (₹ in crore)	Loss (in tonnes)	Value (₹ in crore)	Loss (in tonnes)	Value (₹ in crore)	Loss (in tonnes)	Value (₹ in crore)
1.	Punjab	188	0.27	1599	2.09	0	0.00	13200	27.52
2.	Haryana	146	0.25	216	0.35	0	0.00	0	0.00
3.	Uttar Pradesh	17823	28.20	9849	19.20	23084	43.10	10100	19.38
4.	Uttarakhand	826	1.19	641	0.98	1045	1.72	277	0.48
5.	Rajasthan	2867	3.91	882	1.35	1709	2.74	126	0.21
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	4345	7.38	2738	4.94	4224	8.43	933	2.11
7.	Delhi	1688	2.34	1117	1.71	2521	4.01	303	0.52
8.	Himachal Pradesh	33	0.06	95	0.16	0	0.00	0	0.00
9.	Maharashtra	24923	40.60	27981	49.27	26485	52.86	9329	19.27
10.	Gujarat	10501	16.39	13501	21.27	14267	24.69	3220	6.10
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2010	3.60	498	1.09	19	0.04	731	1.24

12.	Chhattisgarh	2051	2.84	1915	2.93	1404	2.23	267	0.45
13.	Andhra Pradesh	5427	9.68	8911	16.31	12040	24.02	1675	3.64
14.	Karnataka	14121	25.77	14798	28.07	17633	37.67	5080	11.51
15.	Tamil Nadu	13584	24.97	19236	37.71	17869	37.77	4522	10.56
16.	Kerala	5832	10.70	7289	13.97	7101	14.84	1853	4.21
17.	West Bengal	16797	25.16	14880	22.28	14452	24.39	6055	11.41
18.	Odisha	5025	7.34	4629	7.14	3454	5.59	1361	2.35
19.	Bihar	10208	17.21	12205	22.02	15720	30.34	3208	6.79
20.	Jharkhand	9882	18.05	8818	17.46	6733	15.07	2409	5.81
21.	NEF Region	15031	27.71	22276	44.48	5944	12.97	1571	3.70
22.	Assam	26855	47.80	32868	63.33	28386	59.08	8037	18.38
23.	N&M Region	4806	8.75	5006	9.69	2363	5.04	542	1.25
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	1510	2.85	190	0.38	0	0.00	0	0.00
25.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	359	0.85
TOTAL		196478	333.01	212139	388.18	206452	406.61	75158	157.75

Note: 1. Loss during 2011-12 and 2012-13 are audited and for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are provisional.

2. Value calculated on acquisition cost of foodgrains.

Statement-III

State-wise quantity of central pool foodgrains accrued as damaged/non-issuable in storage and its value during last three years and current year

Sl. No.	Region	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15 (upto 30.6.14)	
		Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (in lakh ₹)	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (in lakh ₹)	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (in lakh ₹)	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (in lakh ₹)
1.	Bihar	0	0	994.3	79.796	3909.408	411.725	691.940	80.976
2.	Jharkhand	29	2.217	3.43	0.304	622.092	50.528	13.442	1.535
3.	Odisha	36	2.419	1	0.077	1084.79	116.185	111.420	11.053
4.	West Bengal	477	40.432	45	4.347	12539.85	1156.768	0	0
5.	Assam	442	30.016	51.54	4.979	180.738	20.077	0	0
6.	NEF Region	0	0	195	18.837	1827.768	189.366	0	0
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	3.3	0.368	0	0
8.	N and M Region	0	0	0	0	32.258	3.513	0	0
9.	Delhi	10.9	0.732	39.86	3.073	34.328	2.780	0	0
10.	Haryana	0	0	148.04	11.414	0	0	0	0
11.	Punjab	37	3.315	123	11.219	72.631	6.461	37.425	4.383

12. Rajasthan	30	2.016	120.83	11.129	13.019	1.054	0	0
13. Uttar Pradesh	258	22.377	18.3	1.748	1109.572	95.023	0	0
14. Uttarakhnad	72	4.838	221	17.039	90.021	7.292	3.339	0.280
15. Andhra Pradesh	4.33	0.382	24.72	1.906	475.509	45.510	49.978	4.337
16. Kerala	200	1.785			355	37.843	0	0
17. Karnataka	0	0	141.76	11.606	45.636	4.833	692.431	58.946
18. Tamil Nadu	29	2.576	749.66	57.923	293.786	31.109	108.854	9.144
19. Gujarat	226	15.277	195	15.034	443.958	37.139	81.765	6.868
20. Maharashtra	1473	99.635	61	5.307	1234.1	101.676	22.00	1.914
21. Madhya Pradesh	0	0	3.02	0.233	76.942	6.932	0	0
22. Chhattisgarh	13.78	1.202	8.98	0.741	250.749	21.946	0	0
TOTAL	3338.01	245.289	3148.44	256.713	24695.455	2348.132	1812.594	179.438

Note: 1. MSP of the crop year in which stocks were detected as damaged has been adopted as a base.

2. The value is estimated based on the assumption that stocks have been liquidated under Feed-I Category.

Statement-IV

Storage Capacity with FCI and State Govt./Agencies as on 30.06.2014

(figures in lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	Total Storage Capacity with FCI (Owned/Hired)				Total foodgrain Storage Capacity with State Agencies (excluding capacities given to FCI)				Grand Total	
		Owned	Hired	Owned	Hired	Owned	Hired	Owned	Hired	Covered	CAP
1.	Bihar	3.66	2.43	1.00	0.00	6.09	1.00	8.01	-	14.10	1.00
2.	Jharkhand	0.67	1.08	0.05	0.00	1.75	0.05	-	-	1.75	0.05
3.	Odisha	3.02	2.77	0.00	0.00	5.79	-	7.20	-	12.99	-
4.	West Bengal	8.50	1.54	0.51	0.00	10.04	0.51	4.29	-	14.33	0.51
5.	Assam	2.12	1.01	0.00	0.00	3.13	-	-	-	3.13	-
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.23	-	0.05	-	0.28	-
7.	Meghalaya	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.28	-	-	-	0.28	-
8.	Mizoram	0.25	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.26	-	-	-	0.26	-
9.	Tripura	0.29	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.38	-	-	-	0.38	-
10.	Manipur	0.28	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.32	-	-	-	0.32	-
11.	Nagaland	0.20	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.33	-	-	-	0.33	-

12.	Delhi	3.36	0.00	0.31	0.00	3.36	0.31	-	-	3.36	0.31
13.	Haryana	7.68	41.52	3.33	0.00	49.20	3.33	25.24	53.53	74.44	56.86
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0.19	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.34	-	-	-	0.34	-
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.03	0.87	0.10	0.00	1.90	0.10	1.26	-	3.16	0.10
16.	Punjab	22.24	89.29	7.31	2.67	111.53	9.98	33.11	103.57	144.64	113.55
17.	Rajasthan	7.06	15.43	1.85	4.23	22.49	6.08	1.64	-	24.13	6.08
18.	Uttar Pradesh	14.95	22.23	5.19	0.00	37.18	5.19	1.38	-	38.56	5.19
19.	Uttarakhand	0.66	1.19	0.21	0.00	1.85	0.21	1.69	-	3.54	0.21
20.	Andhra Pradesh	12.73	17.06	2.62	0.00	29.79	2.62	16.07	-	45.86	2.62
21.	Kerala	5.29	0.05	0.21	0.00	5.34	0.21	3.93	-	9.27	0.21
22.	Karnataka	3.81	3.63	1.36	0.00	7.44	1.36	6.30	-	13.74	1.36
23.	Tamil Nadu	6.24	4.76	0.67	0.00	11.00	0.67	5.71	-	16.71	0.67
24.	Gujarat	5.00	2.43	0.27	0.00	7.43	0.27	4.01	-	11.44	0.27
25.	Maharashtra	11.90	11.43	1.02	0.00	23.33	1.02	10.04	-	33.37	1.02
26.	Goa	0.15	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.20	-	-	-	0.20	-
27.	Madhya Pradesh	3.37	1.34	0.36	0.00	4.71	0.36	68.58	6.51	73.29	6.87
28.	Chhattisgarh	5.12	3.31	0.01	0.00	8.43	0.01	13.35	-	21.78	0.01
TOTAL		130.09	224.03	26.38	6.90	354.12	33.28	211.86	163.61	565.98	196.89
GRAND TOTAL		354.12		33.28	387.40	375.47		762.87			

Statement-VA

*State-wise procurement of rice including paddy in terms of rice for central pool
for the last three years and current year (Marketing Season-wise)*

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	KMS 2010-11	KMS 2011-12	KMS 2012-13	KMS 2013-14* (as on 28.07.2014)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	96.09	75.42	64.86	36.47
2.	Telangana	-	-	-	41.30
3.	Assam	0.16	0.23	0.20	Neg.
4.	Bihar	8.83	15.34	13.03	8.28
5.	Chandigarh	0.10	0.13	0.12	0.11
6.	Chhattisgarh	37.46	41.15	48.04	42.89
7.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	16.87	20.07	26.09	24.06
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	2.75	2.15	Neg.
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.11	0.09	0.02	Neg.
13.	Karnataka	1.80	3.56	0.58	0.00
14.	Kerala	2.63	3.72	2.40	3.59
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5.16	6.35	8.97	10.45
16.	Maharashtra	3.08	1.78	1.91	1.61
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	24.65	28.66	36.14	28.19
19.	Pondicherry	0.40	0.05	0.00	0.00
20.	Punjab	86.35	77.31	85.57	81.06
21.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Tamil Nadu	15.43	15.96	4.81	6.18
23.	Uttar Pradesh	25.54	33.57	22.85	11.27
24.	Uttarakhand	4.22	3.78	4.97	4.63
25.	West Bengal	13.10	20.41	17.65	10.87
TOTAL		341.98	350.36	340.36	310.96

Neg. - Less than 500 tonnes.

* KMS 2013-14 is still going on.

Statement-VB

State-wise procurement of wheat for central pool for the last three years and current year (Marketing Season-wise)

(figures in lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	RMS 2011-12	RMS 2012-13	RMS 2013-14	RMS 2014-15 (as on 16.07.2014)
1.	Punjab	109.58	128.34	108.97	116.41
2.	Haryana	69.28	86.65	58.73	64.95
3.	Uttar Pradesh	34.61	50.63	6.82	6.28
4.	Madhya Pradesh	49.65	84.93	63.55	70.94
5.	Bihar	5.56	5.41	-	-
6.	Rajasthan	13.03	19.64	12.70	21.59
7.	Uttarakhand	0.42	1.39	0.05	0.01
8.	Chandigarh	0.07	0.17	0.08	0.05
9.	Delhi	0.08	0.31	Neg.	-
10.	Gujarat	1.05	1.56	-	-
11.	Maharashtra	-	0.02	-	-
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.01	Neg.	Neg.
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	0.09	-	-
14.	West Bengal	-	0.01	0.02	-
TOTAL		283.35	379.17	250.92	280.23

Neg.-Less than 500 tonnes

Statement-VC
State-wise procurement of coarse grains for central pool for the last three years and current year (marketing season-wise)
 (figures in tonnes)

Year	Commodity	States								Total
		Andhra Pradesh	Telangana	Chhattisgarh	Haryana	Karnataka	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Rajasthan	
2010-2011	Jowar	0	-	0	0	0	38	366	0	404
	Bajra	0	-	0	73653	0	0	0	11	73664
	Maize	0	-	2610	0	37657	8875	2331	0	51473
	Ragi	0	-	0	0	2284	0	0	0	2284
	TOTAL	0	0	2610	73653	39941	8913	2697	11	127825
2011-2012	Jowar	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bajra	0	-	0	17385	0	0	0	0	17385
	Maize	0	-	450	0	0	16803	139	0	17392
	Ragi	0	-	0	0	0	1157	0	0	1157
	TOTAL	0	0	450	17385	0	17960	139	0	35934
2012-2013	Jowar	0	-	0	0	0	5740	63843	0	69583
	Bajra	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maize	0	-	0	0	0	2234	9	0	2243
	Ragi	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	7974	63852	0	71826
2013-2014 (as on 28.07.14)	Jowar	0	0	0	0	4	0	85	0	89
	Bajra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maize	27918	288904	2587	0	713807	86755	95555	0	1215526
	Ragi	0	0	0	0	14788	0	0	0	14788
	TOTAL	27918	288904	2587	0	728599	86755	95640	0	1230403

Statement-VI*Steps taken to avoid losses of central pool foodgrains
during storage and transit*

The following precautionary and remedial steps are mandated to be followed by F.C.I. and State Government agencies for proper upkeep and quality to check damages to central pool stocks of foodgrains:

- (i) All godowns are to be constructed as per specifications.
- (ii) Foodgrains are to be stored by adopting proper scientific code of storage practices.
- (iii) Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are to be used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
- (iv) Fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets and insecticides for control of stored grain insect pests are to be provided in all the godowns.
- (v) Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are to be carried out regularly and timely in godowns for the control of stored grain insect pests.
- (vi) Effective rat control measures, both in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage are to be used.
- (vii) Foodgrains in 'Cover and Plinth' (CAP) storage are to be stored on elevated plinths and wooden crates are to be used as dunnage material. Stacks are to be properly covered with specifically fabricated low-density black polythene water-proof covers and tied with nylon ropes/nets.
- (viii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are to be undertaken by qualified and trained staff and all senior officers.
- (ix) The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is to be followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
- (x) Only covered rail wagons are to be used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
- (xi) Installation of barbed wires fencing of boundary walls, provision of street lights in the godowns/complexes and proper; locking of the sheds.

- (xii) Security staff of FCI as well as other agencies like Home Guards, DGR sponsored agency & Special Police Officers are deployed for safety of stocks.
- (xiii) Deployment of State Armed Police has been done at vulnerable depots/ godowns in the prone area.
- (xiv) Security Inspection as well as surprise checks of the depots are being conducted from time to time at various levels to detect and plug any security lapses.
- (xv) FIRs have also been lodged with the Police where pilferage has come to notice. Apart from this, departmental action including recovery of loss has been resorted to act as deterrent
- (xvi) Occurrence of losses is reviewed at the level of Area Manager/ GMs (Region)/ Ed (Zones) and at Headquarter level during meeting.

श्री शादी लाल बत्रा : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ लॉस इन ट्रांजिट के बारे में तो आपने बता दिया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह ट्रांजिट क्यों हुआ, कौन सी इमरजेंसी फेल हो गयी? क्या उनके खिलाफ कोई केस हुआ या कोई कार्यवाही हुई? अगर हुई तो उसके क्या परिणाम हुए?

श्री राव साहेब दादाराव दानवे : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने मूल प्रश्न पूछा है कि अब तक चोरी, असुरक्षित भंडारण और दुलाई के कारण क्या नुकसान हुआ? महोदय, इसका ब्यौरा मैंने उत्तर संख्या 'क' 'ख' और 'ग' में दे दिया है, फिर भी माननीय सदस्य की जानकारी के लिए मैं आपके माध्यम से बताना चाहता हूँ कि 2011-12 में मार्गस्त के कारण अनाज का जो नुकसान हुआ है, वह 1,99,000 टन है। 2012-13 में जो नुकसान हुआ है, वह 2,15,000 टन है और 2013-14 से 2,30,000 टन का हुआ है।

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ : माननीय सदस्य प्रश्न कुछ पूछ रहे हैं और आप जवाब कुछ और दे रहे हैं।

श्री शादी लाल बत्रा : मेरा प्रश्न इतना ही था कि ट्रांजिट में जो लॉस हुआ है, एक जगह से दूसरी जगह जो अनाज गया, उसमें जो ह्यूमैन एजेंसी थी, ऑफिसर थे, क्लर्क थे, क्या उनके खिलाफ कोई एक्शन हुआ या नहीं हुआ? 2011-12, 2012-13 और 2013-14 में जो लॉस हुआ है, वह बहुत अधिक है। हर साल इतना लॉस क्यों हो रहा है, उसके क्या कारण थे?

श्री राव साहेब दादाराव दानवे : सभापति महोदय, जो लॉस हुआ है, उसके दो-तीन कारण होते हैं। एक तो ट्रांजिट लॉस होता है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति : जो सवाल वे पूछ रहे हैं, बस उसका जवाब दीजिए।

श्री शादी लाल बत्रा : जो लॉस इन ट्रांजिट हुआ ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ramvilas ji. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please, please.

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सभापति महोदय, जहां कहीं भी लॉस होता है, उसके कई कारण होते हैं। एक गोदाम के अंतर्गत होता है ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री शादी लाल बत्रा : गोदाम में डिफरेंट है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please. One minute. One minute.

श्री रामविलास पासवान : एक चोरी के कारण होता है। जहां कहीं भी इस तरह की बात होती है, हम उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही करते हैं और चोरी के मामले में तो बहुत ही कड़ी कार्यवाही की गयी है। यदि माननीय सदस्य चाहेंगे तो हम सारे पेपर्स उनके पास भेज देंगे।

श्री शादी लाल बत्रा : सर, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर अभी भी नहीं आया है। मैंने पूछा था कि ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री सभापति : उन्होंने कहा है कि आपको इन्फॉर्मेशन भेज देंगे।

श्री शादी लाल बत्रा : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई केस रजिस्टर हुआ, ऐक्शन हुआ और उसका रिजल्ट क्या हुआ? दूसरा लॉस जो होता है, वह स्टोरेज में होता है, पहला ट्रांजिट में होता है और फिर स्टोरेज में होता है। स्टोरेज में दो चीजें हैं। एक तो natural calamities हैं और दूसरा human agency failures की वजह से होता है। Human agency failure के लिए आपने कोई कार्यवाही की या नहीं तथा जो natural calamity थी, वह कितनी अमाउंट की थी?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is second supplementary.

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सभापति महोदय, मैं समझता हूँ कि मैंने कम से कम 15 पेज में जवाब दिया है और हर चीज का विवरण इसमें दिया है - चोरी का मामला है, ट्रांजिट का मामला है, गोदाम में क्षति का मामला है, गोदाम की क्षमता का मामला है, चावल के procurement का मामला है, गेहूँ के procurement का मामला है, मोटे अनाज का मामला है, क्षति से बचने के उपाय का है, इस संबंध में की गयी कार्यवाही का है - सब बातों के बारे में इसमें दिया गया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर माननीय सदस्य इसको पढ़ लें तो हमें समय बरबाद करने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी।

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, as per the reply given by the Minister, the loss is very high. The transit loss for the last four years is around ₹ 985.55 crores. It is the value of foodgrains lost in transit. Then, the foodgrains lost due to pilferage is also very high. So, I want to know from the Minister whether the Government is ready to distribute this extra buffer stock to the BPL families as directed by the Supreme Court to meet the issues of hunger and to control the price rise in our country. Is the Government ready to distribute it free of cost to the BPL families, as directed by the Supreme Court of India?

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सभापति महोदय, जितना पहले loss होता था, उससे बहुत कम

हो गया है। इसका एक कारण यह भी है कि हमने एक आदेश दिया है कि किसी भी गोदाम में डेढ़ साल से ज्यादा अनाज नहीं रहेगा। हम लोग डेढ़ साल से ज्यादा समय पुराने अनाज को निकालते हैं। आप जानते हैं कि फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट लागू हो गया है और फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट के तहत ग्रामीण इलाकों में 75 फीसदी, शहरी इलाकों में 50 फीसदी, बिहार जैसे राज्यों में 84 फीसदी और 74 फीसदी लागू किया गया है, इसीलिए हम सबको सस्ती दर पर अनाज दे रहे हैं। हम दो रुपये किलो गेहूं, तीन रुपये किलो चावल, एक रुपये किलो मोटा अनाज दे रहे हैं।
...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE : That is another issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... My question is different. That is PDS. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रामविलास पासवान : एक मिनट। ...*(व्यवधान)*... हम इससे सहमत नहीं हैं कि अनाज खराब हो जाए और वह गरीबों को खिलाया जाए। जो अनाज खराब है और खाने योग्य नहीं है, उसे गरीब लोग क्यों खाएंगे? गरीबों को देंगे, तो हम अच्छा अनाज देंगे।

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, my question was very specific. It was about the extra stock and not the damaged stock. It was a very specific question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to clarify? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, may I clarify? सर, सरकार से यही सवाल पूछा जा रहा है कि आपके पास बफर स्टॉक से ज्यादा अनाज है, वह अनाज सड़ रहा है, वह बेकार हो रहा है, वह नष्ट हो रहा है, इसलिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश को मानकर क्या उस एक्स्ट्रा स्टॉक को आप बी.पी.एल. फैमिलीज के लिए रिलीज करेंगे ताकि आप गरीबी के साथ भी निपट सकें? यह सवाल है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Time is running out. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सभापति महोदय, यदि बी.पी.एल. फैमिलीज को अनाज नहीं मिलता है, तो यह राज्य सरकार की कमजोरी है। हम बी.पी.एल. फैमिलीज के लिए अनाज देते हैं। जहां तक हमारे पास बफर स्टॉक से ज्यादा अनाज का सवाल है, अभी हमने 50 लाख टन चावल पी.डी.एस. के माध्यम से डिस्ट्रिब्यूट किया है और एक करोड़ टन गेहूं मार्केट में निकाला है। इसलिए हमारे पास जो एक्स्ट्रा अनाज होता है, हम उसका पब्लिक के बीच में डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन करते रहते हैं। यह राज्य सरकार का मामला है कि राज्य सरकार उसको कैसे मैनेज करे, वह APL को दे या BPL को दे, किसको दे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramakrishna; quickly, please.

SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Sir, most of the ills of the PDS are due to the centralized stocking and criss-cross movement of foodgrains. Is the Government planning to consider buffer stocking at the village or Tehsil level and avoidance of criss-cross movement?

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सभापति महोदय, यह बात सही है कि अभी तक जो स्टोरेज की सुविधा है, वह हैडक्वार्टर में है, डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टर में है या गोदाम तहसील तक बनाए जाते हैं। इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि किसान गांव में अपना अनाज बेच नहीं पाता है। हम चाहते हैं कि प्रत्येक प्रखंड स्तर पर एक गोदाम का निर्माण हो और इसके लिए हम योजना बना रहे हैं।

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर, बहुत कम समय बचा है और मैं जल्दी से एक सवाल पूछ लेता हूँ। सर, इसके पीछे एक गोरखधंधा भी है। बड़ी तादाद में ऐसे कर्मचारी मिलजुल कर, कुछ ऐसे उद्योगों से मिले हुए हैं, जो उद्योग सड़े हुए अनाज को सस्ते मूल्य पर लेकर अपने यहां शराब बनाने का काम करते हैं। क्या आप इस बात की जांच कराएंगे कि आपके यहां जितना नुकसान हो रहा है, उसमें कहीं इस एंगल से कि कहीं उद्योगों से मिलकर, जान-बूझकर अनाज सड़ाने का काम तो नहीं किया जा रहा है और फिर उन उद्योगों को सस्ते मूल्य पर बेच दिया जाता हो, क्या आप इसकी जांच कराएंगे?

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सभापति महोदय, हम निश्चित रूप से इसकी जांच कराएंगे। हम सभी माननीय सदस्यों से आग्रह करते हैं कि जिनके पास भी इस तरह की कोई सूचना हो, तो उस सूचना को वे हमें दें। उसके ऊपर हम जांच ही नहीं कराएंगे बल्कि कड़ी से कड़ी कार्यवाही भी करेंगे।

Appointment of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

*447. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a practice of Government writing to the Judiciary on appointment of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts;

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

(c) whether Government has any proposal for changing the present system of appointment of judges, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justices of the High Courts rests with the Chief Justice of India and for the appointment of Judges of the High Court rests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government periodically reminds the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling up the existing as well as the anticipated vacancies in the High Courts.

(c) There is a proposal to change the existing system for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts. The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, I want your protection. This answer is not correct. To the question 'whether there is a practice of Government writing to the Judiciary on appointment of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts', the reply given is that the Government does not do so; however, the Government periodically reminds the Chief Justices of the High Courts to initiate proposals in time for filling up the vacancies. Sir, this is wrong. The Minister himself said recently that in the Gopal Subramaniam issue ...*(Interruptions)*... Even earlier, the Chief Justice of the ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, Question Hour is over.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, this is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, on this issue the House is ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is not accurate, you know the procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*...
Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Reducing pendency of cases

*448. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that higher courts and Government Departments do not work on Saturdays and courts enjoy twenty holidays in a year, besides Christmas and winter holidays;

(b) whether it is also a fact that lower courts sit on Saturdays; and

(c) whether Government is examining suggestions of the Chief Justice of India that courts should work 365 days a year to clear the huge pendency of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) and (b) Central Government administrative offices do not work on Saturdays and observe not more than 17 holidays including Christmas, in a calendar year, besides 2 restricted holidays. There are no winter/summer holidays.

Working days/hours in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts in the country are

regulated by Rules framed by the respective Court. The working days as well as working hours of the District/Subordinate Courts are regulated by the respective High Court. The Supreme Court and High Courts do not work on Saturdays. As per information available, the High Courts function from Monday to Friday, but their Registry/offices also function on Saturdays, except on second or last Saturday of each month. High Courts generally enjoy twenty holidays in a year besides Christmas and winter holidays. Lower courts generally function on Saturdays except the second or last Saturday of each month.

(c) No formal communication has been received from Chief Justice of India in this regard. However, from the media reports, it appears that the Chief Justice of India has suggested to keep the Supreme Court, High Courts and trial Courts open 365 days in a year by preparing a calendar for arranging the benches in the Supreme Court and High Courts to ensure that judiciary functions throughout the year.

Mechanism for monitoring online sale of products

*449. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken any action, in consultation with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, on the fact that due to advancement in Information Technology, many marketing companies are attracting consumers for selling their products online and many cases have come to light about misleading and cheating of customers, but no proper mechanism is available to ensure protection of the rights of consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The subject of e-commerce is relatively new which has become extremely crucial due to global digital integration, wide spread use of internet and convenience of online business transactions. E-commerce is in evolution stage not only in India but also in rest of the World. International organizations such as United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) are framing / reviewing guidelines on e-commerce.

The problems faced by consumers in e-commerce need to be tackled globally since in many cases buyers, sellers, manufacturers, website owners, payment gateways are located in different countries. India is in close touch with these International organizations like UNCTAD, etc. to ensure global cooperation in the matter and following International practices, guidelines in the field.

The matter was examined in detail by Department of Consumer Affairs in consultation with concerned Ministries such as Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Ministry of Communications & IT. As regards protection of consumers, the existing regulations, acts applicable on physical business are equally relevant in case of online business also and consumers can seek relief under the relevant Acts such as the Consumer Protection Act, the Sales of Goods Act, 1930, the Indian Contract Act, 1872, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 etc. In addition to that some issues related to e-commerce and mode of communication are addressed under Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

Information Technology Act contains provisions for imposing penalty and compensation for damage to computer related illegal activities as well as compensation for failure to protect data by a body corporate handling any sensitive personal data in a computer resource it. To prevent possible misuse arising out of transaction and other dealing concluded over electronic medium, Information Technology Act, 2000 has created comprehensive criminal and civil liability for contravention of its provisions and offences.

E-commerce issue was also taken up by the Department of Consumer Affairs in the agenda of Inter Ministerial Committee on direct selling with members from different Ministries. In its report, Inter Ministerial Committee has recommended Department of Electronics and Information Technology to take action under Information Technology Act for checking website operating from outside India and filters may be placed at the point of gateway. The issue relating to putting filters on the Internet gateways involves legal and technical challenges. Further, the issue of putting filters in general to filter information such as Objectionable content etc. is at present pending in the Supreme Court in a Public Interest Litigation. However, the Information Technology Act provides for blocking of websites including online sites from Public access in the interest of Public Order. The Department of Consumer Affairs is also considering as part of the proposed amendment to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, inclusion of necessary safeguards for protection of rights of consumers of technology based marketing like e-commerce, telemarketing etc.

Super-speciality hospitals and factories in West Bengal

*450. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thirteen super-speciality hospitals and sixteen railway factories have been set up in West Bengal during the last five years;

(b) if so, the present status of the super-speciality hospitals and railway factories; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a)

(i) Regarding setting up of super-speciality hospitals:

As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Railways followed by the announcements made by the then Hon'ble Minister of Railways in the Budget Speech for 2010-11, 13 locations in West Bengal were identified for setting up of Tertiary Level Multi-speciality Hospitals. However, these hospitals are yet to be set up.

(ii) Regarding setting up of sixteen Railway Factories:

Out of sixteen factories three have been set up.

(b) and (c) (i) Regarding setting up of Super-speciality Hospitals:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Railways on 05.02.2010 for setting up of health care facilities on Railway land not operationally required. MoU included setting up of 40 Tertiary Level Multi-speciality Hospital including 13 in West Bengal *i.e.* Asansol, Dankuni, Howrah, Kanchrapara, Malda Town, New Farakka, Paglachandi, Rampurhat, Rangaghat, New Jalpaiguri, Garden Reach, Haldia and Kharagpur. Under this MoU, only land was to be provided by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was to develop health care facilities for the benefit of common people living around those areas, passengers and railway-men.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has appointed M/s IL & FS as a Transaction Advisor for carrying out the feasibility studies for development of the health care facilities on Railway Land. The report of the Transaction Advisor has not yet been received by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(ii) Regarding setting up of sixteen Railway Factories:

The progress made during last five years relating to the 16 rail factories that were proposed to be set up by Railways in West Bengal is as under:

Sl. No.	Industrial Unit	Status and reasons
1.	Development of Automobile and Ancillary Hub at Shalimar.	Automobile and ancillary hub has been notified and is functional from 13th March, 2010.
2.	Manufacture of components and sub assemblies for High Horse Power locos at Dankuni.	Construction of factory completed. Production started.
3.	Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) manufacturing factory at Haldia.	Phase-I of the project has been completed. Production from Haldia has started. Phase-II part of the project shall be in PPP mode.
4.	Fiat Bogie frame factory at Budge Budge.	The factory is under construction.
5.	Electric loco assembly and ancillary unit of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works at Dankuni.	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has been entrusted with the work of execution of the factory. The work of construction of the factory is in progress.
6.	Noapara Rake Rehabilitation facility.	Civil & Electrical works have since been completed.
7.	Wagon manufacturing factory at Burdwan (Kulti).	PSU funded. JV between Rail India Technical and Economics Services Limited (RITES) & Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been incorporated in Dec., 2010. Setting up of factory has commenced.
8.	Coach manufacturing factory in the Kanchrapara - Halisahar Railway Complex.	It is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) work. Bidders have been short listed after pre-qualification, for participation in the financial bid stage. New sub-station building and the transmission line for 33 kv sub-station has been completed.

Sl. No.	Industrial Unit	Status and reasons
9.	Centre of Excellence for wagon, prototyping at Kharagpur workshop.	Work awarded on turnkey basis to RVNL. Due to shortage of funds and allocation made to other projects in West Bengal, only token funds could be allotted for this project.
10.	Coach Mid Life Rehabilitation workshop at Anara (Adra).	Work given to RVNL for turnkey execution. Due to shortage of funds and allocation made to other projects in West Bengal, only token funds could be allotted for this project.
11.	Factory for Composite Brake Blocks at Tindharia.	Expression of Interest for Transfer of Technology was floated but there was no response.
12.	Rail axle manufacturing factory at New Jalpaiguri.	Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) funded. The factory to be set up by Rastriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL). Construction work has not yet started.
13.	Wagon component factory for manufacture of high capacity bogies, couplers and draft gear at Jellingham.	PSU funded. It is a Joint Venture between SAIL and Burn Standard company Ltd. Joint Venture has been formed.
14.	Setting up of cold storage and temperature controlled perishable cargo centres under Kisan Vision project at Singur.	PSU funded. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) has been entrusted with the responsibility of setting up a Perishable Cargo Centre (PCC) at Singur in West Bengal in the year 2009. PCC was setup by CONCOR in the year 2011. The centre was made operational in the month of December, 2011. The agency has now abandoned the work due to the facility being non-viable. There has been no response to fresh tenders.

Sl. No.	Industrial Unit	Status and reasons
15.	Electronic signal production unit at New Coochbehar.	It is PPP work. Railway land measuring 177mx274m (approx. 12 acres) has been earmarked by N.F. Railway for the factory. Consultancy was awarded to RITES for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). RITES has submitted Draft Production Plan as part I of DPR.
16.	2x660 Mega Watt Railways' captive, coal based thermal power plant at Adra, District Prurulia, in joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation.	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Indian Railways and National Thermal Power Corporation. The project is yet to be sanctioned as coal for this plant has not been allocated.

Action plan for PDS in the event of drought and heavy rainfall

*451. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is prepared to overcome drought and flood situation if it happens due to deficit and heavy rainfall, respectively, in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the action plan of Government for Public Distribution System (PDS) in such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is adequate availability of foodgrains in the country. As on 16.7.2014, Government has a stock of 201.51 lakh tons of rice and 391.55 lakh tons of wheat in the Central Pool compared to buffer norms of 118 lakh tons and 201 lakh tons respectively. In the wake of natural calamities including drought and flood, Government allocates foodgrains to the States/Union Territories at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) on receipt of requests. So far, during the current year request for additional foodgrains for natural calamity has only been received from Assam to whom 35,000 tons of rice has already been allocated.

Proposals for permission of railway crossings

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several proposals for permission of railway crossing for various water supply projects, affecting water supply to large number of villages in Gujarat, are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, such proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Railways receive requests from various agencies/individuals for crossings of railway tracks for various purposes including relating to water supply. Such proposals are examined and permission is granted, if the proposal is complete, feasible, does not affect the safety of trains, and after the party has deposited the required fees and met with all the procedural requirements. This is an ongoing process and Railway strives to accord approval on fast track. For the State of Gujarat, permission has been granted for 37 proposals in last one month and at present 38 proposals are in hand with Zonal Railways, out of which 27 proposals are pending on party's account and 11 proposals are pending on Railway's account.

(c) As the sponsoring parties take time in complying with the procedural requirements, it is not possible to fix any target by railways for granting approval to the proposals.

Damage of crops due to wild animals

†*453. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wild animals, particularly Nilgais etc., cause heavy damage to crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the damage caused to crops by these animals in Haryana and the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Wild animals, including Nilgais, etc. cause damage to agricultural crops

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

particularly in areas adjacent to forests. Details of crops damaged due to wild animals including Nilgais in various States including Haryana during 2010-2012 is given in Statement (*See below*).

Government of India is advocating use of traditional/chemical repellents, trenches, live/solar electric fencing, bio-fencing and other innovative methods to reduce the damage to crops caused by wild animals including Nilgais, etc. in the areas adjoining the forests. Financial assistance is provided to State/Union Territory Governments under Ministry of Environment and Forests' Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. Activities under the scheme include construction/erection of physical barriers like barbed wire fence, solar power electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls, etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into fields. Funds are also provided for making payment of *ex-gratia* relief in respect of damage to crops suffered by the victims of depredations/attacks by wild animals.

Government of Haryana has authorized Divisional Forest Officers to issue permits for elimination of Nilgais on the recommendation of concerned Panchayats.

Statement

*Year-wise details of extent of crops damaged due to wild animals
including Nilgais during the year 2010 to 2012.*

States	Extent of crop damage (area in hectare)		
	2010	2011	2012
Andhra Pradesh	260.22	470.66	781.41
Arunachal Pradesh	528.40	871.23	1404.58
Assam	4617.00	2828.00	1082.00
Bihar	18.68	0.00	90.30
Chhattisgarh	11828.00	13269.00	13321.00
Haryana	2.00	1.00	4.00
Karnataka	7572.05	2288.29	1900.37
Madhya Pradesh	639.00	1520.00	0.00
Manipur	0.00	0.00	100.00

States	Extent of Crop Damage (area in hectare)		
	2010	2011	2012
Meghalaya	437.26	573.39	268.94
Mizoram	1863.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	1923.50	788.70	777.00
Sikkim	70.00	80.00	52.00
Tamil Nadu	26.00	34.00	39.00
Tripura	25.75	34.20	11.33
Uttar Pradesh	203.88	226.60	141.02

Source: Wild Life Division, Ministry of Environment and Forests

Cultivation of betel leaves

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

- whether any scheme has been formulated to promote betel leaf cultivation in those areas of the country where it is grown;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- whether any research centre is operational in Bihar to promote the cultivation of betel leaves and if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provides assistance for area expansion, promotion of Integrated Pest Management/Integrated Nutrient Management and organic farming, post harvest management, development of markets etc. in respect of various horticultural crops including betel leaf. Cultivation of betel leaves is also promoted under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in some states.

Under MIDH, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), Kozhikode also provides financial assistance to State Agricultural Universities for production of quality nucleus planting material of betel vine for further multiplication and distribution to farmers.

- Yes, Sir. Bihar Agricultural University, Islampur and Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur are the two research centres in Bihar which are engaged in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

research activities on betel leaf. These centres are implementing research projects on betel vine under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and Betelvine, under the aegis of Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR). The centres are maintaining genetic resources of betel vine for crop improvement and have developed integrated crop management practices, including water, nutrient, disease and pest management technologies.

Eligibility for registration as an advocate

†*455. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past, after passing the LL.B. exam, any person could seek employment by getting himself registered as an advocate but now one has to appear for another examination after passing LL.B., which is conducted before the process of registration;

(b) whether Government proposes to implement the previous system of registration by doing away with the examination conducted before registration as an advocate;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. The Bar Council of India has informed that it has framed the Rules for conducting All India Bar Exam. This All India Bar Exam can be taken by candidate who have passed their LL.B. in the Academic Year 2009-10 onwards and enrolled himself as an advocate. If the advocate passes this examination, they are eligible to practice in Court. However, such advocates who are not able to pass All India Bar Exam are allowed provisionally to practice in the Court for two years from the date of their enrolment. Therefore, this All India Bar Exam is post enrolment exam, meaning thereby, advocates only can take this exam. All India Bar Exam can be taken after enrolment as an advocate, it is not the pre enrolment examination.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Security at crowded railway stations

*456. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway have plans to ensure security at crowded railway stations

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and have stepped up their efforts of installing CCTV cameras and metal detectors at sensitive stations across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of places where CCTV cameras need to be installed to tackle the terror and naxal attacks, especially in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA):

(a) to (c) Maintenance of law and order in station premises and trains is the statutory responsibility of States which is being discharged by them through the 'Government Railway Police' (GRP). Besides sharing 50% of the cost on GRPs with respective States, Railways supplement efforts of States through the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to ensure security at railway stations, including major stations catering to large number of passengers boarding/deboarding trains. Measures initiated to ensure security at major stations by RPF include access control, protection and guarding in platforms, yards and circulating area, deployment of additional strength of RPF/RPSF staff during summer season, festival period, pooja rush etc.

Security has been identified as one of the priority areas by the Railways for strengthening and upgradation. Close Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV), Hand Held Metal Detectors (HHMDs) and Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMDs) have been provided for round the clock surveillance and strengthening of security at major stations over Indian Railways.

Based on the recommendations of a High Level Committee, 202 stations have been identified as sensitive for installation of an Integrated Security System (ISS) to further augment surveillance mechanism at these stations.

ISS has been conceptualized as comprising of following components which together provide multiple checking of passengers and its baggage from the point of entry in the station premises till boarding of train -

- Internet Protocol based CCTV surveillance system
- Access control
- Personal and baggage screening system
- Bomb Detection and Disposal System

Identified railway stations of Bihar State under ISS over East Central Railway, North Eastern Railway and Northeast Frontier Railway include Patna Junction, Rajendra Nagar, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Raxaul, Chhapra, Kishanganj and Katihar.

Delivery of speed posts and parcels

*457. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to curb the delay in delivery of speed posts and parcels in rural parts of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has any plan to reduce the rates of speed posts, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) A majority of Speed Post and Parcel articles is delivered within the norms prescribed by the Department. However, occasional delay in delivery of mail occurs. In order to curb the delay in delivery of Speed Post articles, the network for Speed Post operations in both urban and rural areas has been restructured and the processes streamlined. Mail arrangements between mail offices and post offices in rural areas have been strengthened for expeditious delivery of mail. An online monitoring system has been developed to monitor the entire spectrum of mail operations from booking to delivery. Reasons for delay are regularly analyzed and remedial action taken. Performance of Post Offices and mail offices with respect to mail services is also reviewed through fortnightly video conference. Online tracking service of Speed Post articles has been made available for facility of customers. Computerized processing of parcels at mail offices is being introduced, and an online tracking facility is being extended for parcels both in urban and rural areas.

(b) There is no plan to reduce the rates of Speed Post.

(c) Due to cost of operations, reduction in the current rates of Speed Post is not viable.

Budgetary provision for women farmers

*458. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to make special budgetary provision for women farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The guidelines of various schemes including Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Extension Reforms Scheme, National Food Security Mission, National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil-Palm and National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture stipulate that States and other Implementing Agencies are required to incur at least 30% expenditure on women farmers. 'Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana' (MKSP), which is a sub-component of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), has special budgetary provisions to meet the specific needs of women farmers and help them achieve socio economic and technical empowerment.

Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani train accident

*459. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani train accident that took place in the last week of June, 2014;

(b) whether it is mandatory that every Rajdhani train is preceded by a pilot engine;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that there was no pilot engine before Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani train; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) On 25.06.2014 at 02.12 hours, while the Train No.12236 Dn New Delhi - Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express was running between Chhapra Kacheri and Goldenganj stations on Chhapra-Sonepur Section of Sonepur Division of East Central Railway, its locomotive alongwith 12 coaches next to train engine derailed, out of which 5 coaches capsized.

(b) No, Sir. Indian Railways do not operate pilot engines ahead of important trains including Rajdhani Express services under normal situations. However, these are required to be run, as and when advisories regarding security threats, are received by the Railways, from the State Authorities/Government Railway Police, to run the same on sectors and for durations, indicated therein.

(c) and (d) Pilot Engine/Goods train was not run before 12236 New Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express on 25.06.2014 between Chhapra-Hajipur section, as there was no

security threat advisory for this train for this section. Police advisory was received for the period 24.06.2014 to 25.06.2014 for the Train No.12435 Up Rajdhani Express between Hajipur and Chhapra and Train No.12236 Dn Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express between Hajipur and Muzzafarpur. A goods train was run ahead of Train No.12435 Up Rajdhani Express between Hajipur-Chhapra section as per advisory.

High Speed Rail Corporation

*460. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to set up a High Speed Rail Corporation (HSRC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its terms of reference; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to develop High Speed Rail Corridors in the country to run passenger trains at high speed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. High Speed Rail Corporation of India Ltd. (HSRC) has been incorporated as a fully-owned subsidiary of Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL), a Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) of Ministry of Railways.

The present composition of Board of Directors of HSRC is - Chairman and three Directors. It has started functioning. The objectives of HSRC include conducting pre-feasibility studies, preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for corridor as decided by Government, preparation of technical parameters for High Speed Rail (HSR) system, preparation of model concession agreement, developing various financing models and PPP options, discussions with stake holders including funding agencies, obtaining various Government approvals etc. for development and implementation of HSR corridors.

(c) Skills of staff and officers will be developed at appropriate Institutes in India and abroad, through training programmes. Studies will be conducted on Diamond Quadrilateral Network of High Speed Rail connecting four major metro and growth centres of the country *i.e.* New Delhi - Mumbai - Chennai - Kolkata - New Delhi. Mumbai-Ahmedabad sector, where a number of studies has been done, has been identified for further development for Introduction of High Speed Trains. In this regard, a provision of ₹100 crores has been made in the Railway Budget 2014-15 for High Speed Project to RVNL/High Speed Rail Corporation of India Ltd. (HSRC).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**MSP for Kharif Crops**

3226. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing methodology to determine the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agricultural produce;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to review the procedure and norms to fix MSP for agricultural produce, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has announced MSP for kharif crops including paddy and sugarcane for 2014-15 and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments and other relevant factors. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, CACP considers a number of important factors which include, *inter-alia*, cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living etc.

(b) Methodology for estimating the cost of production is reviewed from time to time. Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research in 2013, to examine the methodological issues in fixing Minimum Support Prices.

(c) The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Kharif Crops of 2014-15 Season including paddy and Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane. The MSPs of Kharif Crops and FRP of sugarcane of 2014-15 Season are given in the Statement.

Statement*Minimum Support Prices*

		(₹ per quintal)
Commodity	Variety	2014-15
Kharif Crops		
Paddy	Common	1360
	Grade A	1400

Commodity	Variety	2014-15
Jowar	Hybrid	1530
	Maldandi	1550
Bajra		1250
Maize		1310
Ragi		1550
Arhar (Tur)		4350
Moong		4600
Urad		4350
Cotton	Medium Staple	3750
	Long Staple	4050
Groundnut in shell		4000
Sunflower seed		3750
Soyabean	Black	2500
	Yellow	2560
Sesamum		4600
Nigerseed		3600
Sugarcane		220.00

Availability of seeds, fertilizers and power for agriculture works

†3227. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the availability of seeds, fertilizers and power required for agricultural works is usually less in proportion to the demand in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the situation prevailing particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as compared to other States;

(c) whether Government is working on any action plan to ensure adequate availability of seeds, fertilizers and power required for agricultural works in such States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (d) As reported by the States, the total availability of certified/quality seeds in the country for Kharif 2014 is 149.31 lakh quintals against the requirement of 145.31 lakh quintals. There is shortages of soybean seeds in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Sufficient quantity of soybean seeds could not be produced during Kharif-2013 because of heavy and continuous rains. There is shortage of moth bean seeds in Rajasthan, farmers have been advised to use farm saved seeds. Various steps have been taken to address this issue, Crop-wise and State-wise details are given in Statement-I and II (*See below*).

Government of India is assisting the State Governments and seed producing agencies for seed related activities under various ongoing programmes/schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oilpalm (NMOOP), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (sub-mission on seeds and planting material) etc.

Fertilizers required for agricultural works are available in sufficient quantity to meet the demand in the country. To ensure the availability of fertilizers, month-wise demand is assessed in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season. Sufficient quantities of fertilizers are allocated to the States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitored.

The Statement showing the State-wise details of requirement, availability and sales for the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 (upto 30.6.2014) are given in Statement-III (*See below*).

The distribution of electricity to various consumers including agriculture sector falls under the purview of the respective State Government/State power utilities and it is the responsibility of distribution licensees to ensure/make power available to all consumers in their area of operation including agriculture.

The All India electricity consumption in agriculture category for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (provisional) was 126 BU, 141 BU and 148 BU out of total electricity consumption of the country 713 BU, 785 BU and 824 BU respectively. The share of electricity consumption in Agriculture category was almost 18% during last three years.

Electricity consumption in agriculture sector in Madhya Pradesh has increased from 23% to 27% and in Rajasthan from 33% to 37% from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Statement-I

*All India requirement and availability of certified/
quality seeds during Kharif-2014*

(Quantity in quintals)

Crop	Requirement	Availability	Status	Remarks
Paddy	6473015	7252862	779847	
Maize	796479	876613	80134	
Bajra	224776	232733	7957	
Jowar	136474	162317	25843	
Ragi	28848	32430	3582	
Other Millet	2543	4110	1567	
TOTAL CEREALS	7662135	8561065	898930	
Arhar	262721	270733	8012	
Moong	231822	257626	25804	
Urd	180633	241987	61354	
Moth Bean	25000.00	13800.00	-11200	Meet from farm saved seeds
Cowpea	32622	31277	-1345	
Rice Bean	80.00	25.00	-56	
Horse Gram	7734	8119	385	
Indian Bean	6435.00	6665.00	230	
TOTAL PULSES	747047	830232	83185	
Groundnut	2155818	2170310	14492	
Soyabean	3429058	2732891	-696167	Meet from Rabi summer production, identification stock at local level for use as seeds, use of planter and dibbling method to

Crop	Requirement	Availability	Status	Remarks
				reduce seed rate, use of farm saved seeds and relaxation in germination percentage from 70-60.
Sesame	23487	29037	5550	
Sunflower	18259	19014	755	
Castor	71535	85256	13721	
Niger	855	906	51	
TOTAL OILSEEDS	5699012	5037415	-661597	
Cotton	217445	257016	39571	
Jute	45353	61304	15951	
TOTAL FIBRE	262798	318320	55522	
Dhaincha	88000	94230	6230	
Sunnhemp	32482	37125	4643	
Guar	74450	67708	-6742	Meet from private/farm saved seed.
OTHER TOTALS	194932	199063	4131	
GRAND TOTAL	14565924	14946094	380171	

Statement-II

*State-wise requirement and availability of certified/
quality for Kharif - 2014*

(Quantity in quintals)

State	Requirement	Availability	Deficit/Surplus	Remarks
Andhra Pradesh	3040122	3027375	-12747	Meet from farm saved seed.
Karnataka	1069243	1134235	64992	
Kerala	40000	40000		

State	Requirement	Availability	Deficit/Surplus	Remarks
Tamil Nadu	402361	434053	31692	
Puducherry	1120	983	-137	Meet from Tamil Nadu
Maharashtra	1968723	1883849	-84874	Meet from Rabi summer production, identification stock at local level for use as seeds, use of planter and dibbling method to reduced seed rate, use of farm saved seeds and relaxation in germination percentage from 70-60.
Gujarat	708329	742910	34581	
Chhattisgarh	766036	933138	167102	
Madhya Pradesh	1785621	1421907	-363714	Meet from Rabi summer production, identification stock at local level for use as seeds, use of planter and dibbling method to reduced seed rate, use of farm saved seeds and relaxation in germination percentage from 70-60.
Rajasthan	756710	753785	-2925	Identification stock at local level for use of seeds, use of planter and dibbling method to drop down seed rate from 75 to 55 kgs/ha and farm saved, seeds
Goa	4622	4622	0	

State	Requirement	Availability	Deficit/Surplus	Remarks
Punjab	236195	279213	43018	
Haryana	119010	244883	125873	
Uttar Pradesh	876855	911507	34652	
Uttarakhand	29255	31943	2688	
Himachal Pradesh	47800	47800	0	
Jammu and Kashmir	70160	70163	3	
Bihar	402491	412124	9633	
Jharkhand	238959	154430	-84529	Tied up with *NSC, **SFCI, Private and farm saved seed.
Odisha	721728	814298	92570	
West Bengal	538891	862926	324035	
Sikkim	2298	2298	0	
Nagaland	17948	17948		
Assam	657910	658910	1000	
Mizoram	15947	15982	35	
Manipur	7930	7930	0	
Meghalaya	18320	18320		
Tripura	21340	18562	-2778	Tied up with NSC.
GRAND TOTAL	14565924	14946094	380171	

*NSC - National Seeds Corporation Limited.

**SFCI- State Farms Corporation of India Limited.

Statement-III

State-wise Requirement, Availability and Sales of Fertilizers during 2013-14 to 2014-15 (Upto June, 2014)

(Figures in lakh metric ton)

State	Year	UREA		DAP		MOP		NPK					
		Require- ment	Availa- bility	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Require- ment	Availa- bility				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh	2013-14	32.50	35.12	34.87	11.00	6.30	6.15	5.00	3.45	3.26	22.00	20.76	19.75
	2014-15	2.51	4.43	3.41	0.84	0.58	0.31	0.58	0.31	0.13	2.26	2.58	1.33
Arunachal Pradesh	2013-14	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	2013-14	3.45	2.68	2.67	0.60	0.31	0.29	1.25	0.84	0.80	0.28	0.06	0.05
	2014-15	0.62	0.94	0.89	0.09	0.08	0.04	0.26	0.09	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.02
Bihar	2013-14	21.50	18.77	18.71	5.25	3.79	3.60	1.54	1.46	1.40	3.75	1.80	1.72
	2014-15	3.15	4.30	3.84	0.75	0.52	0.23	0.28	0.24	0.11	0.62	0.55	0.24
Chhattisgarh	2013-14	7.00	6.43	6.34	3.10	2.52	2.44	1.06	0.67	0.56	1.90	0.80	0.75
	2014-15	2.45	2.45	2.30		1.17	0.96	0.25	0.31	0.19	0.51	0.36	0.28
Delhi	2013-14	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Madhya Pradesh	2013-14	19.25	23.01	22.84	11.50	8.81	8.15	1.00	0.60	0.51	4.20	2.20	1.99
		2014-15	3.30	3.62	3.23	2.75	1.95	1.38	0.46	0.31	0.15	1.26	0.53	0.35
	Maharashtra	2013-14	27.00	26.54	26.42	14.00	5.77	5.70	4.92	3.57	3.26	17.50	15.92	15.43
		2014-15	7.35	7.74	7.44	2.45	1.45	1.39	0.98	1.38	1.15	4.91	3.89	3.41
	Manipur	2013-14	0.40	0.18	0.18	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		2014-15	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
	Meghalaya	2013-14	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		2014-15	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Mizoram	2013-14	0.09	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		2014-15	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Nagaland	2013-14	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		2014-15	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Odisha	2013-14	6.80	5.33	5.21	2.45	1.50	1.40	1.60	0.94	0.89	3.80	1.85	1.75
		2014-15	0.80	1.36	1.04	0.47	0.48	0.31	0.31	0.26	0.20	0.70	0.72	0.47
	Puducherry	2013-14	0.27	0.22	0.22	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.19	0.09	0.09
		2014-15	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01

Punjab	2013-14	26.40	26.21	26.18	9.15	4.84	4.65	0.70	0.42	0.35	1.20	0.29	0.28
	2014-15	10.00	7.89	7.66	2.60	1.68	1.39	0.14	0.20	0.12	0.17	0.05	0.04
Rajasthan	2013-14	18.00	18.50	18.45	6.04	4.86	4.69	0.23	0.04	0.03	1.21	0.33	0.32
	2014-15	2.30	2.82	2.74	0.62	1.22	1.13	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.33	0.12	0.11
Sikkim	2013-14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	2013-14	10.50	9.12	9.11	4.00	2.21	2.18	3.91	2.56	2.46	6.93	5.05	4.71
	2014-15	1.69	1.87	1.85	0.51	0.25	0.18	0.65	0.45	0.44	1.30	0.85	0.64
Telangana	2013-14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	3.43	1.62	1.69	1.16	0.24	0.26	0.32	0.06	0.04	1.80	0.84	0.87
Tripura	2013-14	0.53	0.22	0.20	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.01
	2014-15	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	2013-14	62.00	59.38	58.76	18.65	15.69	14.04	1.80	1.13	1.10	11.00	4.23	3.93
	2014-15	12.50	13.63	11.80	2.80	2.73	0.61	0.35	0.24	0.15	1.90	0.73	0.38
Uttaranchal	2013-14	2.50	2.80	2.76	0.35	0.22	0.22	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.54	0.40	0.34
	2014-15	0.75	0.78	0.76	0.14	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.09	0.06
West Bengal	2013-14	14.50	12.50	12.39	5.50	2.56	2.44	2.87	2.15	2.08	9.50	7.26	6.82
	2014-15	1.75	2.76	2.25	0.36	0.48	0.33	0.29	0.33	0.18	0.72	1.52	0.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2013-14	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	2013-14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2013-14	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daman and Diu	2013-14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	2013-14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2014-15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	2013-14	316.90	306.75	304.54	109.85	72.64	68.55	35.13	23.32	21.92	107.36	79.63	75.17
TOTAL	2014-15	66.04	71.07	64.55	21.96	16.70	11.44	6.68	5.93	4.31	22.46	18.48	13.28

Deficit monsoon

3228. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the effect of deficit monsoon and made any plans to come to the rescue of States to meet the eventuality in case of still late monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Government has requested the Central Government for providing financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that rainfall during 2014 South West Monsoon for the country as a whole is likely to be 93% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 4\%$. Rainfall is likely to be 85% of LPA over North-West India, 94% of LPA over Central India, 93% of LPA over South Peninsula and 99% of LPA over North-East India, all with a model error of $\pm 8\%$. The monthly rainfall over the country is likely to be 93% of LPA during July and 96% of LPA during August, both with a model error of $\pm 9\%$.

Cumulative rainfall till 05.08.2014 was 405.3 mm which is 19% less than normal or Long Period Average (LPA) of 499.3 mm.

Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall. Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 551 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficit monsoon.

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

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

Decisions have also been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, waiver of import duty on oil cakes to increase availability of feed ingredients, implementation of fodder development scheme and introducing interventions on perennial horticulture crops to cope with any eventual drought and rainfall deficit situation in the country.

(c) and (d) State Governments are empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake of drought from funds readily available with them under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is provided to the States from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure and extant norms, upon receipt of detailed drought relief memorandum from the State Governments.

For current year (2014-15), Government of India has not received any drought relief memorandum from any State, so far.

Growth in agriculture sector

3229. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth in agriculture is estimated at 4.6 per cent during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that over the past ten years agriculture has grown by around 4 per cent a year on an average, but during most of that period the monsoons were satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (d) As per the latest estimates released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), the growth in agriculture (Agriculture and Allied Sectors) is estimated at 4.7 per cent during 2013-14.

Further, the growth rate of agriculture (Agriculture and Allied Sectors) over the past ten years *i.e.* from 2004-05 to 2013-14 is at 3.6 per cent (around 4 per cent) a year on an average.

Consideration of milk as agricultural produce

3230. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to declare milk as an agriculture produce; and
- (b) if so, its implications on the dairy sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As on date, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to declare milk as an agriculture produce.

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

Bonus to farmers

3231. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has directed the State Governments to stop allowing bonus to farmers above the Minimum Support Price;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of the negative impact of such a move on the returns/farmers would get for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) Government has taken a policy decision that in case, a surplus State undertaking procurement in decentralized mode (called DCP) declares bonus for wheat or paddy from Kharif Marketing Season 2014-15 and Rabi Marketing Season 2015-16 onwards, the Central Government will limit the procurement for central pool to the extent of requirement of foodgrains for Targeted Public Distribution System/Other Welfare Schemes (TPDS/OWS) allocations of that State and will provide acquisition and distribution subsidy to the State Government accordingly. FCI has been directed to acquire any additional quantity of foodgrains from the State Government/its agencies for augmenting its stocks elsewhere, but it would not be under any compulsion to do so. The State Government will be responsible for the disposal of any surplus quantity procured in the State over and above this quantity and bear the financial burden in this regard.

For non-DCP States, it has been decided that if a State announces bonus over and above MSP, the FCI will not take part in MSP operations in the State concerned and State agencies will have to mobilize resources and take care of entire MSP operations in the State on their own including the arrangements to be made for storage of procured foodgrains. With respect to such States, FCI in consultation with the Department of Food and Public Distribution will decide as to how much stock of wheat or rice it should acquire from the concerned State in a particular season and will restrict its Central Pool procurement to that extent leaving rest of the surplus stocks to be disposed off by the State Government concerned at its own risk and cost.

The announcement of bonus by State Governments over and above the MSP fixed by the Central Government for paddy or wheat distorts market; leads to private buyers staying away from procurement; increases subsidy burden; distorts the cultivation pattern by encouraging the farmers to actively engage in cultivation of foodgrains for which the bonus has been announced ignoring other crops. Mono cropping can spoil conditions over the long run and diversification is needed to be encouraged for the betterment of farmers instead of encouraging them to grow more foodgrains by giving bonus.

Agricultural reforms

3232. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has devised any new schemes and programmes for the benefit of small and marginal farmers;
- (b) if so, the details of the schemes and the system of farm credit to farmers;
- (c) whether Government has recently assessed the reasons for slow growth of agriculture, marketing problems being faced by farmers and non-availability of proper remuneration for their farm produce; and
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to bring radical agricultural reforms to alleviate the difficulties faced by farmers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Ongoing Schemes have been restructured and following centrally sponsored Missions/Schemes are under implementation from 1.4.2014:

- (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
- (ii) National Horticulture Mission

- (iii) National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm
- (iv) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) including Micro Irrigation
- (v) National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology
- (vi) Integrated Scheme for Farmers Income Security
- (vii) Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census and Statistics
- (viii) Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing
- (ix) Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation
- (x) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

All these Missions/Schemes are primarily for development of small and marginal farmers.

Government has fixed a target of ₹ 8,00,000 crore for agricultural credit for the year 2014-15.

Agricultural credit is made available to farmers at an effective rate of 4%. This involves interest subvention of 3% for timely repayment on the concessional interest rate of 7% applicable for agriculture sector. Further, extension of 3% interest subvention scheme is also available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Cards for a further period of six months.

Small and marginal farmers are encouraged to organize themselves into registered Self-help Groups, Cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) etc. to derive benefit of economies of scale in farming operations. Such groups are provided credit for agricultural activities as joint liability groups.

(c) Agriculture sector registered an average growth rate of 4.1% during the Eleventh Plan period as compared to 2.5% and 2.4% during Ninth and Tenth Plan respectively. A target of 4% growth in Agriculture has been envisaged during Twelfth Plan period. During the year 2013-14, agriculture sector registered a growth rate of 4.7%.

Keeping in view the marketing problems of farmers, the existing Policy for Marketing of Agricultural Produce provides for direct marketing by farmers for getting remunerative price for their produce. State Governments have also been advised to amend their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act on the lines of Model APMC Act, 2003 for eliminating the middlemen and facilitating farmers to sell their

agricultural produce directly to bulk-buyers, processors, exporters, bulk-retailers, etc. at remunerative price.

The price support policy for farmers, under the regime of Minimum Support Price (MSP) is recommended by Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) seeks to achieve the objective of assuring fair and remunerative prices to the farmers, annually.

(d) Government has introduced various initiatives for the development of agriculture and allied sectors. The focus of Government is primarily to increase farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and establishing appropriate backward and forward linkages.

Soil assessment based crop planning is being introduced. National Adaptation Fund is being set up to take care of vagaries of climate change and to develop climate resilient agriculture. Government has decided to provide institutional finance to joint farming groups of “Bhoomi Heen Kisan” through NABARD. Marketing reforms, development of scientific warehousing infrastructure including cold storages and cold-chains in the country, development of indigenous cattle breeds and promoting inland fisheries and other non-farm activities to supplement the income of farmers are some of the steps being taken by the Government.

Central assistance for Odisha

3233. SHRI KALPATARU DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha had asked for central compensation/assistance for the loss of crops in the State on various occasions during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of such an assistance provided to the State, year-wise;

(c) whether the State Government has raised certain objections relating to the discriminations shown to the people of Odisha, *vis-a-vis* other regions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, along with action plan of the Central Government to help them in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Government of Odisha is empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities from funds readily

available under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance for relief including input subsidy for crop loss, over and above SDRF, is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure and extant norms, upon receipt of detailed relief memorandum from the State Government. Financial assistance from NDRF is for providing immediate relief and is not to be construed as compensation for loss/damage to crops.

Details of allocation under SDRF and releases made from NDRF to Government of Odisha during 2010-11 to 2014-15 (5 years) are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) State-wise allocation under SDRF is decided by Thirteenth Finance Commission whereas additional central assistance is sanctioned, on a case to case basis, based on spot assessment report of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) and recommendation of Sub Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC).

Statement

Details of allocation and releases to the State Government of Odisha from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) respectively during 2010-11 to 2014-15

Year	Allocation of funds under SDRF	Release from NDRF
2010-11	391.58	560.17
2011-12	411.16	678.65
2012-13	431.72	6.19
2013-14	453.31	750.00
2014-15 (As on 5.8.2014)	475.98	—
TOTAL	2163.75	1995.01

(Amount in ₹ crores)

Crop insurance scheme

3234. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any Crop Insurance Scheme to support farmers in times of drought/monsoon failure, etc.;

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

- (c) the details of premium payable by the farmers under the scheme;
- (d) whether Government has raised the premium to be paid by the farmers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to help the farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to provide financial support to farmers in the event of loss/failure of any of the notified crop in the notified areas as a result of natural calamities including flood, drought, pests and diseases etc., National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was introduced in the country *w.e.f.* Rabi 1999-2000 season. Recently, a National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP), which comprises of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS), has been approved by the Government for implementation *w.e.f.* Rabi 2013-14. NAIS was to be rolled back simultaneously. However, based on representations from some States, NAIS was allowed to such States for implementation during Rabi 2013-14. Again, all State Governments/UT Administrations have been given the option to implement either NAIS or MNAIS for the year 2014-15.

(c) to (f) Under NAIS flat rates of premium ranging between 1.5 to 3.5% of sum insured for food and oilseeds crops (for normal sum insured and indemnity level) are charged. However, for higher sum insured than that of normal and higher indemnity level actuarial premium rates are applicable. Actuarial rates are also being charged for Annual commercial/horticultural crops under NAIS. Similarly, under components *viz.* MNAIS, WBCIS & CPIS, of restructured scheme of NCIP, actuarial rates of premium are charged.

MNAIS is an improved version of NAIS as number of additional benefits like coverage of prevented sowing, post harvest loss due to cyclone in coastal areas, higher sum insured, higher indemnity level etc. have been incorporated to make the scheme more farmers friendly. Accordingly, the amount of premium to be paid by farmers is higher under MNAIS/WBCIS component of NCIP in comparison to NAIS. However, to make the scheme affordable to farmers, premium subsidy upto 75% under MNAIS, upto 50% under WBCIS and upto 75% under CPIS is being provided to all farmers as compared to 10% to small and marginal farmers admissible under NAIS. The subsidy is shared between the Central and State Governments on 50 : 50 basis.

Record production of foodgrains

3235. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to achieve a record 263.2 million tonnes of foodgrains production this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this would be about 4 million tonnes higher than the record of 259 million tonnes achieved two years ago;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the country has now become top exporter of rice and second top exporter of wheat and cotton; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) During an agricultural year, the First Advance Estimates of production (covering only Kharif crops) and the Second Advance Estimates (covering Kharif as well as Rabi crops) are normally released in the months of September and February of the next calendar year respectively. Thus, the production estimates for 2014-15 are not available. However, as per Third Advance Estimates for 2013-14, total production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at record level of 264.38 million tonnes which is higher by more than 4 million tonnes as compared to the previous record foodgrains production of 259.29 million tonnes achieved during 2011-12.

(d) and (e) As per United States Department of Agriculture data for 2013-14, India is the top exporter of rice and second top exporter of cotton in the world, but its position is 8th in the export of wheat. The details of quantity of rice, wheat and cotton exported during 2012-13 and 2013-14 are as under:-

Year	Quantity exported (Thousand tonnes)		
	Rice	Wheat	Cotton
2012-13	10147.68	6514.82	1987.54
2013-14*	10892.55	5562.40	1864.69

*Provisional.

Indiscriminate use of pesticides

†3236. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study on the effects of indiscriminate use of pesticides on crops and its consequential effect on farmers' health;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof, the name of the crops which get most affected due to excessive use of insecticides, along with the number of farmers getting affected from the same, State-wise;

(c) whether Central as well as the State Governments conduct any training programme to educate farmers about using pesticides safely and prudently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Central and State Governments organize training programmes on safe and judicious use of pesticides to educate the farmers and to create awareness about ill-effects of misuse of pesticides. The Government is popularizing the strategy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through a Central Sector Scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" which includes cultural, mechanical, biological and other methods of pest and disease control and emphasizes safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one UT. The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resources Development in IPM by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at Grass Root Level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) in farmers' fields.

So far 15233 number of Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) have been organized by these centres wherein 4,57,988 farmers have been trained since 1991-92 and 701 training programmes have been organized wherein 26,040 farmers have been trained about safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Farmers are advised to use registered pesticides at recommended dosage and observe the required precautions and other instruction as given in Label and Leaflets.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Supply of poor quality seeds to farmers

3237. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the certified/quality seeds are sufficiently available for farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of requirement and supply thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that some companies and agencies are duping the farmers by supplying poor quality seeds; and
- (d) if so, the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the States, the certified/quality seeds are sufficiently available for farmers in the country. The total availability of certified/quality seeds in the country for Kharif 2014 is 149.31 lakh quintals against the requirement of 145.51 lakh quintals.

(c) and (d) The details of complaints of supply of spurious/sub-standard seeds received from the State Governments/Union Territories for the last three years and action taken, are given in Statement.

Statement

Details of complaints of supply of spurious/sub-standard seed received from the State Governments/UTs for the last three years and action taken

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of the crop	Types of complaints	Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5

2014-2015

1.	Maharashtra		One case of sale in Akola, Maharashtra of sub-standard seeds with the tag of Beej Pramanikaran Sanstha of Madhya Pradesh came to the notice of the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.	The Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they have suspended the concerned officials and also suspended the license of the seed producing company involved in the matter;
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1	2	3	4	5
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Collectors/District Magistrates have been instructed to take stern legal steps against any one trying to store or sell sub-standards seeds; • the photograph of seed grower for seed certification have been made compulsory; • 7 licenses of seed sellers cancelled, 39 licenses suspended and 4 First Information Report lodged in Police station along with one case filed in the Court of Law.
2013-2014				
Nil				
2012-2013				
1.	Maharashtra	Bt. cotton	Non-performance due to attack of pest and disease.	Compensation awarded.
		Tomato	Non-performance due to attack of pest and disease.	Seed License of the company was suspended for a period of one year.
		Maize	Non-performance	Selling of Maize by M/s Victory Marvhel Seeds Pvt. Ltd. has been banned.

1	2	3	4	5
		Bitter Gourd	Non-performance due to attack of pest and disease	Seed License of the company was cancelled.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Bt. cotton	Poor performance due to genetic purity and susceptible to pest and disease	Compensation awarded.
3.	Karnataka	Bt. cotton	Poor performance due to susceptible to pest and disease	Joint Survey teams have been constituted by the State Government to assess the extent of crop damage for relief to the farmers.

2011-2012

1.	Maharashtra	Bt. cotton	Non-performance due to attack of pest and disease	Compensation awarded.
		Soyabean	Germination problem	Compensation awarded.
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Bt. cotton	Non-performance due to attack of pest and disease	Compensation awarded.

National Horticulture Mission in Andhra Pradesh

3238. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a total of three hundred and eighty four districts are covered under the National Horticulture Mission, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the districts of Andhra Pradesh covered under the scheme; and
- (c) to what extent the mission has been successful?

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

(NHM) has been subsumed under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), which is being implemented in all States/UTs of the country. NHM envisages a cluster based approach for development of horticulture crops having potential. A total of three hundred and eighty four (384) districts are covered in 19 States and 4 UTs under National Horticulture Mission (NHM). State-wise details, including NHM clusters in Andhra Pradesh is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) The significant achievements of the National Horticulture Mission are as given under:-

- Second largest producer of fruits and vegetables globally. Horticulture contributes about 30% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in agriculture, using only 13% land area.
- Horticulture exports of ₹ 11,900 crore in 2012-13.
- Area under horticulture increased 21% in 7 years, from 18.7 million ha in 2005-06 to 23.7 million ha in 2012-13, as more farmers are venturing into horticulture in their quest for diversification in agriculture.
- Horticulture production increased from 183 million tonnes in 2005-06 to 269 million tonnes in 2012-13 or 32% in 7 years .

Statement

State wise details under National Horticulture Mission (NHM)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Name of Districts/Clusters
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	North Andaman and Middle Andaman and South Andaman
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Nellore, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Guntur, Kurnool, Paderu, Rampachodaram, West Godavari, Prakasham and Srikakulam
3.	Bihar	Dharbhanga, Khagaria, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Vaishali, West Champaran, East Champaran, Jamui, Saharsa, Araria, Katihar, Purnia, Kishanganj, Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger, Gaya, Nalanda, Patna, Begusarai, Madhubani, Aurangabad and Rohtas
4.	Chhattisgarh	Surguja, Raigarh, Korba, Bilaspur, Kabirdham, Durg, Jagdalpur, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Jaspur, Korea, Balodabazar, Gariaganj, Baloda, Bemetra, Mungeli, Balrampur, Surajpur, Kodagaon

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Name of Districts/Clusters
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
6.	Delhi	Delhi
7.	Goa	North Goa and South Goa
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Anand, Banaskantha, Bhavnagar, Kheda, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Bharuch, Vadodara, Kutch, Amreli, Junagadh, Navsari, Surat and Valsad
9.	Haryana	Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Mahendergarh, Mewat, Rohtak, Sirsa, Faridabad, Jhajjar, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Ambala, Panchkula, Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar.
10.	Jharkhand	Jamtara, West Singhbhum, Latehar, Chatra, Palamau, Gumla, Pakur, Hazaribagh, Lohardaga, Ranchi, Simdega, Dumka, Deoghar, East Singhbhum, Saraikela, Khunti and Ramgarh
11.	Karnataka	Bagalkote, Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Chamarajanagar, Chickmangloor, Dharwad, Koppal, Mysore, Shimoga, Bangalore (rural) Bijapur, Kolar, Tumkur, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Uttar Kannada, Gulbarga, Hassan, Chitradurga, Udupi, Ramanagar, Chikkaballapur and Raichur, Gadag, Haveri, Davangere, Mandya, Bangalore (urban) and Yadagiri
12.	Kerala	Kasargod, Alapuzza, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kozhikode, Mallapuram, Pallakad, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur, Wayanad, Kannur, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Kottayam
13.	Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep
14.	Maharashtra	Hingoli, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Akola, Amaravati, Bhandara, Buldhana, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Thane, Wardha, Washim, Yoetmal,

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Name of Districts/Clusters
		Dhule, Nandurbar, Ahmednagar, Kolhapur, Nashik, Pune, Sangli, Satara, Solapur, Gadchiroli, Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, Parbhani, Chandrapur, Gondia and Nagpur
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Badwani, Bhopal, Burhanpur, Dewas, Dhar, Dindori, Guna, Indore, Jabalpur, Jhabua, Khandwa, Khargone, Mandla, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Rewa, Sagar, Sehore, Shajapur, Ujjain, Vidisha, Betul, Hoshangabad, Chindwara, Mandsaur, Chhaterpur, Gwalior, Harda, Neemach, Satna, Sidhi, Ashok Nagar, Alirajpur, Singroli, Raisen, Datia, Damoh, Tikamgarh and Panna
16.	Odisha	Balasore, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Bargarh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Ganjam, Khurda, Koraput, Navrangpur, Nayagarh, Phulbani, Puri, Sambhalpur, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Naupara, Sonepur, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Rayagada and Dhenkanal
17.	Punjab	Faridkot, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr, Sangrur, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Bhatinda, Firozpur, Muktsar, Taran Taran, Amritsar, Fetezgarh Sahib, Patiala, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Fazilka and Pathankot (included in March, 2013)
18.	Puducherry	Karaikal, Mahe, Puducherry and Yanam
19.	Rajasthan	Tonk, Ajmer, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jalore, Jodhpur, Karauli, Pali, Sawai Madhopur, Sirohi, Baran, Banner, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Kota, Nagaur, Sri Ganganagar, Jhunjhunu, Bhilwara, Alwar, Bundi, Udaipur and Jaisalmer
20.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Kanyakumari, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Pudukottai, Salem, Theni, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli,

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Name of Districts/Clusters
		Vellore, Villuppuram, Virudhnagar, Tenjore, Perambalur, Cuddalore, Erode, The Nilgiris and Ramanathapuram.
21.	Telangana	Adilabad, Karimnagar, Medak, Warangal, Khammam, Nizamabad, Mehboobnagar, Nalgonda, Rangareddy
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Allahabad, Banda, Bareilly, Bulandshahar, Etawah, Faizabad, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kannauj, Kanpur, Kaushambi, Maharajganj, Mainpuri, Mathura, Mirzapur, Pratapgarh, Rai Bareilly, Saharanpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Sonebhadra, Sultanpur, Ballia, Barabanki, Basti, Farrukhabad, Hathras, Lucknow, Moradabad, Sitapur, Unnao, Varanasi, Siddharthnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Muzzaffarnagar, Kushinagar, Jalaun, Chitrakoot, Lalitpur, Hamirpur and Mahoba
23.	West Bengal	Bankura, Coochbehar, Hoogly, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24-Parganas, Purba Midnapur, Purulia, South 24-Parganas, Birbhum, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Paschim Midnapore.

Promotion of fisheries and other sea food

3239. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has put in place a long term action plan to promote fisheries and other sea food items in Maharashtra and other parts of the country having potentials to grow in a big way;

(b) if so, the details thereof with incentives being provided to the sector at present and proposed to be provided in future; and

(c) where Maharashtra stands in production of sea food in comparison with other coastal States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, besides implementation of various schemes in Maharashtra and other parts of the country, had in July, 2006 also set up National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) with its head office at Hyderabad. NFDB since its inception has been implementing a wide range of fisheries developmental activities such as intensive aquaculture in ponds and tanks, culture based capture fisheries in reservoirs, coastal aquaculture, mariculture, seaweed cultivation, development of domestic markets, fish dressing centres and solar drying of fish, deep sea fish and tuna processing, infrastructure development and post harvest processing. The financial assistance provided under the existing scheme of NFDB comprises (i) up to 90% to Government/Quasi Government agencies, (ii) 25% to 40% to North Eastern/SC/ST, and (iii) up to 20% to others.

Besides, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, also implements various schemes to promote export oriented fisheries in Maharashtra and other parts of the country. Some of the important activities covered under the schemes implemented by the MPEDA are (i) capture fisheries especially to promote tuna fishing, (ii) creation of processing infrastructure and value addition, (iii) quality control and (iv) market promotion.

(c) An analysis of marine fish production data during last three years (2011-12 to 2013-14) revealed that Maharashtra with an average annual marine fish production of 4.50 lakh metric tonne, stands at third position in comparison with other Coastal States.

Agricultural development and growth

3240. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the bottlenecks in sustainable development of agriculture in the country;
- (b) the reasons for a sharp disparity between some States and others in agricultural development and growth;
- (c) to what extent country's agriculture is still dependent on rains;
- (d) the action taken by Government to ensure that no farmer in the country commits suicide hereafter; and

(e) how many farmers committed suicide in the country during last three years, with specific reference to Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Some of the bottlenecks in sustainable development of agriculture are land overuse, land fragmentation, diversion of agriculture land to non-agricultural use, deterioration of soil health, unwanted crop diversification, climate change, depletion of water resources, inadequate agricultural infrastructure, etc.

(b) Since, agriculture is a State subject, Plan Schemes for development of agriculture are formulated by State Governments on the basis of their respective agricultural growth potential, agro-climatic conditions, developmental priorities and aspirations of their respective people which has a cumulative effect on agricultural development and growth in a State.

(c) Rains in appropriate measure is beneficial to agriculture as water is critical for agricultural production and productivity. As per estimates about 60% of the agricultural area in the country is rainfed.

(d) Various programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are being implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements. The focus of all these programmes is primarily to increase farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and establishing appropriate backward and forward linkages.

Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in institutional credit flow to agriculture and allied sector, post-harvest loan for six months to eliminate distress sale of agriculture produce by farmers, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans, revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, etc.

(e) State-wise details of suicides under sub-head self-employed (farming/ agriculture), as per Reports of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), during last three years are given in Statement. (*See below*).

Statement

State/UT-wise number of suicides by self employed persons in farming/agriculture during 2011-2013

Sl. No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2206	2572	2014
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	11	37
3.	Assam	312	344	305
4.	Bihar	83	68	127
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	4	0
6.	Goa	1	1	1
7.	Gujarat	578	564	582
8.	Haryana	384	276	374
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46	29	33
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	10	18
11.	Jharkhand	94	119	142
12.	Karnataka	2100	1875	1403
13.	Kerala	830	1081	972
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1326	1172	1090
15.	Maharashtra	3337	3786	3146
16.	Manipur	0	0	1
17.	Meghalaya	22	10	5
18.	Mizoram	14	10	6
19.	Nagaland	2	9	2
20.	Odisha	144	146	150
21.	Punjab	98	75	83
22.	Rajasthan	268	270	292
23.	Sikkim	12	19	35

Sl. No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013
24.	Tamil Nadu	623	499	105
25.	Tripura	20	18	56
26.	Uttar Pradesh	645	745	750
27.	Uttarakhand	25	14	15
28.	West Bengal	807	NR	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	5
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13	6	15
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
33.	Delhi (UT)	10	21	8
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	0	0
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		14027	13754	11772

Source: 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India', National Crime Records Bureau

NR - State of West Bengal did not provide data for the above classification for the year 2012.

Plan to revise crop insurance policy

3241. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has planned to revise the Crop Insurance Policy for farmers;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any feasibility report on its benefits to farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) A comprehensive crop insurance policy namely the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP), which comprises of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance

Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS), was recently approved by the Government for implementation *w.e.f.* Rabi 2013-14 in the country. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), one of the earlier schemes, was to be rolled back simultaneously. However, based on representations from some States, NAIS was allowed to such States for implementation during Rabi 2013-14. Again, all State Governments/ UT Administrations have been given the option to implement either NAIS or MNAIS for the year 2014-15.

Multifaceted development of agriculture in Bihar

†3242. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agricultural road-map worth more than Rupees one and a half lakh crore has been worked out for the multifaceted development of agriculture in Bihar;

(b) whether the initiative on the said agricultural road-map has been taken by the Hon'ble President of India; and

(c) if so, the method planned by the Central Government to provide resources to Government of Bihar for implementation of the said road-map?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As per information from the Planning Commission, Government of Bihar has prepared an Agricultural Road Map for holistic agriculture development in the State with an objective to bring Rainbow Revolution. The road-map has been prepared after extensive discussion with experts, farmers and public representatives and the total financial requirement for implementation is ₹1,52,511 crore for five years (2012-17) which includes public sector investment of ₹ 1,28,765 crore and ₹ 23,741 crore for private investments. The road-map covers agriculture, horticulture, forestry, sugarcane, fishery, poultry and animal husbandry. It also includes exploitation of irrigation potential *i.e.* major, medium and minor, road connectivity, separate feeder for electricity, SRI programme for higher productivity, save orchard campaign, green manuring, dry and cold storage, climate change intervention and agriculture marketing.

(b) Hon'ble President of India launched Bihar Agriculture Road-map on 3rd October 2012.

(c) The Agriculture Road-map is financed through on-going Central and State schemes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Unprofitable agriculture

†3243. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the fact that India is an agriculture based country and agro production has a big role in the economy of the country, the agriculture is proving unprofitable as agro production has become unremunerative;

(b) whether it is also a fact that new generation is not ready to do agricultural work and they are happily ready to go to the city and work there as labourers; and

(c) whether Government is aware of this state of affairs, if so, the measures being taken to address this situation and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Profitability of crops depend on productivity and prices faced by the crops. Productivity of crops depend on various location specific factors *viz.* soils, climate, methods of cultivation and application of technology and inputs. Prices depend on demand (domestic and international) and supply factors. As these factors vary from place to place and time to time, no generalized conclusion can be drawn regarding the profitability of crops across time and space.

(b) As per Census 2011 conducted by the Registrar General of India, the number of cultivators have come down from 127.3 million in 2001 to 118.7 million in 2011. However, the number of agricultural labourers increased from 106.8 million in 2001 to 144.3 million in 2011. Out of 481.7 million total workers in 2011, nearly 55 per cent of the workers are still engaged in agricultural activities. According to the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), cultivation was still the most important source of income of majority households in rural India.

(c) While formulating price policy for any crop, care is taken that the farmer is assured of remunerative price for his produce and does not lose out on income in case prices in the market fall below the level of Minimum Support Prices (MSP), while recommending MSP, the CACP considers several relevant factors including the cost of cultivation/production, trends and spread of input use, production and productivity of the crop concerned, market prices both domestic and global, inter-crop price parity, emerging supply-demand situation, procurement and distribution, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, and so on.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In order to make agriculture a profitable venture, the Government of India has launched several schemes to increase investments in agriculture sector, for accelerating agricultural growth and to raise farm incomes, such as, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Gramin Bhandaran Yojana etc.

Decline in fertility of land due to cultivation of Bt. cotton

†3244. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bt. cotton decreases the fertility of soil and increases the production cost; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bt. cotton cultivation does not decrease the fertility of soil as integrated nutrient management strategies are advocated for long term sustainability of cotton production system. Bt. cotton is effective in controlling dreaded bollworm pest and reduces the need for use of chemical insecticides as compared to conventional cotton varieties and hybrids. Bt. cotton hybrids retain more number of bolls leading to better yield realisation.

Special MSPs in view of severe drought condition

3245. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps taken so far by the Central Government to cope with the drought situation in the country are insufficient;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would announce Special MSPs for current season in view of severe drought condition in the country and pitiable financial condition of farmers; and

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall during Kharif-2014.

Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 551 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficient rainfall.

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

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

Decisions have also been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, waiver of import duty on oil cakes to increase availability of feed ingredients, implementation of fodder development scheme and introducing interventions on perennial horticulture crops to mitigate any eventual drought and rainfall deficit situation in the country.

(c) and (d) Government has already announced the Price Policy for current season/ enhancing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for majority of kharif crops of 2014-15. The details are given in Statement (*See below*).

Statement

Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for year 2014-2015 (As on 25.06.2014)

(₹ per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	Minimum Support Prices
Kharif Crops			
1.	Paddy	Common	1360
		Grade A	1400

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	Minimum Support Prices
2.	Jowar	Hybrid	1530
		Maldandi	1550
3.	Bajra		1250
4.	Maize		1310
5.	Ragi		1550
6.	Arhar (Tur)		4350
7.	Moong		4600
8.	Urad		4350
9.	Cotton	Medium Staple	3750
		Long Staple	4050
10.	Groundnut in shell		4000
11.	Sunflower seed		3850
12.	Soyabean	Black	2500
		Yellow	2560
13.	Sesamum		4600
14.	Nigerseed		3600
	Other Crops		
15.	Jute		2400
16.	Sugarcane		220.00

Compensation under NCIP

3246. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers covered under the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP), State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether Government has made any assessment of the loss suffered and compensation to be paid in various States in regard to NCIP;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the States which have furnished claims for compensation under NCIP, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the details of the amount disbursed to various States including Maharashtra against the claims during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (d) National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) was introduced in the country from Rabi 2013-14 season. It comprises of Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS). Before Rabi 2013-14, these three components of the Programme were being run on pilot basis. Besides, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme was being run in the country since 1999-2000.

State-wise details of number of farmers covered under NCIP and claims admissible thereunder for Rabi 2013-14 are given in Statement-I (*See below*). State/UT-wise claims disbursed under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Pilot Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, and Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and Kharif 2013, are given in Statement-II (*See below*)

Statement-I

Farmers insured and claims for Rabi 2013-14 under NCIP

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Farmers covered (insured)				Claims for Compensation*			
		WBCIS	MNAIS	CPIS	Total	WBCIS	MNAIS	CPIS	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8136	21888		30024				
2.	Assam	859	827		1686	6.91	0.24		7.15
3.	Bihar	2153325			2153325	15852.93			15852.93
4.	Chhattisgarh	98415			98415	7299.42			7299.42
5.	Haryana	92089	48127		140216	697.05			697.05
6.	Himachal Pradesh	33317			33317				
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	8662			8662				
8.	Jharkhand	68801	9666		78467	517.12			517.12
9.	Karnataka	4173	51100	8	55281	158.95			158.95

1	2	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Kerala	17095		7221	24316	234.85		66.59	301.44
11.	Madhya Pradesh	22364	57402		79766	1570.97			1570.97
12.	Maharashtra	52095		4972	57067	1300.24			1300.24
13.	Odisha		53405	391	53796				
14.	Rajasthan	2609690	1683663		4293353	42643.96			42643.96
15.	Tamil Nadu		91642	1224	92866			28.52	28.52
16.	Uttar Pradesh	97687	775378		873065	163.12	14213.73		14376.85
17.	Uttarakhand	5219	6627		11846	91.80			91.80
18.	West Bengal	904	295786		296690	9.00			9.00
TOTAL		5272831	3095511	13816	8382158	70546.32	14213.97	95.11	84855.40

* As raised upto 10.7.2014

Statement-II

A. State-wise claims disbursed under NAIS, WBCIS and MNAIS during 2011-12

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	States / UTs	NAIS		Pilot WBCIS		Pilot MNAIS		Total	
		Admissible Claims		Admissible Claims		Admissible Claims		Admissible Claims	
		Claims	Paid	Claims	Paid	Claims	Paid	Claims	Paid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32305	24128*	20889	20885	1019	1019	54214	46032
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	5					5	5
3.	Assam	347	0*			28	28	375	28
4.	Bihar	272	0	13325	4901*	613	613	14210	5514
5.	Chhattisgarh	1261	1261	4755	4755			6017	6017

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Gujarat	31904	31904	136	136			32040	32040
7.	Haryana	878	2*	839	776	3476	3476	5193	4255
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	0	2492	2491			2495	2491
9.	Jharkhand	159	142	436	27*	2	2	597	172
10.	Karnataka	13990	13309*	999	999	2818	2717	17808	17025
11.	Kerala	54	54	239	239			294	294
12.	Madhya Pradesh	30886	30879	9728	9728	55	55	40669	40663
13.	Maharashtra	17495	17489	4433	4424			21928	21913
14.	Manipur	70	70					70	70
15.	Meghalaya	4	4					4	4
16.	Mizoram					9	9	9	9
17.	Odisha	68423	68324	1655	1655	41	41	70119	70020
18.	Puducherry	54	54					54	54
19.	Rajasthan	0	0	56370	56331	1449	1449	57818	57779
20.	Tamil Nadu	2944	2941	289	263	3615	3615	6849	6819
21.	Uttar Pradesh	3972	3972	65	65	139	139	4176	4176
22.	Uttarakhand	17	17	559	559	98	97	674	672
23.	West Bengal	5839	3481*	424	424	4488	4488	10751	8393
TOTAL		210884	198037	117633	108658	17851	17747	346367	324443

* Pending verification, contribution of State Govt. etc.

B. State-wise claims disbursed under NAIS, WBCIS and MNAIS during 2012-13

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	States / UTs	NAIS		Pilot WBCIS		Pilot MNAIS		Total	
		Admissible Claims	Claims Paid	Admissible Claims	Claims Paid	Admissible Claims	Claims Paid	Admissible Claims	Claims Paid
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7857	0*	35502	35503	42813	42808	86173	78311
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	11	11					11	11
3.	Assam	193	193			88	42	281	236
4.	Bihar			49014	5515*	4710	0*	53724	5515
5.	Chhattisgarh	161	161	1285	1285			1446	1445
6.	Gujarat	220230	219039					220230	219039
7.	Haryana	8	8	2233	1924	683	458*	2925	2391
8.	Himachal Pradesh	73	73	963	734			1036	807
9.	Jharkhand	956	919	893	389*	19	0	1869	1308
10.	Karnataka	15598	15598	4372	4289	5009	5009	24979	24896
11.	Kerala	480	371	599	599			1079	970
12.	Madhya Pradesh	39188	39189			18	18	39207	39208
13.	Maharashtra	76357	58836*	9988	9988			86345	68824
14.	Manipur	467	467					467	467
15.	Mizoram					1	1	1	1
16.	Odisha	6662	6663	266	266	297	0*	7225	6930
17.	Puducherry	17	17					17	17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Rajasthan			83955	81524	7413	4541*	91368	86065
19.	Tamil Nadu	92932	75503*	1102	786*	5889	5289	99923	81578
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3796	3796	485	190	92	84	4374	4070
21.	Uttarakhand	59	59	2452	2429	6	6	2517	2494
22.	West Bengal	4313	1376*	90	9	2875	0*	7277	1386
TOTAL		469359	422282	193201	145430	69914	58257	732473	625969

* Pending verification, contribution of State Govt. etc.

C. State-wise claims disbursed under NAIS, WBCIS and MNAIS during 2013-14 (Kharif 2013 only)

(₹ in lakh)

Sl. No.	States / UTs	NAIS		Pilot WBCIS		Pilot MNAIS		Total	
		Admissible Claims	Paid	Admissible Claims	Paid	Admissible Claims	Paid	Admissible Claims	Paid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh					32182	0*	32182	0
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	118	0*					118	0
3.	Bihar			40712	40712	23553	0*	64264	40712
4.	Chhattisgarh	1617	1617					1617	1617
5.	Gujarat	3539	0*					3539	0
6.	Haryana			733	0*	144	0	877	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	37	0	4	3			41	3
8.	Jharkhand	16	0	2335	0*			2351	0
9.	Karnataka			2510	2402	3000	0*	5510	2402

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Kerala	3	0					3	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	297675	0*	605	105*	2	2	298283	107
12.	Maharashtra	8841	0*	369	287			9211	287
13.	Meghalaya	5	0					5	0
14.	Odisha	39735	0*			12557	12216	52293	12216
15.	Puducherry	4	0					4	0
16.	Rajasthan			15097	11401*	4045	188*	19142	11590
17.	Tamil Nadu	50	0					50	0
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4642	4345	2481	0*	3	0	7127	4345
19.	Uttarakhand	5	5	383	210	228	228	616	443
20.	West Bengal			9	6			9	6
TOTAL		356287	5967	65238	55126	75715	12635	497239	73728

* Pending verification, contribution of State Govt. etc.

Centrally sponsored schemes for fishery sector

3247. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many people in West Bengal have been benefited under each of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Fishery sector, scheme-wise;

(b) whether there exist any Centrally sponsored scheme that provides subsidy and support to the BPL fishermen in West Bengal, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any BPL fishermen beneficiaries in West Bengal have been identified and given subsidy on diesel, if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(d) if not, the measures Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Since year 2009-10, under the Central Sector Scheme of National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen 10,000 fishermen of West Bengal

have availed assistance under Saving-cum-Relief component; 1,60,000 under Group Accident Personal Insurance component and 266 fishermen under Model Fishermen Village component. Since year 2009-10, under the Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations Scheme 1000 fishermen have been provided assistance under the component safety of fishermen at sea in West Bengal.

(b) Under the Saving-cum-Relief component of National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen and under the component of Fishermen development rebate on HSD oil of the Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries and Post Harvest Operations, assistance is provided to BPL fishermen of all the States/Union Territories including West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The Government of West Bengal has not availed the benefit under Fishermen development rebate on HSD oil component during the period.

Schemes to help agricultural sector

3248. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of farmers who produce enough to sustain themselves;
- (b) whether Government has schemes to help farmers who are below that level, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether various steps taken by Government in the past have made agriculture and industry more unequal; and
- (d) whether Government intends to take corrective measures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) A major characteristic of Indian agriculture is the predominance of small and marginal farmers. As per the Agriculture Census 2010-11, small and marginal holdings accounted for 84.97 per cent of the total operational holdings in the country. Government has taken several steps for the development of the agriculture sector and for improving the condition of farming community on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing etc. The focus of Government is primarily on expansion of farm income, creation of non-farm income opportunities, improvement in productivity of rainfed agriculture, increasing coverage of farming areas under protective irrigation and forging appropriate backward and forward linkages. Other measures taken by the Government for the benefit of farmers include enhancement in minimum support prices of agricultural commodities, increase in credit

flow to agriculture sector, debt waiver/relief, interest subvention on crop loans and revival package for strengthening Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure.

(c) and (d) As per the Economic Survey 2013-14, agriculture sector registered a remarkable average growth rate of 4.1 per cent during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12). Further, growth rate of agriculture GDP was 1.4 per cent and 4.7 per cent during 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively compared to the growth rate of 1.0 per cent and 0.4 per cent registered by the industry sector respectively during the same period.

Promotion of agriculture in Jharkhand

3249. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to grant special status to Jharkhand to increase its agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Central Government for promoting agriculture to improve the condition of 80 per cent farmers in Jharkhand; and
- (d) the details of the amount allocated for promotion of agriculture in Jharkhand during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Central Government has not received any proposal from Government of Jharkhand to grant special status to Jharkhand with specific reference to increasing its agricultural production. However, Chief Minister of Jharkhand *vide* letter dated 09.11.2011 requested the then Prime Minister to declare Jharkhand as a special category State.

Special Category status for plan assistance has been granted by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are characterised by following features:

- (i) hilly and difficult terrain,
- (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population,
- (iii) strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries,
- (iv) economic infrastructure backwardness and
- (v) non-viable nature of State finances.

The request of Government of Jharkhand for special category status was examined

in the Planning Commission with regard to the existing criteria for special category status. It was accordingly conveyed *vide* letter dated 4.01.2013 from the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to the Chief Minister, Jharkhand that Jharkhand does not qualify for grant of special category status based on consideration of the various criteria.

(c) and (d) Since Agriculture is a State subject, Schemes for Agriculture and allied sector are developed by State Governments. Central Government, supports the agricultural activities of the State Governments (including Government of Jharkhand) by providing financial and technical inputs through following Missions/Schemes:-

- (a) National Food Security Mission (NFSM);
- (b) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);
- (c) National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA);
- (d) National Mission for Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET);
- (e) National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP);
- (f) National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP);
- (g) Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Marketing (ISAM);
- (h) Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census and Statistics (ISAC&S);
- (i) Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation (ISAC); and
- (j) Assistance is also provided to States/UTs through State Plan Scheme *viz.* Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) which is in operation since 2007-08 and aims at (i) holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors by incentivizing the States to increase public investment; (ii) providing optimum flexibility and autonomy in planning and executing projects; (iii) building robust infrastructure and creating assets for filling identified gaps; and (iv) enabling Central Government to launch strategic initiatives from time to time reflecting national priorities. RKVY accords flexibility and autonomy to States in planning and executing projects related to agriculture and allied sectors. States are empowered to formulate strategies for development of the agriculture and allied sectors in a holistic way taking into account their agro-climatic conditions so as to effectively address their local needs and priorities.

All these Missions/Schemes are primarily for development of small and marginal farmers.

A Statement showing the allocation of funds made to Government of Jharkhand under various Missions/Schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the last three years and the current year 2014-15 are given in Statement-I and II respectively (*See below*).

Statement-I

*Allocation of funds made to Government of Jharkhand under various Missions/
Schemes of Department of Agriculture and during the last three years*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	2011-12 Alloc.	2012-13 Alloc.	2013-14 Alloc.
1.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	27.10	37.00	48.87
2.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	168.56	241.55	294.18
3.	National Mission on Micro Irrigation	10.00	25.00	30.00
4.	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms	20.64	25.72	24.55
5.	National Horticulture Mission	51.00	63.75	68.00
6.	National Bamboo Mission	2.50	2.52	0.55
7.	National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility	*	*	*
8.	Macro Management Scheme #	9.11	8.94	#
TOTAL		288.91	404.48	466.15

* No State-wise allocation are made under the scheme.

Scheme has been discontinued w.e.f. 2013-14.

Statement-II

*Allocation of funds made to Government of Jharkhand under various Missions/Schemes
of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the year 2014-15*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Allocation
1.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	31.75
2.	National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)	0.00
3.	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)	

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Allocation
	(i) Rainfed Area Development (RAD)	20.00
	(ii) Soil Health Management (SHM)	0.00
	(iii) On Farm Water Management (OFWM)	30.00
4.	National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET)	-
	(i) Sub Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)	18.66
5.	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)	
	(i) National Horticulture Mission	68.00
	(ii) National Bamboo Mission	1.98
6.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	306.94

Agriculture production in Jammu and Kashmir

3250. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has failed to give a fillip to agricultural production in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) whether the Ministry would come forward to do something substantial in the days to come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Government of India has been implementing a number of programmes/schemes for increasing agriculture production through State Governments, including Jammu and Kashmir. Crop developments programmes, like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) are being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. A special project for Economic Revival of Jammu and Kashmir Saffron Sector is being implemented in mission mode under RKVY. Under these schemes, assistance is provided for activities like demonstrations of improved technologies, distribution of improved seeds/planting material, need based plant protection and soil amendments, resource conservation techniques, efficient water application tools, protected cultivation, farmers' trainings, etc. for enhancing agricultural production.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated the following amounts under these schemes during 2014-15:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Scheme	Allocation
1.	NFSM	18.00
2.	RKVY(Normal+NMPS*+VIUC**)	50.50
3.	Saffron Mission	100.00
4.	MIDH	60.00

*NMPS - National Mission on Protein Supplements.

**VIUC - Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters.

Separate budget for agriculture

3251. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for quite some time there is a demand to present a separate Agricultural Budget; and

(b) if so, the response of Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Although there is a demand to present a separate Agricultural Budget from some Members of Parliament, farmers' associations and others but this does not seem to be feasible in view of the inter-sectoral linkages of agriculture cutting across various Ministries/Departments of Government of India. As per existing Constitutional and Parliamentary arrangement, General Budget provides adequately for requirements of the agriculture sector.

Capacity of growing foodgrains, vegetables and fruits

3252. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of land fit for agriculture in the country;
- (b) the highest capacity of production and the present status thereof;
- (c) the area of land irrigated and the area dry;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to utilize the optimum capacity of land;
- (e) the area of land utilized for agriculture;

(f) the capacity of growing foodgrains, vegetables and fruits and the demand thereof; and

(g) whether country is self-sufficient in agricultural production and if not, the steps taken by Government to make agriculture viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As per the latest Land Use Statistics Data (2011-12) compiled by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, the area of land fit for agriculture/agricultural land in the country is 181.98 million hectares.

(b) Capacity of production depends on number of factors such as technology, agro-climatic and soil conditions, availability of inputs, financial capacity and choice of farmers etc. Over the years foodgrains production has increased from 198.36 million tons in 2004-05 to 264.38 million tons in 2013-14.

(c) The area of land irrigated (net irrigated area) and the area dry (net unirrigated area) are 65.26 million hectares and 75.54 million hectares respectively.

(d) to (g) Government has taken several steps to utilise the optimum capacity of land and to make agriculture viable, by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs and providing remunerative prices for farm produce through increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), higher level of procurement and competitive markets. Further, several programmes/schemes for the development of agriculture sector are implemented in a decentralized manner with flexibility to State Governments to formulate and implement appropriate projects to suit their specific requirements.

Further, the area of land utilised for agriculture (the cultivated land) is 155.52 million hectares in the year 2011-12.

As per the Twelfth Five Year Plan Document and latest estimates released by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the country has realised a production of 264.38 million tons in 2013-14 as against the projected demand of 257 million tons for foodgrains by the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan *i.e.* 2016-17. Accordingly country is self sufficient in foodgrain production. Further, the country has also realised a production of 170.25 million tons and 84.41 million tons for vegetables and fruits respectively. The corresponding projected demand for vegetables and fruits is 161 million tons and 97 million tons respectively by the year 2016-17.

MSP of sugarcane

3253. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of sugarcane growing land in Karnataka;
- (b) the support price of sugarcane per ton given by Central and State Governments; and
- (c) if agriculturist are facing severe financial crunch for non-receipt of sugarcane price, in what way Central Government can help State Governments to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As per Third Advance Estimates for 2013-14, the estimated area under sugarcane in the State of Karnataka stands at 4.20 lakh hectares.

(b) For the Sugar Season 2013-14, Government of India had fixed the Fare and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane at ₹ 210/- per quintal against which the State Government of Karnataka fixed the Ex-gate price of ₹ 250/- per quintal for South Karnataka sugar factories and Ex-field price of ₹ 250/- per quintal for North Karnataka sugar factories. Besides, the State Government has paid ₹ 15/- per quintal as additional incentive to all the sugarcane growers of Karnataka for the cane crushed by the sugar factories of the State. For the sugar season 2014-15, Government of India has fixed the FRP of sugarcane at a higher rate of ₹ 220/- per quintal.

(c) Non-receipt of sugarcane price by farmers adversely impacts their financial capability to grow various agricultural crops including sugarcane. In order to facilitate clearance of cane price arrears of previous sugar seasons and timely settlement of cane price of current sugar season to sugarcane growers, the Central Government on 3.1.2014 has notified a Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014), which envisages interest free loans worth ₹ 6600/- crore by banks as additional working capital to sugar mills. Another scheme notified on 28.2.2014 allows incentives for marketing and promotion services for raw sugar production targeted for export markets so as to enable sugar mills to make timely payment of cane price to sugarcane farmers. Besides, the sugar factories are also provided soft loans from Sugar Development Fund for modernization, cane development, ethanol production and bagasse based co-generation projects.

New technique to deal with inflation

†3254. SHRI LAL SINH VODODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that agricultural scientists are making efforts to develop a new technique to deal with inflation;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Agricultural scientists are continuously making efforts to develop low-cost, improved crop production technologies with due consideration of farmers' resource availability to enhance agricultural productivity and profitability reducing cost of production and food inflation. Agricultural economists undertake analysis of food inflation from time to time to diagnose the cause and to suggest remedial measures.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed high yielding crop varieties resistant to pest and diseases, cost effective water harvesting techniques, *in situ* soil and water conservation measures, soil reclamation/amelioration measures, resource conservation technologies (zero tillage, bed planting, laser leveling, SRI), and technologies for mulching, vermin-composting, bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides production, integrated soil-water-nutrient management, integrated farming system and simple farm tools and implements in this direction. These technologies are being promoted through different schemes of the Government of India. Farmers' trainings and frontline demonstrations are organized to educate farmers on these technologies. Besides, agro-advisories and contingency plans are being provided. The Government also makes efforts to strengthen procurement, processing, marketing and public distribution system of agricultural produce to tame food inflation.

Production of fish

†3255. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of production of fish in the country during each of the last three years and the current financial year as on date, State-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production of fish?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) State-wise quantity of fish production during each of last three years including the current financial year is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture through various central sector and centrally sponsored schemes provides financial assistance for development of fisheries sector with an emphasis on enhancement of fish production. The Department at present implements the following schemes, which contributing augmentation of fish production:

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on “Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations”
- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on “Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture
- (iii) Central Sector Scheme ‘National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen’
- (iv) Central Sector Scheme on ‘National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)’
- (v) Central Sector Scheme on “Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System (GIS) of the Fisheries Sector
- (vi) Scheme on Soft Loan Package for Replacement of Fishing Vessels
- (vii) Central Sector Scheme on Issuance of Biometric Identity Cards to Coastal Fishermen.

Statement

State-wise quantity of fish production

Sl. No.	States/UTs	(Quantity in thousand tonne)			
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14(P)	2014-15 (1st Quarter)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1603.17	1808.08	2018.42	660.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.30	3.71	0.55	*
3.	Assam	228.62	254.27	266.70	*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14(P)	2014-15 (1st Quarter)
4.	Bihar	344.47	400.14	432.30	*
5.	Chhattisgarh	250.70	255.61	284.96	87.57
6.	Goa	89.96	77.88	114.06	*
7.	Gujarat	783.72	788.49	793.42	*
8.	Haryana	106.00	111.48	116.90	*
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8.05	8.56	9.83	1.18
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	19.85	19.95	19.98	*
11.	Jharkhand	91.68	96.60	104.82	*
12.	Karnataka	546.44	525.57	555.31	111.51
13.	Kerala	693.21	679.74	708.65	*
14.	Madhya Pradesh	75.41	85.17	96.26	*
15.	Maharashtra	578.79	586.37	602.68	*
16.	Manipur	22.22	24.50	28.54	*
17.	Meghalaya	4.77	5.42	5.75	*
18.	Mizoram	2.93	5.43	5.94	0.65
19.	Nagaland	6.84	7.13	7.47	1.43
20.	Odisha	381.83	410.14	413.79	*
21.	Punjab	97.62	99.13	104.02	*
22.	Rajasthan	47.85	55.16	35.10	*
23.	Sikkim	0.28	0.49	0.42	0.11
24.	Tamil Nadu	611.49	620.40	624.30	*
25.	Telangana	--	--	--	*
26.	Tripura	53.34	57.46	61.95	*
27.	Uttarakhand	3.83	3.85	3.89	*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14(P)	2014-15 (1st Quarter)
28.	Uttar Pradesh	429.72	449.75	464.48	194.52
29.	West Bengal	1472.05	1490.02	1580.65	*
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	35.26	36.62	36.95	8.83
31.	Chandigarh	0.10	0.05	0.11	*
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.05	0.05	*
33.	Daman and Diu	17.43	19.01	19.01	*
34.	Delhi	0.74	0.69	0.88	*
35.	Lakshadweep	12.37	12.37	18.72	*
36.	Puducherry	42.40	41.07	42.08	16.38
TOTAL		8666.45	9040.34	9578.91	1083.05

(P) = Provisional

* Fish production data in respect of these States/UTs during 2014-15 are yet to be received and as such the fish production during this year is yet to be compiled.

Storage facility in rural areas

3256. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by new Government to combat lack of adequate and well maintained facilities in rural areas for storage of agricultural produce which result in their wastage; and

(b) the details of storage facilities for agricultural produce, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) In order to combat lack of adequate and well maintained facilities in rural areas for storage of agricultural produce, the new Government is continuing with the on-going schemes during the Twelfth Plan such as this department's schemes of (i) Grameen Bhandaran Yojana (GBY) which has since 1.4.2014 been merged with Agri Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme of Agriculture Marketing (ISAM), (ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under which funds are also available to be used for development of agri infrastructure including storage, (iii) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) also assists Cooperatives in creating additional storage capacity, (iv) Besides, the Department

of Food and Public Distribution also promotes construction of warehouses under its Plan Scheme for Augmentation of Storage capacity and through Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme under which construction of warehouses including silos in Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode is promoted for guaranteed hiring by Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Further, keeping in view the urgent need for availability of scientific warehousing infrastructure in the country, the new Government has proposed an allocation of ₹ 5,000 crores for Warehousing Infrastructure Fund (WIF) II of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the year 2014-15.

State-wise storage capacity available with various storing agencies is given in Statement.

Statement

State-wise storage capacity available as on March, 2014 in lakh MT

State	Food Corpora- tion of India (FCI)	Central Ware- housing Corpo- ration (CWC)	State Ware- housing Corpo- ration (SWC)	Coopera- tives through NCDC	Grameen Bhandaran Yojana (GBY)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	33.85	15.52	20.22	7.26	51.04	127.89
Arunachal Pradesh	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.3
Assam	3.04	0.74	2.52	2.99	4.48	13.77
Bihar	7.3	1.21	2.93	5.80	3.88	21.12
Chhattisgarh	8.91	2.92	13.61	1.59	9.61	36.64
Goa	0.2	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.5
Gujarat	8.22	7.50	3.55	3.96	27.56	50.79
Haryana	40.1	0.37	19.44	6.94	42.29	109.14
Himachal Pradesh	0.35	0.09	0.00	2.10	0.03	2.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu and Kashmir	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.35	2.33
Jharkhand	1.76	0.36	0.00	0.39	0.45	2.96
Karnataka	8.85	5.24	13.26	9.93	21.98	59.26
Kerala	5.45	1.62	2.02	3.37	0.38	12.84
Madhya Pradesh	5.26	5.62	55.38	13.42	47.90	127.58
Maharashtra	23.78	14.35	15.21	19.70	33.89	106.93
Meghalaya	0.26	0.00	0.16	0.43	0.12	0.97
Nagaland	0.33	0.13	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.8
Manipur	0.3	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.59
Mizoram	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.01	0.45
Odisha	5.83	3.53	4.86	4.95	4.76	23.93
Punjab	111.83	7.45	62.62	19.87	53.84	255.61
Rajasthan	25.8	5.28	10.58	6.43	13.24	61.33
Sikkim	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
Tamil Nadu	10.95	6.65	6.77	9.57	9.66	43.6
Tripura	0.49	0.40	0.00	0.26	0.00	1.15
Uttar Pradesh	47.87	9.21	32.23	20.80	26.14	136.25
Uttarakhand	2.07	0.78	0.00	0.74	6.25	9.84
West Bengal	10.91	6.62	2.16	5.18	6.12	30.99
Delhi	3.67	1.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.14
Chandigarh	3.96	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.07
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
Puducherry	0.77	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84
TOTAL	374.53	97.56	267.52	146.78	363.99	1250.38

Shortage of vegetables

3257. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the poor supply of vegetables in the market;
- (b) if so, the reasons and details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken to increase production of vegetables in the country and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The arrivals of vegetables in the markets have been increasing over the past three years. The details of arrivals of major vegetables in last three years is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The steps taken to increase production of vegetables in the country are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

All India arrivals of major vegetables in the markets during the last three years

Commodity	(Arrivals in lakh tonnes)		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Potato	94.21	100.17	120.02
Onion	92.01	95.19	111.27
Tomato	31.09	32.42	39.50
Cauliflower	9.93	11.93	13.06

Source: AGMARKNET

Note: The year corresponds to agriculture year July to June.

Statement-II

Steps taken to increase vegetable production in the country

- To enhance the production and productivity of vegetables, Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) w.e.f. 1.1.2014, which subsumes ongoing schemes on Horticulture including National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Horticulture Mission for North

East and Himalayan States (HMNEH). MIDH provides support for seed production, vegetable cultivation, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)/ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic farming. Assistance is also extended for establishment of low cost onion storage structure to prevent post harvest losses.

- Government is also implementing the Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) under the overall aegis of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). VIUC interventions for rural areas include production of vegetable seeds and seedling, seed infrastructure, protected cultivation, post harvest management, training of farmers, and support to Farmers' Producer Organizations and Farmers' Producer Companies.
- In addition, the Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM) also provides for creation of post harvest infrastructure including storage.

Drought condition in Telangana

3258. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed the severe drought condition in almost all the districts of Telangana;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of 464 mandals, only 43 mandals have got average rainfall; and

(c) if so, how Central Government is planning to help the farmers of Telangana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) As per information of India Meteorological Department (IMD), cumulative seasonal monsoon rainfall in Telangana till 5.08.2014 was 214.4 mm which is 48% less than normal or Long Period Average (LPA) of 411.0 mm. As per information made available by Government of Telangana, 43 out of 464 mandals of the State have received normal/excess rainfall during the period from 1.06.2014 to 5.08.2014.

(c) State Government is empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake of drought from funds readily available under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure and extant norms, upon receipt of

detailed drought relief memorandum from the State Government. So far, Government of India has not received any drought relief memorandum from Telangana.

Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 9 out of 10 districts of Telangana, except Hyderabad for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficit monsoon.

Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall in the country including Telangana. States have been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises and to keep aside 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and other schemes for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate any situation arising out of deficit monsoon.

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

Decisions have also been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, waiver of import duty on oil cakes to increase availability of feed ingredients, implementation of fodder development programme and introducing interventions for perennial horticulture crops to help farmers as to enable them to cope with any eventual drought and rainfall deficit situation in the country.

Salt tolerant crops varieties

3259. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to check soil salinity problem in various parts of the country, especially in coastal areas;
- (b) the bio-engineering measures taken up for mitigating salinity ingress in coastal areas;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to enhance soil productivity across the country;
- (d) whether Government has taken up any measures to develop any salt tolerant crops varieties for cultivation in the salinity affected areas of the country during the last three years; and

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Ministry of Agriculture is not implementing any specific scheme for reclamation and development of coastal saline areas. However, Government of India has launched a National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which envisages reclamation of saline soils in other areas.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed various measures for mitigation of salinity ingress in coastal areas through constructing structures like, reclamation bund for arresting ingress. Besides, measures like, construction of farm ponds, percolation tanks, check dams, surface and sub surface drainage, paddy-cum-fish cultivation, etc. do help in improvement of soil productivity in coastal saline areas.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Schemes/Missions namely; Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), etc. which do have components for addressing the issues of soil productivity like soil test based nutrient application, promotion of organic farming, judicious use of chemical and bio-fertilizers, enhancement of water use efficiency thereby improving soil fertility and productivity for sustainable agricultural production across the country.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. ICAR has developed salt tolerant variety of rice like CSR-43 and wheat (KRL-210 and KRL-213) during the last three years for cultivation in the salinity affected areas of the country.

Demand and supply of pulses

3260. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to grant certain incentives to farmers and others to grow/boost production of pulses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the mis-match between demand and supply of pulses in the country; and
- (d) whether it is also proposed to use high-quality seeds for the purpose and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Government is implementing National

Food Security Mission (NFSM) to boost pulses production in all districts of all States, except Kerala and Goa. Assistance is provided for interventions like demonstration on improved technologies, distribution of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, machinery, efficient water application tools, cropping system based training, formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), etc. Several States are also supplementing assistance for pulses production from their overall Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) allocations.

(c) In 2012-13, the domestic pulses production was 18.34 million tonnes. The mis-match between demand and supply in the country was met by net import of 3.77 million tonnes of pulses.

(d) In order to promote use of high quality seeds, assistance under NFSM is provided only for varieties of pulses seeds less than 10 years old in crop demonstrations and seed distribution components.

Allocation of fund to Chhattisgarh under RKVY

†3261. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Chhattisgarh had written to Central Government to include Chhattisgarh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited for handling seed and fertilizers and foodgrain assistance scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY);

(b) whether eligibility of the State has been determined by adding funds for integrated water harvesting area programme under forest and wild life and the schemes mentioned in part (a); and

(c) whether allocation of ₹ 407.63 crore was made under RKVY for the State for year 2013-14 and out of this ₹ 233.82 crore has been disbursed during 2013-14 and whether remaining amount will be given to the State during the budget for 2014-15?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As per operational guidelines of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State Agriculture Department is the nodal Department for implementation of RKVY in the State. However, for administrative convenience and ease of implementation, State Governments are empowered to identify or create an exclusive agency for implementing the scheme. Further, State Level Sanctioning Committee under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Chairmanship of Chief Secretary is authorized to sanction any project to any agency which fulfils conditions prescribed in operational guidelines of RKVY Scheme.

(b) As per operational guidelines of RKVY, expenditure which is directly related to the development of agriculture sector such as watershed development including State's share on Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP); Forestry and Wildlife, Agricultural Marketing, Food Storage and Warehousing etc. will be considered for determining eligibility of the State for accessing RKVY funds. However, expenditure on output subsidies such food subsidy, subsidy for procurement of milk, bonus on procurement of food grains and other crops etc. and expenditure on Civil Supplies and Public distribution system etc. will not be considered for ascertaining eligibility of the State for RKVY.

(c) On the basis of fund utilization and progress of implementation reported by the State, ₹ 233.82 crore was released to Government of Chhattisgarh during 2013-14 against an allocation of ₹ 407.63 crore. Allocation and release under the scheme are made on a year to year basis.

Keeping farmers informed of moisture in their agricultural land

3262. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to keep farmers updated about the content of moisture in their agricultural land to help them in timely watering their crops through use of mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details of this farmer-friendly action plan; and

(c) how far has the above system proved successful and implemented across the country to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Weather related information including agro-met advisories are being given to registered farmers through mobile phones.

(b) A nation-wide SMS Portal for farmers has been in operation for more than a year to provide SMS based advisories to farmers as per their preferences of crops/ agricultural practices for their location and selected language. In particular, rainfall related information, which has a bearing on moisture content in the soil, is also given. Before this, there were some isolated efforts of providing advisories by SMS. SMS Portal is an integrated platform which can be used by all organizations and departments of the

Government of India and State Governments [including State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agro Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs)] to give advisories and provide services. Integrated databases (collated from different sources and organizations) of farmers are used to maximize the outreach.

More than 130 AMFUs set up by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in collaboration with ICAR and other organizations provide weather forecast based agro-met advisories. Weather forecast is done on 7 parameters including rainfall, relative humidity and cloudiness. Kisan Call Centres set up by the Government of India also disseminate this information to thousands of farmers who call up everyday. Besides this, there are some non government initiatives which include IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited, Reuters Market Light, Nokia Life Tools. ICAR has created a network of 100 Automatic Weather Stations in selected KVKs and SAUs for online collection of weather data and preparation of micro-level weather based agro-advisories.

(c) The above system has proved highly successful in helping the farmers all over the country. Nearly 60 lakh farmers have registered for receiving SMS messages through SMS Portal. So far more than 125 crore SMS messages have been sent to farmers in 12 languages by thousands of officers and experts of the Government of India and the State Governments (including SAUs, KVKs and AMFUs) spread across the country down to the Block level.

The AMFUs and other higher level entities of IMD have so far sent 15873 weather related advisories through 631.52 lakh messages to farmers.

In addition, 148 KVKs also sent 1,749 voice messages on different aspects of agriculture and allied enterprises to 30,752 registered farmers during 2013-14.

Saving agriculture from drought

†3263. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a possibility of weak monsoon this year;
- (b) if so, the names of the districts of the country that are likely to face drought like situation;
- (c) the plan of the Government to provide relief to people of the affected districts in view of the possibility of weak monsoon; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken by Government so as to save agriculture from drought as well as to avoid drinking water crises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that rainfall during 2014 South West Monsoon for the country as a whole is likely to be 93% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 4\%$. Rainfall is likely to be 85% of LPA over North-West India, 94% of LPA over Central India, 93% of LPA over South Peninsula and 99% of LPA over North-East India, all with a model error of $\pm 8\%$.

Cumulative rainfall till 5.08.2014 was 405.3 mm which is 19% less than normal or Long Period Average (LPA) of 499.3 mm. As per information provided by IMD, out of 620 districts for which rainfall data is available, 251 (40%) have so far received normal/excess rainfall. State-wise distribution of these districts is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) State Governments are empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake drought from funds readily available under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure and extant norms, upon receipt of detailed drought relief memorandum from the State Government. For current year (2014-15), Government of India has not received any drought relief memorandum from any State, so far.

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

Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 551 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficient rainfall.

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

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

Decisions have also been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, waiver of import duty on oil cakes to increase availability of feed ingredients, implementation of fodder development scheme and introducing interventions on perennial horticulture crops to cope with any eventual drought and rainfall deficit situation in the country.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for rural drinking water in the wake of natural calamities, deliberating preparedness, response and relief at State, District, Block and Panchayat/village levels have been prepared and shared with States. Standard format for monitoring the activities undertaken by the States for drought mitigation has also been devised and States have been requested to provide requisite information on a fortnightly basis.

Government has already released 15% of funds earmarked for operation and maintenance (O&M) under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to States for utilizing during natural calamity such as drought for repair/maintenance of damaged water supply systems.

Statement

State-wise distribution of no. of districts with excess, normal, deficient, scanty and no rainfall (Period From: 01.06.2014 To 30.07.2014)

Sl. No.	States	Excess	Normal	Deficient	Scanty	No Rain	No Data	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	6	2	0	4	16
3.	Assam	3	9	14	1	0	0	27
4.	Meghalaya	1	1	3	1	0	1	7
5.	Nagaland	0	1	3	2	0	5	11
6.	Manipur	1	0	1	4	0	3	9
7.	Mizoram	0	1	3	1	0	4	9
8.	Tripura	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
9.	Sikkim	1	1	2	0	0	0	4

Sl. No.	States	Excess	Normal	Deficient	Scanty	No Rain	No Data	Total
10.	West Bengal	0	11	8	0	0	0	19
11.	Odisha	6	22	2	0	0	0	30
12.	Jharkhand	3	12	9	0	0	0	24
13.	Bihar	4	7	24	3	0	0	38
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2	12	42	15	0	0	71
15.	Uttarakhand	2	5	6	0	0	0	13
16.	Haryana	0	1	11	9	0	0	21
17.	Chandigarh (UT)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
18.	Delhi	0	0	6	3	0	0	9
19.	Punjab	0	2	9	9	0	0	20
20.	Himachal Pradesh	0	5	4	3	0	0	12
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	5	9	5	1	2	22
22.	Rajasthan	2	11	19	1	0	0	33
23.	Madhya Pradesh	4	20	24	2	0	0	50
24.	Gujarat	1	5	20	0	0	0	26
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman (UTs)	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
26.	Diu (UT)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
27.	Goa	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
28.	Maharashtra	0	17	14	4	0	0	35
29.	Chhattisgarh	3	12	3	0	0	0	18
30.	Andhra Pradesh	0	4	18	1	0	0	23
31.	Tamil Nadu	3	12	10	7	0	0	32
32.	Puducherry (UT)	2	0	0	0	0	2	4

Sl. No.	States	Excess	Normal	Deficient	Scanty	No Rain	No Data	Total
33.	Karnataka	3	15	11	1	0	0	30
34.	Kerala	0	7	7	0	0	0	14
35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL		44	207	294	74	1	21	641

For 620 districts for

which data is available	7%	33%	47%	12%	1%
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Source : (IMD)

**Effect of International Agreement regarding public stock holding
on Agriculture Sector**

3264. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed International Agreement related to public stockholding for Food Security would affect the agriculture sector in same way; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture does not restrict public stockholding programme for food security purposes. However, if food is acquired at administered prices and not at market prices, all such price support has to be kept within a limit of 10 per cent of the value of production of the commodity in question.

India, as part of a coalition of developing countries known as the 'G-33', has proposed an amendment to this cap that is a constraint to procurement and food aid programmes in developing countries.

During 9th Ministerial Conference held in Bali in December, 2013, the finally agreed text of the Ministerial Decision provides for Members to put in place an interim mechanism and to negotiate on an agreement for a permanent solution on public stock holding for food security purposes within four years. In the interim, until a permanent solution is found and subject to certain conditions, Members will not be challenged in the WTO even if the support in respect of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes exceeds the limit of 10% of the value of production in question.

Ban on slaughter of cow for meat export

3265.SHRI DILIP BHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established any mechanism to strictly enforce already existing ban on slaughter of cow and its progeny for meat export;

(b) whether Government has established any mechanism to identify meat of cow/progeny and buffalo meat while granting permission for export of meat; and

(c) whether Government has studied the steps taken by State Government of Gujarat on the above subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) As reported by Ministry of Commerce under the existing Foreign Trade Policy, export of beef of cows, oxen and calf and offal of cows, oxen and calf is prohibited. Export of buffalo meat is allowed on production of a certificate from the designated veterinary authority of the State.

(b) The Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries has taken the following quality control measures for export of buffalo meat:

- (i) As per the Foreign Trade Policy of Government of India each consignment is compulsorily required to be accompanied by a certificate from the competent authority certifying that meat has been derived from buffaloes unfit for milching and breeding. It is also mandatory for the Indian exporters to subject meat and meat products to ante mortem and post mortem examination.
- (ii) The export of chilled and frozen meat is allowed subject to the provision specified to the gazette notification on raw meat (chilled and frozen) under Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963. Offal of buffalo too are subject to the same conditions of quality control and inspection. Laboratories duly recognized by APEDA, as well as in-house laboratories attached under the abattoirs cum meat processing plant registered with APEDA and Agency approved laboratories may also be used to conduct the necessary tests for confirmation of quality under the supervision of the designated veterinary authority of the State. On the basis of these tests and inspections carried out by Veterinarians, duly registered under the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984, the veterinary Health Certificate is issued by the designated authorities of the State.

- (iii) As per the DGFT notification No. 82(RE-2010)/2009-2014, dated 31st Oct, 2011, export of meat and meat products is allowed subject to the exporter furnishing a declaration, attached with copies of valid APEDA Plant Registration Certificate(s) to the customs at the time of exports that the above items have been obtained/sourced from an APEDA registered abattoirs or from APEDA registered meat processing plant which sources raw material exclusively from APEDA registered integrated abattoir/abattoir.
- (iv) According to the current Foreign Trade Policy of the Government of India, each export consignment is subject to compulsory microbiological and other tests and a comprehensive pre-shipment inspection certificate is issued by the Government laboratory. The Government of India has nominated following agencies for issuance of health certificates:
- All State Directorates of Animal Husbandry
 - Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs)
 - Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI)
 - Bombay Municipal Corporation (originating from Deonar Abattoir)
 - Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)

Meat consignments conforming to the notified standards and specifications and which are export worthy only are allowed for export. Each consignment is accompanied by a Health Certificate issued by any of the above agencies. The certificate is based on the micro-biological examination of the consignment.

(c) Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has not undertaken any specific study on steps taken by State Government of Gujarat.

Impact of new Drugs (Prices Control) Order

3266. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a new Drugs (Prices Control) Order was notified recently;
- (b) whether any assessment has been made to find out the impact of the above Order on pharma companies;
- (c) whether it is a fact that due to depleted profits many pharma companies are forced to close their establishments; and

(d) if so, how Government looks at it and the alternative steps proposed to protect pharma companies, particularly smaller companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) Pursuant to the announcement of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP), 2012, the Government has notified Drug (Price Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) on 15.05.2013 in supersession of DPCO, 1995. All the medicines specified in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011 have been included in the first schedule of DPCO, 2013 and brought under price control.

(b) Out of total 680 National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013, National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has already notified the ceiling prices in respect of 444 medicines up to 10.07.2014 under provisions of the said order. Significant reduction in prices has been effected on the medicines notified under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevalent prior to that, as per details mentioned in table below:

% Reduction with respect to highest price to Retailer	No. of Drugs
0 <= 5%	35
5 <= 10%	41
10 <= 15%	50
15 <= 20%	40
20 <= 25%	60
25 <= 30%	43
30 <= 35%	27
35 <= 40%	34
Above 40%	114
TOTAL	444

In addition to above, NPPA has fixed prices of 108 non-scheduled formulations under DPCO, 2012.

(c) and (d) The objective of National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy (NPPP)-2012 is to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines - "essential medicines" - at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of industry, thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well-being for all.

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient

3267. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to revive country's Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) by formulating a separate policy which will promote the industry internationally apart from catering the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new policy will address the concerns of bulk drug manufacturing by way of incentives and creating infrastructure through bulk drug parks etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) A Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Health Research with Member Secretary, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC), Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Secretary, Department of Health, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion as members has been constituted to study and identify the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) of critical importance and to workout a package of interventions/concessions required to build domestic production capabilities, and examine the cost implication. The report of the said Committee is awaited.

Revival of fertilizer units through PPP mode

3268. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to revive the naphtha based fertilizer units with gas based units in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government also proposes for PPP model to re-start the closed fertilizer units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to revive closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan

Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL), which were using Naphtha/FO/LSHS/Coal as feedstock. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in August, 2011 had approved the Draft Rehabilitation scheme for revival of five units of FCIL namely Sindri, Talcher, Ramagundum, Gorakhpur and Korba and three units of HFCL namely Haldia, Baruni and Durgapur. Three closed units of FCIL namely Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher to be revived by the Public Sector undertakings through nomination route. Remaining two closed units namely Gorakhpur and Korba of FCIL and three units of HFCL namely Barauni, Durgapur and Haldia of HFCL are to be revived through bidding route.

It has also been decided by CCEA on 9th May, 2013, that revival of closed units of HFCL will be taken, once the revival of FCIL is on track.

Measures to increase production of fertilizers

3269. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity and value of fertilizers imported during the last year, fertilizer-wise;
- (b) whether Government has formulated a new policy on fertilizers' import and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether certain varieties of fertilizers have been imported as some companies have stopped production or closed down in the recent past, and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to initiate several measures to increase production of such fertilizers in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and it is imported for direct agriculture use on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) *i.e.* MMTC Limited (MMTC), State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL) to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production. Government is also importing approximately 20 LMT urea from Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) under Long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GOI and OMIFCO. The import of urea from OMIFCO is made through M/s IFFCO and M/s KRIBHCO. The quantity and value of urea imported during the last year is as below:-

Year	Quantity of urea (Lakh MT)			Value (Million US \$)
	From Oman	Through STE	Total	
2013-14	21.21	49.67	70.88	1,968.36

Fertilizers other than Urea are imported under Open General Licence (OGL). Companies import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgment. Government do not maintain the value of these imports. However, Government is paying subsidy on P&K fertilizers under Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme. The details of quantity of P&K fertilizers imported during the last year are as under:-

Year	(Quantity in lakh MT)			
	DAP	NPK	MOP [#]	MAP
2013-14	32.61	3.62	20.67	0.39

For direct agriculture use.

(b) No Sir, there is no change in the present policy of fertilizer imports. As per the present policy imports of urea is restricted and permitted through three State Trading Enterprises *i.e.* MMTTC Limited, State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL). Imports of all other fertilizers are free and permitted under Open General License (OGL).

(c) The Urea, DAP, SSP and various grades of Complex Fertilizers etc. are produced in the country. However production of these fertilizers in the country is not sufficient to meet the entire domestic requirements. Accordingly, Urea, DAP and various grades of Complex Fertilizers are being imported to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous availability of these fertilizers. The entire requirement of MOP is met through imports as there are no viable reserves of potash in the country.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, the Government has notified the New Investment Policy (NIP) 2012 on 2nd January, 2013 to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector and to reduce India's import dependency by boosting the domestic production of Urea. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) policy has been implemented for P&K fertilizers *w.e.f.* 1.04.2010 to ensure subsidy on indigenous P&K fertilizers at par with imported P&K fertilizers. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizer inputs to P&K sector.

Amendments to new investment policy for urea sector

3270. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the action taken by Government, as on date, for necessary amendments in the new investment policy declared on September, 2008 for urea producing units as it is due for further consideration after five years, keeping in view the prevailing gas prices and the investments costs and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): Department of Fertilizers has prepared a draft CCEA Note for reviewing the New Investment Policy (NIP) - 2008, which is under consideration in this Department.

Rise in price of non-scheduled drugs

3271. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come across any instances of increase in price of non-scheduled drugs beyond 10 per cent per annum;

(b) if so, the details of the drugs and their manufacturers; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) to (c) Para 20 of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013) provides that no manufacturer shall increase the maximum retail price of a non-scheduled drug more than ten per cent of maximum retail price during preceding twelve months and where the increase is beyond ten per cent of maximum retail price, such manufacturer shall be liable to reduce the same to the level of ten per cent of maximum retail price for next twelve months. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) presently monitors prices of non-scheduled formulations based on random test samples purchased from different parts of the country for its monitoring and enforcement activities. So far, NPPA has not come across any instance of price increase beyond ten per cent in respect of non-scheduled formulations based on the random sample tests carried out by it.

Disinvestment in PSUs

†3272. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be please to state:

- (a) the names of the undertakings under the Ministry that have been privatized/disinvested so far;
- (b) the amount of money received by Government, undertaking-wise; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of the alleged irregularities committed in the privatization/disinvestment of undertakings and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) and (b) Details given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) No. Sir, the Ministry is not aware of any alleged irregularities committed in the privatization or disinvestment of the undertakings.

Statement*Details of privatised/disinvested undertakings*

Sl. No.	Name of CPSU	Year(s)	Amount realized (₹ in crores)
1.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (R.C. F.)	1992-93 (disinvestment minority stake)	30.36
		2012-13 (March, 2013) (disinvestment of 12.5 % paid up equity capital out of GoI share of 92.5)	310.15
		TOTAL (RCF)	340.51
2.	National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)	1992-93 (disinvestment of minority stake)	0.72
		1993-94 (disinvestment of minority stake)	0.28
		2013-14 (July, 2013) May, 2014 (disinvestment of 7.64 % paid up equity capital out of GoI shareholding of 97.64 %)	101.08

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Name of CPSU	Year(s)	Amount realized (Rs. in crores)
		Employee OFS	3.60
		TOTAL (NFL)	105.68
3.	The Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)	1992-93 (disinvestment of minority stake)	1.30
4.	Brahmaputra Crackers and Polymers Ltd. (BCPL)	1992-93 (disinvestment of minority stake)	331.18
5.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL)	2002-03 (strategic sale of 26%)	1,490.84
		2003-04 (sale of a part of residual equity)	1202.85
		2004-05 (4.58% of equity sold of employees)	64.81
		TOTAL (IPCL)	2758.50

Emission by telecom towers

3273. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been increasing concerns over emissions by telecom towers and their adverse implications of health;

(b) whether despite missing several deadlines, telecom companies have still not been able to certify over one lakh telecom towers on radiation emission levels; and

(c) if so, the Government's action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir, around the world, including in India, concern has been raised about the adverse implications of radiations emitted from cell phone towers on health. However, World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May, 2006 on Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak Radio Frequency (RF) Signals from base stations and wireless networks cause

adverse health effects.” “From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by base stations (mobile phone towers).”

WHO has referred to approximately 25,000 studies, conducted around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has concluded: “current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to EMF radiation”.

(b) and (c) Based on the inputs received from Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of Department of Telecom (DoT), as on 30.06.2014, there are no mobile base transceiver stations (BTSs) which have not been certified for radiation emission levels by Telecom Companies. However, for a total no. of 16957 BTS, self-certificates were submitted by various Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), after stipulated deadlines prescribed by DoT. TERM Cells have imposed applicable penalties for such BTSs on these Telecom Service Providers subsequent to which, the self-certificates for these BTSs have been submitted by the TSPs in compliance to EMF exposure norms of DoT.

Bringing effectiveness in telecom system

†3274. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allocated funds for bringing speediness, development and effectiveness in the telecom system and for benefitting the consumers during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof till date, year-wise/State-wise; and

(c) the number of applicants registered in the waiting list as on date, State-wise, class-wise/exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Action plan to implement good governance and e-governance

†3275. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government is preparing a new action plan to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

implement good governance and e-governance more effectively, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the National Centre for Good Governance is proposed to be included as an advisory institution under the new action plan, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has planned a new scheme "Good Governance and Best Practices" and allocated ₹ 100 crore for that. The scheme is being formulated by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity) for implementation.

With regard to e-Governance, Government of India has approved National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) on 18th May, 2006 with a common vision, implementation methodology and management structure to implement e-Governance projects in the country. NeGP comprises 31 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) being implemented at the Central, State and local Government levels and have a singular mission to make all Government services accessible to the common person in his/her locality, through efficient, transparent and reliable mechanisms. These consist of 11 Central MMPS, 13 State MMPs and 7 integrated MMPs. The common programme support components are aimed at creating the right governance and institutional mechanisms, core infrastructure, policies and standards and the necessary legal framework for adoption of e-Governance in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

Licence to MSOs for Digital Addressable System

3276. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre/TRAI gives licence to Multi-System Operators (MSOs) for Digital Addressable System (DAS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints from several States regarding denial of licence;

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of Government thereto; and

(e) the details of the MSOs in Tamil Nadu, to whom TRAI has given licence for DAS?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, every Multi System Operator (MSO) is required to obtain registration from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for providing services in the areas notified for implementing Digital Addressable System (DAS).

(c) and (d) A request has been received from Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited, a Government of Tamil Nadu Public Sector Undertaking for grant of registration as MSO to operate in DAS notified areas of Tamil Nadu. The proposal is being examined in the light of recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding entry of Government entities in the broadcasting and distribution activities.

(e) Out of 106 MSOs who have been granted permanent registration by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 32 MSOs have registration for operation in Tamil Nadu also. Details are available at the website (www.mib.nic.in) of the Ministry of I and B.

Reviving BSNL

3277. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing effective policies by spending good amount for reviving BSNL in each State to revamp landline services to face the competition from private players particularly in urban areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far including BSNL and compared to other private players in the country; and

(c) the road-map prepared for the Twelfth Plan period so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the leader in landline business with market share of 82.57% as on 31.5.2014 (excluding Delhi and Mumbai) as against 17.43% market share of private sector.

BSNL has informed that it has taken several steps to revamp its landline services to provide better services to its subscribers and to face effectively the competition being posed by private competitors. The steps being taken by BSNL to revamp its landline services are given below:

- Migration from Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to Next

Generation Network (NGN) to provide Enhanced Value Added Services (VAS) like Personalized Ring Back Tone, Broadband VAS, Multi Media Video Conferencing, Wide area Centrex, Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services and fixed-mobile services convergence etc.

- Redeployment of workforce to strengthen sales, marketing distribution and customer care activities.
- Measures to retain and enhance the landline connectivity by increasing penetration of broadband.
- Introduction of Call Detail Record (CDR) based billing, commercial and fault repair service and work order management system.

(c) BSNL has reported that for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17), it has planned to make the entire wireline network IP (Internet Protocol) enabled by migrating to Next Generation Network.

The migration will result in reduction of operational cost and facilitate induction new value added services to the landline customers.

Shortfall in Spectrum Auction Target

3278. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proceeds in 2G Spectrum auction might fall short of ₹ 40,000 crore target;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) During 2014-15, auction of spectrum is planned in 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands. At this stage, it is not possible to quantify the revenue that will be realized from auction of spectrum.

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

Post offices operating in rented buildings

3279. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of post offices are operating in the rented buildings in the country;

(b) if so, the number of post offices operating in rented buildings in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such buildings have collapsed at some places;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government would take to construct buildings of its own in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2110 Departmental post offices are operating in Maharashtra State. Out of this, 1755 post offices are operating in rented/rent-free buildings. The details of rented/rent-free buildings district-wise are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

(e) The construction of own buildings for post offices in the country including Maharashtra State is an ongoing activity subject to availability of land and funds. Presently one post office building at Bandra in Maharashtra State is under construction. Further, the following post office building projects in Maharashtra State stand approved for construction during Twelfth Five Year Plan:

1. SP College HSG-I PO, Vijay Nagar, Pune District.
2. Kankavali PO, Sindhudurg District.
3. Re-construction of Station Road PO, Parbhani District.
4. Rukhmani Nagar PO, Amaravati District.
5. Sawantwadi HO, Sindhudurg District.
6. Shirdi PO, Ahmednagar District.
7. Kolshet PO, Thane District.

Statement

*Details of post offices operating in rented/rent-free buildings,
district-wise in Maharashtra State*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of rented/rent-free buildings
1.	Akola	24
2.	Washim	05
3.	Amravati	36
4.	Buldhana	24
5.	Chandrapur	36
6.	Gadchiroli	08
7.	Nagpur	95
8.	Bhandara	16
9.	Gondia	07
10.	Yavatmal	31
11.	Wardha	19
12.	Pune	168
13.	Satara	79
14.	Solapur	74
15.	Ahmednagar	75
16.	Sangli	74
17.	Kolhapur	89
18.	Ratnagiri	72
19.	Sindhudurg	51
20.	Mumbai	198
21.	Thane	109
22.	Raigad	59
23.	Aurangabad	45

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of rented/rent-free buildings
24.	Jalna	16
25.	Beed	29
26.	Jalgaon	71
27.	Nashik	79
28.	Nanded	40
29.	Latur	12
30.	Osmanabad	34
31.	Parbhani	22
32.	Hingoli	4
33.	Dhule	44
34.	Nandurbar	10
TOTAL		1755

Technology related crimes

3280. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a significant increase in cyber space activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that increased access to internet use in the country has also resulted in increased opportunities for technology-related crimes;
- (d) if so, whether Government has adequate expertise to tackle the cyber crime/attack; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Over the period of time there has been significant increase in cyber space activities. In the year 2005 there were approximately 7.5 million websites worldwide and 0.17 million websites in India, which have increased to 1001 million websites worldwide and 16 million websites in India by

June, 2014. Similarly no. of internet users, 720 million worldwide and 21 million in India in the year 2005 have increased to 2931 million worldwide and 221 million In India till June, 2014. There have been many other developments and technological innovations in the cyber space globally like social media, cloud services and mobile applications. National e-Transaction Count; which represents no. of transactions of National and State level e-Governance Projects including Mission More projects has grown significantly and are at the level of 1519 million during January-July, 2014.

(c) With the increase in the proliferation of Information Technology and related services there is a rise in number of cyber crime and cyber security incidents. The trend in increase in cyber incidents is similar to that worldwide. As per the cyber crime data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 1791, 2876 and 4356 Cyber Crime cases were registered under InformationTechnology Act during the year 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. A total of 422, 601 and 1337 cases were registered under Cyber Crime related Sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) during the year 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. In addition, a total no. of 13301, 22060, 71780 and 62189 security incidents including phishing, scanning, spam, malicious code, website intrusions etc. were reported to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) during the year 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 (till May) respectively.

(d) and (e) The cyber space has become very sophisticated and complex with the technological innovations and inclusion of different type of devices and services. The cyber space is anonymous and borderless. The Government has adequate expertise to tackle cyber crimes/attacks in the country and updating the skills and expertise on regular basis in line with new developments in the cyber space, though there are challenges. The specific measures taken by the Government to tackle cyber crimes/ incidents in the country are:

- (i) In order to address the issues of cyber security in a holistic manner, the Government has released the “National Cyber Security Policy-2013” on 2.07.2013, for public use and implementation by all relevant stakeholders. This policy aims at facilitating creation of secure computing environment and enabling adequate trust and confidence in electronic transactions and also guiding stakeholders’ actions for protection of cyber space.
- (ii) Government has set up National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) to protect the critical information infrastructure in the country.

- (iii) Action is being initiated to set up a centre for tracking all the compromised systems connected on the Internet in the country and clean them on online basis so that the infection does not carry forward. The prototype of such centre is functioning. The centre will also collect and analyze malicious software so as to install appropriate software to prevent malicious activities. Full scale centre will come up in December, 2014.
- (iv) All Government websites are to be hosted on infrastructure of National Informatics Centre (NIC), ERNET India or any other secure infrastructure service provider in the country.
- (v) All Central Government Ministries/Departments and State/Union Territory Governments have been advised to conduct security auditing of entire Information Technology infrastructure. All the new Government websites and applications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the websites and applications is to be conducted on a regular basis after hosting also. CERT-In provides necessary expertise to audit IT infrastructure of critical and other ICT sectors.
- (vi) Indian Computer Emergency Response (CERT-In) has empanelled a total no. of 45 security auditors to carry out security audit of the IT infrastructure of Government, Public and Private sector organisations.
- (vii) All major websites are being monitored regularly to detect malicious activities.
- (viii) Close watch is kept to scan malicious activities on the important networks in the Government, Public and Service Providers.
- (ix) All the Ministries/ Departments of Central Government and State Governments have been asked to implement the Crisis Management Plan (CMP) to counter cyber attacks and cyber terrorism.
- (x) The National Watch and Alert System - Indian Computer Emergency Response (CERT-In) team is working 24/7 and scanning the cyber space in the country. The team works with Government, Service Providers, private sector and citizens both on pro-active and reactive basis and help in mitigating cyber incidents. The team also disseminate information and advise on the steps for strengthening the security of the systems. They work with the service providers to identify the computer systems which are compromised and are participating in launching attacks, isolate them and create corrective steps to clean them. The system is being strengthened regularly in terms of the resources to address all incidents.

- (xi) Sectoral CERTs have been functioning in the areas of Defence and Finance for catering to critical domains. They are equipped to handle and respond to domain specific threats emerging from the cyber systems.
- (xii) Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (ISACs) for financial services has been set up at Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT). Such a centre exchange information on cyber incidents in financial sector and advises them for appropriate mitigation. Action has been initiated to set up similar ISACs in power and petroleum sector.
- (xiii) A major programme has been initiated on development of cyber forensics tools, setting up of infrastructure for investigation and training of the users, particularly police and judicial officers in use of this tool to collect and analyse the digital evidence and present them in Courts.
- (xiv) Cyber forensics training lab has been set up at Training Academy of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to impart basic and advanced training in Cyber Forensics and Investigation of Cyber Crimes to Police Officers associated with CBI. In addition, Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir for training of Law Enforcement and Judiciary in these States.
- (xv) In collaboration with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM. Cyber Forensic Labs have been set up at Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune and Kolkata for awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime investigation. National Law School, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad are also engaged in conducting several awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and Cyber crimes for judicial officers.
- (xvi) India has been recognized as Certificate Issuing Nation in the area of cyber security under Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA). Under this arrangement, the certificates issued by India will be recognized internationally. This recognition will help country to set up chain of test centres for testing of Information Technology (IT) products with respect to cyber security.

Surveillance by foreign agencies

3281. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the issue of surveillance by foreign agencies through the web;

(b) whether Government is aware of Indian firms trading such data with foreign agencies which are claimed to be personal and confidential; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government is aware of the media reports regarding electronic surveillance programme deployed by the United States Agencies to capture internet and telephony data from foreign countries, including India. As per the media reports, the electronics surveillance programme PRISM was specifically designed to eavesdrop on Internet traffic, including access to websites, emails, chats, voice and video calls and Social Media activity. Further, U.S. agencies used a number of methods to gather intelligence including intercepting communication on fibre cables and infrastructure, collecting information from servers of global Internet Service Providers.

(b) and (c) As per the Media reports, global firms AT&T, VeriSign, Microsoft, Oracle, Cisco, IBM and Intel are involved in sharing data with foreign agencies. However, no Indian firm has been named in the media reports and no specific official information from any Government Agency over the issue has been brought to the notice of the Government.

Resistance from public regarding erection of mobile towers

3282. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers erected by Government/Government companies in the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government/companies have come across resistance for erecting such towers on grounds of environment pollution or other wise;

(c) the types of objections raised by members of public;

(d) the specific objections raised regarding towers erected or proposed to be erected in the State of Goa; and

(e) the stand taken by Government/Government companies in this regard as regards allaying the fears of members of public?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, the telecom licenses are issued Licensed Service Area (LSA)-wise and accordingly the information is maintained

LSA-wise. Number of mobile base transceiver station (BTS) erected by Government companies *i.e.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in the last two years,, Licensed Service Area-wise is provided in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Following types of objections/resistance for erecting mobile towers have been raised by public:

- (i) Issues related with ill-effect/ health impact due to radiations from mobile towers.
- (ii) Issues related to Diesel Generator (DG) sets.
- (iii) Issues related to agreement with owner.

(d) In the State of Goa the public concern raised has been specific to health impact due to radiations from mobile towers.

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

WHO has recommended that ‘National authorities should adopt international standards to protect their citizens against adverse levels of RF fields. They should restrict access to areas where exposure limits may be exceeded.’ WHO has referred to the International Exposure Guidelines developed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has already prescribed stricter precautionary limits for Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation from mobile tower. The present prescribed limits for EMF radiations from Base Station in India are one-tenth (1/10th) of internationally prescribed limits of ICNIRP.

Further, in a Writ Petition filed in Hon’ble High Court Allahabad, Lucknow bench, the Hon’ble Court *vide* its order dated 10.01.2012 constituted a committee including Members from IITs Kharagpur, Kanpur, Delhi, Roorkee, Bombay and from other scientific institutions of the country including Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi. The Committee submitted its Report on 17.01.2014. After due consideration of the human health concerns on account of EMF

radiation being raised in public and the Report of the Committee, the Government has decided in February, 2014 that the present prescribed precautionary EMF safe exposure limits are adequate and need no further change at this stage.

In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed EMF radiation limits from mobile tower in India, self-certificates are required to be submitted by telecom service providers as per the guidelines issued by DoT. To cross check these, audit of base transceiver station (BTS) sites is carried out by Telecom Enforcement Resource and Monitoring (TERM) field units of DoT. This is regularly done by TERM units for the purpose of monitoring that the EMF radiation exposure is within prescribed norms. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken by imposing a penalty of ₹ 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site as per the prescribed procedure.

Further, to allay the fears of public, DoT has issued "Precautionary guidelines for the mobile users". DoT has also published advertisements in National and Regional Newspapers for creating awareness among public for ensuring safety from EMF radiations emitted from Mobile Towers and handsets. For the information of the general public, a hand book on "Mobile Communication - Radio Waves & Safety" has also been issued.

Statement

Number of Mobile Base Transceiver Station (BTS) erected by BSNL and MTNL in the last two years

Sl. No.	Name of Licensed Service Area	Total BTS erected during last 2 years by BSNL and MTNL
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2227
2.	Assam	113
3.	Bihar and Jharkhand	262
4.	Delhi (MTNL)	18
5.	Gujarat	293
6.	Haryana	355
7.	Himachal Pradesh	120
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	75
9.	Karnataka	547

1	2	3
10.	Kerala	1017
11.	Kolkata Telecom District	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	201
13.	Maharashtra and Goa	187
14.	Mumbai (MTNL)	149
15.	North East	135
16.	Odisha	74
17.	Punjab	454
18.	Rajasthan	313
19.	Tamil Nadu including Chennai Telecom District	755
20.	Uttar Pradesh East	392
21.	Uttar Pradesh West	208
22.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar	50

Long distance calls at local call rates

3283. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce the scheme of long distance calls at the rate of local calls;
- (b) if so, when was the decision taken;
- (c) whether the scheme has come into force;
- (d) the advantages and disadvantages, if any, of the scheme;
- (e) whether private service providers are expected to fall in line; and
- (f) what are their reaction as of now and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per the provision of

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 as amended from time to time, TRAI prescribes tariffs for telecommunication services in India. As per the current tariff framework in vogue, tariff for access service (including STD tariff) is under forbearance except rural wire line services and national roaming services. The telecom service providers have flexibility to offer different tariff packages targeted at different customer user groups, subject to the condition that these tariffs have to be consistent with the regulatory principles of non-discrimination, non-predation etc.

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

Digitalisation of rural post offices

3284. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking steps for digitalisation of rural post offices in the country;
- (b) the physical progress in digitalisation of rural post offices in Odisha;
- (c) whether any target was earmarked, both physical and financial, for 2011-12, concerned with digitalisation of rural post offices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved the Department of Posts' IT Modernization Project with a total outlay of ₹4909 crore in November, 2012. The IT Modernization Project aims at modernization and computerization of all post offices in the country including more than 130000 Gramin Dak Sewak Post Offices in rural areas. The project covers whole of India including Odisha.

(c) to (e) No specific target for the year 2011-12 was earmarked for the digitalization of rural post offices. The IT Modernization Project is being implemented through eight different segments and out of the eight, two segments *i.e.* Rural ICT- Application and Rural Hardware and Connectivity deal with digitalization of rural post offices.

In respect of Rural ICT- Application, the contract has been signed on 28.02.13 but the implementation is kept on hold to align with the finalization of Rural Hardware

and Connectivity contract which is under finalization. For Rural ICT Hardware and Connectivity, earlier two tenders were annulled. Fresh tender was issued on 4.2.2014 and evaluation of bids is in progress.

Rural broadband connections

3285. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is achieving its target for rural broadband connections in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the further steps proposed to be taken to promote rural broadband connections, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government has not fixed any target separately for Rural Broadband connection in the country. National Telecom Policy 2012 specifies a target of 175 million broadband connections by 2017 and 600 million broadband connections by 2020.

(d) Government has approved the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) scheme. NOFN is planned to connect all the Gram Panchayats (approximately 2,50,000) in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibers of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) by laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks, for providing broadband connectivity.

Non-payment of interconnect usage charges to BSNL

3286. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any action against private telecom operators such as Bharati Airtel, Idea, Vodafone and others for their non-payment of interconnect usage charges to BSNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for non-payment by these private telecom players; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to recover the amount and the outstanding dues as on 31 March, 2014?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that their outstanding dues against private operators as on 31st March, 2014 is ₹ 1206.65 crores. Out of this an amount of ₹ 1053.84 crores outstanding against private operators is under dispute.

The reasons for outstanding dues and non-realisation of payments are as follows:

- Mismatch of CDRs (Call Detail Records) of BSNL and private operators.
- Disputes arising due to Trunk Groups violation where higher rate for Inter-Usage Charges (IUC) is applicable.
- Short payments made by operators.

BSNL has informed that out of the total dues an amount of ₹ 47.21 crores has been realized upto 30.06.2014. Further BSNL has taken steps to recover outstanding dues. These are as follows:

- Reconciliation of disputes arising out of CDR mismatch and IUC rates.
- Adjusting outstanding dues from the IUC payable to private operators.
- Encashment of Bank Guarantee (BG) of private operators.

Profit/loss of BSNL

3287. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of profit/loss of BSNL from 2004-05 to 2011-12;
- (b) the reasons for the mounting losses;
- (c) the remedial steps taken by Government to make BSNL profit oriented and to match with other major private telecom players;
- (d) whether BSNL proposes to offer VRS to its one lakh employees to trim its mounting losses; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Details of profits/losses of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) since 2004-05 to 2011-12 are given below:

Financial Year	Profit/Loss after tax (₹ in crores)
2004-05	10,183
2005-06	8,940
2006-07	7,806
2007-08	3,009
2008-09	575
2009-10	(-) 1,823
2010-11	(-) 6,384
2011-12	(-) 8,851

Note: (-) denotes losses.

- (b) The main reasons for losses being incurred by BSNL are as follows.
- (i) Declining landline subscriber base with shift to mobile communications.
 - (ii) Stiff competition in mobile sector.
 - (iii) Inability to invest in infrastructure expansion for coverage and improved quality of service.
 - (iv) Employee expenses far in excess of industry norms.
 - (v) Inability to transition from technology centric to customer-centric business.
- (c) Government has taken several measures to revive the BSNL. These measures include:
- (i) Waiver of Government loan to BSNL involving an amount of ₹ 1,411 crores
 - (ii) Financial support of ₹ 6,724.51 crores to BSNL on surrender of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum.

Besides these measures Government is formulating a coordinated plan aimed towards revival of BSNL by addressing issues of high employee expenses and gainful utilization

of assets to enhance availability of finances for network expansion and improvement in Quality of Service (QoS).

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

(d) and (e) BSNL has submitted a proposal to offer Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to one lakh employees to reduce employee expenses. After consideration of various options and based on the recommendations of Group of Ministers, Department of Telecommunications is considering a proposal to provide annual financial support for reduction of employee expenses with certain conditions.

3G connectivity

3288. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 3G facility is extended to all part of the country by BSNL and MTNL, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has noticed lack of proper network connectivity in areas where 3G has already been rolled out, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether BSNL and MTNL plan to improve their 3G delivery system, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Details of cities where 3G services being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) Quality of Service (QoS) is monitored by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) against the prescribed benchmarks through Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs). TRAI has reported that while MTNL is meeting the benchmarks for all parameters in 3G services, BSNL is not meeting certain benchmarks for certain areas.

Reasons for not meeting the benchmarks for the parameters are mainly due to power supply problems and frequent road cutting resulting in damage to optical fibre cables that provide backhaul connectivity for 3G Nodes.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that it is upgrading its network and converting the transmission media to Internet Protocol (IP) media to enable delivery of 3G services. To improve coverage and data speed, BSNL is augmenting its network by adding IP based 10502 new Node-Bs for 3G services in the network as part of Phase VII expansion plan. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is augmenting its network by adding 1080 Node-Bs for 3G services each in Delhi and Mumbai. The packet core capacity (Data handling capacity of network) will be increased from existing capacity of 400 Mbps (Delhi) and 1.8 Gbps (Mumbai) to 10 Gbps in both cities.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are also upgrading their existing HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access) 3G network supporting download speed of 3.6 Mbps and upload speed of 384 Kbps to support HSPA+ (High Speed Packet Access) with download speed of 21.1 Mbps and upload speed of 5.76 Mbps per sector in each Node-B.

Statement

*Details of cities where 3G services have been launched in BSNL and MTNL
Networks (As on 31.05.2014)*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of 3G cities
BSNL		
1.	Haryana	38
2.	Himachal Pradesh	35
3.	Punjab	72
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	51
5.	Jharkhand	29
6.	Rajasthan	58
7.	Uttarakhand	41
8.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	117
9.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	30
10.	Bihar	111
11.	Kolkata	01
12.	Madhya Pradesh	77

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of 3G cities
13.	Odisha	69
14.	West Bengal	90
15.	North East-I	25
16.	North East-II	33
17.	Assam	149
18.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	05
19.	Chennai	17
20.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	323
21.	Kerala	340
22.	Karnataka	81
23.	Tamil Nadu	71
24.	Chhattisgarh	45
25.	Maharashtra	291
26.	Gujarat	120
MTNL		
1.	Delhi	01
2.	Mumbai	01
TOTAL 3G CITIES		2321

Note: North east-I includes, Meghalaya Tripura and Mizoram.

North east-II includes Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

Non-functional mobile towers

3289. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of a number of mobile towers lying unused due to their being non-functional; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have, in general, reported that no mobile towers are lying unused due to their being non-functional. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that 1277 towers are not operational because of non-availability of Base Trans-receiver Stations (BTS) and 61 towers are not operational because of various reasons such as court cases, link infeasibility, media and power constraints, theft of equipments etc.

Internet penetration in the country

3290. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the internet user base in the country as on 30 June, 2014;
- (b) whether Government is aware that internet penetration and growth in the country lags behind Asian peers; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve internet penetration and make India one of the world's largest internet user bases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, as per the reports received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the number of Internet subscribers in the country is 251.59 million, as on 31st March, 2014.

(b) The statistics on 'percentage of individuals using the internet' in respect of some Asian countries for the year 2013, as available on the website of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies, is given in Statement (*See below*).

Details of the statistics relating to 'percentage of individuals using the internet' available on ITU website for various countries is available at the ITU Website:- <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>.

(c) New Telecom Policy 2012 envisages providing affordable and reliable broadband on demand by the year 2015 and to achieve 175 million broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed and making available higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps on demand.

Further, Government has approved the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) scheme. NOFN, being funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), is planned to

connect all the Gram Panchayats (approximately 2,50,000) in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibers of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) by laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks, for providing broadband connectivity.

Non-discriminatory access to the network will be provided to all categories of service providers including internet service providers.

Statement

Name of the Country	Percentage of individuals using the Internet in the year 2013
Afghanistan	5.90
Bangladesh	6.50
Cambodia	6.00
China	45.80
India	15.10
Indonesia	15.82
Japan	86.25
Korea (Republic)	84.77
Malaysia	66.97
Nepal	13.30
Pakistan	10.90
Phillipines	37.00
Russia	61.40
Singapore	73.00
Sri Lanka	21.90
Thailand	28.94
Vietnam	43.90

PRIs in Public Distribution System

3291. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry intends to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme of operation being implemented to involve the PRIs; and
- (c) the details of PRIs involved in Public Distribution, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (c) Various measures have been taken by the Government to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the State and Union Territory (UT) Governments to involve the PRIs in finalizing the list of beneficiaries belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories, monitoring the functioning of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs), inspect FPS records, *etc.* Further, as part of the Nine Point Action Plan evolved in consultation with States/UTs. States/UTs have been requested to involve elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains and for giving FPS licenses to Village Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies among others. As reported by States/UTs upto 31.03.2014, a statement giving State/UT-wise number of FPSs being run by Village Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies is given in Statement.

States/UTs have also been instructed to introduce monthly certification by the concerned village panchayat/urban local body *etc.* of delivery of allocated TPDS commodities at the FPSs and their distribution to entitled/eligible ration card holders during the allocation month. As upto 31.03.2014, 23 States/UTs have reported introduction of monthly certification, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep.

Instructions have also been issued to States/UTs stipulating that the list of BPL beneficiaries should be displayed in the FPS as well as the office of the Gram Panchayat for public scrutiny; notices regarding entitlements of foodgrains and their prices may be pasted in the office of the Gram Panchayats, Blocks, Tehsils, *etc.* copy of ration card, stock

and sale registers maintained may be sent to the Gram Panchayats; Gram Panchayats should be encouraged to form a FPS Committee to keep a watch on the functioning of the FPS, etc.

Statement

*Number of FPSs under TPDS run by Village Panchayats and Urban
Local Bodies in the States/UTs*

(As upto 31.03.2014)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Village Panchayats	Urban Local Bodies
1.	Chhattisgarh	4173	24
2.	Gujarat	5	20
3.	Himachal Pradesh	37	0
4.	Maharashtra	219	220
5.	Nagaland	1165	260
6.	Odisha	4287	9
7.	Chandigarh	7	0
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0

Rise in prices of vegetables

3292. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of vegetables, particularly onion and potato, have recorded around 40 per cent increase since May, 2014;

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

(c) the reasons for steep rise in prices of vegetables, particularly onion and potato; and

(d) the details of steps Government has taken to check rise in prices of vegetables to ease the lives of common people?

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

(a) and (b) As per the latest Wholesale Price Index (WPI) released for June, 2014, the

index for vegetables increased by 16.02 per cent over May, 2014. The details are given in Statement.

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

(d) The recent initiatives taken by the Government to improve the availability and contain prices of vegetables are as follows:

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) fixed for potatoes at USD 450 per M.T. w.e.f. 26.06.2014 and of onions at USD 500 per M.T. w.e.f. 2.07.2014 respectively.
- States have been advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- Advisory to State Governments issued to take action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- Imposed stock limits in respect of onion and potato for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014 under the Essential Commodities Act.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)	(2004-05=100)		
Commodity Name	June, 2014*	May, 2014	% Variation
Vegetables	271.6	234.1	16.02
Potato	304.0	270.9	12.22
Onion	302.8	260.9	16.06
Okra (Lady finger)	152.4	140.9	8.16
Brinjal	212.7	171.5	24.02
Cabbage	313.1	216.1	44.89
Sweet Potato	343.3	401.8	-14.56

Source: Dept. of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

*Latest available.

Leakages in TPDS

3293. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the Government's stance on leakages in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);
- (b) whether Government is focusing on checking these existing leakages;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for computerization of the supply chain to monitor PDS shipments and to curb their diversions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government would involve private players in the supply chain management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) There have been reports about irregularities in the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including leakage/diversion of foodgrains in some States/regions in the country. As and when these reports are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous process. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding conferences wherein State/UT Governments are requested for continuous review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, improving the viability of FPS operations, *etc.*

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing Component-I of the Plan scheme 'End-to-end Computerisation of Targeted Public Distribution System Operations' during the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17). Component-I comprises digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerization of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portal and grievance redressal mechanisms. The computerisation of supply chain management, *inter-alia* provides for tracking of the dispatch and receipt of TPDS items at Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State godowns, FPSs *etc.* and will help in checking leakage/diversion of foodgrains.

In so far implementation of Component-I referred above including computerisation of supply chain management is concerned, States/UTs have been given the flexibility to either undertake the implementation themselves or use the services of National Informatics Centre (NIC) or hire private agencies for this purpose.

Irregularities in providing foodgrains to BPL families

3294. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether the quantity of foodgrains being supplied to BPL families is as per their entitlements in all States/regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the entitlement, allocation and actual distribution of foodgrains during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Government has received any complaints/reports about alleged irregularities including distribution/supply of foodgrains below their entitlements to BPL families and if so, details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Under the existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), States/Union Territories(UTs) are allocated foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) [including Antryodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)] families as per their entitlement by Government of India. The States/UTs who have implemented National Food Security Act (NFSA) are allocated foodgrains under TPDS @ 5 kg per month per person belonging to priority category and @ 35 kg per family per month for existing AAY category as per their entitlement under the Act.

(c) and (d) There have been complaints about alleged irregularities including distribution/supply of foodgrains below their entitlement to BPL families in some States/UTs. State/UT-wise number of complaints received during the last three years and the current year is given in Statement (*See below*).

For better targeting of food subsidies, removing bogus ration cards, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains, check on leakage/diversion of foodgrains, introducing public

accountability, etc., Government has taken various steps in implementation of the TPDS in States/UTs. The PDS (Control) Order, 2001 mandates the States/UTs to take action for smooth functioning of TPDS. The NFSA, 2013 prescribes essential reforms in the TPDS. Government has taken up with States/UTs for implementing measures such as door-step delivery of foodgrains, correct identification of beneficiaries, improve foodgrains offtake, monitoring and vigilance, improving viability of fair price shop operations. Best practices among States/UTs in TPDS implementation are shared for use by other States/UTs. With a view to modernize the system, the Government has initiated a Plan Scheme on End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations on cost sharing basis with States/UTs which would facilitate digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Statement

Complaints on TPDS received in the Department from individuals, organisations and through media reports etc. from 2011 to 2014 (30.06.2014)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	-	3	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	-	-
3.	Assam	1	1	-	1
4.	Bihar	6	14	32	15
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	3	1
6.	Delhi	16	22	37	16
7.	Goa	-	-	-	-
8.	Gujarat	2	3	4	2
9.	Haryana	7	5	11	10
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4	-	-	-
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	3	-	-
12.	Jharkhand	3	4	8	5
13.	Karnataka	1	2	6	1

Sl. No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013	2014
14.	Kerala	1	4	1	-
15.	Madhya Pradesh	9	6	17	3
16.	Maharashtra	8	9	20	14
17.	Manipur	1	1	2	1
18.	Meghalaya	1	-	1	2
19.	Mizoram	-	1	-	-
20.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-
21.	Orissa	2	3	3	2
22.	Punjab	-	5	6	2
23.	Rajasthan	6	3	18	9
24.	Sikkim	-	-	0	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	3	4	9	4
26.	Uttarakhand	1	5	2	5
27.	Uttar Pradesh	68	72	92	44
28.	West Bengal	-	2	7	3
29.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-
30.	Puducherry	-	1	-	-
TOTAL		144	171	282	141

Reforms to fight subsidies and inflation

3295. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to unleash food reforms to fight subsidies and inflation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

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

Decentralized Procurement Scheme

3296. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD
AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is unable to fully implement the
Decentralized Procurement Scheme in all the States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether apprehensions raised by various State Governments have been solved
by the Central Government; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India makes active efforts to pursue State Governments
to adopt the (DCP) scheme. However, the decision regarding adoption of DCP
system lies with the State Governments and the determining factors are availability of
requisite infrastructure, institutional capacity and resources with the respective State
Governments.

(c) and (d) The problems raised by State Governments in course of implementation
of DCP scheme are always duly examined by Government of India and resolved to the
extent possible within the existing policy framework.

Supply of foodgrains to Jammu and Kashmir under PDS

3297. SHRI G. N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Government of Jammu and Kashmir to supply
foodgrains under PDS to the State according to 2011 census is pending for long;

(b) whether the matter has been raised with the Minister by the Chief Minister
again a few weeks ago;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of shortage of foodgrains and the necessity of buffer stocks in inaccessible and cut off areas of J&K; and

(d) whether Government will meet the demand and increase the quota of J&K, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (d) Requests have been received from Government of Jammu and Kashmir for increased allocation of foodgrains to the State as per 2011 census. The State Government has been requested to expedite the implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) in the State as this will enable them to receive foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) as per 2011 population at highly subsidized rates.

The States/Union Territories (UTs) who have not implemented NFSA so far are allocated foodgrains under TPDS as per March, 2000 population estimates. Government of India has been allocating additional foodgrains to these States/UTs, including J&K to meet their demand for enhanced allocation in view of the increased population.

During 2014-15, an additional allocation of 52,685 tonnes of rice and 4,569 tonnes of wheat has been made to J&K in addition to normal monthly TPDS allocation of 63,067 tonnes of foodgrains. Government has also allowed States/UTs to lift 6 months' quota of foodgrains in one go so that they have sufficient stock to meet the TPDS demand in remote and difficult areas of the State.

Use of sea-river-road route for transportation of foodgrains

3298. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has proposed to move foodgrains from Kakinada/Visakhapatnam to Agartala, North-East, by sea-river-road route to save transportation costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time taken for transportation as compared to the conventional rail-road route;

(d) the other destinations where FCI proposes to move foodgrains by sea-river-road combination route; and

(e) what would be the cost and benefit ratio in the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has taken steps to transport 10,000 tonnes of foodgrains on experimental basis from Kakinada/Visakhapatnam to Agartala to explore the possibility of transportation of foodgrains to North East region by using Indo-Bangladesh protocol riverine route. First vessel carrying 5,000 tonnes Raw Rice has already been dispatched from Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Conventional movement by Rail/road takes 8-12 days to transport foodgrains from Punjab and Haryana to Agartala. Foodgrains are normally not sent from Andhra Pradesh to North East region using Rail and Road route. Since the transportation of foodgrains to Agartala through riverine route is being done for very small quantities on experimental basis, it is not possible to ascertain the average transportation time.

(d) FCI has proposed movement of foodgrains from Andhra Pradesh to Karimganj (Assam), using sea-river-road route. However, it has not been agreed upon by Government due to very high costs quoted by bidder.

(e) Since the movement by sea-river-road is being done on experimental basis for very small quantities, it is not possible to conduct cost benefit analysis.

Measures to improve PDS

3299. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to introduce any measures to improve the efficacy of the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Government has undertaken several measures from time to time for streamlining the implementation and improving the efficacy of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Government has taken up with States/UTs for implementing measures such as door-step delivery of foodgrains, correct identification of beneficiaries, improve foodgrains offtake, greater monitoring and vigilance, improving viability of fair price shop operations, etc. Best practices among States/UTs in TPDS implementation are shared through conferences, advisories, etc. for use by other States/UTs. With a view to modernize the system, the Government has initiated a Plan Scheme on End-to-end

Computerisation of TPDS Operations, which would facilitate digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other databases, computerisation of supply-chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Bogus ration cards

3300. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that bogus ration cards are being used to avail benefits under PDS;

(b) if so, how many such bogus cards have been detected by Government during the last three years, the State-wise breakup thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take to prevent the use of bogus cards in PDS and punish the bogus card holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) There have been reports about irregularities in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in certain areas/States including prevalence of bogus ration cards. A statement showing State/UT-wise number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted by the State/UT Governments during the years 2011 to 2013 is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The operational responsibility for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rests with the respective State Government/UT Administration. Thus, as and when such complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, they are sent to the State/UT concerned for inquiry and appropriate action.

In terms of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, State Governments/UT Administrations are to review the lists of beneficiaries every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The exercise of deletion of bogus/ineligible cards and inclusion of eligible families is a continuous process and State Governments/UT Administrations are to periodically carry out the same. The Nine Point Action Plan of 2006 *inter-alia* includes continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards alongwith strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. State/UT Governments have also been requested to initiate penal action

against the Government staff found responsible for issuing bogus/ineligible ration cards and the families/persons possessing such ration cards. Instructions have also been issued to all State/UT Governments to issue warning to the bogus ration card holders, through advertisements in the newspapers, to surrender the bogus cards.

Government is implementing Component-I of the Plan scheme 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' during the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17). Component-I includes digitization of beneficiary/ration cards data for ensuring de-duplication of bogus/ineligible ration cards and distribution of TPDS commodities to eligible beneficiaries.

Statement

Number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT Governments during the year 2011 to 2013

Sl. No.	State/UT	2011	2012	2013
1.	Andhra Pradesh *	-	191699	-
2.	Assam	96048	86346	62
3.	Chhattisgarh	97000	-	-
4.	Delhi	-	57680	-
5.	Gujarat	2136003	407	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3025	235	-
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	3794	-
8.	Karnataka	1450178	3300000	1977836
9.	Maharashtra	1186385	-	-
10.	Nagaland	-	13310	-
11.	Punjab	-	-	7982
12.	Uttar Pradesh	19040	19413	-
13.	West Bengal	-	4169472	-
14.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	20	8923	1340
15.	Puducherry	-	41	13800
	TOTAL	4987699	7851320	2001020

* Including State of Telangana. Separate information i.r.o. States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana has not been made available by them.

Foodgrains at subsidized rate

3301. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide people with 14 essential foodgrains at subsidized rates including 35 kilo essential cereals per month at ₹ 2 per kilo to ensure access to minimum required food and nutrition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (c) Government allocates foodgrains (rice, wheat and coarse grains) to States and Union Territories (UTs) under the existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) @ 35 kg per family per month for distribution to the accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. Depending on the availability of foodgrains and past offtake, Government also allocates foodgrains to States/UTs for distribution to the Above Poverty Line (APL) families ranging between 15 and 35 kg per family per month. Foodgrains are allocated under existing TPDS at highly subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIPs) as given below:

Item	(₹ per kg.)		
	APL	BPL	AAY
Rice	7.95 (common) 8.30 (Grade-A)	5.65	3.00
Wheat	6.10	4.15	2.00
Coarse grains	4.50	3.00	1.50

In addition to above, Government also allocates foodgrains for other welfare schemes such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Annapurna, Emergency Feeding Programme etc.

Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, notified on 10.9.2013, the priority households are entitled to receive foodgrains @ 5 kg per person per month and the AAY households are entitled to receive foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month. The CIPs of rice, wheat and coarse grains under NFSA, 2013 are ₹ 3/2/1 respectively.

There is no proposal to provide other foodgrains at subsidized rates under TPDS.

Strengthening of procurement, storage and distribution mechanism

3302. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to increase allocations for foodgrains and strengthen procurement, storage and distribution mechanism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (c) During the current year Government has made a provisional allocation of 689.40 lakh tonnes of foodgrains which includes 483.84 lakh tonnes under normal Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS); 66.45 lakh tonnes additional allocation for Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families; 9.18 lakh tonnes for festivals, natural calamity, additional TPDS requirement; 29.94 lakh tonnes under Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) and 100 lakh tonnes under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic). The provisional foodgrain allocation made during the current year is higher than the allocation of 670.97 lakh tonnes made under the same schemes during the last year.

In order to strengthen the procurement mechanism, Government has been taking various initiatives such as increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP), declaring bonus over and above MSP, payment to farmers through account payee cheque/electronic mode, opening of procurement centres at potential areas for procurement.

For strengthening availability of covered storage capacities, Government of India is implementing the Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme, wherein storage capacity is created by private parties, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), States Warehousing Corporations (SWCs), and other State Agencies for guaranteed hiring by Food Corporation of India. Out of the approved capacity of 203.76 lakh MT under the Scheme, a capacity of 120.30 lakh MT has been completed as on 30.6.2014. Godowns of the capacity of 27070 MT have been completed so far under a Plan Scheme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Further, a storage capacity of 20 lakh MT is planned in the form of modern silos through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, under the overall target for the PEG Scheme.

For ensuring proper distribution, Government is urging the States/UTs to implement measures such as doorstep delivery of foodgrains, correct identification of beneficiaries,

improving offtake of foodgrains, monitoring, vigilance and viability of Fair Price Shop (FPS) Operations. With a view to modernize the system, the Government has initiated a Plan Scheme on End-to-end computerization of TPDS Operations on cost sharing basis with States/UTs which would facilitate digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other data bases, computerization of supply chain management, setting up of transparency portals and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Applicability of provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act on NGOs of Delhi

3303. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE:

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

(a) whether registration of NGOs in Delhi under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 requires clearance under the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 as the preamble of the latter Act prevents use of certain emblems and names for professional and commercial purposes;

(b) if so, why the Act is not applicable for registration of NGOs in States other than Delhi;

(c) whether it is justified to bring NGOs under provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 in Delhi; and

(d) the steps taken for exclusion of NGOs from the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) No, Sir.

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

Lifting of foodgrains quota by State Governments

†3304. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains available in the godowns of Central and State Governments as on 1 April, 2014;

(b) whether Government proposes to distribute the above stock of foodgrains at affordable rates; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the names of the State Governments which have not lifted their quota of foodgrains from these godowns which was allocated to them under Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) The stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool [Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies] as on 1.4.2014 was 381.12 lakh tonnes.

(b) Government has provisionally allocated a quantity of 589.40 lakh tonnes of foodgrains during the current year to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ National Food Security Act (NFSA), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), natural calamity, festivals, additional requirement of the States/UTs. This includes 50 lakh tonnes of rice specially allocated on 7.7.2014 for controlling the food inflation. In addition the Government has also allocated 100 lakh tonnes of wheat on 25.7.2014 for tender sale to bulk consumers/private traders through FCI during the current year.

(c) The allocations under TPDS has been made for the current year 2014-15 to the States/ UTs which they are required to lift on monthly basis for distribution among the targeted beneficiaries. However, Statement showing allocation and offtake of foodgrains by the States/ UTs during the current year 2014-15 (upto June, 2014) under TPDS is given in Statement.

Statement

*Allocation and offtake of foodgrains under TDPS for the
year 2014-15 (upto June, 2014)*

(Qty. in thousand tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation	Offtake
1.	Andhra Pradesh	955.704	563.043
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.389	24.656
3.	Assam	471.714	466.066
4.	Bihar (NFSA)	1228.725	684.746
5.	Chhattisgarh (NFSA)	322.719	430.292
6.	Delhi (NFSA)	143.250	108.904

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation	Offtake
7.	Goa	15.759	15.864
8.	Gujarat	521.277	455.449
9.	Haryana (NFSA)	198.750	186.424
10.	Himachal Pradesh (NFSA)	126.999	129.633
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	189.201	204.263
12.	Jharkhand	339.663	257.606
13.	Karnataka (NFSA)	619.086	644.212
14.	Kerala	368.172	361.437
15.	Madhya Pradesh (NFSA)	703.629	749.161
16.	Maharashtra (NFSA)	1125.396	1024.862
17.	Manipur	42.738	43.273
18.	Meghalaya	47.145	46.115
19.	Mizoram	17.535	19.215
20.	Nagaland	31.719	39.849
21.	Odisha	547.968	515.878
22.	Punjab (NFSA)	217.530	33.456
23.	Rajasthan (NFSA)	697.893	694.231
24.	Sikkim	11.070	11.169
25.	Tamil Nadu	930.708	577.349
26.	Tripura	75.810	81.911
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1817.130	1542.271
28.	Uttaranchal	127.998	159.885
29.	West Bengal	964.299	976.721
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8.505	0.000

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation	Offtake
31.	Chandigarh (NFSA)	7.803	9.152
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.616	3.186
33.	Daman and Diu	1.413	0.134
34.	Lakshadweep	1.155	1.464
35.	Puducherry	15.078	2.012
TOTAL		12921.546	11063.889

Ration cards to BPL families

†3305. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total number of BPL families across the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the number of people who have been provided/yet to be provided BPL ration cards, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the ration cards of other category; and
- (d) the details of the data of ration allocated to the States during the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE):
(a) to (c) A State/UT-wise statement regarding accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and the Above Poverty Line (APL) families under the existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and the number of ration cards issued in respect of 24 States/UTs who have not implemented National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

NFSA 2013, notified on 10.09.2013, provides for entitlements of subsidized foodgrains under TPDS for priority household and existing AAY household categories only. Under the Act, the coverage under TPDS has been delinked from the poverty estimates. The details of persons covered in 11 States/UTs that have reported implementation of NFSA 2013 is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) The details of foodgrains (rice and wheat) allocated to States/UTs during the last ten years is given in Statement-III.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

*State/UT-wise Accepted No. of BPL, AAY, APL Households and
Ration cards issued by States/UTs*

(Prepared as on 31.03.2014)

(Fig. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Accepted Number of Households Ration cards issued					
		BPL	AAY	APL	BPL	AAY	APL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh *	25.05	15.58	117.58	199.93	15.58	29.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.61	0.38	1.43	0.61	0.38	2.19
3.	Assam	11.32	7.04	26.57	12.02	7.04	40.87
4.	Goa	0.30	0.18	2.72	0.17	0.15	3.60
5.	Gujarat	13.07	8.13	66.37	24.16	8.10	75.68
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.54	2.82	10.66	4.80	2.56	12.36
7.	Jharkhand	14.76	9.18	19.62	14.76	9.18	5.15
8.	Kerala	9.58	5.96	45.56	14.66	5.96	61.14
9.	Manipur	1.02	0.64	2.41	1.02	0.64	2.41
10.	Meghalaya	1.13	0.70	2.66	1.13	0.70	2.66
11.	Mizoram	0.42	0.26	0.99	0.42	0.26	1.92
12.	Nagaland	0.77	0.48	1.78	0.77	0.48	1.16
13.	Odisha	20.34	12.65	34.93	36.90	12.53	35.96
14.	Sikkim	0.27	0.17	0.62	0.27	0.17	4.06
15.	Tamil Nadu * *	29.98	18.65	90.19	177.20	18.65	—
16.	Tripura	1.82	1.13	4.27	3.22	1.13	5.29
17.	Uttar Pradesh	65.85	40.95	154.63	65.84	40.95	331.19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Uttarakhand	3.07	1.91	7.21	3.07	1.91	21.21
19.	West Bengal	31.93	19.86	93.44	39.67	14.80	134.50
20.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.17	0.11	0.53	0.07	0.05	0.94
21.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.11	0.07	0.18	0.12	0.05	0.55
22.	Daman and Diu	0.03	0.02	0.22	0.03	0.02	0.33
23.	Lakshadweep	0.02	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.01	0.16
24.	Puducherry	0.52	0.32	1.4	1.11	0.32	1.81
TOTAL		236.66	147.17	686.05	601.97	141.59	775.08

* Including State of Telangana. Separate information i.r.o. States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana has not been made available by them.

** Separate figures of APL/BPL cards in Tamil Nadu are not available as there is no categorisation on the basis of APL/BPL in the State.

Statement-II

Details of persons covered in 11 States/UTs under NFSA 2013

Sl. No.	State/UT	Coverage under NFSA		
		Percentage coverage		No. of Persons (in lakh)
		Rural	Urban	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bihar	85.12	74.53	871.16
2.	Chhattisgarh	84.25	59.98	200.77
3.	NCT of Delhi	37.69	43.59	72.78
4.	Haryana	54.61	41.05	126.49
5.	Himachal Pradesh	56.23	30.99	36.82
6.	Karnataka	76.04	49.36	401.93
7.	Madhya Pradesh	80.10	62.61	546.42

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Maharashtra	76.32	45.34	700.17
9.	Punjab	54.79	44.83	141.45
10.	Rajasthan	69.09	53.00	446.62
11.	Chandigarh	38.54	47.26	4.96

Statement-III

Details of foodgrains allocated under TDPS to States/UTs from 2004-05 to 2013-14

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Commodity	Total Allocation
2004-05	Rice	344.52
	Wheat	372.48
	TOTAL	717.00
2005-06	Rice	399.89
	Wheat	316.33
	TOTAL	716.22
2006-07	Rice	432.37
	Wheat	144.19
	TOTAL	576.56
2007-08	Rice	273.15
	Wheat	119.63
	TOTAL	392.78
2008-09	Rice	241.30
	Wheat	146.46
	TOTAL	387.76

Year	Commodity	Total Allocation
2009-10	Rice	248.19
	Wheat	227.84
	TOTAL	476.03
2010-11	Rice	260.98
	Wheat	214.49
	TOTAL	475.47
2011-12	Rice	261.27
	Wheat	227.49
	TOTAL	488.76
2012-13	Rice	271.40
	Wheat	233.28
	TOTAL	504.68
2013-14	Rice	268.58
	Wheat	232.76
	TOTAL	501.34

Amendment in Consumer Protection Act, 1986

3306. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to bring in comprehensive amendments in the existing Consumer Protection Act, 1986; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has initiated consultation with all stakeholders for a comprehensive amendment in Consumer Protection Act, 1986 for effective redressal of grievances of consumers.

Interest-free loan to sugar mills

3307. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved giving of interest-free loan to sugar mills;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for giving interest-free loan;
- (c) whether Sugar Development Fund allowed to bear the interest component of the loan purported to be given to sugar mills; and
- (d) the estimated money that sugar mills are supposed to pay to farmers, mill-wise, State-wise and year-wise?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government on 3.1.2014 has notified a Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU), 2014 envisaging interest free loans worth ₹ 6600 crores as additional working capital to sugar mills, for clearance of cane price arrears of previous sugar seasons and timely settlement of cane price of current sugar season to sugarcane farmers.

(c) Under the scheme, interest subvention up to 12 % would be borne by the Government through Sugar Development Fund (SDF).

(d) A Statement showing State-wise and Mill-wise cane price arrear of sugar farmers for current sugar seasons as well as previous sugar seasons as on 31.07.2014 is given in Statement.

Statement

State-wise and mill-wise cane price arrear as on 31st July 2014 for the sugar season 2013-14, 2012-13 and 2011-12 and earlier

(Fig. in lakh ₹)

Sl. No.	Factory Name	Balance Outstanding 2013-14	Arrear Outstanding	
			2012-13	2011-12 & Earl.
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab				
1.	Dasuya	1,292.41	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Dhuri	212.43	0	0
3.	Baba Bakala	22.06	0	0
	TOTAL	1,526.90	0	0
Haryana				
4.	Naraingarh	141.31	0	0
	TOTAL	141.31	0	0
Rajasthan				
5.	Sri Ganganagar	0	565.17	0
	TOTAL	0	565.17	0
Uttar Pradesh				
6.	Sakhoti Tanda	36.37	0	0
7.	Buland Shahr	1,476.99	0	0
8.	Bagpat	1,841.82	0	0
9.	Ramala	1,217.42	0	0
10.	Annoopshahr	1,205.85	0	0
11.	Sarsawa	1,245.05	0	0
12.	Nanauta	2,318.63	0	0
13.	Morna	984.1	0	0
14.	Daurala	8,031.29	0	0
15.	Mawana	23,960.66	0	0
16.	Deoband	4,714.90	0	0
17.	Khatauli	8,760.64	0	0
18.	Mansurpur	6,800.46	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Shamli	9,947.34	0	0
20.	Modinagar	15,975.88	0	0
21.	Malakpur	26,097.65	0	0
22.	Simbhaoli	15,148.12	0	0
23.	Titawi	20,330.67	0	0
24.	Agauta	845.93	0	0
25.	Tikaula	1,302.70	0	0
26.	Unn	6,289.41	0	0
27.	Nayabans	0	0	702.84
28.	Kinauni	21,919.27	0	0
29.	Thanabhawan	8,895.60	0	0
30.	Bhaisana	19,446.32	0	0
31.	Nanglamal	13,551.18	0	0
32.	Sabitgarh	3,744.09	0	0
33.	Gangnauli	3,892.57	0	0
34.	Raninangal	2,737.78	0	0
35.	Brijnathpur	6,776.82	0	0
36.	Khaikheri	3,261.41	0	0
37.	Shermau	3,890.27	0	0
38.	Karimganj	2,804.58	0	0
39.	Bijnor	2,710.65	0	0
40.	Chandpur	2,252.92	0	0
41.	Gajraula	1,147.73	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
42.	Bilaspur	696.28	0	0
43.	Harduaganj	150.73	0	0
44.	Bisalpur	1,059.06	0	0
45.	Puranpur	880.67	0	0
46.	Kaimganj	476.63	0	0
47.	Badaun	363.86	0	0
48.	Tilhar	1,013.41	0	0
49.	Belrayan	1,638.84	0	0
50.	Sampurannagar	2,063.58	0	0
51.	Semikhera	1,092.17	0	0
52.	Powayan	511.75	0	0
53.	Dhampur	7,666.10	0	0
54.	Asmoli	5,035.28	0	0
55.	Seohara	8,057.49	0	0
56.	Rajaka Sahaspur	1,386.69	0	0
57.	Pilibhit	1,437.61	0	0
58.	Rosa	2,947.27	0	0
59.	Gola	17,952.24	0	0
60.	Aira	6,704.91	0	0
61.	Paliakalan	12,372.59	0	0
62.	Baheri	7,008.55	0	0
63.	Neoli	1,451.92	476.4	0
64.	Hargaon	10,178.21	0	0

176	<i>Written Answers to</i>	[RAJYA SABHA]	<i>Unstarred Questions</i>	
1	2	3	4	5
65.	Dhanaura	1,532.00	0	0
66.	Venus	0	0	1,315.67
67.	JK Sugar	2,755.36	0	0
68.	Dwarikesh	3,887.96	0	0
69.	J. B. Ganj	7,292.94	0	0
70.	Agwanpur	1,648.39	0	0
71.	Rupapur	3,332.29	0	0
72.	Anandgopi	0	502.92	1,468.52
73.	Bilai	11,615.89	0	0
74.	Dwarikeshpuram	4,299.21	0	0
75.	Pudrikhurd	6,041.15	0	0
76.	Barkhera	9,454.86	0	0
77.	Chandanpur	2,658.55	0	0
78.	Hariawan	4,325.20	0	0
79.	Loni	3,765.97	0	0
80.	M. Narayanpur	2,335.95	0	0
81.	Rajpura	3,771.98	0	0
82.	Belwara	2,195.51	0	0
83.	Nighoi	3,803.23	0	0
84.	Dwarikeshdham	4,102.17	0	0
85.	Maqsudpur	4,905.99	0	0
86.	Dhadha Bujurg	4,410.67	0	0
87.	Bikapur	542.87	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
88.	Anandnagar	0	0	3.6
89.	Nanpara	1,245.04	0	0
90.	Ghosi	1,020.00	0	0
91.	Sultanpur	315.76	0	0
92.	Mahmudabad	853.11	0	0
93.	Ramkola	4,787.22	0	0
94.	Chilwaria	7,489.61	0	0
95.	Rauzagaon Chini	3,690.25	0	0
96.	Khalilabad	1,423.30	0	0
97.	Sardarnagar	0	0	2,824.25
98.	Captain Ganj	3,307.07	0	742
99.	Padrauna	0	0	1,551.35
100.	Kathkuiyan	0	0	560.8
101.	Gauribazar	0	0	161.28
102.	Seorahi	1,593.09	0	0
103.	Pratappur	3,774.38	0	0
104.	Walterganj	5,432.95	0	0
105.	Biswan	1,195.63	0	0
106.	K.M. Sugar	1,499.18	0	0
107.	Balrampur	7,229.96	0	0
108.	Tulsipur	3,764.01	0	0
109.	Babhnan	6,395.97	0	0
110.	Gadaura	5,071.80	140.85	0

1	2	3	4	5
111.	Ramgarh	4,380.10	0	0
112.	Oswal Overseas	126.54	1,808.25	0
113.	Maizapur	1,968.87	0	0
114.	Kamlapur	0	0	1,395.93
115.	Haidergarh	2,004.97	0	0
116.	Akbar Pur	4,059.47	0	0
117.	Parsendi	490.52	0	0
118.	Mankapur	5,176.68	0	0
119.	Khambarkhera	11,680.10	0	0
120.	Kumbhi	5,678.31	0	0
121.	Jawaharpur	4,625.39	0	0
122.	Gularia	3,695.27	0	0
123.	Rudhauri	7,354.35	0	0
124.	Kundarkhi	13,809.29	0	0
125.	Itai Maida	10,652.89	0	0
126.	Bisauli	1,995.99	0	0
	TOTAL	5,74,174.12	2,928.42	10,726.24
Uttarakhand				
127.	Doiwala	1,431.29	0	0
128.	Kichha	1,155.55	0	0
129.	Bazpur	1,927.89	0	0
130.	Nadehi	1,199.82	0	0
131.	Sitarganj	1,298.63	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
132.	Gadarpur	878.96	0	0
133.	Iqbalpur	6,837.57	0	0
134.	Lhaksar	6,244.01	0	0
135.	Kashipur	0	0	2,492.30
136.	Libberheri	6,951.38	0	0
	TOTAL	27,925.10	0	2,492.30
Madhya Pradesh				
137.	Morena	0	0	69.52
138.	Navalnagar	636.51	0	0
139.	Dabra	0	0	263.02
140.	Sehore	0	0	1,006.92
141.	Kareli	73.31	0	0
142.	Kodia	393.12	0	0
143.	Pondar	678.02	0	0
144.	Thaini	671.05	0	0
145.	Bachai	564.04	0	0
	TOTAL	3,016.05	0	1,339.46
Chhattisgarh				
	TOTAL	0	0	0
Gujarat				
146.	Madhi	5,122.94	0	0
147.	Sayan	223.59	0	0
148.	Mahuva	742.63	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
149.	Paniari	941.23	0	178.8
150.	Maroli	1,747.82	0	0
151.	Valsad	1,105.75	0	0
152.	Vataria	3,355.18	0	0
153.	Dharikheda	6,124.07	0	0
154.	Gandhara	2,404.31	0	0
155.	Kosamba	2,540.27	0	0
156.	Virpur	1,146.80	0	0
157.	Ladhod	0	0	1,162.00
158.	Kukarmunda	196.77	0	0
	TOTAL	25651.36	0	1340.8
Maharashtra				
159.	Sangli	3,410.00	0	0
160.	Daulat	0	0	1,811.33
161.	Shewalewadi	1,099.41	0	0
162.	Terna	0	0	108.84
163.	Dongarkada	349.91	0	0
164.	Basmathnagar	103.08	0	0
165.	Ambajogai	0	0	459
166.	Bhoras	0	0	15.45
167.	Killari	0	0	62.08
168.	Mauda	0	0	37.49
169.	Golegaon	0	0	15.57

1	2	3	4	5
170.	Suryanagar	241.39	0	557.5
171.	Lohgaon	159	0	220.53
172.	Mundkhed	616.35	0	0
173.	Jawlabazar	15.75	0	0
174.	Sheshnagar	0	0	128.76
175.	Rahuri	1,127.93	0	0
176.	Theur	0	0	1,081.83
177.	Kajj	0	0	96.53
178.	Narsinha	0	0	352.16
	TOTAL	7,122.82	0.00	4,947.07
Bihar				
179.	Banmankhi	0	0	542
180.	Lauriya	3,641.25	17.01	2.6
181.	Sugauli	5,133.81	11.17	0
182.	Marhowrah	0	0	433.84
183.	Hassanpur	1,080.04	6.47	4.24
184.	Bagaha	2,724.68	0.36	10.19
185.	Harinagar	1,247.38	66.76	21.86
186.	Narkatiaganj	2,263.84	1.95	0
187.	Majhulia	3,096.42	10	3.9
188.	Chanpatia	0	0	662.76
189.	Barachakia	0	0	399.39
190.	Motihari	0	546.01	1,195.01

1	2	3	4	5
191.	Sasamusa	2,663.99	90.41	3.29
192.	Gopalganj	3,589.13	11.84	0
193.	Sidhwalia	2,703.56	46.52	11.85
194.	Righa	7,381.88	18.64	0.18
	TOTAL	35525.98	827.14	3291.11
Assam				
	TOTAL	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh				
195.	Chodavaram	1,983.51	0.47	0
196.	Anakapalle	610.98	62.74	0
197.	Etikoppaka	698.18	0	0
198.	Thandava	509.37	0	0
199.	Vijayarama	397.52	0	0
200.	Nandyal	0	52.01	0
201.	Kovur	0	604.43	0
202.	Chittoor	887.09	396.94	0
203.	Tirupati	495.56	0	0
204.	Nizam	344.03	0	0
205.	Trident	929.55	0	0
206.	Muthyam	497.58	0.01	0
207.	Deccan	762.61	0	0
208.	NCS Sugars	2,249.00	0	0
209.	Chagallu	77.77	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
210.	Nayudupeta	2,128.04	0	0
211.	Nindra	993.05	0	0
212.	G.S. Complex	0	1,380.55	0
213.	Gayatri	482.75	0	0
214.	Sangaradi	502.77	0	0
215.	Maggi	637.25	0	0
	TOTAL	15186.61	2497.15	0
Karnataka				
216.	Nipani	891	0	0
217.	Sankeshwar	3,911.00	0	0
218.	Malaprabha	1,729.00	0	0
219.	Chikodi	2,928.00	0	0
220.	Raibag	1,231.00	0	0
221.	Gokak	3,608.00	0	0
222.	Bidar	1,031.00	0	224
223.	Bhadra	0	0	24
224.	Haveri	2,767.00	0	0
225.	Hemavati	687	0	0
226.	Aland	5,138.00	0	0
227.	Bijapur	3,801.00	0	0
228.	Athani	2,140.00	0	0
229.	Kupatgiri	1,684.00	0	0
230.	Imampur	3,504.00	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
231.	Rannanagar	2,721.00	0	0
232.	Bhalki	3,680.00	0	0
233.	Siddasamudra	1,456.00	0	0
234.	Sameerwadi	10,229.00	0	0
235.	Chamundeswari	547	0	0
236.	Ugarkhurd	6,632.00	0	0
237.	Hospet	400	15	908
238.	Siruguppa	280	0	0
239.	Davengere	909	0	0
240.	Jamkhandi	3,737.00	0	0
241.	Shamanur	690	0	0
242.	Makkavalli	539	0	0
243.	Manoli	6,146.00	0	0
244.	Siddapur	5,862.00	0	0
245.	Mudhol	9,190.00	0	0
246.	Venketeshwara	2,818.00	0	0
247.	Madbhavi	3,100.00	0	0
248.	Gem Sugar	4,004.00	0	0
249.	Hirebevanur	2,381.00	0	0
250.	Koppa	663	0	0
251.	Baroor	434	0	0
252.	Hunashayal	7,289.00	0	0
253.	Badagandi	2,226.00	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
254.	Havalga	7,024.00	0	0
255.	Buralatti	5,231.00	0	0
256.	SPR Sugars	0	0	382
257.	Hullatti	3,037.00	0	0
258.	Sadashiva	3,730.00	0	0
259.	Uttur	5,751.00	0	0
260.	Bellad-Bagewadi	3,958.00	0	0
261.	Kedar Sugar	0	0	1,446.00
262.	Khanpet	2,776.00	0	0
263.	Malli	2,834.00	0	0
264.	Havinal	3,103.00	0	0
265.	Mundargi	4,304.00	0	0
266.	Core Green	4,642.00	0	0
267.	Soundatti	1,449.00	0	0
268.	Shivsagar Ugar	2,374.00	0	0
269.	Kolavi	2,437.00	0	0
270.	Soubhagyalaxmi	2,553.00	0	0
271.	Kagwad	2,275.00	0	0
272.	Almel	5,381.00	0	0
273.	Manali	1,980.00	0	0
274.	Jamkhandi U-II	3,646.00	0	0
	TOTAL	1,79,468.00	15.00	2,984.00
Tamil Nadu				
275.	Kallakurichi	418.35	0	0
276.	Kachirayapalayam	368.95	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
277.	Pugalur	2,030.75	0	0
278.	Lalgudi	1,016.70	0	0
279.	Thiru Arooran	3,615.81	0	0
280.	Thirumandakudi	1,115.59	0	0
281.	Nellikuppam	5,063.82	0	0
282.	Villupuram	2,056.04	0	0
283.	Ambika	4,267.93	0	0
284.	Kottur	3,234.84	0	0
285.	Ponni	1,980.07	0	0
286.	Sakthi	3,486.31	2,081.26	0
287.	Shivganga	2,708.44	1,705.33	0
288.	Bannari-Amman	1,660.90	0	0
289.	Dharani	1,100.47	0	0
290.	Pollur	1,270.93	0	0
291.	Rajshree	1,020.86	0	0
292.	Palayaseevaram	611.1	0	0
293.	Arantangi	1,652.42	0	0
294.	Arunachalam	0	0	215.23
295.	Sathamangalam	1,684.25	0	0
296.	Modakurichi	104.3	137.43	0
297.	Semmedu	2,059.00	0	0
298.	Kalayanallur	3,222.95	0	0
299.	Udumbiyam	367.42	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
300.	Tiruvannamalai	2,145.11	0	0
301.	Thirukovilur	2,176.35	0	0
	TOTAL	50,439.66	3,924.02	215.23
Kerala				
	TOTAL	0	0	0
Odisha				
302.	Aska	915.86	0	0
303.	Bijayananda	0	4.5	0
304.	Dhenkanal	743	0	0
	TOTAL	1,658.86	4.50	0.00
West Bengal				
305.	Plassey	492.23	0	0
	TOTAL	492.23	0	0
Nagaland				
306.	Dimapur	0	0	0
	TOTAL NAGALAND	0	0	0
Puducherry				
307.	Puducherry	2,880.81	0	0
308.	Ariyur	0	0	6.93
	TOTAL	2,880.81	0	6.93
Goa				
309.	Tiska	0	0	0
	TOTAL	0	0	0

188	Written Answers to	[RAJYA SABHA]	Unstarred Questions	
1	2	3	4	5
Dadra and Nagar Haveli				
310.	Surangi	0	0	0
	TOTAL	0	0	0
ALL INDIA TOTAL		9,25,209.81	10,761.40	27,343.14

Rise in price of food articles

3308. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government has taken to control unbridled price rise of foodgrains and other food articles;
- (b) whether sufficient quantities of foodgrains have been supplied to all States to carry out effective public distribution; and
- (c) the other steps Government has taken to bring price rise of food articles under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) The details are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Under existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), States/Union Territories (UTs) are being provided allocation of foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) [including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)] families and @ 15-35 kg per family per month to Above Poverty Line (APL) families as per their entitlement. The States/UTs who have implemented National Food Security Act (NFSA) are allocated foodgrains under TPDS @ 5 kg per person per month belonging to priority category and 35 kg per family per month for AAY as per their entitlement under the Act.

For the current year, a total quantity of 689.40 lakh tons has been provisionally allocated from the Central Pool under different schemes against an allocation of 670.97 lakh tons made last year.

- (c) In the Conference of Ministers of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public

Distribution of States and Union Territories held on 4th July, 2014 at New Delhi, an integrated joint six month Action Plan to address the issue of food inflation was agreed upon as per details given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Statement-I

The details recent steps taken by the Government to improve the availability and to contain prices of essential food items

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) fixed for potatoes at USD 450 per M.T. *w.e.f.* 26.06.2014 and of onions at USD 500 per M.T. *w.e.f.* 2.07.2014 respectively.
- States have been advised to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act.
- Government has approved the release of additional five million tonnes of Rice to BPL and APL families in States pending implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Advisory to State Governments issued to take action against hoarding and black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- Imposed stock limits in respect of onion and potato for a period of one year with effect from 3rd July, 2014 under the Essential Commodities Act.
- Based on interaction with the State Governments/UTs on 4th July, 2014, a decision has been taken to amend the Essential Commodities Act to make hoarding and black marketing a non bailable offence and increase the period of detention to one year from existing six months.
- The Government has approved for the current year Open Market Sale of ten million tonnes of wheat in the domestic market.

Statement-II

Main points of proposed joint action plan agreed upon at the conference of the Ministers of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on 4.7.2014 at New Delhi

The Conference agreed to the following Action Plan and its effective implementation over the next six months.

1. Special focus on monitoring and containing the prices of essential food items like

rice, jowar, bajra, onions, tomatoes, potatoes, moong dal, tuar dal and edible oils, milk and eggs;

2. Identification by State Governments of vulnerable areas prone to supply shortages for special monitoring;
3. Focus on adequate storage as well as quality of Coarse cereals like Jowar, Bajra and Maize to ensure availability. In this context States may also mobilise existing storage capacity utilizing the Government/private/Cooperative storage infrastructure to ensure decentralized stocks across cities/rural areas;
4. States may establish a revolving fund for buying products/produce in bulk and regulate their storage as well as distribution during peak demand *i.e.* festival season at reasonable prices and through PDS for BPL card holders; and
5. Facilitating sale of essential food items through PDS shops, cooperative societies etc. for coverage of economically weaker sections at reasonable prices.

Distribution of iodised salt through PDS

3309. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that still over 25 per cent of the population consume non-iodised salt;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the data of the non-iodised salt consumption, State-wise;
- (d) the number of States that distribute iodised salt through Public Distribution System (PDS) enabling it to reach the poor people; and
- (e) the extent to which the iodised salt distributed through PDS is cheaper as compared to the ones sold in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Investment in food processing industry

3310. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) how much investment was made by the Central Government, various State

Governments and private sector, respectively, in the food processing industry during the last three years;

(b) whether in view of the quantum of wastage of perishable agricultural commodities such as fruits and vegetables, this investment is adequate; and

(c) if not, the steps Government proposes to take to boost up this investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Food processing units are set up by entrepreneurs in the private sector. Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the main source of annual data on food processing units registered under Factory Act, 1948. As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), the investment in fixed capital in registered food processing units during three years ending 2011-12, is as under:

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	AAGR*
Fixed Capital# (₹ crore)	99,482	1,20,705	1,45,038	
Growth rate (%)	22.58	21.33	20.16	21.35

Source: Annual Survey of Industries, CSO.

#: Depreciated value of Fixed Assets owned by factory.

*: Average Annual Growth Rate for 3 years.

(b) and (c) Estimated losses of agricultural produces as per the study conducted by Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana published in 2010, is ₹ 44,143 crore per annum at 2009 wholesale prices. These losses can be minimized by augmenting storage and preservation in infrastructure and expansion of processing capacity in food processing sector.

Accordingly, Government has been strengthening supply-chain by extending financial support for creation of infrastructure viz. Cold Chain, Mega Food Park and setting up/modernization of Abattoirs. Further, with a view to ensure reduction of wastage, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) - on 1st April, 2012 for implementation through State/UT Governments. The various schemes under the NMFP, *inter-alia*, include setting up/modernisation of food processing units, setting up Cold Chain units for non-horticultural products, Primary Processing Centres/Collection Centres in Rural Areas, setting up/modernisation of meat shops, Reefer Vehicles, Human Resource Development and Promotional Activities. All these schemes are implemented with a view to boost investment for increasing level of food processing and minimize wastage.

Lack of adequate funding for FPIs

†3311. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to insufficient financial resources, food processing industries are not getting developed adequately, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is preparing any road-map for sufficient funding of food processing industries, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh in view of its potential of food processing industries, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Working Group on Food Processing Industries for 12th Five Year Plan recommended Plan Allocation of ₹. 15304 crore for promotion and development of Food Processing sector during the Plan period. However, an allocation of ₹ 5990 crore has been made by the Planning Commission for the 12th Five Year Plan for various programmes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(b) For promotion and development of food processing sector in the country, including Madhya Pradesh, Government is implementing Central Sector Scheme for Development of Infrastructure for Food Processing having components of (a) Mega Food Parks (b) Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure and (c) Modernization of Abattoirs, Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research and Development and Other Promotional Activities, Scheme for Human Resource Development and Scheme of Strengthening of Institutions.

Further, during the Twelfth Five Year Plan the Government has launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Food Processing' (NMFP) which is being implemented through the State Governments/Union Territories including in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The components of the NMFP are (i) Technology Upgradation/Setting up/Modernization of Food Processing Units, (ii) Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture Products, (iii) Modernisation of Abattoirs (iv) Human Resource Development, (v) Promotional Activities, (vi) Creating Primary

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Processing Centres/Collection Centres in Rural Areas, (vii) Modernisation of Meat Shops and (viii) Reefer Vehicles. All the State/Union Territory Governments including Madhya Pradesh have been empowered to receive the applications, sanction and release grants-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries under NMFP. State/ Union Territory Governments also have the flexibility in selection of location of projects as well as beneficiaries to harness the potential of value addition by using locally grown raw material including fruits and vegetables for setting up food processing industries.

(c) Under National Mission on Food Processing, an allocation of ₹ 82.45 crore has been made for Madhya Pradesh during 12th Plan for implementation of various components. Out of this allocation, an amount of ₹ 15.59 crore has been released to the State as Central share so far.

Impetus of food processing industries

3312. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give fresh impetus to Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of cold storages set up in public, private and public-private partnership mode to meet the increasing demand of the sector during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise including Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether Government has recently discussed the hurdles being faced by entrepreneurs of food processing industries and other stakeholders and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. To give impetus to the food processing industries in the country, the following Schemes are being implemented:

(i) Central Sector Scheme for Development of Infrastructure for Food Processing having components of (a) Mega Food Parks (b) Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure and (c) Modernization of Abattoirs, Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards,

Research and Development and Other Promotional Activities, Scheme for Human Resource Development and Scheme of Strengthening of Institutions.

- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Food Processing' (NMFP) which is being implemented through the State Governments/ Union Territories. The components of the NMFP are (i) Technology Upgradation/Setting up/Modernization of Food Processing Units (ii) Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture Products (iii) Modernisation of Abattoirs (iv) Human Resource Development (v) Promotional Activities (vi) Creating Primary Processing Centres/Collection Centres in Rural Areas (vii) Modernisation of Meat Shops and (vi) Reefer Vehicles. All the State/Union Territory Governments have been empowered to receive the applications, sanction and release grants-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries under NMFP. State/Union Territory Governments also have the flexibility in selection of location of projects as well as beneficiaries to harness the potential of value addition by using locally grown raw material including fruits and vegetables for setting up food processing industries.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) provides assistance to the entrepreneur to set up Cold Chain under its aforementioned Schemes. The other Government agencies like National Horticulture Board (NHB), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce also provide financial assistance for setting up of cold storages under their respective schemes. A statement showing cold storages set up in various States, including Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the current year is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) regularly interacts with State Governments, Industry Associations and entrepreneurs through seminars/meetings/workshops/video conferencing etc., to know the problems being faced by them and also to discuss the policy changes required for development of food processing sector in the country. Major hurdles faced by entrepreneurs relate to irregular power supply, delay in obtaining statutory clearances from State Governments, fluctuations in prices of raw material. MoFPI has taken up these issues in its meetings with State Governments. Based on the experience of implementation of various Schemes and regular interaction with stakeholders, the Ministry has modified the Schemes' guidelines for smooth implementation of the projects from time to time.

Statement

Number of cold storages sanctioned in the country including Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the current year

Sl. No.	State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27	16	28	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0
3.	Assam	1	1	5	0
4.	Bihar	6	3	3	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	6	4	1
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	1
7.	Delhi	0	0	2	0
8.	Goa	0	0	0	0
9.	Gujarat	33	21	28	0
10.	Haryana	7	16	23	3
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4	0	6	0
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	1	4	0
13.	Jharkhand	2	2	0	0
14.	Karnataka	3	2	5	0
15.	Kerala	4	0	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	14	15	8	0
17.	Maharashtra	7	10	41	2
18.	Manipur	1	0	0	0
19.	Mizoram	2	1	0	0
20.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
21.	Odisha	1	2	5	0

Sl. No.	State	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
22.	Punjab	36	45	21	2
23.	Rajasthan	3	4	13	0
24.	Sikkim	0	0	1	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	0	5	0	2
26.	Tripura	0	0	1	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	66	37	85	3
28.	Uttarakhand	1	1	8	0
29.	West Bengal	9	6	3	0
TOTAL		234	194	295	14

Source: NHB, NHM, NCDC, APEDA and MoFPI.

Setting up of food processing units

3313. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of fruits and vegetables that go wasted in the country for want of cold storages and processing facilities with percentage to total production of fruits and vegetables;

(b) the percentage of horticultural produce processed in the country and how it compares with China and Asia Pacific region; and

(c) the details of measures taken/proposed to be taken to set up Food Processing Units in the States especially in Maharashtra's Konkan region which has got immense potential to develop food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) A nation-wide study on quantitative assessment of harvest and post-harvest losses for 46 agricultural crops in 106 randomly selected districts was carried out by Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana, an ICAR institution. As per the report released in 2010, the extent of harvest and post harvest losses in fruits vary from 5.8% to 18% and in case of vegetables from 6.88 % to 12.98%.

(b) As per the “Vision 2015: Strategy and Action Plan for Food Processing Industries in India” document of April 2005, the level of processing in India is very low and varies from sector to sector and is estimated at 2 per cent in the case of fruits and vegetables. It is very high in developed countries (80% in USA, 70% in France) and in many developing countries as well (80% in Malaysia, 30% in Thailand).

(c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Scheme for promotion and development of Food Processing Sector. The Schemes are as under:-

- (i) Central Sector Schemes for Infrastructure Development (a) Mega Food Parks (b) Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure (c) Setting up/Modernization of Abattoirs, Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research and Development and Other Promotional Activities and Scheme of Strengthening of Institutions for promotion and development of food processing sector in the country including Maharashtra’s Konkan region.
- (ii) Government had also launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) *w.e.f.* 1.4.2012, for implementation through State/UT Governments. The components of the NMFP are: Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture Products, Scheme for Modernization of Abattoirs, Scheme for Human Resource Development, Scheme for Promotional Activities, Scheme for setting up of Primary Processing Centres/Collection Centres in rural areas, Scheme of Modernization of Meat Shops and Reefer Vans.

Under the mission, all the State Governments have been empowered to receive the applications, sanction and release grant-in-aid to the eligible beneficiaries. States also have flexibility in selection of location of projects as well as beneficiaries, to harness the potential of value addition by using locally grown raw material including fruits and vegetables.

Promotion of FPIs

3314. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is running various schemes for promotion and development of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial grant provided under various schemes during each of the last two years, scheme and State-wise including in Haryana and Punjab;

(c) the details of targets and allocation made during Twelfth Five Year Plan under these schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the other major schemes proposed to be undertaken by Government for promotion and development of FPIs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of various schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries are at Annexure-A. The Scheme-wise and State-wise funds provided under these schemes are given in Statement-I, II and III (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The details of funds allocated for various Plan Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries during Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) are as under:-

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Allocation for Twelfth Plan
1.	Development of Infrastructure for Food Processing	
	(a) Mega Food Parks	1714.00
	(b) Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure	786.00
	(c) Modernization of Abattoir	300.00
2.	Technology Up gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries (Spill over liability)	750.00
3.	Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research and Development and Other Promotional Activities	290.00
4.	Strengthening of Institutions (including Innovation Fund Scheme and Venture Capital Fund)	300.00
5.	National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP)	1850.00
	TOTAL	5990.00

The Ministry has asked for additional allocation for up-scaling of its various schemes for development of food processing.

Statement-I

Details of various schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Central Sector Schemes

(a) Scheme for Development of Infrastructure for Food Processing:

- (i) **Mega Food Parks:-** The Scheme of Mega Food Parks was launched during 2008 to provide modern infrastructure for food processing units in the country on pre-identified cluster basis. The pattern of assistance is 50% of the eligible project cost in general areas and 75% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of ₹50.00 crore.
- (ii) **Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure:-** The Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure is to provide integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities without any break, from the farm gate to the consumer. During 12th Five Year Plan period, the plan allocation of the scheme is ₹786.00 crore. The scheme envisages grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil work in general areas and 75% in North- Eastern region and difficult areas subject to maximum of ₹10.00 crore per Project.
- (iii) **Modernization of Abattoirs:-** The Scheme of Modernization of Abattoirs was launched during 2008. The Scheme is implemented through local bodies (Municipal Corporations and Panchayats)/Public Sector Undertakings/ Cooperatives/Boards under Government and will have the flexibility for involvement of private investors on PPP basis. The Scheme envisages grant-in-aid @ 50% of the project cost in general areas and 75% for North- Eastern region subject to a maximum of ₹ 15.00 crore per project.

(b) Scheme of Technology Up gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries (Spill over liability):

The Scheme is meant to assist prospective entrepreneurs to set up food processing units to reduce the wastage of agricultural and horticultural produce. Under the scheme, a maximum of ₹50.00 lakh is provided as grant-in-aid to general areas and ₹75.00 lakh in difficult and North-Eastern areas, for eligible entrepreneurs. This scheme has been subsumed in Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) w.e.f. 1.4.2012.

(c) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research and Development and Other Promotional Activities:

- (i) Food Testing Laboratories:- The objective of the scheme is to ensure safety and quality of food products with the analysis of the samples received from food processing industries and other stakeholders. The establishment of a surveillance system for monitoring the quality and composition of food and thereby ensuring compliance of international standards on food.
- (ii) Implementation of HACCP:- The objective of the scheme is to motivate the food processing industries for adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as TQM including ISO 14000, ISO 22000 HACCP, GMP, GHP, to prepare them to face global competition in post WTO Regime, to enable adherence to stringent quality and hygiene norms, to enhance product acceptance by overseas buyers and to keep Indian industry technologically abreast of international best practices.
- (iii) Research and Development:- The objective of this scheme is that the end product/findings of R&D work must benefit food processing industries in terms of product and process development, improved packaging, value addition and leading to innovative products and process with commercial value.
- (iv) Promotional Activities:- Under the Scheme for Promotional Activities, the Ministry provides financial assistance for organizing pan India level Seminars/ Workshops/Fair/ Exhibitions and also participate in pan India level Fair/ Exhibitions spearheaded by Apex Industry Associations and Autonomous Bodies/PSUs of Government of India with the objective of dissemination of information regarding food processing industries.

(d) Scheme for Human Resource Development:

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing the Scheme for Human Resource Development since 9th Plan and onwards to augment the supply of trained manpower/personnel at all levels for food processing sector namely entrepreneurs, managers, sales persons, floor workers etc.

During the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-13), the HRD Scheme has been subsumed under the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP), which is being implemented through State/UT Governments.

(e) Strengthening of institutions:

This scheme focuses on putting in place new and strengthening of existing institutional mechanisms for human resource development in the food processing sector. The following institutions have been set up by the Ministry for development of food processing sector:-

- National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM)
- Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT)
- Indian Grape Processing Board (IGPB)
- National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB)

(f) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP):

The most significant initiative taken by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) during 12th Plan is launching of Centrally Sponsored Scheme-National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) through States/UTs.

Under the Mission, funds are shared on 75:25 basis by Government of India and States; 90:10 in North-Eastern States and 100% grants for UTs. The components of the NMFP are (i) Technology Up gradation/Setting up/Modernization of Food Processing Units, (ii) Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture Products, (iii) Modernisation of Abattoirs, (iv) Human Resource Development, (v) Promotional Activities, (vi) Creating Primary Processing Centres/Collection Centres in Rural Areas, (vii) Modernisation of Meat Shops and (viii) Reefer Vehicles.

Statement-II

Details of expenditure under various schemes during 2012-13 and 2013-14

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Funds released	
		2012-13	2013-14
1	2	3	4
1.	Development of Infrastructure for Food Processing	183.89	224.49
	(a) Mega Food Parks		
	(b) Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure		
	(c) Modernization of Abattoir		

1	2	3	4
2.	Technology Up-gradation/ Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries (Spill over liability)	186.19	162.08
3.	Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research and Development and Other Promotional Activities	31.34	35.01
4.	Human Resource Development (HRD)	3.98	3.78
5.	Strengthening of Institutions (including Innovation Fund Scheme and Venture Capital Fund)	67.58	72.56
6.	National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP)	182.90	29.72
TOTAL		655.88	527.64

Statement-III

*Details of fund provided to the States under various schemes
of the Ministry during 2012-13 and 2013-14*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2012-13		2013-14	
		Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	241	45.84	159	33.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.02	5	3.06
3.	Assam	34	6.28	191	3.56
4.	Bihar	5	0.40	5	2.59
5.	Chandigarh	2	0.05	2	0.33
6.	Chhattisgarh	160	17.75	71	8.07
7.	Delhi	28	9.22	49	9.56
8.	Goa	2	0.21	5	0.93
9.	Gujarat	66	16.57	87	19.87
10.	Haryana	107	34.40	56	48.87

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Himachal Pradesh	15	15.89	16	19.38
12.	Jammu And Kashmir	6	0.77	4	0.56
13.	Jharkhand	9	11.28	3	0.40
14.	Karnataka	93	25.12	86	41.09
15.	Kerala	20	7.69	49	16.36
16.	Madhya Pradesh	50	17.08	38	24.07
17.	Maharashtra	173	39.11	208	45.66
18.	Manipur	291	9.46	46	14.83
19.	Meghalaya	2	0.41	4	1.87
20.	Mizoram	2	1.53	7	10.39
21.	Nagaland	3	1.11	2	0.22
22.	Odisha	32	8.10	14	1.93
23.	Puducherry	10	1.54	1	0.25
24.	Punjab	236	41.12	91	39.09
25.	Rajasthan	51	8.42	53	7.04
26.	Sikkim	2	0.96	2	2.17
27.	Tamil Nadu	65	9.97	70	17.00
28.	Tripura	5	16.06	10	1.30
29.	Uttar Pradesh	44	9.73	74	16.67
30.	Uttarakhand	11	3.49	9	19.50
31.	West Bengal	23	27.65	37	36.39

Food parks in Odisha

3315. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Mega Food Parks in the country in terms of physical and financial progress; and

(b) whether any new Food Park has been set up in Odisha during last two years, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has got sanction of the Government for establishing 42 Mega Food Parks in the country. Out of these, 21 projects have been accorded final approval and are under various stages of implementation whereas approval accorded to 15 projects has been cancelled due to the failure of their promoters in meeting the conditions for final approval as stipulated in the scheme guidelines or unsatisfactory implementation of the project. The status of implementation of Mega Food Parks in the country showing physical and financial progress is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Ministry has accorded final approval on 16.04.2012 to a Mega Food Park at Rayagada District in Odisha which is being implemented by M/s MITS Mega Food Park Ltd. Another Mega Food Park project was accorded in-principle approval on 21.09.2012 by the Ministry in Ganjam District of Odisha to be implemented by M/s Huma Coastal Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. However, the in-principle approval accorded to Mega Food Park project in Ganjam District has been cancelled on 30.03.2014 due to the failure of the promoters in meeting the conditions for final approval as stipulated in the scheme guidelines.

Statement

Status of progress of implementation of Mega Food Park Projects

(as on 31.7.2014)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
1.	M/s Srimi Food Park Pvt. Ltd., District Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, ₹ 45.00 crore has been released to SPV. SPV has incurred an expenditure of approx. ₹ 126.42 crore towards various components of basic enabling and core infrastructure and non-core facilities at the CPC. It has also submitted its request for release of last and final installment of ₹ 5.00

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			<p data-bbox="924 427 1270 1093">crore. Certain discrepancies were found in the documents submitted by the SPV which the SPV is in the process of addressing. A joint site visit was undertaken by the Ministry and the PMA between 20.05.2014 and 22.05.2014 to assess the completion of various project components as per the DPR approved by the Ministry. SPV has also submitted its request for approval on revised project cost estimates and for extension of project implementation timeline till July 2014.</p> <p data-bbox="924 1126 1270 1406">The CPC has been set up in 110 acres. SPV has recently acquired additional 32 acres of land from APIIC which is being used to set up processing units. Commercial operations have commenced at the CPC.</p> <p data-bbox="924 1442 1270 1682">The core processing facilities that have been set up at CPC include Aseptic Pulping, Cold Storage, and Warehouse, Ripening sheds, IQF and Deep Freeze and Tetra Pack line.</p> <p data-bbox="924 1718 1270 1912">As regards PPCs, the revised approved number of PPCs stands at 4. SPV had acquired pack houses of AP Agro at Nizuvedu and Tirupati on lease</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			<p>for a period of three years. The land at Madanapalle has been acquired and construction has commenced. Regarding the 4th PPC at Gudur, it was observed during the joint site visit that construction activities had just commenced.</p> <p>Regarding plot allotment, 35 acres of land is available for approx. 15-20 plots. 20.39 acres has been allotted to 7 units. 1 Unit is in operation in an area of approx. 3 acres. Nature of units -Cold Storage (CA Chambers), Noodles Manufacturing, Pomegranate Processing and Exports, Fruit related Sauces (Tomato), Growing of Cherry Tomato, Pickle processing factory, Juices Manufacturing etc. noodle making plant).The construction work of units is under process at the site and expected to be completed soon.</p>
2.	North East Mega Food Park Ltd., District Nalbari	Assam	<p>Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, ₹ 30.00 crore has been released to SPV. Total expenditure incurred by the SPV stands at approx. ₹. 38.97 crore (towards various components of basic enabling and core infrastructure and non-core facility at the CPC).</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			<p>The components at the CPC on which the works are nearing completion include warehouse, common facility building, boundary wall, site development, internal roads and SDF sheds. No work has commenced on components like cold storage, weighbridge, ETP etc. SPV has now submitted that work on cold storage component has started.</p> <p>SPV has also submitted that tendering of other pending components is underway. Regarding setting up of PPCs, the SPV had mentioned that it had taken land on lease for two PPCs (Nagaon and Kajalgaon) out of the total six proposed PPCs. No expenditure has been incurred yet on setting up PPCs. Plot allotment exercise (on lease basis) is yet to commence.</p> <p>As per SPV's latest submissions, it has been observed that SPV has been released further funds from the bank to the tune of ₹ 2.70 crore, that the SPV has still not resolved the long pending issue of legal suit filed by LMJ International, one of the SPV members and that the SPV has proposed to take lease facilities</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			from Assam State Warehousing Corporation and Assam State Transport Corporation for setting up PPCs and CCs respectively.
3.	Jharkhand Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., District Ranchi	Jharkhand	<p>Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, ₹ 30.00 crore has been released to SPV. Total expenditure incurred by the SPV stands at approx. ₹. 44.17crore.</p> <p>As per the MPR submitted by the SPV, progress has been made on setting up components of core (cold storage, warehouse civil work) and non-core infrastructure (admin building etc). Also, progress has been observed on certain components under basic enabling infrastructure like site development, roads, power distribution etc.</p> <p>Work on setting up PPCs and leasing out plots to prospective units is yet to commence. SPV had submitted a revised DPR to the Ministry which has been approved in April 2014.</p>
4.	M/s Integrated Food Park Pvt. Ltd., District Tumkur	Karnataka	Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, ₹ 45.00 crore has been released to SPV. Total expenditure incurred by the SPV stands at approx. ₹ 96.25 crore.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			<p>Basic Enabling Infrastructure components towards which expenditure has been incurred mainly include site grading and land development, internal roads, storm water drainage, boundary wall, fire hydrant and electrical works.</p> <p>Core processing infrastructure components on which work is progressing include warehouse, silos and fruit and vegetable block. The fruit and vegetable block includes cold storage, ripening chambers, IQF etc. Work has also been initiated on setting up of SDF sheds. However, work on non-core infrastructure has only just begun.</p> <p>Regarding setting up PPCs, SPV has proposed to set up 6 PPCs - Tumkur, Hassan, Chickballapur, Kolar, Mysore and Belgaum. As per the DPR, the total cost estimates for PPCs stand at approx. ₹ 3.00 crore. No expenditure has yet been incurred by the SPV on setting up these facilities. However, SPV has signed MoAs with owners for three out of the six PPCs.</p> <p>Regarding setting up of units in the Park, SPV is yet to obtain permission for sub-lease from</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			the State Government. Plot allotment will only start after this permission is obtained.
5.	M/s Indus Mega Food Park Ltd., Khargone	Madhya Pradesh	Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, funds to the tune of ₹ 30.00 crore have been released to SPV towards the 1st and 2nd installment. The tendering process and award of contracts for major infrastructure components of Central Processing Centre has been completed by SPV. The components for which the works have been awarded include land and site development, boundary wall, internal roads and drainage and power under basic enabling infrastructure. In respect of core infrastructure components, SPV has awarded works for Cold Storage, Warehouse and IQF. Civil works in respect of all the awarded components are currently going on at the site. SPV has till date mobilized a fund ₹ 81.52 crores which includes grant portion of ₹ 30.00 crores and ₹ 19.74 crore as SPVs equity towards the project and ₹ 30.00 crores as part of term loan and ₹ 2.94 crores from other sources. SPV has reported an expenditure of ₹ 81.52 crores which includes

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			<p>₹ 6.89 crores towards land for CPC, ₹ 13.41 crores towards preoperative expense and around ₹ 58.12 crores towards the project infrastructure. Of the sanctioned term loan of ₹ 51.38 crores to the project, SPV has so far availed disbursements of ₹ 30.00 crores from the term loan as on date.</p> <p>SPV has acquired land for one of the four proposed Primary Processing Centres and commenced development works at the PPC at Bedia. However, land for remaining three PPCs is yet to be acquired by SPV.</p>
6.	M/s Paithan Mega Food Park Ltd., Aurangabad	Maharashtra	<p>Project obtained Final Approval in April, 2013 and ₹ 5.00 crore as 1st tranche of 1st installment was released to it in August, 2013. Total expenditure incurred by the SPV stands at approx. ₹. 9.15 crore.</p> <p>Expenditure incurred by the SPV till date is on purchase of land, land development, road construction, compound wall, storm water drain, PMC and other consultancy charges and pre-operative expenses.</p> <p>Work on setting up of PPCs and leasing out plots to prospective units is yet to commence.</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			SPV has not been able to ensure financial closure of the project till date.
7.	M/s MITS Mega Food Park Ltd., Rayagada	Odisha	Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, ₹ 15.00 crore has been released so far as 1st Tranche and 2nd Tranche of 1st Installment to the SPV. SPV has awarded contracts for site development, dry warehouse and modern rice mills etc. SPV has also secured term loan sanction for the project for an amount of ₹ 15 crore from Punjab National Bank. SPV has reportedly incurred an expenditure of ₹ 8.96 crore in the project which includes ₹ 2.45 crore towards the land for Central Processing Centre and around ₹ 4.50 crores on the project infrastructure and balance towards the preoperative expenses. SPV has achieved the financial closure for the project and submitted a term loan sanction letter of ₹ 15.00 crores from Punjab National Bank. The land acquisition for the proposed Primary Processing Centres is yet to be completed by SPV.
8.	M/s International Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Fazilka	Punjab	Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, ₹ 45.00 crore has been released to SPV.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			<p data-bbox="924 427 1270 539">Total expenditure incurred by the SPV stands at approx. ₹ 101.27 crore.</p> <p data-bbox="924 568 1270 1160">Components of basic enabling infrastructure on which expenditure has been incurred: boundary wall and site development, internal roads, underground and overhead water tanks, storm water distribution, fire hydrant, storm water drain lines, electric substation, boiler and power house and power plant among others. Components of core infrastructure on which expenditure has been incurred: grain silos, cold storage, IQF and deep freeze, warehouse etc.</p> <p data-bbox="924 1189 1270 1541">An expenditure of ₹ 1.10 crore has been incurred towards creation of Standard Design Factory sheds for MSME units. An expenditure of over ₹ 4.20 crore has been incurred towards creation of non-core infrastructure facilities like the administrative building etc.</p> <p data-bbox="924 1570 1270 1921">SPV has now submitted that work on setting up PPCs has started. Work on leasing out plots to prospective units is yet to commence. The SPV has requested the Ministry for relocation of all 4 PPCs, permission for the same has also been granted.</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			SPV has recently also submitted its request for approval of revised project cost estimates. The same have been examined by the PMA and comments thereon submitted to the Ministry.
9.	M/s Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Agartala	Tripura	Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, ₹ 15.00 crore has been released to SPV towards the 1st installment (including the 1st and 2nd tranche). The tendering process for various infrastructure components of CPC with an estimated value of ₹.58.58 crore has been completed. The SPV has reportedly incurred an expenditure of ₹ 28.72 crore towards implementation of the project which includes an expenditure of ₹ 1.92 crore towards land ₹ 2.50 crore towards pre operatives and consultancy expenses and around ₹ 24.00 crores towards the project infrastructure. Civil works in respect of land and site development, boundary wall, internal roads and drainage have been awarded to contractors for the Central Processing Centre. Ministry <i>vide</i> its letter dated 22.04.2014, has asked the SPV to submit the detailed quantification for

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			the work going on with respect to each of the component at the site. SPV has not yet submitted the quantification report to the Ministry. It may be noted that there has been delay in implementation of the project. Ministry <i>vide</i> its letter dated 22.07.2014 has issued a show cause notice for the non-cancellation of the project, Ministry <i>vide</i> the said letter has asked for certain clarifications regarding the implementation of the project.
10.	Patanjali Food & Herbal Park Ltd, District: Haridwar	Uttarakhand	<p>Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00 crore, the SPV has been released ₹ 45.00 crore SPV has incurred an expenditure of approx. ₹ 85.37 crore towards various components of basic enabling and core infrastructure and non-core facility at the CPC.</p> <p>Core processing facilities that have been set up and are now operational at CPC include cold storage and warehouse. The QC lab is almost completion with installation of various equipments. As per the DPR, the new approved components at CPC like specialized storage facility (silo), more cold storage capacity and advance racking</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			<p>and palletisation system etc. are yet to be set up.</p> <p>Number of PPCs stands at six. PPC at Lal Tappar has been completed and SPV had entered into an agreement with an entity for its operations on lease basis starting from 01.05.2013. However, as per the SPV, the entity which took the facility on lease withdrew later and SPV is now in the process of finalizing the lease agreement with another entity. SPV is in possession of land for PPCs planned at Daudpur, Hazi and Budhana. Civil construction at these two sites has just been initiated as per the site photographs submitted. Work on PPCs at Kotdwar and Devprayag has also commenced. The PPC at Bazpur is nearing completion and trial runs for certain components like IQF have commenced.</p> <p>Regarding allotment of plots, SPV had submitted that out of a total of 25 units proposed, 17 are operational and 1 more is under construction. Key product categories include juices, candies, murabba, flour etc.</p> <p>SPV has recently requested the Ministry for approval on certain</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			modifications in the DPR (these include dropping further cold storage facility at the CPC etc). It has also requested the Ministry for its permission to allot one plot of land for setting up a repair and maintenance shed. The requests have been examined by the PMA and comments thereon submitted to the Ministry.
11.	Jangipur Bengal Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., District: Jangipur	West Bengal	<p>Out of approved grant-in-aid of ₹ 50.00crore, ₹ 45.00 crore has been released to SPV. Total expenditure incurred by the SPV stands at approx. ₹ 107.42 crore.</p> <p>Work is simultaneously underway on all components of core, basic enabling and non-core infrastructure. Work on cold storage, potato cold storage, IQF component, warehouse and SDF shed components is underway. Key components under enabling basic infrastructure on which expenditure has been incurred include compound wall, entrance gate, roads and drainage, HT and LT substations, utility block and admin building, boiler, air compressor, weigh bridge and fire and raw water tank. Preliminary work started on ETP and STP facilities. Non-</p>

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			<p>Core facilities on which work is being done include admin building, dormitory and row houses.</p> <p>Six PPCs have been proposed by the SPV. As per the latest MPR, approx. ₹ 0.91 lakh has been spent on PPC at Shaikhpara on the warehouse component and approx. ₹ 1.50 lakh on the warehouse component at Siuri. Total budgeted cost proposed for setting up PPCs is approx. of ₹ 20 crore.</p> <p>As per the SPV's submissions, it has allotted a 4 acre developed plot to M/s Shiv Industries Pvt. Ltd. for setting up a rice mill in the Mega Food Park. SPV has also mentioned that it has received an application for a 3 acre plot from M/s Techno India Group for setting up a wheat flour mill or frozen French fries project in the Mega Food Park. In its latest submissions SPV has further mentioned that EOIs have been received for 3 plots (cumulative 3 acres) and 3 SDF sheds.</p>
12.	M/s RFK Greens Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Pulwama	Jammu and Kashmir	MoFPI <i>vide</i> its letter dated 19.02.2014 has accorded final approval to the SPV for setting up of the Mega Food Park in

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			State of Jammu and Kashmir. The project is proposed to be set up with an capital investment of ₹ 79.43 crore which will be funded from different sources that includes, grant of ₹ 50.00 crores from MoFPI, ₹ 21.42 crore as term loan from Bank and ₹ 8.00 crore as promoters contribution. SPV is in the process of meeting the requirements for the release of 1st tranche of 1st instalment. SPV has reportedly incurred an expenditure of ₹ 6.57 crore, out of which ₹ 6.24 crore is towards land and balance is towards PMC charges and preliminary and pre-operative expenses.
13.	M/s Greentech Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Ajmer	Rajasthan	MoFPI <i>vide</i> its letter dated 19.02.2014 has accorded final approval to the SPV for setting up of the Mega Food Park in State of Rajasthan. The project is proposed to be set up with a capital investment of ₹113.56 crore which will be funded from different sources that includes, grant of ₹ 50.00 crores from MoFPI, ₹ 30.00 crore as term loan from Bank and ₹ 33.56 crore as promoters' contribution. SPV is in the process of meeting the requirements for the release of 1 st tranche of 1 st instalment.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			SPV has reportedly incurred an expenditure of ₹ 349 lakh, out of which ₹ 263.67 lakh is towards land and balance is towards preliminary and pre-operative expenses.
14.	M/s Godavari Mega Aqua Park Pvt. Ltd., West Godavari	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park Pvt. Ltd (SPV) is setting up a Mega Food Park at Tundurru Village, Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh. The project was accorded the final approval in December, 2013. It has been proposed to establish two Primary Processing Centers (PPCs) in Amlapuram in East Godavari District and Karlapalem in Guntur district. The project proposes to set up components such as Pre-processing line for Fish (1.5 TPH), Pre-processing line for Shrimp (1.5 TPH), Freezing for Fish (1.5 TPH for Block and 3 TPH for IQF), Freezing for Shrimp (1.5 TPH for Block and 3 TPH for IQF), Cold storage for Fish (2000 MT), Cold storage for Shrimp (1000 MT), Block Ice Plant (25 MT/day) and testing lab under common core processing infrastructure at the CPC. The total project cost has been estimated at ₹ 122.60

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			crore. As per the last MPR submitted by the SPV, it may be noted that construction activity at the site has not commenced yet.
15.	M/s Himalayan Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand	Himalayan Food Park Pvt. Ltd. (SPV) is setting up a Mega Food Park at Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar District, Uttarakhand. The project was accorded final approval in January 2014. It has been proposed to establish three Primary Processing Centers (PPCs) in Nainital district namely at Ramgarh, Ramnagar and Kaladhungi. The project proposes to set up components such as Dry Warehouse (8000 MT), Tetrapak (7500 packs per hr), Multi Fruit and Vegetable Processing Line (Input capacity of 7MT/h (Tomato paste), 8MT/h (Apple), 10MT/hr (Carrot), 5 MT/hr for pulp), Multi-Purpose Cold Store (Frozen 100 MT and Chilling 400 MT), Steam Generation and Distribution (5 TPH) and testing lab under common core processing facility at the CPC. The total project cost has been estimated at ₹ 99.70 crore. As per the last MPR submitted by the SPV, it is noted that construction activity at the site has not commenced yet.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
16.	M/s Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Surat	Gujarat	The SPV has been accorded final approval in April, 2014 to set up a Mega Food Park in Mangrol taluka of Surat district in Gujarat. It has been proposed to establish four PPCs in the following districts - Vadodara, Navsari, Bahrauch and Valsad. The project proposes to set up components such as Dry Warehouse (5000 MT), cold storage of 3500 MT, IQF of 2 TPH, pulping line and a testing laboratory. The total project cost has been estimated at ₹ 117.86 crore. Construction activity at the site has not yet commenced.
17.	M/s Indus Best Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Raipur	Chhattisgarh	MoFPI <i>vide</i> its letter dated 04.06.2014 has accorded final approval to the SPV for setting up of the Mega Food Park in State of Chhattisgarh. The project is proposed to be set up with a capital investment of ₹ 124.50 crore which will be funded from different sources that includes, grant of ₹ 50.00 crores from MoFPI, ₹ 44.12 crore as term loan from Bank and ₹ 30.38 crore as promoters contribution. SPV is in the process of meeting the requirements for the release of 1st tranche of 1 st instalment.
18.	M/s Raipur Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Bemetara	Chhattisgarh	MoFPI <i>vide</i> its letter dated 04.06.2014 has accorded final approval to the SPV for setting

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			up of the Mega Food Park in State of Chhattisgarh. The project is proposed to be set up with a capital investment of ₹ 126.12 crore which will be funded from different sources that includes grant of ₹ 50.00 crores from MoFPI, ₹ 46.19 crore as term loan from Bank and ₹ 29.93 crore as promoter's contribution. SPV is in the process of meeting the requirements for the release of 1st tranche of 1 st instalment.
19.	M/s Poliyam Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd., Una	Himachal Pradesh	Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) in its meeting dated 30.06.2014 has accorded final approval to the SPV for setting up of the Mega Food Park in State of Himachal Pradesh. The project is proposed to be set up with a capital investment of ₹ 99.70 crore which will be funded from different sources that includes grant of ₹ 50.00 crores from MoFPI, Rs 37.10 crore as term loan from Bank and ₹ 12.60 crore as promoters' contribution.
20.	M/s Pristine Logistics & Infra projects Pvt. Ltd., Khagaria	Bihar	Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) in its meeting dated 30.06.2014 has accorded final approval to the SPV for setting up of the Mega Food Park in State of Bihar.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Status of Progress
			The project is proposed to be set up with a capital investment of ₹ 127.64 crore which will be funded from different sources that includes grant of ₹ 50.00 crores from MoFPI, ₹ 51.61 crore as term loan from Bank and Rs. 26.03 crore as promoters' contribution.
21.	M/s Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. Satara	Maharashtra	Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) in its meeting dated 30.06.2014 has accorded final approval to the SPV for setting up of the Mega Food Park in State of Maharashtra. The project proposes to set up components such as Dry Warehouse with racking system (2000 MT), Warehouse for raw material (5000 MT), Pulping Line (2 TPH), Cold Storage (3000 MT), Ripening Chamber (384 MT), Boiler (4 MT), Pack house (1 TPH), reefer vans and testing lab under common core processing infrastructure at the CPC. The project is proposed to be set up with a capital investment of ₹ 139.33 crore which will be funded from different sources that includes, grant of ₹ 50.00 crores from MoFPI, ₹ 55.00 crore as term loan from Bank and ₹ 34.33 crore as promoters' contribution.

Infrastructure development of subordinate judiciary

3316. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether any tangible result has been achieved in strengthening the infrastructure development of subordinate judiciary, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary in the States is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to augment the resources of the State Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been in operation since 1993-94. The Scheme covers upgradation/construction of court complexes and residential units. The State / UT-wise details of funds released under the Scheme from 1993-94 to 2013-14 are given in Statement (*See below*).

The progress of infrastructure development for judiciary in States is monitored by a committee chaired by the portfolio judge of the High Court as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in All India Judges Association cases (I.A. No.279 in W.P. (C) No.1022 of 1989). As per the information furnished by various States/UTs to the Supreme Court in the above case, 234 new court building and 254 residential quarters were completed between July, 2010 and September, 2012.

Statement

*Grants released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for
Infrastructural facilities for judiciary*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Release from 1993-94 to 2010-11	Release in 2011-12	Release in 2012-13	Release in 2013-14	Total (1993-94 to 2013-14)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7683.45	1888.00	6393.00	0.00	15964.45
2.	Bihar	4036.37	0.00	1524.00	0.00	5560.37
3.	Chhattisgarh	2907.47	2097.00	0.00	0.00	5004.47
4.	Goa	627.93	172.00	0.00	0.00	799.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Gujarat	5371.42	0.00	9893.00	10000.00	25264.42
6.	Haryana	3516.42	2138.00	0.00	3632.00	9286.42
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1507.00	0.00	0.00	806.00	2313.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1687.60	1035.00	2572.00	3428.00	8722.60
9.	Jharkhand	1906.52	0.00	1500.00	1693.00	5099.52
10.	Karnataka	6536.85	2961.00	7610.00	10384.00	27491.85
11.	Kerala	3419.30	1169.00	1499.00	0.00	6087.30
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6382.04	4403.00	2046.00	6141.00	18972.04
13.	Maharashtra	11131.62	12915.00	5920.24	10000.00	39966.86
14.	Odisha	5074.27	2416.00	1534.00	0.00	9024.27
15.	Punjab	2677.92	0.00	7902.00	12000.00	22579.92
16.	Rajasthan	4188.51	1172.00	1042.00	0.00	6402.51
17.	Tamil Nadu	5835.46	0.00	1953.00	7343.00	15131.46
18.	Uttarakhand	1635.35	0.00	829.76	2043.00	4508.11
19.	Uttar Pradesh	17542.57	15659.00	9398.00	12530.00	55129.57
20.	West Bengal	6435.46	2518.00	0.00	0.00	8953.46
TOTAL (A)		100103.53	50543.00	61616.00	80000.00	292262.53

NE States

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	441.44	972.00	750.00	0.00	2163.44
2.	Assam	5926.40	2890.00	2954.90	0.00	11771.30
3.	Manipur	641.71	0.00	0.00	1500.00	2141.71
4.	Meghalaya	297.00	0.00	0.00	1474.00	1771.00
5.	Mizoram	1099.95	0.00	704.78	812.56	2617.29
6.	Nagaland	3860.64	169.00	750.00	0.00	4779.64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Sikkim	1278.05	0.00	549.50	2802.84	4630.39
8.	Tripura	1097.25	0.00	1495.60	2910.60	5503.45
TOTAL (B)		14642.44	4031.00	7204.78	9500.00	35378.22
UTs						
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	395.55	500.00	0.00	0.00	895.55
2.	Chandigarh	3400.95	500.00	0.00	0.00	3900.95
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	206.25	500.00	0.00	0.00	706.25
4.	Daman and Diu	190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00
5.	Delhi	3647.08	2250.00	2000.00	0.00	7897.08
6.	Lakshadweep	51.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.25
7.	Puducherry	1898.88	1250.00	0.00	0.00	3148.88
TOTAL (C)		9789.96	5000.00	2000.00	0.00	16789.96
GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)		124535.93	59574.00	70820.78	89500.00	344430.71

Special courts for women, aged persons and children

3317. SHRI KALPATARU DAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up special speedy courts for women, aged persons and children in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some suggestions have been received in the matter from experts, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether some time-limit is proposed to be fixed for disposal of such cases in such courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (c) Setting up of subordinate courts including special courts for speedy trial of cases relating to crime against women, aged persons and children is the responsibility of the

State Governments under the Constitution of India. However, Government has written to the Chief Justices of the High Courts to constitute Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for speedy trial of the pending rape cases in district/subordinate courts having a high pendency of such cases and to monitor the progress of these cases. The Chief Ministers of States have been requested to provide financial support to the High Courts for setting up FTCs for cases of crime against women. In the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 7th April, 2013, it was decided that the State Governments shall, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, take necessary steps to establish suitable number of Fast Track Courts for offences against women, children, differently abled persons, senior citizens and marginalized sections of the society and provide adequate funds for the purpose.

As per the reports received from State Governments, 275 special courts have been set up/designated for cases of crime against women.

Legislative provisions have been made by the Government for setting up of special courts for speedy trial of offences against children. Section 25 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 provides that for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child rights, the State Government may, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification, specify at least a court in the State or specify, for each district, a Court of Session to be a Children's Court to try the said offence. Section 28(1) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 provides that for the purposes of providing a speedy trial, the State Government shall in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification in the Official Gazette, designate for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try the offences under the Act provided that if a Court of Session is notified as a Children's Court under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 or a Special Court designated for similar purposes under any other law for the time being in force, then, such court shall be deemed to be a Special Court under this section.

No time-limit can be fixed for disposal of cases in courts. However, Chief Justices of all High Courts have been requested to invite the attention of the District Judges to the use of provisions under Sections 157, 309 and 327 of the Code of Criminal Procedure with a view to examination of witnesses on a day to day basis, keeping adjournments at a bare minimum and expediting trial of cases involving heinous crimes such as rape.

Witness prosecution system

3318. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that absence of a witness protection system is causing rise in unmerited acquittals in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in putting in place a strong witness protection system in order to ensure justice to victims; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

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

Phasing out of old EVMs

3319. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to phase out old Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons behind this decision; and

(c) the action taken by Election Commission to have new EVMs in place of phased out EVMs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) have a life span of fifteen years and thus EVMs ageing fifteen years or more are to be replaced after following the due procedure. Following are the details of the EVMs, as provided by the Election Commission, which are procured during the years 2000-05 and are proposed to be phased out during the Financial Years 2015-20:-

Sl. No.	Financial Year of procurement	No. of EVMs procured	Financial Year in which 15 years lifespan completes and disposal is proposed
1.	2000-01	142631	2015-16
2.	2001-02	135481	2016-17
3.	2002-03	190592	2017-18
4.	2003-04	336045	2018-19
5.	2004-05	125681	2019-20

(c) The Election Commission has sent a proposal to the Government which *inter alia* includes the proposal for procurement of Control Units and Ballot Units which is being examined. The details of the proposed procurement by the Election Commission are as under:-

Sl. No.	Financial Year in which procurement to be initiated	No. of Control Units to be purchased	No. of Ballot Units to be purchased
1.	2014-15	142631	213947
2.	2015-16	135481	203222
3.	2016-17	190592	285888
4.	2017-18	336045	504068
5.	2018-19	125681	188522
TOTAL		930430	1395647

Pendency and disposal of cases of various High Courts

3320. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in various High Courts and the Supreme Court as on 31st March, 2014;

(b) out of them, how many are of original, civil and criminal nature, respectively, High Court-wise details thereof; and

(c) how Government plans to dispose of these pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c) The data on pendency of cases is maintained by Supreme Court and High Courts. As per available information, 64,330 cases were pending in Supreme Court as on 01.04.2014. Details of civil and criminal cases pending in the High Courts are given in Statement (*See below*).

Disposal of pending cases in various courts is within the domain of the Judiciary. In order to create an enabling environment for judiciary, the Government has set up National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. The major initiative under the National Mission relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation/ construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. Under the e-Courts Project 13,227 courts have been computerized by 31st March, 2014. Computerization of courts would enable the courts to exercise greater control over management of cases in the docket. It will also provide designated services to the

litigants and the lawyers. In order to reduce government litigation in courts the Central Government has encouraged the States to notify their litigation policies which contain provisions for weeding out infructuous cases and promote dispute resolution through alternative mechanisms. The Government is also looking into the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation.

Statement

Pendency of Civil and Criminal Cases in High Courts as on 31.12.2013

Sl. No.	High Court	Case Type	Pendency as on 31.12.2013
1.	Allahabad	Civil	695431
		Criminal	347967
		TOTAL	1043398
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Civil	201425
		Criminal	31034
		TOTAL	232459
3.	Bombay	Civil	299931
		Criminal	49906
		TOTAL	349837
4.	Calcutta	Civil	230317
		Criminal	49689
		TOTAL	280006
5.	Delhi	Civil	49000
		Criminal	15652
		TOTAL	64652
6.	Gujarat	Civil	60131
		Criminal	31822
		TOTAL	91953
7.	Gauhati	Civil	33534
		Criminal	7378
		TOTAL	40912

Sl. No.	High Court	Case Type	Pendency as on 31.12.2013
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Civil	54015
		Criminal	6058
		TOTAL	60073
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Civil	87794
		Criminal	5244
		TOTAL	93038
10.	Karnataka	Civil	179379
		Criminal	17593
		TOTAL	196972
11.	Kerala	Civil	99573
		Criminal	32586
		TOTAL	132159
12.	Madras	Civil	490383
		Criminal	67096
		TOTAL	557479
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Civil	174665
		Criminal	86946
		TOTAL	261611
14.	Odisha	Civil	168794
		Criminal	38028
		TOTAL	206822
15.	Patna	Civil	79896
		Criminal	52259
		TOTAL	132155
16.	Punjab and Haryana	Civil	200549
		Criminal	62211
		TOTAL	262760

Sl. No.	High Court	Case Type	Pendency as on 31.12.2013
17.	Rajasthan	Civil	244020
		Criminal	63620
		TOTAL	307640
18.	Sikkim	Civil	95
		Criminal	25
		TOTAL	120
19.	Uttarakhand	Civil	15269
		Criminal	5417
		TOTAL	20686
20.	Chhattisgarh	Civil	27146
		Criminal	16993
		TOTAL	44139
21.	Jharkhand	Civil	38001
		Criminal	34957
		TOTAL	72958
22.	*Tripura	Civil	4743
		Criminal	1091
		TOTAL	5834
23.	*Manipur	Civil	3761
		Criminal	92
		Total	3853
24.	*Meghalaya	Civil	1115
		Criminal	74
		TOTAL	1189
ALL HIGH COURTS TOTAL CIVIL			3438967
ALL HIGH COURTS TOTAL CRIMINAL			1023738
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL HIGH COURTS			4462705

Source: Above statement is compiled on the basis of figures received from the High Court.

*Operationalization of 3 new High Courts was notified on 23rd March, 2013

Judicial Appointments Commission Bill

3321. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) is likely to replace the Supreme Court's Collegium system of appointing judges to the apex court and High Courts;

(b) whether Government is considering amendments in the JAC Bill to get over the provision that requires the Leader of Opposition to be a member of selection committee that will choose the panel; and

(c) whether the proposed amendment in the JAC Bill will be modeled on the CVC Act, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (c) The Government proposes to change the existing system for appointment and transfer of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts by establishing the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) with a view to broad base the process of appointment. The matter is presently under consideration of the Government.

Pending court cases in West Bengal

3322. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total pending cases in courts in West Bengal;

(b) the details of the number of judges and judicial officers in courts of West Bengal;

(c) whether as per a recent study of National Court Management System (NCMS), the number of pending cases in courts are going to grow by about 15 percent; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for judicial reform and to improve the judge/population ratio?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (d) The data on pendency of cases is maintained by Supreme Court and High Courts. As per available information, 2,80,006 cases were pending in High Court of Calcutta and 25,61,262 cases were pending in District and Subordinate Courts in the State of West Bengal as on 31.12.2013. Sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts of the State of West Bengal and Union Territory of Andaman and

Nicobar Islands was 994 as on 31.12.2013. The approved strength of Judges in High Court of Calcutta was 58 as on 01.08.2014.

Disposal of pending cases in various courts is within the domain of the Judiciary. The 'Policy and Action Plan' document formulated under the National Court Management Systems (NCMS) set up by Supreme Court has estimated that with the increase in literacy, per capita income and population, the number of new cases filed each year may go upto fifteen (15) crore *per annum* over the next three decades.

In order to create an enabling environment for judiciary, the Government has set up National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. The major initiative under the National Mission relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of ₹. 2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation/ construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. Under the eCourts Project 13,227 courts have been computerized by 31st March, 2014. Computerization of courts would enable the courts to exercise greater control over management of cases in the docket. It will also provide designated services to the litigants and the lawyers.

To enable the High Courts to clear the backlog of cases, the Chief Justice of India has given *in-principle* concurrence to the joint recommendation in the Chief Ministers/ Chief Justices Conference to increase the sanctioned strength of High Courts by 25% of the existing strength. The High Courts and State Governments have been requested to convey their consent to the proposal, keeping in view the existing vacancies, as also the requirements of additional court room infrastructure, staff and budget. Specific proposals in respect of High Courts of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab and Haryana have been received from the State Governments, and approved by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. In the case of other High Courts, the State Governments have been reminded to expedite their concurrence.

As a result of concerted efforts made by all stakeholders the sanctioned strength of judicial officers/judges in the District and Subordinate courts has increased from 17715 as on 31.12.2012 to 19421 as on 31.12.2013.

Cluster counting instead of ward-wise declaration of vote count

3323. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is seriously considering to introduce cluster counting

instead of ward-wise declaration of vote count in various elections in the country to protect the right to privacy attached to voting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Election Commission has asked Government to amend the rule to do away with declaration of result of every polling booth;

(d) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect the right to privacy attached to voting?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (e) The Election Commission has submitted a proposal for introduction of a machine called Totaliser for counting the votes. The Election Commission is of the view that by use of Totaliser, a further level of secrecy in voting and the mixing of votes at the time of counting will be achieved, which will prevent the disclosure of the pattern of voting at a particular polling station. The Government has not taken a considered view on introduction of Totaliser in the counting of votes as proposed by the Election Commission. Secrecy of votes being the essence of Indian democracy will certainly be ascertained before introduction of any technological advancement in the voting or counting.

Creation of All India Judicial Service

3324. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on creation of new All India Judicial Service in line with IAS and IPS, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has sought views of State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether any objections have been raised by States in regard to creation of such new service, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the benefits of the unified All India Judicial Service and hurdles being faced in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) to (d) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) in order to strengthen federal governance, attract the best talent in the judiciary, promote national integration, and establish standards of governance.

The proposal was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers of the States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberations and consideration. Therefore, the views of the State Governments and High Courts have been sought again on the proposal.

Filling up of vacancies of High Court Judges

3325. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes, to adopt the pre 1993 proposition with regard to appointment of judges and to fill up the vacancies on fast track; and
- (b) if so, whether there is any time-frame to fill up around 200 vacancies in High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to change the existing system for appointment and transfer of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts by establishing the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) with a view to broad base the process of appointment. The matter is presently under active consideration in consultation with various stakeholders. The Minister of Law and Justice has written to Chief Justices of High Courts to take steps to expedite the filling up of vacancies in High Courts.

Pending court cases

†3326. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pending cases in all courts of the country are rising continuously;
- (b) if so, whether Government is planning to control it; and
- (c) if so, how and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The data on pendency of cases is maintained by Supreme Court and High Courts. As per available information, number of cases pending in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts during last three years are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

At the end of the year	2011	2012	2013
Supreme Court	58,519	66,692	66,349
High Courts	43,22,198	44,34,191	44,62,705
Subordinate Courts	2,69,86,307	2,68,89,203	2,68,38,861

(b) and (c) Disposal of cases in courts falls within the domain of the judiciary. In order to create an enabling environment for judiciary to deal with the problem of pendency and backlog of cases, the Government has set up National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. The major initiatives under the National Mission relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation/construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. Under the eCourts Project 13,227 courts have been computerized by 31st March, 2014. Computerization of courts would enable the courts to exercise greater control over management of cases in the docket. It will also provide designated services to the litigants and the lawyers. In order to reduce government litigation in courts the Central Government has encouraged the States to notify their litigation policies which contain provisions for weeding out infructuous cases and promote dispute resolution through alternative mechanisms. The Government is also looking into the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation.

Chennai-Cuddalore Railway Line

3327. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the East Coast Railway line from Chennai to Cuddalore; and
- (b) the reasons for delay in starting the work on this railway project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Chennai-Cuddalore (179 Km) new line project has been sanctioned at an anticipated cost of ₹ 1200 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 29 crore has been incurred on the project upto March, 2014 and an outlay of ₹ 5 crore has been provided in 2014-15. Final location survey has been taken up.

(b) The project is delayed due to the fact that Government of Puducherry has not approved the alignment plan. Further, detailed soil investigations are required as the proposed line passes through coastal region which has poor soil conditions.

Adarsh railway stations

3328. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Adarsh railway stations developed in Karnataka since announcement of such stations;

(b) the number of Adarsh railway stations proposed to be developed in the State; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Twenty-one stations *viz.* Bagalkot, Bellary, Bidar, Chamarajanagar, Chickballapur, Chintamani, Devanahalli, Doddaballapur, Gadag, Gauribidanur, Gokak Road, Gulberga, Hubli, Kolar, Koppal, Londa Jn., Nanjangud Town, Sambre, Sidlaghatta, Srinivaspura and Wadi have already been developed under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme in the State of Karnataka. In addition, five more stations *viz.* Almatti, Badami, Haveri, Kabakaputtur and Yelahanka Jn. have been identified for development under this scheme.

Improving the condition of railway coaches

3329. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to improve the condition of railway coaches;

(b) if so, what improvements Government proposes to make in sleeper class coaches, AC-III coaches, AC-II coaches and AC-I coaches etc.;

(c) by when these improvements or upgradation of coaches is likely to be made;

(d) the trains which would be taken up on priority basis;

(e) whether trains going to international tourist destinations like Goa will get urgent attention; and

(f) if so, by what date coaches of trains going to or passing through Goa, would be improved/upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Improvement of coaches is a continuous process integrated into maintenance schedules of railway coaches.

(b) to (d) All coaches including sleeper class, AC-III, AC-II and AC-I coaches are improved upon during scheduled and unscheduled repairs in maintenance depots. Additionally, during periodic overhauling of these coaches in workshops, major improvements are done including replacement of deficient or damaged passenger amenity fittings *viz.* flooring, seats, berths, toilet fittings, sidewall paneling, ceiling panels etc. Many coaches including sleeper coaches are also undertaken for Midlife Rehabilitation in nominated workshops in which intensive attention to structural parts and complete refurbishing of coach interiors is done.

Improvements or upgradation of coaches is a continuous process and covers applicable coaches, running in all the trains, as and when these are taken up for scheduled/unscheduled repairs.

(e) and (f) All coaches including those going to tourist destinations like Goa are improved/upgraded during scheduled/unscheduled repairs in maintenance depots and workshops.

Railway lines in the country

3330. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of broad gauge, meter gauge and narrow gauge railway lines in each State, as on 31 March, 2013; and

(b) how many miles of new railway lines have been laid after independence of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Gauge-wise railway line (Total Track Kilometrage) in each State of the country as on 31.03.2013 is given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Total Track Kilometrage			
		B.G.	M.G.	N.G.	Total
States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9934.67	6.09	0.00	9940.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	2.50	0.00	2.50
3.	Assam	2178.57	1345.99	0.00	3524.56
4.	Bihar	5849.52	745.83	0.00	6595.35
5.	Chhattisgarh	2533.65	0.00	91.81	2625.46

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total Track Kilometrage			
		B.G.	M.G.	N.G.	Total
6.	Delhi	698.32	0.00	0.66	698.98
7.	Goa	98.31	0.00	0.00	98.31
8.	Gujarat	5393.67	1362.95	631.18	7387.80
9.	Haryana	2954.75	14.88	3.41	2973.04
10.	Himachal Pradesh	59.92	0.00	296.98	356.90
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	420.95	0.00	0.00	420.95
12.	Jharkhand	5319.33	0.00	0.00	5319.33
13.	Karnataka	4821.94	0.00	0.00	4821.94
14.	Kerala	1932.64	79.10	0.00	2011.74
15.	Madhya Pradesh	8004.78	436.80	704.79	9146.37
16.	Maharashtra	10273.18	108.75	546.17	10928.10
17.	Manipur	0.00	2.72	0.00	2.72
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.00	4.71	0.00	4.71
20.	Nagaland	22.06	1.72	0.00	23.78
21.	Odisha	4854.63	0.00	0.00	4854.63
22.	Punjab	3368.05	0.00	17.88	3385.93
23.	Rajasthan	7195.32	1078.56	90.03	8363.91
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	5682.85	552.55	0.00	6235.40
26.	Tripura	0.00	192.94	0.00	192.94
27.	Uttarakhand	462.41	93.76	0.00	556.17
28.	Uttar Pradesh	13491.08	1449.44	2.60	14943.12
29.	West Bengal	10058.28	74.12	192.98	10325.38

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total Track Kilometrage			
		B.G.	M.G.	N.G.	Total
Union Territories					
1.	Chandigarh	66.48	0.00	0.00	66.48
2.	Puducherry	25.88	0.00	0.00	25.88
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL: ALL INDIA		105701.24	7553.41	2578.49	115833.14

(b) Indian Railways has expanded its network and executed a large number of capacity enhancement works since Independence.

Since 1951, the railway network expansion work of more than 55,000 kilometres (including 15,076 kilometres New Lines, 22,667 kilometres Gauge Conversion and 17,871 kilometres Doubling) has been completed.

Shortage of reserved seats in express trains

3331. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of reserved seats in various Express trains running through various important cities of Maharashtra;

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

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways for ensuring availability of accommodation to passengers by increasing the seats in all Express trains passing through various important cities of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There is a shortage of reserved accommodation in trains including those traversing through Maharashtra as is seen from the waiting list position of the trains. The demand for reserved accommodation exceeds the available berths/seats especially during peak periods such as summer/winter rush and festival seasons such as Pooja, Diwali/Chhath *etc.*

(c) With a view to meet increased demand during rush periods, special trains are run, extra coaches are attached to regular trains on all Indian Railways including in the State of Maharashtra, subject to operational feasibility. Indian Railways endeavor to enhance the availability of accommodation by introducing new services and augmenting existing services. Besides, subject to operational feasibility and availability of resources, special trains are also operated and extra coaches attached in regular trains during rush period. During 2013-14, 80 pairs of train services catering to the needs of passengers of Maharashtra have been augmented by attaching 222 coaches on a permanent basis. During 2013-14, Indian Railways ran about 41386 trips of special trains, many of which served important cities of Maharashtra. Further more, 37 new train services have been announced, in the Railway Budget 2014-15, catering to the needs of passengers of Maharashtra.

Trains running between Mumbai and Delhi

†3332. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of trains running between Mumbai and Delhi along with their names;
- (b) whether Government proposes to start a train from Mumbai to Delhi *via* Vadodra-Anand, Dakor and Godhara;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present, 26 pairs of Mail/Express train services are available between Mumbai area and Delhi area including 3 pairs of Rajdhani Express train services. Details of above services are as under:

1. 19029/19030 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Bandra (T) Express
2. 12215/12216 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Bandra (T) Garib Rath Express
3. 12247/12248 H. Nizamuddin-Bandra (T) Yuva Express
4. 12907/12908 H. Nizamuddin-Bandra (T) Sampark Kranti Express
5. 12909/12910 H. Nizamuddin-Bandra (T) Express Garib Rath
6. 22109/22110 H. Nizamuddin-Lokmanya Tilak (T) AC Express

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

7. 22209/22210 Mumbai Central-New Delhi Duronto Express
8. 12951/12952 Mumbai Central-New Delhi Rajdhani Express
9. 12953/12954 Mumbai Central-H. Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express
10. 19023/19024 Mumbai Central-Ferozpur Express
11. 12903/12904 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail
12. 11057/11058 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Amritsar Express
13. 12137/12138 Mumbai CST-Ferozpur Punjab Mail
14. 12617/12618 H. Nizamuddin- Earnakulam-Mangla Lakshdweep Express
15. 22633/22634 H. Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Central Express
16. 12431 /12432 H. Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express
17. 22917/22918 Bandra (T)-Haridwar Express
18. 12925/12926 Bandra (T)-Amritsar Paschim Express
19. 19019/19020 Bandra (T)- Dehradun Express
20. 22451 /22452 Bandra (T)- Chandigarh Superfast Express
21. 12471 /12472 Bandra (T)- JammuTawi Swaraj Express
22. 12217/12218 Kochuveli-Chandigarh Kerala Sampark Kranti Express
23. 12287/12288 Dehradun-Kochuveli Express
24. 12483/12484 Amritsar-Kochuveli Express
25. 12449/12450 Madgaon-Chandigarh Goa Sampark Kranti Express
26. 12171/12172 Haridwar-Lokmanya Tilak (T) AC Express

(b) to (d) In the Railway Budget 2014-15, 4 pairs of Premium trains, 1 pair of AC Express train and 1 pair of Express train have been announced, which will provide additional connectivity between Mumbai area and Delhi area. However, at present, there is no proposal to introduce additional train service between Mumbai and Delhi *via* Vadodara, Anand, Dakor and Godhra due to operational and resource constraints.

Irregularities in PPP projects of Railways

3333. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the recent report of CAG, serious irregularities have been found in PPP projects of Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;
- (c) whether Government has enquired into the alleged irregularities reported by CAG and has fixed responsibility in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and company-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Certain observations have been made in PPP projects of Railways. However, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report on Railways, 2014 has also recommended: (i) Framing a Model Concession Agreement for PPP projects on Indian Railways, (ii) Adopting Expressions of Interest for selection of all equity partners other than principal stakeholders, (iii) Accuracy of data and assumptions, (iv) Streamlining of approval process, (v) Time lines for achieving 'Financial Close' and (vi) Strengthening the monitoring mechanism of PPP projects.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Railway line projects

†3334. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the survey of corridor and new rail lines for Chhattisgarh was announced in 2012-13 budget but survey for new rail lines has not been announced in 2014-15 budget and whether Government will transform the previous announcements into action;
- (b) whether Government would give assent to the survey for new rail line connecting Raipur to Odisha *via* Palari, Baloda Bazar, Kasdol, Giroudpuri, Sarangarh; and
- (c) whether Government would give assent to the survey for new rail lines

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

connecting Mahasamund, Pithora, Basna, Saraipali, Sambalpur as per the survey plan as referred to in part (b)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Thirty two surveys announced in the Railway Budget 2012-13 falling partly/fully in the State of Chhattisgarh have been taken up. Of these, two surveys have been completed. No surveys falling partly or fully in Chhattisgarh have been announced in Budget 2014-15.

(b) Survey for new line between Raipur to Bargarh (Odisha) *via* Tilda Palavi, Balodabazar, Kasdol and Sarsiwan has been taken up.

(c) Separate survey for new line between Mahasamund and Bargarh *via* Tumgaon, Patewa, Pithora, Saraipalli has been taken up.

Cases of theft in Railways

3335. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there have been cases of theft of passengers' goods in Railways, and well organized gangs operate from certain stations;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered, action taken and compensation paid during the last three years;

(c) whether there have been cases of theft of diesel, petrol and grains etc. from Railways during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of number of cases of theft of passengers' goods reported in trains, number of persons arrested along with number of organized gangs found involved in these cases over Indian Railways, during the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 is as under:

Year	No. of theft of passengers, goods	No. of persons arrested	No. of organized gangs found involved
2011	9230	2222	163
2012	8225	2165	120
2013	9191	2332	102

In terms of Section 100 of the Railways Act, 1989, Railway administration has no statutory responsibility for payment of compensation for the loss or damage of unbooked luggage unless it is proved that such loss or damage is due to the negligence or misconduct on the part of the Railway administration or its employees. The amount of compensation paid by the Railways in such cases on receipt of decree of Railway Claims Tribunal or a court of law during the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are ₹ 10,300/-, ₹ 22,950/- and ₹ 69,078/- respectively.

Note: The compensation paid in a year is not related to the incident or casualties in that particular year. The amount paid in the year depends upon the number of cases finalized and decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal or court of law in a particular year and amount paid by the Railways irrespective of the year(s) in which the accident they pertain to, have occurred.

(c) and (d) The number of cases of theft of diesel, petrol and grains etc. along with number of persons arrested during the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 is as under:

Year	No. of cases of theft of diesel	No. of cases of theft of petrol	No. of cases of theft of grains	No. of persons arrested
2011	9	0	94	226
2012	7	1	70	188
2013	10	0	67	217

The persons found involved in such thefts are arrested and prosecuted under the provisions of Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act.

Total workforce in Railways

3336. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether total workforce in Railways in 1992 was 1.5 million;
- whether now after 22 years of electrification, modernisation, computerisation and mechanised track maintenance, the figure is 1.4 million;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- whether Railways are considering to bring down the staff cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The total on-roll strength in Railways, as on 1.4.1992 was 1.65 million

and the on-roll strength as on 1.04.2014 is 1.32 million (provisional). The on-roll strength details over the years is given below:

Year	On-roll Strength
1997-98	1.58 million
2003-04	1.38 million
2009-10	1.36 million

(d) There has been significant increase in the percentage of staff costs' share in working expenses after implementation of Government's decision on the recommendation of the VIth Central Pay Commission and the major challenge of coming years would be to substantially improve employee level productivity.

Duty hours of Loco drivers

3337. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of duty hours of locomotive drivers in Railways;
- (b) whether it is a fact that drivers are demanding for friendly working hours and Railways are not acceding to their request; and
- (c) the reasons that 17000 posts of drivers are lying vacant and Railways are not taking any steps to fill them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The working hours of Loco pilots are regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in the Railways Act, 1989 and the Railway Servants (Hours of Work & Period of Rest) Rules, 2005. They are rostered to work for 104 hours per fortnight.

(b) On the demand of recognized Federations, a High Power Committee was constituted to review the working hours of running staff. The Committee has submitted its report which entails in-depth deliberation with various stakeholders.

(c) Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and action has been initiated to recruit 21569 numbers of Assistant Loco Pilots, who shall be posted against the existing vacancies of drivers.

Reports on new railway lines under East Coast Railway

3338. SHRI A.V. SMAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the survey report and estimated cost report of Junagarh-Bhadrachalam and Kantabanji-Jeypore new railway lines have been received by the Railway Board from East Coast Railway; and

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken on these reports to accord approval and for provision of funds for their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Survey Reports and cost estimates of parts of the proposed new lines, *i.e.* Junagarh-Nabarangpur, Nabarangpur-Jeypore and Jeypore-Malkangiri have been received in Railway Board.

(b) The present shelf of ongoing projects, which is worth ₹ 1.82 lakh crore and the limited availability of resources, prohibit Railways from taking up new projects at present.

Condition of services offered in Ajmer Shatabdi

3339. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ajmer Shatabdi carries comparatively older coaches with poor hygiene, maintenance, service and sub-standard food, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Ministry would bring Ajmer Shatabdi at par to the standards of Chandigarh Shatabdi, Bhopal Shatabdi and Ahmedabad-Mumbai Shatabdi, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. It is continuous endeavour of Indian Railways to provide good quality hygienic food to the travelling passengers. If any deficiency in catering services, especially quality of food is found, strict action including imposition of heavy fine is taken.

(b) New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express is being run with new design Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches. These coaches are of same standards of hygiene, maintenance and service as in New Delhi-Chandigarh, New Delhi-Bhopal and Ahmedabad-Mumbai Shatabdi Express trains.

New train from Ujjain to Varanasi

3340. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to run a new train from Ujjain to Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to introduce a direct daily train between Ujjain and Varanasi for the benefit of pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In addition to 3 pairs of direct Mail/Express train services available between Ujjain and Varanasi, a new train *viz.* Ahmedabad-Patna Express (weekly) has been announced in the Railway Budget 2014-15, which will provide additional connectivity between Ujjain and Varanasi. However, introduction of additional direct daily train service between Ujjain and Varanasi is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints including terminal/maintenance constraints.

Poor quality and reduced quantity of food served in trains

3341. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of recent hike in rates of food served in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains, there have been cases of poor quality and reduced quantity of meals in these trains;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints and action taken thereon, including fine against vendors, cancellation of vendors' licences etc. during the last three years;

(c) whether complaints redressal and monitoring mechanism needs to be strengthened with web-based system, helpline number, third party audit etc.; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to make catering services passenger-friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The menu and tariff of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto express have been revised and implemented with effect from 17.10.2013 after a period of 14 years since the last revision in 1999. Some complaints on quality and quantity of meals have been reported in trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto express trains.

(b) Details of complaints received in last three years *i.e.* 2011, 2012 and 2013 regarding quality and quantity of meals in trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto and action taken thereon are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Improvement in catering including complaint redressal and monitoring mechanism is a continuous process. Steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Railways to make catering passenger friendly are:- (i) Catering Services Monitoring Cell with a toll free number 1800- 111- 321 at national level has been set-up for real time redressal of complaints, (ii) Quality assurance programme by means of Third Party Audit to ensure quality, (iii) Introduction of Pre-cooked Food (ready to eat meals) to improve the quality, hygiene and to provide variety of options of meals to the passengers, (iv) Introduction of E-Catering so that passengers can book the food of their choice while booking the ticket through internet, (v) A pilot project for feedback of the passengers through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) has been launched on five trains.

Statement

Details of complaints received in last three years i.e. 2011, 2012 and 2013 regarding quality and quantity of meals in trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto and action taken thereon

Period	Head	No. of Complaints	Action Taken					Total				
			Fined	Warned Termination	Suitably Advised	Not Substantiated	D & AR Action		Any Other Pending			
2011	Quality	1136	317	333	0	340	46	32	68	0	1136	
	Quantity	143	42	43	0	34	10	6	8	0	143	
2012	Quality	1527	431	551	2	292	57	44	150	0	1527	
	Quantity	104	27	38	0	24	9	2	4	0	104	
2013	Quality	2493	848	1177	1	183	115	18	151	0	2493	
	Quantity	446	219	175	0	36	12	0	4	0	446	
GRAND TOTAL		Quality	5156	1596	2061	3	815	218	94	369	0	5156
		Quantity	693	288	256	0	94	31	8	16	0	693
OVERALL (Quality + Quantity)			5849	1884	2317	3	909	249	102	385	0	5849

Accidents at platforms

†3342. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the increasing number of accidents taking place on the platforms of railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last two years and the current year, zone-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any special action plan and monitoring/mechanism in order to prevent such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the said action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No case of accident on railway platform was reported during the last two years and the current year over Indian Railways. However, there were two incidents of stampede on platforms, one at Samastipur station on 16.09.2012 in East Central Railway and the other at Allahabad station on 10.02.2013 in North Central Railway.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Railway track between Jharsuguda and Allahabad

3343. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in granting of a railway track between Jharsuguda and Allahabad via Sundergarh, Tapkara, Jaspur, Gumla, Ambikapur, Sidhi and Nuagaon; and

(b) if granted, the progress and implementation status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No such survey has been sanctioned as Jharsuguda is already connected to Allahabad by two alternate Broad Gauge routes.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of railway infrastructure

3344. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have been given preference over others for development of railway infrastructure;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government would take so that every State gets its share of development in railway infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Indian Railways do not have State-wise approach to planning for the development of Railway infrastructure.

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

Railway projects

3345. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of railway projects relating to new railway lines, doubling, gauge conversion, electrification and those pertaining to signalling taken up in Jharkhand;
- (b) the present position of these projects;
- (c) whether any targets have been fixed for their completion, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken to complete them at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) At present 10 New Lines, 12 Doublings, one Gauge Conversion, 3 Electrification projects and 22 Signalling works, falling fully/partly in Jharkhand, have been taken up at an anticipated cost of ₹ 13043 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 4673 crore has been incurred upto March, 2014 and an outlay of ₹ 759 crore has been provided for their execution during 2014-15.

(c) and (d) Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of funds. As such, it is not possible to allot adequate funds to all the projects on a regular basis which is a pre-requisite for fixing targets for their completion.

Railway works

†3346. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of Simhashta Kumbh in 2016, Ujjain-Fatehabad metre gauge

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

passenger train service would be continued, the present status of this route along with measures that would be taken to convert it in broad gauge;

(b) by when work related to broad gauge conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad-Indore-Khandwa rail route would be completed along with the details of this project; and

(c) by when the survey of new Ujjain-Agar-Susner-Jhalawar rail route is targeted to be completed and whether in the new context, speed of survey-cum-construction thereof would be ensured for rapid development of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Consequent to gauge conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad-Indore section, the train services on Ujjain- Fatehabad metre gauge section have been discontinued. However, gauge conversion of this section is not a sanctioned project.

(b) Gauge conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad-Indore-Khandwa section has been taken up as a part of Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola project (472.60 km.) which has been sanctioned at an anticipated cost of ₹ 1421.25 crore. Ratlam-Fatehabad (80 km.) section has been completed. Fatehabad-Indore section (40 km.) is also in advance stage of completion. In Indore-Mhow section, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. In Mhow-Khandwa section. Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed and preparation of detailed estimate has been taken up. An expenditure of ₹ 344.42 crore has been incurred upto March, 2014 and an outlay of ₹ 90 crore has been provided in Budget 2014-15.

Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of funds. As a result, it is not possible to provide adequate funds to all the projects on regular basis, which is a pre-requisite for firming up the time lines.

(c) An updating survey for construction of new line between Ujjain and Jhalawar (163 km.) *via* Agar and Susner has been taken up. Time-frame for inclusion and completion of this project cannot be given due to a large shelf of ongoing projects and funds constraints.

Fund raising by public sector companies under the Ministry

3347. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to get public sector companies under the Ministry listed on stock exchanges in order to raise funds to face cash crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the companies that are likely to issue Initial Public Offer (IPO) for raising equity from public; and

(d) the total amount estimated to be generated for undertaking railway expansion projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. However, Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) is already listed since 1995-96.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nil.

(d) Nil.

Shortage of loco drivers

3348. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms applicable for train drivers for freight and passenger trains, separately;

(b) whether these norms vary for diesel and electric locomotives;

(c) the details of criteria on which such norms are developed;

(d) whether there has been some improvement in loco drivers' cabin in view of weather conditions, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the shortage of loco drivers at the end of March, 2014 and the steps taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The requirement of train drivers for freight and passenger trains is worked out periodically by each Division of Indian Railways.

The norms for calculation of requirement of train drivers for freight services are based on the actual holding of locomotives on the Division in the previous period and the expected increase in freight traffic on the Division. The requirement of train drivers for passenger services is based on the crew links, which are prepared taking into account the time table of coaching trains and the prescribed duty and rest period for train drivers.

The norms are same for drivers for trains worked with either electric locomotives or diesel locomotives.

(d) In order to improve working condition of train drivers, cab heaters and fans are provided in the locomotive cabin. Air conditioning is also provided in the cabin of new locomotives for tackling extreme cold and hot weather conditions.

(e) As on 01.04.2014, there were 16,252 vacancies in the category of Loco Drivers (Loco Pilot & Assistant Loco Pilot) over all Zonal Railways.

Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. There is no direct recruitment for the post of Loco Pilot and recruitments are done for Assistant Loco Pilot, who are subsequently promoted to Loco Pilot.

The number of persons empanelled for Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP) through Railway Recruitment Board during last three years is as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Candidates Empanelled for ALP
1.	2011-2012	9389
2.	2012-2013	14573
3.	2013-2014	8959
TOTAL		32921

Further, recruitment process for filling up vacancies of 21,569 Assistant Loco Pilots has already been undertaken.

Role of TTEs in safety and security of passengers

3349. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Train Ticket Examiners (TTEs) have any role in ensuring the safety and security of passengers travelling in a particular train; and

(b) if so, the details of their duties and obligations regarding the safety and security of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The primary role for ensuring safety and security of the passenger is of Government Railway Police. However, ticket checking staff provide supportive role in the matter.

(b) The duty list of Travelling Ticket Examiners, *inter-alia*, include the following provisions in ensuring safety and security of passengers travelling in particular trains:-

- (i) They shall ensure that doors of the coach are kept latched when the train is on the move and open them up for passengers as and when required for entraining/detraining of authorized passengers.
- (ii) They shall remain vigilant particularly during night time and ensure that intruder, beggars, hawkers and unauthorised persons do not enter the coach.

- (iii) They shall carry blank FIR Forms for making them available to the passengers in case of theft of luggage.
- (iv) Ticket checking staff are also sensitized about the security related emergent situation which may prop up during the run of the trains and to deal with these situations. They have been instructed to be vigilant to suspicious behavior of any passengers or doubtful object in trains and report the same to security staff escorting the train or Railway Protection Force at the next railway stations.

Bridges over Ganga and Kosi rivers

†3350. SHRI RAMCHANDRAPRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any time-limit has been fixed for completion of under-construction Munger rail-cum-road bridge on Ganga and under-construction Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi rail bridge on Kosi river in Bihar;
- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Due to huge throw forward of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of funds, it is not possible to fix the time-limit of the projects. However, seeing the importance of these projects, a decision has been taken to complete them on priority.

Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

†3351. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the project-wise status of ongoing or pending railway projects in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the project-wise details of the funds allocated and spent on these projects; and
- (c) the up-to-date status of the above projects and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Details of ongoing railway projects, viz. new railway lines, gauge conversion and doubling falling partly or fully in the State of Madhya Pradesh are as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project (Length)	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto Mar., 2014	Outlay 2014-15	Present Status
		3	4	5	6
New Line					
1.	Ramganjmandi-Bhopal (262 km.)	1226	239	20	Ramganjmandi-Jhalawar (26.5 km. completed. Land has been acquired upto km. 135 from Ramganjmandi. Preliminary work have been taken up beyond Jhalawar.
2.	Chhota Udepur-Dhar (157 km.)	1347	160	35	In Chhota Udepur-Ambari (32 km.) section, Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up, except in 16.57 hectare land which has not been handed over by State Government due to public agitation.
3.	Dahod-Indore via Sardarpur, Jhabua and Dhar (201 km.)	1640	196	70	Earthwork, bridge work, etc. have been taken up on Dahod-Katwara and Sagor-Indore sections (50 km.)
4.	Guna-Etawah via Shivpur-Gwalior-Bhind (348 km.)	608	569	20	(1) Guna-Bhind (308 km.): Completed. (2) Bind-Etawah (36 km.): track linking completed. Finishing works taken up.
5.	Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho NL (541 km.)	1631	514	79	(1) Mahoba-Khajuraho (65 km.) and Lalitpur-Chhatarpur (134 km.) completed. Work has been taken up in remaining portion.

6.	Ratlam-Dungarpur via Banswara (176 km.)	2083	26	25	Land acquired and earthwork in formation and bridge works have been taken up in two stretches (km. 0-17 and km. 106-123). In balance portion, land acquisition has been taken up.
Gauge Conversion					
7.	Chhindwara-Mandla Fort (182 km.)	738	39	20	Earthwork, bridges and ballast supply works have been taken up.
8.	Chhindwara-Nagpur (149 km.)	586	478	100	Earthwork, bridges and tunnel works have been taken up.
9.	Gwalior-Sheopurkalan with extension to Kota (284 km.)	3712	3.5	10	Land acquisition has been taken up.
10.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi (285 km.) and Katangi-Tirodi	1038	714	100	Balaghat-Katangi (46.80 km.) and Gondia-Balaghat including MOIL Limited siding (42.7 km.) completed. Balaghat-Nainpur (75 km.) Earthwork and bridge works taken up. Work held up for want of forestry clearance. Nainpur-Jabalpur (113 km.) Earthwork, bridge/ROB/RUB work taken up. Katangi-Tirodi (15 km.) New Line: Land acquisition taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola (473 km.)	1421	315	90	Ratlam-Fatehabad (80 km.): completed. Fatehabad-Indore (40 km.): at advance stages of completion. Detailed estimate Akola-Akot (43.5 km.) sanctioned. Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
Doubling					
12.	Barkhera-Habibganj 3rd line (41 km.)	202	1	8	Detailed estimate preparation taken up.
13.	Bhopal-Beena 3rd line (143 km.)	853	738.5	48	Nishatpura-Bina (136 km.): completed. Work at advance stage in remaining portion.
14.	Bina-Kota (283 km.)	1125	77	42	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
15.	Budhni-Barkhera 3rd line (33 km.)	287	22	1	Preparation of Detailed Estimate has been taken up.
16.	Ghat Pindrai-Belkherea Patch (5.5 km.)	29	2	10	Earthwork, bridge and ballast supply works have been taken up.
17.	Guna-Ruthiyai (20 km.)	143	20	20	Earthwork and bridges works have been taken up.
18.	Itarsi-Budhni 3rd line (25 km.)	152.5	1	8	Preparation of Detailed Estimate has been taken up.

New train services from Surat to Varanasi

3352. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Railways to start new train services from Surat to Varanasi in view of huge traffic of pilgrims from Surat; and

(b) whether Government has conducted any traffic survey in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) In the Railway Budget 2014-15, a new Jansadharan Express service between Ahmedabad and Darbhanga has been announced. This will provide an additional connectivity between Surat and Manduadih (Varanasi). This is in addition to the 3 pairs of direct train services, which are already available between Surat and Varanasi. Besides, introduction of train services is an on going process on Indian Railways subject to traffic demand, operational feasibility, availability of resources etc.

New trains on Jhansi-Manikpur rail line

†3353. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new trains to be operated on Jhansi-Manikpur rail line in Bundelkhand area of Uttar Pradesh for which a proposal is under consideration of Government for current financial year;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to run Tulsi Express daily; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Presently, 11069/11070 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Allahabad Tulsi Express is presently running as a bi-weekly service. Increase in its frequency is not feasible, at present, due to operational constraints including non-availability of path over the concerned Zonal Railways. Besides, there are resource constraints as well.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar-Agartala line

3354. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to convert Lumding to Silchar to Agartala rail line from metre gauge to broad gauge in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the details of preparation made for transport and storage of essential items for Tripura and Silchar area of Assam; and

(c) the probable date of completion of the above conversion of railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (c) No, Sir. Only gauge conversion work of Lumding-Silchar is planned for completion in current financial year.

(b) The following areas are likely to get affected by the proposed conversion from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge of Lumding-Silchar: South Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram. For moving essential commodities to these States, coordination meetings have been held with the State Governments and the concerned Ministries of the Central Government. Essential Commodities are moved to these States/areas after unloading at 6 terminals on the Broad Gauge and *via* Lumding after transshipment of material from Broad Gauge to Metre Gauge wagons. Movement to the railway terminals has been increased. The rate of movement by rail would depend on the rate at which the wagons are unloaded. All the concerned agencies which move material to the area have been notified about the likely block and have been asked to make alternative arrangements. In addition to this, the concerned State Governments have been requested to identify additional storage capacity in their respective States and utilize them as intermediate storage points for storing more food grains to build up stocks in the affected areas.

Zonal Offices in the country

3355. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of zonal offices in the country as on 31 March, 2013;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are two zonal offices in Mumbai; and

(c) the reasons that Gujarat has not been given a zonal office in spite of justification of the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There are 17 zones in Indian Railways including the Metro Railway/ Kolkata.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The zonal railways are neither based on regional considerations nor are these contiguous with State boundaries. Location of the head quarters of a zonal railway is decided on the basis of operational and administrative requirements, consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. Providing a zonal office in Gujarat, in the light of above, has not been considered feasible.

Recruitments in Railways

3356. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Group A, B, C and D, employees recruited during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14;

(b) how many of them belong to SCs and STs category; and

(c) the backlog vacancies of SC and ST employees in Group B and C as on 31 March, 2013, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b):

(i) The recruitment of Group 'A' employees through UPSC is conducted exam year-wise. For exam year 2013 and 2014, the Group 'A' candidates have not yet been allotted to Railway Services. Information pertaining to the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 is as under:-

Year	Total	SC	ST
2010	598	93	32
2011	569	78	42
2012	531	72	44

(ii) There is no direct recruitment in Group 'B' on Indian Railways.

(iii) The number of persons empanelled for various Group 'C' posts through Railway Recruitment Boards for Railways is as under:-

Year	Total	SC	ST
2011-2012	23292	3334	2378
2012-2013	28467	3965	2722
2013-2014	31805	5579	3271

(iv) Information pertaining to recruitment of Group 'D' employees is being collected from Zonal Railways.

(c) The total number of backlog vacancies (Group 'B' and 'C') of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as on 31.03.2013 on Indian Railways are as under:-

Category	Group 'B'	Group 'C'
SCs	Presently there is no direct recruitment in Group 'B'	6795
STs		6412

Treating waitlisted e-ticket holders at par with waitlisted physical ticket passengers

3357. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Court of Delhi has directed Railways to ensure that waitlisted passengers holding e-tickets are treated at par with waitlisted passengers holding physical tickets;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and by when it would be executed; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways to ensure that touts do not block seats by making reservation under bogus names and then sell the seats to bonafide passengers willing to pay premium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the order given on 15.07.2014 had directed that Indian Railways should consider ways and means of giving an option to passengers purchasing e-tickets to not have their tickets cancelled automatically at the time of preparation of final chart before departure of the train and if they so desire take a chance by going to the Railway station and availing of seats/berths of the passenger who fail to show up.

(b) For passengers booking the tickets through internet, the option of buying

i-tickets including waitlist i-tickets. which are tickets in the physical form, is already available. Such waitlisted i-tickets are not cancelled either before or after chart preparation without the request of the passenger. The Hon'ble Court has given six months time to Indian Railways for responding to the above order.

(c) The following measures have been taken to curb blocking of seats by touts by making bogus reservation:

- Carrying of prescribed original Identity Proof has been made compulsory for one of the passengers while undertaking journey in reserved class. Ticket checking staff have also been asked to be more vigilant and conduct proper/ thorough checks of prescribed ID proofs of passengers undertaking journey in reserved coaches.
- Surveillance at reservation offices has also been stepped up by installing Close Circuit Television at important Passenger Reservation System (PRS) locations to keep watch on any possible touting activities.
- Joint as well as independent checks are conducted by Commercial, Vigilance and Security Departments to curb the activities of touts. These checks are supplemented by checks on the train to detect the cases of transferred reserved tickets.
- General public are also educated through Public Address System and media, not to buy tickets from touts/unscrupulous elements and consequences of buying tickets from these sources.

Confirmation of waitlisted tickets

3358. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALLYAWI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highest number of waitlisted train tickets are for trains going to Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the recommendations of Members of Parliament for confirmation of waitlisted tickets are ignored;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that a racket is operating in confirmation of train tickets; and

(f) if so, the action being taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The average occupancy of all reserved trains operated by Indian Railways is more than 100%. There is unsatisfied demand on some routes which is reflected in the waiting lists of popular trains including some of those bound for Bihar. The demand for reserved accommodation exceeds availability during peak periods such as festivals, summer holidays, winter holidays, etc.

(c) and (d) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of High Official Requisition (HOR) holders (which include Central Government Ministers, judges of Supreme Court of India, High Courts of various States, *etc.*), Members of Parliament and others, a limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as emergency quota in different trains and in different classes. The quota is released by the staff in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. At the time of allotment of berths/seats, emergency quota is first allotted for self travel of HOR holders/Members of Parliament, *etc.*, strictly as per their *inter-se* seniority in warrant of precedence. Thereafter, other requisitions received from various quarters including that from Members of Parliament are considered and the remaining quota is released taking into account various factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, job interview, *etc.* While requests for other than self travel, forwarded by MPs are generally complied with, sometimes, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests when the demand exceeds the availability.

(e) and (f) No racket in confirmation of Railways tickets has been detected. However, few isolated cases of individual irregularities have come to notice. The Railway employees found indulging in irregularities have been taken up under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules and in other cases, action has been initiated as per provisions of Railways Act, 1989.

Dip in passenger revenue in April-May, 2014

3359. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have found that in the peak season of April-May this year, the fall in number of passengers was nearly 18 million compared to the same season last year;

(b) whether taking a cue of this strange dip in passengers revenue, Railways

had conducted special checks on running trains and nabbed a large number of ticketless travellers at Mumbai and Lucknow recently; and

(c) whether Railways have sanctioned recruitment of more than 4000 TTEs in one of the largest induction drives in recent times?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. During April-May, 2014, the number of passengers booked was less than 18 million compared to the same period of last year.

(b) Details of Fortress drives launched against ticketless travel and irregular travel during the month of June, 2014 at Mumbai area and at Lucknow are as under:-

Location	Number of Massive Checks (Fortress) Conducted	Total number of cases of travelling without ticket and irregular tickets detected and amount of railway dues realized therefrom.	
		Cases	Amounts (in ₹)
Mumbai area	09	3,551	9,97,710
Lucknow	01	213	91,000

(c) Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. So far as filling up of vacancies of TTEs is concerned, there is no Direct Recruitment Quota for this post.

In Ticket Checking Cadre, the direct recruitment element is at the stage of Ticket Collectors (TCs)/Ticket Examiners (TEs). Recruitment process has already been undertaken to fill up 3,445 vacancies of TCs/TEs in the Railways. In 2014, 1,407 candidates have been empanelled for the post of TCs/TEs and supplied to indenting Zonal Railways.

Elimination of level crossings

3360. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to do away with 902 level crossings across the country to check accidents and also to accelerate movement of goods trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any level crossings situated in Jharkhand are also included in the list of proposed elimination of level crossings; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Railway has planned for elimination of 890 level crossings across the country during 2014-15, out of which 730 are unmanned and 160 are manned level crossings. These 890 level crossings also include 39 level crossings in the State of Jharkhand out of which, 29 are unmanned and 10 are manned level crossings.

Converting stations into green buildings

3361. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to convert some of its stations into green buildings;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have appointed consultants in this regard; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Railways have planned to harness solar energy at about 200 Railway stations in the country which is one of the important initiatives of 'green buildings'. Solar plants for these stations are presently under procurement.

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

Power generation by installing solar panels at New Delhi railway station

3362. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to allow private companies to install solar panels and generate power at New Delhi railway station and Railways would buy power at a pre-determined rate;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are hopeful that 1 MW solar power can be generated alone from New Delhi Railway Station; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Indian Railways proposes to harness solar energy by utilising roof top space of New Delhi railway station including through the PPP mode for which modalities are being worked out.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Technical study for provision of 1 Mega Watt solar plant has not been conducted by the Railways. However, Railways has planned to install 500 Kilo Watt solar plant at New Delhi Railway station under railways funding, procurement process for which has been initiated.

Vacancies in safety category

3363. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the posts of supervisors and staff in the safety category;

(b) the steps being taken by Railways to fill up the vacancies and the progress thereof; and

(c) the progress of implementation of safety measures like ACDs, VCDs, BPACs and TPWDs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As on 01.04.2014, there are 129152 vacancies in safety categories, including the posts of supervisors and staff, in Zonal Railways.

(b) During the Financial Year 2013-14, total 73005 persons/panels were provided to the Zonal Railways. Further, new indents for 81000 posts have been placed on the Recruitment Agencies.

(c) Progress of implementation of safety measures like ACDs, VCDs, BPACs and TPWDs is as under:

(i) Anti-Collision Device (ACD): Anti-Collision Device has been provided on North-east Frontier Railway covering 1736 Kilometers. However, due to inherent design limitations, further development of the system has not been considered on other Zones.

(ii) Vigilance Control Device (VCD): Vigilance Control Device has been provided in almost all diesel and electric locomotives.

- (iii) Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC): Block Proving Axle Counters have been provided at about 4000 Block Sections.
- (iv) Train Protection Warning System (TPWS): Two pilot projects of Train Protection Warning System have been implemented, one between Chennai Central and Gummidipundi (50 Route Kms) on suburban section of Southern Railway and the second on the non-suburban Delhi - Agra Section (200 Route Kms) of Northern/North Central Railway, where service trials are in progress. TPWS is also under commissioning on Kolkata Metro, between Dumdum and Kavi Subhash Marg stations (25 Route Kms).

Recommendation of expert committee for modernisation of Indian Railways

3364. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any accounting reforms have been initiated in accordance with the recommendations of the Expert Committee for Modernisation of Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have initiated accounting reforms, which envisage transition from the existing cash based accounting system to accrual based accounting system in conformity with the accounting standards stipulated by Government Accounting Standard Advisory Board (GASAB). It also involves accounting separation between infrastructure and operational activities, train and route costing analysis as per recommendation of the Expert Group for Modernization of Indian Railways.

- (c) Does not arise.

Expert committee to establish cause of rail failures

3365. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a national level Expert Committee has been set up to establish the cause of rail failures in accordance with the recommendations of the High Level Safety Review Committee; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) A national level committee has been constituted in November 2010 by Railway Board to upgrade the rail specifications by improvement in metallurgical and mechanical properties of rails to reduce the rail failures.

Environment-friendly toilets in coaches

3366. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways plan to install environment-friendly toilets in railway coaches;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the status of implementation of the project and time-line for its completion; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways propose to install environment-friendly toilets in all its passenger coaches. Proliferation of bio-toilets in coaches has already been started. Approximately, 11700 bio-toilets have been installed in passenger coaches on Indian Railways till June 2014. It is planned to induct all newly-manufactured coaches fitted with bio-toilets from 2016-17 onwards and to fit bio-toilets in the entire fleet of coaches by 2021-22.

- (d) Does not arise.

Allotment of stalls/spaces to social/religious organisations

3367. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways allot stalls/spaces to social/religious organisations and if so, under what policy;
- (b) the names of such organisations and how many stalls/spaces have been allotted to them and at which locations; and
- (c) the terms and conditions under which such allotments have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. Zonal Railways have allotted stalls/spaces to social/religious

organisations as per the extant policy by inviting applications through press notification. Initial allotment of these stalls is for a period of five years. The terms and conditions for allotment are as under:-

- (i) The philanthropic and social organisations must have their own publication of books and periodicals.
- (ii) Such organisation should be registered as Society or Trust or Company.
- (iii) Certificate of registration of organisation with Income Tax Department regarding its registration under section 12(A) of Income Tax Act, 1961.
- (iv) Gazette Notification (for Section 35AC) or Exemption Certificate (for Section 80G) from the Income Tax Department.
- (v) The rate of licence fee to be realized from philanthropic and social organisation is as under:-

Category of stations	Licence fee for Philanthropic and social organisation (Per annum)
A	2.5% of sales turnover, subject to minimum of ₹. 5,000/- per bookstall and ₹ 500/- for each additional table/trolley.
B	2.5% of sales turnover, subject to minimum of ₹. 3,000/- per bookstall and ₹ 300/- for each additional table/trolley.
C (Suburban stations)	2.5% of sales turnover, subject to minimum of ₹ 2,000/- per bookstall and ₹ 200/- for each additional table/trolley.
D and E	2.5% of sales turnover, subject to a minimum of ₹ 500/- per bookstall.

(b) The details of existing stalls/spaces allotted to social/religious organisation, location-wise are given in Statement (*See* below).

Statement*Details of existing stalls/spaces allotted to social/religious organisations location-wise*

Zonal Railway	Station	Location of Unit	Type of Unit (Stall/Trolley etc.)	Name of Organisation
1	2	3	4	5
Central	Mumbai CST	Concourse	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh
	Dadar	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh
	Khandwa	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh
	Akola	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh
	Akola	Platform	Trolley	Sarva Seva Sangh
	Nagpur	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh
	Vardha	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh
	Pune	Platform	Stall	Sadhu Waswani Mission
	Pune	Platform	Stall	New Way Ashram
	Dhanbad	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Mughalsarai	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Samastipur	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Patna	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press

1	2	3	4	5
	Muzaffarpur	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Dhanbad	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Mughalsarai	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Mughalsarai	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Samastipur	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Patna	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Muzaffarpur	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Gomoh	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Gaya	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Sitamarhi	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Darbhanga	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Hajipur	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Barauni	Platform	Stall	Sarva sevasangh prakashan
	Koderma	Platform	Stall	Gayatri shakti peeth
East Coast	Bhubaneshwar	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press

Cuttack	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
Bhubaneshwar	Platform	Stall	Advaita Ashram
Bhubaneshwar	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Cuttack	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Khurdaroad	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Vishakapatnam	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Vishakapatnam	Platform	Stall	Ramkrishna Mission
Howrah	New Coaching Complex	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Howrah	New Coaching Complex	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Howrah	New Coaching Complex	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Howrah	New Coaching Complex	Trolley	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Howrah	New Coaching Complex	Trolley	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Howrah	Old Complex	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Howrah	New Complex	Stall	Geeta Press
Howrah	Old Complex	Stall	Geeta Press
Howrah	Old Complex	Stall	Advaita Ashram
Howrah	New Complex	Stall	Advaita Ashram

Eastern

1	2	3	4	5
	Howrah	Old Complex	Stall	Gaudiya Mission
	Bandel	Platform	stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Sealdah	Main Concourse	stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Sealdah	Main Concourse	stall	Geeta Press
	Sealdah	Main Concourse	Trolley	Geeta Press
	Sealdah	Platform	Stall	Advaita Ashram
	Kolkata	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Asansol	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Asansol	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Durgapur	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Bhagalpur	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Allahabad	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
	Allahabad	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
	Allahabad	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
	Allahabad	Platform	Trolley	Sarvodaya
North Central				

Allahabad	Platform	Trolley	Sarvodaya
Allahabad	Platform	Stall	Ram Kishan Mission
Kanpur	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Kanpur	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
Etawa	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Etawa	Platform	Trolley	Sarvodaya
Shikohabad	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Jhansi	Platform	Stall	Sarvaseva Sangh Prakashan
Agra Cantt.	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Mathura	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Mathura	Platform	Stall	Sarvodaya
Gorakhpur	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
Basti	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
Lucknow	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
Siwan	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
Siwan	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
Chhapra	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press

North Eastern

1	2	3	4	5
	Chhapra	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Allahabad City	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Ballia	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Kasganj	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Guwahati	Concourse	Stall	Geeta Press
North-east Frontier	Lumding	Platform	Stall	Ramkrishna Sewa Samity
	Bareilly	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Haridwar	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Lucknow	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Varanasi	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Faizabad	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Phaphamau	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Sultanpur	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Jaunpur City	Platform	Stall	Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Varanasi	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press

Northern	Varanasi	Platform	Trolley	Geeta Press
	Amritsar	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Jammu Tawi	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Pathankot	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	New Delhi	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Delhi	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	H Nizamuddin	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	New Delhi	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Delhi	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Dehi Cantt.	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
North Western	New Delhi	Platform	Stall	Rama Krishan Mission
	H Nizamuddin	Platform	Stall	Rama Krishan Mission
	Bikaner	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
South Central	Aurangabad	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Vijayawada	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Vijayawada	Platform	Stall	Shri Ramkrishna Math
	Vijayawada	Platform	Stall	Shri Sringeri Sarada Peetham

1	2	3	4	5
	Vijayawada	Platform	Stall	Shri Vedamata Gayatri Trust
	Secunderabad	Platform	Stall	Shri Ramkrishna Math
	Secunderabad	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Secunderabad	Platform	Stall	Shri Sathya Saibaba
	Tirupathi	Platform	Stall	Shri Ramkrishna Math
	Raigarh	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangha
	Bilaspur	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangha
	Raipur	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangha
	Gondia	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangha
	Bilaspur	Platform	Stall	Ramkrishna Mission
	Raipur	Platform	Stall	Ramkrishna Mission
	Raipur	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Durg	Platform	Stall	Yug Nirman Sahitya Gayatri Parivar
	Kharagpur	Platform	Stall	Advaita Ashram
	Tatanagar	Platform	Stall	Advaita Ashram
South East Central				
South Eastern				

	Kharagpur	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Ranchi	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Ranchi	Platform	Stall	Ramkrishna Mission Ashram
	Kharagpur	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Tatanagar	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Ranchi	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Ranchi	Platform	Trolley	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
	Chakradharpur	Platform	Stall	Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Southern	Chennai Central	Old Concourse	Stall	Ramkrishan Mutt
	Chennai Egmore	Concourse	Stall	Ramkrishan Mutt
South Western	Mysore	Platform	Stall	Shri Ramakrishna Ashram
	Mysore	Platform	Stall	Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya
	Bangalore	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthinilayam	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Krishnarajapuram	Platform	Stall	Ramakrishna Mutt
	Yesvantpur	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press

1	2	3	4	5
	Yesvantpur	Platform	Stall	Art of Living
	Yesvantpur	Platform	Stall	Ramakrishna Mutt
	Beigam	Platform	Stall	Ramakrishna Mission Ahsram
	Hubli	Platform	Stall	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ahsram
	Hubli	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Kota	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
West Central	Katni	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Bhopal	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Bina	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
	Itarsi	Platform	Stall	Serva Sewa Sangh Prakashan
Western	Bharuch	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Vadodara	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Ratlam	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Surat	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
	Rajkot	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press

Dwaraka	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
Jam Nagar	Platform	Stall	Geeta Press
Surat	Platform	Stall	Dada Bhagwaan Foundation Trust
Vadodara	Platform	Stall	Ramkishan Mission
Churchgate	Concourse	Stall	Adivasi Gram Sewa Sangh
Dahanu Road	Platform	Stall	Adivasi Gram Sewa Sangh
Mumbai Central	Concourse	Stall	Adivasi Gram Sewa Sangh
Indore	Platform	Stall	Serva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Ahmedabad	Platform	Stall	Serva Seva Sangh Prakashan
Ratlam	Platform	Stall	Serva Seva Sangh Prakashan

Liberalized wagon investment scheme

3368. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS) by Government allows investment by end users *viz.*, producers, manufacturers and consumers of goods in Special Purpose Wagons (SPW) and High Capacity Wagons (HCW);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the performance from 2008 onwards; and

(c) how many private and public sector companies have utilised the said LWIS scheme and the complete details of the utilisation under LWIS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS), approval has been given for procurement of 54 rakes of Special Purpose Wagons by Ministry of Railways since 2008. Out of these, 20 rakes have already been procured by customers and are running on Indian Railways. Remaining rakes are likely to be procured by the customers in near future.

(c) Approval for procurement of rakes under the said scheme has been given to 10 Private Companies and 3 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). So far, 15 and 5 rakes have been procured by Private Companies and Public Sector Undertakings respectively and are being run under LWIS on Indian Railways.

Rail magazine for passengers

3369. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring in an all-colour rail magazine for safe and enjoyable travel for free use of passengers in elite trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan of Government to extend this facility to other long distance trains; and

(d) the details of advisories that are proposed to be included in such magazines on safety and security of railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) An on-board magazine called 'Rail Bandhu' was introduced in

May 2011. This all-colour magazine is circulated free of cost to passengers travelling by Rajdhani/Shatabdi and AC Class of Durgam Express for on-board reading.

(c) In addition to the above, extension of the magazine to Premium Specials has been planned.

(d) The magazine consists of reading material relating to travel and tourism. The content of the magazine also covers initiatives taken by Indian Railways which includes passenger friendly measures as well as those relating to safety and security.

Supply of coal to power plants

†3370. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Minister for Power had made a request to the Minister of Railways for transportation/supply of coal to power plants on time;

(b) whether Railways have assured of speeding up the projects of coal transportation in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha;

(c) if so, the names of important coal transportation projects along with the details thereof and the deadline set for their completion;

(d) whether formalities relating to environmental clearance and land acquisition for the abovesaid projects have not yet been completed; and

(e) by when all these projects would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No formal reference has been received from Union Minister for Power in this regard.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of projects and the deadlines set for completion of three important coal transportation projects are as under:

Name of Project	Length	State/ Railway	Date of completion of the Project
Tori-Shivpur	44 km	Jharkhand/ East Central	July 2017
Shivpur-Kathautia Railway Line	53 km	Jharkhand/ East Central	Not yet decided.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Name of Project	Length	State/ Railway	Date of Completion of the Project
Jharsuguda-Barpalli-Sardega Railway Line	53 km	Odisha/South East Central	June 2016
Bhupdevpur-Korichapar-Dharamjaigarh Railway	180 km	Chhattisgarh /South East Central	September 2016

(d) Stage-II forest clearance for Tori-Shivpur and Jharsuguda-Barpalli-Sardega Coal Connectivity Project has been received. Environmental clearance for other projects and actual handing over of land for the execution of work is still pending.

(e) All the projects will be completed on time subject to timely environmental clearance, land acquisition, removal of any obstacle enroute (such as trees, high tension transmission lines etc), conducive law and order situation and actual transfer and physical possession of land from the State Governments to the Railways for the execution of work well within time.

Plight of Loco pilots

†3371. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of duty hours of railway loco pilots and after how many hours they are given lunch break;

(b) the names of railway routes on which two loco pilots are made available in one train;

(c) whether it is a fact that Human Rights Commission had sought a report from Railways regarding the plight of loco pilots; and

(d) if so, the details which has been forwarded to them; and

(e) whether any Expert Committee has been constituted to ascertain working hours, lunch break etc. for loco pilots and when it will submit the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The working hours of Loco Pilots are regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in the Railway Act, 1989 and the Railway Servants (Hours of Work

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Period of Rest) Rules, 2005. They are rostered to work for 104 hours per fortnight. There is no provision of lunch break during the duty hours.

(b) Two Loco Pilots are provided in trains working at higher speeds as per guidelines, i.e. (i) Maximum permissible speed should not be less than 110 kmph in case of Broad Gauge (BG) and 100 kmph in case of Metre Gauge (MG) which should obtain over at least 50% of the run of the train for the respective sections; (ii) The average speed should not be less than 66 kmph on BG and 60 kmph on MG section; and (iii) Minimum distance between terminals of the train should be 400 Km on BG and 300 Km on Metre Gauge.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. No details have been forwarded to Human Rights Commission so far. A Multi Disciplinary Committee has been constituted on 09.07.2014 to examine the grievances of Loco Pilots. The recommendations of the Committee are under finalization and the final report is likely to be submitted by 10.09.2014.

Second terminal at Kollam railway station

3372. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have received any proposals or demand to construct a second terminal at Kollam railway station in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the steps taken for construction of second terminal at Kollam; and
- (c) the estimated cost for the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Textile industry facing shortage of capital

†3373. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the textile industry is a major sector for providing jobs in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the textile industry is facing the problem of huge shortage of capital, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to ensure adequate availability of capital to the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Textile sector is the second largest provider of employment after agriculture. As per the Report of the Working Group on Textile and Jute Industry for Twelfth Five Year Plan, the projected employment in the textile and allied sectors at the terminal year of the Plan *i.e.*, 2017 is 121.20 million.

(b) Government has no report that textile industry is facing problem of huge shortage of capital.

(c) Government encourages investment through its various schemes like Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which was introduced in 1999 to catalyze investments in all the sub-sectors of textiles and jute industry for technology upgradation of the machinery. The Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RR-TUFS) is under implementation from 01.04.2012 to 31.03.2017. Through the TUFS schemes, investment to the extent of ₹ 2,57,883 crore has been catalyzed since its inception.

Development of handicrafts in Bihar

3374. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance granted by Government for the betterment and upliftment of handicrafts in the country, especially for Bihar;

(b) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme for development of handicrafts in Bihar, if so the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Sir, the details of financial assistance granted by Government for the betterment and upliftment of handicrafts in the country including Bihar during the last and current financial year is given in Statement I and II (*See below*).

(b) and (c) Sir, no separate comprehensive scheme for development of handicrafts in Bihar has been formulated; however, the Government of India is implementing following seven schemes for the promotion and development of handicrafts on all India basis including Bihar:

- i. Baba Saheb Hastshilp Vikas Yojana
- ii. Design and Technical Upgradation
- iii. Marketing and Support Services
- iv. Human Resource Development
- v. Research and Development
- vi. Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- vii. Infrastructure and Technology Development Scheme

Statement-I

*State-wise, scheme-wise funds released under
handicrafts Schemes during 2013-14*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	Design	MSS	HRD	*Welfare	R&D	Infrast.	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	1145.5	46.97	252.63	64.97		20.16		1530.23
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands			0	5.61				5.61
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.07	10.79	0	8.08		10.97		30.91
4.	Assam	247.23	169.12	757.84	143.37		34.04	38.75	1390.35
5.	Bihar	55.7	30.93	47.22	23.4		6.77		164.02
6.	Chhattisgarh	10.4	11	18.84	16.55				56.79
7.	Chandigarh	0		0					0
8.	Delhi	93.86	237.69	1362.01	168.58		419.73	350.00	2631.87
9.	Goa	0.9		6.75	0.87				8.52
10.	Gujarat	209.06	40.69	29.85	20.17				299.77
11.	Haryana	280.13	19.2	69.04	25.84		68.21		462.42
12.	Himachal Pradesh	26.7	15.97	69.98	2.17		2.89		117.71

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	Design	MSS	HRD	*Welfare	R&D	Infrast.	Total
13.	Jharkhand	26.95	8.59	7.44	18.96				61.94
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	273.78	42.6	41.99	44.72		13.18	300.00	716.27
15.	Karnataka	29.88	11.97	34.55	20.66				97.06
16.	Kerala	52.98	4.44	16.89	6.9				81.21
17.	Madhya Pradesh	214.1	68.48	64.07	75.75		24.59	53.75	500.74
18.	Maharashtra	68.28	11.75	55.45	27.39		7.69		170.56
19.	Manipur	212.43	91.52	45.66	71.75		48.52		469.88
20.	Meghalaya	0.75	13.56	0	10.76				25.07
21.	Mizoram	22.24	11.93	0					34.17
22.	Nagaland	75	28.05	0	14.29			15.64	132.98
23.	Odisha	675.3	35.78	100.46	38.37		6.90	22.20	879.01
24.	Punjab	113.96	21.8	70.61	57.72		4.66		268.75
25.	Puducherry	0.75		10.54					11.29
26.	Rajasthan	137.76	32.4	134.54	48.7		16.06	116.0	485.46
27.	Sikkim	18.57	37.85	4.51	13.67				74.60
28.	Tamil Nadu	68.9	8.68	44.74	51.93		1.15	12.80	188.20
29.	Tripura	13.16	36.5	0	38.39				88.05
30.	Uttar Pradesh	1056.45	170.69	600.53	269.12		139.84	31.79	2268.42
31.	Uttaranchal	33.7	5.37	20.45	76.66				136.18
32.	West Bengal	41.29	26.67	54.83	31.49		5.00	25.00	184.28
						2194.00			2194.00
	TOTAL	5206.78	1250.99	3921.42	1396.8	2194.00	830.36	965.93	15766.32

Note:- In Welfare scheme State-wise funds are not released, funds allocated country as a whole.

* Includes data relating to State of Telangana.

Statement-II*State-wise, scheme-wise fund released during 2014-15 upto 14th July, 2014*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	AHVY	Design	MSS	HRD	Bima Yojana	R&D	Infra	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	12.99	3.60	47.01	3.02			50.00	116.62
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands								
3.	Arunachal Pradesh				4.26				4.26
4.	Assam		5.64	62.79	10.74		2.35		81.52
5.	Bihar	23.22		4.99	1.24		2.17		31.62
6.	Chandigarh								
7.	Chhattisgarh	20.25							20.25
8.	Delhi	29.39	64.27	446.32	39.76		4.90	903.00	1487.64
9.	Goa								
10.	Gujarat	48.75	4.87	35.39	6.42				95.43
11.	Haryana	71.97		32.77	3.60		6.40		114.74
12.	Himachal Pradesh	35.58		14.78	3.53				53.89
13.	Jharkhand	1.68		4.44					6.12
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.56			12.65				15.21
15.	Karnataka	10.37	1.80	3.70	0.92			16.50	33.29
16.	Kerala	15.58		0.35	1.49				17.42
17.	Madhya Pradesh	162.43	5.00	38.11	50.49		7.15		263.18
18.	Maharashtra	54.64	5.38	14.82	3.85				78.69

Sl. No.	State	AHVV	Design	MSS	HRD	Bima Yojana	R&D	Infra	Total
19.	Manipur	11.97	1.80	1.65	9.00			14.00	38.42
20.	Meghalaya				1.80				1.80
21.	Mizoram				0.60			25.00	25.60
22.	Nagaland		4.42	1.48	2.40			25.00	33.30
23.	Odisha	94.05	0.90	33.49	3.62				132.06
24.	Punjab	31.06		16.52	2.12				49.70
25.	Puducherry								
26.	Rajasthan	28.90		5.73	13.97				48.60
27.	Sikkim								
28.	Tamil Nadu	1.25		81.90				13.00	96.15
29.	Tripura				4.93				4.93
30.	Uttar Pradesh	233.45	8.60	138.53	84.22		18.74	24.00	507.54
31.	Uttaranchal	1.75		9.70	76.59				88.04
32.	West Bengal	3.75	12.05	13.59			2.48	26.00	57.87
TOTAL		895.59	118.33	1008.06	341.22	0.00	44.19	1096.50	3503.89

* Includes data relating to State of Telangana.

India as source country for global apparel importers

3375. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is regaining the top position as the sourcing hub for global apparel importers as other major apparel exporting hubs *viz.* Cambodia and Bangladesh are beset with compliance and labour unrest issue; and

(b) whether global apparel chains are planning to step up sourcing from India and are also the ones trying to fulfill the 30 per cent domestic sourcing clause in India's multi brand retail policy and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) India is sixth largest supplier in world with 3.7% share in global readymade garment exports as per World Trade Integrated Solutions database of 2013 while Bangladesh and Cambodia are 2nd and 14th largest readymade garment supplier in global market respectively.

(b) As per extant FDI policy in Multi-Brand Retail Trade (MBRT) Policy stipulates that At least 30% of the value of procurement of manufactured/processed products purchased shall be sourced from Indian micro, small and medium industries, which have a total investment in plant and machinery not exceeding USD 2.00 million. Government has approved a proposal from M/s. Tesco Overseas Investment Ltd. (TESCO), a UK Company to carry out the business of Multi Brand Retail Trading in India. No other application/proposal for investment in Multi Brand Retail Sector has been received in Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

Opening of Regional Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)

3376. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government proposes to open a Regional Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) at Bhubaneswar and an office of Assistant Director at Koraput considering the handicraft potential of the state, and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): No, Sir.

Upliftment of handloom sector

3377. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to relax the guidelines to exempt use of Handloom mark and position for purchasing yarn from National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) for the next three years so as to enable more organizations to get the benefit under the scheme;

(b) whether Government would consider to sanction more district level events in favour of Odisha during the current financial year; and

(c) whether Government is considering introduction of the scheme for Reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10 per cent on sale on Handloom products by "Handloom Agencies" to attract consumers for buying handloom fabrics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) The Ministry of Textiles has already sanctioned 10 District Level Events during the current financial year 2014-15 as against 4 District Level Events sanctioned during the financial year 2013-14 to State of Odisha.

(c) No, Sir.

Protection to manufacturers of HDPE mosquito nets

3378. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial employment is generated in the SME sector in Salem and Karur districts of Tamil Nadu through manufacture of HDPE mosquito nets;

(b) if so, whether this sector is facing extinction due to large scale smuggling of mosquito nets from Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the domestic sector from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per available information from the Association/ Industry sources, approximately there are 400 workers employed in Salem District and 5000 workers in Karur District in Tamil Nadu in HDPE Mosquito net Manufacturing units.

(b) Government has no report that sector is facing extinction due to large scale smuggling of mosquito nets from Bangladesh.

(c) Question does not arise.

Setting up of cotton textile industry in Warangal Telangana

3379. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton is produced extensively in Warangal, Nalgonda, Khammam, Karimnagar and Adilabad districts of Telangana;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is planning to set up cotton textile industry in Warangal, if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) by when it is expected to be set up and operationalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir, cotton is produced extensively in Warangal, Nalgonda, Khammam, Karimnagar and Adilabad districts of Telangana.

- (b) No Sir.
(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Indian textile facing competition from foreign textile industry

3380. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian textile industry is facing competition from foreign textile industry including our neighbouring countries China and Bangladesh, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any study to assess the impact of global slowdown on Indian textiles, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures initiated by Government to improve textile export and competitiveness of Indian textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Textiles industry is facing still competition from foreign textile industry including our neighbouring countries especially from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as these countries are taking advantage of unilateral tariff preference scheme granted to developing countries. India, which was also a beneficiary of the EU GSP has been graduated out of the GSP from 1.01.2014 for textiles and some other products. The graduation out of countries is done by the EU based on the criterion of trade share. Hence Indian exporters of textiles pay the normal customs duty of upto 8% on textiles products being sent to EU from 1.01.2014 onwards. Sri Lanka is covered under a preference scheme of the EU namely GSP. Bangladesh and Pakistan are covered under other unilateral preference scheme of the EU namely the "Everything but Arms (EBA)" and the "GSP Plus" respectively. Hence, they have zero duty access for textiles products into the EU. China's manufacturing base in Textiles is larger than India both in terms of yarn and fabric providing opportunities for higher garment manufacturing and exports. China has large and strong Infrastructure to meet global demand of Textiles and Clothing.

(b) The Government has undertaken research and studies on various facets of textile industry including estimating the domestic household market size of textiles, export competitiveness analysis of the Indian textiles in different export destinations of the world.

(c) The details of various measures taken by the Government to improve textile export and competitiveness of Indian textile industry and in order to explore new markets for textile exports along with steps taken by Government include:-

- (i) Government has implemented several export promotion measures including incentives under Focus Market Scheme and Focus Product Scheme; enhancing the coverage of Market Linked Focus Product Scheme for textile products to increase India's share in various countries. Focus Market Scheme (FMS) offsets high freight cost and other externalities to select international markets with a view to enhance India's export competitiveness in these markets. Further, to incentivise export of such products which have high export intensity/employment potential, so as to offset infrastructure inefficiencies and other associated costs involved in marketing of these products, Govt. implements Focus Product Scheme. In addition, Market Linked Focus product scheme (MLFPS) incentivises export of products that have high employment intensity in rural and semi urban areas, to offset infrastructure inefficiencies and other associated costs involved in marketing of these products.
- (ii) Financial Assistance is being provided for export promotion activities on focus countries and focus product countries under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.
- (iii) Financial Assistance is provided under Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme for a range of export promotion activities implemented by Textiles Export Promotion Councils on the basis of annual action plan.
- (iv) 2% Interest Subvention Scheme on rupee export credit was available to certain specific export sectors including Handicrafts, Carpets, Handloom and Readymade Garments up to 31st March, 2014.
- (v) Duty Drawback Scheme : Duty Drawback is the rebate of duty chargeable on imported material or excisable material used in the manufacturing of goods in and is exported. The exporter may claim drawback or refund of excise and customs duties paid by his suppliers.

12.00 NOON

- (vi) The Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme is one of the several export-promotion initiatives launched by the Government in the early 90s. The basic purpose of the scheme is to allow exporters to import machinery and equipment at affordable prices so that they can produce quality products for the export market.
- (vii) Guarantees to Banks: Packing Credit Guarantee: Timely and adequate credit facilities at the pre-shipment stage are essential for exporters to realize their full export potential. The Packing Credit Guarantee of ECGC helps the exporter to obtain better and adequate facilities from their bankers. The Guarantees assure the banks that, in the event of an exporter failing to discharge his liabilities to the bank, ECGC would make good a major portion of the bank's loss.
- (viii) Advance License: Advance Licence Scheme allows duty free import of inputs which are physically incorporated in export product with normal allowance of wastage on the basis of SION (Standard Input Output Norms). It has export obligation attached to it which should be fulfilled in 18 month from the date of release of advance licence.
- (ix) Increase in entitlement for import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified items-To encourage exports of readymade garments it has been announced in Union Budget 2014-15 to increase the duty free entitlement of garment exporters for duty-free import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified items from 3% to 5% of the value of their exports.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**Outcome Budget (2014-15) of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री: संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, तथा जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा पुनरुद्धार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार) : महोदय, मैं 2014-15 वर्ष के लिए जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा पुनरुद्धार मंत्रालय के संबंध में परिणामी बजट की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 627/16/14]

Outcome Budget (2014-15) of Department of Chemicals and Petro Chemicals

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री निहाल चन्द) : महोदय, मैं 2014-15 वर्ष के लिए रसायन और पेट्रोरसायन विभाग के संबंध में परिणामी बजट की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 539/16/14]

I. Report and Accounts (2010-11 and 2011-12) of National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi and related papers

II. Outcome Budget (2014-15) of Department of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Law and Justice

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, I lay on the Table-

- I. (1) A copy each in (English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (5) of Section 18 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:—
 - (a) Annual Accounts of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Statements by Government accepting the Reports mentioned at (a) and (b) above.
- (2) Statement each (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) *See* No. L.T. 483/16/14]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Outcome Budget, for the year 2014-15, in respect of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 676/16/14]

- (ii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2014-15, in respect of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 202A/16/14]

I. MoU (2014-15) between Government of India and Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd.

II. Outcome Budget (2014-15) of Ministry of Textiles

श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- I. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 632/16/14]

- II. Outcome Budget, for the year 2014-15, in respect of the Ministry of Textiles.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 631/16/14]

Report and Accounts (2012-13) of Indian Railway Welfare Organisation (IRWO), New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation (IRWO), New Delhi, for the year 2012-13, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Organisation.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. For (a) to (c) See No. L.T. 639/16/14]

I. Notifications of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

II. Memorandum of Understanding (2014-15) between Government of India and various Public Sector Undertakings

III. Outcome Budget (2014-15) of Department of Fertilizers

श्री निहाल चन्द : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (1) S.O. 114 (E), dated the 16th January, 2014, indicating the supplies of fertilizers to be made by specified domestic manufactures of fertilizers to specified States and Union Territories during Rabi season 2013-14 from the date of publication of this notification to the 30th day of March, 2014.
- (2) S.O. 1088 (E), dated the 15th April, 2014, indicating the supplies of fertilizers to be made by specified domestic manufactures of fertilizers to specified States and Union Territories during Kharif season 2014 from the date of publication of this notification to the 30th day of September, 2014.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) *See* No. L.T. 559/16/14]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers) and Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 694/16/14]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers) and Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 697/16/14]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers) and National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 693/16/14]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) Limited, for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 698/16/14]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers) and

FCI Aravali Gypsum & Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL) Limited, for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 695/16/14]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers) and Projects & Development India Limited (PDIL), for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 696/16/14]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Fertilizers) and the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore (FACT) Limited, for the year 2014-15.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 699/16/14]

- (viii) Outcome Budget, for the year 2014-15, in respect of the Department of Fertilizers.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 553/16/14]

- I. Report and Accounts (1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97) of Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd., Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir and related papers**
- II. Report and Accounts (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2010-11) of various Corporations and related papers**
- III. Report and Accounts (2011-12) of Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur and related papers**

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान) : महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—
- (i) (a) Seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited (J&KHPMC), Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, for the year 1994-95, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 567/16/14]

- (ii) (a) Eighteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited (J&KHPMC), Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, for the year 1995-96, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 568/16/14]

- (iii) (a) Nineteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited (J&KHPMC), Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 569/16/14]

- II. (i) (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 705/16/14]

- (ii) (a) Forty-seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2012-13, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 706/16/14]

- (iii) (a) Forty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
- (2) Statement each (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 707/16/14]

- III. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 and sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2011-12.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2011-12, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above University.
- (d) Review by Government on the Annual Accounts of the above University.
- (2) Statement each (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) See No. L.T. 704/16/14]

Notifications of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राव साहेब दादाराव दानवे) : महोदय, मैं विधिक माप विज्ञान अधिनियम, 2009 की धारा 52 की उप धारा (4) के अधीन विधिक माप विज्ञान (पैकेज में रखी वस्तुएं) (संशोधन) नियम, 2014 को प्रकाशित करने वाली उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय (उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग) की अधिसूचना सं. सा.का.नि. 137, दिनांक 21 जून, 2014 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 712/16/14]

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)* ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me finish this formal business.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-sixth Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): Sir, I make a statement regarding updated Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2013-14) pertaining to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventy-fifth Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN: Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, I make a statement regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventy-fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to the Department of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifty-eighth Report of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN: Sir, I make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifty-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on "National Agricultural Research System - An Evaluation".

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**Government Business for the week commencing 11th of August, 2014**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Statement regarding Government Business.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 11th of August, 2014 will consist of:-

1. Further discussion on the working of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Consideration and passing of the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Amendment Bill, 2011.
3. Consideration and passing of the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014, as passed by Lok Sabha.
4. Discussion on the working of the following Ministries:-
 - (a) Women and Child Development; and
 - (b) Urban Development (If time permits)
5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-
 - (a) The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2014;
 - (b) The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2014;
 - (c) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014; and
 - (d) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Short Duration Discussion....(Interruptions) ...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री के.सी. त्यागी (बिहार) : महोदय, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: First, I will listen to Mr. Tyagi and then come to you. Under what rule do you have a point of order?

श्री के.सी. त्यागी : सर, मैं रूल नं. 187 पर कहना चाहता हूँ कि पार्लियामेंट का सत्र प्रारम्भ होने से लगभग एक महीना पहले जो प्रसिद्ध वकील हैं, श्री प्रशांत भूषण, उन्होंने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस करके वक्तव्य दिया था कि पार्लियामेंट का जो आने वाला सेशन है, उसमें सी.ए.जी. और Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance की रिपोर्ट, जिसमें केजी बेसन में रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज पर आरोप है, उसको लेकर मैं पेश करूंगा। इसलिए जो सदन की प्रॉपर्टी है, Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance or any other Committee है and the CAG Report has to be tabled in the House, उससे पहले कोई

[श्री के.सी. त्यागी]

भी सदस्य सदन से बाहर जाकर इस तरह की घोषणा नहीं कर सकता। मैंने इस पर प्रिविलेज मोशन दिया था।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, you have given a notice. You have made your point.

श्री के.सी. त्यागी : सर, रूल 203 के अनुसार आपके पास यह अधिकार है, जिसके तहत आप इसे प्रिविलेज कमेटी को सौंप सकते हैं। सर, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसे कमेटी को सौंपा गया या नहीं और इस पर क्या कार्रवाई हुई?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, take your seat. It is correct that you had raised this matter earlier also. There is a privilege notice from hon. Member, Shri K.C. Tyagi, and as per the procedure, it is being considered by the hon. Chairman. Now, Shri Naresh Agrawal.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : श्रीमन्, कांस्टीट्यूशन के आर्टिकल्स 79, 80 और 81...

श्री उपसभापति : मैं बड़ा वकील नहीं हूँ, मैं तो सीधा-सादा आदमी हूँ।

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Sir, you can read the book. श्रीमन्, आर्टिकल 79 के अन्तर्गत दोनों सदनों की संरचना हुई। आर्टिकल 79 में पार्लियामेंट के गठन की व्यवस्था की गई है। आर्टिकल 80 के अंतर्गत राज्य सभा का गठन हुआ और आर्टिकल 81 के अंतर्गत लोक सभा का गठन हुआ। श्रीमन्, जब दोनों सदनों का गठन हुआ, तो दोनों सदनों के सदस्यों के प्रिविलेज एक रखे गए, उनकी प्राथमिकताएं एक रखी गईं और अधिकार भी एक रखे गए। यहां पर जो सदस्य हैं, उनको जो अधिकार हैं, वहीं लोक सभा के सदस्यों को हैं, बल्कि अपर हाउस को ज्यादा हैं, क्योंकि शुरुआत अपर हाउस से की गई। आर्टिकल 80 के अंतर्गत पहले अपर हाउस का गठन हुआ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : हां, मैं बता रहा हूँ। श्रीमन्, देखने में आ रहा है कि अगर हम इस हाउस के चेयरमैन के पास जाएं कि हम दल के सदस्य या दल इस पार्लियामेंट के अन्दर किस कमरे में बैठेंगे, तो चेयरमैन साहब कोई व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकते हैं। अगर हम कहें कि चेयरमैन साहब, आप कमेटी का गठन कब करेंगे, तो उनको कोई अधिकार नहीं है, क्योंकि यह अधिकार पता नहीं लोक सभा को...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर यह है कि...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: For raising a point of order, you have to say whether any rule in the Rule Book has been violated or whether any provision in the Constitution has been violated. Is there any violation?

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : आप सुनिए तो, आप तो फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट की तरह काम करने लगते हैं। हाई कोर्ट के जज आधे घंटे में रूलिंग दे सकते हैं, लेकिन आप यह न करिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Even then, it is difficult for me.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : हम रेगुलर कोर्ट के हिसाब से चल रहे हैं। श्रीमन्, मैं कह रहा हूँ कि लोक सभा में जो दल हैं, उनको जो अधिकार हैं, राज्य सभा में दलों को वही अधिकार हैं। हमारा कोई सदस्य टूर पर विदेश नहीं जा सकता, जब तक लोक सभा की स्पीकर परमिशन नहीं देंगी। हमारा कोई सदस्य यहां कमरा नहीं पा सकता है, जब तक लोक सभा की स्पीकर परमिशन न दें। उसकी कमेटी का गठन भी वही करेंगी, हमारा सिर्फ कोटा फिक्स हो जाएगा। यहां तक कि कैंटीन तक की व्यवस्था भी वही देखेंगी। श्रीमन्, किसी सदस्य को विदेश जाने की अनुमति नहीं है। हमें अनुमति वहां से मिलेगी। * श्रीमन्, कौन से आदेश से यह हुआ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो हमारा प्रिविलेज है, यह जो राज्य सभा का गठन हुआ है, इस राज्य सभा के गठन के बाद क्या हमारे चेयरमैन, डिप्टी चेयरमैन को यह अधिकार नहीं है कि वे अपने सदस्यों के सम्बन्ध में निर्णय ले सकें? हम लोक सभा के स्पीकर के अन्तर्गत नहीं आते। * मेरी सिक्योरिटी नहीं हो सकती। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मुझे बताया जाए कि जब इस संविधान ने हमें बराबर अधिकार दिए हैं, नियमावली में भी बराबर अधिकार दिए गए हैं, तो किस आदेश से इन नियमों का पालन हो रहा है, किस आदेश से हम स्पीकर के कहने पर चल रहे हैं? हम उनके अंडर नहीं आते। हम चेयरमैन के अंडर आते हैं, हम इस कुर्सी का आदेश मानते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमें कम-से-कम वह आदेश दिखा दें और कोई एक निर्णय हो, जिससे राज्य सभा के सदस्यों के संबंध में जो भी निर्णय हो, वह सम्मानित चेयरमैन और सम्मानित डिप्टी चेयरमैन लें। इस संबंध में हमें आपकी रूलिंग चाहिए।

श्री के.सी. त्यागी : सर, कल संसद की सुरक्षा के लिए तीन लोगों की एक कमेटी बनी है और तीनों के तीनों मेम्बर्स लोक सभा के हैं। क्या राज्य सभा के किसी मेम्बर को उसकी सुरक्षा के लायक नहीं माना गया? सर, आप मेरा प्वाइंट सुन लीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't criticise Lok Sabha here.

SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Sir, I am not criticising. सर, कल जो कमेटी ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, you can't cast aspersions on the other House. I will give a ruling. Now, LoP wants to say something.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I think, Mr. Naresh Agrawal *ji* has raised a very important Constitutional matter. We do not want the hon. Deputy Chairman to decide it right now. Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is also here. I think, you need to have a Committee to go into it and a final decision should come. It is very important matter.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I agree that it is an important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, do you wish to react? Please.

शहरी विकास मंत्री; आवास और शहरी गरीबी उपशमन मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु) : सर, अभी तक जो पद्धति रही है, उसी पद्धति के अनुसार हम लोग आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। माननीय सदस्य का सुझाव आया है कि इसमें परिवर्तन होना चाहिए। इसके बारे में चेयरमैन साहब सभी मुख्य पॉलिटिकल पार्टीज के प्रतिनिधियों को बुलाकर, आपस में चर्चा कर लेंगे और देख लेंगे कि इस विषय में हम कैसे आगे बढ़ सकते हैं।

मेरा आपसे अनुरोध है कि ऐसा कोई मैसेज नहीं जाना चाहिए कि हम उस हाउस के बारे में या स्पीकर के बारे में यहां पर कोई व्याख्या कर रहे हैं। मैं लीडर ऑफ द अपोजिशन की बात से भी सहमत हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I agree with this.

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : अब चेयरमैन साहब स्वयं यह तय करेंगे कि आगे हमें क्या करना चाहिए।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मैं व्याख्या की बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ लेकिन हमारा जो अधिकार है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Naresh ji, you made your point. ...*(Interruptions)*... See, as hon. Minister has said ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, it is a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... The formation of that Committee is not informed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. No, no. Let me deal with this issue. Firstly, as the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has said, we are not expected to criticize, even indirectly, the other House or the hon. Speaker. That we cannot do. If any aspersion is there in the record amounting to that, I will expunge that. Those are expunged. Secondly, the matter raised is important. Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister agreed with what you have said, I will report the matter to the hon. Chairman, and, the Chairman may take appropriate action in this regard. Now, this is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is over. Yes, Mr. Balwinder Singh, what is your point of order? अगर आपका प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर है, तो पहले आप रूल कोट करिए।

श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर (पंजाब) : सर, मैंने शिरोमणि अकाली दल की तरफ से एक नोट लिखकर दिया था, लेकिन उसका कोई जवाब नहीं आया। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : अभी आप प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर की बात करिए।

श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर : सर, मैं वही कर रहा हूँ। दो लाइनों में ही मैं अपनी बात कहूँगा, ज्यादा नहीं बोलूँगा। वैसे भी मैं बहुत कम बोलता हूँ और हाउस में शोर भी नहीं करता।

पेशावर, पाकिस्तान में, जहाँ पर सिख इकट्ठे थे, उनके ऊपर कुछ अनआइडेंटिफाइड लोगों ने आ करके गनफायर किया, जिसमें दो लोगों का मर्डर हो गया और तीन लोग ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : इसके लिए आप नोटिस दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं आपकी बात समझ गया, इसके लिए आप नोटिस दीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री के.सी. त्यागी : सर, आप एक मिनट मेरी बात भी सुन लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, आपको मैंने पहले ही एलाउ कर दिया था। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Yes, Mr. Rajeeve, what is your point of order?

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, it is an important issue. While the House was considering the leave application of some Members, the issue, which I had raised...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Let me complete, Sir. Some of the celebrity Members are continuously absent ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have raised it earlier. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Most of the nominated Members ...**(Interruptions)**... significant leave...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you wish to raise it again? ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, I raised the question, and, I want a reply, Sir. Whether they submitted the leave application properly to the House, that was the question I raised.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes. What do you wish to say Mr. Bhupinder Singh? ...**(Interruptions)**... No, one of you.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Sir, in the Question Hour...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No reference to Question Hour now.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: No, no. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister also intervened. I said that Odisha is in floods. I submit that not only for Odisha but also for the entire ...**(Interruptions)**... More than two lakh hectares of paddy land ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yesterday, you spoke in the discussion on Home Affairs. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: No, no. That is different. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? No, no. You were given enough time. I am not allowing it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Sir, we want ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You were given time yesterday over the same argument. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. On the same argument, you took extra time. What is this? You cannot take Parliament like this. Don't take Parliament for a ride. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. आप लोग बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... परिछा जी, आप बैठिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Mr. Bhupinder Singh, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Ramesh ji, I will allow you. It is unfair because yesterday the House, on a consensus, decided to adjourn after one hon. Member had spoken. At that time, Mr. Bhupinder Singh stood up and said, "Since my State is in floods, therefore, even if the decision of the House is like that, I may also be allowed to speak because I have to go back. I will not be available, and, so, please allow me to speak." ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. Even though the time was only 13 minutes, on this consideration, I allowed more. And now you are coming and saying the same thing. Sit down. It will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot take Parliament for a ride. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot take Parliament for a ride. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give ruling on what ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will give ruling on what Mr. Rajeeve said. ...*(Interruptions)*... You go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't take Parliament for a ride. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yesterday, you got the favour and now you are saying the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go back to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go back to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... You go back to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not allowing you. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have no right unless I allow. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have no right unless I allow. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have no right to speak from the passage. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have no right. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is indiscipline. Go back to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is indiscipline. Don't take House for a ride. Go back to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot speak from the passage.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Nobody is supposed to argue with the Chair. Sir, I want to make a small intervention. A serious situation is developing in Odisha because

of the serious flood situation. They wanted to bring it to the notice of the House. As you have rightly said, some mention was made yesterday. But anyhow, the matter is already seized by the Central Government. The Home Minister of India has spoken to the Chief Minister. Two helicopters have been rushed to the State and whatever is required is being done, Sir. So, we can proceed further.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. That is enough. He has taken note of that. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has taken note of that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Forget it. ...*(Interruptions)*... See, the Government has taken note of your request and the Minister has reacted. Now, you take your seat.

Now, on the issue which Mr. Rajeev raised, he has raised the same issue, I think, last week and I promised the House that I would come back with the facts. The fact is like this. Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, who has been nominated to Rajya Sabha in April, 2012, has so far attended the sittings of the Rajya Sabha for three days. Last time he attended the sitting on 13.12.2013. Ms. Rekha, who has been nominated to Rajya Sabha, again in April, 2012, has so far attended the sittings of the Rajya Sabha for seven days. Last time she attended the sitting on 19.02.2014. As per Article 101 (4) of the Constitution, if a Member is absent from the sittings of either House of Parliament without permission of the House for a period of sixty days, the House may declare his seat or her seat vacant. The absence of Shri Tendulkar is around 40 days at present. The absence of Ms. Rekha is less than that. In both these cases, there has been no violation of the Constitutional provisions. That is over. Now, let me ...*(Interruptions)*... I am coming to the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Re. Change in the Civil Services Examination conducted by U.P.S.C.

श्री शरद यादव (बिहार) : उपसभापति जी, मैंने यू.पी.एस.सी. के मामले में आपके यहां प्रिविलेज नोटिस दिया हुआ है। अभी संसदीय कार्य मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस सदन के भीतर और बाहर यह लाखों बच्चों के भविष्य का सवाल था, लेकिन इस सवाल को जिस तरह से क्लोज़ किया गया, मैं इतना ही संशोधन करना चाहता हूँ कि यहां संसदीय कार्य मंत्री जी अभी बैठे हुए हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, मेरी बात सुनिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... इसका जो सेकंड पेपर है, जोकि सिविल सर्विसेज़ एप्टीट्यूड टेस्ट वाला पेपर है, यदि उसको क्वालिफाइंग कर दें, तो सारी समस्याओं का समाधान हो सकता है। जब एक भाषा को आप अलग कर सकते हैं, तो यह मामला ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Sharad ji, your Privilege Motion is being examined as per the rules.

श्री शरद यादव : नहीं, सर। मैं उस प्रिविलेज मोशन पर इतना नहीं अड़ा हूँ। इन बच्चों का यह जो सेकंड पेपर है, इसको ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Government is seized of the matter.

श्री शरद यादव : सर, यदि सरकार विचार करे, तो इस सेकंड पेपर को ऑप्शनल कर सकती है और अगर ऑप्शनल न करे, तो क्वालिफाइंग कर दे। इससे सारी समस्याओं का समाधान हो जाएगा।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I hope the Government is seized of the matter.

श्री शरद यादव : इससे सारी समस्याओं का समाधान हो जाएगा और यह लैंग्वेज की प्रॉब्लम भी खत्म हो जाएगी। सिर्फ सीसेट के चलते यह पूरा ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Short Duration Discussion. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री शरद यादव : एक रुकावट लगी है। ...(समय की घंटी)... संसदीय कार्य मंत्री अनुभवी आदमी हैं। यदि वे इस पर थोड़ा सा विचार करेंगे, तो रास्ता बनेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Short Duration Discussion. Shri Y.S. Chowdary.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, यह तकनीकी मामला नहीं है ...(व्यवधान)... इसकी technicalities में न जाया जाए ...(व्यवधान)... यह एक गंभीर मामला है, लाखों बच्चों के भविष्य का सवाल है, इसलिए इस मसले के तकनीकी पक्ष पर मत जाइए, इसके पीछे बच्चों के भविष्य का सवाल है, इसलिए सरकार को इसको गंभीरता से लेना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, इस मसले पर करीब-करीब सभी राजनीतिक दलों की एक राय है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not saying that it is not a serious matter. हाँ, यह गंभीर मामला है। I am now only taking up the Short Duration Discussion. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सर, सरकार को जिम्मेदाराना तरीके से यहां पर एक घोषणा करनी चाहिए, लेकिन सरकार वह नहीं कर रही है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : सर, इस तरह की खबर आ रही है कि अब यह फाइनल है और इस पर अब कुछ नहीं होने वाला है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chaturvedi and Mr. Ansari, we had already discussed this matter. ...(Interruptions)... Sit down. ...(Interruptions)... We had already discussed this matter. ...(Interruptions)... The Government has already stated that it is seized of the matter. ...(Interruptions)... I am told that an all-party meeting is being called. ...(Interruptions)... You take your seat. ...(Interruptions)... The Government is seized of the matter. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी : सर, बच्चे इसको लेकर आंदोलन कर रहे हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We had already discussed it. ...**(Interruptions)**... अंसारी जी, कृपया आप बैठिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Shri Y.S. Chowdary, please start. ...**(Interruptions)**... Sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**... That is my job. ...**(Interruptions)**... Sit down. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, first you bring the House in order. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now you are disciplined. ...**(Interruptions)**... You forgot the days when you obstructed ...**(Interruptions)**... Mr. Y. S. Chowdary, please. One second. ...**(Interruptions)**... I want to make an announcement. For this discussion, we will adjourn the House at 1.00 p.m. But we will again take up the discussion at 2.30 p.m. It will go up to 3.30 p.m. That is the consensus among the leaders and also the BAC. We will take up Private Members' Business after 3.30 p.m. Now, Shri Y.S. Chowdary. ...**(Interruptions)**...

श्री के.सी. त्यागी : सर, आपसे एक factual error हो गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, आपने सचिन तेंदुलकर जी और रेखा जी के बारे में जो संबोधन किया था, उसमें आपने रेखा जी को मिस कह दिया है, जबकि रेखा जी मैरिड हैं और widow हो गई हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, No वह ठीक है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : इससे क्या लेना-देना है, कौन मैरिड है और कौन मैरिड नहीं है, यह हमारी समस्या थोड़े ही है। What is this?

नेता विरोधी दल (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद) : सर, शरद यादव जी कई दिनों से इस मसले को यहां पर उठा रहे हैं, हमारी तरफ से, कांग्रेस की तरफ से, अपोजीशन की तरफ से जितने भी हैं, जैसे समाजवादी पार्टी, बहुजन समाजवादी पार्टी, सी.पी.आई., सी.पी.एम., टी.एम.सी. आदि सबने कई दफा इस बात को उठाया है। माननीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री से मेरा अनुरोध यह है कि जबान के नाम पर देश को न बांटें। जबान सबसे ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण होती है। अगर language के नाम पर देश बंट गया, तो वह सबसे बड़ी खतरनाक चीज होगी। दुर्भाग्य से आज वैसा ही हो रहा है और सरकार ने पहले एक हफ्ता कहा, फिर 15 कहा, फिर मिनिस्टर ऑफ स्टेट ने यहां स्टेटमेंट दिया, वह कोई अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी का विवाद नहीं था। खामखाह हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी का विवाद खड़ा हुआ। लोग अंग्रेजी भी चाहते हैं और उसके साथ-साथ संविधान की आठवीं सूची में जितनी भी national languages हैं, उनमें भी चाहते हैं।

अब सुना गया है कि गवर्नमेंट चाहती है कि इसका फायनल निर्णय 24 अगस्त को होगा। अब 24 अगस्त तक तो पार्लियामेंट स्थापित हो जाएगी। लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि जब तक सदन चल रहा है, तब तक ही इसका निर्णय हो जाए। अगर निर्णय यहां होगा, तो वह फील्ड में नहीं

[श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद]

जाएगा और अगर हम यहां निर्णय नहीं कर पाएंगे, तो 14 के बाद अगर यह लड़ाई जनता के बीच में जाएगी, तो वह देश के हित में नहीं होगा। शायद सरकार यह सोचती है कि पार्लियामेंट से निपट जाएंगे, तो जवाब देने से बच जाएंगे, लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि जो लड़ाई फील्ड में यानी आम जनता में जाती है, स्ट्रीट्स पर जाती है, तो उसको वापस retrieve करना किसी सरकार के लिए बड़ा मुश्किल होगा वह देश के हित में नहीं है, इसलिए जब तक सदन चल रहा है, तब तक इसको जल्दी समाप्त करें।

सदन के नेता ने यहां पर घोषणा की थी, शायद उन्होंने की थी या पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर ने की थी कि हम सभी दलों की एक मीटिंग करेंगे, इसलिए सभी दलों की मीटिंग करके इस मसले को खत्म कर दें। यही मेरा अनुरोध है।

†[قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد) : سر، شرد یادو جی کئی دنوں سے اس مسئلے کو یہاں پر اٹھا رہے ہیں، ہماری طرف سے، کانگریس کی طرف سے، اپوزیشن کی طرف سے جتنے بھی ہیں، جیسے سماجوادی پارٹی، بہوجن سماج وادی پارٹی، سی۔پی۔آئی، سی۔پی۔ایم، ٹی۔ایم۔سی۔ وغرہ سب نے کئی دفعہ اس بات کو اٹھا یا ہے۔ مائنٹے سنسڈئے کارئے منتری سے میرا انورودھ یہ ہے کہ زبان کے نام پر دیش کو نہ بانٹیں۔ زبان سب سے زیادہ اہم ہوتی ہے۔ اگر لینگویج کے نام پر دیش بنت گیا، تو وہ سب سے بڑی خطرناک چیز ہوگی۔ بدقسمتی سے آج ویسا ہی ہو رہا ہے اور سرکار نے پہلے ایک ہفتہ کہا، پھر 15 دن کہا، پھر منسٹر آف اسٹیٹ نے یہاں اسٹیٹمنٹ دیا، وہ کئی انگریزی اور ہندی کا وواد نہیں تھا۔ خواہ مخواہ ہندی اور انگریزی کا وواد کھڑا ہوا۔ لوگ انگریزی بھی چاہتے ہیں اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ سنودھان کی آٹھویں سوچی میں جتنی بھی نیشنل لینگویجس ہیں، ان میں بھی چاہتے ہیں۔

اب سنا گیا ہے کہ گورنمینٹ چاہتی ہے کہ اس کا فائنل فیصلہ 24 اگست کو ہوگا۔ اب 24 اگست تک تو پارلیمنٹ استھگت ہو جائے گی۔ لیکن میں چاہتا ہوں کہ جب تک سدن چل رہا ہے، تب تک ہی اس کا فیصلہ ہو جائے۔ اگر فیصلہ یہاں ہوگا، تو وہ فیئلڈ میں نہیں جائے گا اور اگر ہم یہاں فیصلہ نہیں کر پائیں گے، تو 14 کے بعد اگر یہ لڑائی جتنا کے بیچ میں جائے گی، تو وہ دیش کے بت میں نہیں ہوگا۔ شاید سرکار یہ سوچتی ہے کہ پارلیمنٹ سے نیٹ جائیں گے، تو جواب دینے سے بچ

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

جائیں گے، لیکن میں مائے منتری جی سے کہوں گا کہ جو لڑائی فیلڈ میں
 یعنی عام جنٹا میں جاتی ہے، اسٹریٹس پر جاتی ہے، تو اس کو واپس retrieve
 کرنا کسی سرکار کے لئے بڑا مشکل ہوگا۔ وہ دیش کے ہت میں نہیں ہے، اس
 لئے جب تک سدن چل رہا ہے، تب تک اس کو جلدی ختم کریں۔
 سدن کے نیٹا نے یہاں پر گھوشنا کی تھی، شاید انہوں نے کی تھی یا
 پارلیمنٹری افیئرس منسٹر نے کی تھی کہ ہم سبھی دلوں کی ایک میٹنگ کریں
 گے، اس لئے سبھی دلوں کی میٹنگ کر کے اس مسئلے کو ختم کر دیں۔ یہی
 میرا انورودھ ہے۔

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, in fact, I don't want to engage in a discussion now because the issue has been discussed threadbare and the Government has made the stand very clear. Now, at this eleventh hour, nothing more can be done than what has been done. Secondly, I do not know how the LoP got this information, but an assurance was given saying that certain suggestions have come and there were contradictory views in the House and outside. It is not that much simple and easy to find a solution to this problem in a short period. The students are preparing for exam. The exam is coming nearer. It is on 24th. Moreover, this is not a situation created by this Government. It has been going on since 2011, 2012 and 2013. That being the case, we have to apply our mind coolly and we must take an integrated view of different points of view including holding the examination in the Indian national languages.

Sir, in the other House, I heard the other points of view also. Some of them were saying that this should continue. Some of them were saying that we should change this. So, I said that this requires a detailed study, and a deeper discussion will help us. So, I assured the House after talking to the concerned Minister that we will call an all-party meeting for the next examination. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please try to understand. For this examination, I appeal to the House that as the students are studying and concentrating on their exam, let us leave this now. After the examination on 24th August and after the Session is over, definitely, the Government will call a meeting of all the important people and discuss with them. Then, we will take it up with experts and also take the UPSC into confidence.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That's okay. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Y.S. Chowdary. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing else. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Y.S. Chowdary.

**Re: Situation arising from reported attempts to curb independence of
Media and restrict freedom of expression**

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for finally agreeing to take up this subject as Short Duration Discussion though I have been requesting for it for the last 15 days.

Sir, I am neither supporting any media nor questioning any Government which is democratically elected. It is about the importance of freedom of speech and expression. In our democracy, Press has been placed at a very high pedestal by calling it the fourth estate—the other three being, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The forefathers of our Constitution placed immense faith that the media can play a very impartial, constructive and selfless role in matters relating to public interest. This belief is reflected more than adequately in several concessions granted to media, including the provisions in terms of Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India considering the media to be a holy cow in the course of nation-building. About the freedom of speech and expression, the rights granted under Article 19(1) are not unlimited as Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution enables the Legislature to impose certain restrictions on free speech under the following heads – security of the State, friendly relations with the foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, incitement to an offence, and sovereignty and integrity of India. Therefore, any restrictions on freedom of speech and expression can be enforced only by the Legislature within the framework of Article 19(2) and not by any other means.

Sir, recently, certain restrictions are attempted to be imposed. We have a history that during the emergency period, several restrictions were imposed on freedom of Press. Subsequently, attempts are being made on a regular basis to indirectly control media as media started its aggression in exposing corrupt practices by the Government and some big industrial houses. Recently, restrictions are put across the country. There are some media houses with crony capitalism and ill-gotten money. Some corporate houses are also controlling media. As all of you are aware, the new State of Telangana was formed with a lot of resistance or whatever it is. But finally in an unscientific manner the State was divided. In that background, in the recently concluded Assembly session of Telangana in June, 2014 the hon. Chief Minister moved a resolution in the State Assembly and the State Council authorising the Speaker and the Chairman respectively to decide the punishment to be given to the two private channels, on the pretext that these channels hurt the sentiments of the people of Telangana by airing certain programmes. ...*(Interruptions)*... I request every Member to hear properly. If there is anything ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Sir,

one Member can't object particularly in the Short Duration Discussion. Short Duration Discussion has to be heard. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is not the way ...*(Interruptions)*... I am only reporting the facts that have happened in the Telangana State. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, Sir. I am only restating the facts. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What are you doing? Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: I am not talking anything extra.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can continue your speech.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: At the same time, our party opposed such a resolution on the floor of both the Houses in the State as it amounts to suppression of the freedom of the press, but the ruling party went ahead without any respect for the freedom of expression guaranteed in our Constitution. Subsequent to this resolution in the State Assembly and in the State Council, the blockade of both the channels was declared with effect from 16th June, 2014, almost 100 days are over, though the Government denies its role in it. Strangely the Government tries to stay away from the gagging effort stating that a group of people known as Multiple System Operators (MSOs), who control distribution of channels in Telangana decided to block these channels as they hurt the sentiments of the Telangana people. Sir, here it is a very important point. Can a group of private individuals like MSOs scuttle the rights guaranteed by the Constitution? It is most important to recall here that the Honourable Supreme Court in the case of *Bijoe Emmanuel v/s. State of Kerala*, and in a number of other cases held that reasonable restrictions on the freedom of speech in terms of article 19 (2) can be imposed only by a duly enacted law and not by the Executive action.

It is also necessary that there must be a reasonable nexus between the restriction imposed and the achievement of public order. If this being the rule of the land, how can the Government of Telangana play a role of a silent spectator in the present blockade of TV channels in the absence of any enacted law?

What should be the role of an elected Government? In our democracy the first and foremost obligation of any elected Government is to uphold the Constitution and initiate measures to enforce the rights granted by it to the citizens of the country, well, within the four walls of the Constitution.

The only logical conclusion one can draw in the entire episode from the silence maintained by the present Government in the Telangana State is that either it has no faith

[Shri Y.S. Chowdary]

in our Constitution, or, only sponsoring its agenda of scuttling the freedom of the press through its trusted and favourite private individuals for the reasons best known to it.

Can we allow running any of our States which are members of the Republic of Union as princely States? After independence nearly 550 princely States were unified into Indian Union after a great effort by our forefathers to carve out a federal India. Are we not going backwards by disrespecting the rules prescribed by our Constitution? Is it a safe attitude for protecting the federal structure of our country?

I am of the opinion, that this reckless and irresponsible behaviour of Telangana Government, is highly deplorable, as it is on a par with the mindset of an autocratic Princely State Head.

In these circumstances, I strongly urge the House to unanimously condemn the coercive action adopted by some private individuals against the media in Telangana with the tacit support of the present Government, undoubtedly. What are the possible reasons for the conflict with media? If we take into account some of the recent controversies surrounding the media, it clearly suggests that all is not well. I am not saying that media is always correct and they are a holy cow. It is needless to emphasize the importance of a strong and impartial media in strengthening of any society and at the same time if we fail to contain the damage that may be caused by negative and selfish media elements, it can weaken the foundations of our well preserved democratic values, social harmony, uplift of weaker sections and national integration. ...(*Time-bell sings*)... Sir, there is a need for the august House to hear my every point.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then be brief. Try to shorten your speech.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Yes, Sir. Some of the recent developments have been strongly prompting me to say that in the name of freedom of expression, the media, at times, has been brutally suppressing the fundamental rights of selected individuals and groups purely due to selfish reasons. In this context, I would like to quote a statement made by an Editor-in-Chief of Television. He said, "I guess journalists are more feared today, but sadly less respected. We are more arrogant, less ethical." The above statement clearly depicts the direction in which our media is travelling. It is an undeniable fact that in the recent times some mafias on the strength of the ill gotten wealth accumulated through corrupt practices got entry into media business and started promoting totally incorrect, biased motivated and illegal news targeting their opponents in the business and politics. These forces hardly give any value for social decency either in promoting episodes relating to women children and other weaker sections. This reckless behaviour of a section of our media, if not checked, can derail social harmony and national integration.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Kindly bear with me, Sir. The most unfortunate and the most damaging is extensive trial by media in some sensational cases even before the trial started by the courts. No one can enjoy unlimited rights at the cost of the fundamental rights of others. The farce of paid news prevailing is another big threat to our democracy. What is the need for protection of media? The days have gone where media was viewed as a source of information and as on date the media is playing a crucial and decisive role in crystalising public opinion on any issue due to its vast circulation because of the technology and proximity to the people.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then you will not get the reply. That is the point.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Sir, the reply is in the afternoon.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At 3.30 p.m. we are starting the Private Members' Business.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: No, Sir. You have given me time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen to me. Don't you want reply?

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Sir, I humbly request you to allow me to complete.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't you want reply then?

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: The existing legislation on the subject...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. It can't be. There are others to speak.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: No, Sir. I have to suggest and request for a solution...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your party's time is two minutes.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: There is no point in simply getting up and talking, Sir. I need to complete it. The legislation...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL (Maharashtra): Sir, how can he dictate the Chair?

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: The legislations made so far in the direction of making media..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chowdary, please stop. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Chowdary, please listen to me. Do you want the discussion for namesake only or do you want a reply also? Listen to me. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... For the sake of the discussion, we have extended commencement of the Private Members' Business from 2.30 to 3.30 p.m. At 3.30, we have to start the Private Members' Business. So, the total time is one hour and thirty minutes. Your party time is only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't show this indiscipline. The AIADMK has contributed four minutes to you and your party's time is two minutes. But you have taken 13 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. I cannot allow this. ...*(Interruptions)*... You finish in two minutes what you want to say.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Give me three minutes and I will complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? Don't you want others to speak?

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: The purpose will be defeated if I do not complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down now. Nothing more will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Instead of six minutes, you have taken 13 minutes. Now, Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot do that. You see, you are reading a speech. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are reading a written speech which is against the rules. I can expunge the entire thing because you are reading. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can I run the House this way? I will adjourn the House if this is the way it goes. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Chowdary, if you don't behave, then, I will have to adjourn the House. That is the only way. ...*(Interruptions)*... How many minutes can you get? You had six minutes, but you have taken 13 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... What are you doing? ...*(Interruptions)*... Then, how do I allow others? ...*(Interruptions)*... I will be forced to adjourn the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can I control the House if he is not obeying me? ...*(Interruptions)*...

Now, Mr. Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, I want to tell you one thing. We have only one hour and 15 minutes for this discussion and I have got 16 speakers. How do I manage? So, you should adhere to your party's time. The moment your party's time is over, I will stop you. Your party has only 26 minutes and you can speak for 12 minutes because the Minister also has to reply.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I will try to sum up within ten minutes and the other speakers from my party will take the remaining time.

माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, यह एक ऐतिहासिक मौका है, जब हम अगस्त क्रांति दिवस कल मनाने जा रहे हैं। In 1942, on 9th August, that is, the August Kranti Diwas, the message which spread across the globe was, "Do or die". For this, on this day, August 8, in 1942, the Indian National Congress, under the leadership of the Father of the Nation, was resolving to attain the freedom of expression, freedom of civil rights and Purna Swaraj. With this backdrop, let us understand the shortcomings and the expanding monopolies and the creeping new complications in the expression and the spread of communication. Let us try to understand what the message of Thomas Jefferson, one of the greatest sons of the U.S, was, what the message of the U.K. Statesperson Disraeli was and what the commitment of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was, and how we are going ahead with the latest situations. Let us try to understand that the freedom of expression is the freedom of expression of the citizenry of the nation. We have to attain this right for the sustenance of participative democracy. We have to attain this for the smooth functioning and for the easy passage of the delivery of welfare and development towards the citizens of the nation. In this backdrop, I tried to utilize this occasion of the Short Duration Discussion on the complications that is reaching towards the freedom of expression. Let us try to understand how the institutions are growing, what is the commercial proportion and what are the patriotic components within the set up of the freedom of expression and their communicators, organizations, institutions and companies. Try to understand what is happening across the globe. In US, several important, newspaper organizations are risking to survive. What is happening with the Wall Street Journal? What is happening with the New York Times? What is happening with the Washington Post? What is happening with the USA Today? What is happening with the Chicago Tribune? These have led to create certain media monopolies and, at the same time, there are guiding institutions all across the globe. Let us try to study the examples of US, France and UK. There were wonderful regulators, monitored by the parliament. All across those nations we are having the utmost, maximum freedom of expression, freedom of communication. How are we utilizing it? This occasion will remind us what are the serious problems that have crept in all across in the print media, the visual media, the audio media in the independent India. In independent India, there were certain occasions when the fourth pillar of democracy, the media - the print media, the visual media - were always regulating within. At that juncture, there were certain challenges. We can understand the challenge that was faced by several newspaper organizations all across the nation. But in our State of Telangana, the 29th State of the Indian Union, the newly formed State, which is having a life of almost 70 days, is having a greater challenge which needs a deeper study. What is the study that is

[Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu]

required? We are having about 30 TV channels just within Telangana. We were having these channels to communicate. But what are the challenges that have come up before the print organizations? The print organizations like *Eenadu*, *Sakshi*, *Vaaritha*, *Andhra Jyothy*, *Andhra Bhoomi* and *Namasthe Telangana* are facing to reach their break even. But the TV channels have been created in such a way that everybody will think that there are a lot of lucrative profits. But it is not the same case. In this enlargement of media organizations and communication channels, there crept in certain service providers. They are also having a business proposition. With this business proposition, before the bifurcation of our United State of Andhra Pradesh, the tussle between the media organizations which were having the proprietorship across the regions were the contenders and the promoters and they played their game to the maximum possible length. Now we are in two different States. Can we ever think of the owners of news channels or print media of Telangana having their circulation or communication facility in the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh?

In this backdrop, our people of Telangana have taken up this issue. To take advantage out of this, a very clever man, who has become the first Chief Minister of Telangana – he is a very good communicator; he can try to convince each and everybody – is taking advantage of this situation. Why am I singularly pointing towards an individual? He is having his own grudge. At this juncture, a few news channels, like TV9 and ABN Andhra Jyoti, were having certain communication spread across which was also derogatory in every sense. It seems they have already expressed their written on-channel apologies towards that. But, with this complicated network system, the multiple service providers, who are operators, were able to stop...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Two more minutes.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: I will not take more than that. Those operators cleverly crept in and tried to stop certain channels and their communication. This has created a new challenge. For that reason I have mentioned great memories of Pandit Nehru, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Disraeli and all other stalwarts. But, with this advantage, the single person, the first Chief Minister of Telangana, is projecting as if he is pure, as if he is not at all having any concern or commitment or responsibility towards the freedom of expression. Let it not dearer to us. Media will not always appreciate us. Media in its natural way of communication criticize...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Rapolu, you have only one more minute. Now, conclude.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: With this, he has created such havoc. For almost 100 days, they are able to censor through the new mechanism of complication which crept in the network.

At this juncture, I call upon the Union Government to come to the rescue and study the regulators available across several countries in the world and try to evolve such a mechanism which will create the necessary environment for free flow of communication which is the message for August Kranti Diwas. Thank you.

श्री तरुण विजय (उत्तराखंड) : उपसभापति महोदय, मीडिया के बारे में जब हम बात करने के लिए खड़े होते हैं तो मुझे अकबर इलाहाबादी की एक पंक्ति याद आती है, जो उन्होंने आजादी के समय में कही थी कि :

‘खींचो न कमानों को न तलवार निकालो,
जब तोप मुकाबिल हो तो अखबार निकाला।’

सबसे बड़ा जो हथियार है, वह शब्द का हथियार है, वह अक्षर का हथियार है, वह हमारे अखबारों का हथियार है। उसके माध्यम से हम देश में वह चैतन्य जागृत करते हैं, जिस चैतन्य ने आजादी की लड़ाई में अंग्रेजों के विरुद्ध लड़ाई की। लगभग हमारे हर राष्ट्रीय नेता पत्रकार थे। चाहे वे पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू हों, चाहे वे दीनदयाल उपाध्याय जी हों...(व्यवधान)... जब भी किसी भी खराब काम, नकारात्मक काम, अन्याय के खिलाफ या नाइंसाफी के खिलाफ हमारी लड़ाई हुई है, तो मीडिया से शुरू हुई है। आजादी से पहले लगभग हमारे सभी राष्ट्रीय नेता पत्रकार थे, संपादक थे। पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू, श्री अरविंद, लोकमान्य बाल गंगाधर तिलक - जिन्हें मांडले, म्यांमार (बर्मा) में निर्वासन मिला, जहां वे सात वर्ष तक मांडले की जेल में रहे। आजादी के तुरंत बाद महात्मा गांधी का “हरिजन”, “नवजीवन” और 1947 में एम. चलपति राव Doyen of the Indian Journalism रहे, जो मेरे बहुत अच्छे मित्र तो क्या कहूं, मैं उनका आशीर्वाद लेता था। “नवजीवन”, “National Herald” जैसे अखबारों के वे उस समय प्रमुख थे। बाद में 1947 के समय श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी, पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय, डा. राममनोहर लोहिया, ये सभी शब्द के धनी, शब्द के समृद्धि वाले रहे। यह समय कभी नहीं देखा कि न कानून, न हुक्म, लेकिन चैनल बंद हो जाएं। चैनल ने कुछ गलत कहा होगा, सही कहा होगा, उसको संभालने के लिए हमारे पास कानून हैं, ऐसा नहीं है कि हमारे पास कानूनों की कमी है। यह स्टालिनवाद कि हुक्म हो गया, साहब नाराज हो गए और चैनल बंद हो गया और किसके माध्यम से हुआ, मल्टीपल सिस्टम ऑपरेटर्स के माध्यम से। क्या हम मल्टीपल सिस्टम ऑपरेटर्स को नया सेंसर, एक नया तानाशाह या शब्दों पर नियंत्रण रखने वाली एक बॉडी बना सकते हैं? मैं समझता हूं कि सदन में कोई भी इससे सहमत नहीं होगा। अगर किसी भी अखबार से शिकायत है, उसके जरिए है, लेकिन उपसभापति महोदय, मैं सरकार से भी यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जो हमारे समाचारपत्रों पर सरकार की ओर से भी रेग्युलेटरी बॉडीज बनाई हुई हैं, वे अखबार और मीडिया का काम करने के अलावा बाकी सब कुछ करती हैं, लेकिन मीडिया का काम नहीं करती हैं।

[श्री तरुण विजय]

मीडिया के संबंध में वे बहुत कम बोलती हैं। इसलिए हम समझते हैं कि किसी भी अखबार या चैनल के बारे में कोई शिकायत है तो तरीका यह नहीं हो सकता कि आप उनको बंद कर दें। हिन्दुस्तान में 74 हजार से ज्यादा अखबार हैं, जिनमें से 43 हजार से ज्यादा अखबार केवल भारतीय भाषाओं के हैं। भारतीय भाषाओं के अखबारों में बहुत प्रगति है। मैं एडि टर्स गिल्ड का सदस्य और एक सम्पादक तथा पत्रकार होने के नाते यह बताना चाहूंगा कि हमारी क्या चिंताएं हैं। हमारी ये चिंताएं हैं कि आज समाचारपत्रों में सम्पादक समाप्त हो गए हैं। वे बहुत कम हैं। अगर आप सम्पादक संस्था की ओर देखेंगे, तो आपको एडि टर्स बहुत कम मिलेंगे, आज marketing executives, sale executives, editorials के माध्यम से अखबार निकाल रहे हैं। एक समय था जब अखबार संपादकीय पढ़ने के लिए पढ़े जाते थे editorials पढ़ने के लिए पढ़ जाते थे, लेकिन आज एडि टर्स की संस्था सबसे ज्यादा खतरे में है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि मार्केट फोर्सिंग का बहुत चलन हो गया है। मैं हिन्दी की बात कर रहा हूँ, ऐसी ही बात अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं की भी है। भाषा पर सबसे ज्यादा कुठाराघात हो रहा है। अस्वीकार्य अंग्रेजी के प्रयोग हो रहे हैं। क्या आप समझ सकते हैं कि हिन्दी का शीर्षक - "मिलीटेंटों की फायरिंग", "मल्टीपल ज्वाइंट कमीशन गठित होगा" ये हिन्दी के शीर्षक हो रहे हैं। बांग्ला में ऐसा हो रहा है, तमिल में ऐसा हो रहा है, हिन्दी के अंक गायब हो रहे हैं, हिन्दी के अखबारों को चलाने वाले वे हो गए हैं, जिन्हें हिन्दी नहीं आती है। वे पर एक हिन्दी का शुद्ध, अच्छा नहीं लिख सकते, उन्हें वर्तनी नहीं आती, उनसे वर्तनी की बात करते हैं, तो वे गुस्सा हो जाते हैं। मीडिया घराने कौन चला रहे हैं? मीडिया घरानों के पास अपार सम्पत्ति है।

उपसभापति महोदय, नेपाल, बंगलादेश, भूटान, चीन, पाकिस्तान, श्रीलंका कोई correspondent नहीं भेजता है। हिन्दुस्तान में 22 से ज्यादा चीन के संवाददाता आज की तारीख में हैं। उनका रेडियो, उनका टेलिविजन, उनका प्रिंट मीडिया, ग्लोबल, टाइम्स, हिन्दुस्तान के तीन संवाददाता पूरे चीन की रिपोर्टिंग करते हैं। China is reported to India through Western News Agencies like Reuters, AP and AFP. China should be reported; Pakistan should be reported; and, Bhutan and Sri Lanka should be reported to India through Indian correspondents, through Indian eyes, through Indian writers. Why not these media houses spend a penny to send their correspondents in Islamabad, in Kathmandu, in Colombo, in Dhaka, in Thimpu, in Beijing, and in Shanghai? We are dependant totally on the Western media to understand, our immediate neighbours. Why? मीडिया के बारे में यह चिंता होती है कि हिन्दुस्तान में मीडिया बाकी लोगों की रिपोर्टिंग नहीं करती।

दूसरे, हम लोग यह देख रहे हैं, एडि टर्स गिल्ड ने किया है, कई सेमिनार पेड मीडिया पर हुए हैं। हम लोग पॉलिटिक्स में आते हैं, हम लोग जिले में जाते हैं, हम लोग प्रांत में जाते हैं, सबसे बड़ी चिंता हमारे कार्यकर्ताओं की होती है- सर, चुनाव आने वाले हैं कितना पैसा देना है? इस बात की चिंता मीडिया को है। यह सरकार के दखल की बात नहीं है, अगर मीडिया में कोई सुधार लाना है, तो केवल मीडिया के लोग ही ला सकते हैं। मीडिया के सम्पादक इस बारे में

चितित हैं कि जो पेड मीडिया का एक कैंसर हमारे बीच में आ गया है, इसका मुकाबला कैसे किया जाए, खबर आप नहीं देंगे। सांसदों से पैसा मांगते हैं कि हमारे अखबार में विज्ञापन दीजिए, सर, हम कैसे विज्ञापन दें? अगर हम विज्ञापन नहीं देंगे, तो कहते हैं कि तुम्हारी गलत खबरें छापेंगे। यह हमारे लिए बड़ी चिंता की बात है।

हिन्दी की पत्रिकाएं समाप्त हो रही हैं। इसी प्रकार से अन्य भाषाओं में हो रहा होगा। हमारे यहां हम हिन्दी कैसे पढ़ें? पहले धर्मयुग, सारिका, दिनमान इस प्रकार के संस्थान थे हिन्दी पत्रिकाओं के, जो हिन्दी सिखाते थे। आज कहा जाता है कि अपनी भाषा बिगाड़नी है तो हिन्दी का अखबार पढ़ लीजिए। भाषा नहीं आती है, आपकी भाषा बिगड़ जाएगी। सर, आज समाचारों में विज्ञापन नहीं आते हैं, बल्कि विज्ञापनों में समाचार आते हैं। आज यह परिस्थिति हो गई है कि वे अखबार, जो अपने को कहते हैं कि हम नेशनल न्यूजपेपर हैं, उनका नेशनल न्यूजपेपर कनॉट प्लेस से नोएडा तक की खबर छापता है और कहता है कि मैं राष्ट्रीय अखबार हूं। आपको इनमें नागालैंड, मिजोरम, लक्षद्वीप, लद्दाख, गुजरात, केरल, तमिलनाडु, मुंबई के समाचार कहां मिलते हैं? पहले पूरे भारत का जो एक समग्र दृष्टिकोण आता था, आज वह गायब हो गया है और हर अखबार सिकुड़ता जा रहा है। जैसे राजनेताओं के बारे में कहा जाता है, your India is where your vote bank is. जहां से तुम्हें वोट बैंक मिलता है, वहीं तुम्हारा हिन्दुस्तान सिकुड़ गया। अखबारों का हिन्दुस्तान कहां है? जहां उनका अखबार बिकता है, वहीं उनका राष्ट्र है, वहीं उनका हिन्दुस्तान होता है। मैं ये चिंताएं एक संपादक और एक पत्रकार होने के नाते व्यक्त करता हूं। मैं नहीं समझता कि सरकार को इसमें कहीं भी दखल देने की आवश्यकता है या दखल देने का अधिकार है। लेकिन हम चिंतित हैं और मीडिया का यह रूप बदलना चाहिए ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Tarunji, take two more minutes.

श्री तरुण विजय : जो अकबर इलाहाबादी ने कहा था कि हम अच्छे ढंग की...(व्यवधान).. सर, एक सैंकेंडा सर, वैचारिक अस्पृश्यता की बात है। हम इसको नहीं समझते कि यदि हम संपादक की राय से सहमत नहीं हैं तो उसके अखबार में छापेंगे। के.आर. मलकानी जी किसी “आर्गेनाइजर” के बहुत अच्छे एडिटर थे, उनको एक बहुत बड़े डेली न्यूजपेपर ने पिछली अटल जी की सरकार में चीफ एडिटरशिप की पेशकश की थी। उन्होंने कहा, “नहीं, तुम यह पोलिटिकल पेशकश कर रहे हो, हमारी सरकार जाएगी, उसको बाद तुम हमें भी बाहर कर दोगे, I am happy in Organizer. मैं “पांचजन्य” का संपादक रहा हूं। मैंने अपने अखबार में कांग्रेस, सी.पी.एम., राजेश्वर राव जी का इंटरव्यू छापा। ए.बी. वर्धन, राजा, ज्योर्तिमय बसु, जयराम रमेश, मणिशंकर अय्यर हमारे अखबार में क्यों छपे? ये सभी इसलिए छपे क्योंकि वे समझते थे कि हम उनके इंटरव्यू में एक शब्द भी इधर से उधर नहीं करेंगे। हमारी अपनी एडिटोरियल पॉलिसी है, हम छापेंगे, लेकिन यदि आपकी बात छापेंगे तो ईमानदारी से छापेंगे। गुलाम नबी आजाद साहब, जब आप स्टेट मिनिस्टर फॉर होम थे, तब उस समय मैं एच.एम.ए.सी. का सबसे यंगेस्ट मैम्बर बना था। मैं आपको तब से जानता हूं, हमने आपको छापा है। हमने गुरशरण सिंह जी की “इप्टा” के समाचार छापे और अपने अधिष्ठान से डिगे नहीं।

[श्री तरुण विजय]

सर, अखबारों में जो वैचारिक अस्पृश्यता आ गई है, वह बहुत चिंता का विषय है। मैं अखबारों की स्वतंत्रता का पूरा समर्थन करते हुए एक व्यक्ति की भी ...(समय की घंटी)... माइनोंरिटी हो, उसको छापेंगे ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tarun Vijay, now you conclude. There is one more speaker from your party.

श्री तरुण विजय : ये जो चिंताएं हैं, हमें उनको एड्रेस करना चाहिए। आपने बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Brajesh Pathak, I can call you, but your time is only four minutes.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Uttar Pradesh): Four minutes? It should be nine minutes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; that time is cut off. You take five minutes. ...(Interruptions)... No, he has especially requested as he has to go. लंच के बाद ये अवेलेबल नहीं हैं। इन्होंने especially request की है, इसीलिए एलाउ किया है। आप सिर्फ पांच मिनट बोलिए।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक : आप जितना कहेंगे, मैं उतना ही बोलूंगा। उपसभापति जी आपको धन्यवाद कि आपने एक बहुत गंभीर और समसामयिक विषय पर बोलने का मौका दिया है। भारत में आजादी के बाद संवैधानिक व्यवस्था लागू हुई। इस संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के तहत कार्यपालिका, विधायिका तथा न्यायपालिका को अपनी-अपनी जिम्मेदारी निभाते हुए भारतीय संविधान के तीन स्तंभ माना गया। लेकिन मीडिया समाचार जगत ने अपनी भूमिका के तहत भारत में स्वयं चौथा स्तंभ सृजित किया। आज भी इसी के तहत हम मीडिया को चौथा स्तंभ मानते हैं। लेकिन समय-समय पर ऐसी खबरें आती हैं कि प्रिंट मीडिया, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया को कहीं न कहीं से नियंत्रित करने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं, जो कि लोकतंत्र के लिए बिल्कुल उचित नहीं है। वर्ल्ड प्रेस फ्रीडम इंडेक्स के अनुसार 180 देशों में भारत में 140वें नंबर पर आता है, जहां पर मीडिया को कंट्रोल किया जाता है। अगर मीडिया जगत के आंकड़ों पर नज़र डालें तो पता चलता है कि दुनिया में जितने भी लोकतांत्रिक देश हैं, उनमें सर्वाधिक पत्रकार, जो समाचार संकलन के लिए जाते हैं, वे भारत देश में सर्वाधिक जान गंवाते हैं। एक दूसरे आंकड़े के अनुसार भारत 180 देशों में सबसे खतरनाक देशों में दूसरे नम्बर पर आता है, जिनमें पत्रकार समाचार संकलन के लिए जाते हैं और जिनके ऊपर हमेशा जान का खतरा बना रखता है। यह तथ्य हमें वर्ल्ड एसोसिएशन ऑफ न्यूजपेपर्स के अनुसार मिला है।

महोदय, सर्वाधिक चिन्ता का विषय यह है कि हमारे पत्रकार भाई, जो देश के प्रति अपनी जिम्मेदारी को समझते हुए समाचार संकलन में लगते हैं, चाहे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया में हों या प्रिंट

मीडिया में हों, वे बराबर कहीं-न-कहीं संघर्ष के शिकार होते रहते हैं, चाहे उन्हें अपने संस्थान में संघर्ष करना पड़ता हो अथवा समाचार संकलन के लिए संघर्ष करना पड़ता हो। कभी-कभी ऐसे मौके आते हैं कि अगर हम उनकी व्यक्तिगत जिन्दगी पर नजर डालेंगे, तो पाएंगे कि पत्रकार साथी जिस ढंग से समाज में जीते हैं, उनको वास्तव में रहने के लिए, खाने-पीने के लिए आज भी हम लोग वे व्यवस्थाएं उपलब्ध नहीं करा पाए हैं, जिस जिम्मेदारी के तहत वे काम करते हैं। हमारा मानना है कि जिसकी जो भी जिम्मेदारी है, उसको उस जिम्मेदारी के तहत जीवनयापन के लिए हमें सारी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करानी होंगी। मैं संसद भवन की चर्चा करना चाहूंगा। जब मैं 2004 में लोक सभा में चुन कर आया, उस समय लोक सभा के स्पीकर दादा सोमनाथ चटर्जी हुआ करते थे। चाहे पानी बरसे, चाहे आंधी-तूफान आए, लेकिन हमारे पत्रकार साथी खुले आसमान के नीचे समाचार संकलन का काम करते हैं। बाहर तो हालत और भी खराब है। वहां पार्क में धूप में छोटे-छोटे पेड़ों के नीचे दस लोग खड़े नहीं हो सकते, लेकिन 15-15, 20-20 के झुंड जेठ-बैसाख की दोपहर में अपने को बचाने का काम करते हैं। आज भी हम उनको दिल्ली के अन्दर संसद भवन में इतनी सुविधाएं नहीं दे पाए हैं कि हम उनको बैठने के लिए जगह दे पाएं, उनको पीने का पानी दे पाएं। खौलते पानी को पीकर जून की दोपहर में वे समाचार संकलन का काम करते हैं। हमें इस ओर भी ध्यान देना होगा। जब हम लोगों ने सोमनाथ दादा से रिक्वेस्ट की, तो आज आप जो टिन शेड देखते हैं, जो प्लास्टिक का टिन शेड लगा हुआ है, यह दादा के निर्देश पर लगा। दादा ने बाहर भी पीने के पानी का इंतजाम कराया था। लेकिन आज भी उनके लिए समुचित व्यवस्थाएं नहीं हैं। समय-समय पर सूचनाएं आती रहती हैं। पॉलिटिकल सिस्टम में हम लोगों के बाद अगर कोई स्वयं को सबसे ज्यादा असुरक्षित महसूस करता है, तो वह पत्रकार है। पता चला कि पत्रकार साथी तो समाचार संकलन के लिए फील्ड में संसद में आए हैं, वहां उनकी कुर्सी कोई दूसरा हिला रहा है। जब तक हम उनके जीवनयापन के लिए, उनके जीवन को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए उनको सुनिश्चितता नहीं दे पाएंगे, तब तक वास्तव में हमारे लोकतांत्रिक देश का जो चौथा स्तम्भ है, उसको हम सुरक्षित नहीं रख सकते। हमें उनको मानसिक, शारीरिक और आर्थिक सुरक्षा देनी होगी। उनके बच्चों के लिए इंतजाम करने पड़ेंगे। जब मैं डिपार्टमेंट रिलेटेड पार्लियामेंटरी स्टैंडिंग कमेटी ऑन हेल्थ का चेयरमैन था, तो हमें एक सूचना मिली थी। उस जमाने के माननीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी हमारे बीच हैं। जब मैं कमेटी का अध्यक्ष हुआ करता था, तो हमें सूचना मिली कि पत्रकार साथियों को तो सी.जी.एच.एस. में मेडिकल की सुविधा मिलती है, लेकिन उनके परिवारजनों, मां-बाप को यह सुविधा नहीं मिलती है। जब हमें सूचना मिली, तो मैंने तत्काल आपको पत्र लिखा। आपने उस पर स्वीकृति प्रदान की, इसके लिए मैं सदन के अन्दर आपका आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ। जब भी हमें इस तरह की कोई सूचना मिलती है, तो मीडिया जगत को मजबूत करने के लिए, अपने पत्रकार साथियों को मजबूत करने के लिए, उनके मान-सम्मान के लिए, उनकी मदद के लिए हमें हमेशा खड़े होना चाहिए। यह जो अल्पकालिक चर्चा आई है, यह तेलंगाना और आन्ध्र प्रदेश को लेकर आई है। वहां जो कुछ भी हुआ है, उसके लिए हम चाहते हैं कि न्यायपूर्वक काम हो और सभी लोग सबका सम्मान करें, तभी हमारा लोकतांत्रिक देश आगे बढ़ पाएगा।

उपसभापति महोदय, चूंकि मैंने आपको भरोसा दिया था कि मैं आपके अनुसार चलूंगा,

[श्री ब्रजेश पाठक]

इसलिए इन्हीं लफ्जों के साथ मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। जय हिन्द, जय भारत।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at nine minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Derek O'Brien. You have only five minutes.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, four people are not speaking from my Party; only one is speaking.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But you have only five minutes.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, I have seven minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, how do we manage? At 3.30 p.m., we have to start Private Members' Business.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: I will quickly make my points. Sir, I never fight with you about time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

श्री देरेक ओब्राइन : ऑनरेबल डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, हर खबर का 50% सच होता है, लेकिन दिक्कत इस बात की है कि यह कोई नहीं जानता कि कौन सा 50% सच है, Fifty per cent of all the news we see on TV or in the print is true, but the problem is we do not know which 50 per cent it is. We do not want to blame journalists. They are doing their job. We also do not want to blame business houses. We don't want to blame journalists; the problem, actually, lies, Sir, with the system. Mr. Chairman, Sir, was kind enough to allow this debate to happen today. I was wondering what is so significant about the timing of this debate. Interestingly, the same Chairman had allowed a similar debate a few months after the 2009 election. Early 2010, he allowed a debate on the media. That was significant as independence of the media is important and, especially, since all the problems arise after the elections. ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): That was on the paid news.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: This is also on the media and the paid news.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Derek, don't comment upon the....

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, I am not. I am saying good. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am happy. In fact, I am now going to make a request to the Minister. Last time, the hon. Chairman allowed a discussion; very nice. But nothing happened. This time, the Minister is here. My request is to make something happen after this discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, you are thanking the Chairman for this.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is good. Say that.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Because in this day of FDI, this is a new one, Sir, which is called 'MDI'. 'D' is direct, 'I' is interference and the 'M' you can interpret in many, many ways and use your imagination for the 'M'. I am a simple person. My interpretation of 'MDI' is Media Direct Interference.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, 'D' also stands for Derek!

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Okay; thank you. Sir, if you notice in today's debate, it is very nice that AIADMK ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): 'M' stands for...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Please don't take my time. Well, I am not yielding.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: 'M' stands for your Leader also!

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: She is a good 'M'. There are a lot of bad 'Ms' also. Okay. Sir, I like the AIADMK and the DMK. Today, both of them forfeited their time. When I asked them why, they said because we own our channels. I like that. It is good to give your ideological point of view. Even my friends from the Shiv Sena had their own newspaper. We also have our newspaper once a week. If you, political party, want to put your ideology out through your paper, no problem. But the problem is with those who try to be neutral angels. They pretend to be neutral, Sir. We keep using the word 'paid news', 'paid news', but you talk to all the journalists; none of them is paid very well. So, why do we call it 'paid news'? I think, we have come now, after the elections, to the era of 'super paid news'. The danger of 'super paid news' is that this can weaken democracy. Why will it weaken democracy? Because in elections, we believe, real people will not come to Parliament, on occasions.

[Shri Derek O'Brien]

Sir, now let me talk about media reforms. I have got some specific suggestions for the Minister rather than going media bashing. Media reforms can only take place if there are electoral reforms and electoral reforms have to be linked to judicial reforms. I am happy that the Government is starting today or maybe next week by bringing reforms on the Judicial Commission. That is a good start for judicial reforms. As for electoral reforms, it is the second line of Trinamool Party's manifesto which is about bringing about electoral reforms. So, we really believe that with the kind of billions of dollars being spent in this advertising campaign, parties should be given money for the election campaign. The Government should pay thousand crores or two thousand crores to the EC to distribute it. Sir, there is a danger of media powerhouses. Sixteen-eighteen-twenty people are controlling thousands of papers. The only point I want to make on the media powerhouse is, if the media barons – one or two of them; they should decide – want to join politics, they are welcome to join, get elected and come to the House. But don't be a Chief Editor and pretend that you want to be the Adviser to the Chief Minister. That is a dangerous trend.

Sir, there are two recommendations of the Standing Committee, but I would not comment on that. I quickly want to come to the social media to make four one-line points on social media.

Sir, take the social network because today each one of us here is a broadcaster, each one of us here is a publisher because we can go out now and say whatever we want to say through Facebook, through Twitter. So, for social media – Section 66A – it is time to set up some sort of an expert committee to solve our first problem on the traditional media, including how we can give the Press Council of India some teeth, how we can solve these problems. But for the social media like the first media, the best regulation we are suggesting is self-regulation. Sir, in the social media today, unfortunately, everything we read becomes the truth. This is always not the case. There is a certain responsibility on the social media and, I think, to be fair to our politicians and all of us, there is a change in the way we looked at it in the last three years.

I want to make two quick recommendations to the hon. Minister. We used to meet him only on television channels because he was a spokesperson for his party and I am for mine. So, now he is in a different position. Sir, the Press Council today can only warn, admonish or censure the erring newspaper. There is no penalty for paid news. To find a definition for paid news is difficult. We need to find a definition for paid news. We need an independent regulatory mechanism. We are not suggesting anything to take away the independence, but in the name of independence ...(*Time-bell rings*)... One minute, one minute.

Sir, there are three broad issues which I want to leave behind with the Minister. Sir, there is a need for an Expert Committee for the Social Media because it requires a thorough understanding of the media. Number two, how do we make the role of the Press Council of India more responsible? Number three, it is no use in bashing the journalists, it is no use in bashing the media houses. We ourselves need to find and fix the system for a new tomorrow in the media. Thank you, Sir.

श्री हरिवंश (बिहार) : उपसभापति जी, इस विषय पर बोलने से पहले मैं दो-तीन चीजें स्पष्ट करना चाहूंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please take four to five minutes, not more than that.

श्री हरिवंश : सर, मैं पार्टी लीडर से कहता हूँ कि अगर वे एक-दो मिनट और दे सकें, तो मैं और बोलना चाहूंगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : चार-पांच मिनट।

श्री हरिवंश : सर, इस विषय पर बोलने से पहले मैं दो-तीन चीजें स्पष्ट करना चाहूंगा। मीडिया आज एक बड़ा व्यापक शब्द हो गया है- सोशल मीडिया, फेसबुक, ट्विटर, इंटरनेट, टी.वी. चैनल्स और एफ.एम. रेडियो। परन्तु मैं स्पष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि मेरी चर्चा मेन स्ट्रीम अखबारों, ट्रेडिशनल मीडिया, खास तौर से न्यूजपेपर्स और कुछ हद तक टी.वी. चैनल्स तक ही सीमित रहेगी।

सर, सबसे पहले मैं हालात बताना चाहूंगा। मई, 2014 में जारी 'एनुअल इंडेक्स ऑफ मीडिया फ्रीडम' में भारत नीचे खिसक कर 78वें स्थान पर चला गया है। भारत को उन देशों के साथ क्लब किया गया है, जहां मीडिया को बहुत कम फ्रीडम है। दूसरी चीज, लम्बे समय तक मीडिया में जुड़े रहने के बाद मेरा अनुभव यह है कि जिस विषय पर आज हम चर्चा कर रहे हैं, मीडिया की अभिव्यक्ति और बोलने की आजादी पर, उसके नीचे की जमीन, अगर मैं मुहावरे में कहूँ, तो बहुत पहले ही वह जमीन हमारे पास से निकल चुकी है। मैं उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा कि कैसे? 2012 के अंत में दुनिया की मशहूर मैगजीन 'The New Yorker' में भारत के एक सबसे बड़े घराने पर एक बहुत जानकारीपूर्ण लेख छपा। भारत का मीडिया कहां है, इससे बहुत जानकारी मिलती है। मैं क्वोट कर रहा हूँ, जो उस मीडिया घराने के ओनर ने कहा है- "We are not in newspaper business. We are in advertising business. If 90 per cent of your read news come from advertising, you are in advertising business." सर, मैं किसी का नाम नहीं ले रहा हूँ। इसकी बहुत आलोचना हुई। परन्तु मैं उस व्यक्ति को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा, जिसने यह साहस किया कि यथास्थिति क्या है, मैं बताऊँ। जब मैं यह पढ़ रहा था, तो गांधी जी के 'इंडियन ओपीनियन' की याद आई। जब सौ वर्ष पूरे हुए तो 'इंडियन ओपीनियन' पर एक पुस्तक आई थी। उस पुस्तक में उल्लेख था कि गांधी जी ने एक शाम को कैसे यह तय किया कि विज्ञापन के बगैर मुझे अखबार निकालना है, ताकि मैं सच कह सकूँ। सर, दिक्कत हमारे समाज में साथ यह है कि

[श्री हरिवंश]

आज हम सभी राजनीति से जुड़े लोग या मीडिया में सफाई चाहने वाले लोग मानस गांधी का रखते हैं, वह प्योरिटी चाहते हैं, परन्तु हमने सब कुछ बाजार के हाथों में सौंप दिया है, जिस बाजार पर किसी का कोई कंट्रोल नहीं है। ऐसा कैसे हुआ? मीडिया में रहते हुए जिन लोगों ने मीडिया के self criticism या self introspects पर काफी काम किया, उनमें से एक मैं भी रहा हूँ, पर मैं उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ कि राजनीतिक फैसलों के तहत आर्थिक नीतियों का परिणाम है कि आज मीडिया प्रोफेशन से इंडस्ट्री में बदल गया है। राजनीति रहनुमाई करती है, इतिहास बदलती है, मीडिया नहीं। इस राजनीति से नैतिक आभा खत्म हुई और मीडिया पर इसका सीधा गहरा असर पड़ा। 60-70 का दौर याद कीजिए, इस मेन स्ट्रीम मीडिया को जूट प्रेस कहा जाता था। उस समय जो जूट मिल के मालिक थे, वही अधिकतर मीडिया के मालिक थे, तब भी इस मीडिया में यशस्वी संपादक निकले। हाल तक यह असर था कि एक बड़े अंग्रेजी अखबार के संपादक उसी परंपरा के तहत कहते थे कि प्रधानमंत्री के पद के बाद मेरा दूसरा महत्वपूर्ण पद है। वह नैतिक आभा थी, पर ये संपादक कहाँ गए? संपादक essence of values के प्रतीक थे। हमारे माननीय सदस्य तरुण विजय जी कह रहे थे कि संपादक खत्म हो गए। दरअसल मैं यह कहता हूँ कि अपनी समझ के साथ कहता हूँ कि मार्केट इकॉनॉमी में राजनीति से नैतिकता विचारधारा का अंत हुआ और पत्रकारिता से संपादकों का अंत हो गया।

हमारे लिए साल 1991 लैण्डमार्क है, जब देश के इतिहास में टर्निंग प्वाइंट, आर्थिक उदारीकरण का आया। इससे बहुत अच्छी चीजें भी हुईं, लेकिन समुद्र मंथन से भी विष निकला था और उस विष की तरह ही इस उदारीकरण की प्रक्रिया ने बहुत सारी चीजें इस मीडिया में की हैं। मीडिया घरानों की स्थिति की हकीकत क्या है? छोटे अखबार और मझोले अखबार तो अपने अस्तित्व की लड़ाई लड़ रहे हैं और बड़े घराने भी मुसीबत में हैं। आज की हकीकत क्या है? हमारे मित्र तरुण विजय जी ने उल्लेख किया कि आप उतने काबिल हैं, तो अखबार निकालिए। वह दौर पहले का था, जब आइडियाज़ से, आदर्शों से, कल्पना से प्रेरित लोग छोटी पूंजी से अखबार निकाल सकते थे, लेकिन आज हालात बदल गए हैं। आज एंट्री प्वाइंट ही ऐसा हो गया है कि जब तक बड़ी पूंजी आपके पास नहीं है, तब तक आप अखबार की दुनिया में प्रवेश नहीं कर सकते हैं। मैं ज्ञात स्रोत और अज्ञात स्रोत का हवाला नहीं दे रहा हूँ। पूंजी पाने के चार स्रोत हैं, शेयर मार्केट, एफ.डी.आई, ईक्विटी और बैंक लोन। अगर आप इनसे पूंजी लेते हैं, तो इस पूंजी की कीमत है, उसका रिटर्न आपको देना पड़ता है। पिछले दिनों में इनपुट कॉस्ट बहुत बढ़ी है। कल मैं अखबार के एक व्यक्ति से कैलकुलेट करवा रहा था, तो पता चला कि अगर आपका दस लाख सर्कुलेशन है और चार रुपए अखबार का कवर प्राइस है, तो आपको एक महीने में साढ़े सोलह करोड़ का घाटा होगा और साल में दो सौ करोड़ का घाटा होगा। नीति, मूल्य, निष्पक्षता, विश्वसनीयता, सब कुछ आपने पूंजी के पास गिरवी रख दी, फिर हम कैसे उम्मीद करते हैं कि हम बहुत बेहतर तरीके से विश्वसनीय अखबार चला पाएंगे?

सर, मैं जानता हूँ कि आप समय के लिए कहेंगे, इसलिए मैं संक्षेप में कुछ उदाहरण देकर अपनी बात समाप्त करूँगा। मेरे कुछ सुझाव हैं कि कैसे स्थिति ठीक हो सकती है। पहला सुझाव

यह है कि क्रॉस ओनरशिप पर नए सिरे से विचार हो और एक ही हाथ में न्यूज़ पेपर, टी.वी., रेडियो की ओनरशिप न हो। अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रेलिया जैसे देशों में भी इस पर प्रतिबंध है, ऐसे कानून हैं। मेरा दूसरा सुझाव यह है कि एक नए प्रेस या मीडिया कमीशन की जरूरत इस देश में है ताकि मीडिया की एक्वुअल पोजिशन पता चल सके। मेरा तीसरा सुझाव यह है कि डी.ए.वी.पी. सरकारी विज्ञापनदाता एजेंसियों को ऑटोनॉमस बनाया जाए और मजीठिया आयोग जैसी चीजें जब लागू हों, तो और अखबार capacity to pay में नहीं हैं, उनको सरकारें मदद करें। मेरा चौथा सुझाव यह है कि अंग्रेजी और भारतीय भाषाओं पर आज कल काफी चर्चा चल रही है। अंग्रेजी अखबारों का वर्चस्व बहुत कम है, भारतीय भाषाओं की बहुत ताकत है, उसके अनुसार कैसे विज्ञापन हो ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, मैं दो-तीन चीजें और कह कर अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा। मेरा पांचवां सुझाव यह है कि मीडिया/क्रिएटिव इंडस्ट्री को मुक्त रखने के लिए ब्रिटेन में कई कदम उठाए गए हैं, उस रास्ते पर हम चल सकते हैं। मेरा छठा सुझाव यह है कि प्रेस काउंसिल को टूथलेस बॉडी न रखें। मेरा सातवां सुझाव यह है कि Colonial PRB Act (Press & Registration of Books Act) को बदला जाए।

सर, अंत में मैं एक उदाहरण सत्ताधीशों के लिए देना चाहता हूँ, जो इधर भी बैठे हैं और उधर भी बैठे हैं। मैं पंडित नेहरू के समय के एक उदाहरण का उल्लेख करना चाहता हूँ। 1962 के वॉर के बाद भारत की पोजिशन दुनिया में बताई जाए, क्योंकि उस समय प्रचार यह हो रहा था कि भारत हमलावर है, एक संपादकों की सूची बनाने के लिए पंडित जी ने कहा। एक बड़े संपादक से मैंने सुना, जो हमारे विदेश मंत्रालय के लोग थे, वे सूची बना कर ले गए, उस सूची में पंडित जी ने देखा कि उसमें उस वक्त के लीडिंग पत्रकार एस.आर. मुलगांवकर का नाम नहीं था। पंडित जी ने पूछा कि इनका नाम क्यों नहीं है? उसके पीछे वजह यह थी कि वे पंडित जी के चीन नीति के बड़े आलोचक थे। पंडित जी ने उस सूची में पहला नाम एस.आर. मुलगांवकर का लिखा। हमारे सत्ताधीशों में या राज चलाने वालों में जब तक यह दृष्टि नहीं होगी, तब तक मीडिया फ्रीडम की बात अधूरी लगती है। धन्यवाद।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : माननीय उपसभापति जी, मुझे खुशी है कि मंत्री जी भी यहां मौजूद हैं। श्रीमन्, डेमोक्रेसी के चार स्तम्भ हैं और हम सब चाहते हैं कि इन चारों की आजादी हो, स्वतंत्रता हो, जिम्मेदारी हो, लेकिन हम लोग उनसे निष्पक्षता की भी उम्मीद करते हैं। अगर पत्रकारिता में निष्पक्षता का दौर नहीं चलेगा तो ऐसा नहीं है कि जनता में सही संदेश जाएगा। पता नहीं क्यों इस देश के मीडिया ने निगेटिव चीजों को न्यूज़ बनाया और पॉजिटिव चीजों को न्यूज़ नहीं बनाया। श्रीमन्, विश्व के किसी भी देश के अखबार का पहला पन्ना कत्ल, बलात्कार, डकैती, हत्या से शुरू नहीं होता है, बल्कि वह कंस्ट्रक्टिव न्यूज़ से शुरू होता है, लेकिन हमारे देश के अखबार का पहला पन्ना या मीडिया की न्यूज़ वही चीजें बनती हैं। आज हम लोगों ने सचिन और रेखा का विषय उठाया तो वही मीडिया की न्यूज़ बन गई। मैं चाहूंगा कि मीडिया के लोग कम से कम इस बात का ध्यान रखें, क्योंकि इससे देश का नुकसान भी बहुत होता है।

श्रीमन्, अभी पार्लियामेंट का चुनाव हुआ। माननीय जावडेकर जी, आप भी मीडिया को थोड़ा

[श्री नरेश अग्रवाल]

स्वतंत्र कर दें। जब पार्लियामेंट का चुनाव हुआ तो उस समय ऐसा लगा जैसे पूरे देश में एक ही नाम गूंजेगा। उस समय कोई भी न्यूज चैनल खोला तो उसमें भारतीय जनता पार्टी के एक नेता, अब तो वे हमारे प्रधान मंत्री हो गए, ऐसा लगा जैसे मीडिया ने एकतरफा काम किया हो। उसमें तमाम आरोप भी लगे, बहुत सी बातें कहीं गईं, जिन्हें मैं कहना नहीं चाहता। आज केन्द्र की सरकार के इशारे पर उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार का जिस तरीके से * हो रहा है, मेरा बड़ा साफ आरोप है कि केन्द्र की सरकार के इशारे पर मीडिया के द्वारा उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार का जो * हो रहा है, यह अच्छी बात नहीं है। श्रीमन्, एक “आउटलुक” पत्रिका है, उसने अपने पहले पन्ने पर हमारे प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री जी का फोटो लगाया और उसके नीचे जो कमेंट्स लिखे, क्या मीडिया को वैसा लिखने का अधिकार है? यह ठीक है कि हम लोग नहीं बोलते हैं, इस बहुत बड़े दिल के हैं, लेकिन किसी का चरित्र हनन करने का कोई औचित्य नहीं है। * को इस देश का दूसरा गांधी बना दिया गया। ऐसा लगा कि हिन्दुस्तान भ्रष्टाचार में डूबा हुआ है, जबकि * की क्या असलियत थी, वह आज तक नहीं बताया गया। सेना का * आदमी, उसे आपने देश का दूसरा गांधी बना दिया। निर्भया कांड को ऐसा रूप दे दिया गया जैसे पूरे देश में बलात्कार हो रहे हैं। आज पेपर में एक न्यूज छपी है कि हमारा 30 परसेंट टूरिज्म घट गया। हिन्दुस्तान में टूरिस्ट्स सिर्फ इस कारण आने बन्द हो गए कि मीडिया ने हमारे देश की निगेटिव फ्रिगर पूरे वर्ल्ड में शो की। हम कुछ बोल ही नहीं सकते हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश के बदायूं कांड और राजा भैया कांड को न्यूज में ऐसे दिखाया गया जैसे उत्तर प्रदेश में न जाने क्या हो रहा है। श्रीमन्, सी.बी.आई. की रिपोर्ट आई, मैं मीडिया वालों से पूछता हूं कि आप इस न्यूज को क्यों नहीं दिखाते जब सी.बी.आई. ने उन लोगों को दोषी नहीं पाया?

आजकल एक सोशल मीडिया चल पड़ा है। सोशल मीडिया में जिसका चाहो कपड़ा उतार दो, जिसका चाहो चरित्र हनन कर दो। माननीय मंत्री जी, इस सोशल मीडिया पर आपको कहीं न कहीं रोक लगानी पड़ेगी, क्योंकि यह हमारी यंग जनरेशन को खराब कर रहा है। ऐसा लग रहा है कि सोशल मीडिया में फ्रीली लड़ाई हो रही है और जो चाहे, वह किसी के लिए कुछ भी कह दे। इसके अलावा, सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से लोग न जाने क्या-क्या कहने लगे हैं। मैं मीडिया के मालिकों का पक्षधर नहीं हूं मीडियाकर्मियों का पक्षधर हूं। उनका भी शोषण हो रहा है। जो संवाददाता जिला स्तर पर नियुक्त किए जाते हैं, उनको एक पैसे की तनखाह भी नहीं दी जाती है। जब आप उन्हें तनखाह नहीं देंगे, उनसे 24 घंटे काम लेंगे तो फिर येलो जर्नलिज्म कैसे पैदा नहीं होगा, जबकि हम सब कहते हैं कि पीत पत्रकारिता रुकनी चाहिए? मंत्री जी, मैं चाहूंगा कि आप जवाब दें कि आखिर आप इस पीत पत्रकारिता को कैसे रोकेंगे? आज बहुत से चैनल्स बन्द हो रहे हैं और बहुत से चैनल्स घाटे में चल रहे हैं। उनमें या तो किसी कोतनखाह नहीं मिल रही है या किसी को आधी तनखाह मिल रही है। आपने मीडिया वालों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए कौन सा आयोग बनाया, कौन सा सिस्टम बनाया? आज तो बड़े-बड़े लोग सारे चैनल्स खरीद रहे हैं। थोड़े दिनों बाद ऐसा हो जाएगा कि देश के पूंजीपति जो न्यूज चाहेंगे वही न्यूज देश की न्यूज बनेगी, तब आप चुप बैठे रहेंगे, हम चुप बैठे रहेंगे और मैं कह रहा हूं कि अब तो यह शुरू भी हो

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

गया है। अगर एक व्यक्ति ने 20-20 चैनल्स खरीद लिए और उस व्यक्ति ने अपने हित में न्यूज़ चलाई, सरकार भी उसके आगे झुक जाएगी तो कैसे न्याय होगा? कहां से न्याय होगा? अगर मालिक इन लोगों से कह दे कि आपको यह न्यूज़ चलानी है तो अपनी कलम से गलत न्यूज़ लिखना इनकी मजबूरी है। आप इसके लिए कौन सी रोक लगा रहे हैं? इस सदन में दो चैनल की बात आई। पता नहीं उनके मालिकों के पक्ष के लिए बात आई या वहां के कर्मचारियों के पक्ष के लिए बात आई। मैं मालिकों के पक्ष के लिए नहीं खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैंने यही बात कही कि पत्रकारिता बड़ा जोखिम भरा काम है। जिंदगी जोखिम में रहती है पत्रकारों की। लेकिन उनके लिए आप क्या दे रहे हैं, सरकार ने उनके लिए कौन सी योजना बनाई? कहीं-न-कहीं बीच का रास्ता आपको निकालना पड़ेगा। अगर आपने बीच का रास्ता नहीं निकाला तो देश के साथ इंसाफ नहीं होगा और अगर नेगेटिव न्यूज़ चली, आपको यह रोकना पड़ेगा। इस देश का पहला पन्ना कंस्ट्रक्टिव न्यूज़ से जाना चाहिए कि देश की सरकार क्या कर रही है ...**(व्यवधान)**... ...**(समय की घंटी)**... बस एक मिनट ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मैं ज्यादा नहीं बोलता। मैं तो वैसे ही आपके डिसिप्लिन में बंधा हुआ हूं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But your time is over .

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल : मंत्री जी, मैं कन्क्लूड करते हुए कहूंगा कि आप कुछ जिम्मेदारी भरा निर्णय लीजिए। निर्णय लेने में कहीं आपको भय लग रहा हो तो हम सबको बुला लीजिए, बैठकर डिस्कस कर लीजिए। लेकिन इस देश के निर्माण के लिए हमारी जिम्मेदारी है, ब्यूरोक्रेसी की जिम्मेदारी है, जुडिशियरी की जिम्मेदारी है तो फिर मीडिया की भी जिम्मेदारी फिक्स होनी चाहिए और मीडिया का रोल इस देश के हित में होना चाहिए और हमारी देश की इमेज विश्व में अच्छी बननी चाहिए। मुझे ऐसी उम्मीद है कि इसका कन्क्लूजन कुछ इस प्रकार निकलेगा।

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, we are discussing a very important issue. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the editorial published in the *New York Times* recently on 27th July, 2014. I think, it is the first time that the international media has published an editorial regarding Freedom of the Press in our country. The title of this editorial is, 'India's Press Under Siege'. I quote the first paragraph, "When Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, declared a state of emergency on June 25, 1975, she immediately imposed strict censorship of the Press. With defiant exceptions, much of the Press caved in quickly to the new rules, prompting L.K. Advani, one of the founders of the Bharatiya Janata Party, who was jailed during the emergency, to comment later: "You were merely asked to bend, but you chose to crawl." These are the comments of the great BJP leader, Advaniji. But what has happened now? The newspaper, *DNA*, pulled an article off its website this month, which was written by Rana Ayyub, which was, I am quoting, "critical of Prime

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Minister, Narendra Modi's appointment of Amit Shah to head the Bharatiya Janata Party, citing the charges of murder, among other crimes, for which Mr. Shah is still technically on trial". This is happening in our country today.

I again quote from *New York Times* editorial, "More recently, media owners are bringing direct pressure on journalists to curb reporting or change editorial direction. Several prominent journalists have been pushed out of their jobs or have resigned in protest because they refused to go along."

Actually, we have no specific media freedom as per the Constitution. That is an extension of Article 19(1) of the Constitution, that is, freedom of speech and expression. But, Sir, we are talking about freedom of the Press. The Press is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy, but this is the only 'commercial pillar'. Media itself is a corporate entity. We cannot expect the functions of the fourth pillar of democracy from a corporate entity nowadays. That is the reality.

Recently, the great take-over of the day happened, that is, Reliance took over TV18. But what is happening now? Who decides as to what we will see, what we will hear, or which movie we will see? Sir, TV18 has 18 channels. Radio channel, 92.7 FM, is run by Reliance. BIG Screen, the greatest cinemas in country, is run by Reliance. BIG Screen and BIG Cinemas are the major producers not only of Bollywood movies but also of regional language movies. These are also controlled by Reliance. Regarding DTH system, that is also run by Reliance. This biggest corporate conglomerate is also India's biggest media company. Then, what do we do for diversity of opinion, plurality of opinion, or, is it just for favourable news coverage? What is the main feature of our democracy? Diversity is crucial to Indian democracy. How can we expect democratic functioning of media in this scenario of monopoly media and cross-media ownership? In 2008, the Government referred to TRAI the issue of cross-media ownership. There is horizontal extension, vertical extension and diagonal extension. In print media, electronic media and radio, that is called horizontal. Vertical means a TV channel producing the same thing and also taking over the DTH. And, there is a diagonal system. They are controlling the telecommunication and other sectors. This is cross-media ownership. Nowhere in the world is this type of cross-media ownership allowed. I request the Government to reconsider the Report of the Standing Committee, which was then headed by your present Minister, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh. He was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and I was the Member of that Committee. The Standing Committee strictly demanded to take action against the cross-media ownership. It is a very serious issue.

Sir, two TV channels are off-air in one region. Wherever it is off-air, wherever it is

banned, we strongly protest. We stand for the freedom of the Press, Sir. But this is another mechanism. There are cable TV organizations, broadcasters' organizations. If a Trade Union calls for an agitation or protest, then, all media write against them. This is another monopoly of these types of organizations. The Government should consider this issue. Because of time-constraint, I would not like to take up more points. There is an important issue of 'paid news', which has already been mentioned by some colleagues. There is an issue of Private treaties. If you go to the website of some newspaper, you can see, 'private treaty'. If you open it, you will find 50 to 60 companies names, which means that this newspaper has shares in these companies. Times of India is the largest shareholder in different companies in India. It is an adjustment. You are giving advertisement in the newspaper, and, the company gives shares to that newspaper. It is 'private treaty'. It was already mentioned by some colleague. So, Sir, Paid News is a very serious issue. Sir, I would like to quote the hon. Vice-President of the country. He said that this is a serious threat not only to the freedom of the Press but also to the democracy. The Standing Committee gave serious recommendations and it gave two choices, namely, (i) There should be a statutory body *viz.*, Media Council having eminent persons as its members to look into all media contents, both from print media and electronic media, with powers to take strong action against the defaulters. Under this process, the Press Council of India shall be wound up, or, (ii) the Press Council of India should be revamped and cast with powers to take care of print media and a similar statutory body is to be set up for electronic media. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: I am concluding, Sir. Regarding the Broadcasters' Association and the internal mechanism, there is a Constitutional provision or legislative backing. There is no independence; there is no representative of Parliament or any other body. The Government should take up this issue also. Regarding the cross-media ownership, the recommendations of the Standing Committee ...(*Time-bell rings*)... This is my last sentence. They should take it up on priority basis and act so as to prevent monopolistic trends in the media. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Dr. Keshava Rao.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, first of all, no sane person in this country would say that there should not be freedom of the press. Everybody would abide by it, and, I have been a journalist of some reckoning. I opposed censorship of the Press, and, my paper was blacklisted. This happened during the Emergency. I have been a Member of Indian Union of Working Journalists, so, we know what exactly the Press

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freedom is. I agree with everybody who spoke about the freedom of the Press. There is nothing more which I can add. I totally agree with Mr. Rajeev who said that there has to be a Council, there has to be some kind of monitoring but what exactly is this. As Derek says, the issue today is that indirectly, or, clandestinely somebody wants to focus on something else. What is their focus? There is timing of the debate and the focus of the debate. While speaking this, you really brought in something which is happening in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Sir, yesterday, I gave you a notice that we should discuss about the Press freedom in Telangana because the two premier TV channels of Telangana, known as T-News, and, V-6, have been banned in Andhra from day one. But we did not complain to Javadekar ji, the Chief Minister, the Police or Mr. Chairman. We thought that in a democracy, people will set it right. We thought, we should bear with it. This is one question. But what exactly happened, and, what was the focus that my friend wanted to bring in?

Telangana channels, I understand, had banned telecast of two TV programmes. Why did they do it? I would totally agree with you that it should not have happened. They should have not indulged in this kind of suppression or this kind of control. But that is exactly the question I would like to ask because I don't want to spoil the very mood of this House, nor do I want to indulge in vulgarity. Do you know what is being opposed? None of you know. I know you are all talking because you don't know the background, the news report. Ramesh *sahib* would talk after this, I know. The content of these two programmes is unspeakable, I am telling you, Sir, if anyone here, only one I am asking, agrees that this is freedom of Press, I will * myself, I will * myself here in this House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Don't make such statements.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: All right. You remove it, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't make such statements. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: As a journalist I am talking to you; as a writer I am talking to you; as a citizen I am talking to you; as a democrat I am talking to you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Do you know what it says, Sir? “इस आदमी को काट कर बगैर नमक और मिर्ची के सब लोगों को खिला दीजिए” और कहते हैं, “अरे महापापी, because they are opposed to Telangana. In our State, there were two regions. The Andhra region was certainly opposed to Telangana. So, what they say is, ‘अरे महापापी,

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

अरे कोढ़ी, अरे लेपर्स, तेरी सूरत देखें तो सबको आता है है बीपी' और कहते हैं- 'अरे *, अरे जिराफी...' मैं अपशब्द नहीं बोलता, कितनी अभी ऐसी बातें हैं। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: * is expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*... The word '* is expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is unparliamentary. It is expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I am urging you to expunge any bad word, any vulgarity. But, unfortunately, that is there in the CD. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.M. RAMESH (Telangana): Sir, why is he targeting ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is expunged. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have expunged it. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Ramesh, don't waste time. ...*(Interruptions)*... You will not get time. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am giving you a chance. Then, you can ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Ramesh, you can reply when your chance comes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I am telling you to please expunge because this is something which I feel myself ashamed to quote. I hang my head in shame. He wants not to refer these CDs to you. But I want to send it to everyone of you to see how they have coerced me or all the agitators of Telangana. They continue to do it. They come and explain to me; they come and apologise to me; they come and touch my feet. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am asking Rameshji ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Sir, he is ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will get your chance to reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... You please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: I ask the journalists. Do you think this is freedom of Press? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, you will not get chance. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: The words are used with vulgarity ...*(Interruptions)*... This is what we are opposing, but not the freedom of Press. Freedom of Press must be there. Mr. Javadekar and myself have been members of the PCI. We have both sat together for the amendment to the Act. We said it is not only necessary to have the PCI, but it should also have teeth. And again, we said that it should be all over the States. Then again came a proposal from the Vice-President of India, the Chairman of this House, who

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

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said: Why don't we have a National Council for the Press? We agreed. We have been working on that. That is what exactly all the Members here are speaking but nobody is trying to defocus because clandestinely they are bringing about these two CDs. I am sure, none of you agree that this is freedom of Press. Even the first speaker came out and said we are all disagreeable to the content, as Mr. Ramesh is saying. Just saying 'disagreeable' will not help. What do we do, is the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Sir, he is taking my name. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Ramesh, you will not get time, if you waste time.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I don't want to get into any controversy at all. I want you to join me. ...*(Time-bell rings)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your time is over. Please conclude.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Just one thing, Sir. Mr. Javadekar wrote a letter to a State Government. The Secretary gave a show cause notice. We all welcome. But the State Government has nothing to do with the case. ...*(Interruptions)*... But TV Channels went to the court. The court has rejected this. The High Court has rejected this. Having seen this content, they say this is not freedom of Press. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: It is not rejected. ...*(Interruptions)*... They said ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramesh, this is very bad on your part. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: If they think, I withdraw that also. Whatever it is...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Keshava Raoji, please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, only the last sentence. I am agreeing with the Central Government, Mr. Javadekar being in the seat. I have worked with him for four years in the PCI. Let us do something about this arrogance, this blackmailing. Let not everything happen like this. But please understand it is true that we can not take to law.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat. Okay.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Even I would not have only banned, but I would have done something else. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy. You take less than four or five minutes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I will speak very briefly.

Sir, there is no doubt that in a democratic country freedom of the Press is very important. It is the Press which is the mouthpiece of the public. It is the Press which communicates the people's feeling to the people. It is an accepted fact. The only issue is this. Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Mr. Chowdary and Mr. Ramesh have talked about it. TV9 and ABN Andhrajyothi are very popular TV channels. They have also been playing a very important role. They have been friendly with everybody. Sometimes, unfortunately, what happens is that you are going by a car and suddenly an accident takes place. There is no answer for that. Here also some accidental communication took place in such a way that it hurt the feelings of Telangana leaders. Dr. Keshava Rao explained and showed it to me. I was surprised to read the language which they used. Maybe it was used accidentally or innocently or by mistake. But that is a different issue. We cannot blame everybody. But something like this has happened. This has hurt their feelings. They have also realised it. In fact, I also spoke to them. I asked them what happened and I told them to patch up with them. They are ready for it. But the kind of language used provoked the Telangana Government to such an extent that it made them very, very upset and it lost the patience. It appears that they are not prepared to patch up with them. Anger is a human feeling. But you must calm down. We should not resort to retaliation.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr. Prakash Javadekar, is always cool and smiling. He is a smart and balanced person. He is capable of solving the problem. He should tell them that they should never repeat such a mistake from the media point of view. At the same time, the Telangana Government, which is very angry, should calm down. You can mediate and ask it to patch up with them. That is very important. I am again repeating that it was an accident. It was not intentional. It happened by mistake. But if it is a mistake or not, an accident is an accident and there will be pain. Similarly, when the media hurt the feelings of the people of Telangana, naturally they would feel angry. But there must be a solution. So many days have already passed. We are also missing it. It is a good channel. It brings news of Hyderabad city every day. All of us want a solution.

This debate has three parts. One, in a democratic country, the freedom of the media is very important. Nobody denies it. It is very important. Two, every Government, whether

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

at the State or at the Centre, supports it. Three, when this type of unexpected clashes come, a solution is required.

Therefore, I request Mr. Javadekar to intervene and solve the problem. He can ask them to patch up with them. The Telangana Government should calm down. And the media should not repeat this kind of mistake in the future. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री विजय गोयल (राजस्थान) : उपसभापति जी, इस महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूँ। फिक्की-के.पी.एम.जी. रिपोर्ट के अनुसार हमारे देश के अंदर मीडिया एंटरटेनमेंट इंडस्ट्री अभी 16 करोड़ 10 लाख परिवारों तक पहुंचती है। 800 टी.वी. चैनल्स हैं, जिनमें 350 न्यूज चैनल्स हैं। 95 हजार समाचारपत्र हैं, 2 हजार मल्टीप्लेक्स हैं, 21 करोड़ 40 लाख लोग इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करने वाले हैं। 130 मिलियन लोग मोबाइल फोन पर इंटरनेट को देखते हैं। तो दिलों-दिमाग के ऊपर पूरा मीडिया छाया हुआ है, इसलिए मीडिया की भूमिका भी बहुत बड़ी है, किंतु मैं समझता हूँ कि आज जितनी महत्वपूर्ण यह डिबेट है, उतनी बेमानी भी है। बेमानी में इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि मीडिया इंडस्ट्री भी अब कॉमर्शियल इंडस्ट्री हो गई है। इसके अंदर कॉर्पोरेट लोग इन्वेस्ट करेंगे। मुझे नहीं मालूम है कि सरकार उसको किस तरह से रोक पाएगी। यहां पर कह देना एक अलग बात है, किन्तु उसका हल ढूंढना दूसरी बात है, क्योंकि आज मीडिया इंडस्ट्री में इतना कंपीटीशन है, न केवल सोशल मीडिया से, न केवल इंटरनेट, बल्कि वर्ल्डवाइड, वैश्विक कंपीटीशन जो उनके सामने है, उससे इन्वेस्टमेंट्स जरूर आएंगी। और जब यहां पर investments आएंगी तो जाहिर तौर पर लोग चाहेंगे कि इसका प्रचार और प्रसार बढ़े, लेकिन मीडिया की आजादी खतरे में न पड़े, इस बात पर हमें ध्यान देना होगा। आज पेड न्यूज का दौर है। संपादकों की भूमिका कम हो रही है, संपादकों की स्वतंत्रता घट रही है, बड़े औद्योगिक घरानों का दखल हो रहा है और बाजारों की होड़ ने मीडिया की आजादी के सामने बड़े खतरे पैदा कर दिए हैं। आज 300 से ज्यादा चैनल घाटे में चल रहे हैं। वे उन्हें घाटे में क्यों चला रहे हैं, मुझे नहीं पता। मैं यह समझ सकता हूँ कि आज मीडियाकर्मियों के लिए कितना चैलेंज है, एक-एक रिपोर्टर को न्यूज लाने के लिए कितना दौड़ना पड़ता है और एक-एक रिपोर्टर और मीडिया के लोग किस तरह से मेहनत करते हैं, उसकी मैं प्रशंसा करना चाहता हूँ। मैं एक बात की और प्रशंसा करना चाहता हूँ कि आज दूरदर्शन, राज्य सभा और लोक सभा चैनल भी कॉमर्शियल चैनल्स की तरह चल रहे हैं, कोई पक्षपात नहीं कर रहे, गवर्नमेंट का spokesperson बनकर काम नहीं कर रहे। अगर मीडिया ने रिपोर्ट किया है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के अंदर हिंसा की घटनाएं बढ़ रही हैं, मीडिया ने रिपोर्ट किया है कि अन्ना हजारे बहुत अच्छे व्यक्ति हैं या मीडिया ने 'निर्भया कांड' को रिपोर्ट किया है तो मैं समझता हूँ कि वह सब रिपोर्टिंग अच्छी है, लेकिन बचपन से लेकर आज तक जो हम अखबारों के अंदर पढ़ते आए हैं, आज नेगेटिव न्यूज ज्यादा हैवी हैं। न्यूज चैनल्स पर भी हमें 'कॉमेडी नाइट्स' के कपिल शर्मा देखने को मिलते हैं क्योंकि वे अच्छे कलाकार हैं। हम यह देखते हैं कि कई बार रिपोर्ट्स को इस तरह से तोड़-मरोड़कर पेश किया जाता है, जिस पर जनता विश्वास कर लेती है, चाहे वह प्रिंट मीडिया हो या न्यूज चैनल्स हों, उस पर लोग विश्वास कर लेती हैं। मुझे लगता है कि चूंकि मीडिया का प्रभाव बहुत अधिक बढ़ रहा है, इसलिए उनकी जिम्मेदारी भी बहुत

ज्यादा बढ़ जाती है। हम सब चुनाव लड़ते हैं। हमने देखा है कि चुनाव के अंदर पोस्टर पर बैन है, होर्डिंग पर बैन है, बैनर पर बैन है। तब एक ही चीज़ खुली हुई है, जिसके ऊपर कोई भी अंकुश नहीं है और वह है, समाचारपत्र। इस प्रकार समाचारपत्र कुछ भी, कभी भी, कैसे भी छापेंगे, उसके ऊपर कुछ होना चाहिए। मैं मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि जो न्यूज़पेपर के रिपोर्टर्स पर अटैक हुआ, मैं इनका बयान पढ़ रहा था, उसके लिए भी आप कोई प्रावधान लाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं क्योंकि आज रिपोर्टिंग करना खतरे से खाली नहीं रहा है। पिछले दिनों हमारे पास ऐसे मामले आए हैं। उपसभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे बहुत कम समय दिया है, मैं चाहता हूँ कि प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता...

श्री उपसभापति : आपकी पार्टी ने बाकी टाइम इनको दिया है।

श्री विजय गोयल : मैं सही समय पर समाप्त कर रहा हूँ। प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता बहुत जरूरी है और कम से कम अगर आपको करना है तो बी.बी.सी. मॉडल अपनाना होगा, जिसके अंदर ट्रस्ट बनेगा और जिसमें गवर्नमेंट और इंडिपेंडेंट एजेंसीज का पैसा आएगा, तब तो वह सिस्टम होगा। मुझे नहीं पता कि corporate घराने को रोकने के लिए कोई क्या हल लाएगा। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... अगर हमारे फेवर में न्यूज़ छपती है तो मीडिया हमें अच्छा लगता है और हमारे विरुद्ध छपती है तो हमें ऐसा लगता है कि सारा का सारा गलत है। धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Sanjay Raut, not here. Then, Mr. D. Raja.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, free Press, independent media, is the strength of our democracy. It plays a very important role in building public opinion. It plays a catalyst role in leading the people into actions. It, in fact, conditions the thinking of the people. It shapes the views of the people. Thereby, it strengthens the Indian democracy, as we have today.

Sir, the disturbing feature and the distressing trend is, the ownership of media houses is increasingly passing into the hands of corporate houses. It adversely impacts the objectivity and neutrality of news and views. In fact, the journalists, whether they are working journalists or non-journalists or employees, are treated as workers and their condition is very miserable. I can say, the mouse which they hold in their hands, the pen which they hold in their hands, can be mightier, but these journalists lead a miserable life. For instance, when my good friend, Mr. Oscar Fernandes was the Minister, I did go to him with a demand for constitution of a Wage Board. A Wage Board was constituted headed by Justice Majitha. The Wage Board gave its recommendations. The Government of India notified the recommendations on 11th November, 2011. The Supreme Court issued orders in the month of February, 2014 asking that these recommendations must be implemented by the print and electronic media managements. There are a few managements which implemented these recommendations, but they have done it very partially. Many

[Shri D. Raja]

managements do not implement these recommendations. Why? The present Government should take note of these recommendations. I think, my good friend, Mr. Javadekar will address this serious question. Journalists have to fight for their livelihood, for their job security and fight for their rights. Non-journalist employees do fight for their rights. For instance, we have two major news agencies – one is the PTI and the other is the UNI. The UNI is in a very deep economic crisis. Journalists and employees do not get their salaries for months together. How are you going to address this issue? As a Government you need to come forward to help such an agency, and to protect the interests of Journalists and non-Journalist employees.

Now, we are discussing this issue in the context of what has happened or what is happening in Telangana and Andhra States. I do not want to add much after hearing our good friend, Dr. Subbarami Reddy, and issues will have to be sorted out. There are various ways to sort out these issues, whether it is the Assembly or Parliament, there is a way to tackle it. The House can take its own course of action. There is a legal course also. Despite all these things, we should not try to suppress the media, or, going in for censorship of the press or the TV. There I think the Press Council of India has a role. The Press Council of India does not have teeth to bite and bring discipline. The Press Council of India should have statutes, should have certain legal powers to act, whether you call it Media Council or you strengthen the existing Press Council, it is for the Government. But we will have to uphold the freedom of the press. We will have to uphold the independence of the media, and they are the strength of the Indian democracy. Thank you.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you very much, Sir. I have been listening very patiently to what everyone has said. Of course, there is a lot of valuable suggestions and common sense there. I want to specifically address certain issues concerning the State of Telangana. Telangana is a new State that has come into being. Here is a golden opportunity whereby we can evolve as a very responsible Government, and media which would collectively able to serve the purpose and end what Telangana tries to achieve. Unfortunately there has been a very acrimonious start to what has happened there. Media is not just a media. It is the fourth pillar of our democracy. We expect from the media a kind of accountability and responsibility. There will be aberrations. There will be misreporting. There will be enhanced and enraged sentiments that come about as we have witnessed across the country and my respected colleagues have articulated here. But does that mean that there are no courses on which we can do course corrections. Is it that we are so helpless that we can't set things right? Are we saying that by that violation of the concerned media we are in a righteous position whereby we will compound the injury by acting extra constitutionally? There are checks

and balances which are inherent in our great democracy whereby we correct ourselves and nudge each other in that direction of rightness. When that dissolves, there will be civil unrest. Today this Parliament is going to be discussing amendments to juvenile justice laws. There is social media that comes about into that. We are able to coerce young impressionable minds to go and meet unknowns and strangers. We are able to sit back and watch paedophiles preying on young children, who have access to Internet and pornography. We are unable to control free access to pornography all over the country, and you have juveniles committing crimes, which is now going to make sure that we bring amendments to juvenile justice laws. All of these are spinoffs of aberrations. So what do you do? Do we go ahead and then violate rules that have been issued by TRAI? No multisystem operator can just arbitrarily take off air channels as has been done in Telangana. If the channels have been abusive or offensive, it is not acceptable to anyone. Anyone with any sense of rightness or decency will not contribute to that. But there are corrective measures. There are methods by which we can set them on to the right path. This kind of one-upmanship where we are going to show muscle and might against each other, the Executive and the media, is not going to give you the desired results. Hence we come to Assemblies and the Parliament where we raise issues like this to ensure that this goes back into course correction and it would be wise, if it is self-regulatory. If you take off two prime channels because of our injured sense of self, number one, it shows you as being far more vulnerable than what you are. You are Chief Ministers of States and you should have the authority and the accountability whereby the citizens of the State see you as a person who is fair, who can correct things and who can continue maintaining the pillars of democracy. That is the primary concern that we address, and not the individual egos that go into deteriorating systems like this. This will only lead to deterioration of law and order in these places. The Government of Telangana must realize that they have to be able to come forward. You are the Government. You are the one who is supposed to be accountable and responsible. Now whatever you have objected to is heard by all and you can set it up on different fora whereby these will be addressed and corrections will take place. But if you are going to be an offender as well, then I am sorry there is no public sympathy. The larger picture is of the freedom of Press; the ability of the Press to articulate what is happening and more important, to reflect what happens in the society. It is not that the media is always right. We have had enough and more incidents where we are all witness to history, where we have seen how the media leans one way or the other. It is better that they also apply corrections to themselves and be self-regulatory before other people step forward and intervene, which will be unpleasant for everyone. Sir, this House has, on several occasions, discussed what else needs to be done for the media. First, the Press Council is completely toothless. What is the point of having a

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

figurehead and a rubberstamp if we are not going to empower them to take up issues whereby they will be able to mediate and set the things right? At one time, when we were on the other side of the Benches, the BJP had at that point said that we should look into having an amendment and bring about different legislations which will set right such instances and that will be a separate enactment for print media and for visual media to ensure that they contain the autonomies and are able to police them in that sense. Now policing doesn't have to necessarily be a bad word. On the social media, if the House recalls, when Shri Kapil Sibal brought about a thought that there should be a restraint on the social media, we had a mass reaction, a thoughtless mass reaction, where we had people howling for the freedom of Press without understanding the dimensions, the national security risks, the influence on juveniles, what happens to vulnerable women and many aspects of our society which go through the prism of our social media. And while we all encourage that we must have access to free Press, free Press must also come forward with their own sense of responsibility and accountability, as they remain the fourth pillar of our democracy. ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Sir, I am concluding. In the absence of scientific policing, our policemen are tired everywhere. We need to be able to have enhanced policing systems. You need to bring in police reforms. Otherwise, the CBI has to start investigating every rape situation in this country. We did bring about checks, at one point, that we would not allow victims' names to be shown or children to be shown in public. All these issues have been taken up and addressed, and some semblance of order has come about. However, this is not sufficient. So, while we address the Press Council, give them more teeth and empower the media, we also need to look at ourselves as the Administrators of the Executive, like, we should, in the State of Telangana, to ensure that there is a holistic integration and that we come out with peaceful solutions which will be productive to all. Thank you very much for kind and patient hearing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale. Not present. He was insisting and he is not present! Now, Shri CM. Ramesh.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Sir, because of the limited time, I would only speak about the ban of two channels.

The objective of media, be it print, electronic or social, is to educate the people and, I would say, it can also swipe at policies, programmes and various other issues for the benefit of the people. Media can even use humour or satirical shows to put forth its point. For example, Aaj Tak telecasts a humorous programme called "So Sorry", the NDTV telecasts "Great Indian Tamasha" and there are many other channels which telecast such shows. The objective behind these is only to take the message to the people and not to hurt or criticize anybody. So, it should be taken in that spirit.

From the night of 15th June, 2014, the Telangana Multi System Operators Association stopped airing popular Telugu TV Channels, TV9 and ABN Andhra Jyoti, in the State of Telangana without giving any notice to cable subscribers and also to TV channels. It is in violation of Sub-regulation 10 (2) of the Standard of Quality Regulation, 2012 issued by TRAI for DAS areas which says: "No multi-system operator shall take off the air or discontinue exhibition of any channel without giving prior notice of 15 days to the subscribers and such notice shall be published in the local newspaper and displayed through scrolls on TV screen."

In the same way, a similar provision exists in Sub-regulation 17 of the Standard of Quality Service (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Regulations, 2009 for non-DAS areas which says,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramesh, just a minute. Hon. Members, we have to take one of the following decisions, that is, either to postpone the discussion or we postpone the time of the Private Members Business from 3.30 p.m. to whatever time the House decides. We will allow 15 minutes, otherwise, we will see. To that extent Private Members' Bills time will also be extended. We will allow 15 minutes which is including the reply of the Minister.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Sir, including the Minister's reply it may take 25 minutes. Kindly consider.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, how many more speakers are there?

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Telangana): Sir, a solution should be found out. That is the main point. Let them take time and you consider this thing. After that, he will talk to the Chief Minister and finalise. How long should it go on?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Mr. Ramesh, you take two more minutes. Mr. Chowdhury, as you are the initiator, you take two minutes. The total is four minutes. The Minister will reply in ten minutes. So the total is 15 minutes.

SHRI C. M. RAMESH: "No channel shall be taken off or discontinued from the cable television network by a cable operator or multi-system operators, as the case may be, without giving prior notice of, at least, three weeks to the subscribers along with the reasons for taking it off or discontinuing it and the cable operator or multi-system operator, as the case may be, shall give such notice in an appropriate manner to its subscribers." Even the terms and conditions of the Registration given in sub-rule SA of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, cable operator/multi system operator should comply

[Shri C.M. Ramesh]

with regulations. And, the most important point is that the action of Telangana Multi System Operators Association (TMSOA) violates Article 19 of the Constitution which gives freedom of speech and expression. So, it is clear that Telangana Multi System Operators Association (TMSOA) has not only violated the above regulations but also Article 19 of the Constitution which gives freedom of speech and expression. I would say that Telangana Multi System Operators Association (TMSOA) has acted maliciously and arbitrarily.

In view of the above, I request Ministry of I & B to immediately intervene in the matter and direct the Telangana Multi System Operators Association (TMSOA) to start telecast of both TV9 and ABN. ****Earlier also, seven or eight years back, the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh * in the same manner wanted to ***

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That name is expunged. Please sit down. The name is expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't take such names who is no more. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have expunged. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, people also want to...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; you please sit down. I have expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Ramesh, don't create problems. Please sit down.

SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Sir, just one minute. ****Just before elections, these two channels have predicted that my party, TDP will get 0-3 MP seats, and 23 Assembly seat respectively.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now please sit down. That's all. Now, Shri Chowdary. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: That has been the violation of the ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Renuka, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Ramesh, sit down. Don't waste time, I am allowing Shri Y. S. Chowdary who was the initiator. I am giving him two minutes.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me again an opportunity to conclude this discussion. My worry is this. Mainly, I request this entire august House to focus on its repercussions and its ramifications which happen. If any

**English Translation of the original speech made in Telugu.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

State Government takes this kind of autocratic decisions, many investors from foreign countries are afraid of coming into our country. That is an important thing. Otherwise, if it goes into a 'Princely State matter', again and again it gets into a dictatorship. That is the most dangerous thing.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHARAO: Sir, if he says that, I will also talk about the former Chief Minister ...*(Interruptions)*... What is he saying? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down. He has not mentioned any name ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Similarly, this will also lead to many legal issues. It impact investments, Ad-revenues, etc. People must have paid service charges for viewing these channels. So, all these problems will come in. If we remember, I would like to remind this august House, as a matter of fact, two years ago...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have only ten minutes. Now, you limit to yourself. Otherwise, reply will become shorter.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: ...I have introduced a Private Member Bill to establish FCC. There is no need for reinventing the wheel. In the US, there is a Federal Commission for Communication ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, it is over. Let the Minister reply.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: In 1992, when the Securities Scam unfolded, we got SEBI. Similarly, there is a Commission ...*(time-bell rings)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We extended time only up to 3.45 p.m. Minister has to reply. There is no time.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: I take only two minutes ...*(Interruptions)*... I will take only one minute ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you go on speaking, Minister will have no time ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: One minute, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you have given me four minutes ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please, sit down ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: As I was saying in the morning, the State Government became a mute spectator ...*(Interruptions)*... In the last two months, I think, ten times

[Shri Y. S. Chowdary]

I must have requested our hon. Minister. I don't want the Central Government also to become a mute spectator. I want the Central Government to take some action. That is my demand, Sir. Thank you.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Maharashtra): Sir, I want to speak for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it is not possible now. I have already announced that extension will be only up to 3.45 p.m. The Minister has only ten minutes. Now, it is not possible. I called you, but you were not there. We cannot function in this way. No, no. I cannot allow that. There should be some discipline.

श्री रामदास अठावले : सर, मुझे दो मिनट दे दीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time extended only for fifteen minutes. The Minister has only ten minutes. I called your name, but you were not there. Now, you sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot allow this way.

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री: पर्यावरण वन और जलवायु परि वर्तन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर) : सर, प्रेस और मीडिया से संबंधित बहुत सारे इश्यूज के बारे में बहुत सार्थक चर्चा इस सदन में हुई। के.सी. त्यागी जी, नरेश गुजराल जी, भुंडर जी, वाई.एस. चौधरी जी, आनंद रापोलू जी, तरुण विजय जी, ब्रजेश पाठक जी, देरेक ओब्राईन जी, हरिवंश जी, नरेश अग्रवाल जी, पी. राजीव जी, केशव राव जी, सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी, विजय गोयल जी, डी. राजा जी, रेणुका चौधरी जी और सी.एम. रमेश जी, all have passionately put forth their views. There are four issues. I will not take long time. अगर कोई मुझसे पूछे कि संविधान की आत्मा क्या है? संविधान ने हमें जो सात स्वतंत्रताएं दी हैं, उनमें Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Organisation भी है। ये इतने महत्वपूर्ण हैं कि इसके अंतर्गत अपने रिलीजन आदि पर विचार करने की जो सात आजादी संविधान ने हमें दी है, यह हमारी बहुत बड़ी विरासत है। इसलिए जब हम शपथ लेते हैं, तब एक शब्द बड़ा अच्छा होता है कि मैं देश के संविधान के प्रति निष्ठा रखूंगा और अपने कर्तव्यों को अक्षुण्ण रखूंगा। वैसे ही मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की भूमिका यही है कि प्रेस की आजादी भी उसी संविधान की धाराओं से निकलती है और इसलिए प्रेस की आजादी को हम अक्षुण्ण रखेंगे, उस पर कभी आंच नहीं आने देंगे। यह निश्चित है। लेकिन मैं मीडिया को भी यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि press freedom has not come for free. लोकमान्य तिलक जी या आजादी में लगे हमारे सभी स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों ने एक-एक आर्टिकल लिखा, इसलिए ब्रिटिशों ने उनको सात-सात साल जेल की सजा दी। प्रेस फ्रीडम हमें फ्री में नहीं मिली है, इसके लिए लोगों ने लड़ाई लड़ी है और आजादी के बाद भी जब 1975 में इसकी आजादी पर पूरी तरह से पाबंदी लगी और ऑर्गनाइजेशन तथा प्रेस की फ्रीडम को खत्म किया गया था, तो इसके लिए हमने हमारी जवानी के दिन जेल में काटे। वह इसलिए काटे, क्योंकि पता नहीं था कि कितने महीने के बाद छोड़ेंगे या

कितने साल के बाद छोड़ेंगे, क्योंकि जब हम लड़ाई लड़ कर जेल में गए, तब नेशनल मंडेला को 12 साल हुए थे, उस समय हम सोचते थे कि कितने सालों के बाद हमें छोड़ेंगे या नहीं छोड़ेंगे। हमने उसको सहन किया, क्योंकि यह आजादी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और इसलिए हमने इसकी कीमत चुकाई है। आजादी से पहले हमारे स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों ने इसकी कीमत चुकाई है, इसलिए प्रेस फ्रीडम का बहुत महत्व है और उसे अक्षुण्ण रखना चाहिए। No freedom come without responsibilities. That is also an important truth. यह रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी के बिना नहीं होगा और उसकी एक सीमा रेखा होती है। मेरे पिताजी 50 सालों तक पत्रकार रहे, इसलिए मैं इससे जुड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं पत्रकारों के साथ ही रहा, पत्रकार नगर में ही रहा और हमने पत्रकारों की लड़ाई लड़ी। आप ऐसा समझिए कि एक तरह से मेरा भी यही प्रोफेशन है। मैं हमेशा सोचता हूँ कि वह भी एक रेस्पॉसिबिलिटी है। इसमें अधिकार भी है और जिम्मेवारी भी है और जब हम इन दोनों को मिलाकर चलेंगे तब ही लोकतंत्र सफल होगा। इस आजादी को अक्षुण्ण रखने की जिम्मेवारी सरकार की भी है और प्रेस की भी है कि वह अपने कर्तव्यों और आजादी का उपयोग जिम्मेवारी से करे, लेकिन आज जब कुछ होता है तब बहुत सारा होता है। चूंकि इमरजेंसी का अनुभव है, इसलिए हम कभी नहीं सोचेंगे कि उस पर प्रतिबंध लगाएं, लेकिन खुद का एक सेल्फ मैकेनिज्म है, इसे मैं सेल्फ रेगुलेशन भी नहीं कहता क्योंकि रेगुलेशन में भी 'रेगुलेशन' शब्द आता है और वह मुझे ज्यादा पसंद नहीं है। मीडिया को एक सेल्फ मैकेनिज्म इवॉल्व करना चाहिए जो इस बात के लिए सही मात्रा में काम करे कि यह जिम्मेवार है और वह जिम्मेवार नहीं है। जो जिम्मेवारी से यह नहीं कर रहे हैं, उनके लिए कोई दंड की व्यवस्था हो।

प्रेस काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया एक ऐक्ट के तहत है, लेकिन जैसा कि सब लोगों ने कहा, मैं भी प्रेस काउंसिल का मेम्बर था, उसमें केशव राव जी भी थे, उसमें सभी थे। उसमें पेड न्यूज की भी चर्चा हुई और प्रेस काउंसिल की पावर की भी चर्चा हुई, and it has bacome a toothless wonder. स्थिति यह है कि उनके आदेश को आप छापते भी नहीं हैं, इसलिए यह मसला प्रेस काउंसिल के पास है। मैं भी कमिटी में था, ये दोनों भी थे और हमने इस बारे में सुझाव तैयार किए थे। वे सुझाव प्रेस काउंसिल के पास है, उन पर उसकी राय आएगी, लेकिन प्रेस काउंसिल की आज यह दशा है।

न्यूज में जो इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया है, वह इसके दायरे में नहीं आता है। उन्होंने अपनी खुद की एक संस्था तैयार की है, जिसे न्यूज ब्रॉडकास्टर्स एसोसिएशन कहते हैं और जिसके प्रमुख पूर्व चीफ जस्टिस रविन्द्रन हैं। इससे पहले इसके प्रमुख वर्मा जी थे। यह एक प्रयास हुआ है और इसमें कुछ सफलता भी प्राप्त हुई है, लेकिन अभी कुछ अपेक्षाएं और भी बाकी हैं। एन्टरटेनमेंट के लिए भी एक संस्था 'ट्रिपल सी' है, जिसके अध्यक्ष मुद्गल जी हैं। ये संस्थाएं सरकार ने नहीं बनाई हैं, ये उन्हीं व्यवसायिकों ने बनाई हैं। जो इशतहार हैं, उनमें से बहुत सारे इशतहार ऐसे हैं, जिनके बारे में सब लोग कहते हैं कि ऐसे इशतहार कैसे पास होते हैं, तो मैंने कहा कि इसका कोई सेंसर नहीं है, लेकिन ऐडवरटाइजमेंट इंडस्ट्रीज ने 'ए.एस.सी.आई.' नामक का एक बोर्ड बनाया है। आई. एंड बी. मंत्रालय या जहां कहीं भी अगर कम्प्लेंट्स आती हैं, तो उन्हें हम उनको देते हैं और उसके बाद उन पर कार्रवाई होती है। लेकिन, इन सारी मशीनरीज में भी और जान फूंकने की

[श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर]

जरूरत है। आज सेल्फ रेगुलेशन का जो पूरा रुख है और उसकी जो स्थिति है, उसमें भी सुधार की जरूरत है, क्योंकि बहुत बार मीडिया के द्वारा सेंसरशनलिज्म के लिए खासकर किसी राजनेता के बारे में, चाहे वह कोई भी हो, यहां का हो, वहां का हो या कहीं का भी हो, उसके बारे में अगर थोड़ा न्यूज भी आई तो उसको वे अपने तरह से दिखाते हैं। ऐसे अनेक न्यूज हैं। मैं केवल राजनेताओं के बारे में नहीं कह रहा हूं, मैं केवल राजनीति के बारे में नहीं कह रहा हूं, क्योंकि यह कोई अलग क्लास नहीं है, लेकिन समाज की अनेक घटनाएं इस तरह से दिखाई गई हैं जिनके कारण लोगों ने आत्महत्याएं भी की हैं। ये सारे उदाहरण हैं। मैं यह मानता हूं कि जब आजादी और जिम्मेवारी, दोनों होगी, तभी हमारा देश आगे बढ़ेगा।

महोदय, हमारे सामने दो बड़े मुद्दे हैं। जहां तक सोशल मीडिया की बात है, यह आई.टी. कानून के अंतर्गत आता है। हम सोशल मीडिया पर प्रतिबंध के बारे में तो नहीं सोचते, लेकिन उसमें भी एक ऐसा मैकेनिज्म हो जिससे जिम्मेवारी का वहन हो सके। यह निश्चित रूप से एक विचार का मुद्दा है, लेकिन वह दूसरे मंत्रालय के तहत आता है। पेड न्यूज के संदर्भ में बहुत कुछ हुआ है। मुझे लगता है कि एक ही घटना ने सबको जागृत किया है। पेड न्यूज की क्या सच्चाई है, यह यहां बैठा हर कोई जानता है और मीडिया के मित्र भी जानते हैं। आज मुद्दा है कि जो एम.एस.ओ. द्वारा तेलंगाना में हुआ, ABN Andhra Jyoti and TV9 को एम.एस.ओ. ने बंद किया। मुझे पहले कहा गया कि राज्य सरकार ने कुछ किया है, तो मैंने राज्य सरकार को लिखा। के.सी.आर. मुख्यमंत्री आए, वे तेलंगाना के आंदोलन में हमेशा सक्रिय रहे। इसलिए मैंने सीधे उनको चिट्ठी लिखी। हमारे मंत्रालय ने उसका फौलो-अप किया। तब सरकार द्वारा यह कहा गया कि उनका इसमें कोई संबंध नहीं है। तो मैंने कहा कि ठीक है, अब आपका इसमें कोई संबंध नहीं है तो अब मैं इसमें कुछ करूंगा, तो उसका आपको दुख भी नहीं होगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सरकार का इसमें कोई हाथ नहीं है, ऐसा उन्होंने कहा है। अगर उन्होंने कहा है तो अब हम जो करेंगे, उसके लिए उनको दुख भी नहीं होगा। आज मैं 5 बजे एम.एस.ओ. की मीटिंग कर रहा हूं। मीटिंग करके एक प्रयास करेंगे कि यह बहुत अनफॉर्च्यूनेट है, वह खत्म होना चाहिए। इस तरह की सेंसरशिप अगर सरकार नहीं लगा सकती तो कोई एम.एस.ओ. ऐसा नहीं है कि जो इस तरह की सेंसरशिप लगा सके, यह मैं कहना चाहता हूं। इसलिए आज बैठक करेंगे, बैठक करके वही हुआ। तो मैं यह भी बताना चाहता हूं कि कानून अंधा नहीं है, कानून के हाथ में ताकत भी है। We have already issued show cause notices. Under the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, MSOs are granted permission by the Ministry to operate in DSAs notified areas under certain terms and conditions. If the MSOs in DSAs notified areas violate any of the terms and conditions, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting can suspend or revoke the license/registration of MSOs under Section 4(7) of the Cable Act.

तो मैं आज 5 बजे मीटिंग करूंगा, हल का प्रयत्न करूंगा। समाधान होता है तो ठीक है, नहीं तो प्रेस की आजादी अक्षुण्ण रखना और साथ-साथ संविधान की आत्मा को जीवित रखने के लिए जो भी उचित कार्यवाही है, वह कार्यवाही होगी। यह समझना चाहिए। किसी भी एम.एस.ओ. को

ऐसा अधिकार नहीं है कि वह सेंसरशिप लगा सके। बस इतना ही मैं कहना चाहता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, we take up the Private Members' Legislative Business. Bills for Introduction. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, the hon. Minister has not talked about two T.V. Channels of Telangana which have been banned in Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; we take up the Private Members' Legislative Business. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; the time is over. It is already 3.45 p.m., the time is over.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, the Minister has not replied ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is Private Members' time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

No, it is Private Members' time. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is Private Members' time. ...*(Interruptions)*... Private Members' Legislative Business; Bills for introduction. The Medical Consultancy and Other Services (Rationalization of Fees) Bill, 2013; Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर : कोई भेदभाव नहीं है, जो भी एम.एस.ओ. है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I said, " I introduce the Bill".

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But you have not asked my permission. ...*(Interruptions)*... First you ask the permission.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I may be permitted to introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Which Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; you can't do like that.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The Medical Consultancy and Other Services (Rationalisation of Fees) Bill, 2013

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to rationalise the consultancy and other medical services fees for making them affordable for the common man in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Amendment of Article 151)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2014

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I move to for leave introduce a Bill to amend the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

(THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN, in the Chair)

The Endosulfan Pesticide (Prohibition) Bill, 2011

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, from the speech on July 25, I move forward to make a few important mentions about the hazards surrounded around the Endosulfan. I was mentioning while asking for a break that across the globe about 70 nations, in particular the advanced nations, have absolutely banned the Endosulfan usage. Way back in 1989 in India, the CSIR's Lucknow based Industrial Toxicology Research Centre has advised to ban Endosulfan after having an elaborate study. Paracelsus a famous Swiss alchemist known, as the father of modern toxicology, made a mention that the 'dose' is poison. The spread of pesticides becoming universal is eating away generations and generations and their natural resources. They have travelled much far from the usage of organic natural pesticide to control the pests. Now the pesticides are playing a very important role in the rescue operations of farming. Keeping in view the hazards across the nation, particularly in Kerala and several districts of Telangana as well as residuary State of Andhra Pradesh, the Endosulfan has become a terrifying chemical. For the control of the pests, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the usage of herbicides, insecticides and other pesticides has become a very normal practice these days. As it is, the usage of pesticides is carrying hazards to the soil, to the water, particularly the drinking water and health of the living milieu of the rural India. This complication

has guided the advanced nations to create a citizen charter. There must be a citizen guide to save themselves from the spreading complications of pesticides and even at times fertilizers.

But as per my knowledge and study, there is no sensitizing mechanism or proper manual to guide the citizens to save themselves from the complications of the pesticides. Our risk assessment attitude is very poor. Our risk management is also very, very poor. For the several years, farming community has been also asking for improvements and innovations. People are dreaded to take several types of fruit, cereals and other food items, as those food items may carry the residues of Endosulfan-like pesticides. If we take risk assessment in a very precise way, health hazard can be short-term; it may be a normal disturbance to the health; and it can also be chronically dangerous to health. The normal complications being the headache, dizziness and fatigue. That can be manageable. For that, there is citizens' guide. Even if that is not available, we can manage that. But the usage of pesticides like Endosulfan is creating havoc of cancer all across the rural milieu, the farming localities. Agricultural labourers and their families are falling prey to the complications of these hazardous pesticides. At this occasion, this move by my learned colleague, Rajeeveji, of taking note of the findings of 1989 learnings from advanced nations, guidance and directives from the Supreme Court and the prevalent complications all across the nation, shall lead to immediate sensitization of the Union Government to come out with a citizens' guide to save the people from the hazardous environment such as industrial residues, toxic elements and pesticides and also the risk assessment attitude by the Union Health Ministry. Besides that, there shall be an established risk management plan to save the generations. Because the penetration of pesticides is having the sustenance in the human body and also in water for decades and decades. This complication can be properly addressed by a proper risk management plan. With this suggestion, while appreciating the efforts of Rajeeveji to highlight the necessity of moving away from the Endosulfan usage to the extent of complete ban from the nation, I will also call upon the Union Government to take it as a very important life-saving effort for the population of the nation. Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, Mr. S.N. Balagopal. Have you already spoken?

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala) : Sir, don't change my initials.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): You have already spoken or not.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: No, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): One minute. Before you start, if the House permits, I will just call one hon. Member who has to introduce a Bill. Is Dr. Kanwar Deep Singh here? Okay, he is not here. Now, you can start.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir,...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Mr. Balagopal, please confine to your time limit, because we have to complete it.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: I know, Sir, that there are two other Bills. So, I will not take much time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): The Minister has to give the reply. Then, he has to come. We have to complete it within 28 minutes.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, principally, I want to support the Bill introduced by Shri P. Rajeeve. The Endosulfan Pesticide (Prohibition) Bill, 2011 is a welcome move in the backdrop of the revelations related to the endosulfan and its ill-effects on the people throughout the world.

Sir, everyone knows that endosulfan being a controversial agro-chemical, due to its toxicity, due to its potential for bio accumulation and also due to its role as an endocrine disruptor, the Stockholm Convention decided to ban it. Near about 80 countries have banned it. Even the US, which is the major producer of endosulfan, has also banned it. It is mainly produced in US, and, from there, it is coming to other countries. But, Sir, still, a few countries are using it. All the main functions related to human body are related to endocrinology, and that area is also affected by it.

Sir, in Kerala, this is a very serious issue. In one district of Kerala, Kasaragod, endosulfan was used for aerial spray in cashew plantations. It had created a lot of problem and, therefore, it was banned in Kerala some years ago. But, Sir, the ill-effects of the usage of endosulfan is continuously affecting the people. Even the new born children are also affected by it because a lot of genetic problems are there. Mentally-retarded children are there. Government has introduced some pension scheme there. Some continuous health support scheme is there, and special hospitals are also there. So, in Kerala it is banned. Now, because of a court order, it is banned throughout the country. The hon. Minister is here. Throughout the country, it is banned temporarily. But it is secretly used in some

parts of the country. In Kerala, now we are facing some new kinds of diseases. Compared to other parts of the country, we experience the highest percentage of thyroid cancer and pancreas cancer; and also the highest percentage of liver cirrhosis cases is happening in Kerala. There was a study by the RCC, Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum, which was conducted by a group of doctors on these types of cancers, especially, the thyroid and the liver cirrhosis. It is found that its average is very high in Kerala. Sir, I will confess that we are not producing the necessary vegetables and other foodgrains in Kerala. We are importing it from other places. Especially, the vegetables are coming from other places. The secret use of Endosulfan as affecting you also. The hon. Chair is also using these kinds of vegetables. They are using these kinds of endosulfan in other parts of the country and, by eating it, it is proved that these kinds of pesticides create cancer and other kind of problems. Sir, we know that liver is a cleaning factory in our body and the liver is not able to clear or filter the endosulfan and other chemicals which are coming into our liver, and thereby it becomes dysfunctional. Earlier, the cases of liver cirrhosis were mainly reported only among those people who used to drink a lot of liquor. But now a lot of liver cirrhosis cases are reported in Kerala. I think, it is there in other parts also.

So, I request that not only endosulfan but other kinds of pesticides which are creating problems should also be banned. But endosulfan is a proven case. So, the Government should take a very serious step to ban it. Already, there is a court order. So, the Government has to look into it very seriously and it should take some positive measures. With these words, Sir, I support this Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri D. Raja, not present. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise to support the Bill moved by my friend, Shri P. Rajeeve.

Actually usage of endosulfan is so dangerous that it brings death, disease, disability and permanent damage not only in human beings but also in animals and birds. This has been proved very much in Kerala. It has also been found clearly that when the Plantation Corporation Limited, which is owned by Kerala Government, had sprayed endosulfan on the cashew plantation, it caused heavy damage to the lives of the people living there. Sir, I support the Bill moved by my friend, Mr. Rajeeve.

Sir, the use of Endosulfan is so dangerous that it causes death, disease, disability and permanent damage to not only human beings, but also animals and birds. This has been very much proved in Kerala. Also, it has been clearly found that when the

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

Plantation Corporation Limited, which is owned by the Kerala Government, had sprayed Endosulfan on the cashew plantation, it caused a heavy damage to the people living there. Thereafter, the Kerala Government banned it. Now, what we need to bear in mind is that the manufacture, storing, selling or keeping it in whatever form, should be made a punishable offence. Banning alone is of no use. Now, it has been said that after Kerala, it has been banned all over India, but even after being banned, if a man is found hiding it in his room and using it later, what is the punishment? Mr. Rajeeve, this is the actual question before us. The Bill here says that the import of Endosulfan and its alternatives from other countries should be banned. Clause 93 of the Bill says that whoever manufactures, sells or exhibits for sale the prohibited Endosulfan pesticide, under this Act, shall be liable to be punished with imprisonment for six months, which may be extended up to two years, or, with a fine of not less than ₹ 25,000. This is actually a very mild and lenient punishment. This is the problem. If you really want to ban this pesticide, the punishment should be severe, so that unscrupulous dealers, who buy and sell these types of pesticides, are deterred from doing so.

Sir, I would also like to say that farmers and people who get affected by the use of this pesticide should be provided with relief and compensation. I propose that they be also given medical treatment at Government expenses.

Sir, in conclusion, I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister and friends here that we should go in for organic farming, which would bring no side-effects and which would not damage the soil or the nutrient value of the land. Agricultural research institutions, like the ICAR, should come forward to demonstrate this type of farming amongst the agricultural community.

Sir, once again, I support the Bill moved by Mr. Rajeeve. This is a very important Bill. It should be implemented in such a way that the ban creates fear among the people and they keep themselves away from using this Endosulfan. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Thank you. Now, the hon. Minister may make his observations.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): Sir, first of all, I would like to say one thing—We all should accept that pesticides play an important role in sustaining agricultural production, by protecting the crops from attacks by pests. That is the first point. But, here, the main

point to remember is that all pesticides have toxic properties and, therefore, need to be regulated. India has a system to regulate the use of insecticides under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The import, manufacture, sale, transportation, distribution and use of pesticides is regulated under this Act and the Insecticides Rules, 1971. Under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, a Registration Committee has been constituted, which registered pesticides for import and manufacture in the country after satisfying itself regarding the efficacy of pesticides and their safety to human beings, animals and environment.

Now, let us talk about Endosulfan. India was the largest producer and exporter of Endosulfan in 2009-10. its production was 9,800 metric tons and India's consumption was 3,333 metric tons. Apart from India, Argentina, Australia, USA, Brazil, China, Mexico and Pakistan were the other major consumption countries. Now, let us review the matter relating to the use of Endosulfan in Kerala. Health problems were reported from Kasargod district in Kerala, where aerial spraying of Endosulfan on cashew plantation by the Plantation Corporation of Kerala was being undertaken since 1981. Several committees were appointed by the State Government and other organizations, 2000 onwards, when this was reported, to review the effect of Endosulfan on human health and environment in that particular district. The first committee was that of the National Institute of Occupational Health. It submitted two reports in December, 2001 and July, 2002. The reports concluded that there was a higher prevalence of neuro-behavioural disorders, congenital malformation in females, male reproductive failure and male reproductive abnormality. This Committee says that relatively high and continuous exposure to endosulfan is most probably the cause of health problem in Kasargod district. It also mentioned that physiography of Padre village, where there are several water bodies, as Mr. Rajeev knows, is exposed to endosulfan. This was the main factor, as this Committee said. Then there was second Committee, Dr. O.P. Dubey Committee, appointed in 2003. This Committee found no link between endosulfan and health problem in the Kasargod district. This Committee recommended stopping of aerial spray of pesticides. It also recommended that the use of endosulfan may be continued. In view of lack of consensus, Government constituted another Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.D. Mayee in September, 2004 to examine the previous Report. This Committee said that the use of endosulfan is not clearly linked to health problems in Kasargod district. But the Committee recommended the ban on endosulfan in Kerala because of public apprehension. Then the use of endosulfan was kept on hold on 31st October, 2006 in Kerala. India has agreed to list endosulfan in Annexure - A with specific exemptions under Article 4 of Stockholm Convention in 2011.

[Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan]

This will allow India to phase out the chemical completely over a period of one plus five years. The USA also agreed to withdraw endosulfan up to 2016; Brazil also agreed to gradual phase out of endosulfan over a period of three years, maybe by 2014; Canada also by 2014; Argentina and Australia also took similar decisions. The Supreme Court passed an interim order on 13th May, 2011 banning production, sale and use of endosulfan in the country. The Joint Committee set up by the Supreme Court had opined in November 2012 that all available stocks of endosulfan and raw material should be phased out over a period of two years in agriculture. "The State which permits the use of endosulfan will keep detailed inventory control and monitor any possible unwanted health facts", but the Supreme Court didn't agree to it. Now, old stocks of endosulfan is expired. We have only raw material of 2,658 metric tonnes. But the cost of disposal of existing stock of endosulfan in an environmentally compliant manner is estimated ₹1,189 crore. The infrastructure facility to undertake this exercise in the country is also extremely limited.

Now, we come to the rehabilitation activities. The Kerala Government submitted: The Government issued orders for granting compensation of Rs.5 lakh to each of completely bed-ridden patient and ₹3 lakh to those who have other disabilities. Health sector initiative was also there. Free and comprehensive medical treatment in hospitals, including 18 specialty and super-speciality hospitals is provided. Home-based and institutional physiotherapy services in eleven affected Panchayats are were also provided there. Additional manpower of seventy five for better health services was provided in affected area. Free dialysis facility provided to the victims. Transportation facility for the victims to and fro for treatment was provided. Other measures are: social sector initiative, monthly assistance to the caretaker of the bed-ridden victim, Buds schools in six affected Panchayats, free ration to all affected families under BPL category. Then there is a provision of scholarship for their children.

Now, I would like to inform Mr. Rajeeve that our Ministry has introduced the Pesticides Management Bill in Rajya Sabha which provides for further strengthening of regulatory system and review of pesticides to ensure safety of human beings. Therefore, as the matter is *sub judice*, there is no justification for enacting a separate legislation to regulate a single pesticide, which is already banned by the Supreme Court. So, I request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, actually, I am not satisfied with the reply of the Minister. It is a very serious issue. It is not *sub judice* because the Parliament has the power to

enact legislations and court has the power only to interpret the legislations enacted by the Parliament.

If you are a human being, you cannot look at this picture for more than one minute. I would like to tell the Minister that this is the picture of a child who suffered the attack of Endosulfan. Nobody can look at this picture for more than one minute. It is the reality.

Sir, I am ready to withdraw the Bill if the Minister gives an assurance to the House. The NHRC, on 31st December, 2010, directed the Government to take administrative and legislative action to ban the use of Endosulfan. The Government has failed to take legislative action. So, I have come with this Bill for legislative action. Secondly, the NHRC directed the Government to conduct a nationwide survey of populations that have been affected by the use of Endosulfan, particularly sprayed from the air, to determine the scope of relief and rehabilitation that may be needed. That is the second direction of the National Human Rights Commission. Thirdly, it directed the Government to supplement the efforts of the Government of Kerala, and those of other State Governments where victims of Endosulfan use are found, in the provision of relief and rehabilitation. Some steps have been taken by the Government, but they are not sufficient. For giving the compensation, I think, more than ₹ 500 crores are required and the State Government has submitted a proposal for this to the Central Government. Lastly, the NHRC directed the Government that a Centrally-sponsored Palliative Care Centre/Hospital should be established for Kasaragod District. If the Government is ready to give an assurance that it will establish a hospital in Kasaragod District and it will take administrative initiative to ban Endosulfan, I am okay.

Then, as per the Insecticides Act, 1968, there is a provision under Section 27(1) and 27(2) which deals with these things. Section 27(2) states that if the Government is satisfied that the use of the said insecticide or batch is or is not likely to cause any such risk, it may pass such order for cancellation of the certificate. There is already a provision in the Insecticides Act, 1968. My question is whether the Government is ready to publish a notification, as per Section 27(2), to ban endosulfan. If yes, then I am ready to withdraw this Bill. This is a very humanitarian issue. If we are all human beings, how can you ignore the situation and not ban Endosulfan? If you have a heart, if you are a human being, after seeing this picture, how can you still go on without banning endosulfan from this country? The Supreme Court's ban is an interim step. It is only an interim order from the Supreme Court. Is the Government ready to publish a notification, as per Section 27(2) of the Insecticides Act? If the Government is ready, then I am happy and I am ready to withdraw the Bill. I need that assurance from the Minister.

डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान : मैं आपकी भावनाओं से बहुत अच्छी तरह से सहमत हूँ, काफी चीजें, जो पहले होनी चाहिए थीं बहुत लेट हुई हैं। आपको पता है कि इसका केस सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सबजुडिस है। मैं आपको पहले ही बता चुका हूँ कि इंडोसल्फान का जितना भी स्टॉक अवेलेबल है, वह एक्सपायर हो चुका है, फिलहाल कोई स्टॉक नहीं है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट में यह बात भी है कि इस स्टॉक को खत्म करने के लिए जो रॉ मैटीरियल है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Under Section 27(2), is the Government ready to publish a notification? That is my specific question. About other things, all of us are well aware that Supreme Court order is there and the companies have already moved the Court for selling this existing stock of Endosulfan. All of us are well aware of those things. My specific question, through you, Sir, is whether the Government is ready, under Section 27(2), to publish a notification.

डा. संजीव कुमार बालियान : देखिए, पहले ही स्टॉकहोम में हम यह कमिट कर चुके हैं कि 2017 तक हम इसे कर देंगे। उसके बाद, कोर्ट ने भी इस पर बैन लगाया हुआ है और इस समय इसका प्रोडक्शन बन्द है, जो आपका कन्सर्न भी है। आप यह बात भी बिल्कुल ठीक कह रहे हैं कि केरल गवर्नमेंट का 448 करोड़ रुपये का मामला हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री में पेंडिंग है। इस पर एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री अपने व्यूज पहले ही दे चुकी है कि विक्टिम्स की मदद होनी चाहिए, लेकिन ये केवल उनके व्यूज हैं। यह मैटर हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री के पास पेंडिंग है, न कि एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री के पास।

जहां तक प्रोडक्शन की बात है, वह तो बिल्कुल ही बन्द है, यह बात आप भी जानते हैं। स्टॉकहोम में पहले ही हमारी 2017 तक की कमिटमेंट है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): I hope the Minister can consider it because they have to consult the Health Ministry. So, you can act on that basis.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: But he is not giving the assurance, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): No, he has to go in for a consultation with the other department ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, there is a provision. It is under the purview of the Agriculture Ministry.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): If the Minister is ready to consider this issue ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, the Insecticides Act is under the purview of the Agriculture Ministry. They have full powers to issue a notification as per Section 27(2) of the Insecticides Act. There is no need of any consultation. There are Supreme Court orders.

They are signatory to the Stockholm Convention. Earlier, they voted against this. The only one country voted in favour of endosulfan in the Stockholm Convention was India. Now, they have changed the position. They have full powers to issue a notification as per Section 27(2) of the Insecticides Act. My question is very direct. If it is okay, then it is okay to all of us, irrespective of our political ideologies. It is a humanitarian thing; if you are a human being, you should do it.

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN: I understand. We have powers. I don't say that we do not have powers. We have powers. We will consider it. We will think over it, surely.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Okay. On the basis of that assurance, I am ready to withdraw this Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Mr. Rajeeve, are you withdrawing the Bill? Or should I put the motion to vote.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, on the basis of the assurance regarding banning of endosulfan as per the Act, and, for construction of a hospital after consultation with the Health Ministry, I congratulate the Minister for giving this assurance. I withdraw this Bill.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2013

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, we take up the next Bill, namely, The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2013. Shri Vivek Gupta.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, the original Act, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act was passed sometime in 2006. Since then, the definition of micro, small and medium enterprise has not been changed. Many requests to the successive Governments and to other concerned authorities have yielded no results. Sir, the people in the micro, small and medium enterprises sector hope that with the ‘अच्छे दिन की सरकार’, इस सैक्टर के लिए भी अच्छे दिन आएंगे।

[Shri Vivek Gupta]

Sir, before I start, I would like to narrate a small story. सर, दो दोस्त थे। उनमें से एक दोस्त बोला, यार, 1000 रुपये कमाने हैं, इसके लिए सबसे अच्छा और आसान तरीका बताओ। तब दूसरा दोस्त बोला, 1,00,000 रुपये के साथ तुम लघु-उद्योग चालू कर लो। सरकार के जो नियम हैं, उनके कारण बहुत जल्दी ही तुम 1,00,000 रुपये से 1000 रुपये पर आ जाओगे।

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Kalraj Mishraji to the fact that the definition of MSME has not been changed, and, it still remains at twenty-five lakhs rupees for manufacturing concerns for micro enterprises. Sir, from 2006 till now, the annual inflation has been, at least, 60 - 65 per cent. This has not been taken into account anywhere. Sir, the same is the case with services, which is at ten lakh rupees from 2006. Sir, so much of inflation has taken place but this has not been taken into account.

Sir, take the example of people who sharpen blades. The cost of that simple cycle-machine which is used to sharpen blades has gone up so many times, and, they have not done anything. Even the Standing Committee Report on MSME has strongly urged that this definition should be revised. Sir, Kalrajji is a very informed, seasoned and old politician. He probably knows all of this. But I would just like to reiterate this information. The MSME segment contributes 8 per cent of the country's GDP; 40 per cent of the manufacturing output and it has a 21 per cent compounded annual growth in production. It contributes 40 per cent to India's exports. It employs 40 per cent of India's workforce—highest after the agriculture sector. It registered 200 per cent increase in the first decade of this millennium. It has 26 million units across the country.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA, *in the Chair*]

However, Sir, the problem is, out of these 26 million units, around 346 lakh units are still unregistered. Sir, from 2006 to 2013, since this Act has come into place, nothing has changed much. Only 4 per cent of the units are still registered.

Sir, I come from West Bengal and I would like to mention a few things about West Bengal. Sir, four-and-a-half thousand people are employed in 38 industrial estates and 12 commercial complexes. We have increased the ancillarization and vendor linkages of MSME from current 2 per cent to 10 per cent by public procurement policy. This will lead to a 25 per cent increase in production by MSMEs. We have set up land banks in Hooghly, Bankura, Midnapore and industrial estates in Rezinagar, Ambari Falakata and Durgapur in Burdwan exclusively for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Sir, we have many schemes to boost proposed MSMEs in sectors like jute, textile, leather and innovative and modern technology. There is also a State-level interdepartmental Task Force to look after the problems and issues of MSME. We provide them power subsidy, electricity duty and other incentives. We also reward them when they increase the energy efficiency and we give them increased assistance. We have a new Prime Minister. He has spoken about clusters and smart cities. However, I would like to draw his attention that there is a Prime

Minister's Task Force on the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, formed in 2010. The target that they have set is 10 per cent annual growth in number of micro enterprise accounts for banks – what has been achieved is known to all of us. There is hardly any achievement by banks on this – and sixty per cent of the total lending of MSME sector should be to micro enterprises. Our banks are found lagging in this regard as well.

Sir, I wish to draw your attention towards the problems that this sector faces before I go on to my next section. There are some major setbacks. The MSME people are basically people who are unemployed, uneducated and who want to do something in life because they want to make out on their own. They are entrepreneurs. But, Sir, we have to realize the high cost of credit, the interest rate that is charged by the banks. If you want to buy a car, the interest rate is only 8 per cent. If you want to buy any consumer goods, it is 9 per cent or something like that. But if you want to set up an MSME unit and you want some loan from the bank, you have to pay interest at the rate of 14-15 per cent or even more. Sir, there is no institution, there is no availability of any start-up capital, any assistance to them. There are multiplicity of regulations both at the State and Central level which lead to confusion in taxation and such other harassment to the MSME entrepreneurs.

Sir, through you, I would like to request hon. Kalrajji that the National Board of MSME, since 2006, has met only nine times whereas they are supposed to meet every quarter. Sir, there is a public procurement policy of 20 per cent for MSME which was supposed to be effective from 1st April, 2012. We hope that the new date of 1st April, 2015 will be adhered to. However, my request to hon. Kalrajji is, if possible, to prepone the date and make it effective from 1st of October this year itself. MSMEs are often inexperienced entrepreneurs. More often than not, they fail. India does not have any bankruptcy law. My submission to you, through the hon. Vice-Chairman, is to bring some legal bankruptcy framework to protect MSMEs because they genuinely try to do some nice business and create employment for everybody.

Sir, the credit gap between the demand of credit and the credit given by banks for MSME sector is still very high - 62 per cent.

Now, I come to guarantee cover where fee and annual service charges are borne by the borrower. To get the guarantee cover for Micro and Small Enterprises, a guarantee and annual service fee are charged by the banks. This is also very high. Something should be done to reduce this.

Sir, 96 per cent of the MSMEs are unregistered. If there is a simple procedure for their registration, I am sure they would like to comply with it. They would like to do something about it. By registering them, the Government will have more accurate data to help them in a big way. They fight against all kinds of odds. There are inadequate infrastructure facilities which include power, water and roads. Other issues are labour and

[Shri Vivek Gupta]

environmental laws, low access to new technology, poor adaptability to changing trends, lack of access to international markets and lack of skilled manpower. Still they survive.

Sir, I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation of hon. Minister Kalraj Mishraji for launching online finance facilitation centres for SMEs recently. We hope that this will, at least, solve some of the problems faced by them. Heartiest congratulations to him. This was a step long desired and long wanted. This is supposed to be one-stop-shop, but there are still loopholes and we hope that his Department will be able to address them shortly.

As my Bill states, I would like that the Banks are forced some way to lend to MSME sector at one per cent above the fixed deposit rate and not at a higher amount. Inflation is there. Machineries are required. We need smart cities. We need so many other things. We need to invest in plants and machinery. We need collateral free loans. Twenty five lakh rupees is not the limit we are looking for. We are looking for at least two crore rupees. The basic thing is this. If I have money to provide collateral, why would I go to bank to borrow? I can invest that in my business.

हम भारत देश में रहते हैं, हमारे घरों की महिलाओं के सोने के जेवरात, अपने घर के आभूषण, अपने घर के कागज आदि सब गिरवी रखकर हम लोग धंधा करने निकलते हैं। अगर हमारे पास गिरवी रखने के लिए कुछ होता, तो हम उसको गिरवी रख देते, मगर बैंक्स इस बात को समझना नहीं चाहते हैं और उसके कारण कोई भी एमएसएमई बेचारा काम नहीं कर पाता है।

Sir, there are 2032 specialised branches for lending to MSMEs. We would request you to increase them. सर, ये ब्रांचेंज ज्यादा ग्रामीण इलाके में हों।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया) : अब आप conclude कीजिए।

श्री विवेक गुप्ता : सर, जितने तरह के laws हैं, उनके बारे में entrepreneurs को जानकारी नहीं है। अगर उनको जानकारी मुहैया कराने का कोई सिस्टम हो जाए, तो वे लोग भी सारे laws को observe कर सकेंगे। सर, मैं दो प्वाइंट बोल कर अपनी बात समाप्त कर दूंगा। सर, एम.एस.एम.ई. के लिए बिजनेस करने का जो cost of transaction है, वह बहुत ज्यादा है और यह नॉर्मल कॉर्पोरेट से भी बहुत ज्यादा है। इसको कम करने के लिए भी कोई उपाय किया जाना चाहिए।

सर, जब हम लोग एक्सपोर्ट करते हैं, यहां पर छोटे-छोटे बहाने पर एम.एस.एम.ई. को एक्सपोर्ट के लिए रोक दिया जाता है, उनको तकनीफ दी जाती है। अगर उनके लिए अलग से कोई एक्सपोर्ट सेल बना दिया जाए, जो उनकी दिक्कतों को समझे और इसमें उनको गाइड कर दे, तो वह उनके लिए फायदेमंद होगा। सर, एम.एस.एम.ई. कोई पेट से सीख कर नहीं आता है, उसको थोड़ी सी गाइडेंस की जरूरत है। अगर उसको कोई गाइड कर दे, तो वे भी नियम का पालन करके उसको कर सकते हैं। सर, मैं बहुत आशा के साथ अपना यह बिल मूव करता हूँ और मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे इस पर सकारात्मक रूप से विचार करें।

The question was proposed.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I appreciate hon. Member Vivek Guptaji for bringing this Bill. We know it very well that the hon. Minister, Shri Kalraj Mishra, has huge experience in various fields.

This Ministry is a very important Ministry for employment opportunities, foreign exchange, GDP, etc. In every aspect, this MSME sector is a very important one. This sector earns more than 48 per cent of the GDP and more than 40 per cent of the exports are made through MSME. This is the most neglected area. Mr. Vivek Gupta has brought forward two major issues, that is, the financial aspect by the public sector banks and the other commercial banks. It may be a rare thing to see that finance is to be available at one per cent interest for MSME, but it is a correct proposition because the MSME is the first preliminary step for entrepreneurs who have come forward in the young age after completing their Masters' Degree in Management or Engineering or any other type of scientific field. They have the anxiety to manufacture. They have got certain technical knowledge.

Sir, in my short period as Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, I had negotiations with various countries like Japan, Germany, the Central Europe and also the erstwhile Russian countries. They are all very anxious to have the cooperation of the MSME sector. They want to transfer the technology to the Indian MSME sector. At the same time, they are also ready to invest in that area. I would just give an example. Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu has Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited unit, which depends upon the MSME sector. When Tiruchirappalli was selected as one of the locations for making a BHEL unit, at the time, Shri Kamaraj, who was the then Chief Minister, made it possible to bring many of the small scale industries in and around BHEL factory itself. But, unfortunately, when the BHEL could not get tenders from NTPC or any other Government agencies, the consequence is that for their dependence more on the boilers and spare parts for BHEL, the MSME sector becomes defunct. Therefore, we could revive it by getting more orders through BHEL to the NTPC even though there was heavy competition from Chinese products.

Sir, the important issue in this matter is that woman entrepreneurs are also coming forward to start MSME. If you see Tiruchirappalli, we could organise woman entrepreneurs who can manage that and who are ready to have a discussion with the Japanese investors to have the technology transfer and also FDI. When we talked with the Japanese agency, they told us that they were very much interested to invest in that area because already the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor is on the anvil and the Japanese Foreign Investment

[Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

Agency is looking after that project. They want to have more and more investment in the MSME sector. But, there is one thing. When they are coming forward with investment, they want to see whether it will run or not. Therefore, we requested them to come as a team, have negotiations with concerned entrepreneurs who already have established small or medium scale enterprises and who are already having orders from some other heavy industries; then, you will have the confidence as to how these people are working, how the workers are working, how they are cooperating, what is the wage structure, how you are going to bring new machinery from Japan, how they are going to open that machinery, how to install it, etc. For that, you need some rudimentary knowledge of Japanese language. They have the Human Resource Development Agency of Japan.

They are ready to give us training for that purpose also. Therefore, in this way of collaboration with Japan, Germany or European countries or American countries we can get more and more inflows for the MSME sector. If that happens this one per cent interest, even below that, .05 per cent, is the only interest of the foreign countries. We are giving at 12 per cent or 18 per cent, and making them to succumb to the SARFAESI Act. Even a loan of ₹10 lakhs even three orders which were obliged by the MSME entrepreneur, and that payment was not paid properly – was brought under the SARFAESI Act by the bank. They are attaching their properties. They are closing down the unit. When the MSME act was brought by the UPA Government, and also when we were discussing on the Finance Bill, we told the Government that you should not apply the SARFAESI Act against small and medium enterprises. Kindly ensure that MSME sector do not suffer due to the SARFAESI Act. The SARFAESI Act should be made applicable against the entrepreneurs who take a loan of ₹10 crore and above and who are not repaying it properly. If you see the investment portfolio of any commercial bank or the public sector bank, you will find only two people are paying back loans properly. There are no NPAs. One is the agriculturist and another is MSME. People who are taking a loan of ₹10 crore are paying; and people who are taking more than ₹100 crores are not paying. NPAs are going on increasing in that area. Therefore, this is the correct juncture when you want to give more employment opportunities for the new entrepreneurs and also boys and girls who are fresh coming out of the professional colleges with anxiety. They want to show their patriotism. They do not want to go to the Western countries or America. They want to be in India. They want to show their efficiency. They want to bring out their manufacturing capacity. The Government should help them by finance. Therefore, this is the appropriate time to make the banks to come down and settle the matters.

Similarly, when you are having interaction with various countries, they are ready to come forward to transfer the technology at the MSME sector level. If you hold a conference of the like-minded countries, and the Chambers of Commerce of the various countries it will help the sector. The Ministry of Commerce is having an 'Invest, India' Centre where Indian entrepreneurship can be developed. The Government of India is making certain payment to that particular agency which is having collaboration with the FICCI. It is working well. There we called many people. They have attended it. Entrepreneurs from various countries are ready to come and invest, transfer the technology and make the products. They are ready to export these products to their countries. You know very well, Sir, now a days, the industry is having a system of manufacturing products in one country and assembling the same in another country. But India should become hub of the industry. It can happen only by making the MSME sector healthy and robust so that assembly of the products also can happen here. More so, when we allowed the FDI in the multi-brand sector, we made a condition that, at least, 30 per cent of the manufacturing goods should be made in India itself. That was one of the conditions when we allowed the FDI into the industrial sector. In the pharma sector also we have restricted like that. For that purpose you need to help the MSME. Unless the Government helps the MSME with financial support, we cannot create employment opportunities for our youth who are coming forward to put their knowledge earned through education and experience, and we cannot succeed in that. I feel that the Ministry will look very seriously at the amendment suggested by one of the industrialists. Mr. Vivek is a very well-known personality in West Bengal as an industrialist and as a media person. He has come forward with the proposition which is a very interesting one.

Finally, I want to submit that the Ministry of Finance, Banking Department should be approached to see that the SARFAESI Act is not made applicable for the MSME sector. If necessary, the Government should also come forward with an amendment to the SARFAESI Act. The limit which is now ₹ 10 lakhs, should be increased to ₹ 10 crores, and the SARFAESI Act should be applicable above that so that many of industrialists in the MSME sector, which is now closed, can come back. They will have more opportunities to come forward in the manufacturing sector. Thank you.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I started my career as a woman entrepreneur and I would like to share my views as a very early and small service sector-oriented MSME, a person who is now more responsible, who has become a people's representative to look upon the MSME sector, which has a great potential to help economic recovery and to accelerate the overall growth of the economy. In view of its significant capacity to

[Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth]

create employment, the MSME sector deserves great attention of this august House. There are a large number of MSMEs that are scattered around the country because of which there is no nationwide association or federation. I know that they have not come under an organized association or a federation where they can represent their interests as well as their shortfalls. As rightly pointed out by my counterpart and colleague, Dr. Natchiappan, my good friend, Shri Vivek Gupta, has brought the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill. Sir, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act was notified in 2006 to address the policy issues affecting all the MSMEs as well as the coverage and investment ceiling of the sector. The Act seeks to facilitate the development of these enterprises as also to enhance their competitiveness. It provides the first ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of 'enterprise' which comprises both manufacturing and service entities. It defines medium enterprises for the first time and seeks to integrate the three tiers of these enterprises, namely, micro, small and medium. As you all know, the Act also provides for a statutory consultative mechanism at the national level with balanced representation of all sections of stakeholders, particularly the three classes of enterprises and with a wide range of advisory functions. Establishment of specific funds for the promotion, development and enhancing competitiveness of these enterprises, notification of schemes/programmes – because they need to be informed about the new schemes announced by the Government -- progressive credit policies and practices; preference in Government procurements to products and services of micro and small enterprises, and also assurance of a setnreme for easing the closure of business by these enterprises, are some of the other features which have been incorporated in the Act. Then the main thing is, the Government could consider concessions or even tax holidays, which are offered by many countries. I know many countries provide tax concessions to these sectors which are going to develop the economy. This is because everybody, all the vibrant youth, those who have qualified, those who get their degrees, masters, etc., cannot be employed by the Government. So, people have started to look forward for an alternative and that is business. So, they start a MSME to earn money for themselves as well as to give job opportunities for many inspiring youth. And I know this industry is a very valuable industry, and Tamil Nadu is an advanced State which has enhanced many, many such MSMEs. As rightly pointed out, in Trichy, in the BHEL area, there are so many small industries just around the BHEL, which have been started as sister concerns. They are either producing raw materials or supplying materials, thus providing job opportunities to themselves as well as supplying products for the BHEL. Also, talking about SIPCOT, everywhere, in each and every district, we have got SIPCOT areas where the Government has allowed the MSME to grow. People

who want to start a business, people who come to this industry, will be given a proper place, proper guidance, and in an organized manner, they can start the business and the Government helps them with land and capital. Also, they are given priorities in bank credit facilities, so that people can get more credit facilities. I would also like to point out that the young entrepreneurs face a lot of problems. When we go and approach the public sector banks, they, immediately, send us back because they want a proper security to be given for availing loans. So, as a young, budding entrepreneur, how can we give inherited properties as a security for availing loans and how can we approach banks for loans without this security? So, this has to be more flexible and people have to be encouraged more so that it creates more job opportunities. Also, skill development is needed. When I first put my foot on the service sector, I had training, proper training, because we have to be more educative, informative before starting a business. So, young entrepreneurs come up with a lot of skills and a lot of potential in them, and the Government should encourage them a lot. Now, our hon. Chief Minister, our dynamic Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has encouraged many women entrepreneurs. She has introduced a new pilot visionary scheme, the New Entrepreneur Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS) for young, budding women. Women, between the age group of, I suppose, 25-40 years can avail loans. So, women are encouraged. They are encouraged in the manufacturing sector as well as in the service sector. Under the NEEDS, women entrepreneurs can get up to ₹1 crore as loan without giving any security to banks.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Please conclude.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: So, this is the greatest scheme /which our hon. Chief Minister has introduced in Tamil Nadu and which is a torch-bearer for all women entrepreneurs of our country. She has become an inspiring leader for one and all. It has also created women empowerment. The potential women can set foot at the right place and start their business...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Please conclude.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: And communication connectivity improves in all the service sectors. Sir, if you see, on the Trichy-Pudukottai road and also the Chennai-Sriperumbudur road, several innovation hubs and many MSMEs have been started there. It is because in the IT industry it provides all the basic necessities for the IT industry. So, if you see in these areas, Tamil Nadu is now in the forefront of promoting MSME sector in the country and regular marketing ensures these MSME sectors to grow regular credit facilities for worthy customers. Also, I would like to point out that Government should bring reforms in such a way that rehabilitation package for revival of viable sick Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) is provided by primary lending institutions...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Please conclude. Thank you.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sir, just one word. Early detection of sickness, a viability study to form the basis of rehabilitation package to potentially viable sick Micro and Small Enterprises and a non-discretionary one-time settlement scheme for such sectors would benefit all the MSE sectors to move forward. As rightly pointed out by our hon. Finance Minister, the Leader of the House, this will be a great time that India will prosper by improving. He has stated in his speech that in order to create a conducive ecosystem for the venture capital in the micro, small and medium enterprises sector, it is proposed to establish a ₹ 10,000 crore fund to act as a catalyst to attract private capital. ...*(Time-Bell)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Please conclude. You have taken more than the sufficient time.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: And this will be a greater opportunity. It is a new millennium for improving this private sector and new employment opportunity is high. Interest rates should be brought down, as mentioned by the Member who brought forward this Bill. I would like this Bill to be passed in the august House so that MSME sector would be more protected and more internationally viable and, also, it will help women folk all the more to stand on their own legs, to be empowered. Women empowerment will be more in this country. Thank you.

श्री नरेन्द्र बुढानिया (राजस्थान) : सर, सबसे पहले तो मैं विवेक गुप्ता जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि वे बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण अमेंडमेंट बिल लेकर आए हैं, जो आज देश की सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता है। कलराज मिश्रा जी को मैं बहुत लंबे समय से जानता हूँ और इनकी कार्यक्षमता को, इनके काम करने के तरीके को ...*(व्यवधान)*...

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : हाउस की स्क्रीन पर आपका नाम गलत आ रहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया) : आप अपनी सीट से बोलेंगे, तो स्क्रीन पर आपका सही नाम आएगा।

श्री नरेन्द्र बुढानिया : सर, मैं यह समझता हूँ कि एम.एस.एम.ई. जो एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विभाग है, यह मजबूत हाथों में है और आने वाले समय में एम.एस.एम.ई. के माध्यम से हमारे देश का विकास बहुत तेज़ी से होगा। मैं याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारा देश आज़ाद हुआ था, तो सबसे बड़ी समस्या आज़ाद भारत के लिए क्या थी? देश में बेरोज़गारी दूर हो, देश में उद्योग-धंधे लगे, बड़े उद्योग लगे और उनके साथ छोटे और मध्यम उद्योग लगे, ..ऐसी परिकल्पना पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू और उनके साथियों ने की थी। आज हम गर्व से कह सकते हैं कि पंडित

जवाहरलाल नेहरू के इस vision से भारत के अंदर इस क्षेत्र में बहुत प्रगति हुई है, चाहे वह छोटे उद्योग हों या बड़े उद्योग हों, पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू की सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों की परिकल्पना से आज हमारा देश एक ताकत के रूप में उभरा है। नेहरू जी ही नहीं, उसके बाद लालबहादुर शास्त्री जी, श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी जी और हमारे देश के नौजवान प्रधानमंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी के समय में एम.एस.एम.ई. को बहुत मदद की गयी, उसको आगे बढ़ाने के अनेक प्रोग्राम चलाए गए, उनके योजनाएं चलाई गयीं। आज हम लोग कह सकते हैं कि एम.एस.एम.ई. के तहत केन्द्र सरकार पूरे भारत में, सभी प्रदेशों में इस क्षेत्र के अन्दर वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करती है, हरेक क्षेत्र के लिए करती है, चाहे बिजली का क्षेत्र हो, पानी का क्षेत्र हो, जमीन का क्षेत्र हो, सब क्षेत्रों के लिए केन्द्र सरकार सब्सिडी उपलब्ध करती है, पैसा देती है, लेकिन आज इस संबंध में फिर से विचार करने की जरूरत है। आज देश में सबसे बड़ी समस्याओं बेराजगारी की है। जो आम नौजवान है, वह सरकारी नौकरी की तरफ भागना चाहता है। सरकारी नौकरी के पीछे भागते-भागते वह एक ऐसी स्थिति में पहुंच जाता है कि फिर वह किसी काम का नहीं रहता है। आज अपने पैरों पर खड़े होने के लिए सरकारी नौकरी के साथ-साथ उनका ध्यान छोटे उद्योगों की ओर आकर्षित करना पड़ेगा। देश में ऐसा वातावरण बना भी है, लेकिन इस वातावरण को बढ़ाने के लिए इस दिशा में काम करने की आवश्यकता है। आज कोई व्यक्ति अपने पैरों पर खड़े होकर अपना भला तो करेगा ही, उसके साथ-साथ उस प्रदेश का और देश का भी विकास होगा। कलराज मिश्र जी पर मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि वे एम.एस.एम.ई. के माध्यम से देश में इस प्रकार का वातावरण बनाने का काम करेंगे, जिससे हमारे युवा लोग छोटे-छोटे उद्योग लगा सकें।

महोदय, मैं कई क्षेत्रों में गया हूँ, कई प्रदेशों में गया हूँ। अभी पिछले दिनों हम नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में गए थे। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के बारे में हमारी यह कल्पना थी कि वहां कोई काम नहीं होगा। वहां लोग किस प्रकार से अपना काम करते हैं, इस बारे में दिमाग में एक प्रश्नवाचक चिन्ह लगा हुआ था, लेकिन वहां जाने के बाद हमें इतना अच्छा लगा कि वहां के नौजवान, विशेष तौर पर वहां की महिलाएं, छोटे-छोट उद्योग लगाकर अपना जीवन-यापन करते हैं। हमने उनसे व्यक्तिगत रूप से पूछा। हम एक महिला उद्यमी के पास गए। उन्होंने एक छोटा सा होटल बना रख था, जिसको ढाबा कह सकते हैं। जब हमने उनसे पूछा तो उन्होंने बताया कि मैं अपने परिवार का, अपने बच्चों के स्कूल का सारा खर्चा निकालने के बाद अपने ऋण की अदायगी करती हूँ और इसमें से मुझे कुछ बच भी जाता है। आज ऐसी एक नहीं, अनेक इंडस्ट्रीज स्थापित हुई हैं, जिनका लाभ मिला है, लेकिन इसमें बहुत सी परेशानियां आती हैं। कलराज मिश्र जी जमीन के आदमी हैं, वे जानते हैं कि एक बेरोजगार जब लोन लेने के लिए बैंक जाता है, तब उसकी क्या स्थिति होती है, उसको वहां कितने चक्कर काटने पड़ते हैं, ऋण लेने के लिए कितना जलील होना पड़ता है? स्कीम हमारी, पैसा हमारा, लेकिन जब वह ऋण लेने के लिए जाता है तो उसे वहां जलालत महसूस करनी पड़ती है। कभी यह गारंटी लेकर आओ, कभी वह गारंटी लेकर आओ। माननीय विवेक गुप्ता जी ने सही कहा कि यदि उसके पास गारंटी होती, यदि उसके पास पैसा होता तो वह लोन लेने जाता ही क्यों? वह इसलिए लोन लेने जा रहा है क्योंकि उसके पास पैसे की कमी है। वह ऋण लेकर अपना उद्योग लगा सके, अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हो सके, इसकी तरफ ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने देखा है कि इस महंगाई के जमाने में आज एक लाख, पांच लाख, 10

[श्री नरेन्द्र बुढानिया]

लाख, 25 लाख से काम चलने वाला नहीं है। कोई उद्यमी इतने कम पैसे में उद्योग नहीं लगा सकता है। आप इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करिए। अगर कोई छोटी सी साबुन की फैक्टरी खोले या वह जिस प्रदेश में रहता है वहां पर जूट का काम करे या जो गांव के अंदर छोटे-छोटे धंधे हैं, उनको लगाए, तो क्या वह इतने पैसे से काम कर सकता है? नहीं कर सकता। इसलिए छोटे उद्योगों को वित्तीय ऋण देने में प्राथमिकता देनी होगी। आपको सबसे पहले यह निर्णय लेना होगा कि इस ऋण की सीमा को बढ़ाया जाए। मैं आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपको इसे 5 करोड़ रुपये से बढ़ाकर 10 करोड़ रुपये कर देना चाहिए। अभी हमारे साथी ने बहुत important बात कही है। आज हमारे देश में मदद के अभाव में बहुत सी इंडस्ट्रीज सिक हो रही हैं, सिक पड़ी हैं, उनकी रिवाइव करना बहुत जरूरी है। ये इंडस्ट्रीज मदद देने से रिवाइव हो सकती हैं। इनको मदद मिलना बहुत जरूरी है। मैं समझता हूँ कि आप इस तरफ जरूर ध्यान देंगे।

मैं के.वी.आई.सी. के लोगों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। के.वी.आई.सी. ने देश में बहुत अच्छा काम किया है। के.वी.आई.सी. के माध्यम से देश में बहुत उद्योग लगे हैं। के.वी.आई.सी. के द्वारा छोटे उद्योगों को सहायता दी जा रही है। इस बात को हमने नजदीक से देखा है। फिर भी आपको के.वी.आई.सी. की तरफ ध्यान देना होगा, इसकी मदद करनी होगी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश के अंदर एक और महत्वपूर्ण योजना है जो कि पी.एम.ई.जी.पी. है। यह स्कीम भी बहुत अच्छी स्कीम है। इसके माध्यम से बहुत से नौजवानों को राहत मिली है, लेकिन इसमें भी वैसी ही समस्याएं सामने आती हैं, इसमें भी बैंकों से मदद न मिलने की समस्या सामने आती है। आपको ऋण के सरलीकरण के लिए उपाय करने होंगे। मैं ज्यादा न बोलकर इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि एम.एस.एम.ई. देश का मुख्य विभाग है। इसके माध्यम से हमारे देश का तेजी से विकास हो सकता है, हमारे देश के नौजवानों को मार्गदर्शन मिल सकता है। बड़े उद्योगों के साथ छोटी-छोटी इंडस्ट्रीज ज्यादा लग सकती हैं। इन सब के लिए आपको एक बड़ा निर्णय लेना होगा, एक कठित निर्णय इनकी वित्तीय स्थिति को मजबूत बनाने के लिए लेना होगा। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्री (श्री कलराज मिश्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज के इस प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल के अंतर्गत सम्माननीय सदस्य विवेक गुप्ता जी ने एम.एस.एम.ई. में जो कठिनाइयां हैं, जटिलताएं हैं, उस संबंध में कुछ अपने सुधार और संशोधन प्रस्तुत करने की बात 2006 के अधिनियम के अंतर्गत कही है। यह बात सही है कि एम.एस.एम.ई. एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है, जिस क्षेत्र के माध्यम से हम छोटे-छोटे उद्यमियों को आगे बढ़ा सकते हैं और सर्वाधिक मात्रा में बेरोजगार नौजवानों को समायोजित कर सकते हैं। मेरा मानना है कि एम.एस.एम.ई. एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है, जिसमें सर्वाधिक जनसहभागिता हो सकती है और सर्वाधिक क्षेत्रों का समायोजन हो सकता है। यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र है, इसलिए इसका लाभ उठाते हुए यह कोशिश की जा सकती है कि इसमें अधिक से अधिक लोग आ सकें।

महोदय, हमारे यहां पर बेरोजगारी की समस्या कितनी भयंकर है, इसके बारे में बताने की

आवश्यकता नहीं है। छोटे-छोटे उद्यमियों को किस तरीके से आकर्षित करते हुए उद्यम लगाने की दृष्टि से प्रेरित किया जाना चाहिए, इसका प्रयास भी किया जा रहा है। जिन बाधाओं के बारे में हमारे श्रीमान विवेक जी ने, श्रीमान् नाच्चीयप्पन जी और श्रीमान् नरेन्द्र जी ने वर्णन किया है, उस संदर्भ में यह बात सही है कि वे बाधाएं विद्यमान हैं। इन बाधाओं के कारण, विशेषकर बैंक के कारण परेशानियां आती हैं। कई औपचारिकताएं इस तरीके से पूरी करनी पड़ती हैं, जिनके कारण वह चीज उचित समय के अंतर्गत नहीं आ पाती है। इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि कभी-कभी वह उद्यमी निराश होकर बैठ जाता है। उनकी जो शर्तें भी कभी-कभी डिफर हो जाती हैं अगर वह उसको तीन महीने के अंदर नहीं ले पाता है तो बेचारा एन.पी.ए. से और त्रस्त हो जाता है। ये कठिनाइयां हैं और हम सब लोगों ने इन पर विचार किया है। जैसा कि हमारे सम्माननीय विवेक जी ने कहा है, आपने कहा है, श्रीमान् नाच्चीयप्पन जी और बहिन जी ने भी कहा है कि इसका सरलीकरण होना चाहिए, तो मैं बता दूँ कि हम सरलीकरण के संबंध में विचार कर रहे हैं और उस संबंध में प्रक्रिया प्रारंभ है। जिस ढंग से, कई तरीके से लघु उद्यमियों को परेशान होना पड़ता है, इधर-उधर भागना पड़ता है, हमारी यह कोशिश है कि उनको इधर-उधर कम से कम भागना पड़े और औपचारिकताओं को पूर्ण करने में उनको बैंक द्वारा ज्यादा परेशान न होना पड़े। हमारा यह प्रयास है कि एक टाइम लिमिट के अंदर उनको सारी चीजें प्राप्त हो जाएं।

महोदय, हम यह जानते हैं कि एम.एस.एम.ई. हिन्दुस्तान की आर्थिक व्यवस्था की रीढ़ है। हमारे यहां इसका कोई बहुत अधिक विस्तार नहीं है, जैसे इन्होंने अभी बताया, उल्लेख किया, जो बहुत सही उल्लेख है कि जो रजिस्टर्ड यूनिट्स हैं, वे बहुत कम हैं, अनरजिस्टर्ड ज्यादा हैं। उसके बावजूद भी यह निर्माण के क्षेत्र में 45 फीसदी है, जो पूरा ग्रोथ रेट है, उसमें लगभग 8 परसेंट है और निर्यात के क्षेत्र में 43 परसेंट है। अगर इसको और विस्तार दिया गया, व्यवस्थित तौर पर ध्यान दिया गया, तो ये चीजें अधिक बढ़ सकती हैं और देश के हालात केवल एम.एस.एम.ई. के माध्यम से इस तरीके से बदल सकते हैं कि एक विकसित देश का स्वरूप प्रदान करने में एम.एस.एम.ई. का ही महत्वपूर्ण योगदान हो सकता है। सर, एम.एस.एम.ई. का इतना अधिक महत्व है। इस बात को ध्यान में रखकर कि छोटे-छोटे उद्यमियों को परेशानी न होने पाए, हमने इस दिशा में कुछ करना शुरू किया है। जैसे हमने एम.एस.एम.ई. को ऑनलाइन लॉच किया है, इससे भी लोगों का बड़ा फायदा होगा। हम और भी वेबपोर्टल वगैरह लॉच कर रहे हैं, जिससे लोगों को लाभ मिलेगा।

मान्यवर, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस संशोधन में विवेक जी ने मुख्य रूप से दो-तीन बातें रखी हैं। एक तो उन्होंने यह बात रखी है कि 2006 के बिल में 10(ए) और 10 (बी) को बढ़ाया जाए। इसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि प्रत्येक बैंकिंग फिक्स डिपोजिट इधर से 1 परसेंट से ज्यादा की दर पर एम.एस.एम.ई. को कर्ज देगा। बैंकिंग पॉलिसी का निर्धारण रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया करता है और उसकी कुछ गाइडलाइन्स हैं। इंटररेस्ट रेट्स का निर्धारण बैंक का बोर्ड करता है, हमारे लिए यह सम्भव नहीं है। हां, वह ठीक है कि जो टास्क फोर्स बनाया गया था, उसकी कुछ गाइडलाइन्स हैं, जो रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ने दी हैं, जिनके आधार पर चीजें चल रही हैं। इसको हम नहीं कर सकते, रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ही अपने हिसाब से इसे कर सकता है, इसलिए इसमें कठिनाई है।

[श्री कलराज मिश्र]

दूसरा, उन्होंने 'क्रेडिट गारंटी फंड' की सीमा दो करोड़ रुपये तक बढ़ाए जाने के लिए कहा है। इस विषय में एम.एस.एम.ई. की तरफ से हम एक प्रयोग कर रहे हैं। वर्ल्ड बैंक से धनराशि लेकर हमने कार्य प्रारम्भ किया है और उसके अनुभव के आधार पर भी भविष्य में हम निर्णय ले सकते हैं।

तीसरी बात जो इन्होंने कही है, वह यह है कि केन्द्र सरकार समय-समय पर एम.एस.एम.ई. में धनराशि तथा इक्विटी धनराशि की उपलब्धि के लिए नोटिफिकेशन जारी करे। विवेक जी और हमारे सम्मानित सदस्यों ने यह देखा होगा कि बजट में स्वयं जो वैचर कैपिटल है, वह 10,000 करोड़ रुपये रखा गया है। समय-समय पर केन्द्र सरकार बजट के माध्यम से इसके लिए प्रयत्न करती रहती है। अभी जो घोषणा की गई है, इसके पहले जो पिछले बजट आए थे, उनमें भी घोषणाएं की गई थीं। धन की उपलब्धि की दृष्टि से, धन के प्रवाह की दृष्टि से शासन के द्वारा किसी प्रकार की कोई कठिनाई और दिक्कत न हो, यह हम करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। जैसी आवश्यकताएं प्रतीत हो रही हैं, उन आवश्यकताओं के आधार पर जितना धन लग सकता है, जितने धन का हम सदुपयोग कर सकते हैं, हमारा यह प्रयास है कि वह धन हम अवश्य उपलब्ध कराएं ताकि हम लघु उद्यमियों को अधिक से अधिक आकर्षित कर सकें। धन के प्रवाह की दृष्टि से मैं इतना ही आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि इस दिशा में हमारा लगातार प्रयत्न जारी है और सरकार की तरफ से यह कार्य किया जा रहा है।

मान्यवर, मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों में इक्विटी पूंजी के अंतर्प्रवाह को बढ़ाने की कोशिश की गई थी। इसके आरम्भिक विकास के शुरुआती चरण में हमारा यह प्रयास रहा है कि उद्यमों सहित एम.एस.एम.ई. को इक्विटी तथा ऐसे ही वित्तीय उत्पादों की उपलब्धता बढ़ाई जा सके। इसके लिए सरकार और भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक समय-समय पर कई उपाय करते रहे हैं। इन उपायों के वित्तीय वर्ष 2008-09 में एम.एस.एम.ई. विशेषरूपसे नवप्रवर्तनों और नई प्रौद्योगिकियों से जुड़े एम.एस.एम.ई. की जो रिस्क कैपिटल है, उसकी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के उद्देश्य से वित्तीय वर्ष 2008-09 के लिए केन्द्रीय बजट में जोखिम पूंजी वित्तपोषण के लिए सिडबी में 2000 करोड़ रुपये की एक निधि के गठन की घोषणा की गई थी।

इसी ढंग से जोखिम पूंजी निधि के अंतर्गत, सिडबी एम.एस.एम.ई. को इक्विटी, प्राथमिकता पूंजी, वैकल्पिक रूप से परिवर्तनीय ऋणपत्र, गौण ऋण आदि के रूप में जोखिम पूंजी सहायता प्रदान करता है और साथ ही प्रतिष्ठित वी.सी. निधियों की समग्र निधि में भी योगदान करता है। 31 मार्च, 2012 तक एम.एस.एम.ई. आर.सी.एफ. के तहत 1000 करोड़ रुपये की राशि ली गई है, जिसे पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध किया गया है।

इसी तरह 2011-12 की घोषणा के बाद छोटे एम.एफ.आई. को अपने संचालनों में स्तर तथा सक्षमता प्राप्त हो सके, इसके लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये का एक "इंडिया माइक्रोफाइनेंस इक्विटी फंड" स्थापित किया गया था। 30 नवम्बर, 2012 की स्थिति के अनुसार बैंक ने निधि से 37 एम.एफ.आई. के लिए 104 करोड़ रुपये की राशि प्रतिबद्ध की है।

मान्यवर, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि 2013-14 में इस निधि के लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये की राशि और उपलब्ध कराने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है। इसी ढंग से जहां तक पूंजी का प्रश्न है, हम लगातार एम.एस.एम.ई. को आगे बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से धन एवं निधि घोषित करते जा रहे हैं एवं उसका उपयोग भी होता जा रहा है। मैं आपको यह बताना चाहूंगा कि मार्च 2012 में 396.343 करोड़ रुपये, मार्च 2013 में 502.459 करोड़ रुपये और मार्च 2014 में 615.976 करोड़ रुपये हमने खर्च किए हैं, यानी इसमें डाले हैं। उस दृष्टि से लघु उद्यमियों को आकर्षित करने के हिसाब से और धन प्रवाह चलता रहे, इसके लिए बराबर हम काम करते जा रहे हैं और उसमें किसी भी प्रकार की कठिनाई या दिक्कत नहीं आई है। आपने और भी सुझाव दिए हैं। आपके सुझाव अपेक्षित हैं, आप सुझाव दीजिए।

नेशनल बोर्ड की मीटिंग के बारे में यह बात कही गई है कि यह क्वार्टरली होनी चाहिए। अभी नेशनल बोर्ड की मीटिंग नियमित रूप से होती रही है, हम वह भी करेंगे। हमारे नाच्चीयप्पन साहब और हमारी बहन विजिला सत्यानंत जी ने कहा कि वीमेन एंटरप्रिन्योर्स को भी प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए। जिस तरीके से आपने कहा कि तमिलनाडु में बड़ी पर्याप्त मात्रा में ऐसा किया जा रहा है, तो हमारी तरफ से प्रयत्न है, सरकार की तरफ से प्रयत्न है कि वीमेन एंटरप्रिन्योर्स को भी हम अधिक से अधिक प्रोत्साहन दें। हमारी यह भी कोशिश है कि रूरल एंटरप्रिन्योर्स को भी हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा प्रोत्साहन दें। हमारी यह भी कोशिश है कि जो क्षेत्रीय विषमताएं हैं, जो रीजनल इम्बैलेंसेज हैं, जिन स्थानों पर ये चीजें नहीं हो रही हैं, वहां भी लोगों के लिए छोटे-छोटे उद्यम लगाने का प्रयत्न करें। ऐसी कई बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, जैसे आपने तमिलनाडु के बारे में बताया और विशाखापत्तनम में बी.एच.ई.एल. के बारे में बताया, हैवी इंडस्ट्रीज के बारे में बताया। माइक्रो एवं स्मॉल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज के द्वारा ऐसे भी सामान बनाये जा रहे हैं, जो इन इंडस्ट्रीज के काम में आते हैं। वे स्वयं उनको देते हैं, जिसे आप ancilliarisation कह सकते हैं, यह उनके द्वारा किया जाता है। इसके कारण एम.एस.एम.ई. को इस दिशा में लाभ प्राप्त होता है। प्रोक्योरमेंट की दृष्टि से 2012 का जो कानून है, उसमें यह प्रावधान किया गया था कि ये जो इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, पी.एस.यूज हैं और हैवी इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, ये कम से कम 20 फीसदी सामान एम.एस.एम.ई. के द्वारा लेंगे और 90 दिन के अन्दर उसका पेमेंट हो जाएगी। इसमें कई स्थानों पर तो उन्होंने लिया है, लेकिन सामान्य तौर पर इसमें सफलता प्राप्त नहीं हो पा रही है। डिले पेमेंट भी ढंग से नहीं हो पा रही है या डिले पेमेंट भी नहीं हो रही है, यह एक कठिनाई आ रही है, लेकिन 2012 का यह जो कानून है, यह 2015 में मैनडेटरी हो जाएगा और तब बाध्य होकर उनको पेमेंट देनी पड़ेगी। बड़ी-बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज के द्वारा छोटे-छोटे उद्यमियों से जो भी प्रोक्योर किया गया है, लेकिन उसकी पेमेंट नहीं हुई है, तब वह भी सामान्य तौर पर होगी।

इसके अलावा, ऐसी कई अन्य चीजें हैं, जिनके कारण कठिनाइयां हो रही है, उनको हम ऑनलाइन करने जा रहे हैं। उनके ऑनलाइन हो जाने से एंटरप्रिन्योर्स स्वयं इसे देख सकेंगे, जिसके पश्चात् उनकी क्या-क्या आवश्यकताएं हैं, कहां फार्म भरना है, कैसा लेना है, वह लेकर और उसे भरकर, अनेक जगह भाग-दौड़ करने में उन्हें जो परेशानी होती थी, उससे वे निजात पा सकेंगे। अभी हमने ऑल इंडिया के सभी एसोसिएशंस की एक मीटिंग रखी थी, जिसमें उन्होंने काफी सुझाव दिए हैं, जिनको हमने कैटेगराइज किया है। उन्हें कैटेराइज करते हुए हमने उनको

[श्री कलराज मिश्र]

भेज भी दिया है कि ये-ये आपकी दिक्कतें हैं और हमने इनको संज्ञान में लेकर और इनके आधार पर और क्या-क्या चीजें हो सकती हैं, उनको हम करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। हमारी यह कोशिश है कि एम.एस.एम.ई. के क्षेत्र में जितनी भी चीजें आती हैं, उनको हम हिन्दुस्तान में सब तरफ ले जाएं और इसके माध्यम से लोगों को अवेयर करते हुए उनको साथ में जोड़ सकें। इसी दृष्टि से, स्किल डेवलपमेंट का भी हमारा कार्यक्रम चल रहा है। जो लोग 10वीं कक्षा भी पास नहीं हैं, फेल हैं, ऐसे लोगों के साथ-साथ हाई टेक्नोलॉजी प्राप्त करने वाले लोगों और एंटरप्रेन्योर्स के भी स्किल डेवलपमेंट का हमारा प्लान है। नाच्वीयप्पन साहब ने भी यह चर्चा की कि एंटरप्रेन्योर्स का भी स्किल डेवलपमेंट हो, तो इसके लिए भी हम लोगों ने प्लान किया है। आज जो यह अपेक्षा करते हैं कि हम एम.एस.एम.ई. के जरिए एक अच्छी आर्थिक स्थिति का निर्माण कर सकेंगे, तो मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि यह हो सकेगा।

विवेक जी, मैं कहूंगा कि आपने जो सुझाव दिए हैं, उनमें से काफी सुझाव हमने स्वीकार कर लिये हैं, इसलिए आपसे मेरा विनम्र आग्रह है कि यदि आप इस बिल को वापस ले लें, तो ठीक होगा।

श्री नरेन्द्र बुढानिया : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री जी ने बहुत अच्छे ढंग से अपनी बात कही है। मैं उनको इस बात के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि वे इस दिशा में बहुत तेजी से आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं। लेकिन इस बिल पर यहां पर जितने भी वक्ता बोले हैं, उन सबने सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात जो कही है, वह यह है कि इस मद में ऋण के रूप में जो पैसा दिया जाता है, क्या आप उसको बढ़ाने का काम करेंगे? दो करोड़ रुपए की बात कही गई है, कलराज जी, आज इस महंगाई के जमाने में कोई भी उद्योग एक करोड़ रुपए के बिना तो लग ही नहीं सकता है। आप इसके बारे में स्पष्ट करेंगे कि इस दिशा में आप क्या सोच रहे हैं? यदि आप इस प्रकार का काम करेंगे, तो जब आप क्षेत्रों में जाएंगे, तब आपको भीड़ जुटाने की जरूरत नहीं होगी, क्योंकि युवा अपने आप आपके साथ खड़े हो जाएंगे। आपके बगल में पासवान जी बैठे हैं, रेल मंत्रालय में किए गए कामों के कारण जब वे स्टेशन पर जाते हैं, तो इनको भीड़ इकट्ठा करने की जरूरत नहीं होती है, क्योंकि वहां के सारे कुली और डिपार्टमेंट के सारे लोग इकट्ठे हो जाते हैं, क्योंकि इन्होंने गरीबों की मदद की है। आज आपको मौका मिला है, आप अपना फैसला बताइए कि आप इस संबंध में क्या करने की सोच रहे हैं?

श्री कलराज मिश्र : मान्यवर, आदरणीय सदस्य ने कैपिटल लिमिट बढ़ाने की बात कही है। मैंने पहले ही कहा कि हम सरलीकरण की प्रक्रिया को आगे बढ़ाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। साथ ही साथ बजट भाषण में अभी हमारे वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने 10 हजार करोड़ का वेंचर कैपिटल घोषित किया है, उसमें कहा है इस संबंध में विचार करने के लिए हम तीन विभागों यानी एम.एस.एम.ई., रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया और फाइनेंस की कमेटी बनाएंगे। इन सारी चीजों पर विचार करते समय यह भी इसके अंतर्गत आ सकता है। इस संबंध में अभी तत्काल कुछ कहना उपयुक्त नहीं होगा, लेकिन आपने जो कहा है, इसको हम सब लोग स्वयं अनुभव करते हैं और इसके बारे में सोचते हैं कि यह कैसे व्यवस्थित हो तथा इसके बारे में क्या किया जाए।

श्री विवेक गुप्ता : सर, आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री, कलराज मिश्र जी से मेरा विनम्र

निवेदन यह है कि हम सब लोगों ने बजट को सुना, उसमें वेंचर कैपिटल जरूर है, मगर जब यह वेंचर कैपिटल पैसा देना चाहता है, तो 25 करोड़ के नीचे कोई पैसा नहीं देता है। ये अपने मित्र अरुण जेटली जी से मिल कर इसके अंतर्गत कुछ ऐसा प्रावधान करवा दें, जिसमें उनके लिए कुछ बाध्यता हो, जैसे 20 परसेंट वाली बात है कि 20 परसेंट आपको एम.एस.एम.ई. से खरीदना होगा। इस तरह का प्रावधान हो कि कम से कम पांच परसेंट कैपिटल उनको देना होगा। सर. इन्ही शब्दों के साथ मैं उनको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस पर बहुत बढ़िया जवाब दिया, and I withdraw the Bill. Thank you.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn

The Compulsory Military Training Bill, 2012

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Now, we shall take up the Compulsory Military Training Bill, 2012. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ:

कि देश के सभी युवाओं को अनिवार्य सैन्य प्रशिक्षण देने तथा मैट्रिकुलेशन से स्नातक स्तर तक के बच्चों के लिए पाठ्यक्रम में सैन्य प्रशिक्षण को शामिल करने तथा तत्संसक्त विषयों का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार किया जाए।

महोदय, दो साल बाद आज यह महत्वपूर्ण बिल चर्चा के लिए सदन में आया है। मैं यह बिल जिस कारण से लाया हूँ, उसकी पृष्ठभूमि और भूमिका इस सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। वैसे तो देश का हर हिस्सा, हर गांव महत्वपूर्ण होता है, लेकिन इंटरनेशनली जो बॉर्डर स्टेट्स होते हैं, वे देश के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होते हैं। पंजाब से आता हूँ। आज पंजाब का नौजवान नशे में इतना डूब चुका है कि पहले जो बहुत बढ़िया किसान, एक मेहनती ऑफिसर या आर्मी का जवान मिलता था, वह शायद आज हमें मिलना बंद हो गया है। दूसरी जो बात मेरे मन में थी, वह यह है कि अगर इस देश में अनुशासन नहीं है, तो देश नहीं चल सकता है, क्योंकि मानव शरीर भी बिना अनुशासन के नहीं चल सकता है, एक दफ्तर भी बिना अनुशासन के नहीं चल सकता है, इसी तरह कोई भी देश बिना अनुशासन के नहीं चल सकता है, लेकिन वह अनुशासन हम कहां से लाएं? आज परिवारों का सिस्टम ऐसा हो गया है कि मां-बाप के पास अपने बच्चों के लिए समय नहीं है और टीचर्स के ऊपर इतना बर्दन है कि वह अपना सिलेबस पूरा करने के लिए ज्यादा समय पढ़ाई में देते हैं। जब खेलों के लिए बच्चों के पास समय नहीं है, तो देश का बच्चा, देश का नागरिक अनुशासित कैसे होगा? जब हम इस देश के हालात देखते हैं तो पाते हैं कि कही नक्सलवाद है, कहीं आतंकवाद है और कहीं इस देश को अलग करने की भावना पैदा हो रही है। इसका मूल कारण यह है कि इस देश में देशभक्ति की भावना कम हो रही है।

महोदय, जब मैं इस बिल की तैयारी कर रहा था तो मुझे यह पता चला कि जब चाइना से हमारी लड़ाई हुई तो उस समय दिल्ली में जिन लोगों ने ट्रैफिक की सारी व्यवस्था को देखा, वे राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के सदस्य थे। उन्होंने दिल्ली की सारी व्यवस्था को देखा और उसके बाद

[श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना]

उन्होंने सैनिकों को भोजन पहुंचाने का भी काम किया। अगर हम उसके पीछे जाएं, तो सन 1948 में जब पाकिस्तान ने हम पर हमला किया था तो उस समय उसने जम्मू-कश्मीर के श्रीनगर एयरपोर्ट को पूरी तरह से डैमेज कर दिया था। उस डैमेज्ड एयर-स्ट्रिप को ठीक करने के लिए भी हमारी राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के स्वयंसेवकों ने काम किया। जब कारगिल का युद्ध हुआ तो मुझे वहां जाने का मौका मिला और मुझे द्रास में भी जाने का मौका मिला। जब वहां मैंने लोगों से बातचीत की तो पता चला कि आर्मी के साथ-साथ वहां के लोकल लोगों ने भी, चाहे वे घोड़े वाले थे या खच्चर वाले थे, उन्होंने उस युद्ध में हमारा बहुत साथ दिया। वहां के पहाड़ इतने बड़े हैं कि बिना ट्रेनिंग के उन पर चढ़ना बड़ा मुश्किल था, लेकिन चूंकि वे लोकल लोग वहां आते-जाते थे, इसलिए आर्मी के लिए आर्म्स और रसद ले जाने में उन्होंने हमारा बड़ा साथ दिया। अगर हम इन घटनाओं को देखते हैं तो हमें यह पता चलता है कि अगर इस देश के बच्चों को अनुशासित करने के लिए उन्हें दसवीं कक्षा से लेकर किसी एक तय एज तक ट्रेनिंग दी जाए तो अच्छे ह्यूमन रिसोर्सिज खड़े हो सकते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि पॉपुलेशन के हिसाब से दुनिया में दूसरे नम्बर पर भारत में सबसे ज्यादा ह्यूमन रिसोर्सिज हैं और हम इन्हें अच्छे ढंग से यूज कर सकते हैं। यहां हम बार-बार आबादी कम करने की बात कहते हैं। वह कम होगी या नहीं होगी, यह पता नहीं है, लेकिन अगर इतनी आबादी है तो उसको हम ट्रेंड करके यूज कर सकते हैं। जब एक बच्चा इंजीनियरिंग करके मिलिट्री ट्रेनिंग लेने जाएगा तो उसके रूप में आर्मी, बी.एस.एफ. तथा अन्य फोर्सिज के लिए एक ट्रेड इंजीनियर मिल सकता है। इसी तरह, जब एक डॉक्टर ट्रेनिंग के लिए जाएगा तो उन फोर्सिज के लिए एक डॉक्टर मिल सकता है। अगर वह वहां सेवा नहीं करना चाहता है और सिविल लाइन में आता है तब भी वह ट्रेनिंग उसके दिमाग में रहेगी और यहां आकर वह एक अच्छे अनुशासित नागरिक के रूप में देश की सेवा कर सकता है।

यह हो सकता है कि माननीय मंत्री जी एन.सी.सी. का जिक्र करें, लेकिन आज एन.सी.सी. का ट्रेंड भी कम हुआ है। बहुत से स्कूलों के साथ-साथ प्राइवेट स्कूल्स, जिनका एजुकेशन के ऊपर आज काफी हद तक कब्जा है, वहां भी एन.सी.सी. का प्रचालन बन्द हो गया है। आज अगर कोई एक्सिडेंट होता है तो उसका केस रजिस्टर होता है। उसमें सजा होती है और उसमें मैक्सिमम सजा दो साल की होती है, लेकिन आज अनुशासित न होने के कारण पहले तो एक्सिडेंट में जो व्यक्ति मरा है, उसकी लाश सड़क किनारे रख दी जाती है, फिर वहां पर लोगों का तब तक धरना चलता है जब तक कोई पुलिस ऑफिसर आकर यह आश्वासन न दे दे कि हमने दोषी को गिरफ्तार कर लिया है। बात यहीं खत्म नहीं होती, जिस ट्रक या गाड़ी से वह एक्सिडेंट होता है, उसको लोग जला देते हैं। वे सिर्फ उसी को नहीं जलाते, बल्कि अगर उन्हें मौका मिलता है तो इर्दगिर्द के जितने भी एस्टैब्लिशमेंट्स होते हैं या जो भी वाहन वहां से गुजरते हैं, उनको डैमेज करना एक आम बात हो गई है। उसका एक कारण यह है कि लोगों में एक निराशा है और उसका दूसरा कारण यह है कि हम यह समझ नहीं पा रहे हैं कि हम जिन प्रॉपर्टीज का नुकसान कर रहे हैं, वे हमारे देश की प्रॉपर्टीज हैं और इनमें हमारा भी हिस्सा है। सर, मैं इस बिल के माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इससे एक ऐसा अनुशासित नौजवान इस देश को मिलेगा जो किसी भी समस्या का मुकाबला करने के लिए तैयार होगा।

सर, आजकल कई छोटी-छोटी घटनाएं हो रही हैं। यहां पर बहुत बार यह चर्चा हुई है कि महिलाओं और लड़कियों के साथ बहुत दुर्व्यवहार हो रहा है। मैंने देखा कि टी.वी. वालों ने सिम्पल यह दिखाने की कोशिश की तथा प्लांट किया कि एक गाड़ी से एक लड़की की आवाज आ रही है। लोग आते हैं, उसके पास खड़े होते हैं और चले जाते हैं। मोटरसाइकिल वाला आता है, वहां खड़ा होता है और चला जाता है। वहां किसी की हिम्मत नहीं पड़ी कि उस गाड़ी को रोककर, देखकर यह कह सके कि इसमें क्या हो रहा है? यह एक दर्शन है देश का देश के साइकोलॉजिस्ट्स बताते हैं कि आज का नौजवान शायद वह हिम्मत हार चुका है कि अगर मैंने मदद करने की कोशिश की, अगर मैंने कुछ यहां कहने की कोशिश की तो शायद उसके ऊपर ही केस हो जाएगा। अगर सारी बातों को हम देखें तो उससे एक ही बात निकलती है कि हमें अपने देश के नौजवान को अनुशासित करना होगा। इसमें एक और भी फायदा है। जब हम कम्पलसरी मिलिट्री ट्रेनिंग देंगे, तो उसमें मेडिकल चैकअप होगा, तो हमारे पास एक डेटा होगा कि मेरे देश का नौजवान आज कितना हैल्दी है, वह कितना बीमार है इस बात का डेटा भी हमारे देश के सामने आ जाएगा और उसके साथ अपना जो हैल्थ का बजट है, हैल्थ की जो स्कीम्स हैं, उनको भी हम सही करने की दिशा में बढ़ सकते हैं। सर, मैंने 170 देशों की स्टडी की है कि कहां-कहां किस देश में यह ट्रेनिंग कम्पलसरी है, किस देश में voluntary है, किस देश में कम्पलसरी और voluntary है, किस देश में सेलेक्टिव है और किस देश में सिर्फ रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाने की जरूरत है। अगर इन सब देशों के इस सिस्टम को स्टडी किया जाए तो मैं समझ सकता हूँ कि एक बहुत सटीक, एक बहुत बढ़िया अनुशासित, एक बहुत बढ़िया कानून हमारे पास होगा जिसके कारण हम अपने देश के नौजवान को अनुशासित करके देश के काम में लगा सकते हैं। सर, आज मैं समझता हूँ कि जब भी कोई सुबह उठता है यहां सबसे पहली गाली वह अपने देश को देता है कि हम कहां पैदा हो गए। क्यों? क्योंकि पहली बात कि उसके मन में देशभक्ति की भाव खत्म हो चुका है। दूसरी बात, जब वह अपनी सारी समस्याओं को देखता है कि बेराजगारी है तथा जब किसी ऑफिस में जाते हैं तो वहां पर ढंग से बात नहीं होती, किसी को मिलने जाते हैं काम के लिए जाते हैं, तो वह काम नहीं करता। कितना फ्रस्टेशन उसके मन में भरा है। तो वह इस सिस्टम को गालियां देने की कोशिश करता है। उसको निकालने का भी एक माध्यम है कि अगर आज पूरी तैयारी करके एक अनुशासित नौजवान हमारे देश को मिलेगा, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि पॉपुलेशन का जो हम बर्दन सोच रहे हैं, अगर यही पॉपुलेशन एक अनुशासित पॉपुलेशन होगी, यही पॉपुलेशन एक देशभक्त पॉपुलेशन होगी, यही पॉपुलेशन देश के लिए काम करने वाली पॉपुलेशन होगी तो यह समस्या नहीं, यह हमारे लिए एक सोर्स होगा। इसको हम देश के भिन्न-भिन्न कार्यों में यूज कर सकते हैं। एक एक्जाम्पल के तौर पर मिलिट्री ट्रेनिंग में यह नहीं कि सिर्फ गोली चलाया जाना सिखाया जाता है, उसके बहुत से पाटर्न्स हैं। मैं खुद एन.सी.सी. का कैडेट रहा हूँ, मैं खिलाड़ी भी रहा हूँ। मैं समझ सकता हूँ कि जब ऐसी ट्रेनिंग इंसान लेता है तो उसके मन में जो भावनाएं पैदा होती हैं, जो काम करने की क्षमता पैदा होती है वह क्षमता उसको देश की तरक्की, उन्नति के लिए काम आएगी। सर, मैं आपको एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ कि जब मैं लोक सभा का मेंबर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट था, तो मेरे मन में एक बात आई कि क्यों न अपनी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी में स्पेशल आर्मी रिक्रूटमेंट के लिए मांग की जाए। मैंने मांग की और वह रिक्रूटमेंट

[श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना]

मुझे मिल गई। रिक्रूटमेंट मिल गई तो वैस्ट बंगाल के ऑफिसर उस रिक्रूटमेंट के लिए गए। वह अपने ऑफिसर को कह कर गए कि मुझे पंजाब में जाकर बड़ी मुश्किल होगी कि वहां सभी लोग इतने हट्टे-कट्टे होंगे, इतने हैल्दी होंगे कि मैं फिजिकल में उनको कैसे सलेक्ट कर पाऊंगा, उनकी मेरिट कैसे बना पाऊंगा, मेरे लिए यह बहुत मुश्किल होगा। कुदरती मैं वहां नहीं जा पाया, लेकिन बीस हजार लोग उस रिक्रूटमेंट में गए थे। तो बीस हजार में से सिर्फ दो हजार लोग ही फिजिकली फिट हुए। जब ऑफिसर यहां आया, उससे बात हुई तो उन्होंने बताया कि मैं जैसा पंजाब के बारे में सोचता था आज मुझे वहां जाकर पता चला कि न मुझे उनकी हाइट के लोग मिले, न उनकी चेस्ट उतनी थी, न वे दौड़ पाए। तो इसका कारण क्या था? कारण वही था कि जो वहां पर लत नशों की है, उसके कारण हमारे नौजवान बहुत कमजोर हो चुका है। हमारी पंजाब सरकार बहुत कुछ रही है, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने भी अभी 50 करोड़ रुपए का बजट डी-एडिक्शन के लिए रखा है। ठीक है, कि बहुत बड़ा नेक्सस है, यह इंटरनेशनल साजिश है ड्रग की। सर, अगर हम दुनिया के तीन बड़े बिजनेसेज गिनें तो पहला नंबर आर्म्स बिजनेस और तीसरे नंबर पर ड्रग्स का बिजनेस आता है। हालांकि यह एक illegal business है, लेकिन यह बिजनेस बहुत ज्यादा flourish हो रहा है और इसका कारण यह है कि आज का नौजवान उस तरफ जा रहा है। इस बारे में एक्सपर्ट्स ने स्टडीज की हैं और उन सबने एक राय से कहा है कि नशे की मार से पंजाब और देश तभी बच सकता है, जब हमारा नौजवान उसके nexus से निकल जाए और इस nexus से निकलने का सिर्फ एक ही रास्ता है कि हम अपने नौजवानों को मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग के लिए तैयार करें। सर, जब वह एक साल मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग करेगा, तो अपने आप उस nexus से निकल जाएगा और मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूं कि हमारा देश खास तौर से पंजाब जो नशे की गंभीर समस्या से जूझ रहा है, उससे वह निकल जाएगा।

सर, हो सकता है कि financial aspect इस काम में आड़े आए क्योंकि लोक सभा में उठाए गए प्रश्नों के सिलसिले में, मैंने अपनी सरकार और पिछली सरकार को जवाबों में देखा है कि उसमें बहुत से reasons दिए गए हैं। उनमें यह भी कहा गया है कि हम इस ट्रेनिंग को कम्पलसरी नहीं कर सकते। मेरा कहना है कि अगर इसे हम कम्पलसरी नहीं कर सकते तो माननीय मंत्री जी एक ऐसा रास्ता निकालें ताकि एक नौजवान को कम-से-कम एक साल की ऐसी ट्रेनिंग करने का मौका मिले और वह अपने देश और प्रदेश की सेवा कर सके।

सर किसी भी देश का नाम दो बातों से आगे बढ़ता है। एक Research and development और दूसरा स्पोर्ट्स और जब हम स्पोर्ट्स की तरफ देखते हैं, तब हमें उस तरह के सेहतमंद खिलाड़ी नहीं मिल पाते। जब हम रि सर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट की तरफ देखते हैं, तो पाते हैं कि हमारे पास Budget allocations इतने नहीं हैं कि हम रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट का काम ज्यादा कर पाएं। इसलिए अगर हम स्पोर्ट्स में अपने देश का नाम आगे ले जाना चाहते हैं, देश के लोगों को हैल्दी बनाना चाहते हैं, अगर अपने देश के लोगों को disciplined बनाना चाहते हैं, अगर हम चाहते हैं कि देश में होने वाले agitations से देश का नुकसान न हो, तो उसका एक ही रास्ता है कि हम अपने नौजवान के मन को बदलें। सर, दुनिया के देशों में जहां-जहां भी compulsory military training है, voluntary military training है, फिर चाहे वह selective है या रजिस्ट्रेशन से भी है,

वहां लोग आगे आते हैं कि जब भी जरूरत पड़े, हम अपने देश की सेवा के लिए तैयार हैं, इसलिए आज जो एक नेगेटिव वातावरण देश में बना हुआ है, उसकी जगह देश में देशभक्ति की भावना फिर से पैदा हो सके, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि इस बिल को स्वीकार कर देश को एक नई नीति प्रदान करें। इससे देश के नौजवानों को बड़ा लाभ होगा। मैं इतनी बात कहकर अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

The question was proposed.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया) : डा. नाच्चीयप्पन।

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, the pith and substance of this particular Bill has already been evolved by the Government for the past 60 years, and more specifically, it was done when we faced the war with Pakistan and during the Chinese invasion. We started giving training to the youths on two aspects. One, we wanted to see that patriotism should be developed from young age and the people should be ready to voluntarily come forward and put their mind, body and the intelligence for protection of India. We have also succeeded in that attempt by introducing the National Cadet Corps at the college and high school levels. Then, we experimented with the Sainik School method, whereby the students, who joined these schools, got all the fundamental training which made them eligible for becoming Commissioned Officers, whether in Army, Air Force or in Navy. This has succeeded very well and helped many of the youths who had the ambition of serving the country by way of uniformed service in any of the three Wings of our Forces.

Subsequently, when we started the debate on making it compulsory or making it somewhat nearer to compulsory, it was not found appreciable by certain sections. Then, we made it as a voluntary service. Sir, you know very well that in American system, a compulsory military training is given to everybody. But after the Second World War, it has gradually waned away and even though, many of the politicians, Presidents of the United States of America have come after having a full training, serving for the three Forces, they used to think about how patriotic they were, how committed they were for the United States of America.

The culture of USA is divided. They were having a continuous process of saying, "We the people of the United States of America". In India, when we go for catching the vote, we never say, you vote for India. But in America they used to ask for the same for the United States of America. Therefore, they have to, again and again, remind the people who were having origin in Europe and other Asian countries, and, who lived there by their own meritorious services. Having separate federal set-up, they want to remind the people that they are not a separate country; they have got the United States of America.

[Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

India is somewhat similar to that. We are also united. Even though we have got different ethnic, linguistic, cultural groups in geographically different areas, we never become united by way of any religion or any unified country. We are also a country of united States; we are a union of States, which becomes 'Bharat' or 'India'. Therefore, we are very careful in handling the issues. Learning of Hindi was also one of the targets for making the military, Air Force, and Navy training at the-college level. I remember, and, I can proudly say that I could pass through the examination in the Naval services. As a graduate in Science during my college period, I was Cadet Captain, which has its equivalent in the Army, which was the highest post in college life. I was motivated that I should join the medical services of Navy. Finally, I ended up being a law student. Our hon. Law Minister is here. Only as last resort, we used to go to the law college. But now it has become a fashion to go to the law college.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): May I interrupt, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir? Had he pursued his career in the Navy, the Parliament would have been a loser? Isn't it, Mr. Natchiappan?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया) : इनका एक्सपीरियंस जरूर काम आएगा।

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Therefore, we are very proud of having got the training in the youth period. And, only due to this, wherever there is a small attack on nationalism, or, whenever there is anything against the State, against the nation, we cannot tolerate the same. So, training is very much necessary for India. We are in a globalized economy where there are no boundaries. There is nothing that we can claim ourselves that it belongs to a particular country. The world is now open. But we cannot live long in that universal way of global economy and other things. Everybody is having his own nationality, own language, own ethnic mentality and everything. So, I appreciate the attempt made by our friend, Avinash Rai Khanna *ji*, for bringing this particular Bill, on which we could express our views.

I feel that we have graduated from the National Cadet Corps to the National Student Services (NSS) and various types of trainings are given at the college level. But, now, the training is not physical training alone. Once, people used to feel that in the military, or, say, Air Force service, you have to go in for a drill, you have to fast for so many days, you have to do hard work, you have to go for mountaineering, you have to go for boat-sailing. These types of things were thought about. But the military and the uniform services are now based on scientific method.

I think, there will not be any soldier in due course; after a decade, we may not have any soldier. We may be having a system of surveillance whereby the higher level officers will be looking at the monitors to find out as to where the movement is taking place, and, then, they will carry out attacks from certain locations. Therefore, the human resources are not going to be tortured like that as in the conventional way of military services, the Air Force or the Navy. We are gradually going to the scientific method of protecting our country. We are gradually going to the level of understanding each and every aspect in scientific way, rather than the conventional methods. But, at the same time, as we have brought up in the culture that our body should be fit for anything, any consequences, facing any opposition by way of physical battle-like situation, similarly our mind should also be very stable to look at the issues, whenever there is a battle or war situation comes up. Similarly, we should have the intelligence to use it. We are the people who accept the sovereignty. We are born with a divine power to protect not only our homes, not only our families, not only our town, but we have to protect our soil, the mother soil, which has brought us to this level. Many of the pictures which were coming during 1965 inculcated a lot of patriotism throughout India Lal Bahadur Shastriji's slogan of the *Jai Jawan Jai Kisan* and the military people was also very much appreciated at that time. Nowadays, we are deviating ourselves from this type of national aptitude or national commitment or national patriotism. These are all becoming the backburner of the Indian society. It is a right time I feel that we have to make a parallel level of education, even from the level of the primary school and high school, to have the skill of Military, Armed Force and Navy so that the people who have got the aptitude to come and join the Militray schools or Air Force schools or Navy schools or colleges at the later level, they should get the opportunity of making it. Our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, when he was heading the UPA, even took the initiative that at the high school level, there should be Indian Administrative Services training so that the people who are ready to come forward, who have the aptitude to become the administrators of public services, should have the opportunity to learn things. Therefore, the opportunity of learning the things at the lowest level, the accessibility to have the knowledge at the lowest level is very, very important. The present system of education is gradually going only for occupation or for job-oriented education. We have to mix it along with patriotism; we have to mix it along with the feeling that I am an Indian; I have to come forward, committing myself to save the country, not only its territorial integrity, not only saving it from the enemies but also showing my merit, showing my commitment, showing my innovation, showing my research mind, I want to show that Indians are the best people in the world. We are proud that for the last 65 years, our brain drain is one of the sources of the western countries, more specifically the Americans. They have grown only with our own trained people who

[Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

have gone to America seeking jobs and become citizens after getting the Green Card. Now, the view is turning around. Indians are coming back to India from America to show their merit. Therefore, this is the correct opportunity to create a thinking why not we go for better training at the high school level, just like the NCC and other things. I was in the Defence Committee. At that time, I could get the opportunity of calling the National Cadet Corps Director General as witness. At that time, we could find that the Government had started to stop funding for training. If I have a private school and I want to have an NCC training, but what they say is, you have to pay for that. I hope the Government should come forward to allow the payment to be made by the Government itself to have the NCC training at the high school. Whether it is a public school or a private school, whoever is volunteering to have the training, the Government of India, from the Defence Ministry, should pay for that and ask them to have the training. Not only physically but also mentally and technically, they should be graduated to that level. I am very much recollecting myself of how I could sail in the Arabian Sea in a military ship when I was NCC Captain. I had the feeling that I was sailing in our own naval ship to protect our seas. If we inculcate this feeling in our children in early part of their life, it will remain with them throughout their life. It will give them a feeling that they are Indians. They will be proud of it. They want to learn Hindi. They want to protect the integrity of nation. These types of opportunities should be given to the Indian children.

We are having a feeling that we are divided in certain ways. They may be linguistic or ethnic or geographical divisions. But we should not consider them as divisions. It is the strength of India. Different societies are uniting India. Diversity is not a barrier for us. Diversity is our strength. We can show our Indianess, our culture to the world. We are going to succeed in every venture.

I want Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna's wish to be fulfilled. The Government of India should spend more money to provide military training to the youth at the level of school and college. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आदरणीय अविनाश राय खन्ना जी ने सभी युवाओं को सेना में कम से कम एक साल की अनिवार्य ट्रेनिंग देने का बिल लाकर एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर सारे समाज और देश का ध्यान आकर्षित करते की कोशिश की है। उसके साथ-साथ उन्होंने पंजाब का वर्णन किया। आज जिस स्थिति में वह अधिक सम्पन्नता के कारण पहुंच गया है, उसको फिर से वापस लाने के लिए उनके मन में यह वेदना पनपी है। इन सब चीजों को देखते हुए दुनिया में एक अच्छे देश का विकास होना चाहिए। जैसे हम इज़राइल को देखते हैं। वहां देशभक्ति है, वहां पर अपनी भाषा के प्रति श्रद्धा है, अपनी संस्कृति के प्रति

श्रद्धा है। इसके कारण वह अपनी अस्मिता को बनाए रखने में सफल हुआ है। इसका मूल कारण यह है कि आज भी वहां पर मैट्रिक के बाद एक साल की compulsory सैन्य शिक्षा हर विद्यार्थी को दी जाती है। इसके कारण उस देश ने दुनिया में अपनी साख बनायी है। चाहे वह नोबेल पुरस्कार हो, एक प्रकार से सारी दुनिया का जो आधुनिक तंत्र है, परोक्ष रूप से उसे अमेरिका के माध्यम से अगर कोई कंट्रोल करता है, तो वह इजराइल का नागरिक है। इस कारण से मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि यह जो बिल लाया गया है, यह इस देश के हित में अत्यंत आवश्यक है। वैसे तो यह ट्रेनिंग अनेक डिपार्टमेंट्स से जुड़ी हुई है। शिक्षा क्षेत्र में इसके द्वारा इम्प्लीमेंटेशन होता है। सर, एक कहावत है कि जब आग लग जाती है, तब कुआं खोदने जाते हैं। वैसे ही 1962 से पहले, चाइना के एग्रेसिवेशन के समय में एन.सी.सी. थी। अगर मैं सच कहूँ तो देश की जनसंख्या जब 60-70 करोड़ थी, उस समय एन.सी.सी. की जो संख्या थी, आज भी स्कूलों और कॉलेजों में उतनी ही लिमिट बनाकर रखी हुई है। हमारे स्कूलों से हम सौ बार मांग करते हैं कि हमें एन.सी.सी. दीजिए। वे कहते हैं कि यह लिमिटेड है, अगर कहीं एन.सी.सी. का ऑफिस बंद हो जाएगा, तब आपके स्कूल को मिल जाएगा। जिस तरह से देश की जनसंख्या बढ़ी है, उस हिसाब से कम से कम दोगुनी-तिगुनी एन.सी.सी. हाई स्कूलों में, जूनियर कॉलेजों में सरकार को खोलनी चाहिए। अगर आप उसे नहीं खोलेंगे तो सेना के लिए आगे आने वाले समय में अच्छे लोग मिलने बंद हो जाएंगे। आज हम जानते हैं कि सरकार सेना के अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण आठ हजार ओहदों पर लोगों की नियुक्ति करना चाहती है, लेकिन उसे लोग नहीं मिल रहे हैं क्योंकि इसका बेस, जो हाई स्कूल से प्रारम्भ होता है, उसकी तरफ सरकार ने ध्यान नहीं दिया है। जो बीत गया, उसे याद करने से कुछ फायदा नहीं होगा। शरीर, मन, बुद्धि, आत्मा - सबको एक discipline में लाना इस देश के विकास के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक है। इस आवश्यकता को पूर्ण करने की दृष्टि से सेना की यह ट्रेनिंग अत्यंत आवश्यक है। इसे लाने के लिए मैं इस बिल का पूर्ण समर्थन करता हूँ। साथ ही साथ सरकार, हाई स्कूल, जूनियर कॉलेज, डिग्री कॉलेज, इन माध्यमों में - हो सकता सरकार हां कह दे और अविनाश राय खन्ना जी अपने बिल को वापस लें - लेकिन जो एन.सी.सी. का कोर्स है, सरकार को हर सतर पर इसे तीन या चार गुना तक बढ़ाने का काम करना चाहिए।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. ई.एम. सुदर्शन नाच्चीयप्पन) पीठासीन हुए]

इस देश में आने वाले समय में अच्छे सैनिक मिलेंगे। इतना ही नहीं, उन सब विद्यालयों और कॉलेजों में एक नया discipline का रास्ता शुरू होगा। फिर वह आदमी किसी भी क्षेत्र में जाएगा, तो वह एक disciplined नागरिकता के नाते जियेगा, नहीं तो वहां भी बिकेगा, और जगह भी बिकेगा, तथा देश की अस्मिता संकट में आएगी। देश की अस्मिता को बचाने की दृष्टि से, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश के हित में फिर एक बार, again and again मैं आग्रह करता हूँ कि प्राथमिक स्तर पर, हाई स्कूल, जूनियर कालेज, डिग्री कालेज में एन.सी.सी. को तुरंत तीन या चार गुना की संख्या में बढ़ाया जाए। यह भविष्य के भारत के लिए अच्छा रहेगा। अगर इस बिल को सरकार स्वीकार करेगी, तो मैं यह कहूँगा कि “यह सोने पर सुंहागा” होगा। इस दिशा में सरकार पहल करे और मैं श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना जी के इस प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिल का हृदय से समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for motivating me to share my views on the Private Member's Bill and I thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

As rightly pointed out by the Vice-Chairman, I want to follow what he said. The first and foremost and the vital point of having military training for the youth of our country is to bring them out of their vulnerability, to convert their vulnerability, to make the youth throw their vulnerability and come out as modest and law-abiding citizens. So, the youth has to be transformed. The youth has more potential. The youth must have more civic responsibility. They have to become more law-abiding citizens. So, that is the main point we wanted to put forward along with the Bill introduced by the hon. Member.

As you rightly said, I had a golden opportunity to serve in the National Cadet Corps for seven years - four years in my High school, from 7th standard to 10th standard, and then, three years in my under-graduation in the college. I come from Tirunelveli in the Southern part of India. I did not have an opportunity or exposure such as yours like gliding and Navy exposure. We had only the Army wing in our NCC. Even then, I had the greatest training. I went for trekking expedition in Shivaji Fort in Pune and I went for the basic nursing hostel training in the Wellington camps in Ooty. And I also got the greatest opportunity of participating in the RD camps. I wanted to be very broad. You did not mention about women empowerment. The main thing is empowerment. I am here today because of the seven years' training I had in my school and college days. I am standing here. It is empowerment, empowering women and learning more martial skills. We have learnt to be one. We shall be one. We want all of us to be one in this country. We have learnt to be tolerant towards all religions, all castes, all creeds and all languages. We have learnt to be tolerant because we moved with Punjabi girls, we moved with people from Eastern States and we moved with all of them in my early youth, and childhood. That came at the stage of my matriculation. So, it is the greatest opportunity, especially to protect them. Now, the women and especially the girl children, who go out of their homes to schools and colleges, don't have protection. But once they are equipped with martial arts, karate and kungfu in their school and college days, they will be able to face all the challenges with courage. I want girls right from their high school level to get military training to become more courageous. I have handled .22 rifles. I have participated in the State level rifle competition which has given me more exposure as to how I can face everything with grit, with great courage.

I know that this Bill suggests that students have to undergo military training right from our school level to the college level. We have to inculcate strong patriotism

which has been brought out by the military training. The diversion of such enormous youth force from contributing to the overall economic growth of our country would be counterproductive for this nation as a whole. So, I want this enormous youth to be well trained, more civic responsible, to be more law abiding, to be more forceful and to face every thing for a greater nation.

I thank you for the opportunity given to me for expressing my views on this Bill. I support this Bill that military training should be made compulsory for the protection of the girls and women, and to face this male-dominated society with courage and determination. Thank you.

डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया (मध्य प्रदेश) : वाइस चेयरमैन सर, जिस बात की जरूरत देश को है, वह यह है कि हर राष्ट्र का निर्माण करने के लिए पुरुषार्थ की आवश्यकता होती है। बिना प्रशिक्षण के मनुष्य का निर्माण नहीं होता है। इस संसार में सदियों से और आज भी अस्तित्व के संघर्ष के लिए स्वयं को तैयार करना होता है। यदि हम व्यक्ति के बारे में विचार करें तो व्यक्ति का निर्माण करने के लिए यदि प्रारंभ से ही उसका शिक्षण-प्रशिक्षण ठीक हो जाए, प्रारंभ अच्छा हो जाए तो निश्चित रूप से आगे परिणाम तक जाने के लिए, निर्माण तक जाने के लिए हम ऐसे व्यक्तित्व का निर्माण कर सकते हैं। जितने भी महापुरुष हुए हैं, यदि हम उन सबके बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त करेंगे तो यह लगेगा कि कहीं-कहीं उनको यह संस्कार मिला है। मिलिट्री का प्रशिक्षण होना एक संस्कार है। मेरा सौभाग्य रहा है कि मुझे ऐसे प्रशिक्षण वाले सैन्य स्कूल में पढ़ने का अवसर मिला है। प्रारंभ से ही इस विधा में जाने के कारण मेरा जो स्टेमिना है, कार्यक्षमता है, वह धीरे-धीरे बढ़ती गई। मैं अपने अभ्यास के लिए, 3 हजार मीटर, 5 हजार मीटर तक दौड़ने के लिए जो तैयारी करता था, वह 10 किलोमीटर, पन्द्रह किलोमीटर और सप्ताह में एक बार बीस किलोमीटर तक दौड़ने में लगाता था। लेकिन यह अकस्मात् नहीं हुआ। चूंकि जहां मैं पढ़ता था, वहां पर सी.आर.पी. हुआ करती थी। सी.आर.पी. के मैदान पर उनके साथ दौड़ करके मुझमें क्षमता अर्जित करने का काम हुआ। सैन्य स्कूल में पढ़े होने के कारण, मुझे भी यह ऊर्जा मिली हुई थी, जिसके कारण से यह सब सम्भव हुआ।

पहले स्कूल के समय में ए.सी.सी. हुआ करती थी, फिर एन.सी.सी. हुआ करती थी, 'नेशनल कैडेट कोर' हुआ करती थी, हर विद्यालय में यह होती थी। आज तब हम शिक्षण के क्षेत्र में काम करते हैं तो हम देखते हैं कि किसी को इस तरफ जाने का मौका ही नहीं मिलता है। एक समय था, जब व्यक्ति वर्दी पहन करके निकलता था। खाकी वर्दी पहन करके, खाकी शर्ट डाल करके, खाकी निकर डाल करके, फिर फीता लगा करके जब वह निकलता था, तब उसको लगता था कि मैं भी इस देश के लिए काम कर सकता हूं। "हर कोई काम पर है, मेरा देश लाम पर है", ऐसा सोच करके हम इस देश के लिए हरेक व्यक्ति को तैयार करने का काम करते थे। यह देश बहुत बड़ा है।

“उत्तरं यत् समुन्द्रस्य हिमाद्रेश्चैव दक्षिणम्।
वर्षं तद् भारतं नाम भारती यत्र संस्कृतिः॥”

[डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया]

यहां की संस्कृति ही भारती है। यह निर्माण करने वाली संस्कृति है। निश्चित रूप से यदि इस संस्कृतिक के बारे में हम विचार करने का काम करें, तो इसके अन्दर सारी विधाएं हैं। मैथिली शरण गुप्त जी के शब्दों में कहा जाए, तो हम कहेंगे-

“हम कौन थे, क्या हो गए हैं, और क्या होंगे अभी।
आओ विचारें आज मिलकर, ये समस्याएं सभी।
यद्यपि इतिहास अपना ज्ञात पूरा है नहीं।
हम कौन थे, इस ज्ञान का, फिर भी अधूरा है नहीं।
भू-लोक का गौरव प्रकृति का पुण्य लीला-स्थल कहां।
फैला मनोहर गिरी हिमालय और गंगाजल जहां।
सम्पूर्ण देशों से अधिक, किस देश का उत्कर्ष है।
उसका कि जो ऋषि-भूमि है, वह कौन, भारतवर्ष है।”

इसका जवाब देने के लिए हर व्यक्ति का निर्माण होना चाहिए, क्योंकि व्यक्ति से ही समाज की रचना होती है। समाज बनाने के लिए व्यक्ति का निर्माण बहुत जरूरी है। इस सारी रचना में, जैसा हमारे ऋषि कहते हैं, “शरीरमाद्यं खलु धर्म साधनम्”। यदि हमारा शरीर अच्छा है, तो फिर विचार भी अच्छा होगा। जब विचार अच्छा होगा, तो निश्चित रूप से आचरण भी अच्छा होगा, इसलिए चरित्र निर्माण करने की दृष्टि से सबसे पहले जो जरूरी बात है, वह यह है कि शरीर को अच्छा होना चाहिए, स्वस्थ होना चाहिए। जब शरीर स्वस्थ होगा, तो स्वस्थ विचार आएंगे। जब स्वस्थ विचार आएंगे, तो आचरण अच्छा होगा। जब व्यक्ति का आचरण अच्छा होगा, तभी समाज का आचरण अच्छा होगा और जब समाज का आचरण अच्छा होगा, तभी देश उन्नति करेगा।

आज ये सारे विकार क्यों आ रहे हैं? किस प्रकार की घटनाएं हमारे देश में घटित हो रही हैं। अभी ड्रग्स के बारे में बात की जा रही थी कि ड्रग्स के कारण लोगों को बहुत परेशानी हो रही है। आज आदमी जीवन का रास्ता ही भटक गया है। व्यक्ति ड्रग्स के रास्ते पर जाता ही क्यों है? आज कितनी घटनाएं घटित हो रही हैं। महिलाओं पर अत्याचार क्यों हो रहा है? अनुज जाति के लोगों पर अत्याचार क्यों हो रहा है? अपना संविधान देने के बाद भी उस संविधान को आचरण में लाने से हम दूर क्यों हो गए हैं? हमारा संविधान बहुत अच्छा बना हुआ है, “हम भारत के लोग, भारत को एक सम्पूर्ण प्रभुत्वसम्पन्न, समाजवादी, पंथनिरपेक्ष, लोकतंत्रात्मक गणराज्य बनाने के लिए तथा उसके समस्त नागरिकों को सामाजिक, आर्थिक और राजनीतिक न्याय,....”

"We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens: justice, social, economic and political;..."

ये सब करने के लिए क्या व्यक्ति नहीं चाहिए। इसको कौन करेगा? यदि भारत के संविधान में ये सारी बातें उल्लिखित की गईं, जिसमें हमने कहा है, “न्याय, स्वतंत्रता, समता, बन्धुता, सबको समानता का अधिकार”, यह आएगा कैसे? व्यक्ति के निर्माण की विधा को, अविनाश जी ने जिस तरह रखने का काम किया है, इससे तो राष्ट्र निर्माण का काम करने के लिए एक बहुत बड़ा आधार और सम्बल मिलेगा, राष्ट्र को मजबूत बनाने का सम्बल मिलेगा। इसलिए राष्ट्र के निर्माण की विधा के लिए यह जो ट्रेनिंग का काम है, वह अवश्य होना चाहिए।

इसमें यह कहा गया है कि यह काम स्कूल के अंदर भी होना चाहिए। खेल जो होता है, वह भी एक डिसिप्लिन का काम होता है। जो खिलाड़ी होता है, वह कभी थकता नहीं है। खिलाड़ी कभी हारता नहीं है। हममें से बहुत सारे लोग खिलाड़ी रहे होंगे। जब हम चुनाव के खेल में जाते हैं, तो चुनाव के खेल में भी हार-जीत होती है। जब हार-जीत हो जाती है, तो कुछ लोग तो हार करके बैठ जाते हैं और कुछ लोग ऐसे होते हैं, जो हार करके भी उसमें से जीत का संदेश ले करके आगे बढ़ जाते हैं। मनुष्य को निर्माण की दृष्टि से संयम बहुत आवश्यक है। हमारे यहां मनुष्य के निर्माण की दस विधाएं बताई गई हैं, उनमें से यह भी एक है। वे दस विधाएं हैं,

“धृतिःक्षमा दमोस्तेयं शौचमिन्द्रियनिग्रहः।
धीर्विद्या सत्यमक्रोधो दशकं धर्मलक्षणम्॥”

धर्म कोई पूजा पद्धति नहीं है, व्यक्ति के निर्माण के लिए ये सब कारक हैं, आवश्यक तत्व हैं। यदि इन आवश्यक तत्वों को हम मनुष्य के अन्दर संजोने का काम करते हैं, तो इसके लिए यह बहुत जरूरी है कि मनुष्य का निर्माण किया जाए। मनुष्य के निर्माण के लिए, उसे इन सारी बातों के लिए प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए, उसको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए, उसके विकास के लिए इन सारी बातों की बहुत जरूरत होती है। इसलिए प्राथमिकता यह है कि चरित्र निर्माण करने की दृष्टि से यह मिलिट्री की ट्रेनिंग होनी बहुत जरूरी है, नहीं तो निश्चित रूप से डिसिप्लिन नहीं आएगा।

जब देश पर संकट की बात होती है।...(व्यवधान)... जब देश का निर्माण करने की बात होती है, इसे वीर बनाने की होती है, तो नर का सबसे बड़ा धर्म है- मनुष्य को चेतना प्रदान करना, स्फूर्ति प्रदान करना। नर का सबसे बड़ा धर्म है- सदा प्रज्वलित रहना, it should be charged:

“सबसे बड़ा धर्म है नर का, सदा प्रज्वलित रहना।
दाहक शक्ति समेट, स्पर्श भी नहीं किसी का सहना॥”

जब हम राष्ट्र निर्माण के कार्यों में लगते हैं, तो फिर सोचने की जरूरत नहीं कि इसे करना है या नहीं करना है।

“बुझा बुद्धि का दीप वीरवर,
आंख मूंद चलते हैं।
उछल वेदिका पर चढ़ जाते,
और स्वयं जलते हैं, स्वयं बलते हैं।
शूर धर्म है हंसते-हंसते,
अंगारों पर चलना।
शूर धर्म है असि शोणित पर,
धरकर पांव मचलना।
शूर धर्म है छाती खोल
तीर खाने को।
शूर धर्म है हंसते-हंसते
हलाहल पी. जाने को।”

कहीं पर यज्ञ वेदिका बनाने की जरूरत नहीं है, अपने आपको तैयार करना होता है।

[डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया]

“आग हथेली पर सुलगाकर,
सिर का हविष्य चढ़ाना,
और शूर धर्म है जग को
अनुपम बलि का पाठ पढ़ाना।”

सर. यह जो वीरता है, यह जो शौर्य है और यह जो पराक्रम है, इनकी इस देश के साथ पहचान बनी हुई है। यह जो राष्ट्र का वैभव है, उनका निर्माण करने के लिए मनुष्य निर्माण की विधा में जो एक आवश्यक कारक तत्व है, उसमें निश्चित रूप से डिसिप्लिन का, अनुशासन का महत्व है। अनुशासन दूसरों से पालन कराने की अपेक्षा अगर हम स्वयं इसका पालन करें तो सबसे उत्तम है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Mr. Jatiya, the time for the Private Members' Business is over. Please continue your speech on the next allotted day. The other Members, who have given their names, also can speak on that day.

Now, we will take up Admitted Special Mentions for today.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand for making the survey of India sole provider of MAP services of the country and using N.I.C. e-mail accounts in public and private sector for cyber security

SHRI TARUN VIJAY (Uttarakhand): Sir, in February 2013, last year, Google launched Google Mapathon, a contest which invited people to mark locality or name of building, place etc. They collected data ignoring security vetting as required under the regulatory framework for such works in India. The size and extent of data collected is unconfirmed, but seeing their reach and previous years' popularity of a similar contest, a huge amount of data has supposedly been collected, including data which could be sensitive and which have implications on national security.

As Google had not been complying with requirements arising from the law of the land, a legal action has been initiated by the Survey of India, which registered a complaint against it. Based on this, the CBI, recently, filed an FIR. It is now important that until the investigation is in process, Google should refrain from publishing, either through print or online, any kind of map data which is not yet cleared or vetted by regulatory agencies.

In this context, I demand the Government of India to empower the Survey of India to become India's principal map service provider. Further to this, I would like to request

the Government to make NIC the primary agency for email services. Officials from the Central and State Governments should be asked to use NIC. in account; rather than using an account whose data is stored in a foreign land, with no control by Indian State agencies. The industry should also be provided and encouraged to use of NIC email accounts to ensure cyber security.

**Demand for filling up all the vacancies in ESI Hospital at Gulbarga Nagar in
Karnataka and making it completely functional**

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक) : महोदय, कर्णाटक का 'गुलबर्गा नगर' हैदराबाद और कर्णाटक का हृदय माना जाता है, यहां E.S.I. Hospital का उद्घाटन हुए 6 महीने हो गए हैं, लेकिन अभी तक वहां पर पूर्ण रूप से काम शुरू नहीं हुआ है। लगभग 1000 करोड़ रुपए से प्रारंभ किया गया यह प्रकल्प पूर्ण रूप से काम करने पर ही यह गुलबर्गा जिला, बिदर, सोलापुर (महाराष्ट्र) के रोगियों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण जनोपयोगी अस्पताल बन सकता है। यहां का मेडिकल कॉलेज पूर्ण रूप से काम करे, इस दिशा में तुरंत प्रयास होना चाहिए। दूसरे ही साल मेडिकल काउंसिल ने प्रथम वर्ष के प्रवेश पर रोक लगाई थी।

महोदय, मैं आदरणीय कार्मिक मंत्री जी से विनती करता हूं कि वहां पर सभी नियुक्तियां करवाएं ताकि वह अस्पताल पूर्ण रूप से काम कर सके। आप इस दिशा में तुरंत प्रयास करें।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN):
Mr. Praveen Rashtrapal. He is not present. Shri Ambeth Rajan. Would you like to lay it or do you want to read it?

Demand for proper utilisation of railway lands to generate more revenue

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I would like to lay it, but I will just read the subject. My Special Mention is about the need for proper utilization of railway lands to generate more revenue instead of increasing railway ticket fare.

*"Sir, like any other enterprise, for railways also judicious use of available land is important for revenue generation. Indian Railways have 4.58 lakh hectares of land at its disposal out of which 4.11 lakh hectares are utilised for Railway's operations. There is 0.47 lakh hectares of vacant land, which will be used for further expansion of the Railways. Recent information reveals that substantial portion of railway land is under encroachment. Encroachment on railway land is dealt with under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 which is a very cumbersome process and time consuming too. In order to avoid this, Railway has to be very cautious and has to take necessary steps to nip the problem in the bud itself.

* Laid on the Table.

[Shri Ambeth Rajan]

If all the land belonging to railway is made free from encroachment and kept vacant, it can be utilised for various welfare activities as well as revenue generating activities. More hospitals for railway employees, commercial buildings, amenities to passengers, more food courts, additional browsing centres, more schools under PPP mode in rural areas, etc., can be established in the land belonging to railways. This will be an enhanced source of revenue for railways and also service, reduce the revenue burden on railways and save railways from facing embarrassment whenever rail fares are hiked. Moreover, there will not be any need for railways to increase fares.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to properly utilize the railway land and generate more revenue. "

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri Derek O'Brien.

**Concern over denial of pension to disabled soldiers
on frivolous grounds by the Government**

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I normally lay it, but I want to read this.

Sir, it is a cause for alarm that 90 per cent of the Ministry of Defence cases pending in courts are against pension claims of its own disabled soldiers. The Ministry has been denying pension claims of soldiers on shallow pretexts like the disability occurred in peaceful conditions and not in an active war zone. Military Boards have also been rejecting diseases such as neurosis and schizophrenia for being 'constitutional' in nature and not aggravated by service conditions. In contrast, pension claims for such diseases are routinely allowed by medical boards of the Central Armed Police Forces under the Home Ministry. Even though the Supreme Court has rendered a series of judgments in favour of the soldiers' claims, the Ministry of Defence has continued to file appeals against claims at all stages. While the Income Tax Department does not go to the Supreme Court unless the amount involved is more than ₹ 25 lakhs, the Ministry of Defence has often gone there for paltry sums like even a few thousand rupees. Most soldiers cannot afford the costs of protracted litigation and are forced to abandon their claims. It is shameful that taxpayers' money is being used to field top lawyers and pay exorbitant legal fees in an attempt to deny our brave soldiers their rightful dues. I strongly urge the Government to ensure that bureaucratic hurdles in the release of pensions are removed at the earliest. The Ministry must cease filing frivolous appeals and grant our soldiers the respect they deserve. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Derek O'Brien.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Derek O'Brien.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, Shri Kiranmay Nanda. He is not present. The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 11th August, 2014 at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at twenty-three minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 11th August, 2014.