

Vol. 226

No. 10



Friday,

24th August, 2012

2nd Bhadra, 1934 (Saka)

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

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NEW DELHI

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PUBLISHED UNDER RULE 260 OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS
IN THE COUNCIL OF STATES (RAJYA SABHA) AND PRINTED BY SUNLIGHT PRINTERS,
E-1/16, ANSARI ROAD, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI-110002

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 24th August, 2012, 2nd Bhadra, 1934 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 181 ...(*Interruptions*)... Please sit down.
...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री थावर चन्द गहलोत (मध्य प्रदेश): सभापति जी, हमें प्रधानमंत्री से इस्तीफा चाहिए
...(*व्यवधान*)... ऐसे प्रधानमंत्री का क्या फायदा ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री सभापति: बैठ जाइए ...(*व्यवधान*)... Please allow the Question Hour to proceed
...(*Interruptions*)... Are there any supplementaries? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SHANTRAM NAIK (Goa): Please take up Question No.182. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला (गुजरात): प्रधानमंत्री जी से इस्तीफा दिलाइए ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री सभापति: बैठ जाइए ...(*व्यवधान*)... रूपाला जी, बैठ जाइए ...(*व्यवधान*)...

The House is adjourned till 12.00 hours.

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

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Import of urea

†*181. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided in the context of Urea import that it will be imported through Government undertakings like MMTC, STC, etc. but Coromandal company of south India was given licence for direct import by violating this rule to benefit the company;

(b) whether this company got yearly profit of about four thousand crore rupees therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the action being taken by the ministry and the Government on such a big scam; and

(d) the rule for giving licence for direct purchase and the number of companies invited in the instant case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Import of Urea in the country is restricted and permitted through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) i.e. MMTC Limited, State Trading Corporation Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL). The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) provides that Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) may grant an authorisation to any other person/company to import the goods covered under STE provisions. Import of urea for direct agriculture use is made on Government account through these STEs. The urea imported on Government account for direct agriculture use is sold to the farmers at statutory notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and the difference between cost incurred and MRP is borne by Government as subsidy on imported urea.

Besides import of urea on Government account, the urea is also imported for manufacturing of complex fertilizers and for non-agriculture uses. The complex fertiliser manufacturers in the country are importing urea for manufacturing of various grades of complex fertilizers in their plants either through STEs or direct from the global sources by obtaining licence from DGFT. Government, on the request of Coromandel International Limited (CIL) has allowed them to import urea directly for manufacturing of complex fertilizers in their plant at Vishakhapatnam/Kakinada as per the provisions of FTP. M/s CIL is importing about 2.50 lakh to 3.00 lakh MTs urea per annum for manufacturing of complex fertilizers in their plant at Vishakhapatnam/Kakinada directly after obtaining licence from DGFT.

(b) and (c) The import of urea by any person or company for manufacturing of complex fertilizers or for non-agriculture use in the country either directly or through any of the STEs have no impact on Government exchequer as government does not pay any subsidy for such imports.

(d) Para 2.11 of the Foreign Trade Policy prides that "Any goods, import or export of which is governed through exclusive or special privileges granted to STE(s), may be imported or exported by STE(s) as per conditions specified in ITC (HS). DGFT may, however, grant an Authorisation to any other person to import or export any of these goods." The companies other than STEs to whom direct urea import is allowed during the year 2011-12 & 2012-13 are as under:

(Quantity in lakh MT)

Company	2011-12		2012-13 (Up to July 2012)	
	Permission	Actual imports	Permission	Actual imports
CIL	2.70	1.83	3.40	Nil
Zuari Holdings Ltd.	-	-	1.00	Nil
Avestra Chemical India (P) Ltd.	2.50	NA*	-	-

* Not Available

Postal Department Projects in Goa

*182. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- the State of Goa in the organizational set up of Postal Department;
- the total amount spent on the postal network/activities, including infrastructure, during the last three years, in the States of Goa and Maharashtra, respectively; and
- the improvements/upgradations/projects undertaken by the Postal Department in the State of Goa during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) In the organizational setup of the Department of Posts, Goa is a region under the charge of a Post Master General who reports to Chief Post Master General, Maharashtra Postal Circle. Apart from the state of Goa, the Goa region has some parts of Maharashtra State under its jurisdiction.

The total amount spent in Maharashtra Postal Circle and Goa region during the last three years is as below:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Circle/Region	Revenue Expenditure			Capital Expenditure		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Maharashtra	1421.07	1434.85	1527.90	14.49	11.51	9.77
Goa	170.88	179.28	191.75	0	0.91	0.92
TOTAL	1591.95	1614.13	1719.65	14.49	12.42	10.69

Capital Expenditure incurred on account of schemes like Computerization of Post Offices and technology component of Project Arrow is booked centrally and is not reflected in the figures indicated above.

(c) Various improvements/upgradations/projects undertaken by the Postal Department in the State of Goa during the last three years are as below:

- 1) **Setting up Project Arrow Offices:** Three Project Arrow Offices were set up in 2009-10. One Project Arrow Office each was set up in 2010-11 and 2011-12.
- 2) **Computerization of Post Offices:** Twenty four (24) Post Offices were computerized in 2009-10 and fifty eight (58) Post Offices were computerized in 2010-11. With this all the hundred and four (104) Departmental Post Offices in the State of Goa have been computerized.
- 3) **Provision of Infrastructure Equipments:** Seventy nine (79) Branch Post Offices were provided with Infrastructure equipments during the last three years.
- 4) **Building projects** to the tune of Rs. 4,99,645 were executed for repair and maintenance of Post Office Buildings.

Suicides by farmers

*183. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per Government figures, 2,70,940 farmers have committed suicide since 1995 and 14,000 farmers have committed suicide during 2011 alone;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of farmers who committed suicide during 2012, so far, State-wise;

(c) whether in spite of release of thousands of crores under the Rehabilitation package to Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, these States stood at first and second position, with respect to farmers' suicide, during 2011 with 3337 and 2206 farmers' suicides, respectively;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of fresh steps Government would take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) State-wise details regarding suicides by farmers, as compiled and published annually by National Crime Records Bureau in its report 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India', from 1995 to 2011 are given in Statement-I (*See* below). Reasons of suicide by farmers, as reported by State Governments, are manifold which, inter-alia, include indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. State-wise details regarding suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons since 2006, when the Rehabilitation Package was implemented in identified districts, to date, as reported by respective State Governments, are given in Statement-II (*See* below). During 2012, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka have reported 33, 118 and 01 cases respectively of suicide by farmers due to agrarian reasons. During 2011, number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, as reported by respective State Governments, was 485 and 193 respectively.

(e) Government has taken several steps to revitalize agriculture sector and improve condition of farmers on sustainable basis by increasing investment, improving farm practices, rural infrastructure and delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, extension, marketing etc. under various programmes/schemes. Government is focusing 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.

Investment in agriculture & allied activities by public and private sectors at current prices has increased from Rs.181562 crore in 2009-10 to Rs.211565 crore in 2010-11. Gross capital formation in agriculture as a percentage of agricultural Gross Domestic Product has risen from 13.9 per cent during the Tenth Plan to nearly 19 per cent during the Eleventh Plan. Total plan outlay for Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been increased from Rs.17123 crore in 2011-12 to Rs.20208 crore in 2012-13. Minimum Support Prices for most crops have increased significantly in recent years.

Statement-I*Number of Suicides under Subhead Self Employed (Farming/Agriculture)*

Sl.No.	State/UT	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1196	1706	1097	1813	1974	1525	1509	1896	1800	2666	2490	2607	1797	2105	2414	2525	2206
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	12	0	6	9	17	27	11	20	25	4	15	12	12	18	13
3.	Assam	137	76	223	160	82	126	167	271	187	331	299	322	278	197	341	369	312
4.	Bihar	117	83	94	127	127	32	61	80	46	23	39	46	86	67	112	95	83
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	1452	1238	1066	1395	1412	1483	1593	1773	1802	1126	0
6.	Goa	16	26	7	5	5	15	18	11	18	8	11	5	0	6	4	15	1
7.	Gujarat	534	546	565	653	500	661	594	570	581	523	615	487	317	526	588	523	578
8.	Haryana	174	85	45	185	205	238	145	190	207	160	140	190	179	150	230	297	384
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15	30	23	26	39	35	22	25	34	52	20	22	15	188	24	61	46
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	3	2	3	38	15	16	8	1	2	34	33	6	8	18	14

11.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	21	21	21	124	103	113	71	164	173	94
12.	Karnataka	2490	2011	1832	1883	2379	2630	2505	2340	2678	1963	1883	1720	2135	1737	2282	2585	2100
13.	Kerala	1299	1025	1204	1514	1431	1295	1035	1533	1583	903	1118	1124	1232	820	896	895	830
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1239	1809	2390	2278	2654	2660	1372	1340	1445	1638	1248	1375	1263	1379	1395	1237	1326
15.	Maharashtra	1083	1981	1917	2409	2423	3022	3536	3695	3836	4147	3926	4453	4238	3802	2872	3141	3337
16.	Manipur	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	2	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
17.	Meghalaya	9	13	1	6	5	2	4	8	4	11	4	3	18	9	21	16	22
18.	Mizoram	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	38	5	14
19.	Nagaland	4	5	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	2
20.	Odisha	365	264	251	418	265	199	256	345	365	379	254	283	240	260	154	162	144
21.	Punjab	100	136	111	108	87	73	45	40	26	74	47	85	88	66	97	80	98
22.	Rajasthan	0	453	659	705	724	736	505	587	636	749	461	395	618	796	851	390	268
23.	Sikkim	0	8	22	15	17	10	18	8	31	49	41	35	21	60	23	19	12
24.	Tamil Nadu	NA	799	932	1089	804	882	985	1455	1052	1599	1255	426	484	512	1060	541	623

Written Answers to

[24 August, 2012]

Starred Questions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
25.	Tripura	239	236	18	241	97	14	41	41	4	15	29	7	0	50	45	58	20
26.	Uttar Pradesh	385	646	568	727	845	735	688	525	387	496	522	411	486	745	656	548	645
27.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	34	41	22	24	51	28	28	30	39	25
28.	West Bengal	1296	1738	1539	1457	1240	1377	1246	1518	1036	822	965	1189	1102	759	1054	993	807
Total (States)		10699	13676	13526	15821	15913	16318	16284	17820	17107	18071	16956	16863	16379	16128	17175	15933	14004
29.	A & N Islands	0	8	12	11	9	16	3	7	1	3	8	6	16	23	19	8	0
30.	Chandigarh	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
31.	D & N Haveli	5	18	28	18	8	21	19	21	23	7	13	12	17	12	15	10	13
32.	Daman & Diu	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi (UT)	13	27	10	37	19	17	18	33	8	13	7	3	23	16	5	9	10
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	0	46	128	133	230	91	88	23	145	147	175	197	17	154	4	0
TOTAL (UTs)		21	53	96	194	169	285	131	151	57	170	175	197	253	68	193	31	23
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)		10720	13729	13622	16015	16082	16603	16415	17971	17164	18241	17131	17060	16632	16196	17368	15964	14027

Source: Report on 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India' for relevant years, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs

Statement-II

*State-wise details regarding Suicides by farmers
due to agrarian reason since 2006*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Period (Date of report)	Number of suicides by farmers due to agrarian reasons as reported by State Government
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2006	557
		2007	493
		2008	471
		2009	303
		2010	222
		2011	193
		2012 (25.07.2012)	33
2.	Karnataka	2006-07	176
		2007-08	182
		2008-09	156
		2009-10	145
		2010-11	116
		2011-12	67
		2012-13 (10.07.2012)	01
3.	Maharashtra	2006	1035
		2007	834
		2008	759

10		Written Answers to	[RAJYA SABHA]	Starred Questions
1	2		3	4
			2009	585
			2010	548
			2011	485
			2012 (08.08.2012)	118
4.	Kerala		2006	112
			2007	68
			2008	11
			2009	Nil
			2010	Nil
			2011 (01.08.2011)	Nil
5.	Tamil Nadu		2006	01
			2007	01
			2008	Nil
			2009	Nil
			2010	Nil
			2011	Nil
			2012 (25.04.2012)	Nil
6.	Punjab		2006	19
			2007	24
			2008	12
			2009	15
			2010 (20.09.2010)	04
7.	Gujarat		09.09.2011	Nil

1	2	3	4
8.	Assam	15.05.2012	Nil
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.07.2012	Nil
10.	Bihar	24.12.2011	Nil
11.	Chhattisgarh	06.01.2011	Nil
12.	Goa	23.07.2012	Nil
13.	Haryana	26.07.2012	Nil
14.	Himachal Pradesh	16.09.2011	Nil
15.	J&K	17.08.2011	Nil
16.	Jharkhand	18.06.2010	Nil
17.	Manipur	02.12.2010	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	30.07.2012	Nil
19.	Madhya Pradesh	18.01.2011	Nil
20.	Mizoram	19.04.2012	Nil
21.	Nagaland	08.09.2011	Nil
22.	Odisha	01.08.2012	Nil
23.	Rajasthan	23.11.2010	Nil
24.	Sikkim	20.04.2012	Nil
25.	Tripura	14.06.2012	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	28.04.2011	Nil
27.	Uttarakhand	19.07.2011	Nil
28.	West Bengal	13.12.2010	Nil
29.	A & N Islands	20.07.2012	Nil
30.	NCT of Delhi	19.04.2012	Nil

12	Written Answers to	[RAJYA SABHA]	Starred Questions
1	2	3	4
31.	Daman & Diu	20.07.2012	Nil .
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	07.08.2012	Nil
33.	Lakshadweep	12.08.2011	Nil
34.	Puducherry	23.04.2012	Nil
35.	Chandigarh	25.07.2012	Nil

Online railway ticket booking system

†*184. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the online railway ticket booking system, which has been set up for providing facility to the passengers, is also bungled;

(b) if not, whether incidents like penalizing the passenger, declaring him/her without ticket, despite travelling with a ticket booked on internet, have begun to appear now and thus passengers are being humiliated;

(c) whether Government would address the problems of passengers by reforming this system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) No, Sir. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website has provided increased convenience to passengers in booking of reserved tickets. During the month of July 2012, on an average, approximately 4.16 lakh tickets were booked daily online through the website of IRCTC.

(b) Under the internet ticketing scheme, it is mandatory for passengers travelling on an e-ticket to carry any one of the nine prescribed proofs of identity during travel. If not even one passenger is able to produce any one of the prescribed proofs of identity in original, all the passengers booked on an e-ticket are treated as travelling without ticket and action taken as per extant rules. This provision has been kept with a view to prevent misuse of e-tickets. In case any incident of harassment is reported then the matter is got examined and Disciplinary action is taken against staff found responsible.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The e-ticketing system is already very user-friendly. Further, to increase the convenience the following measures have been taken:

- The number of permissible Id proofs has been increased to 9 covering a diverse set of identity proofs.
- The facility of booking reserved tickets through internet has been made available from 0030 hours to 2330 hours daily *i.e.* booking can be done round the clock except for one hour downtime which is required for maintenance.
- The authorized SMS sent by IRCTC/Railways containing all vital details when displayed through laptops/palmtops/mobile phones combined with valid photo identity card in original, is treated as an instrument on par with the Electronic Reservation Slip (ERS).
- Capacity of the internet ticketing system has been enhanced to meet the increased demand.
- For facilitating access of the public to e-ticketing and balancing of load on the IRCTC server, agents have been restricted from booking tickets on internet between 0800 hours and 1200 hours.
- Internet Bandwidth has been increased to 450 Mbps.

These measures are part of a continuous and dynamic process of improving the internet based ticketing system of Indian Railways.

Quality seeds of Vanami prawns in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the non-availability of quality seeds for production of Vanami prawns in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that spurious seeds are creating problem for Vanami farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, how Government is planning to address the problem;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a quarantine centre in Andhra Pradesh; and

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Quality seeds for production of *L. vannamei* shrimp are available in the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (e) In view of the growth of *L. vannamei* shrimp culture and increasing demand for its seed, the Government of India has taken the following decisions:

- (i) Expansion of the capacity of the existing Aquatic Quarantine Facility (AQF) for *L. vannamei* brooders at Neelankarai, Chennai;
- (ii) Establishment of another AQF at Neelankarai through the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA); and
- (iii) Establishment of two AQF's through a consortium of shrimp hatcheries, including one in Andhra Pradesh.

Replacement of old telephone sets

†186. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years after which landline telephone connection holders are to be provided with new telephone sets in place of old ones provided to them;

(b) whether a norm has been laid down that telephone set of every telephone connection holder would be replaced in five years;

(c) if so, the details of the status of implementation of this norm in the country, including in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) the number of telephone connection holders in the country provided with new telephone sets in the last ten years; and

(e) whether it is a fact that implementation of this norm in Madhya Pradesh is negligible?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) BSNL has not laid down the norm of number of years after which the telephone sets provided to its landline telephone connection holders are replaced with new ones.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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

(d) The number of landline telephone connection holders of BSNL in the country who have been provided with new telephone sets as a replacement of old ones, in the last ten years is, 1,08,32,137.

Selling of medicines at higher prices

*187. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that pharmaceutical companies are selling their drugs at least ten times higher price than their production cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government would take concrete action against these companies and bring down the prices of essential medicines within the reach of poor people;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (h) The prices of 74 scheduled bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of those 74 scheduled drugs are controlled by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO.95). The prices of formulations are fixed as per the formula given in paragraph 7 of DPCO, 1995 and a 'MAPE' (Maximum Allowable Post-manufacturing Expenses) not exceeding 100% of the ex-factory cost is allowed in the price of indigenously manufactured scheduled formulations to take care of the post-manufacturing expenses including profit margins of the manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. In case of an imported formulation, a margin not exceeding 50% of the landed cost is allowed to cover selling and distribution expenses including interest and importers profit.

In respect of drugs not covered under the DPCO,95 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, manufactures fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of the Government / NPPA. NPPA has no control on the launch price of the non-scheduled formulations. NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of IMS Health and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated, under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO,95 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest.

Based on monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 30 formulation packs under para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 65 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 95 packs of non-scheduled drugs have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

A number of drug companies have been found to be selling scheduled medicines at a higher price to the consumers. In such cases NPPA initiates action for overcharging based on the report from State Drug Controllers (SDCs), complaints from individuals, verification of price list submitted by companies and *suo-moto* purchase of samples of scheduled packs. In case, a company is found selling the scheduled drugs/formulations at a price higher than the prices fixed by NPPA/Govt., appropriate action is initiated against them by NPPA under para 13 of the DPCO,95 read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for recovery of the overcharged amount.

A *suo-moto-study* conducted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs was forwarded to this Ministry by Union Minister of Corporate Affairs for consideration and ameliorative action. The study, *inter-alia*, indicates that there is very high profit margin, very high mark up (MAPE) on cost of production, trade margin etc. in respect of certain formulations marketed by some leading pharmaceutical companies in India. On examination NPPA has found that there is only one medicine containing scheduled drug *i.e.* Ciprofloxacin and other are non scheduled drugs on which NPPA has no power to control the launch price. In respect of Ciprofloxacin NPPA had initiated action for over-charging against the formulators. However, the matter is *sub-judice* in High Court of Bombay.

In order to ensure compliance of the notified ceiling price, NPPA calls for the control samples of the subsequent batches and the price list of the companies in respect of the formulations wherein the companies are found to have overcharged. To ensure that companies adhere to the prices fixed by NPPA, the State Drug Controllers are sensitized and asked to forward the cases relating to non-compliance of the notified price. As a part of continuous market surveillance, NPPA also procures samples of various scheduled formulations to check the compliance of the notified ceiling price by the companies.

On the basis of the complaints registered by individuals/NGOs, reports received from the State Drug Controllers and the samples purchased by NPPA from different parts of the country, compliance of the prices fixed/notified by the NPPA is regularly monitored and ensured. Price list submitted by the company in Form V is scrutinized for the purpose. In case a company is found selling any scheduled formulation at a price higher than that notified/approved by the NPPA/Government, action is taken against such company as per the provision of DPCO, 95 for recovery of the overcharged amount.

Awarding of degrees by IIMs

*188. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIM Review Committee, in its report submitted to the Ministry, has recommended awarding of degrees instead of diplomas to its students, which would enhance the acceptability of IIM graduates worldwide;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only universities are empowered to award degrees and IIMs are not authorized to issue degrees;

(c) if so, by when the modalities to issue degrees are likely to be worked out; and

(d) whether award of degree certificates by IIMs would offer better opportunities to students if they want to study abroad and would also help them to negotiate with foreign recruiters?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The right of conferring or granting degrees shall be exercised only by a University established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act or an Institution deemed to be a University under section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 or an Institution specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees.

(c) The matter is under consideration and the modalities-would be worked out in consultation with the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other stakeholders.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Loss of crops due to monkeys and other wild animals

†*189. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the total area of cultivable land has been reduced in Uttarakhand due to the losses to crops caused by monkeys and other wild animals;

(b) if so, whether Government considers it necessary to formulate a scheme for alternative farming in the State;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The total cultivable land in Uttarakhand reduced from 8.08 lakh ha in 2000-01 to 7.75 lakh ha in 2009-10. Similarly, net sown area reduced from 7.7 lakh ha in 2000-01 to 7.41 lakh ha in 2009-10. The reduction in cultivable land and net sown area is attributed mainly to urbanization, industrialization, migration and animal menace (wild boar and monkeys in hills and blue bulls and elephants in plains).

The details of reduction in cultivable and net sown area from 2000-01 to 2009-10 in Uttarakhand is indicated here under:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(Area in Lakh ha.)

Year	Cultivable land area	Net sown area
2000-01	8.08	7.70
2001-02	8.12	7.76
2002-03	8.00	7.59
2003-04	8.04	7.61
2004-05	8.08	7.67
2005-06	8.09	7.68
2006-07	8.09	7.65
2007-08	7.91	7.55
2008-09	7.89	7.54
2009-10	7.75	7.41

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(b) to (d) No proposal for alternative farming has so far been received from State Government of Uttarakhand. However, Government of India in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forest is advocating use of traditional/chemical repellents, trenches, live/solar electric fencing, social fencing and other innovative methods under various agriculture development schemes to reduce the damage to crops caused by wild animals like blue bulls, monkeys, elephants, etc. Uttarakhand is implementing various crop development programmes like National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States and Macro Management Mode of Agriculture to enhance the production and productivity of food grains, cash crops and horticulture crops. As a result of these efforts production of foodgrains increased by 10.67 %, Oilseeds by 117 % in 2011-12 over 2000-01 in the State of Uttarakhand.

Establishment of new Central Universities

†*190. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where Central Universities are proposed to be established;

(b) by when these new Universities are scheduled to be made functional;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of Universities proposed to be established in Uttar Pradesh, and by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The University can become functional only when legislation to that effect is passed by both the Houses of the Parliament.

(c) One.

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

Reservation for students in Central Universities

‡*191. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Universities opened by Government, till date, keeping in view the development of education;

(b) whether facility of category-wise reservation has been provided to students of the entire country studying in these universities; and

(c) if so, the details of percentage of reservation extended to the students of SC, ST and OBC categories, separately, during the last three years, university-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There are 40 Central Universities under the purview of this Ministry.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), the percentage of reservation provided to students enrolled in the 39 Central Universities funded by it, are given, University-wise for the last three years, in Statement (*See* below).

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has informed that it follows category-wise reservation as per the Government's policy for admission of students in academic programmes where there is restriction on number of seats. Details are included in the Annexure referred above. In all other academic programmes, where there is no restriction on number of seats, all applicants are admitted and hence no reservation system is required to be followed.

‡Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Percentage of SC, ST and OBC students in Central Universities

Sl.No.	Name of University	2009-10 (31/3/2010)			2010-11 (31/3/2011)			2011-12 (31/3/2012)		
		%SC	%ST	%OBC	%SC	%ST	%OBC	%SC	%ST	%OBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Aligarh Muslim University\$	3.44%	0.22%	11.22%	2.64%	0.17%	8.62%	1.58%	0.24%	14.10%
2.	Banaras Hindu University	12.78%	4.06%	16.87%	13.17%	4.51%	22.84%	13.34%	4.77%	26.26%
3.	Delhi University	9.15%	3.40%	3.95%	12.14%	5.02%	8.36%	12.95%	4.75%	13.10%
4.	Hyderabad University	19.42%	10.75%	21.66%	20.12%	10.19%	26.58%	19.25%	10.45%	28.73%
5.	Jamia Millia Islamia\$	11.74%	4.60%	0.00%	12.07%	4.99%	0.00%	11.21%	4.37%	5.11%
6.	Jawaharlal Nehru University	13.54%	8.04%	16.63%	13.70%	8.37%	18.21%	13.53%	8.19%	20.35%
7.	North Eastern Hill University	3.30%	74.05%	2.82%	3.69%	72.65%	2.70%	3.69%	72.65%	2.70%
8.	Pondicherry University	17.38%	3.29%	36.53%	17.38%	4.28%	34.64%	16.64%	5.32%	31.96%
9.	Visva Bharati	15.65%	5.95%	8.20%	16.92%	6.14%	13.37%	17.01%	6.38%	14.95%
10.	Assam University#	14.04%	8.17%	24.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.75%	9.16%	24.49%

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11.	Tezpur University	12.69%	8.09%	26.69%	12.67%	7.65%	24.89%	12.57%	7.07%	25.91%
12.	Nagaland University	2.86%	75.37%	0.63%	6.65%	84.48%	3.51%	2.70%	88.66%	3.00%
13.	Mizoram University	2.88%	86.53%	2.71%	1.48%	91.45%	1.55%	1.69%	91.97%	1.72%
14.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	51.09%	4.55%	0.00%	51.86%	5.01%	13.11%	48.87%	4.80%	0.00%
15.	M.G.A. Hindi Vishwavidyalaya	37.32%	2.90%	23.55%	37.32%	2.90%	23.55%	34.24%	1.95%	23.93%
16.	Maulana Azad National Urdu University	2.75%	0.94%	20.67%	7.79%	3.73%	21.96%	3.95%	0.87%	15.71%
17.	Allahabad University	19.21%	1.13%	32.38%	18.33%	0.62%	36.75%	17.95%	0.88%	28.78%
18.	Manipur University	7.59%	22.62%	36.11%	7.65%	21.52%	39.99%	8.03%	22.22%	47.40%
19.	Rajiv Gandhi University	0.90%	81.46%	5.38%	1.18%	78.87%	5.46%	0.88%	75.70%	6.71%
20.	The English & Foreign Languages University	9.09%	4.23%	17.70%	21.23%	6.60%	20.00%	19.55%	9.02%	19.29%
21.	Tripura University	16.32%	13.76%	22.55%	17.25%	12.03%	28.41%	15.79%	19.53%	24.85%
22.	H.N.B. Garhwal University	13.66%	1.96%	4.23%	13.92%	1.64%	6.06%	13.34%	1.88%	7.36%

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23.	Guru Ghasidas University	17.55%	9.87%	39.30%	15.07%	8.80%	34.24%	14.53%	9.39%	31.28%
24.	Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	14.87%	2.22%	25.80%	17.14%	3.32%	25.75%	20.81%	3.98%	39.93%
25.	Central University of Bihar*	3.00%	0.00%	31.80%	9.60%	2.10%	37.60%	6.29%	1.26%	35.22%
26.	Central University of Gujarat*	30.43%	4.35%	17.39%	21.30%	7.41%	26.45%	21.80%	9.59%	26.74%
27.	Central University of Haryana*	12.50%	3.20%	31.25%	18.57%	1.43%	44.28%	22.58%	0.00%	46.24%
28.	Central University of Himachal Pradesh *	-	-	-	12.14%	6.43%	15.00%	12.59%	6.65%	19.00%
29.	Central University of Jammu*	-	-	-	-	-	-	24.64%	13.04%	15.94%
30.	Central University of Kashmir *	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.74%	3.91%	4.78%
31.	Central University of Jharkhand*	5.76%	5.76%	27.88%	5.68%	7.95%	26.13%	6.27%	8.63%	35.29%
32.	Central University of Karnataka*	39.47%	5.26%	42.10%	22.55%	4.51%	51.87%	22.64%	6.02%	39.26%
33.	Central University of Kerala*	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.61%	1.09%	57.07%
34.	Indira Gandhi National Tribal University	11.98%	53.00%	18.43%	9.71%	53.88%	20.15%	10.18%	51.75%	22.95%

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
35.	Central University of Orissa*	17.00%	8.50%	6.00%	15.00%	7.50%	27.00%	27.57%	14.05%	20.00%
36.	Central University of Punjab*	33.30%	0.00%	33.30%	7.40%	3.70%	14.81%	8.96%	1.49%	13.43%
37.	Central University of Rajasthan*	13.00%	0.00%	28.00%	13.00%	3.00%	36.00%	13.23%	4.99%	36.88%
38.	Sikkim University	0.00%	12.50%	6.25%	3.64%	19.09%	26.36%	6.28%	11.11%	8.70%
39.	Central University of Tamil Nadu*	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	26.90%	0.00%	65.40%	0.80%	1.20%	47.20%
40.	Indira Gandhi National Open University	11.54%	4.72%	29.13%	15.46%	6.40%	39.56%	14.01%	5.67%	40.76%

\$ Minority Institutions.

*New Central Universities were established *vide* Central Universities' Act 2009 in 2009-10. Among these, Central University of Himachal Pradesh started its programme in 2010-11, Central University of Jammu started in 2011-12. No information has been received from Central University of Kashmir and Central University of Kerala for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

No information is available regarding Assam University for 2010-11

Use of GSM monitoring devices by private companies

*192. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to compile information with respect to off-the-air GSM monitoring equipments being used by private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to data available with Government, companies like Ericsson India, ZTE Telecom, Motorola India, Reliance Telecom and Airtel are having phone tapping devices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether these companies have used these off-the-air GSM monitoring devices illegally and, if so, the action taken against them, so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Sir, it was directed by the Government that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through Public notice in the newspapers will notify a time-frame within which possessors, importers, assemblers and manufacturers of 'Off-the-Air monitoring equipments' would declare the same to designated DoT officers in different States of the country.

Accordingly, a press release was given on 31.12.2010 and a public notice was issued on 22nd March, 2011 as well as on 28th July, 2012 to create awareness that possession and use of such equipment is against the provisions of Indian Wireless Act, 1933 and Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and is liable to be punished with imprisonment for the term which may extend up to three years or with fine, or with both.

It was also directed in the public notice that the person/s and companies who have/had imported, procured or possess the equipment capable of monitoring/ intercepting and surveillance of communications to provide the details of such equipment in the prescribed format to respective Telecom Enforcement, Resources and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications.

(c) to (e) A list of equipment, imported by private agencies including Ericsson India, ZTE Telecom, Motorola India, Reliance Telecom and Airtel during 2007-2010, containing details of Import of multi channel GSM/CDMA receiver, transmitter and trans-receivers, compiled by Central Board of Direct Taxes was forwarded by Ministry of Home Affairs to get the location, use and capabilities of these equipments. During verification, it came to notice that service providers are using such kind of multi channel GSM/CDMA receivers, transmitter and trans-receivers in normal mobile Base Transceiver Stations (BTS). Equipment like mobile phones, filters *etc.* were also included in the said list.

As per the verification carried out so far, no case regarding availability of 'Off-the-air monitoring equipments' and usage thereof, by the companies like Ericsson India, ZTE Telecom, Motorola India, Reliance Telecom and Airtel could be established.

Revamping of education system

*193. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a statement carried by The Indian Express on 31 July, 2012 that the Indian education system is in a state of emergency;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of developing analytical thinking abilities, the stress is on rote learning; and

(d) if so, whether Government is proposing to revamp the education system?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Education reforms are a continuous process and the Government seeks to carry them forward through expansion, inclusion and rapid improvement in quality through institutional and policy reforms and by enhancing public spending.

In the realm of elementary education, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 which has become operative with effect from 1st April, 2010 lays special focus on improving the quality of education.

Further, the Government has issued an Advisory to State Governments on the implementation of section 29 of the RTE Act for initiating curriculum reform, including, (i) formulating age-appropriate curricula and syllabi in keeping with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) -2005, (ii) maintaining subject balance, (iii) initiating textbook content and production reform, (iv) ensuring continuous and comprehensive assessment for learning.

The Central Board of Secondary Education has introduced the scheme of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in its schools in a phased manner for improvement of quality in the schools affiliated to it. The Board has also made Class X Board Examination optional for the students studying in Senior Secondary Schools and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X.

At the level of higher education, University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implementing a number of schemes aimed at improvement of quality of education in Indian Universities, such as introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula, Choice Based Credit Systems (CBCS), reforms in admission procedure and in examination and evaluation systems. All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has also formulated a National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) to solve the problem of skill manpower and unemployment.

Government has already introduced four Bills in the Parliament aiming at reforms in higher education which include proposals for prohibition of unfair practices in technical/educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities; mandatory accreditation of higher educational institutions; educational tribunals for adjudication of disputes; and legislation to regulate entry and operation of foreign educational institutions.

Impact of Global Warming

*194. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the adverse impact of global warming on agriculture in the country, which has manifested unusual trends such as erratic rainfall, shrinking forest cover, rising temperature and increasing food insecurity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the reaction of Government thereto;
- (d) whether Government has assessed the impact of global warming on different agro-climatic zones in the country;
- (e) if so, the details and outcome thereof, till date; and
- (f) the measures taken or being taken by Government to meet challenges of global warming and its impact on agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) All India summer monsoons (June to September) rainfall does not show any significant trend during the last century. However, three subdivisions *viz.*, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, show significant decreasing trend and eight subdivisions *viz.*, Gangetic West Bengal, West Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Konkan & Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and North Interior Karnataka, show significant increasing trends during last century. A significant increasing trend has been observed in the frequency of heavy rainfall events over the West coast. The mean annual surface air temperature over India has risen by 0.56°C during 1901-2009, which is above normal rise over a base period of 1961-1990. The Government has taken urgent steps to institute Climate Change Division in the Ministries of Environment & Forests (the Nodal Ministry for Climate Change in the Country) and in the Ministry of Agriculture to assess and monitor the changes in the climate scenario. Being a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government, as required, has been submitting information ('national communications') on green house gas inventory and vulnerability assessment and adaptation, besides an overview of the national circumstances.

(d) and (e) The Government of India initiated studies related to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment through an ICAR 'Network Project on Climate Change' (NPCC) consisting of 15 centres in the X Plan and subsequently extended it to 23 centres in the XI Plan across different agro-climatic zones. Analysis of occurrence of extreme weather events during past six decades has indicated an increasing trend in maximum one-day precipitation in the west coast of Maharashtra, south Madhya Pradesh, east Bihar, Assam and parts of Karnataka and eastern Uttar Pradesh. At the same time, frequency of occurrence of warmer days has significantly increased in parts of southern Rajasthan, western Madhya Pradesh, southern Chhattisgarh, western Gujarat and in parts of peninsular India.

Overall, the NPCC studies indicate that climate change may reduce yield of timely sown irrigated wheat by about 6% by 2020. When late and very late sown wheat are taken into consideration, the projected impact could reduce the yield by 18%, if no adaptation measures are followed. Similarly, this study projects 4-6% reduction in yield of rice and up to 18% in respect of irrigated *kharif* maize, and 2.5% in rainfed sorghum by the year 2020.

(f) As part of the National Action Plan for Climate Change, eight national missions have been proposed. One of them is the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) that has been formulated jointly by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Department of Agricultural Research & Education, in active consultation with stakeholders including State Governments. A scheme on 'National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)' with an outlay of Rs.350 crores for the period 2010-12 has been implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The components of the scheme include; (i) strategic research on natural resources, major food crops, livestock, marine and freshwater fisheries for adaption and mitigation; (ii) demonstration of available climate resilient practices on farmers' field in 100 most vulnerable districts of the country; (iii) strengthen research infrastructure and capacity building for climate change research; and (iv) sponsored research.

Assistance to increase production of pulses

*195. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to increase the production of various pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has earmarked various zones/districts for implementation of this programme;

(d) if so, whether Central Government would provide both financial and material help to farmers for this programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To increase the production of various pulses in the country, National Food Security Mission (NFSM)- Pulses is under implementation in 468 districts of 16

States viz, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In addition, Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) has been launched under NFSM-Pulses from Kharif 2010 for Demonstrations of Production and Protection Technologies in Compact Blocks for enhanced production of pulses.

Apart from this, Govt. of India has initiated Special Plan on pulses production under NFSM-Pulses during Kharif 2012. The Plan envisages utilization of new areas for pulses cultivation through intercropping, improving planting techniques, inclusive water management, use of important critical inputs like sulphur, weedicides and productivity boosters.

Besides, under the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) scheme, assistance is provided for pulses development in the States which are not covered under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) -Pulses.

(d) and (e) Under NFSM-Pulses, incentives are provided to the farmers for purchase of seed, nutrients, soil amenders, plant protection chemicals, farm machineries including sprinklers and pump sets etc. Under A3P, assistance is provided for supply of critical inputs to promote INM & IPM technologies. Under Special Plan, assistance is available on seeds for intercropping in pulses, in-situ moisture conservation, sulphur, weedicides & productivity boosters, sprinkler/drip irrigation, etc. Amount allocated under above programmes during 2012-13 is given as under:

Scheme	Allocation (Rs. in crore)
NFSM-Pulses	607.96
A3P	326.34
Special Plan to promote intercrops and additional area coverage	153.54

Deaths due to encroachments and trespassing

*196. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that encroachments along the railway tracks and trespassing claim nearly 15,000 lives every year in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the measures adopted by the Ministry to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) and (b) No incident of death due to encroachment along the Railway tracks has been reported. However, loss of lives due to trespassing on Railway track is often reported. State-wise details of such incidents reported during the last three years are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The followings measures are being taken to prevent unauthorised trespassing in Railway premises including Railway track:

- Regular announcements are made through PA system at Railway stations urging the passengers to use foot over bridges and to avoid crossing of Railway tracks.
- Various passenger awareness programmes *viz.* announcements through FM Radio, local TV channels, nukkad nataks at level crossings, advertisements through print media, campaign through SMS are being organised to create awareness amongst general public about the dangers of crossing Railway tracks.
- Pictorial representations underlining the vulnerability of trespassers to accident are displayed at conspicuous places in local trains as well as at railway stations to dissuade the passengers from crossing railway tracks.
- Anti-trespass campaigns are conducted by Railways jointly with NGOS (Non-Government Organisations), Civil Defence Volunteers, Scouts and Guide at vulnerable railway stations in sub-urban sections to educate the passengers and general public.
- Unmanned level crossings are eliminated by (i) construction of Rail Under Bridge/subway in lieu of level crossing (ii) construction of diversion road for merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned or other unmanned gates or subway or Rail Under Bridge or Rail Over Bridge (iii) closing unmanned level crossings having NIL Train Vehicle Unit where roads are non-existent on either side.

- Unauthorised trespassing on the Railway track is a punishable offence in terms of section 147 the Railways Act. Regular drives are conducted against unauthorised trespassing on Railway tracks.

Statement

*Number of persons died on railway tracks during
2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012*

Number of persons died on Railway track over Indian Railways due to trespassing during the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 (Upto June) are as under:

State	Total number of persons died on railway track and level crossings due to trespassing			
	2009	2010	2011	2012 (Upto June)
1	2	3	4	5
A.P.	392	545	725	387
Assam	305	189	226	125
Bihar	512	608	798	228
Chhattigarh	176	169	221	152
Delhi	539	545	401	319
Goa	1	0	0	7
Gujrat	711	312	540	444
Haryana	1241	709	776	874
H.P.	7	12	14	6
J&K	54	3	8	8
Jharkhand	200	145	114	67
Karnataka	113	388	229	82
Kerala	20	12	31	17

1	2	3	4	5
M.P.	437	560	501	221
Maharashtra	3357	2804	2678	1356
Nagaland	7	7	9	4
Odisha	575	424	516	341
Punjab	762	862	795	482
Rajasthan	693	778	994	410
Tripura	0	4	19	12
Tamil Nadu	1563	1629	1629	996
Uttar Pradesh	1125	874	1275	819
Uttarakhand	15	0	0	6
West bengal	1571	1315	2112	1049
TOTAL	14376	12894	14611	8412

Proposal for revenue generation for MTNL

*197. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has been suffering losses for past several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MTNL has now proposed developing and leasing out its land bank, surrendering spectrum for providing broadband wireless access services and Voluntary Retirement Scheme to two-thirds of its employees as part of a business proposal for revenue generation; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on such proposals of MTNL to bring it out of the current difficult situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has been suffering losses since 2009-10. The details are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Financial year	Loss
2009-10	2610.97
2010-11	2801.92
2011-12	4109

(c) MTNL is working on developing and leasing out its land bank and monetizing infrastructure through creation of bank ATMs in its premises, leasing out of spare space, sharing of towers etc. The earning potentials of these activities is around Rs.100 crore per annum.

MTNL has requested the Government for surrender of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) Spectrum in Delhi and Mumbai Licensed Service Areas and to refund Rs. 4533 crores plus interest paid for it by MTNL.

MTNL has formulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and has requested the Government to bear the cost of VRS. The Scheme is aimed at reducing its workforce by about 21,000. The estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on VRS is about Rs. 5074 crores. MTNL has estimated that VRS will reduce pressure on MTNL's wage and salary pay out to the tune of Rs. 1130 crore per annum.

(d) The proposals of MTNL are under examination in Department of Telecommunications.

**Foundation stones laid for new
railway projects**

*198. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foundation stones laid for inauguration of new railway projects, during the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise; and

(b) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Action against selling substandard foodstuff

†*199. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism in place for checking food-items being sold at railway stations;

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

(c) whether any case of selling substandard foodstuff has been registered in the last two years; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is an established mechanism to check food items being sold at Railway stations. Catering monitoring Cells have been set up at Zonal and Divisional level for daily monitoring of the catering activities. Emphasis has also been made in new Catering Policy, 2010 for conducting surprise and periodical inspections by Zonal Railways at various levels. Food samples are regularly collected by Food Inspectors/Food Safety Officers and sent for analysis to accredited laboratories. Some instances of sub-standard food stuff have come to the notice of the Railway Administration. In the last two years, out of a total samples of 45444, only 957 (2.1%) samples have failed. Prompt action has been initiated in all such cases. In 915 such cases, penalties were imposed or other departmental action initiated. In the remaining 42 cases, prosecution was launched under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act/Food Safety and Standard Act.

Resources for completing railway projects

†*200. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have collected the resources required for completing all projects for this year and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Railways have collected enough resources for completing all its ambitious projects and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) and (b) Railways' Plan Outlay for 2012-13 has been budgeted at the highest ever level of Rs. 60,100 crore. Mobilisation of resources for execution of projects is an ongoing exercise. Investment in Rail infrastructure including in important railway projects during the 12th Five Year Plan is under finalisation in consultation with the Planning Commission.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Foot and mouth disease in cattle

1396. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the contagious "Foot and Mouth" disease in cattle is increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the per-annum direct economic loss from the disease during last two years; and
- (d) the steps being taken to prevent this disease in cattle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) do occur in the country and are investigated and monitored regularly. Number of outbreaks has been reduced over a period of time due to ongoing vaccination in the country, which is evident from the fact that 422 numbers of outbreaks have been reported during 2010, as against 1646 outbreaks in 2006. However, there is marginal increase in number of outbreaks in 2011. The State-wise details of the FMD outbreaks from 2006 to 2011 are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per the information received from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), the direct loss due to FMD is estimated at about Rs.20,000 Crore per annum.

(d) In order to prevent, control and contain the Foot and Mouth disease, Government of India provides funds to the State Governments for immunisation/ vaccination through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, 'Livestock Health &

Disease Control (LH&DC)' under 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)' and 'Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP)'. Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme is being implemented in 221 districts of the country with 100% central funding, which covers all the districts in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and 16 districts in Uttar Pradesh. Sero-monitoring, to know the immune status in animals vaccinated under FMD-CP, is also being done under the aegis of Project Directorate on Foot and Mouth Disease (PD-FMD), under ICAR. Moreover, funds are also provided to all the States/UTs other than those covered under FMD-CP for control of economically important diseases of livestock including FMD under ASCAD as per the approved pattern of financial assistance. Few States are also carrying out FMD vaccinations under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Statement

*State-wise details of Foot & Mouth Disease outbreaks
from 2006 to 2011*

Sl. No.	State/UT	2006 Outbreak	2007 Outbreak	2008 Outbreak	2009 Outbreak	2010 Outbreak	2011 Outbreak
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	201	79	9	8	2	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	24	6	18	13	2
3.	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	1	-	3
6.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	19	4	8	15	13	5
8.	Haryana	2	-	-	-	3	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	-	-	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16	31	16	4	3	3
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	12	4	8	1
12.	Karnataka	789	936	254	169	86	169
13.	Kerala	-	-	-	47	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	1	-	-	-
15.	Maharashtra	-	2	-	-	-	-
16.	Manipur	3	-	-	-	5	-
17.	Meghalaya	-	-	16	134	133	336
18.	Mizoram	20	7	21	43	12	4
19.	Nagaland	2	5	19	7	54	67
20.	Orissa	32	37	26	84	8	3
21.	Punjab	-	-	2	1		7
22.	Rajasthan	25	5	13	31	14	15
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	3	236	12	-	1	15
25.	Tripura	-		3	28	8	37
26.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	5	-
27.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	2	-	-
28.	West Bengal	531	178	31	306	53	28
29.	Andman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-
30.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		1646	1547	449	902	422	701

Credit relief to farmers in natural calamities

1397. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI is operating a plan for providing credit relief to farmers in the event of natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers have to go through a myriad of processes and cumbersome procedures before they finally receive some financial support forcing them to knock at the doors of private money lenders who by virtue of their informal and speedy disbursal of credit render them into vicious and never ending debt cycle; and

(d) if so, the action taken to ensure that farmers easily get institutional credit in times of natural calamities and RBI guidelines in the matter are followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put in place a mechanism to address situations arising out of natural calamities. The banks have been issued necessary guidelines by RBI for undertaking necessary relief measures. These measures, *inter-alia* include immediate convening of special district level and/or state level bankers' meeting and deciding on the course of action comprising of providing financial assistance required by the borrowers for consumption loans, fresh loans for resumption of normal business and also restructuring of the existing loans. Banks have been advised to consider moratorium period of at least one year in all cases of restructuring. Further, the banks have been advised not to insist for additional collateral security for such restructured loans.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that the farmers need not go through a myriad of process and cumbersome procedures. RBI has issued directions to the banks to ensure that the meetings of District Consultative Committees or State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBC) are convened at the earliest to evolve a co-ordinated action plan for implementation of the relief programme in collaboration with the State/district authorities and review the progress on regular basis.

Import of Sub-standard insecticides from China

‡1398. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government imports insecticides from China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such matter has come to Government's notice where purity in imported insecticides from China is found to be less than the set standard which is dangerous for agriculture; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government does not import insecticides nor has such report come to its notice.

Research centre for camel and 'Kathiyawadi' horses

1399. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry on the request of State Government of Gujarat to establish a national level research centre for camel and 'Kathiyawadi' horses;

(b) by when this proposed research centre will start its function; and

(c) how much funds will be allocated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

‡Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) ICAR's National Research Centre on Camel at Bikaner is conducting research on important breeds of camel, including Kachchhi breed of camels, while ICAR's National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar conducts research across various breeds of horses, including 'Kathiyawadi' horses and are also maintaining these breeds at their farm. There is, therefore, no need to establish separate research centres in Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat has been informed accordingly.

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

Revamping of CACP

1400. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any gap between the prices fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and the MSP declared by Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the response of Government;
- (c) whether there have been any suggestions for revamping CACP;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate remuneration to farmers for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif Crops for 2012-13 Season as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of kharif crops for 2012-13 Season fixed by the Government are given below:

		(Rs. per Quintal)
Commodity	Variety	2012-13
1	2	3
Paddy	Common	1250
	Grade A	1280

1	2	3
Jowar	Hybrid	1500
	Maldandi	1520
Bajra		1175
Maize		1175
Ragi		1500
Arhar (Tur)		3850
Moong		4400
Urad		4300
Cotton	Medium Staple	3600
	Long Staple	3900
Groundnut in shell		3700
Sunflower seed		3700
Soyabean	Black	2200
	Yellow	2240
Sesamum		4200
Nigerseed		3500

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government ensures a minimum return through MSP. The MSP is in the nature of a minimum guaranteed price offered by the Government in case the market prices fall below that level. If the market offers higher price than MSP, the farmers are free to sell at that price.

The Government ensures MSP through procurement operations undertaken by the Central, State and cooperative agencies in the States.

**Price rise of livestock fruits and vegetables
vis-a-vis foodgrains**

1401. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that relatively faster increase in prices of livestock, fruits, and vegetables as compared to that of foodgrains has resulted in substitution of resources in the crop sub-sector; and

(b) if so, the measures Government proposes to take for a harmonious improvement of all sub-sectors in agriculture so that the country does not have to face the threat of food shortage to meet the growing demand due to rising population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Relatively faster increase in prices of livestock, fruits and vegetables reflects the shifting demand for high value protein nutrition which is a natural trend in the context of rising incomes. However, the rising prices of livestock, fruits and vegetables in relation to lower increase in cereal prices has not made any major impact on substitution of land under cereal crops. For example the area under cereal crops has gone up from 99.2 million hectares in 2005-06 to 100.4 million hectares in 2010-11 and production of cereals has gone up from 203.0 million tonnes to 226.5 million tonnes during the same period. The area under fruits and vegetables has also gone up from 12.54 million hectare in 2005-06 to 14.88 million hectares in 2010-11. This is possible through multiple cropping and cultivation on new and marginal lands which are not used for cereal crops.

The Government is implementing various schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Bringing Green Revolution to North Eastern India (BGREI), Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP) etc.

Irrigated land and over total arable land

†1402. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total irrigated area of land in comparison to total arable land in each State;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government provides / proposes to provide any special package to those States where irrigated land is less than the national average;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) As per available information, total irrigated area is about 47% of the arable land in the country. State-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) Irrigation is a State subject and irrigation projects are formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments themselves from their own resources. However, Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources launched a programme during 1996-97, namely; Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to major/medium irrigation projects in the country, with the objective to accelerate the implementation of those projects which were beyond the resource capability of the States or were in advanced stages of completion. As per revised criteria, the entire central assistance will be in the form of central grant which will be 90% of the project cost in case of special category States, projects benefiting drought prone areas, tribal areas, flood prone areas and 25% in case of Non-Special category States.

Besides, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) with a view to enhance water use efficiency, increasing productivity and farmers income and coverage area under improved method of irrigation etc.

Statement

State-wise agricultural/arable area, Gross irrigated area and percentage of Gross irrigated area over arable Area

(Area in thousand hectares)

Sl.No.	Name of States	Agricultural/ arable area	Gross/Total irrigated area	Percentage Gross irrigated area over arable area
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15921.00	5764.00	36.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	424.00	56.00	13.20

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	3211.00	225.00	7.00
4.	Bihar	6601.00	4625.00	70.01
5.	Chhattisgarh	5570.00	1487.00	26.70
6.	Goa	197.00	38.00	19.10
7.	Gujarat	12680.00	4933.00	38.90
8.	Haryana	3730.00	5545.00	148.70
9.	Himachal Pradesh	824.00	188.00	22.80
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1058.00	480.00	45.30
11.	Jharkhand	4288.00	155.00	3.60
12.	Karnataka	12891.00	4096.00	31.80
13.	Kerala	2303.00	455.00	19.80
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17298.00	7162.00	41.40
15.	Maharashtra	21130.00	4352.00	20.60
16.	Manipur	240.00	52.00	21.70
17.	Meghalaya	1052.00	74.00	7.00
18.	Mizoram	415.00	10.00	2.50
19.	Nagaland	671.00	85.00	12.70
20.	Odisha	7126.00	3197.00	44.90
21.	Punjab	4206.00	7714.00	183.40
22.	Rajasthan	25569.00	7309.00	28.60
23.	Sikkim	98.00	18.00	18.80
24.	Tamil Nadu	8131.00	3238.00	39.80
25.	Tripura	310.00	106.00	34.30
26.	Uttar Pradesh	19148.00	18896.00	98.70
27.	Uttarakhand	1548.00	567.00	36.60
28.	West Bengal	5684.00	5525.00	97.20
29.	A & N Islands	28.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Chandigarh	2.00	1.00	87.40
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	24.00	7.00	28.07
32.	Daman and Diu	4.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	53.00	34.00	63.50
34.	Pondicherry	30.00	27.00	88.00
35.	Lakshadweep	3.00	1.00	29.10
TOTAL :		182468.00	86422.00	47.36

Source- Land Use Statistics at a Glance (2010), MoA, DAC, New Delhi.

Setting up of Borlaug Institute

1403. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to set up Borlaug Institutes in different States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the schedule of opening of these institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) International Centre for Maize and Wheat (CIMMYT), with the approval of Government of India, has set up the Borlaug Institute for South Asia in three States namely (i) Ludhiana in Punjab (ii) Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh and (iii) Pusa in Bihar.

Compensation to farmers for seed failure

1404. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has not laid down any criteria for determining compensation to farmers for seed failure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to lay down criteria for compensation to farmers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the

Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 have no provisions for compensation to farmers for seed failure.

The Seeds Bill, 2004 has provisions for compensation to farmers in case of non-performance of seeds under given conditions.

Effect of weak monsoon

†1405. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has prepared a contingency plan for providing relief to 16 per cent area of Kharif sowing area by assessing the effect of weak monsoon on the kharif crop in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount which has been decided to be provided as relief to the farmers of different areas under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Contingency Plans for 343 districts spread across 19 States (Andhra Pradesh-22, Assam-17, Maharashtra-33, Karnataka-29, Odisha-30, Kerala-14, Gujarat-25, Haryana-19, Punjab-19, Rajasthan-30, Tamil Nadu-31, Madhya Pradesh-23, Uttar Pradesh-10, West Bengal-18, Bihar-3, Himachal Pradesh-1, Chhattishgarh-6, Jharkhand-1 and Jammu and Kashmir-12) have been prepared and uploaded in the DAC Website <http://agricoop.nic.in/Acp.htm>. States have been advised to prepare location specific alternatives based on these Plans in consultation with respective State Agricultural Universities and arranging seeds of alternate crops/varieties to implement such plans.

(c) State Governments initiate necessary relief measures in wake of natural calamities including drought from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with every State. State-wise and year-wise (2010-15) allocation of funds under SDRF is given in Statement (*See* below). Government of India supplements efforts of State Government by providing requisite financial and logistic support. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is also provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature.

Besides, in view of deficient rainfall situation in different parts of the country, decisions have also been taken for implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme, enhancement of subsidy on seeds, channelizing funds available under various flagship schemes for drought relief activities, up-scaling Central Sector Scheme on feed and fodder, allocation of additional power from central pool to States etc.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Statement*State Disaster Relief Fund 2010-15
(Centre's and States' Share)*

(Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	State	Central Share					State Share						
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total 2010-15	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total 2010-15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	381.63	400.71	420.74	441.78	463.87	2108.73	127.21	133.57	140.25	147.26	154.62	702.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	33.07	34.72	36.46	38.29	40.20	182.74	3.67	3.86	4.05	4.25	4.47	20.30
3.	Assam	237.39	249.26	261.73	274.82	288.56	1311.76	26.38	27.70	29.08	30.53	32.06	145.75
4.	Bihar	250.87	263.41	276.58	290.41	304.93	1386.20	83.62	87.80	92.19	96.80	101.64	462.05
5.	Chhattiagarh	113.49	119.17	125.12	131.38	137.95	627.11	37.83	39.72	41.71	43.79	45.98	209.03
6.	Goa	2.22	2.33	2.45	2.57	2.70	12.27	0.74	0.78	0.82	0.86	0.90	4.10
7.	Gujarat	376.59	395.42	415.19	435.95	457.75	2080.90	125.53	131.81	138.40	145.32	152.58	693.64
8.	Haryana	144.68	151.91	159.51	167.48	175.86	799.44	48.22	50.64	53.17	55.83	58.62	266.48

9.	Himachal Pradesh	117.68	123.57	129.75	136.24	143.06	650.30	13.08	13.73	14.42	15.14	15.89	72.26
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	155.21	162.97	171.12	179.68	188.66	857.64	17.25	18.11	19.01	19.96	20.96	95.29
11.	Jharkhand	194.59	204.32	214.53	225.26	236.52	1075.22	64.86	68.10	71.51	75.08	78.84	358.39
12.	Karnataka	120.72	126.76	133.10	139.75	146.74	667.07	40.24	42.25	44.36	46.58	48.91	222.34
13.	Kerala	98.31	103.22	108.38	113.81	119.50	543.22	32.77	34.41	36.13	37.93	39.83	181.07
14.	Madhya Pradesh	294.56	309.29	324.76	341.00	358.04	1627.65	98.19	103.10	108.25	113.66	119.35	542.55
15.	Maharashtra	332.02	348.62	366.05	384.35	403.56	1834.60	110.67	116.20	122.01	128.11	134.52	611.51
16.	Manipur	6.50	6.82	7.16	7.52	7.90	35.90	0.72	0.76	0.80	0.84	0.88	4.00
17.	Meghalaya	13.19	13.84	14.54	15.26	16.03	72.86	1.46	1.54	1.61	1.70	1.78	8.09
18.	Mizoram	7.70	8.08	8.49	8.91	9.36	42.54	0.85	0.90	0.94	0.99	1.04	4.72
19.	Nagaland	4.47	4.70	4.93	5.18	5.44	24.72	0.50	0.52	0.55	0.57	0.60	2.74
20.	Orissa	293.69	308.37	323.79	339.98	356.99	1622.82	97.89	102.79	107.93	113.33	118.99	540.93
21.	Punjab	167.19	175.55	184.33	193.55	203.42	923.84	55.73	58.52	61.44	64.51	67.74	307.94
22.	Rajasthan	450.50	473.02	496.67	521.50	547.58	2489.27	150.16	157.67	165.55	173.83	182.52	829.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
23.	Sikkim	20.48	21.50	22.57	23.70	24.89	113.14	2.27	2.39	2.51	2.63	2.76	12.56
24.	Tamil Nadu	220.14	231.15	242.71	254.84	267.59	1216.43	73.38	77.05	80.90	84.95	89.19	405.47
25.	Tripura	17.38	18.25	19.16	20.12	21.12	96.03	1.93	2.03	2.13	2.23	2.35	10.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	289.04	303.50	318.67	334.60	351.33	1597.14	96.35	101.16	106.22	111.53	117.11	532.37
27.	Uttarakhand	105.89	111.19	116.75	122.59	128.72	585.14	11.77	12.35	12.97	13.62	14.30	65.01
28.	West Bengal	228.62	240.05	252.05	264.65	277.88	1263.25	76.21	80.02	84.02	88.22	92.63	421.10
TOTAL :		4677.82	4911.70	5157.29	5415.17	5685.95	25847.93	1399.48	1469.48	1542.93	1620.05	1701.06	7733.00

Encouragement for sugarcane production

‡1406. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to promote sugarcane production to contain the continuous rise in the prices of sugar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of production and consumption of sugar during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to increase the sugarcane production in the country, Government of India is implementing a programme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Area (SUBACS) under Centrally Sponsored Macro Management Mode of Agriculture scheme. Apart from this, under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), the State Governments have been given flexibility to choose their priorities for formulation of the crop development projects including sugarcane. All the above programmes are focused on propagation of quality planting material, transfer of technology, knowledge upgradation and mechanization etc. for increasing productivity of sugarcane crop. Government is also providing loan at concessional rates of interest to the sugar mills, under Sugar Development Fund (SDF) statutorily maintained and managed by Department of Food and Public Distribution, for development of sugarcane in their respective-areas.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The estimated production and consumption of sugar during last three years is as under:

Particulars	(Qty in lac tones)		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11(P)
Production of Sugar	147.00	188.00	243.50
Estimated release for internal consumption	230.80	208.78	208.00
		+ 3.2 ##	

Direct import consumption by bulk consumers.

(P) Provisional.

‡Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Bad condition of sugarcane crop

1407. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that sugarcane crop in some States is drying due to failure of rains and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is contemplating to incentivise the sugarcane farmers and come up with confidence building measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Reports on crop coverage indicates that, as on 16th August, area under sugarcane has increased from 46.71 lakh hectare (normal area during corresponding period) to 52.88 lakh hectare.

(c) Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme known as Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) for development of sugarcane in various sugarcane growing States of the country under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). Under the Scheme, assistance is provided on field demonstrations, farmers' trainings, seed multiplication, farm implements, integrated nutrients management, integrated pest management, micronutrients and drip irrigation system.

Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), State Governments have been given flexibility to choose their priorities for formulation of projects including sugarcane development. Government is also providing loan at concessional rates of interest to sugar mills for development of sugarcane in their respective areas under Sugar Development Fund (SDF) statutorily maintained and managed by Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

Demand and supply of Bt. Cotton seeds

†1408. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for Bt. cotton seeds has been growing continuously in the country over the years;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the estimated growth rate of average annual demand;
- (c) whether there have been varied claims regarding supply and demand of this seed in the current year;
- (d) if so, whether the demand side has confirmed decline in the availability whereas the supply side has claimed its availability in abundance; and
- (e) if so, what is the actual position and the amount of increase in its price in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The demand for Bt. Cotton seed has increased over the years. Estimated average annual growth rate of demand for Bt. Cotton seed has varied between 11-20% during 2008-11. The seed producing companies made available sufficient quantity of Bt. Cotton seed through their dealers' network after prior consultation with the respective State Government.

(d) and (e) There was no shortage of Bt. Cotton seeds as per information received from the States. However, there was a decline in the demand for Bt. Cotton seeds on account of deficient monsoon. There was no price increase for Bt. Cotton seed in 2012.

Bollworm in plants

1409. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that bollworm, which normally attacks cotton, has found new hosts since introduction of bollworm resistant Bt. cotton in other varieties of plants such as tomato, pigeon pea, chickpea, sorghum, maize, etc. thereby putting farmers at risk; and
- (b) if so, the efforts Government has made so far to contain the bollworm in plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Bollworm has already been reported in several crops, and these are not new hosts. There are three types of Bollworm *viz.*, pink bollworm, spotted bollworm and American bollworm which are found attacking/feeding on cotton crops. Out of these, the spotted bollworm and American

bollworm are also found attacking tomato, pigeon pea, chickpea, sorghum, maize, etc. Apart from these crops, these pests have also been reported on more than 200 host crops with varying degree of damage to these hosts. Spotted bollworm and American bollworm are the polyphageous pests in nature attacking several field crops. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is available and is being implemented in the country to control bollworm attack on plants.

Implementation of NFSM

1410. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the set up of the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has led to an increased production of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the details of districts where the scheme is being implemented;

(c) whether Government has increased the quantum of allocation for the mission this year; and

(d) the estimated production output expected by Government for the current year under the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The aim of the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was to enhance foodgrain production by 20 million Tones (10 million Tones of Rice, 8 million Tones of Wheat and 2 million Tones of Pulses). As a result of implementation of NFSM the production of Wheat has increased from 75.81 million Tones (in pre-NFSM year of 2006-07) to 93.90 million Tones during 2011-12 (4th Advance Estimate) *i.e.* nearly, 18.09 million Tones is achieved against the envisaged target of 8 million Tones at the end of Eleventh plan period. Similarly, the total production of rice has increased from 93.35 million Tones (in pre-NFSM year 2006-07) to 104.32 million in 2011-12 (4th Advance Estimate) with an increase of nearly 10.97 million Tones against the target of 10 million Tones. The total production of pulses has also increased from 14.20 million Tones during 2006-07 to 18.24 million Tones during 2010-11 with an increase of 4.04 million Tones against the envisaged target of 2.0 million Tones. The production of pulses during 2011-12 is estimated as 17.21 million Tones (as per 4th advance estimate). Moisture stress in States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh impacted pulses production in Kharif, 2011.

During 2012-13, NFSM is implemented in 561 districts of 27 States with three components namely, NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses. NFSM- Rice is implemented in 210 districts of 24 States, NFSM-Wheat in 166 districts of 12 States and NFSM-Pulses in 468 districts of 16 States.

(c) The Budgetary Allocation under NFSM during 2012-13 has been increased to Rs. 1850.00 crores from Rs. 1350.00 crores in 2011-12.

(d) It is too early to assess the estimated production output for the year 2012-13. However, production target of Foodgrains at 254.24 Million Tones fixed for the current year is expected to be achieved with favorable weather conditions.

National mission for protein supplement

1411. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient aspects of the National Mission for Protein Supplements launched by Government;

(b) the details of the provisions made for Jharkhand under this mission; and

(c) to what extent it has benefited the people of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The Union Government introduced a scheme 'National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS)' as a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in the Financial Year *i.e.*, 2011-12. The objective of the programme is to assist states to produce protein rich animal products within a limited time-frame. The salient aspects covered under NMPS are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) The funds provision made and funds released to the State of Jharkhand under different components of NMPS during 2011-12 and 2012-13 is given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Year	Funds Provision				Total	Funds Released
		Dairy	Fisheries	Goatery	Piggery		
1.	2011-12	0	1,238	250	0	1,488	1,488
2.	2012-13	653	584	250	210	1,697	0.00*

* No project under NMPS approved yet.

(c) Financial year 2011-12 was the first year of NMPS implementation in Jharkhand. Therefore, full impact of implementation will be known over a period of time. However, NMPs will provide livelihood and nutritional security to small and marginal farmers and landless labourers of all States/UTs including Jharkhand. Women are the backbone of such activities. All these sections of society will, therefore, benefit in terms of increased employment, better nutrition, and more earnings. Increased production of protein-rich items like milk, meat and fish will in turn stimulate processing activities, again leading to more employment opportunities.

Statement

National Mission for Protein Supplements (NMPS)

The salient aspects of various components covered under NMPS are given below:

- i. **Dairy Development:** The scheme is named as Special Programme for Dairy Development under National Mission for Protein Supplements (SDDP-NMPS). Under the scheme, projects is being funded for expansion of animal husbandry and dairy developments activities with priority given to improving productivity of milch animals through measures such as productivity improvement programme, improving nutritional balance of animal feed concentrate, fodder development activity and improving milk procurement, processing and marketing infrastructure in the identified area of implementation.
- ii. **Fisheries:** The areas under fisheries sector which has been taken under NMPS are Reservoir Fisheries Development and Aquaculture Development through Integrated approach/Open sea cage culture.
- iii. **Goatery:** The areas under Goatery sector which has been taken under NMPS are Intensive goat production system and support to conventional goat production with capacity building in the community.
- iv. **Piggery:** The areas under Piggery sector which has been taken under NMPS are promotion to availability of high grade cross bred piglets through pig breeding and multiplication units.

The detailed guidelines of NMPS involving components of Dairy Development, Fisheries, Piggery and Goat Development under RKVY were issued to the participating States. The States were directed to prepare detailed project proposals at their level and get the sanction of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary of the respective State.

Drought in the country

†1412. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are drought like conditions in the country due to deficient rain fall; and

(b) if so, the number of such States whose drought condition is brought to the notice of the Central Government and the action being taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) States which have so far received deficient/scanty rainfall are Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland. Significant shortfall in area coverage under sowing of various crops has been reported from the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka. Governments of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana have sent memoranda to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India seeking Central assistance. However, only Governments of Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat have declared drought in 142 talukas, 5 districts and 132 talukas respectively. Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) has been constituted to visit the drought affected areas to assess loss/damage caused due to drought and recommend financial assistance.

Assistance to drought affected States

1413. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is in the grip of serious drought;

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

(c) whether Government has made any assessment of the drought affected States; and

(d) the details of assistance being given to the drought affected States by Government to tackle the problem?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) reports that as on 21st August 2012, the rainfall departure for the country as a whole is (-)15%. Out of the 36 Met Sub-Divisions in the country, 20 received normal rainfall (+19% to -19%), 13 received Deficient rainfall (-20% to -59%) and 3 received Scanty rainfall (-60% to -99%). During the third week of August, 2012, against normal sowing of 89.62 million hectare, about 88.37 million hectare has been covered under various crops which is about 1.25 million ha short than normal. State-wise details of south west monsoon, 2012 is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(d) State Governments initiate necessary relief measures in wake of natural calamities including drought from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) which is readily available with every State. State-wise and year-wise (2010-15) allocation of funds under SDRF is given in Statement-II (*See below*). Government of India supplements efforts of State Government by providing requisite financial and logistic support. Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is also provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature.

Besides, in view of deficient rainfall situation in different parts of the country, decisions have also been taken for implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme, enhancement of subsidy on seeds, channelizing funds available under various flagship schemes for drought relief activities, up-scaling Central Sector Scheme on feed and fodder, allocation of additional power from central pool to states etc.

Statement-I

State-wise rainfall distribution

Sl.No.	States	Week : 09.08.2012 to 15.08.2012				Period : 01.06.2012 to 15.08.2012			
		Actual	Normal	% Dep	Cat.	Actual	Normal	% Dep	Cat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
East & North East India									
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.4	87.8	-77%	S	1075.5	1205.2	-11%	N

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Assam	44.2	89.6	-51%	D	1107.5	1055.6	5%	N
3.	Meghalaya	38.7	140.3	-72%	S	1624.3	2003.7	-19%	N
4.	Nagaland	29.3	87.7	-67%	S	514.1	924.6	-44%	D
5.	Manipur	37.0	130.9	-72%	S	368.1	1513.0	-76%	S
6.	Mizoram	134.7	101.6	33%	E	876.0	1106.2	-21%	D
7.	Tripura	107.6	82.0	31%	E	930.9	1050.3	-11%	N
8.	Sikkim	62.7	98.1	-36%	D	1274.4	1191.3	7%	N
9.	West Bengal	81.1	87.5	-7%	N	808.2	901.6	-10%	N
10.	Jharkhand	94.4	72.6	30%	E	626.0	699.9	-11%	N
11.	Bihar	50.2	69.8	-28%	D	501.5	655.7	-24%	D
North West India									
1.	Uttar Pradesh	32.6	74.5	-56%	D	402.8	529.2	-24%	D
2.	Uttarakhand	78.2	104.5	-25%	D	680.2	824.0	-17%	N
3.	Haryana	30.8	41.9	-26%	D	100.9	298.4	-66%	S
4.	Chandigarh (UT)	65.2	73.6	-11%	N	342.6	572.3	-40%	D
5.	Delhi	34.1	64.1	-47%	D	174.5	420.5	-59%	D
6.	Punjab	24.8	44.4	-44%	D	116.7	329.8	-65%	S
7.	Himachal Pradesh	52.5	76.1	-31%	D	352.3	564.2	-38%	D
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	42.5	45.0	-6%	N	280.4	364.9	-23%	D
9.	Rajasthan	106.6	36.2	195%	E	236.3	278.6	-15%	N
Central India									
1.	Odisha	81.3	84.0	-3%	N	694.3	736.8	-6%	N
2.	Madhya Pradesh	92.3	74.1	25%	E	680.3	608.9	12%	N

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Gujarat	57.8	45.0	28%	E	185.7	457.5	-59%	D
4.	DNH & Daman (UTs)	99.2	172.9	-43%	D	749.4	1636.3	-54%	D
5.	Diu (UT)	0.9	38.1	-98%	S	94.0	535.0	8%	S
6.	Goa	234.4	189.9	23%	E	2293.7	2432.6	-6%	N
7.	Maharashtra	43.4	66.1	-34%	D	574.1	694.7	-17%	N
8.	Chhatisgarh	72.9	91.1	-20%	D	781.8	759.2	3%	N
South Peninsula									
1.	A & N Island (UT)	55.2	94.4	-42%	D	861.8	1039.3	-17%	N
2.	Andhra Pradesh	31.3	42.0	-26%	D	372.4	368.8	1%	N
3.	Tamil Nadu	24.3	17.1	42%	E	110.0	149.0	-26%	D
4.	Pondicherry (UT)	24.1	18.7	29%	E	142.9	170.1	-16%	N
5.	Karnataka	60.1	50.2	20%	E	451.6	582.4	-22%	D
6.	Kerala	128.3	98.4	30%	E	1012.9	1606.5	-37%	D
7.	Lakshadweep (UT)	158.5	46.5	241%	E	721.5	721.6	0%	N
Country as a whole		61.1	62.4	-2%		498.6	588.6	-15%	

Category-wise distribution of States

Category	Week: 09.08.2012 to 15.08.2012 No. of States	Period: 01.06.2012 to 15.08.2012 No. of States
Excess	12	0
Normal	4	18
Deficient	14	13
Scanty	5	4
No Rain	0	0

Statement-II*State Disaster Relief Fund 2010-15
(Centre's and States' Share)*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	State	Central Share						State Share					
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total 2010-15	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total 2010-15
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	381.63	400.71	420.74	441.78	463.87	2108.73	127.21	133.57	140.25	147.26	154.62	702.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	33.07	34.72	36.46	38.29	40.20	182.74	3.67	3.86	4.05	4.25	4.47	20.30
3.	Assam	237.39	249.26	261.73	274.82	288.56	1311.76	26.38	27.70	29.08	30.53	32.06	145.75
4.	Bihar	250.87	263.41	276.58	290.41	304.93	1386.20	83.62	87.80	92.19	96.80	101.64	462.05
5.	Chhattisgarh	113.49	119.17	125.12	131.38	137.95	627.11	37.83	39.72	41.71	43.79	45.98	209.03
6.	Goa	2.22	2.33	2.45	2.57	2.70	12.27	0.74	0.78	0.82	0.86	0.90	4.10
7.	Gujarat	376.59	395.42	415.19	435.95	457.75	2080.90	125.53	131.81	138.40	145.32	152.58	693.64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8.	Haryana	144.68	151.91	159.51	167.48	175.86	799.44	48.22	50.64	53.17	55.83	58.62	266.48
9.	Himachal Pradesh	117.68	123.57	129.75	136.24	143.06	650.30	13.08	13.73	14.42	15.14	15.89	72.26
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	155.21	162.97	171.12	179.68	188.66	857.64	17.25	18.11	19.01	19.96	20.96	95.29
11.	Jharkhand	194.59	204.32	214.53	225.26	236.52	1075.22	64.86	68.10	71.51	75.08	78.84	358.39
12.	Karnataka	120.72	126.76	133.10	139.75	146.74	667.07	40.24	42.25	44.36	46.58	48.91	222.34
13.	Kerala	98.31	103.22	108.38	113.81	119.50	543.22	32.77	34.41	36.13	37.93	39.83	181.07
14.	Madhya Pradesh	294.56	309.29	324.76	341.00	358.04	1627.65	98.19	103.10	108.25	113.66	119.35	542.55
15.	Maharashtra	332.02	348.62	366.05	384.35	403.56	1834.60	110.67	116.20	122.01	128.11	134.52	611.51
16.	Manipur	6.50	6.82	7.16	7.52	7.90	35.90	0.72	0.76	0.80	0.84	0.88	4.00
17.	Meghalaya	13.19	13.84	14.54	15.26	16.03	72.86	1.46	1.54	1.61	1.70	1.78	8.09
18.	Mizoram	7.70	8.08	8.49	8.91	9.36	42.54	0.85	0.90	0.94	0.99	1.04	4.72
19.	Nagaland	4.47	4.70	4.93	5.18	5.44	24.72	0.50	0.52	0.55	0.57	0.60	2.74

20.	Orissa	293.69	308.37	323.79	339.98	356.99	1622.82	97.89	102.79	107.93	113.33	118.99	540.93
21.	Punjab	167.19	175.55	184.33	193.55	203.22	923.84	55.73	58.52	61.44	64.51	67.74	307.94
22.	Rajasthan	450.50	473.02	496.67	521.50	547.58	2489.27	150.16	157.67	165.55	173.83	182.52	829.73
23.	Sikkim	20.48	21.50	22.57	23.70	24.89	113.14	2.27	2.39	2.51	2.63	2.76	12.56
24.	Tamil Nadu	220.14	231.15	242.71	254.84	267.59	1216.43	73.38	77.05	80.90	84.95	89.19	405.47
25.	Tripura	17.38	18.25	19.16	20.12	21.12	96.03	1.93	2.03	2.13	2.23	2.35	10.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	289.04	303.50	318.67	334.60	351.33	1597.14	96.35	101.16	106.22	111.53	117.11	532.37
27.	Uttarakhand	105.89	111.19	116.75	122.59	128.72	585.14	11.77	12.35	12.97	13.62	14.30	65.01
28.	West Bengal	228.62	240.05	252.05	264.65	277.88	1263.25	76.21	80.02	84.02	88.22	92.63	421.10
TOTAL		4677.82	4911.70	5157.29	5415.17	5685.95	25847.93	1399.48	1469.48	1542.93	1620.05	1701.06	7733.00

Availability of Bt. cotton seeds

1414. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bt. cotton seeds are not available in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the constructive measures being evolved to make Bt. cotton seeds available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. Adequate quantity of Bt. cotton seeds is available in the country.

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

(c) States have evolved a series of measures to ensure that Bt. Cotton seeds are made available to the farmers on time. Some of these measures include holding of prior meetings with Bt. Cotton seed producing companies to fix district wise and company wise availability of Bt. Cotton seed packets well in advance of the sowing season. As a follow up to this, meetings are held with Bt. Cotton seed companies to monitor the dispatch of seeds. Some States depute Seed Inspectors or constitute district level Monitoring Committees to monitor dispatch, distribution and sale of Bt. Cotton seeds. Setting up of control rooms, meeting with farmers' representatives to redress grievances relating to cotton seed movement and creating awareness through pamphlets are some of the other constructive measures employed by States.

Nutrient based subsidy to farmers

1415. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has done any study about the impact of nutrient based subsidy to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how many farmers are to be given this subsidy directly;

(d) what will be the delivery mechanism for effective distribution of cash subsidy; and

(e) whether cash crop/plantation farmers will also get its benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers has been implemented only for past two years and its implementation in third year is in progress. A formal study on impact of NBS Policy including its impact on prices of fertilizers has not been conducted so far.

(c) and (d) Presently, the subsidy provided on fertilizers is being released through fertilizer companies. All the farmers are getting the benefit of subsidy in the form of subsidized fertilizers. As and when the scheme of 'Direct Subsidy to Farmers (DSF)' is implemented, it would be applicable to all the farmers. Under the scheme of DSF, the subsidy would be transferred directly to the Bank accounts of the farmers. The Bank accounts shall be linked to AADHAR number of the farmers for the purpose of identification and authentication through AADHAR enabled payment bridges.

(e) Presently, there is no proposal to restrict the usage of subsidized fertilizers to any types of crops.

Slaughtering of milch animals

1416. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to stop slaughtering of milch animals;

(b) the schemes Government have to encourage rearing of milch animals; and

(c) the total number of milch animals in the country during last three years, year-wise and the schemes introduced by Government to increase their number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) As per the distribution of legislative power between Union and States, the slaughtering of animals is a matter on which the States legislature has exclusive power to legislate (entry of list II of the 7th Schedule of Constitution). States/UTs have legislations on banning or restricting slaughtering of milch animals within their respective jurisdictions.

(b) Government is implementing following schemes to encourage rearing of milch animals:

- i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
- ii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- iii) Intensive Dairy Development Programme
- iv) National Dairy Plan-I
- v) Livestock Health and Disease Control
- vi) Centrally Sponsored Fodder and Feed Development Scheme
- vii) Livestock Insurance

(c) The total number of milch animals as per livestock census 2003 and 2007 is presented in the following table:

Category of animal	(in million)	
	2003	2007
Crossbred cattle	11.23	14.41
Indigenous Cattle	46.86	48.04
Buffalo	47.22	48.64
TOTAL	105.31	111.09

In order to supplement and complement the efforts made by the States in development and increasing number of milch animals Government is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Details of these schemes is given in Statement.

Statement

Schemes being implemented by the Department having component for development and increasing number of milch animals

Centrally Sponsored

1. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
2. Intensive Dairy Development Programme
3. Livestock Health and Disease Control

4. Livestock Health and Disease Control
5. Livestock Insurance

Central Sector Scheme

1. National Dairy Plan-I
2. Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
3. Central Cattle Development Organization
4. Central Fodder Development Organization

Profitable prices of produce to farmers

1417. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers do not get profitable price of their produce due to which they are losing interest in agriculture ceaselessly; and

(b) if so, the action being taken to provide profitable price to farmers for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments to ensure a minimum return to the growers. 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.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is in the nature of a minimum guaranteed price for the farmers offered by the Government for their produce in case the market prices fall below that level. If the market offers higher price than MSP, the farmers are free to sell at that price.

The agriculture sector has grown at an average of 3.3% per annum in the Eleventh Five Year Plan as compared to 2.3% during Tenth Five Year Plan. The total number of cultivators has also increased since 1951.

In addition, the Government is implementing various programmes/schemes, *inter-alia*, with the objective of improving productivity, profitability and economic viability of farming which includes Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) etc.

Demand and production of pulses and oilseeds

1418. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of oilseeds and pulses is low in comparison to the demand in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of production of the said crops during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to acquire land on lease abroad for farming and use of hybrid seeds to meet the said shortage; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with other steps taken to increase the production of said crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Details of Projected Demand (As per the Report of the Working Group of Planning Commission for the Eleventh Five Year Plan) and Estimated Production of pulses and oilseeds during the last three years *i.e.*, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as under:-

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Pulses			Oilseeds		
	Projected Demand	Estimated Production	Shortfall/ Gap	Projected Demand	Estimated Production	Shortfall/ Gap
2009-10	18.29	14.66	3.63	49.35	24.88	24.47
2010-11	19.08	18.24	0.84	51.34	32.48	18.86
2011-12	19.91	17.21*	2.70	53.39	30.01*	23.38

*As per 4th Advance Estimates for 2011-12.

The major constraints in oilseeds and pulses production are as under:

- (i) Low productivity primarily due to cultivation in un-irrigated areas. About 73% area under oilseeds is rainfed.
- (ii) Need for varietal replacement through development of hybrids in oilseed and pulse crops like Groundnut, Sesame, Soybean, Niger.
- (iii) Production losses due to pests and diseases.
- (iv) High risk due to vagaries of nature and susceptibility to a number of insect pests and diseases.

(c) Details of production of oilseeds and pulses in major States during last three years and the current year are given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) Ministries of Agriculture, External Affairs and Commerce have been receiving requests from various countries and our missions abroad, inviting Indian corporate and farmers to take up commercial agriculture in their countries. Understandably, there are requests from Indian companies/farmers for more detailed information such as agro-climatic conditions, terms and conditions of engagement etc. in different countries. While the Government has not formulated any policy in this matter, it has supported efforts by FICCI for organizing a workshop on 6-7th May, 2010, to help in the dissemination of useful information regarding agro-climatic conditions, the State of agriculture and other information in these countries. Senior Government officers of various countries and representatives of Indian corporate houses participated in this workshop.

Further, in order to increase production of oilseeds in the country through area expansion and enhancement in productivity, Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major Oilseeds, 15 maize growing States and oil palm growing States w.e.f 1.4.2004. The Pulses Development Programme of ISOPOM has been merged with National Food Security Mission w.e.f. 1.4.2010. An outlay of Rs. 575.00 crore has been approved for 2012-13. To improve the declining production and productivity of oilseeds, Government of India has launched Oil Palm Area Expansion (OPAE) Programme for bringing 60,000 hectares in 8 identified States during 2011-12 under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an allocation of Rs. 300 crore. An allocation of Rs. 100.00 crore has been approved for OPAE during 2012-13.

Assistance for oilseeds development is also available under other programmes of Government of India, Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) scheme provides assistance for oilseeds and Maize development to the States not covered under ISOPOM. Under RKVY, the States can support development activities approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State.

Statement

Details of production of oilseeds and pulses in major States during last three years

(Production: in Lakh Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/year	Oilseeds				Pulses			
		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.89	15.00	19.96	13.30	14.48	14.29	14.40	12.47
2.	Assam	1.38	1.45	1.54	1.48	0.65	0.65	0.70	1.08
3.	Bihar	1.38	1.45	1.36	1.39	4.69	4.72	5.38	5.09
4.	Chhattisgarh	1.94	2.00	2.17	1.71	4.99	4.89	5.38	4.97
5.	Gujarat	40.16	30.97	48.96	49.31	6.09	5.17	7.23	7.83
6.	Haryana	9.33	8.78	9.64	8.85	1.78	1.00	1.59	1.27
7.	Jharkhand	0.73	0.80	1.14	1.74	2.81	2.24	3.30	4.92
8.	Karnataka	12.12	10.05	12.70	9.46	9.72	11.18	15.65	10.61
9.	Madhya Pradesh	69.77	76.36	80.35	77.16	36.83	43.05	33.86	41.60
10.	Maharashtra	34.10	28.14	50.40	45.44	16.56	23.70	31.00	22.15
11.	Orissa	1.80	1.72	1.80	1.59	3.87	3.99	4.27	3.57
12.	Punjab	0.76	0.83	0.72	0.68	0.22	0.18	0.19	0.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Rajasthan	51.78	44.07	66.05	57.35	18.26	7.14	32.60	23.60
14.	Tamil Nadu	10.43	9.40	9.33	11.40	1.64	2.04	2.46	4.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	11.65	8.16	9.19	9.37	19.98	19.01	20.37	24.26
16.	West Bengal	5.83	7.27	7.04	7.46	1.29	1.50	1.76	1.88
17.	Others	2.14	2.37	2.44	2.43	1.80	1.87	2.27	2.25
	ALL INDIA	277.19	248.82	324.79	300.12	145.66	146.62	182.41	172.08

* IVth advance estimates for 2011-12.

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture.

Export of skimmed milk powder

†1419. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stock of skimmed milk powder is in abundance in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of this stock during April, 2012;

(c) whether Government has decided to export 60,000 tonnes out of this stock by providing subsidy; and

(d) if so, the amount of subsidy per kilogram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) There are adequate stocks of milk powder with the major Milk Federations, Mother Dairy, Delhi and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

(b) The stock of milk powder at the end of April, 2012 with the major Milk Federations, Mother Dairy, Delhi and NDDB was around 1,27,276 MT.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Commerce and Industries *vide* notification dated 08.06.2012 and public notice dated 08.06.2012, has allowed free export of skimmed milk powder (SMP) and export incentive of 5% for SMP under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY).

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Assessment of drought situation

1420. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the drought situation prevailing in many parts of the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make drinking water available to people in the drought hit areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture is closely monitoring the monsoon and crop sowing situation along with India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC) and State Governments. IMD reports that as on 21st August, 2012, the rainfall departure for the country as a whole is -15%. Out of the 36 Met Sub-Divisions in the country, 20 received normal rainfall +19% to -19%, 13 received Deficient rainfall (-20% to -59%) and 3 received Scanty rainfall (-60% to -99%). Average area sown under kharif cultivation in the country is 105.70 million hectare. During the third week of August, 2012, against normal sowing of 89.62 million hectare about 88.37 million hectare has been covered under various crops which is about 1.25 million ha short than normal.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has reported that certain areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Haryana are witnessing scarcity of drinking water due to deficient monsoon.

On the advice of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, States have prepared Contingency Plans which include supplying drinking water through tankers, new tubewells, re-boring of old tubewells, hydro-fracturing, rejuvenation and restoration of hand pumps, *etc.* Release of funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has been fast tracked for the drought affected States.

Bumper crop of onion

1421. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that onion growers in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, have adversely been affected due to steep fall in prices of onions in the country as a result of bumper crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government has taken so far and proposes to take to protect the interest of onion growers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) As per present estimates, production of onion during the year 2011-12 is 153.92 lakh MT as against 151.18 lakh MT (2010-11). Prices of onion largely depend on market forces of demand and supply. The prices of onion varied from Rs.300 to Rs.500 per quintal in different producing markets during the period January to June, 2012. Presently, modal prices of onion in producing markets range from Rs. 650 to Rs. 750 per quintal.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, upon receipt of proposals from State Governments implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, under which losses, if any, are shared between the Central Government and the State Government concerned on 50:50 basis. However, on the request of Government of Karnataka, MIS has been implemented for procurement of 54,000 MT of onion w.e.f. 14.12.2011 to 14.01.2012 at the Market Intervention Price of Rs. 6000 per MT.

Government of India provides assistance under Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) schemes for development of infrastructure for post harvest management including establishment of cold storages and setting up of terminal markets, wholesale markets and rural primary markets/apni mandies to ensure adequate supply of fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers. In addition, National Horticulture Board (NHB) provides assistance for establishment of cold storages.

Further, Government of India has also removed the Minimum Export Price (MEP) restriction from onion export w.e.f. 8th May 2012 which has resulted in improvement of domestic prices.

Productivity of foodgrains, pulses etc.

1422. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the productivity of main foodgrain crops, pulses and edible oil crops during last five years;
- (b) the increase/decrease in their productivity over the said period; and
- (c) the steps taken to increase productivity of these crops during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) Details of productivity of major foodgrains, pulses and edible oil crops along with increase (+)/decrease (-) in productivity during the last five years are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken several new initiatives to enhance productivity of foodgrains, pulses and edible oil crops during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Crop improvement programme is being reoriented with major emphasis on pre-breeding, identification of genetic stocks and genomic resources from related wild species for yield, quality and tolerance/resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. The recent achievements in successful completion of sequencing of genomes of important plants and microbes have provided the key to take crop science research and development efforts for more gainful endeavours. In order to develop climate resilient crop varieties/hybrids, targeted integration of economically important genes for crop improvement through structural and functional genomics/molecular breeding in major field crops is proposed to be strengthened.

The ICAR proposal for Twelfth Plan envisions this scenario of judiciously integrating conventional plant breeding, molecular biology, bioinformatics, genetic engineering, human resources and infrastructural development. For this, interdisciplinary and inter-departmental research platform in consortium mode on hybrids, agro-biodiversity, genomics, genetically modified foods, bio-fortification and seeds are proposed during Twelfth Plan. Establishment of new research institutes like Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology and National Institute of Biotic Stress Management to address the emerging issues confronting crop cultivation and to develop novel products is also proposed.

Statement

*Productivity of major foodgrains, pulses and edible oil crops
along with increase (+)/decrease(-) in productivity*

Crops	Productivity (Kg./hectare)					Increase (+)/ Decrease(-) in productivity in 2011-12 over 2007-08 (Kg/hectare)
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice	2202	2178	2125	2239	2372	170
Wheat	2802	2907	2839	2989	3140	338
Jowar	1021	962	860	949	954	-67
Bajra	1042	1015	731	1079	1156	114
Maize	2335	2414	2024	2540	2476	141
TOTAL Coarse Cereals	1431	1459	1212	1536	1593	162
Tur	826	671	711	655	656	-170
Urad	462	444	422	543	555	93
Moong	409	364	226	513	498	89
Gram	762	895	915	895	912	150
TOTAL Pulses	625	659	630	691	694	69
Total Foodgrains	1860	1909	1798	1931	2059	199
Groundnut	1459	1163	991	1411	1305	-154
Nigerseed	269	297	266	290	275	6
Sesamum	421	354	303	429	428	7
Rapeseed and Mustard	1001	1143	1183	1185	1145	144

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Safflower	701	642	621	617	498	-203
Sunflower	765	639	576	701	692	-73
Soyabean	1235	1041	1024	1327	1207	-28
Total Oilseeds (Edible Oil)	1115	1006	958	1193	1135	20

* 4th Advance Estimates

Need to establish Rice Development Board in Assam

1423. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate of Rice Development in Patna, Bihar is the only rice development centre in Eastern India;

(b) whether Assam produces 37.5 lakh tons of rice per year and is there a need to establish a Rice Development Board in the State to promote different varieties of rice; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The research and development of rice is being carried out by the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack and its regional stations located at Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) and Gerua (Assam) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Directorate of Rice Development located at Patna. Hence, a stand alone institution like Rice Development Board is not required. The improved production technologies including varieties/hybrids of rice are promoted through various crop development programmes such as National Food Security Mission — Rice (NFSM-Rice), Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) under Macro Management of Agriculture, Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI)-a sub Scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.

Effect of El Nino on Agriculture

1424. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Research Institute for Dry Land Research (CRIDL R) has come to the conclusion that El Nino is impacting Indian agriculture;

(b) if so, the findings of the CRIDL R;

(c) whether it is also a fact that El Nino is leaving more impact on Andhra Pradesh farmers as compared to other farmers in the country; and

(d) if so, how Government is planning to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) CRIDA has carried out a study on the impact of El Nino on rainfall pattern in the country. However, the study on the impact of El Nino on agriculture is confined only to Andhra Pradesh.

In general, the monsoon rainfall was less in most sub-divisions in the country during El Nino year. However, the rainfall showed an increasing trend (more than long-term normal) during the post-monsoon period.

A detailed study on Andhra Pradesh State showed that south-west monsoon rainfall received and total food grain production was less during El Nino years as compared to normal. The north-east monsoon was also higher in coastal Andhra Pradesh during El Nino years.

(c) As the impact study of El Nino was confined only to Andhra Pradesh agriculture, it is not possible to compare with the impact on farmers in other States.

(d) Scarcity of rain can be addressed by means such as, (i) water saving rice cultivation methods like SRI (System of Rice Intensification), (ii) intercropping in drought prone regions, (iii) adoption of soil and water conservation techniques and (iv) efficient irrigation methods to increase water use efficiency. ICAR also issues agro-advisories on a weekly basis, to convey, through State Agricultural Departments, to the farmers the best alternatives available if there is scarcity of rainfall.

Benefit of high speed diesel to fishermen

1425. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that fishermen are not getting benefits of High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons for not removing the BPL condition for fishermen; and
- (d) whether any time-frame is expected for removal of BPL condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations, a rebate on High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil restricted to 50% of the sales tax exempted by the States with a ceiling of Rs. 3.00 per litre is provided to coastal States/UTs for the use of small mechanized fishing vessels. This subsidy is restricted to (i) 500 litres of HSD for every active fishing month per fishing vessel of (ii) less than 20 metre size which were registered before 10th Plan and (iii) owned by fishermen belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category. However, under this component no funds have been released to the coastal States/UTs during the last three financial years, as the State/UT Governments have not submitted any admissible proposal in this regard since 2009-2010.

(c) and (d) Restoration of the diesel subsidy to all categories of mechanized fishing vessels irrespective of the economic status of the owner has not been supported by the Ministry of Finance.

Gaushalas and Panjrapoles

1426. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) how many Gaushalas and Panjrapoles are there all over the country;
- (b) whether Government helps in the form of subsidies or other incentives for promotions of Gaushalas and Panjrapoles; and
- (c) whether Government has intention to regulate functioning of Gaushalas and Panjrapole all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The data on number of Panjrapoles are not maintained in the Department. However, as per the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2012 number of Gaushalas is 3584 as on 31.3.2011.

(b) and (c) There is no scheme to provide subsidies for promotion of Gaushalas and Panjrapoles. Ministry of Environment and Forests through Animal Welfare Board of India provide assistance to various Non Government Organisations (N.G.Os.) and Animal Welfare Organisations to promote welfare of uncared animals. This Department also provides opportunity to N.G.Os. to take up breeding programme in Gaushalas if the same is recommended by the State Governments.

Establishment of Agriculture Information Centres

1427. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established Agriculture Information Centres in the country, especially in the backward and tribal areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government has provided any assistance to the State Governments for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) in 28 Agricultural Universities and 16 ICAR Institutes in the country, out of these, 4 ATICs are located in Uttar Pradesh at Varanasi, Bareilly, Faizabad and Kanpur. The ICAR has also created a network of 630 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in the country to facilitate farmers' access to agricultural technology generated by National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Kisan Call Centre (KCC) programme under which Agriculture related information is provided to the farmers in 22 regional languages through a country-wide common toll free number 1800-180-1551 covering all the States and Union Territory of India. The KCCs established at 13 locations in the country operate from 6.00 A.M. to 10.00 P.M. on all 365 days in a year. The Kisan Call Centre located in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh caters to all the farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

(b) State-wise details of Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) and KCCs are given in Statement-I and II.

(c) Agricultural Information Technology Centres and Kisan Call Centres are not being funded through the States. Thus, no financial assistance has been provided to the State Governments by the Central Government during last three years and the current year for setting up of Agriculture Information Centres.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement-I

*State/Union Territory-wise Number of Agricultural
Technology Information Centres*

Sl. No.	State/ UT	Number of ATICs	Location of ATICs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	Central Agricultural Research Institute
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
3.	Assam	1	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat
4.	Bihar	1	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur
6.	Delhi	1	Indian Agricultural Research Institute IARI, Pusa
7.	Gujarat	1	Saradarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Dantiwada

1	2	3	4
8.	Haryana	2	1. National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal 2. Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1. Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla. 2. Dr Yashwant Rao Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan. 3. CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur.
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Srinagar.
11.	Jharkhand	1	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi.
12.	Karnataka	3	1. Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bangaluru. 2. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad 3. University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangaluru
13.	Kerala	5	1. Central Institute on Fisheries Technology, Cochin. 2. Indian Institute Spices Research, Calicut. 3. Central Plantation Crops Research Institutes, Kasargod. 4. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Ernakulam. 5. Kerala Agricultural University, Thirssur.

1	2	3	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	1. Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal. 2. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
15.	Maharashtra	5	1. Central Institutes for Cotton Research, Nagpur. 2. Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola. 3. Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeth, Dapoli, Ratnagiri. 4. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri 5. Maharashtra, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani.
16.	Meghalaya	1	ICAR Research Complex for North East Hill Region, Barapani.
17.	Odisha	2	1. Central Institute on Fresh Water Aquaculture, Bhubaneshwar. 2. Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubneshwar
18.	Punjab	1	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.
19.	Rajasthan	3	1. Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur. 2. Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner. 3. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur

1	2	3	4
20.	Tamil Nadu	2	1. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. 2. Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Chennai
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4	1. Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi. 2. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly. 3. Narandra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad 4. Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur.
22.	Uttarakhand	1	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar.
23.	West Bengal	1	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Nadia.
TOTAL		44	

Statement-II*Kisan Call Centre Locations and Languages*

Sl.No.	Location	States/UTs covered	Language
1	2	3	4
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	Telugu
2.	Patna	Bihar	Hindi
		Jharkhand	Hindi

1	2	3	4
3.	Jaipur	Delhi	Hindi
		Rajasthan	Hindi
4.	Ahmadabad	Gujarat	Gujarati
		Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Gujarati
		Daman & Diu	Goan
5.	Chandigarh	Haryana	Hindi/ Haryanvi
		Punjab	Punjabi
		Chandigarh	Punjabi
		Himachal Pradesh	Hindi
6.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir	Dogri, Kashmiri, Ladakhi
7.	Bangalore	Karnataka	Kannada
		Kerala	Malayalam
		Lakshadweep	Malayalam
8.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Hindi
		Chhattisgarh	Hindi
9.	Pune	Maharashtra	Marathi
		Goa	Goan
10.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	Tamil
		Puducherry	Tamil
11.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Hindi
		Uttarakhand	Hindi
12.	Kolkata	West Bengal,	Bengali
		Orissa	Oriya
		Andaman & Nicobar	Tamil

1	2	3	4
13.	Guwahati	Arunachal Pradesh Assam Manipur Meghalaya Mizoram Nagaland Sikkim Tripura	Adi Assamese Manipuri Khasi Mizo Nagamese Sikkimese Bengali

Scheme to tackle drought

†1428. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase the amount for providing means to the drought affected villages during Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is preparing any new scheme to address the problem of drought affected areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (d) Thirteenth Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 33580.93 crore (including State share) for the period 2010-15 uhdur State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) for initiating immediate necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. State-wise and year-wise (2010-15) allocation of funds under SDRF is given in Statement [Refer to Statement-II appended to the answer to the USQ No.1413].

In view of deficit rainfall in various parts of the country during South-West Monsoon 2012 and its likely impact on Agriculture Operations during the on-going

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Kharif season, it has been decided to provide diesel subsidy to the farmers to enable them to provide supplementary irrigation through diesel pumpsets to protect the standing crops. The scheme will be applicable in (i) the districts with rainfall deficit more than 50% as on 15th July, 2012; (ii) taluks/districts which have been declared as drought affected areas by the respective State Governments/UTs and (iii) areas with prolonged dry spell continuously for 15 days, i.e. scanty rainfall (deficit more than 60% of normal) for any continuous 15 days period as per reports of IMD. Under this scheme, 50% of the cost of diesel for supplementary and protective irrigation will be provided as financial assistance to farmers, limited to 2 ha per farmer, which will be equally shared by Govt. of India (GOI) and respective State Government/Union Territory. GOI's contribution will be capped at Rs. 750 per ha.

Further ceiling on seeds subsidy is enhanced from the rate of Rs. 500 per quintal to Rs. 700 per quintal in respect of cereals, from Rs. 1200 per quintal to Rs. 2000 per quintal in respect of pulses and oilseeds, and from Rs. 800 per quintal to Rs. 1000 per quintal in respect of coarse cereals, in order to partially recompense the farmer for the expenditure in resowing and/or purchasing drought tolerant variety of seeds.

Additional budget of Rs. 50.00 crore under Central Sector Scheme on Fodder & Feed has been allocated to address fodder shortage situation in some parts of the country. Release of interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), release of funds under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme, allocation of additional power from the central pool, etc. have also been made for the drought affected States.

Deficiency in Monsoon

†1429. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of low rainfall recorded in the country due to deficient monsoon this year;
- (b) the States which are worst affected by the deficient monsoon; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to save the agriculture and farmers of these States?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) reports that as on 21st August 2012, the rainfall departure for the country as a whole is (-)15%. Out of the 36 Met Sub-Divisions in the country, 20 received normal rainfall (+19% to -19%), 13 received Deficient rainfall (-20% to -59%) and 3 received Scanty rainfall (-60% to -99%). States which have so far received deficient/scanty rainfall are Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland.

(c) With a view to sustain agricultural production and provide relief to farmers, decisions have been taken for implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme, enhancement of subsidy on seeds, channelizing funds available under various flagship schemes for drought relief activities, up-scaling Central Sector Scheme on feed and fodder, waiver of import duty on oil cakes, release of interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), release of funds under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), allocation of additional power from central pool to States *etc.*

Brazilian model of cotton cultivation

1430. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR) and Government of Maharashtra are undertaking a pilot project in eight districts of Vidarbha region to test Brazilian model of cotton cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Brazilian model of cotton cultivation will increase per-acre density of cotton which is double in Brazil than it usually is in India;

(d) whether the model use to take straight variety of cotton or Bt. Cotton for this type of cultivation; and

(e) the details thereof?

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

(b) The pilot project is based on 3 years of experiments and field trials conducted at Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur under the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project (AICCIP). The CICR has identified three varieties *Gossypium hirsutum*, SURAJ, PKV 081 and NH615 and three Desi varieties, HD 123, AKA-5 and AKA-7 as suitable for high density planting. The pilot project was initiated this year in eight cotton-growing districts of Vidarbha covering 40 villages with five villages per district. The trials are being conducted on acre demonstration plots in 172 farmers fields with the *hirsutum* varieties, and on 80 farmers fields with the *Desi* cotton. The total area under the pilot project is 252 acres. The State Agricultural Department of Maharashtra and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of the respective districts are implementing the project with technical coordination from CICR, Nagpur.

(c) The per acre density is 10-20 times more at 80,000 to 100,000 plants per acre in the High Density Planting System (HDPS) model, as compared to 5,000 to 10,000 plants per acre with cotton hybrids.

(d) The High Density Planting System (HDPS) pilot project is only for straight varieties. The straight varieties can be re-used as farm-saved seeds and high seed rates are possible at least expense on seed.

(e) Early maturing compact *hirsutum* plant types with shorter sympodia have been identified such as Suraj, PKV 081, NH 615 and Desi varieties such as AKA 5, AKA 7 and HD 123 were identified by CICR. By planting at a spacing of 45 cm x 8-10 cm the plant population increases to a density of 80,000 to 100,000 plants/acre. With such systems, it is possible to obtain yields of above 18 q/ha in marginal soils, under rainfed conditions of Vidarbha.

Inequality in providing loans to farmers

†1431. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development mentions that there is inequality in providing agricultural loan to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the percentage of agricultural works for which banks provided loan to farmers during monsoon sowing session; and

(d) the details of standards fixed for providing loan for agricultural works by the Reserve Bank of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) There is no Report of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) mentioning that there is inequality in providing agricultural loans to farmers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Against the agriculture credit flow target of Rs. 5.75 lakh crore for the year 2012-13, the achievement up to 30 June, 2012 is Rs.1.36 lakh crore.

(d) In terms of Priority Sector guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, banks have been given target of 18% of their Adjusted net Bank Credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, for lending to agriculture sector. Of this, 13.55 should be through direct lending, while up to 4.5% can be through indirect lending.

Slaughter of cows and their progeny

1432. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that slaughter of cows and their progeny is declared totally prohibited by the Supreme Court of India in the case of State of West Bengal *Vs.* Ashutosh Lahiri;

(b) whether in spite of the Apex Court's ruling a number of cows and their progeny are still being slaughtered in the State of West Bengal and other parts of the country;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to stop this illegal activity and to implement the judgement strictly; and

(d) the details regarding advisory sent to these States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in State of West Bengal *Vs.* Ashutosh Lahiri upheld the order of the Hon'ble High Court of West Bengal which had struck down the Government notification under Section 12 of the West Bengal Animal Slaughter Control Act, 1950, in this regard.

(b) to (d) As per Article 246(3) of the Constitution, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which State legislature has exclusive powers to legislate. In West Bengal, preservation of cattle is governed by the “West Bengal Animal Slaughter Control Act, 1950”. The list of States/Union Territories having legislation on banning or restricting slaughter of animals and their progeny is given in Statement-I. (See below) The States/Union Territories which do not have such law for banning animal slaughter are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

The States/Union Territories have legislation on banning or restricting slaughter of animals and their progeny are as follows:

Name of the States:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 15. Sikkim |
| 2. Assam | 16. Tamil Nadu |
| 3. Bihar | 17. Tripura |
| 4. Goa | 18. Uttar Pradesh |
| 5. Gujarat | 19. West Bengal |
| 6. Haryana | 20. Manipur |
| 7. Himachal Pradesh | 21. National Capital Territory of Delhi |
| 8. Jammu & Kashmir | 22. Uttarakhand |
| 9. Karnataka | 23. Jharkhand |
| 10. Madhya Pradesh | 24. Chhattisgarh |
| 11. Maharashtra | |
| 12. Orissa | |
| 13. Punjab | |
| 14. Rajasthan | |

Name of the Union Territories:

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Chandigarh
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
4. Daman - Diu
5. Puducherry

Statement-II

The following States/Union Territories have no legislation on banning or restricting slaughter of animals and their progeny:

Name of the States:

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Meghalaya
4. Mizoram
5. Nagaland

Name of the Union Territories:

1. Lakshadweep

MSP for Kharif crops

†1433. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that support prices of different kharif crops have been increased by 15 to 53 per cent in the current year;

(b) whether additional increase in farmers' profits has been estimated by this increase in the support price;

(c) if so, the Government's reaction in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that prices of things like fertilizers, seeds, pesticides diesel, etc., used in agricultural production, have also increased; and

(e) if so, the estimate of that increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of Kharif Crops for 2012-13 Season. The MSPs of various kharif crops for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is given in Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), the views of concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments. 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.

MSP is in the nature of a minimum guaranteed price for the farmers offered by the Government for their produce in case the market prices fall below that level. If the market offers higher price than MSP, the farmers are free to sell at that price.

(d) and (e) The increase in the prices of major agricultural inputs in 2011-12 over 2010-11 in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is given below:

Input	% age increase
Fertilisers	13.51
Electricity (Agricultural)	5.11
Pesticides	1.08
Tractors	8.83
Diesel Oil (HSDO)	8.45

The increase in the prices of seeds in terms of Variable Input Price Index prepared by CACP for major kharif crops ranges from 1% to 11% in 2012-13 over 2011-12.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices

		(Rs. per quintal)		
Commodity	Variety	2011-12	2012-13	%age increase over 2011-12
1	2	3	4	5
Paddy	Common	1080	1250	15.7
	Grade A	1110	1280	15.3

1	2	3	4	5
Jowar	Hybrid	980	1500	53.1
	Maldandi	1000	1520	52.0
Bajra		980	1175	19.9
Maize		980	1175	19.9
Ragi		1050	1500	42.8
Arhar (Tur)		3200 &	3850	20.3
Moong		3500 &	4400	25.7
Urad		3300 &	4300	30.3
Cotton	Medium Staple	2800	3600	28.6
	Long Staple	3300	3900	18.2
Groundnut in shell		2700	3700	37.0
Sunflower seed		2800	3700	32.1
Soyabean	Black	1650	2200	33.3
	Yellow	1690	2240	32.5
Sesamum		3400	4200	23.5
Nigerseed		2900	3500	20.7

& Additional incentive of Rs. 500 per quintal payable in respect of kharif pulses sold to procurement agencies during the harvest/arrival period of two months.

Government's expenditure on agriculture

1434. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's expenditure on agriculture and its ancillary activities is decreasing when the former accounts for 67% of employment in the country;

(b) what percentage of this decline is contributed because of loss of agriculture land to large scale industrial and other projects;

(c) what alternative options for employment are being provided to and envisaged for those who are deprived of jobs in the agriculture sector; and

(d) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. Plan allocation for the schemes of this Ministry has increased from Rs.8090 crore in; 2007-08 to Rs.25338 crore in 2012-13. According to Census 2001, Agriculture sector accounted for about 58 per cent employment in the country.

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

(c) and (d) Government is implementing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Employment provided under MGNREGA in different States/UTs during 2011-12 is given in Statement (*See* below).

In addition to the above flagship scheme, Government is also implementing a number of other schemes for creating employment/self-employment opportunities in rural areas, notable being the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) scheme etc.

Statement

Employment provided under MGNREGA in different States/UTs during 2011-12

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Employment provided (in lakh Persondays)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	8.14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2767.69
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.51
4.	Assam	353.44

1	2	3
5.	Bihar	626.79
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	1212.89
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
9.	Daman & Diu	0
10.	Goa	3.11
11.	Gujarat	311.21
12.	Haryana	108.91
13.	Himachal Pradesh	261.06
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	162.2
15.	Jharkhand	601.24
16.	Karnataka	699.57
17.	Kerala	631.92
18.	Lakshadweep	1.47
19.	Madhya Pradesh	1574.48
20.	Maharashtra	651.22
21.	Manipur	205.13
22.	Meghalaya	161.64
23.	Mizoram	122.82
24.	Nagaland	254.78
25.	Odisha	453.73
26.	Puducherry	10.78
27.	Punjab	64.36

1	2	3
28.	Rajasthan	2107.73
29.	Sikkim	32.75
30.	Tamil Nadu	3014.16
31.	Tripura	490.12
32.	Uttar Pradesh	2652.99
33.	Uttarakhand	190.32
34.	West Bengal	1433.61
GRAND TOTAL		21170.77

Harmful effects of pesticides

1435. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use of pesticides in the country is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these pesticides are showing harmful effects on human being; and

(d) if so, the steps Government will take to minimize the use of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As compared to consumption of chemical pesticides of the tune of 55,539.65 M.T. (Technical grade) during 2010-2011, the consumption during 2011-12 has decreased to 50,583.47 M.T. (Technical grade).

(c) Pesticides are inherently toxic. These are regulated by Insecticides Act, 1968. Pesticides are registered by Registration Committee (RC) constituted under Section 5 of the Act, after evaluation of their efficacy and safety to human beings and animals and are allowed to be used as per the label/leaflets claims. The label/leaflets contain information on equipment to be used, dosage schedule & directions of use & safety precautions for spraying of pesticides. People are not affected by pesticides if used as per the label & leaflet claims and also by adhering to the safety precautions prescribed.

(d) In order to minimize the use of pesticides to prevent and manage the insect pests/diseases attack as well as to increase the crop productivity Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Co-Operation (DAC) is implementing a scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" since 1991-92 by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Govt. of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one UT to implement IPM.

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 Resource 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. Basic aim of FFS is to train the farmers on the latest IPM technology so that they are able to take decision in pest management operation. In FFSs the farmers are also trained about the judicious use of pesticides on their crops so that the crop can be grown with minimum use of pesticides.

Sowing cost of Bt. Cotton

1436. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that sowing of Bt. cotton is proving very costly to farmers in the country;
- (b) whether there have been cases of suicide by the aggrieved farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise during last three years; and
- (d) the action plan of Government to address their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Higher cost of cultivation of Bt. Cotton as compared to non-Bt. Cotton is nullified by less use of pesticide/insecticides in case of Bt. Cotton. Consequently, at present (2011-12) almost 90% of the total area under cotton is cultivated by Bt. Cotton.

(b) to (d) Reasons of suicide by farmers as reported by State Government are manifold which, *inter-alia*, include, indebtedness, crop failure, drought, socio-economic and personal reasons. Numerous measures taken by Government of India to prevent suicide, improve financial condition and to overcome indebtedness of the farmers include implementation of Rehabilitation Package in 31 districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, implementation of Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, increasing credit flow to agricultural sector, providing Kissan Credit Cards and providing interest rate subvention for timely payment on crop loans. In addition, yearly announcement of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and providing Microfinance through apex institutions are some of the other ways to help the farmers of the country.

Harmful effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on foodgrains

†1437. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grains, fruits or vegetables become injurious to the health of human beings or the life of animals, birds with the usage of chemical fertilizers or pesticides;

(b) whether the process of ripening fruits with chemical pesticides or through artificial methods contaminates such foodgrains and fruits, which are injurious to the health of human beings or any other creatures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. The pesticides used as per approved label claims under the Insecticides Act, 1968 do not pose the problem of contamination of food grains with high level of pesticide (above tolerance limit). The pesticides are registered by the Registration Committee constituted under Section - 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, after thorough evaluation of data submitted by the applicant alongwith the application for registration on various parameters such as chemistry, toxicity, bio-efficacy and packaging to ensure efficacy and safety.

(b) and (c) The Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) approved for ripening/post harvest treatments are not injurious to health, if used as per approved label claims.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rise in prices due to drought

1438. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is apprehending drought in several States this year;
- (b) if so, the estimated loss of agricultural products due to drought;
- (c) the estimated rise in prices of foodgrains, pulses, etc., consequent upon loss of agricultural products; and
- (d) the action being taken to counter the drought situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) reports that as on 21st August, 2012, the rainfall departure for the country as a whole is (-)15%. Out of the 36 Met Sub-Divisions in the country, 20 received normal rainfall (+19% to -19%), 13 received Deficient rainfall (-20% to -59%) and 3 received Scanty rainfall (-60% to -99%). Average area sown under kharif cultivation in the country is 105.70 million hectare. During the third week of August, 2012, against normal sowing of 89.62 million hectare about 88.37 million hectare has been covered under various crops which is about 1.25 million ha. short than normal. Met Sub-Division-wise rainfall status is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) As per reports on crop sowing status (as on 16.8.2012), coverage is more than normal in case of Rice (17.16 lakh ha.), Oilseeds (0.45 lakh ha.), Sugarcane (6.17 lakh ha.), Cotton (5.15 lakh ha.) and Jute & Mesta (0.38 lakh ha.). Shortfall in area coverage is reported in Coarse Cereals (-30.01 lakh ha.) and Pulses (-11.8 lakh ha.). But with the signs of improvement in rainfall, this gap may narrow enhancing prospects of larger coverage in early Rabi crops and therefore, may not have any significant impact on prices of agricultural commodities.

Government is closely monitoring monsoon and crop sowing situation in consultation with State Governments. Contingency plans for 343 districts have been made available to the States for implementing location specific interventions. Decisions have been taken for introduction of diesel subsidy scheme, enhancement of seed subsidy, up-scaling the central sector scheme on feed and fodder, waiver of import duty on oil cakes, release of interim assistance under calamity component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), release of funds under NRDWP and Integrated Watershed Management Programme, allocation of additional power from the central pool, etc.

Statement*Subdivision-wise rainfall distribution*

Sl. No.	Meteorological subdivisions	Day: 21.08.12 to 21.08.12	Period: 01.06.12 to 21.08.12	Actual	Normal	% Dep.	Cat.	Actual	Normal	% Dep.	Cat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
East & North East India		16.3	12.0	37%		887.1	1030.8	-14%			
1	Arunachal Pradesh	33.9	13.3	155%	E	1146.5	1280.6	-10%	N		
2	Assam & Meghalaya	29.7	14.7	102%	E	1270.3	1332.4	-5%	N		
3	NMMT	6.6	12.8	-48%	D	718.5	1094.9	-34%	D		
4	SHWB & Sikkim	27.6	16.7	65%	E	1461.6	1434.5	2%	N		
5	Gangetic West Bengal	15.4	9.8	57%	E	647.3	795.3	-19%	N		
6	Jharkhand	3.4	8.8	-61%	S	678.3	760.0	-11%	N		
7	Bihar	1.8	9.9	-82%	S	540.8	708.3	-24%	D		
North West India		11.4	6.4	77%		342.4	444.5	-23%			
1	East U.P.	5.2	8.5	-39%	D	474.4	613.3	-23%	D		
2	West U.P.	14.4	7.7	87%	E	345.7	538.5	-36%	D		
3	Uttarakhand	23.6	13.4	76%	E	796.8	907.6	-12%	N		
4	Haryana Chandigarh & Delhi	23.4	6.1	284%	E	131.9	337.5	-61%	S		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5	Punjab	12.3	5.1	141%	E	130.2	361.7	-64%	S
6	Himachal Pradesh	12.9	7.6	70%	E	429.4	614.0	-30%	D
7	Jammu & Kashmir	16.5	4.9	237%	E	348.9	394.2	-11%	N
8	West Rajasthan	0.5	3.0	-83%	S	147.8	198.0	-25%	D
9	East Rajasthan	13.6	8.1	68%	E	404.3	454.4	-11%	N
Central India		6.3	8.5	-26%		633.1	707.0	-10%	
1	Orissa	7.9	11.4	-31%	D	816.5	810.0	1%	N
2	West Madhya Pradesh	13.8	8.0	73%	E	709.2	617.5	15%	N
3	East Madhya Pradesh	6.8	10.9	-38%	D	732.5	751.9	-3%	N
4	Gujarat Region	1.0	5.9	-83%	S	351.9	664.3	-47%	D
5	Saurashtra & Kutch	0.3	2.3	-87%	S	64.7	362.5	-82%	S
6	Konkan & Goa	12.3	19.3	-36%	D	1994.0	2377.1	-16%	N
7	Madhya Maharashtra	1.1	4.8	-77%	S	384.8	524.1	-27%	D
8	Marathwada	0.7	8.6	-92%	S	266.3	454.4	-41%	D
9	Vidarbha	3.6	9.0	-60%	S	684.1	697.7	-2%	N

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	Chhattisgarh	9.8	10.2	-4%	N	874.8	828.0	6%	N
South Peninsula		2.2	6.3	-65%		412.6	505.7	-18%	
1	A & N Island	7.6	12.8	-41%	D	899.9	1117.8	-19%	N
2	Coastal Andhra Pradesh	1.1	6.4	-83%	S	388.6	368.9	5%	N
3	Telangana	6.8	8.1	-16%	N	516.1	529.0	-2%	N
4	Rayalaseema	0.0	5.3	-99%	S	193.8	231.2	-16%	N
5	Tamilnadu & Pondicherry	0.0	3.3	-100%	NR	128.8	167.0	-23%	D
6	Coastal Karnataka	16.0	21.2	-25%	D	2350.1	2609.0	-10%	N
7	N.I. Karnataka	1.1	4.1	-73%	S	203.5	322.8	-37%	D
8	S.I. Karnataka	0.5	4.7	-89%	S	322.1	477.5	-33%	D
9	Kerala	1.3	11.9	-89%	S	1115.6	1688.2	-34%	D
10	Lakshadweep	1.1	8.5	-87%	S	778.2	766.4	2%	N
Country as a whole		8.6	8.0	8%		540.9	638.4	-15%	

***Adhoc* appointments made by NIPER, Mohali**

1439. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of *adhoc* appointments made by National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of cases, where such appointments have been regularized/extended without going through regular selection procedure of advertisement, etc., as stipulated in the NIPER, Act; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali has reported the following information with regard to *ad hoc* appointments:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of Appointment	Remarks
1.	Dr. Sivakumar Ramacharan	Assistant Professor	For one year <i>w.e.f.</i> 27.01.2009	Term extended in absence of Board of Governors, NIPER, Mohali. But he resigned and left the Institute on 31.5.2010
2.	Dr. Jyoti Kumar Paliwal	Professor	For one year <i>w.e.f.</i> 02.06.2011	Term extended with the approval of the Board of Governors, NIPER, for a period of 6 months/till regular recruitment of Professor, whichever is earlier.
3.	Dr. Naresh Kumar	Professor	For one year <i>w.e.f.</i> 01.09.2011	-

Imports of fertilizers

1440. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of fertilizers of various kinds, imported to meet the shortfall; and

(b) the names of the countries from where fertilizers are imported along with the payments made for the imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) 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, STC and IPL to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production. Government is also importing approximately 20 LMT urea from Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO) under Long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GOI & OMIFCO. The import of urea from OMIFCO is made through M/s IFFCO & M/s KRIBHCO. The year-wise quantity and value of urea imported during the last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity of urea imported (in lakh MT)			Value (Million US \$)
	From Oman	Through STEs	Total	
2009-10	20.62	31.48	52.10	1212.65
2010-11	20.64	45.46	66.10	1832.50
2011-12	20.69	57.65	78.34	3222.48

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 year-wise quantity of P&K fertilizers imported during the last three years are as under:

Product	(Quantity in lakh MT)		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
DAP	58.89	74.11	69.05
MAP	1.93	1.88	4.94
TSP	0.87	0.98	1.60
NPK		9.81	36.73
MOP (Agriculture Use)	41.62	45.00	26.94

The countries from where the fertilizers have been imported during the last three years are Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Canada, Chile, CIS, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russia, S. Arabia, S. Africa, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, Tunisia, Thailand, UAE, USA, UK, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Ventspils, Japan and Vietnam.

Acquisition of Indian drug firms

1441. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to put riders for acquisition of Indian drug firms by MNCs;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far; and
- (c) how such steps would be beneficial to the consumers in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, the nodal Department on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has informed that the extant FDI policy, as contained in 'Circular 2 of 2011 - Consolidated FDI Policy', issued by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, on 10.04.2012, permits FDI, up to 100%, under the automatic route, only for greenfield investments in the pharmaceuticals sector.

FDI, for brownfield investments (*i.e.* investments in existing companies), in the pharmaceuticals sector, has been placed under the Government approval route, owing to concerns arising out of the recent acquisitions of Indian Pharmaceutical companies, by multinational companies.

Urea manufacturing units producing Melamine

1442. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

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

- (a) whether Central Government is contemplating to withdraw subsidy for urea manufacturer units producing Melamine;

(b) if so, the names and number of such units and whether they are producing Melamine with or without permission and knowledge of Government;

(c) if urea fertilizer units are producing Melamine with permission of Government, the reasons for contemplating such a move; and

(d) the impact of closure of Melamine manufacturing unit/units on Laminate Industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As per the policy for New Pricing Scheme Stage-III for urea manufacturing units notified by the Government on 8th March 2007, subsidy is paid to urea manufacturing units for production of urea for agriculture use only.

(b) Gujarat Fertilizers & Chemicals limited, Vadodara has intimated that their Baroda Unit was granted an industrial licence for production of Melamine.

(c) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(d) Melamine is one of the key material in the manufacturing process of laminates. The closure of manufacturing/production of Melamine in the country will lead to dependency of import of Melamine in the country and foreign exchange outgo.

Incineration of chemical awaste of Bhopal in Germany

1443. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's plan to transport around 350 tonnes of chemical waste from Bhopal to Germany for incineration has been stalled;

(b) whether some NGOs in Germany have objected to the offers made by German agencies to incinerate the chemical waste in Germany; and

(c) if so, the present status of the German agencies in approving waste transfer plan?

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

(b) and (c) Initial concerns raised by some NGOs in Germany about incineration of chemical waste from Bhopal in Germany have been addressed by GIZ, a German Government agency. The NGOs in Germany have dropped their resistance to such disposal. The negotiations with GIZ and Government of Madhya Pradesh are underway to finalize the chemical waste transfer plan as recommended by Group of Ministers and approved by Government of India.

Ban on import of urea from Iran

1444. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India imports urea from foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the names of those countries and the quantity imported from those countries during 2010-2011 and 2011-12;
- (c) whether Government has banned import of urea from Iran; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the country-wise imports of urea on Government account during the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No Sir, India is also importing urea from Iran. The urea imported from Iran during the current year (up to 31st July, 2012) is 3.24 lakh MT.

Statement

Country-wise Import of Urea 2010-11 and 2011-12

Country	(Qty. in Lakh MT.)	
	2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3
Bahrain	1.42	0.88
China	25.05	12.80
CIS	2.92	11.08

1	2	3
Indonesia	1.24	1.06
Iran	11.13	19.97
Kuwait	0.00	1.02
Lithuania	0.00	0.44
Malaysia	0.00	0.15
Oman (including from OMIFCO)	23.66	24.16
Qatar	0.00	1.33
Romania	0.00	0.95
Russia/FSU	0.00	1.95
S. Arabia	0.21	1.15
UAE	0.47	0.47
Vietnam	0.00	0.93
TOTAL	66.10	78.34

Increase in price of urea

1445. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to reduce the subsidy and increase the retail prices of urea and other fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the maximum retail price of urea fixed by Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the increase in prices of urea and other fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to reduce the subsidy on fertilizers. As regards increase in the retail price of Urea, formulation of policy for existing urea units beyond Stage-III of New Pricing Scheme(NPS) is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Maximum Retail Price of urea fixed by the Government *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2010 is Rs. 5310/- per MT exclusive of CST, Sales Tax and Central Excise Duty.

(d) The MRP of urea has remained unchanged as stated above. As regards other fertilizers, Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) policy is being implemented on P&K fertilizers under which a fixed amount of subsidy decided on annual basis, is provided on all grades of subsidized P&K fertilizers. The MRP of P&K is fixed by fertilizer companies.

Since the country is dependent on imports of P&K fertilizers either in the form of finished fertilizers or its raw materials, the delivered prices of P&K fertilizers are also dependent on international prices of P&K fertilizers and its raw materials and exchange rate of Indian Rupees against US\$.

During the year 2010-11, the international prices of P&K fertilizers and its raw materials increased marginally and exchange rate remained stable, therefore, the prices of P&K fertilizers in the country increased marginally.

During the year 2011-12, in spite of increase in the rates of subsidy rates, the prices of P&K fertilizers rose due to increase in international prices of P&K fertilizers and increase in exchange rate.

During the year 2012-13, the prices of P&K fertilizers have increased mainly due to depreciation of Indian Rupee from around Rs. 50 per US\$ in March, 2012 to more than Rs. 56 per US\$ in June, 2012.

It is seen that the prices of P&K fertilizers have increased mainly due to increase in international prices of P&K fertilizers on which the Government has no control and due to depreciation of Indian Rupee.

Opening of Generic Medical Stores

1446. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Generic Medical Stores opened during last three years across the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government provide any incentive to promote opening of Generic Medical Stores, across the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of target fixed/achieved in this regard by Government during last three years; and

(e) whether Government is satisfied with the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The details of the Jan Aushadhi stores opened during the three years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 across the country. State-wise are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to promote the Jan Aushadhi campaign and to incentivize the operating agencies which open the Jan Aushadhi stores, a one-time financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 2.50 lakhs per store in the form of grant is provided by the Government of India to the operating agency managing such stores in the State concerned to meet the expenditure on the infrastructural facilities and the start up cost required for opening of the store.

(d) Under the Jan Aushadhi campaign, at least one Jan Aushadhi store is intended to be opened in each district, to begin with. Since the opening up of the Jan Aushadhi Stores mainly depends upon the health policies of the respective State Governments, besides the support and cooperation they extend in allotting the space in the Govt. Hospitals and also recommend agencies to run such stores. In view of this, no specific timeline can be indicated to achieve the intended target.

(e) The progress made so far in opening of the Jan Aushadhi stores in the country is not on the expected lines for various reasons, particularly the Health policies of the States, where free medicine are given to the patients visiting the Govt. Hospitals such as in States like Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. However, inspite of such constraints, Jan Aushadhi stores have already been opened in 11 States including UT of Chandigarh till March, 2012 and the opening of additional stores in these States and also in other States is an ongoing process.

Statement

*Jan Aushadhi Stores opened during the financial
year 2009-10 (April-March)*

As on 31st March, 2010

Sl.No.	State	District
1	2	3
1	Punjab (17)	Ludhiana
2		Jalandhar
3		Patiala
4		Moga
5		Faridkot
6		Ferozpur
7		Mansa
8		Sangrur
9		Barnala
10		Fatehgarh Sahib
11		Rupnagar (Ropar)
12		Nava Sahar (Sahid Bhagat Singh Nagar)
13		Hoshiarpur
14		Taran Taran
15		Muktsar
16		Gurdaspur
17		Kapurthala
18	Delhi (2)	Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Shahdara
19		Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Hari Nagar
20	Haryana (2)	Faridabad
21		Yamuna Nagar
22	Uttarakhand (2)	Dehradun

1	2	3
23		Roorkee
24	Chandigarh (1)	PGIMER, Chandigarh
25	Andhra Pradesh (2)	Visakhapatnam Port Trust Hospital
26		Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, (NIMS) Hyderabad
27	Odisha (4)	Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar
28		Red Cross Bhavan, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar
29		District HQ Hospital, Khordha
30		District HQ Hospital, Dhenkanal
31	Rajasthan (6)	Jaipuria Hospital, Jaipur
32		Government Hospital, Alwar
33		Government Hospital, Sawai Madhopur
34		Government Hospital, Shri Ganga Nagar 1
35		Government Hospital, Shri Ganga Nagar 2
36		Government Hospital, Udaipur

*Jan Aushadhi Stores opened during the Financial
year 2010-11 (April-March)*

As on 31st March, 2011

Sl.No.	State	District
1	2	3
1	Chandigarh (2)	Government Medical College Hospital, Sector-32
2		Multi Specialty Hospital, Sector -16
3	Andhra Pradesh (1)	Uppal Industrial Employees Healthcare Centre, Uppal

1	2	3
4	Odisha (5)	District HQ Hospital, Koraput
5		District HQ Hospital, Angul
6		District HQ Hospital, Nabrangpur
7		District HQ Hospital, Baragarh
8		District HQ Hospital, Nayagarh
9	West Bengal (2)	M.R. Bangar Hospital, Kolkata
10		N.R.S. Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata
11	Rajasthan (44)	Banswara
12		Jhalawad
13		Keshorao Patan
14		Bundi
15		Bhawani Mandi
16		Jalore
17		Khanpur (Jhalawad)
18		Churu
19		Jhujhunu
20		Rajgarh (Alwar)
21		Byawar
22		Hanumangarh
23		Sunel (Jhalawad)
24		Rampura (Kota 1)
25		MBM Hospital (Kota 2)
26		Rajsamand
27		Bhilwara

1	2	3
28		Pali
29		Onsiya (Jodhpur)
30		Dungarpur
31		Mandore, Jodhpur
32		Sagwara
33		Tonk 1
34		Niwahi (Tonk 2)
35		Bikaner
36		Partapgarh
37		Bijay Nagar
38		Barmer (Ajmer)
39		Dausa
40		Hanumangarh
41		Bharatpur
42		Malpura (Tonk)
43		Lalsoth
44		Sirohi
45		Sikar-1
46		Sikar-2
47		Bandi Kui
48		Medical College, Kota 3
49		Neem Ka Thana
50		Jaisalmer
51		Sojat City-1
52		Sojat City-2
53		Ajmer
54		Bhindar

*Jan Aushadhi Stores opened during the financial
year 2011-12 (April-March)*

As on 31st March, 2012

1	Punjab (2)	Civil Hospital, Pathankot
2		Civil Hospital, Abohar
3	Rajasthan (2)	Dholpur
4		Baran
5	Odisha (5)	District HQ Hospital, Berhampur
6		District HQ Hospital, Jajpur
7		District HQ Hospital, Puri
8		District HQ Hospital, Naupada
9		District HQ Hospital, Baripada Mayurbhanj
10	West Bengal (1)	Howrah District Hospital, Howrah
11	Jammu and Kashmir (2)	Red Cross Building, Exchange Road, Srinagar.
12		District Hospital, Leh
13	Himachal Pradesh (8)	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla
14		Zonal Hospital, Mandi
15		Civil Hospital, Una
16		Zonal Hospital, Tanda
17		Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala
18		Civil Hospital, Solan
19		Regional Hospital, Chamba
20		Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Shimla

Timely supply of fertilizers to Madhya Pradesh

†1447. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Rack Point Infrastructure meant to ensure time bound supply of fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to strengthen the Rack Point Infrastructure set up to ensure time bound supply of fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh as well as to establish Rack Point Infrastructure in Shujalpur, Garoth, Shahdol, Bhind, Rewa and Obedullaganj;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) At present, Railways have more than 800 rake points (Goods Terminal) in India to handle various commodities including fertilizers. Ministry of Railways have been taking steps to augment/strengthen rake point infrastructure like covered shed, concrete platform, drinking water facility, concrete approach road etc. from time to time depending upon the quantum of traffic handled at terminals. Out of total 800 rake points in the country, Madhya Pradesh has 49 rake points with adequate capacity to ensure time bound supply of fertilizer in the State of Madhya Pradesh. These are as under:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rewa | 10. Nishatpura | 19. Bina |
| 2. Satna | 11. Itarsi | 20. Ganj Basoda |
| 3. Katni Murwara | 12. Shivpuri | 21. Shajapur |
| 4. Narsinghpur | 13. Ashoknagar | 22. Salamatpur |
| 5. Pipariya | 14. Harda | 23. Vidisha |
| 6. Gadarwara | 15. Timarni | 24. Byavra Rajgarh |
| 7. Saugor | 16. Banapura | 25. Mugaoali |
| 8. Damoh | 17. Pachore Road | 26. Mandibamora |
| 9. Guna | 18. Mandideep | 27. Mahidpur Road |

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 28. Morena | 36. Burhanpur | 44. Ratlam |
| 29. Gwalior | 37. Betul | 45. Sujalpur |
| 30. Dabra | 38. Pandurna | 46. Meghnagar |
| 31. Datia | 39. Multai | 47. Sihore |
| 32. Newari | 40. Parsisa | 48. Makshi |
| 33. Haripalpur | 41. Mangaliya Gaon | 49. Dewas |
| 34. Bhind | 42. Vikramnagar | |
| 35. Khandwa | 43. Lakshimbainagar | |

(d) Does not arise.

Fixation of prices of medicines

†1448. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is difference of opinion between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on the issue of fixing prices of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would determine the prices of medicines keeping in view the financial condition of patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) was circulated among the concerned Ministries/ Stakeholders. The draft Policy was also available for comments of any other interested person on the Department's website www.pharmaceuticals.gov.in till 30.11.2011. The views/inputs received on the draft NPPP-2011 including that of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were examined and the matter was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM) which met on 25.04.2012. Subsequent to this two meetings have been held by the GoM.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

'Evergreening' of drugs by multinational companies

1449. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many multinational companies are trying, by hook or crook, to keep 'evergreening' of a drug class;
- (b) if so, how Government is countering such companies and drugs;
- (c) whether there are any such instance; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Indian Patents Act, 1970(as amended in 2005) have enough safeguard to see that such type of evergreening of medicines do not happen.

- (c) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.
- (d) In view reply to (c) above, does not arise.

Acquisition of pharma companies by MNCs

1450. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the acquisition of some pharma companies by MNCs;
- (b) whether the Ministry has examined the impact of such acquisitions on the prices of medicines in future and also on the consumers; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Pharmaceuticals had requested Department of Commerce to make an appropriate assessment on the issue of recent takeovers/acquisitions of domestic pharmaceutical industries so that the required policy change to safeguard our general sectoral interest could be taken.

The Department of Commerce had entrusted the work of study on the recent taken over of domestic pharma industry to Ernst & Young. Ernst & Young have since submitted their report to Department of Commerce. Department of Commerce has informed that the report has recommended continuation of the current FDI policy in pharmaceutical sector.

(c) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion issued Press Note No. 3 (2011 Series) dated 8.11.2011 amending the existing FDI policy under which 100% FDI was permitted through automatic route. As per Press Note 3 (2011 Series) issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion on 08.11.2011:

- (i) FDI, upto 100%, under the automatic route, would continue to be permitted for greenfield investments in the Pharmaceuticals sector.
- (ii) FDI upto 100%, would be permitted for brownfield investment (*i.e.* investments in existing companies), in the pharmaceuticals sector, under the Government approval route.

Prices of medicines in India and other countries

1451. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the prices of medicines in the country compared with that in the developed countries;
- (b) the rate of increase in prices of medicines in the country and other countries during the last three years; and
- (c) in what way price control in India compares with that in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Department of Pharmaceuticals and National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) have not conducted any such comparative study.

- (b) and (c) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

Selection of Registrar, NIPER, Mohali

1452. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the eligibility criteria specified for the selection of Registrar as per advertisement published by National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Mohali in 2011;

(b) the details of candidates who applied, their qualification, experience which met the advertisement criteria but were not selected;

(c) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received about the candidate selected not meeting the eligibility criteria as per advertisement; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to fix accountability in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali has reported that Civil Writ Petition has been filed in this regard and the matter is *sub judice* with the Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh.

Outstanding telephone dues of BSNL in Uttar Pradesh

1453. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding telephone dues of BSNL against customers in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the details of telephone dues in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh, with particular reference to Chitbaragaon and Narahi exchanges of BSNL;

(c) whether lakhs of rupees are outstanding against defaulters in Chitbaragaon and Narahi exchanges of BSNL in Ballia and officials of BSNL in connivance with defaulters are not recovering it;

(d) whether Government has enquired into the matter and will recover the telephone dues from them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when these dues would be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) BSNL provides telecom services in Uttar Pradesh through two Telecom Circles *Viz*; Uttar Pradesh (West), The Telecom district-wise detail of outstanding dues in respect of U.P. (East) and U.P. (West) Circles, as on 30.06.2012, is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) In Ballia telecom district, the total outstanding dues for landline and

broadband were Rs. 14.63 crores as on 30-06-2012. Out of this, Chitbaragaon and Narahi exchanges had dues of Rs. 1.94 lakhs and Rs. 1.06 lakhs respectively.

(c) to (e) In no individual case, the outstanding telephone dues are in lakhs of rupees. The telephones of defaulting subscribers have already been disconnected and other recovery measures are also taken by BSNL on continuous basis. Notices to the defaulters are issued by BSNL from time to time and such cases are also pursued for realization of outstanding dues.

Statement

*Telecom district wise outstanding dues of UP (East) and UP (West)
Telecom Circle (As on 30.06.2012)*

Sl. No.	Telecom District	Outstanding Amount (Landline + B/B) (in Rs. Thousands)
1	2	3
UP (East) Telecom Circle		
1	Lucknow	689236
2	Allahabad	289760
3	Azamgarh	46244
4	Basti	149443
5	Deoria	83081
6	Faizabad	88761
7	Farrukhabad	80667
8	Gorakhpur	254529
9	Jhansi	114679
10	Kanpur	647535
11	Lakhimpur	17887
12	Mirzapur	169627

1	2	3
13	Sultanpur	31234
14	Varanasi	484054
15	Behraich	102985
16	Ballia	146335
17	Banda	25782
18	Barabanki	50488
19	Fatehpur	20931
20	Ghazipur	16831
21	Gonda	87422
22	Hamirpur	48426
23	Hardoi	28924
24	Jaunpur	84769
25	Mau	52524
26	Orai	8726
27	Pratapgarh	38389
28	Raibarely	20688
29	Shahjehanpur	28068
30	Sitapur	30620
31	Unnao	38831
UP (West) Telecom Circle		
1	Agra	74872
2	Aligarh	36113
3	Badaun	29866

1	2	3
4	Bijnor	37921
5	Bareilly	90414
6	Bulandshahr	59593
7	Etah	33281
8	Ghaziabad	247110
9	Mathura	27523
10	Meerut	119258
11	Moradabad	89391
12	Muzaffarnagar	88931
13	Noida	275112
14	Pilibhit	18602
15	Saharanpur	41018
16	Etawah	24003
17	Rampur	9443
18	Mainpuri	68151

Installation of tower and cables in Chhattisgarh

†1454. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 500 equipment towers are pending for installation in Chhattisgarh for quite some time and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether towers have been erected in various places in Chhattisgarh but these are not being utilised;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that cable wires at various places in Chhattisgarh are cut and it has become a daily routine and the police do not pay any heed to it and preventive actions are as good as nothing; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons for Government not being aware of such occurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) No Sir, only 178 towers are pending for installation of equipment in Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) Some of the towers are not being utilized due to non-availability of equipments. BSNL has earmarked 1,00,000 lines of mobile capacity for expansion in Chhattisgarh Telecom Circle in its mobile expansion plan.

(d) and (e) The under ground Cables and Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) get cut due to road widening, construction of new roads/drainage systems by local bodies and Public Works Department (PWD). For early restoration and to minimize the cable cuts, these cases are taken up by BSNL with the concerned local authorities.

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in Jharkhand and Bihar

†1455. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last three years and the current year, district-wise;

(b) whether this scheme has been successful in rural areas of the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make it successful and to strengthen the monitoring mechanism for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras (PSSKs) under the 'Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana' Scheme are opened at the Gram Panchayat Headquarters (which are without Post Offices) to provide basic postal facilities at Gram Panchayat Headquarters. This scheme is being implemented by Gram Panchayats through agents appointed by them (Gram Panchayats) with the written consent of the concerned Superintendent/Senior Superintendent of Post Offices. This is also subject to receipt of applications from the heads of the Gram Panchayats. District-wise number of Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras functional during the last three years and the current year (upto July, 2012) in Jharkhand and Bihar are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The success of the Scheme in rural areas depends upon (i) the level of interest shown on the part of the PSSK agents; (ii) the level of commitment shown by the PSSK agents; and (iii) the selection of suitable candidates by Gram Panchayats.

(d) The functioning of PSSKs is being monitored regularly by field officers viz. Inspector of Post Offices/Asstt. Superintendent of Post Offices/Senior/Superintendent of Post Offices during their visits of these Kendras. The PSSK agents have been allowed to work as direct agent for Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) business for increasing the volume of business and also the income of PSSK agents.

Statement-I

District-wise number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) functional in Jharkhand during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (upto July, 2012)

Sl. No.	Name of the districts	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto July, 2012)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ranchi	18	08	08	08
2.	Gumla	06	-	-	-
3.	Lohardaga	04	-	-	-
4.	Simdega	09	-	-	-
5.	Khunti	08	-	-	-
6.	Singhbhum East	01	01	-	-
7.	Singhbhum West	06	03	-	-
8.	Saraikela Kharsawan	11	05	05	05
9.	Hazaribagh	08	08	04	04
10.	Chatra	16	16	06	06
11.	Koderma	02	02	01	01

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Ramgarh	-	-	-	-
13.	Giridih	53	52	34	34
14.	Dhanbad	7	07	7	7
15.	Bokaro	17	17	17	17
16.	Dumka	09	09	05	05
17.	B. Deoghar	06	06	01	01
18.	Godda	12	12	02	02
19.	Pakur	01	01	-	-
20.	Sahebganj	18	18	09	09
21.	Jamtara	06	06	04	04
22.	Palamu	32	32	09	09
23.	Garhwa	04	04	01	01
24.	Latehar	07	07	02	02
TOTAL		261	214	115	115

Statement-II

District-wise number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) functional in Bihar during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (upto July, 2012)

Sl.No.	Name of the districts	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (upto July, 2012)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Aurangabad	34	34	34	34
2.	Arwal	10	10	10	10

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bhagalpur	13	13	13	13
4.	Banka	06	06	06	06
5.	Ara	12	12	12	12
6.	Buxar	13	13	13	13
7.	Gaya	24	24	24	24
8.	Jehanabad	12	12	12	12
9.	Munger	45	45	45	45
10.	Jamui	45	45	45	45
11.	Lakhisarai	44	44	44	44
12.	Sekhpura	49	49	49	49
13.	Nalanda	54	54	54	54
14.	Nawada	51	51	51	51
15.	Patna	46	46	46	46
16.	Rohatas	56	56	56	56
17.	Kalmur	55	55	55	55
18.	Vaishali	46	46	46	46
19.	Begusarai	35	35	35	35
20.	Khagaria	20	20	20	20
21.	Darbhangha	57	57	57	57
22.	E. Champaran	10	10	10	10
23.	W. Champaran	25	25	25	25
24.	Madhubani	34	34	34	34
25.	Muzaffarpur	09	09	09	09

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Purnea	20	20	20	20
27.	Araria	18	18	18	18
28.	Kishanganj	13	13	13	13
29.	Katihar	15	15	15	15
30.	Saharsa	10	10	10	10
31.	Supaul	07	07	07	07
32.	Madhepur	08	08	08	08
33.	Samastipur	36	36	36	36
34.	Saran	44	44	44	44
35.	Siwan	25	25	25	25
36.	Gopalganj	11	11	11	11
37.	Sitamarhi	32	32	32	32
38.	Sheohar	28	28	28	28
TOTAL		1072	1072	1072	1072

Revenue earned by BSNL

1456. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total revenue earned by BSNL in the year 2011-12; and
- (b) the net profit/loss of BSNL in 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per unaudited books of accounts, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has earned a total revenue of Rs. 27,933.50 crores and incurred a net loss of Rs. 8,850.70 crores in the financial year 2011-12.

Electronic manufacturing clusters

1457. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a proposal to offer financial assistance for development of Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) to aid the growth of the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether setting up of clusters would bring cost advantages of upto 8 percent to an ESDM unit through supplier consolidation and lower logistics cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the financial support would be provided to Special Purpose Vehicle registered for the purpose under the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to offer financial support for the development of Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) as these EMCs would aid the growth of the Electronics systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector, help development of entrepreneurial ecosystem, drive innovation and catalyze the economic growth of region by increasing employment opportunities and tax revenues.

(b) The proposed EMCs scheme would support setting up of both Greenfield and Brownfield EMCs. The main features of the proposed EMC Scheme are as follows:

- (i) The assistance would be provided to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which should be a legal entity duly registered for this purpose. The SPV may be promoted by private companies, industry associations, financial institutions, R&D institutions, State or Local Governments or their agencies and units within the EMC. The SPV should consider including an academic/research institution to be part of the proposed SPV for suitable academic-industry linkages.
- (ii) The Financial assistance to the SPV shall be in the form of grant-in-aid only. For Greenfield EMCs, the assistance will be restricted to 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 crore for every 100 acres of land. For Brownfield EMCs, the assistance will be restricted to 75% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 crore.

- (iii) The Scheme will be open for applications for five years from the date of notification.

(c) and (d) Anecdotally, a well developed cluster can give a unit located in it a cost advantage of 5 to 8 percentage because of various reasons such as increased supply chain responsiveness, consolidation, of suppliers, decreased time-to-market, superior access to talent and lower logistics costs.

- (e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Details as provided in answer to part (b).

Telephone bills of MTNL

1458. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the details of the other debits included in the telephone bills of MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): The details of the other debits included in the basic & broadband telephone bills of MTNL are given below:

In MTNL Delhi:

1. Tri band charges.
2. Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Testing.
3. Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) installation charges.
4. Additional advance rental charges.
5. Surcharge (late fee) when the bill is paid after pay by date at the request of subscriber.
6. Amount of bill paid short by the subscriber.
7. Installation charges of basic telephone.

In addition, arrears of charges short billed are shown under this head, which are clearly mentioned on the bill itself as per existing space of the format of the subscriber bill copy.

In MTNL Mumbai:

1. Activation charges for Landline/ Accessory/Tri band/VOIP (voice over IP)/ IPTV.

2. Upfront charges for ADSL Modem.
3. Shift charges for Landline/Triband.
4. Transfer fees including third party transfer.
5. Reconnection charges
6. Cheque return charges
7. Breakage charges
8. Instrument replacement charges
9. Safe custody charges.
10. Charges for change of telephone
11. Add on pack
12. Arrears of monthly charges related to safe custody/disconnection
13. Other charges added by Account officers telecom revenue concerned

In case of MTNL Wireless Services, the dolphin bills and other debits includes reversal of all excess credits, wrong payments updating and short billing arrears etc.

India's stance at the UN on Internet Governance

1459. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to review its original statement submitted to the UN on 26 October, 2011 by way of a UN Committee on Internet Related Policies (CIRP), a 50-member, inter-Governmental body which will oversee internet governance and be supported, funded and report to the United Nations;

(b) whether Government was engaged in any public consultation process in the country before submitting its statement to the UN; and

(c) if so, the details of the dates, venues and participants of such meeting(s) that were held prior to 26 October, 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) A Statement was made in the 66th Session of the UNGA in October, 2011 under the Agenda Item 25: Information and Communication Technology for Development—inter alia asking Commission for Science and Technology Development (CSTD) to establish an open ended Working Group to discuss the establishment of a Committee for Internet Related Policies (CIRP).

The proposal was prepared by Ministry of External Affairs and was endorsed by Department of Electronics and Information Technology. The proposal is as per the mandate enshrined in the Tunis Agenda of Enhanced Cooperation and is accordingly a step forward towards the democratization of the global internet related public policy issues.

The proposal was further reiterated during the one day session of UN-CSTD on 18th May, 2012 in Geneva by Indian mission which was approved by the Hon'ble MCIT.

The proposal was in consultation with the countries of Brazil and South Africa. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) has been interacting with representatives from the Civil Society and Advocacy Groups as well as with Industry Associations regularly. A meeting involving, industry, civil society and Government were held in the Department on 9th May, 2012.

Radiation from telecom towers

1460. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether based on scientific evidence and Inter-Ministerial report, Government believes that radiation emanating from telecom towers is hazardous for citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including distance, level, etc.;

(c) the reasons for postponing the implementation of the new guidelines to reduce emission levels, which was to be implemented on April 1, 2012;

(d) whether Government has given any commitment regarding the implementation date on new, lower EMF radiation guidelines in any judicial forum or court; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 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 RF Signals from base stations and wireless networks caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by based stations.

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).

ICNIRP guidelines of April, 1998 states that, epidemiological studies on exposed workers and the general public have shown no major health effects associated with typical exposure environments. The studies have yielded no convincing evidence that typical exposure levels lead to adverse reproductive outcomes or an increased cancer risk in exposed individuals. ICNIRP, in its report of April 1998, has prescribed the following levels limiting EMF emission from Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) as safe for general public:

Frequency Range	E-Field Strength (Volt/Meter (V/m))	H-Field Strength (Amp/Meter (A/m))	Power Density (Watt/Sq.Meter (W/Sq.m))
400MHz to 2000MHz	$1.375\frac{1}{2}$	$0.0037\frac{1}{2}$	$f/200$
2GHz to 300GHz	61	0.16	10

(f is the frequency of operation in MHz)

In India, the cellular GSM services are being operated at 900 MHz and 1800 MHz frequency band as well as 2100 MHz. For 900 MHz, Permissible Power Density is 4.5 W/Sqm, whereas for 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz, Permissible Power Density is 9 W/Sqm and 10.5 W/Sqm respectively.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had adopted the International Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF) norms in the year 2008 in respect of mobile towers prescribed by ICNIRP.

As per ICNIRP Statement 2009, the scientific literature published since the 1998 guidelines has provided no evidence of any adverse effects below the basic restrictions and does not necessitate an immediate revision of its guidance on limiting exposure to high frequency electromagnetic fields. Therefore, ICNIRP reconfirms the 1998 basic restrictions in the frequency range 100 kHz-300 GHz until further notice.

Further, the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on EMF radiation constituted by DoT, in its report, has examined the health related concerns and has indicated that most of the laboratory studies were unable to find a direct link between exposure to radio frequency radiation from mobile towers and health; and the scientific studies as yet have not been able to confirm a cause-and-effect relationship between radio frequency radiation and health. The effect of emission from cell phone towers is not known yet with certainty. However, as a precautionary measure, IMC recommended for reduction of Base Station emissions to 1/10th of the existing prescribed limit.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the IMC, directions for reduction of exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) to 1/10th of the existing limits was issued to the Mobile Operators *vide* DoT letter no. 800-15/2010-VAS(pt.) dated 30.12.2011.

These directions were initially effective from 01.04.2012. However, for examination of the impact of revised EMF exposure limit on area coverage and exclusion zone, the self certification compliance to the new norms has been extended and shall now come into effect from 01.09.2012. Directions in this regard has been issued *vide* letter dated 10.04.2012.

(d) and (e) Petitions have been filed in various High Court and Supreme Court of India regarding alleged fear of health hazards from mobile tower radiation. While submitting the reply on behalf of Union of India, DoT has informed the Hon'ble Courts that the norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has been reduced to 1/10th of the existing prescribed limits with the above mentioned effective dates.

Computers and internet facilities in post offices

‡1461. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices having computers and internet facility under the modernisation programme of post offices across the country;

(b) the number of such post offices in Rajasthan, district-wise; and

(c) by when the post offices without computers and internet connections so far are proposed to be provided with such facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Sir, 24,969 Departmental Post Offices have been computerised as on date. Out of 24,969 computerised Departmental Post Offices 22,177 Post offices are having internet connectivity.

(b) In Rajasthan Circle, 1320 Departmental Post Offices have been computerized and out of these 1320 computerized Post offices 1299 have internet facility. The District-wise detail of Post Offices having computer/internet facilities is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Government has approved IT Modernization Project of Department of Posts. It involves computerization and networking of all Post Offices through network integrator of the project including Branch Post Offices in the rural area. The roll out of the Project is expected in the year 2013-14 subject to finalization of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Rural Hardware, timely implementation of the project and availability of funds.

Statement

Details of Post Offices having Computer/Internet facility in Rajasthan Circle

Sl. No.	Name of District	Post offices having computers	Post offices having internet facility
1	2	3	4
1.	Alwar	60	60
2.	Bharatpur	37	36

‡Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4
3.	Dholpur	32	22
4.	Jaipur	135	135
5.	Dausa	28	28
6.	Karauli	28	25
7.	Sawaimadhopur	28	27
8.	Ajmer	92	92
9.	Bhilwara	45	45
10.	Chittorgarh	36	35
11.	Banswara	23	23
12.	Dungarpur	29	29
13.	Bundi	19	19
14.	Baran	14	14
15.	Jhalawar	21	21
16.	Kota	38	37
17.	Tonk	23	20
18.	Pratapgarh	9	9
19.	Rajsamand	20	20
20.	Udaipur	51	51
21.	Jalore	24	24
22.	Barmer	33	33
23.	Bikaner	46	46
24.	Churu	44	44
25.	Jhunjhunu	64	64

1	2	3	4
26.	Jaisalmer	18	18
27.	Jodhpur	55	55
28.	Nagaur	60	60
29.	Pali	56	56
30.	Sikar	72	72
31.	Sirohi	23	22
32.	Hanumangarh	22	22
33.	Sriganganagar	35	35
TOTAL:		1320	1299

Broadband connection for Panchayats

†1462. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- whether Government proposes to connect all Panchayats in the country through broadband connection;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the details of Panchayats connected through broadband connection in the country during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government under Bharat Nirman-II is providing broadband coverage to the Gram Panchayats in the country.

The Government has also approved the scheme for creation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) on 25th October 2011, for providing Broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh village Panchayats. The objective of this scheme is to extend the existing optical fibre network to Panchayats by utilizing the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF). The project is proposed to be completed in 2 years. The proposed cost of initial phase of the NOFN Scheme is Rs. 20,000 crores (approx.).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

NOFN project will be executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *i.e.* Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), a company incorporated under Indian Companies Act 1956 fully owned by Central Government, with equity participation from Government, BSNL, Railtel and Powergrid. The Company has been incorporated on 25.2.2012 for this purpose.

(c) The details of panchayats connected through broadband connection, (under Bharat Nirman II) in the country during last three years, State-wise are given in Statement.

Statement

*Broadband Coverage of Village Panchayats under
Bharat Nirman-II Upto 30-06-2012*

Sl. No.	State /UTs	Total number of VPs	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Cumulative Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	67	56	0	0	0	56
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21862	10917	1701	2045	411	15074
3.	Assam	3943	693	312	1309	151	2465
4.	Bihar	8460	1744	2472	3795	236	8247
5.	Chhattisgarh	9837	2150	0	0	0	2150
6.	Gujarat (including Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu)	14439	7014	585	0	0	7599
7.	Haryana	6234	3758	1484	409	0	5651
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3241	1351	309	297	533	2490
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4146	885	0	596	443	1924
10.	Jharkhand	4559	30	2507	2046	98	4681

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Karnataka	5657	2460	970	498	65	3993
12.	Kerala	999	989	8	0	0	997
13.	Lakshadweep	10	5	0	0	0	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23022	2711	1446	14	28	4199
15.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	28078	9366	928	0	24	10318
16.	Tripura	1040	29	825			
17.	Mizoram**	768	100	75	194	146	1412
18.	Meghalaya**	1463	0	43			
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	1756	70				
20.	Manipur	3011	60	266	81	28	1487
21.	Nagaland**	1110	982				
22.	Orissa	6233	1379	711	607	368	3065
23.	Punjab	12809	9642	751	707	70	11170
24.	Chandigarh	17	16	0	0	0	16
25.	Rajasthan	9200	2424	522	0	0	2946
26.	Tamil Nadu	12617	7450	320	1731	185	9686
27.	Pondicherry	98	98	0	0	0	98
28.	Uttar Pradesh	52125	10069	14358	20898	2818	48143
29.	Uttarakhand	7546	1356	645	618	238	2857
30.	West Bengal	3354	1295	292	923	88	2598
31.	Sikkim	163	66	0	0	0	66
TOTAL:		247864	79165	31530	36768	5930	153393

** Equivalent Rural Local Bodies

Mobile towers installed by private companies

1463. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that mobile towers installed by private companies are more powerful than the limit fixed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these powerful mobile towers cause great health hazards to the people living near these towers;
- (d) whether any complaints in this regard have been received against these companies;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken to see that these powerful mobile towers are removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) adopted the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) norms in the year 2008 regarding Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF) emanating from mobile towers. Accordingly, all the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Service (UAS) licensees are submitting the compliance to the existing reference limits/ levels by way of submission of self certification of their Base Transmitting Stations (BTS) to the respective Telecom Enforcement Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT. Further, TERM Cells have carried out the testing of radiation levels for 28,862 BTSs upto 30.06.2012, and found that the radiations levels are in compliance of the prescribed limits for all the tested BTSs.

(c) 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 RF Signals from base stations and wireless networks caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by based stations.

Further, an Inter-ministerial committee (IMC) on EMF radiation constituted by DoT, in its report, has examined the health related concerns and has indicated that most of the laboratory studies were unable to find a direct link between exposure to radio frequency radiation from mobile towers and health; and the scientific studies as yet have not been able to confirm a cause-and-effect relationship between radio frequency radiation and health. The effect of emission from cell phone towers is not known yet with certainty.

However, as a precautionary measure, IMC has recommended for reduction of Base Station emissions to 1/10th of the existing prescribed limit. Directions for reduction of exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) to 1/10th of the existing limits has been issued to the Mobile Operators *vide* DoT letter no. 800-15/2010-VAS(pt.) dated 30.12.2011 which will be effective from 01.09.2012.

(d) and (e) Certain complaints have been received regarding the alleged fear of health hazards from mobile tower radiation. The radiation levels of such mobile towers have been tested by TERM Cells and none were found to be radiating more than the prescribed limits.

(f) Does not arise in view of (a) to (e) above.

National Telecom Policy 2012

†1464. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated National Telecom Policy, 2012 recently;

(b) if so, the manner in which it is proposed to bring transparency in Telecom Sector and extend benefits to consumers by the said policy; and

(c) the action being taken to abolish roaming charges along with the details thereof?

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

(b) National Telecom Policy-2012 *inter-alia* include the following provisions to bring transparency in Telecom Sector and extend benefits to consumers:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- *Simplify the licensing framework* to further extend converged high quality services across the nation including rural and remote areas. This will not cover content regulation.
- Promote efficient use of spectrum with provision of regular *audit of spectrum usage*.
- *Protect consumer interest* by promoting informed consent, transparency and accountability in quality of service, tariff, usage etc.
- Strengthen the institutional, legal and regulatory framework and re-engineer processes to bring in more efficiency, timely decision making and transparency.
- Put in place a web based, real time e-governance solution to support online submission of applications including processing, issuance of licences and clearances from DoT.
- To undertake periodic review of methodology adopted for utilising USO fund and benchmarking the same against the best practices followed in other countries.
- *To move towards Unified Licence regime* in order to exploit the attendant benefits of convergence, spectrum liberalisation and facilitate *delinking of the licensing of Networks from the delivery of Services to the end users* in order to enable operators to optimally and efficiently utilise their networks and spectrum by sharing active and passive infrastructure. This will enhance the quality of service, optimize investments and help address the issue of the digital divide. This new licensing regime will address the requirements of level playing field, rollout obligations, policy on merger & acquisition, non-discriminatory interconnection including interconnection at IP level etc. while ensuring adequate competition.
- To put in place a liberalized merger and acquisition policy with necessary thresholds, while ensuring adequate competition.
- *To delink spectrum in respect of all future licences*. Spectrum shall be made available at a price determined through market related processes.
- *To facilitate resale at the service level* under the proposed licensing regime - both wholesale and retail, for example, by introduction of virtual operators - in tune with the need for robust competition at consumer end while ensuring due compliance with security and other license related obligations.

- To move at the earliest towards liberalisation of spectrum to enable use of spectrum in any band to provide any service in any technology as well as to permit *spectrum pooling, sharing and later, trading* to enable optimal utilisation of spectrum through appropriate regulatory framework.
- To *prepare a roadmap* for availability of additional spectrum every 5 years.
- To review Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA) clearance process for faster and simplified site clearances.
- To *formulate a Code of Practice for Sales and Marketing Communications* to improve transparency as well as address security issues relating to Customer Acquisition.
- To make mandatory provision for web based disclosure of area coverage by telecom service providers.
- To *undertake legislative measures* to bring disputes between telecom consumers and service providers *within the jurisdiction of Consumer Forums* established under Consumer Protection Act.
- Appropriately consider the restructuring of the Public Sector Undertakings, under the Department of Telecommunications, in terms of management, manpower and equity.
- To review the TRAI Act with a view to addressing regulatory inadequacies/ impediments in effective discharge of its functions.
- Provide secure, affordable and high quality telecommunication services to all citizens.
- *Increase rural teledensity from the current level of around 39 to 70 by the year 2017 and 100 by the year 2020.*
- *Provide affordable and reliable broadband-on-demand by the year 2015 and to achieve 175 million broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed and making available higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps on demand.*
- Enable citizens to participate in and contribute to e-governance in key sectors like health, education, skill development, employment, governance, banking etc. to ensure equitable and inclusive growth.

- Strive to create *One Nation - One License* across services and service areas.
- Achieve One Nation - Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards One Nation -Free Roaming.
- *Reposition the mobile phone* from a mere communication device to an *instrument of empowerment* that combines communication with proof of identity, fully secure financial and other transaction capability, multi-lingual services and a whole range of other capabilities that ride on them and transcend the literacy barrier.
- Deliver high quality seamless voice, data, multimedia and broadcasting services on *converged networks* for enhanced service delivery to provide superior experience to users.
- Optimize delivery of services to consumers irrespective of their devices or locations by Fixed-Mobile Convergence thus making available valuable spectrum for other wireless services.
- Promote an ecosystem for participants in VAS industry value chain to make India a global hub for Value Added Services (VAS).
- Ensure adequate availability of spectrum and its allocation in a transparent manner through market related processes. *Make available additional 300 MHz spectrum for IMT services by the year 2017 and another 200 MHz by 2020.*
- De-licensing additional frequency bands for public use.
- Strengthen the framework to address the environmental and health related concerns pertaining to the telecom sector.
- Enhanced and continued *adoption of green policy in telecom* and incentivise use of renewable energy sources for sustainability.
- *Strengthen the grievance redressal mechanisms* to provide timely and effective resolution.
- Strengthen the *institutional framework to enhance the pace of human capital formation* and capacity building by assessing and addressing educational and training needs of the sector.
- Achieve substantial *transition to new Internet Protocol (IPv 6)* in the country in a phased and time bound manner by 2020 and encourage an ecosystem for provision of a significantly large bouquet of services on IP platform.

(c) As per the implementation schedule of the National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12), as contained in the Cabinet Note on NTP-2012, the Policy will be operationalized by bringing out detailed guidelines, as may be considered appropriate, from time to time. Detailed policy framework would be put in place within one year for achieving short term objectives and within three years for medium term objectives.

**Unemployment in IT industry due to recession
in other countries**

†1465. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Information Technology industry of the country has mostly been dependent on European countries and the United States of America;

(b) if not, the share of USA and European countries in average yearly business;

(c) whether a large number of engineers working in Information Technology industry have become unemployed due to economic recession in these countries; and

(d) if so, the estimated number of engineers who have become unemployed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Most of the Information Technology-Information Technology Enabled Services (IT-ITES) exports from the country are to USA and European countries. As per National Association of Software & Services Companies (NASSCOM), the IT-ITES exports to USA and the European countries (including U.K.) account for almost 90% of the total IT-ITES exports from the country.

(c) and (d) The direct employment by IT-ITES industry has increased from 2.54 million in FY2010-11 to 2.77 million in FY2011-12 with a net addition of 2.30 lakh employees in the work force.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Regularisation of casual workers in BSNL

1466. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) how many casual workers are engaged in BSNL and for how many years;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to regularize them as was done earlier;
- (c) if so, the time-frame thereto; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) 3348 casual workers are presently working in BSNL. These casual workers have been in engagement prior to formation of BSNL on 01.10.2000.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to regularise casual workers in view of Hon'ble Supreme Court Constitution Bench Judgement in the matter of Secretary, State of Karnataka & Others Vs Uma Devi & Others which has held that regularisation of casual laborers without following the provisions of the statutory Recruitment Rules is illegal.

Free national roaming facility

1467. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to provide free national roaming facility through mobile operators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how much time it will take to start this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) National Telecom Policy-2012 *inter-alia* include the following provisions:

- Achieve One Nation - Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards One Nation - Free Roaming.

- To review roaming charges with the ultimate objective of removing the roaming charges across the nation.

(c) As per the implementation schedule of National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-2012), as contained in the Cabinet Note on NTP-2012, the policy will be operationalized by bringing out detailed guidelines, as may be considered appropriate, from time to time. Detailed policy framework would be put in place within one year for achieving short term objectives and within three years for medium term objectives.

Allotment of spectrum beyond contracted amount

1468. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Commission has agreed with the recommendations of TRAI that the contracted spectrum is 6.2 MHz for GSM and 5 MHz for CDMA for all licences issued since 2001 onwards;

(b) whether Government has been allotting 2G spectrum till now without any additional one-time charge, whether for the contracted amount of spectrum or for spectrum beyond the contracted amount;

(c) the estimated loss to Government because of free allotment of spectrum beyond the contracted value; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to recover the loss suffered due to allotment of spectrum beyond the contracted value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Telecom Commission, in its meetings held during 2011, has noted the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard.

Further, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) in its judgement dated 31.3.2009 in petition of 286 of 2007, the matter of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) & ors. Vs Union of India (UOI) & ors. has held that the petitioners do not have any vested right to receive GSM spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz. COAI has appealed against this judgement, before the Supreme Court. No stay has been granted by the Supreme Court and the matter is *sub judice*.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The following stipulation was approved in May, 2008 by Department and was part of subsequent spectrum allotments.

"Further, the allotment of additional spectrum is subject to:

- (i) Pricing as determined by the Government in future for spectrum beyond 6.2+6.2 MHz and
- (ii) The outcome of the Court orders".

Levy of one time spectrum charges is under consideration of the Government.

Posting of telecom officials

†1469. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that BSNL and MTNL have sent back 400 officers to the Telecom Department due to lack of work and to curtail expenditure and other such reasons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the above 400 telecom officials are getting their salary without doing any work for the last eight months due to lack of work;

(c) if so, whether Government has contacted other departments where these officials could be sent on deputation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) In pursuance of Rule 37-A of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), on 22nd September, 2011, called options from Group 'A' officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS)/Telegraph Traffic Service (TTS)/Telecom Factories Service (TFS), General Central Service (GCS), Indian P&T Accounts & Finance Service (IP&T AFS) and P&T Building Works Service (P&T BWS) for absorption in BSNL/MTNL or to continue in Government service. Last date for exercising options in this regard for officers working in DoT or on deputation to organizations other than BSNL/MTNL was prescribed as 28th October, 2011. Such date for officers on deemed deputation to BSNL/MTNL was 8th November, 2011.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

DoT, on 3rd November, 2011, ordered that Group 'A' officers working on deemed deputation to BSNL/MTNL who had not opted for BSNL/MTNL by 8th November, 2011 and in whose cases the courts, as per records with DoT, have not granted interim stay or given interim directions, would be reverted to Government from 9th November, 2011 onwards. Till 21st August, 2012, a total of 434 Group 'A' officers have been relieved by BSNL/MTNL for reporting to DoT. Of the aforesaid officers, 49 officers have either been assigned duties/responsibilities in the DoT or have joined various Central Ministries/Departments/Organizations/State Governments on deputation.

To implement provisions of Rule 37-A (6) of the rules *ibid*, DoT, on 27.12.2011 constituted Surplus Cell Establishments (SSEs) for referring the names of Group 'A' officers of ITS and IP&T AFS who have opted for Government service and are identified to be in excess of the requirement of this Department to the Surplus Cell of the Government for their redeployment. However, the constitution of SSE for ITS officers has been stayed by Central Administrative Tribunal, Jaipur Bench and Hyderabad Bench. Necessary action is being taken by the DoT to defend these cases and to get the stay vacated. A Transfer Petition has also been filed in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench for transfer and clubbing of the cases at Jaipur and Hyderabad Benches for adjudication and decision by the Principal Bench.

An order dated 17th April, 2012 was passed by the High Court of Delhi in a writ petition filed by Indian Telecom Service Association and other connected writ petitions in which the High Court, *inter-alia*, allowed the petitioners to exercise a fresh option within two weeks from the date of this order to revert to the Government or to seek permanent absorption in BSNL/MTNL, as the case may be. The High Court also directed that BSNL/MTNL shall relieve such of the petitioners, who opt to revert to Government service within 2 weeks of receipt of options from them. BSNL & MTNL filed petitions before the High Court of Delhi for extension of date of relieving unabsorbed Group 'A' officers back to DoT. The High Court by its order dated 18th May, 2012 extended the date for relieving these officers by BSNL/MTNL till 30th September, 2012.

Software engineers without work due to slowdown of projects

1470. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the \$ 100 billion domestic IT industry is battling a slowdown of projects from abroad and has forced many software engineers to sit without work for more than six months;

(b) whether this number of idle software engineers working with top Indian IT companies will further rise when new campus recruits join the work force from July this year; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps Government proposes to take to remove uncertainty in IT market which could lead to retrenchment of many engineers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software & Services Companies (NASSCOM) the \$100 billion revenue is a projection of the IT-ITES revenue (including hardware) both for exports and domestic for FY2011-12. Out of this IT-ITES exports (excluding hardware) has contributed US \$68.7 billion in FY2011-12 as compared to US \$59 billion in FY2010-11. During this period direct employment by IT-ITES sector has increased from 2.54 million to 2.77 million, with a net addition of 2.3 lakh to its work force.

(c) Government extends several incentives for Information Technology Sector in the country: (i) Under Software Technology Parks (STP) scheme, approved units are allowed to import goods required by them for carrying on software export activities as per the Foreign Trade Policy. Such goods may be imported either on outright purchase basis or free of cost or on loan basis from the client without payment of custom duty. Apart from this, the approved STP units can avail CST reimbursement, excise duty exemption on procurement of indigenously available capital goods, components and other specified goods, (ii) Besides, software is also exempted from basic customs duty, (iii) 235 IT-ITES specific Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been notified across the country, which are contributing to IT-ITES exports. Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act provides for a deduction from the total income of hundred percent of profits and gains derived by a unit located in a SEZ from the export of articles or things or from services for the first 5 consecutive assessment years, of fifty percent for further 5 assessment years and

thereafter, of fifty per cent of the ploughed back export profit for next 5 years, (iv) The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme assists exporters for export promotion activities abroad. (v) Also, a high level Committee has been constituted to review taxation of Development Centres and the IT Sector so as to have a fair tax system in line with best international practice which will promote India's software industry and promote India as a destination for investment and for establishment of Development Centres.

Use of subsidised diesel by cellular operators

1471. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the corrective actions taken by the Ministry on the fact that cellular operators are using subsidised diesel in generators for their mobile towers and the consumption of subsidised diesel is increasing rapidly; and

(b) whether Government is going to issue directives to Mobile Operators to use solar energy for their mobile towers so that consumption of subsidised diesel can be avoided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) The Diesel available in market is being used to run the generator sets to power Mobile Base Terminal Stations as standby power supply. The Government has accepted the TRAI recommendations on Green Energy applications and issued directives to the licensees/all ILD service providers to adopt measures to green the Telecom sector by providing hybrid power [Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) + Grid power] of at least 50% of all rural towers & 20% of urban towers by 2015 and 75% of rural towers and 33% of urban towers by 2020.

Mobile phone network in Nathu La

1472. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no mobile phone network in Nathu La, where Indian soldiers have been using Chinese phones;

(b) whether a Parliamentary Committee has recommended to fast track network connectivity in this area to help the Jawans to reap its benefits;

(c) if so, the status thereof;

(d) the other border areas in the country where the above network facilities are not available; and

(e) the action plan of Government to fast-track the system from security point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) At present, the mobile coverage is not available at Nathu La Pass. The last point where little mobile coverage is available is TSOMGO LAKE (also known as Changu Lake) which is approx 10 Km before Nathu La.

(b) and (c) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology visited and recommended for mobile service at Thegu which is near Nathu La. BSNL plans to commission Mobile Base Transceiver station (BTS) at Thegu in 2012-13.

(d) The districts near International Borders including Pakistan, China, Myanmar, and Bhutan Borders are covered, in general, by one or the other mobile service providers. However, in some rural/remote areas the provisioning of telecom services is at lower side due to difficult terrain, poor roads and power supply.

(e) Prior to July 2008, No service zone of 500 Meters width along the International border within Indian territory for wireless/mobile service was there. Further, deployment of Cell site(s)/Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs)/Radio transmitters in the buffer zone of 10 Km. width in certain areas of Jammu and Kashmir was also barred. To address the issue of telecom connectivity in the border areas, Department of Telecom (DoT) *vide* its letter dated 11-07-2008 has permitted deployment of Cell site(s)/Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs)/Radio transmitters in the buffer zone of 10 Km width and now the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have to ensure that their radio signal(s) fade out or become unusable within a reasonable distance across such borders.

Proposals for food processing industries

1473. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether new food processing industries have started during last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) whether any proposal is pending for approval and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not maintain the data on starting of any food processing industries in the country. However, The Ministry under its 11th Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) extends the financial assistance for setting up of new food processing units as well as technological upgradation and expansion of existing units in the country. Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs per project in general areas and @ 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs per project in difficult areas. The details of the financial assistance provided to the entrepreneurs in the country during last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Financial assistance is released to Food Processing Industries (FPIs) under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries on the basis of E-Portal request and submission of requisite documents. As many as 2924 cases/claims of 11th Plan are pending for disbursement amounting to Rs. 699.76 (as on 21.08.2012).

Statement

*Number of units assisted and financial assistance provided during the years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and current year State-wise under the scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of FPIs.**

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13 (as on 01-08-12)	
		Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount Released	Approved	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41	677.05	30	562.096	105	1904.726	79	1661.751
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	376.14	2	66.42	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	22	418.74	26	875.701	12	242.7782	5	77.59
5.	Bihar	2	35.59	6	136.681	5	89.65674	2	36.435
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	1	25	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	4	45.46	27	297.574	75	841.8276	67	751.3186
8.	Delhi	2	50	3	82.6	16	410.68	5	118.25

9.	Goa	1	24.26	1	25	2	50	1	19.42
10.	Gujarat	42	665.18	52	1419.72	106	1975.034	34	623.2074
11.	Haryana	11	134.96	14	325.28	62	828.2817	61	778.855
12.	Himachal Pradesh	10	269.58	7	204.53	14	377.51	4	95.95
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	59.73	5	89.095	6	98.42	2	16.4269
14.	Jharkhand	3	44.09	4	85.425	1	16.57	0	0
15.	Karnataka	24	269.55	14	377.79	61	896.2926	39	598.9534
16.	Kerala	33	567.53	19	411.72	52	901.285	14	227.435
17.	Madhya Pradesh	18	273.03	14	211.294	23	376.5413	16	217.1205
18.	Maharashtra	113	1717.3	56	1006.524	202	2824.152	81	1104.978
19.	Manipur	6	163.75	1	23.975	11	189.7182	2	28.58817
20.	Meghalaya	2	123.02	2	100.045	0	0	0	0
21.	Mizoram	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Nagaland	1	64.99	1	6.205	0	0	0	0
23.	Odisha	6	84.4	8	200.875	9	113.5908	6	97.22077

Written Answers to

[24 August, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	1	25	2	50
25.	Punjab	13	172.37	9	149.495	147	1692.902	105	1135.278
26.	Rajasthan	27	325.46	48	691.123	95	1236.563	31	457.2913
27.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Tamil Nadu	41	672.11	24	493.582	75	1389.79	23	408.405
29.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Uttar Pradesh	32	560.63	47	1078.638	53	907.0513	27	461.2316
31.	Uttarakhand	12	307.57	6	168.523	5	138.047	3	67.505
32.	West Bengal	10	136.48	10	317.945	19	319.87	5	120.045
TOTAL		487	8249.97	437	9432.862	1157	17846.29	614	9153.256

*Data is under reconciliation with co-ordinating bank i.e. HDFC Bank

Assistance to State Governments to set up food processing units

1474. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests for assistance including logistical support for setting up of food processing units from various State Governments including Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of assistance provided by the Government during last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of farmers and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country benefited as a result of setting up of food processing units, State-wise;

(d) whether Government proposes to raise the current loan/subsidy limit for food processing industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance to food processing units in the country including Kerala in the form of grants-in-aid to the implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas, or @ 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North-Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. The implementing agencies include Central/State Government organizations/PSUs/NGOs/Cooperative societies and private sector units and individuals.

Apart from above, MFPI under the scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure, also provides financial assistance for setting up of integrated cold chain facilities including logistic support like reefer vans etc.

The details of the financial assistance provided during last three years to the agencies/entrepreneurs in the country including Kerala under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) Farmers and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are also eligible to apply under the scheme. However, Ministry does not maintain data for financial assistance to farmers and MSMEs separately.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The limit is not proposed to be raised primarily because of resource constraints.

Statement

*Number of units assisted and financial assistance provided during the years 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 State-wise under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of FPIs**

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
		Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41	677.05	30	562.096	105	1904.726
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	376.14	2	66.42	0	0
4.	Assam	22	418.74	26	875.701	12	242.7782
5.	Bihar	2	35.59	6	136.681	5	89.65674
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	1	25	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	4	45.46	27	297.574	75	841.8276
8.	Delhi	2	50	3	82.6	16	410.68
9.	Goa	1	24.26	1	25	2	50
10.	Gujarat	42	665.18	52	1419.72	106	1975.034

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Haryana	11	134.96	14	325.28	62	828.2817
12.	Himachal Pradesh	10	269.58	7	204.53	14	377.51
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	59.73	5	89.095	6	98.42
14.	Jharkhand	3	44.09	4	85.425	1	16.57
15.	Karnataka	24	269.55	14	377.79	61	896.2926
16.	Kerala	33	567.53	19	411.72	52	901.285
17.	Madhya Pradesh	18	273.03	14	211.294	23	376.5413
18.	Maharashtra	113	1717.3	56	1006.524	202	2824.152
19.	Manipur	6	163.75	1	23.975	11	189.7182
20.	Meghalaya	2	123.02	2	100.045	0	0
21.	Mizoram	1	11	0	0	0	0
22.	Nagaland	1	64.99	1	6.205	0	0
23.	Odisha	6	84.4	8	200.875	9	113.5908
25.	Punjab	13	172.37	9	149.495	147	1692.902
26.	Rajasthan	27	325.46	48	691.123	95	1236.563
27.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Tamil Nadu	41	672.11	24	493.582	75	1389.79
29.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Uttar Pradesh	32	560.63	47	1078.638	53	907.0513
31.	Uttarakhand	12	307.57	6	168.523	5	138.047
32.	West Bengal	10	136.48	10	317.945	19	319.87
TOTAL		487	8249.97	437	9432.862	1157	17846.29

*Data is under reconciliation with co-ordinating bank *i.e.* HDFC Bank.

Cold chain projects

1475. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cold chain projects approved by the Ministry during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether there are any other agencies that provide financial or other assistance for setting up of cold chain facilities in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry after identifying 'Creation and Management of cold chain infrastructure' as a thrust area by the Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The State-wise details of cold chain projects approved by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries implements the Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition & Preservation Infrastructure (part of scheme of Infrastructure Development) and under which it provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas, and @ 75% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in difficult areas including North-Eastern states subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore for strengthening and value addition of cold chain infrastructure. Other Government of India organizations like National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Governments also provide assistance for cold storages. The Schemes of the Ministry and other organizations are being implemented in the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) After identification of 'Creation and Management of cold chain infrastructure' for agriculture as a thrust area by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Planning Commission has constituted a committee under Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri. The Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries was a member of the

committee. This Committee has made a number of recommendations for augmenting the facilities of cold chain and cold storages in the country. The Ministry has already initiated actions on various short term, mid term and long term recommendations of the committee. In order to oversee the implementation of policies and programmes for cold chain infrastructure, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

Statement

*State-wise details of integrated cold chain projects approved
during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12*

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year of approval	No. of projects	Project Cost	Grant Amount
1	Andhra Pradesh	2011-12	2	4779.26	1374.61
2	Gujarat	2011-12	2	3630	851.74
3	Himachal Pradesh	2011-12	4	6448.68	3404.35
4	Karnataka	2011-12	1	1400	336.24
5	Kerala	2011-12	3	7194.91	2207.49
6	Maharashtra	2011-12	4	13537.22	3517.25
7	Manipur	2011-12	1	1849.00	1000.00
8	Mizoram	2011-12	1	519.77	303.01
9	Punjab	2011-12	2	6334.91	1390.9
10	Uttar Pradesh	2011-12	3	4728.92	1960.91
11	Uttarakhand	2011-12	1	1480	737.68
12	West Bengal	2011-12	4	9985.30	2921.025
TOTAL			28	61887.97	20005.21

Vocational courses in schools

1476. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to introduce vocational training in schools;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether vocational courses would be introduced in both Government and private schools; and
- (d) whether Government would fix the exact vocational courses or the States would decide on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education is under implementation in the country. The objectives of the Scheme include enhancing the employability of youth through competency based modular vocational courses; to maintain their competitiveness through provisions of multi-entry, multi-exit learning opportunities and vertical mobility/interchange ability in qualifications to fill the gap between educated and employable. The Scheme *inter-alia* provides for establishment of new vocational schools, strengthening the existing vocational schools, capacity building of vocational education teachers, development of competency based curriculum and teaching material.

(c) Under the scheme, vocational courses are being introduced in Government Higher Secondary Schools, Government Aided Higher Secondary Schools and Private Unaided Schools.

(d) The States in consultation with the industry/employers identify local human resource needs and the vocational courses to be offered in the schools.

Code of conduct for teachers in schools

1477. SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has finalized new guidelines on the code of conduct for teachers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there has been an increase in student deaths over the past year due to psychological damage; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has developed a “Code of Professional Ethics of Teacher” (2009). The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also issued Guidelines regarding Code of Conduct of teachers in schools affiliated to it. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has in 2009 developed Code of Conduct for teachers in higher educational institutes.

(d) and (e) According to the Report of the “Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India” (2011) of the National Crime Records Bureau, the total number of suicides due to failure the examination in 2010 and 2011 was 2,479 and 2,381 respectively.

It is difficult to attribute reasons; there can be various social, economic or personal issues which can lead to stress and anxiety amongst children resulting in such incidents.

Conference of VCs of Central Universities

1478. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a conference of Vice Chancellors of Central Universities was held in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the said conference;
- (c) the details of the problems faced by various Central Universities pointed out during the said conference;
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to solve their various problems particularly filling up of vacant faculty positions; and

(e) the details of vacant faculty positions in various Central Universities in the country at the end of previous academic session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Conference of Vice-Chancellors held on 22nd June 2012, focused on the role of Central Universities in improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), establishment of schools of education catering to the needs of pre-service and in-service capacity building of teachers both for the school as well as institutions of higher learning, integration of skills in higher education programmes conforming to National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF), implementation of the Accounting standards developed by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for efficient management of accounts, eradicating caste-based discrimination and development of grievance redress mechanism, shortage of faculty in Central Universities and filling up of backlog vacancies in respect of teaching and non-teaching posts, accreditation of Central Universities to maintain high academic standards, pension portability for faculty migrating from one University to another, issue of academic depository to curb forged academic certificates, common entrance examination for admission to Central Universities, establishment of Hindi and regional Languages Departments in the Central Universities and timely utilization of funds.

(c) Vice Chancellors of the Central Universities mentioned, *inter-alia*, that due to non-availability of suitable candidates and non-portability of pension, they are unable to fill the vacant posts. Inadequate budgetary provision for non-plan non-salary grant and adherence to the ratio of 1: 1.1 between teaching and non-teaching staff is making it difficult to maintain the campus and particularly, the laboratories. Problems relating to non-availability and non-transferability of land for the Central Universities were also discussed.

(d) The issue of pension portability has been taken up with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. As regards Minimum Qualifications prescribed for teachers and the ratio of teaching to non-teaching staff, University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to revisit the same. UGC has, while approving the budget estimates for the year 2011-12 (Non-Plan), have requested the Central Universities to fill up the teaching posts at the earliest. This has been emphasized time and again on the Universities in the meetings held for the purpose by UGC and the Ministry. Further, in order to meet the situation arising out of shortage of

teachers, the age of superannuation for teachers in Central Educational Institutions has been enhanced to 65 years. Besides, subject to availability of vacant positions and fitness, teachers are eligible for re-employment on contract appointment beyond the age of 65 years up to the age of 70 years.

(e) As per information made available by UGC and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the details of vacant faculty positions in the Central Universities as on 31/3/2012 are given in Statement.

Statement

Details of teaching staff strength as on 31.3.2012 (Existing and vacant positions) of Central Universities

Sl. No.	Name of University	Sanctioned Faculty Posts	Existing Strength	No. of Vacant Positions
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maulana Azad National Urdu University	284	169	115
2.	Hyderabad University	556	406	150
3.	The English & Foreign Languages University	236	200	36
4.	Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya	329	219	110
5.	Delhi University	1704	761	943
6.	Jamia Millia Islamia	824	711	113
7.	Jawaharlal Nehru University	727	459	268
8.	Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya	329	155	174
9.	Mahatma Gandhi Antaraashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya	79	66	13
10.	Pondicherry University	460	377	83
11.	Hemawati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University	468	258	210

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Aligarh Muslim University	1887	1509	378
13.	Banaras Hindu University	2416	1520	896
14.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	130	108	22
15.	University of Allahabad	852	315	537
16.	Visva Bharati	714	622	92
17.	Assam University	325	309	16
18.	Tezpur University	243	194	49
19.	Rajiv Gandhi University	157	88	69
20.	Manipur University	266	179	87
21.	North Eastern Hill University	406	301	105
22.	Mizoram University	337	272	65
23.	Nagaland University	249	179	70
24.	Tripura University	216	147	69
25.	Indira Gandhi National Open University	810	558	252
TOTAL		15004	10082	4922

Statement of teaching staff strength as on 31.3.2012 (Existing and vacant positions) of new Central Universities

Sl. No.	Name of University	Sanctioned Posts	Existing Strength	No. of Vacant Positions
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Central University of Bihar	140	26	114
2.	Central University of Gujarat	140	42	98
3.	Central University of Haryana	140	17	123

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Central University of Himachal Pradesh	140	36	104
5.	Central University of Jammu	21	8	13
6.	Central University of Kashmir	140	34	106
7.	Central University of Jharkhand	140	75	65
8.	Central University of Karnataka	140	44	96
9.	Central University of Kerala	140	32	108
10.	The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University	228	56	172
11.	Central University of Orissa	140	21	119
12.	Central University of Punjab	140	27	113
13.	Central University of Rajasthan	140	54	86
14.	Sikkim University	201	56	145
15.	Central University of Tamil Nadu	140	18	122
TOTAL		2130	546	1584
GRAND TOTAL (Old + New Central Universities)		17134	10628	6506

Opening of New Kendriya Vidyalayas under PPP mode

1479. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in the country at present, State-wise;
- the norms adopted for opening of Kendriya Vidyalaya in the country;
- whether the quality of education and performance of students in these schools are better than many of the public schools in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a proposal to open 275 new Kendriya Vidyalayas under the public-private-partnership;

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

(g) by when these Kendriya Vidyalayas are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The State-wise details of 1087 Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) functioning in the country at present are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The norms for opening of KVs are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) A comparative statement showing the results of the last three years for Class X and Class XII of KVs *vis-a-vis* Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Public Schools given below, reflects the better performance of students of KVs:

Year	Class-X			Class-XII		
	KVS	CBSE	Public Schools	KVS	CBSE	Public Schools
2010	96.64%	89.28%	91.79%	91.13%	79.87%	79.42%
2011	99.21%	98.75%	98.65%	93.42%	81.71%	81.63%
2012	99.36%	98.19%	99.20%	94.13%	80.19%	80.11%

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise number of Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in the country (as on 21.08.2012)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number
1	2	3
1.	A & N (UT)	02
2.	Andhra Pradesh	53

1	2	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
4.	Assam	55
5.	Bihar	45
6.	Chandigarh	05
7.	Chhattisgarh	26
8.	D and N Haveli	01
9.	Daman and Diu	01
10.	Delhi	43
11.	Goa	05
12.	Gujarat	44
13.	Haryana	28
14.	Himachal Pradesh	23
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	38
16.	Jharkhand	32
17.	Karnataka	39
18.	Kerala	35
19.	Lakshdweep	01
20.	Madhya Pradesh	92
21.	Maharashtra	56
22.	Manipur	07
23.	Meghalaya	07
24.	Mizoram	04
25.	Nagaland	05
26.	Orissa	53
27.	Pondichery	04
28.	Punjab	48

1	2	3
29.	Rajasthan	64
30.	Sikkim	02
31.	Tamil Nadu	40
32.	Tripura	09
33.	Uttar Pradesh	105
34.	Uttarakhand	43
35.	West Bengal	58
	TOTAL	1087

Statement-II*Norms for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas*

1. Proposal for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalaya (Central School) is considered only if sponsored by one of the following:
- (i) (a) Ministries or Departments of the Govt. of India,
 - (b) State Governments,
 - (c) Union Territories' Administrations,
 - (d) Organization of employees belonging to the eligible categories, (as in iii).
 - (ii) Free of cost land as defined under two categories viz, (i) Minimum (ii) Desirable, the details of which are as under:

Sl. No.	Location	(i) Minimum requirement (In Acres)	(ii) Desirable extent (In Acres)
I	Metropolitan city	02	04
II	Hilly Areas	04	08
III	Urban Area	04	08
IV	Semi-Urban/ Rural Areas	05	10

The Sponsoring Authority will, however, be liable to provide land as per 'desirable norms' but where that does not become possible despite best efforts, they would be under obligation to make available land atleast to the extent of 'minimum norms', free of cost.

- (iii) (a) When there is a concentration of at least 500 employees of the Defence services or of Central Govt. or of the Govt. of India Undertaking individually or jointly (250 in the case of Special Focus Districts).
 - (b) When there is minimum potential enrolment of children of specified categories for opening a Kendriya Vidyalaya belonging to categories I to VI which may be 200 or an average of 30 per class whichever is more.
 - (iv) When the sponsoring authority makes available, free of rent or on nominal rent temporary accommodation to house the expanding Vidyalaya till the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan does construct its own Vidyalaya building on the land leased to it; and
 - (v) Provision of the residential accommodation to at least 50% of the staff, should be made available by the sponsoring authority. The number of such residential units needs to be earmarked before the school is opened.
2. A new Kendriya Vidyalaya may be opened in the campus of Govt. of India undertaking if it agrees to bear the recurring and non-recurring expenditure including accommodation, land and future development facilities as also the proportionate overhead charges on the proposed Vidyalaya provided the need for such a Vidyalaya is established with reference to the location and non-availability of alternate educational facilities.
 3. A new Kendriya Vidyalaya may be opened in the campus of an Institution of Higher Learning, like IIT, CSIR Laboratories etc. on the same terms and conditions as stipulated in respect of Schools for Public Sector Undertaking.

Filling up of vacant SC/ST posts in Delhi University

1480. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts lying vacant under SC/ST quota in Delhi University;

(b) whether Government has taken any action to fill those vacant posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, the vacant teaching and non-teaching posts under SC/ST quota in the University are as follows:

Teaching posts

Post	SC	ST	Total
Assistant Professor	50	25	75

Non-teaching posts

Group	SC	ST	Total
A	6	5	11
B	18	18	36
C	114	111	225

(b) to (d) The University of Delhi is a statutory autonomous body governed by the Delhi University Act, 1922 and the Statutes/Ordinances framed thereunder. Under the Act, the matter regarding appointment of teaching and non-teaching posts comes within the competence of the University. The University has informed that it has advertised 2 posts of Group A, 4 posts of Group B and 24 posts of Assistant Professor under ST category and 48 posts of Assistant Professor under SC category. The Ministry has also requested the University Grants Commission (UGC) to strictly monitor the compliance of the reservation policy of the Government in letter and spirit and filling up of the reserved vacancies in time by all Central Universities, including the University of Delhi. The UGC, *vide* its letter dated 27th March, 2012, requested the University of Delhi to ensure filling up of

identified backlog vacancies for SCs/STs/OBCs as on 01.11.2008 and Persons with Disabilities as on 15.11.2009 by 31st March, 2012. The Ministry, vide its letter dated 23.08.2012, has also requested the University of Delhi to ensure filling up of all backlog reserved vacancies at the earliest.

Vacant faculty posts in Central Universities

1481. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is manpower crunch in 42 Central Universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that out of the sanctioned faculty strength of 16,602 in these universities there are 6542 vacancies;
- (d) the reasons for such a large number of vacancies and the efforts made to fill up these vacancies; and
- (e) by when all these vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), out of 17135 sanctioned teaching posts in 40 Central Universities under the purview of Ministry of Human Resource Development, 6506 posts are lying vacant.

(d) and (e) The main reasons for vacancies are, inter alia, large scale expansion in higher education with the starting of new institutions, departments and courses and strengthening of the existing departments, sanction of additional teaching positions due to OBC reservation, non-availability of suitable candidates and problems in executing the extant UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for appointment of teachers.

UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the

Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education 2010 clearly stipulates that all the sanctioned posts in the university system shall be filled up on an urgent basis. This has been emphasized time and again on the Universities in the meetings held for the purpose by UGC and the Ministry. UGC has, while approving the budget estimates for the year 2011-12 (non plan), have requested the Central Universities to fill up the teaching posts at the earliest. Further, in order to meet the situation arising out of shortage of teachers, the age of superannuation for teachers in Central Educational Institutions has been enhanced to 65 years. Besides, subject to availability of vacant positions and fitness, teachers are eligible for re-employment on contract appointment beyond the age of 65 years up to the age of 70 years.

Construction of Schools in Assam

1482. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schools in Assam for construction of which funds have been provided by Central Government under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' during the last three years;
- (b) the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) the up-to-date status of their construction; and
- (d) the number of such schools in Assam which are not being constructed due to lack of funds or otherwise alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) During last three years, 5017 number of schools in Assam have been sanctioned under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for construction.

(b) and (c) The district-wise details of the schools sanctioned for construction and their up-to-date status are given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) Construction of thirty schools could not be started due to various reasons such as land dispute, lack of No Objection Certificate from State forest department, etc.

Statement*District-wise details of schools sanctioned for construction*

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	No. of Schools sanctioned for construction	Completed	In progress
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Baska	41	0	41
2.	Barpeta	152	133	18
3.	Bongaigaon	185	127	54
4.	Cachar	246	234	12
5.	Chirang	59	51	7
6.	Darrang	396	281	105
7.	Dhemaji	289	289	0
8.	Dhubri	321	274	44
9.	Dibrugarh	118	113	4
10.	Dima Hasao	64	64	0
11.	Goalpara	358	354	1
12.	Golaghat	91	87	4
13.	Hailakandi	96	55	39
14.	Jorhat	65	48	17
15.	Kamrup	147	132	13
16.	Karbi Anglong	367	367	0
17.	Karimganj	185	185	0
18.	Kokrajhar	304	265	39
19.	Lakhimpur	139	101	37

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1	2	3	4	5
20.	Morigaon	235	190	45
21.	Nagaon	340	245	91
22.	Nalbari	78	78	0
23.	Sivasagar	49	46	3
24.	Sonitpur	456	323	133
25.	Tinsukia	150	142	8
26.	Udalguri	86	47	39
TOTAL		5017	4231	754

Proposal for setting up of more IIMs

1483. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government for establishment of more IIMs in the country besides the decision of the Union Cabinet for setting up of 7 IIMs in the country;

(b) whether a proposal of Government of Odisha is pending for opening of an Extension Centre of IIM, Kolkata at Bhubaneshwar; and

(c) if so, the present status of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Teachers in universities who have not qualified NET

†1484. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and names of universities that are presently being run in Government and private sector;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that persons who have not cleared the NET examination are teaching in many universities in the country;
- (c) whether it is not a violation of the criteria set by the UGC;
- (d) if so, whether the Ministry would take action in this regard;
- (e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Ministry; and
- (f) if not, whether it will not affect the quality of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) At present there are 607 Universities in India, out of which 380 are funded by the Central Government or State Government and 227 Universities (138 Private and 89 Deemed to be Universities) are funded by Private Sector. The Details of Universities including their names are available on the website of University Grants Commission (UGC) at www.ugc.ac.in.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some teachers who had been appointed prior to coming into force of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2010, have been continuing in service without National Eligibility Test/ State Level Eligibility Test (NET/SLET) qualifications. An exemption from NET/SLET is also provided to those candidates who had acquired Ph.D. qualifications as per UGC (Minimum Standards for award of M.Phil/Ph.D) Regulations, 2009. Similarly, UGC, vide its circular dated 29.08.2009, had permitted those teachers who were working in ad-hoc capacity (but recruited as per the prescribed procedure and otherwise fully eligible), to acquire NET/SLET qualifications within a period of two years.

(d) to (f) The Central Government, on 30.3.2010, issued policy directions to UGC, under Section 20(1) of the UGC Act, 1956, that UGC shall not take up specific cases for exemption from the minimum eligibility condition of NET/SLET for either specific persons or for a specific university/institution/college for appointment as Assistant Professor in universities/colleges/institutions. UGC has the mandate, as per UGC Act, 1956 to enforce compliance of its Regulations by Universities/ Colleges/Institutions for maintenance of standards in Higher Education.

Guidelines for running franchisee study centre of universities

1485. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/guidelines regarding territorial jurisdiction, space required, number of class rooms and teachers per course, number of courses, number of teaching hours, setting up of examination centres in private buildings or in nearby approved colleges affiliated to some State University, etc., laid down by UGC/ Directorate of Distance Education/any other apex body for running a franchisee study centre or sub-study centre of any university;

(b) the number of such centres allowed to be run by any university;

(c) whether these norms are being ignored by universities and such centres; and

(d) the action taken so far against guilty centres/universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the UGC (the minimum standards of instructions for the grant of the first degree through non-formal/distance education in the faculties of Arts, Humanities, Fine Arts, Music, Social Sciences, Commerce and Sciences) Regulations 1985, dealing with non-formal and distance education in universities. The UGC Regulations are available at www.ugc.ac.in. The Distance Education Council (DEC) is the regulatory body for courses run in the distance mode. As per information furnished by DEC, the territorial jurisdiction for programmes in distance mode for Central Universities, is as per their Acts and Statues, for State Universities (both Govt. funded & private), it is also as per their Acts and Statutes but not beyond the boundaries of their respective states, for Deemed to be Universities, it is as per notification of Government of India and for private institutions (other than Universities), it is confined to headquarters. In case such institutions desire to offer programmes beyond its headquarters, it would be required to establish a new institution as per norms. However, online education cannot be limited by territorial jurisdiction. DEC has issued detailed guidelines for regulating the establishment and operation of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Institutions in India, 2006 and the same are available at www.dec.ac.in.

(b) According to information furnished by DEC, it considers recognition only to universities/Institutions awarding qualifications through distance mode. It does not recognise study centres of universities/institutions. Study centres are opened by universities/institutions as per provisions of their Act and Statutes within the territorial jurisdiction defined by DEC. The DEC guidelines also prescribe the procedure for inspection of study centres by the parent institutions and closing down the centres found unfit. DEC prohibits franchising of study centres by universities/institutions.

(c) and (d) According to information furnished by DEC, it regularly issues notifications requesting all universities/institutions to follow the norms of DEC and other apex bodies on territorial jurisdiction, opening of study centres and non-franchising of study centres for offering programmes through distance mode. UGC too has issued instructions banning degrees awarded through any franchisee programmes operated by private institutions

Mid-Day-Meal Scheme in Goa

1486. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme in Goa;
- (b) the number of cases of food poisoning detected in Goa in the last three years and the action taken in that regard;
- (c) the financial allotments made by Government and also by the State Government in the last three years; and
- (d) whether State Governments are authorized to modify the programme without permission of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Mid Day Meal Scheme is being implemented in Government, Government-aided, Local body schools, Education Guarantee Scheme/Alternative & Innovative Education Centres in Goa. 91,000 children in 1134 schools at primary stage and 64,000 children in 425 schools at upper primary stage are covered, under the scheme, during the year 2012-13.

(b) No case of food poisoning in Goa has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years.

(c) The Central assistance released to the Government of Goa as well as the expenditure incurred by them during the last three years is as under:

(In Rs. lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2009-10	794.34	578.81
2010-11	1168.27	1049.35
2011-12	825.41	1158.12

25% of the cost of cooking mid day meals, construction of kitchen-cum-stores and honorarium to cook-cum-helpers is borne by the State Government.

(d) No, State Government is not permitted to violate the provisions of the Mid Day Meal Scheme. However, they have been given flexibility to decide the weekly menu of mid day meals, keeping in view the local taste and availability of food ingredients.

Setting up of Centre of AMU in Kishanganj, Bihar

†1487. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in setting up a Centre of Aligarh Muslim University at Kishanganj in Bihar; and

(b) by when the Centre would be built and study would commence there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Establishment of a new Centre of Aligarh Muslim University requires amendment in its Statutes. During examination of the proposal, it was observed that a Special Leave Petition (SLP) challenging the establishment of AMU Centre at Kishanganj (Bihar) is pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Accordingly, opinion of Ministry of Law and Justice was sought. The Ministry opined that as the issue, with regard to the powers of the University to open a new Centre in Kishanganj (Bihar), is pending before the Apex Court, it would be advisable to await the outcome of the SLP pending before the Hon'ble Court. The matter is *sub judice*.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Funding and enforcement of RTE Act

1488. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given to States and UTs during last two years for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009;

(b) the steps taken by these States/UTs to enforce the Act; and

(c) the number of prosecutions under the Act for preventing children from going to schools as well as against child-labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme the details of Central funds released to all States/UTs during the last two years for the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) To implement the RTE Act all the States/UTs have notified their State Rules.

(c) RTE Act places the duty of sending a child to an elementary school in the neighborhood on the parent/guardian. The responsibility of providing free and compulsory education vests with the appropriate government/local authority.

The RTE Act does not provide for prosecution for preventing a child from going to school. The Act provides for penalty on schools only for specific violations relating to capitation fees, screening procedures and school recognition. Prosecution for child labour is not done under the RTE Act.

Statement

Release during 2010-11 and 2011-12 under SSA

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Release	
		2010-11	2011-12
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81000.00	183551.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20401.77	23880.10

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	76854.35	106921.15
4.	Bihar	204789.63	185108.20
5.	Chhattisgarh	87863.00	69870.22
6.	Goa	671.27	1079.14
7.	Gujarat	44065.01	88027.79
8.	Haryana	32786.11	40461.41
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13786.66	14192.78
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	40348.79	30070.50
11.	Jharkhand	89562.26	57903.46
12.	Karnataka	66903.00	62788.35
13.	Kerala	19660.73	17021.85
14.	Madhya Pradesh	176783.00	190427.12
15.	Maharashtra	85537.00	117962.58
16.	Manipur	13253.77	3940.55
17.	Meghalaya	18540.90	14410.60
18.	Mizoram	10115.31	10814.05
19.	Nagaland	8636.83	9798.33
20.	Odisha	73177.85	92719.98
21.	Punjab	39612.74	48112.44
22.	Rajasthan	146182.29	148580.86
23.	Sikkim	4469.19	4022.84
24.	Tamil Nadu	69068.57	68141.96
25.	Tripura	17121.48	17493.76

1	2	3	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	310462.88	263682.61
27.	Uttarakhand	25793.94	20892.49
28.	West Bengal	174703.17	177652.74
29.	A & N Islands	357.78	907.36
30.	Chandigarh	2155.89	1611.21
31.	Dadra & N. Haveli	413.78	564.35
32.	Daman & Diu	162.99	257.06
33.	Delhi	3552.71	3783.29
34.	Lakshadweep	127.39	127.86
35.	Puducherry	485.38	757.62
TOTAL		1959407.42	2077538.33

**National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for
Secondary Education**

1489. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of girls covered under the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total annual allocation made for this scheme during last three years; and

(c) the incentive amount deposited under the beneficiary's name under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) A statement indicating the number of girls covered under the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education during last three years, State-wise is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) Rs. 50 crore was allocated for the scheme for 2009-10, Rs.80 crore for 2010-11 and Rs. 163.50 crore for 2011-12.

(c) A sum of Rs. 3000/- is kept as a fixed deposit in Bank in the name of the beneficiary girls on enrolment in class IX under the scheme which they are entitled to withdraw alongwith interest on passing class X and attaining age of 18 years.

Statement

*Number of girls covered under National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for
Secondary Education during 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2009-10 Number of Girls	2010-11 Number of Girls	2011-12 Number of Girls
1	2	3	4	5
1	Arunachal Pradesh	2853	-	-
2	Chhattisgarh	-	-	31501
3	Goa	588	474	743
4	Gujarat	44410	41250	63744
5	Himachal Pradesh	-	6233	15334
6	Jammu & Kashmir	5026	-	9185
7	Jharkhand	34724	3101	26892
8	Karnataka	-	-	78629
9	Kerala	21227	1172	-
10	Madhya Pradesh	-	48022	55177
11	Meghalaya	1715	-	6478
12	Mizoram	3270	3976	4176
13	Odisha	-	-	59439

1	2	3	4	5
14	Punjab	34524	-	45301
15	Rajasthan	-	15178	14491
16	Sikkim	-	-	397
17	Tamil Nadu	-	109170	61559
18	Tripura	2965	-	4577
19	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	25634
20	Uttarakhand	825	7066	9870
21	Andaman & Nicobar Island	82	171	147
22	Chandigarh	327	555	401
23	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1203
24	Daman & Diu	124	160	182
25	Lakshdweep	-	-	494
26	NCT of Delhi	-	3860	24671
27	Puducherry	-	1140	3307
TOTAL		152660	241528	543532

Proposal for recruitment of teachers

1490. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of teachers in Government schools in the country;

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

(c) whether Government has moved any proposal, as mandated by the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, for recruitment of required number of teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As Per District Information System for Education (DISE), 2010-11, which collects data annually for elementary level of education, the National level pupil teacher ratio (PTR) for primary schools is 32 with adverse PTR in Bihar (58), Jharkhand (43) and Uttar Pradesh (46); at upper primary level the National average is 29 with States of Bihar (62), Jharkhand (43) and Uttar Pradesh at 44. PTR at secondary level of education as per Statistics of School Education (SSE) (2009-10) published by Ministry of Human Resource Development is 30 and 10 States have adverse PTR. State-wise PTR at elementary level and secondary level is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) Pursuant to the enforcement of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the additional requirement of teachers in elementary education was estimated at 5.08 lakh. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) a total of 6.31 lakh teachers have been sanctioned till 2011-12 since RTE coming into force.

The recruitment of teachers at elementary level is undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. States/UTs have been advised to expedite the recruitment of teacher posts sanctioned under SSA, as well as teacher vacancies under the State sector. The issue has been discussed with the States in meetings with State Education Ministers, State Education Secretaries, State Project Directors and in the SSA Project Approval Board Meetings.

Statement

Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at elementary level as per DISE 2010-11 and secondary level as per Statistics of School Education (SSE) (2009-10)

States/ UTs	PTR at primary level (DISE 2010-11)	PTR at upper primary level (DISE 2010-11)	PTR at Secondary Level (as per SSE 2009-10)
1	2	3	4
A & N Islands	12	10	16
Andhra Pradesh	23	17	29
Arunachal Pradesh	19	18	21

1	2	3	4
Assam	26	17	22
Bihar	58	62	59
Chandigarh	25	24	38
Chhattisgarh	25	23	39
D & N Haveli	41	43	19
Daman & Diu	31	28	18
Delhi	35	34	33
Goa	25	24	18
Gujarat	31	32	29
Haryana	30	22	26
Himachal Pradesh	17	17	23
Jammu & Kashmir	14	13	14
Jharkhand	43	43	60
Karnataka	26	28	24
Kerala	22	21	27
Lakshadweep	16	14	12
Madhya Pradesh	34	34	32
Maharashtra	30	31	34
Manipur	19	21	27
Meghalaya	18	14	26
Mizoram	17	13	13
Nagaland	22	22	24
Orissa	31	26	22

1	2	3	4
Puducherry	18	16	23
Punjab	22	17	29
Rajasthan	27	26	22
Sikkim	12	14	8
Tamil Nadu	28	33	38
Tripura	19	21	25
Uttar Pradesh	46	44	57
Uttarakhand	25	22	18
West Bengal	28	32	51
TOTAL	32	29	30

Cancellation of quota for MPs for admissions in Central Schools

1491. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Delhi High Court has cancelled the quota of two seats for M.Ps for admissions in Central Schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would move the petition in Hon'ble Supreme Court against the High Court verdict; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Standard of education in Government and private primary schools

†1492. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) the steps being taken by Government to improve the standard of education in primary schools;

(b) the manner in which Government contemplates to bridge the gap between the syllabus and the standard of private schools and Government schools; and

(c) whether poor children are getting admissions in private primary schools as per the number fixed by Government and the steps taken by Government to monitor it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The steps being taken by Government to improve the standard of education in primary schools include sanction of 19.14 lakh teacher posts, setting up of 2,01,943 primary schools and 1,56,792 upper primary schools, construction of more than 18 lakh additional classrooms, over 7 lakh toilets and 2 lakh drinking water facilities for government schools, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Besides, 30 day induction training to newly recruited teachers, 20 day in-service training to the teachers, distribution of free textbooks and uniforms and financial support for context-specific quality improvement interventions are some other steps being taken for this purpose.

(c) Section 12 (1) (c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, *inter alia* provides that an unaided private school shall admit in class I (or pre-primary class, as the case may be), to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide them free and compulsory elementary education till its completion. Some states have notified norms for classifying disadvantaged groups and weaker sections and initiated the admission of such children in the private un-aided schools and also mechanisms to monitor such admissions.

Teaching of Indian culture and Hindi in schools

†1493. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether teaching of subjects like Indian culture and national language Hindi has become almost negligible in recognized public and private schools in the country, particularly in metropolitan cities;

(b) whether Government has taken any action against those schools which do not teach subjects of Indian culture;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has received any complaints in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has taken the following measures to promote Hindi and Indian Culture in the schools affiliated to it:

- Hindi is offered in all the schools from class I to XII being compulsory from class I to VIII;
- At classes IX & X level, CBSE provides an option to take Hindi as one of the two languages or as a sixth additional subject. Hindi could be offered as one of the five main electives or as a sixth additional subject at the Senior School level;
- Hindi is offered at different levels like Course-A, Course-B, Elective and Core so as to facilitate the learning of the language in non-Hindi regions also;
- The Board has initiated an elective titled “Knowledge Traditions and Practices of India” for classes XI-XII in the schools affiliated to CBSE from the current academic session i.e. 2012-13 on pilot basis to provide a broad overview of Indian knowledge traditions which are continuous, cumulative and intrinsically polycentric.

Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) is providing 100% financial assistance to non-Hindi States for appointment of Hindi Teachers for promotion of Hindi Language.

(b) to (d) Education, being a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution, and the majority of schools and colleges being under the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is for the respective state Governments to take appropriate decision in the matter.

Setting up of IIT at Una, Himachal Pradesh

†1494. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for setting up of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIT) at Una district in Himachal Pradesh is pending with Central Government since 2010; and

(b) if so, the reasons for its pendency and by when Central Government would approve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. While the Government of Himachal Pradesh has identified land in Una district for setting up of an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIT) in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, it is yet to finalise Industry Partners as envisaged under the Scheme. As such no definite time-frame can be indicated for accord of necessary approval by the Central Government.

Truant behaviour of faculty in colleges/universities

1495. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIZ SOZ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that certain cases have come to light in which members of the faculty of colleges/universities indulge in truancy causing damage to the system of higher learning; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Universities are autonomous and handle their administrative matters in accordance with the Ordinances and Statutes framed under the Acts under which they have been set up. Universities have full powers to initiate action the officials involved in such cases. The Central Government does not play a direct role in the matter.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2010, prescribes/specifies the total number of teaching days. It also lays down a code of professional ethics for, among others, teachers and their responsibilities.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Cartoons and objectionable contents in text books

†1496. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government does not feel that cartoons always cause insult to many great personalities of society and their followers in the country and also raise security concerns and thereby the social system in the country gets affected;

(b) if so, whether Government would now direct to remove cartoons and objectionable contents from all the text books; and

(c) the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Government has high regards for the great personalities of India. National Monitoring Committee was constituted to ensure that syllabi and textbooks finalised by the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) reflect the values enshrined in the Constitution in the organization of knowledge in all subjects. It aims that knowledge should be distinguished from information; learning is not memorization of facts and the spirit of questioning ought to be integrated in the way textbooks are framed and the way classroom transactions take place.

(b) and (c) The NCERT had constituted a six member Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.K. Thorat, Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) with the following terms of reference:

1. To review the NCERT's social science/political science textbooks for Classes IX to XII from the point of view of identifying educationally inappropriate materials in them.
2. Providing suggestions for alternatives to be placed in the textbooks so that the material can be immediately made available to the learners concerned.

The Thorat Committee has submitted its report to the NCERT. It has recommended some changes in four text books namely, "Democratic Politics I - Class IX", "Democratic Politics II - Class X" "Indian Constitution at work - Class

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

XI” and “Politics in India since Independence - Class XII”. In addition, the Committee has made some general recommendations to be considered at the time of general review of books. NCERT enjoys full academic autonomy in the matter of developing, printing and distribution of text books. The recommendations of the Thorat Committee are being examined by NCERT through specified institutional processes and a final decision is expected to be taken shortly.

Corruption in implementation of SSA in Maharashtra

1497. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that serious cases of corruption have been detected in implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government has taken on each of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra has reported two cases of corruption in the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) of which one involving about Rs.20 lakh has been enquired into and an FIR registered in district Akola. In the other a complaint about a BRC misappropriating SSA funds in district Kohlapur has been received.

Racial attacks on students

†1498. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of racial attacks on Indian students living abroad has increased;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has set up any Task Force on this issue which would look into these incidents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such attacks on Indian students living abroad have been recognized to be racially motivated.

(c) and (d) Government of India at the Ministerial level as well as through diplomatic channels has been taking up the incidents of assaults on members of Indian community, including students, with the foreign authorities at federal and state levels resulting in several measures being put into place to improve safety and security of Indians in foreign countries.

**Financial assistance for purchasing cooking devices
for Mid-Day-Meals**

1499. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is providing financial assistance to schools providing Mid-Day-Meal to school children to purchase cooking devices such as stoves, chullahs, containers, *etc.*;

(b) whether it is also a fact that financial assistance is also provided to purchase LPG cylinders; and

(c) if so, the details of schools that have been given this financial assistance in Andhra Pradesh during last three years, year-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One time Central assistance @ Rs. 5000/- per school is provided to States and Union Territories for provisioning of kitchen devices (Stove, Chulha, *etc.*), containers for storage of foodgrains and utensils for cooking and serving. In addition fuel cost for preparation of meal in schools is also provided to State/UTs. Besides, the State/UTs can also replace/repair/maintain the cooking devices, utensils *etc.* out of Management, Monitoring and Evaluation funds in emergent conditions.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh was released a central assistance of Rs. 39.23 crore for procurement of kitchen devices, in 78,457 schools during 2006-07 to 2008-09. 14979 institutions (19% of the total) are equipped with gas based cooking appliances.

**Setting up of Centre for Urban Science and
Progress by IIT, Bombay**

1500. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIT, Bombay has decided to set up a Centre for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) in Brooklyn, New York City in a consortium model jointly with five other world class institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the consortium will focus on researching and developing solutions to complex urban challenges locally and even globally;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a similar Centre will be set up at IIT, Bombay to look at the problems of Indian mega cities in particular; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, IIT-Bombay has joined a consortium of five universities (New York University, Carnegie Mellon, Toronto University and Warwick University and IIT-Bombay) with New York University as the lead partner to bid for setting up an Applied Sciences Research Institute in the New York City. The bid document envisaged setting up a Centre for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP). Subsequently, in the month of April 2012 the consortium bid CUSP was declared by the City official as the second winner in for the bid and was requested to set up CUSP in Brooklyn, New York. Some Industry partners, like IBM, Cisco, Xerox, Siemens, ARUP, have also now joined the consortium to help it achieve its goal.

(c) and (d) Yes, CUSP will explore solutions to several complex urban problems. The focused city for CUSP initially would be New York, but finally, it will also involve itself in solving problems of other global cities like London, Toronto, Mumbai, among others. CUSP will take up such problems in consultation with various city service agencies like transport, housing, communication, databases, health, water, power, etc.

(e) and (f) IIT- Bombay envisages setting up of a research centre with similar theme, with greater focus on Indian cities, at Mumbai in course of time.

Drop-out rate and Gross Enrolment Ratio

1501. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether drop-out rate of students for Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X during 2009-10 (Provisional) in the country are 28.86 per cent, 42.39 per cent and 52.76 per cent respectively;

(b) whether Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of the population in the age group 18-23 years was 15.0 in 2009-10;

(c) whether the above could be termed satisfactory;

(d) the measures Government is planning to reduce the drop-out ratio; and

(e) the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission in the above context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Drop-out rate of students for the Classes I-V, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X during 2009-10 (Provisional) in the country are 28.86 per cent, 42.39 per cent and 52.76 per cent respectively. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of students enrolled in higher education in the country as a percentage of the population in the age group 18-23 years is 15.0 in 2009-10 (Provisional).

The incidence of high drop-out rate may be attributed to inadequate school infrastructure and facilities, adverse pupil teacher ratio, children engaged in household or other kinds of work, seasonal migration etc. The Approach paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan has recommended that an additional enrolment of 10 million could be targeted in higher education during the twelfth plan period.

(d) and (e) Government has been making consistent progress to meet the goals of Universal Elementary Education through implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, which became operational with effect from 1st April,

2010, provides that every child in the 6 to 14 age-group shall have a right to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education. The SSA Framework of Implementation has been revised to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act 2009 and the SSA programme is being implemented in accordance with the norms and standards of the RTE Act to enhance enrolment and retention of children in elementary education. A multi-pronged approach has been adopted for reducing dropout rates. This includes inter-alia opening of schools in the neighbourhood, strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings for children in habitations un-served by regular schools, provisioning for additional teachers, regular training of teachers, provision for text books and uniforms to children. Mid Day Meal Scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrolment and retention of children in school. Further, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched for universal access to secondary education.

The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) was constituted on 13th June 2005 with a time-frame of three years, from 2nd October 2005 to 2nd October 2008. Its term was extended up to 31st March 2009. The NKC was given a mandate to guide policy and direct reforms, focusing on certain key areas such as education, science and technology, agriculture, industry, e-governance etc. The NKC has submitted around 300 recommendations to the Government in 27 focus areas. The major decisions taken by this Ministry for rejuvenation and renovation of higher education, some of which are based on the recommendations of the NKC are creation of new universities, introduction of a Bill to create a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), to create an over-arching body to maintain and coordinate the standards in higher education in the country; a Bill to make accreditation of higher educational institutions mandatory; a Bill to establish Universities for Research and Innovation, which would set benchmarks for excellence for other institutions of higher learning; a scheme of interest subsidy for student educational loans for pursuit of professional education has been introduced; launching of the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) and enactment of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009.

Literacy Rate

1502. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the literacy rate in the country, State-wise, as per 2001 and 2011 census, male-female-wise and urban-rural-wise;

(b) the reasons behind higher rate of drop-outs in schools; and

(c) the present teacher-student and class-student ratio in the country alongwith the figures for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) A state-wise statement indicating literacy rate in the country, as per 2001 and 2011 Census, male-female-wise and urban-rural-wise is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) Main reasons for higher rate of drop-outs are adverse Pupil-Teachers Ratio, schools not located within the limits of neighborhood, adverse Student-Classroom Ratio, untrained teachers, lack of adequate infrastructural facilities like drinking water, toilets etc; classroom processes not being child centred and child-friendly and unsatisfactory involvement of community in the management of schools.

(c) The National University of Educational Planning Administration (NUEPA) collects the Annual data on different parameters of Elementary Education through District Information System for Education (DISE) from all over the country. The data is used for monitoring of educational activities and formulation of Annual Work Plan and Budget by States. As per DISE 2010-11, State-wise statement indicating pupil-teacher ratio and student-classroom ratio in the country for the last three years is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details indicating literacy rate in the country, as per 2001 and 2011 Census, male-female-wise and urban-rural-wise

Sl. No.	State/UT		Literacy Rate as per 2001 Census			[Literacy Rate as per 2011 Census		
			Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Total	60.47	70.32	50.43	67.66	75.56	59.74
		Urban	76.09	83.19	68.74	80.54	85.99	75.02
		Rural	54.50	65.35	43.50	61.14	70.24	52.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Total	54.34	63.83	43.53	66.95	73.69	59.57
		Urban	78.26	85.19	69.49	84.57	89.45	79.04
		Rural	47.83	57.65	36.94	61.59	68.79	53.78
3.	Assam	Total	63.25	71.28	54.61	73.18	78.81	67.27
		Urban	85.34	89.74	80.24	88.88	91.84	85.71
		Rural	59.73	68.22	50.70	70.44	76.51	64.09
4.	Bihar	Total	47.00	59.68	33.12	63.82	73.39	53.33
		Urban	71.93	79.94	62.59	78.75	84.42	72.36
		Rural	43.92	57.09	29.61	61.83	71.90	50.82
5.	Chhattisgarh	Total	64.66	77.38	51.85	71.04	81.45	60.59
		Urban	80.58	89.39	71.11	84.79	91.63	77.65
		Rural	60.48	74.09	46.99	66.76	78.20	55.40
6.	Goa	Total	82.01	88.42	75.37	87.40	92.81	81.84
		Urban	84.39	89.46	78.98	89.31	93.47	84.96
		Rural	79.67	87.37	71.92	84.26	91.71	76.84
7.	Gujarat	Total	69.14	79.66	57.80	79.31	87.23	70.73
		Urban	81.84	88.34	74.50	87.58	92.44	82.08
		Rural	61.29	74.11	47.84	73.00	83.10	62.41
8.	Haryana	Total	67.91	78.49	55.73	76.64	85.38	66.77
		Urban	79.16	85.83	71.34	83.83	89.37	77.51
		Rural	63.19	75.37	49.27	72.74	83.20	60.97
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Total	76.48	85.35	67.42	83.78	90.83	76.60
		Urban	88.95	92.04	85.03	91.39	93.72	88.66
		Rural	75.08	84.51	65.68	82.91	90.48	75.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Total	55.52	66.60	43.00	68.74	78.26	58.01
		Urban	71.92	80.00	61.98	78.19	84.90	70.19
		Rural	49.78	61.65	36.74	64.97	75.51	53.36
11.	Jharkhand	Total	53.56	67.30	38.87	67.63	78.45	56.21
		Urban	79.14	87.03	69.96	83.30	89.78	76.17
		Rural	45.74	60.94	29.89	62.40	74.57	49.75
12.	Karnataka	Total	66.64	76.10	56.87	75.60	82.85	68.13
		Urban	80.58	86.66	74.12	86.21	90.54	81.71
		Rural	59.3,3	70.45	48.01	68.86	77.92	59.60
13.	Kerala	Total	90.86	94.24	87.72	93.91	96.02	91.38
		Urban	93.19	95.94	90.62	94.99	96.83	93.33
		Rural	90.04	93.63	86.69	92.92	95.29	90.74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Total	63.74	76.06	50.29	70.63	80.53	60.02
		Urban	79.39	87.39	70.47	84.09	90.24	77.39
		Rural	57.80	71.70	42.76	65.29	76.64	53.20
15.	Maharashtra	Total	76.88	85.97	67.03	82.91	89.82	75.48
		Urban	85.48	91.03	79.09	89.84	93.79	85.44
		Rural	70.36	81.93	58.40	77.09	86.39	67.38
16.	Manipur	Total	69.93	79.54	60.10	79.85	86.49	73.17
		Urban	79.28	88.71	70.01	85.98	92.05	80.21
		Rural	66.74	76.49	56.62	77.15	84.14	69.95
17.	Meghalaya	Total	62.56	65.43	59.61	75.48	77.17	73.78
		Urban	86.30	89.05	83.50	91.33	93.17	89.49
		Rural	56.29	59.24	53.24	71.15	72.83	69.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18.	Mizoram	Total	88.80	90.72	86.75	91.58	93.72	89.40
		Urban	96.13	96.43	95.80	98.10	98.67	97.54
		Rural	81.27	84.93	77.26	84.31	88.35	80.04
19.	Nagaland	Total	66.59	71.16	61.46	80.11	83.29	76.69
		Urban	84.74	87.44	81.42	90.21	92.11	88.10
		Rural	62.79	67.58	57.52	75.86	79.49	72.01
20.	Odisha	Total	63.08	75.35	50.51	73.45	82.40	64.36
		Urban	80.84	87.93	72.87	86.45	91.83	80.70
		Rural	59.84	72.93	46.66	70.78	80.41	61.10
21.	Punjab	Total	69.65	75.23	63.36	76.68	81.48	71.34
		Urban	79.10	83.05	74.49	83.70	87.28	79.62
		Rural	64.72	71.05	57.72	72.45	77.92	66.47
22.	Rajasthan	Total	60.41	75.70	43.85	67.06	80.51	52.66
		Urban	76.20	86.45	64.67	80.73	89.16	71.53
		Rural	55.34	72.16	37.33	62.34	77.49	46.25
23.	Sikkim	Total	68.81	76.04	60.40	82.20	87.29	76.43
		Urban	83.91	87.81	79.16	89.26	92.94	85.19
		Rural	66.82	74.45	58.01	79.82	85.42	73.42
24.	Tamil Nadu	Total	73.45	82.42	64.43	80.33	86.81	73.86
		Urban	82.53	88.97	75.99	87.24	91.82	82.67
		Rural	66.21	77.15	55.28	73.80	82.08	65.52
25.	Tripura	Total	73.19	81.02	64.91	87.75	92.18	83.15
		Urban	89.21	93.21	85.03	93.61	95.80	91.38
		Rural	69.72	78.40	60.50	85.58	90.86	80.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Total	56.27	68.82	42.22	69.72	79.24	59.26
		Urban	69.75	76.76	61.73	77.01	81.75	71.68
		Rural	52.53	66.59	36.90	67.55	78.48	55.61
27.	Uttarakhand	Total	71.62	83.28	59.63	79.63	88.33	70.70
		Urban	81.44	87.05	74.77	85.20	89.78	80.02
		Rural	68.07	81.78	54.70	77.11	87.63	66.79
28.	West Bengal	Total	68.64	77.02	59.61	77.08	82.67	71.16
		Urban	81.25	86.13	75.74	85.54	89.15	81.70
		Rural	63.42	73.13	53.16	72.97	79.51	66.08
29.	A & N Islands	Total	81.30	86.33	75.24	86.27	90.11	81.84
		Urban	86.57	90.65	81.47	89.60	92.96	85.79
		Rural	78.70	84.14	72.26	84.39	88.53	79.58
30.	Chandigarh	Total	81.94	86.14	76.47	86.43	90.54	81.38
		Urban	82.64	86.78	77.40	86.56	90.65	81.55
		Rural	75.58	80.98	66.37	81.69	86.68	74.17
31.	Dadra & N. Haveli	Total	57.63	71.18	40.23	77.65	86.46	65.93
		Urban	84.36	90.84	74.54	90.86	94.81	84.86
		Rural	49.34	64.50	30.83	65.89	78.18	51.36
32.	Daman & Diu	Total	78.18	86.76	65.61	87.07	91.48	79.59
		Urban	82.31	91.12	73.41	88.87	91.95	82.94
		Rural	75.83	84.83	59.33	81.51	89.71	71.97
33.	NCT of Delhi	Total	81.67	87.33	74.71	86.34	91.03	80.93
		Urban	81.93	87.39	75.22	86.43	91.05	81.10
		Rural	78.05	86.60	67.39	82.67	90.04	74.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
34.	Lakshadweep	Total	86.66	92.53	80.47	92.28	96.11	88.25
		Urban	88.62	93.77	83.13	92.38	96.40	88.13
		Rural	85.04	91.49	78.27	91.92	95.06	88.66
35.	Puducherry	Total	81.24	88.62	73.90	86.55	92.12	81.22
		Urban	84.84	91.18	78.57	89.09	93.80	84.60
		Rural	73.98	83.50	64.38	81.02	88.49	73.82

Statement-II

State-wise details indicating Pupil-Teacher ratio and Student-Classroom ratio in the country for the last three years based on District Information System for Education (DISE) 2010-11.

State/UT	Pupil Teacher Ratio			Student classroom ratio		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A and N Islands	15	11	10	19	17	16
Andhra Pradesh	21	22	20	25	24	23
Arunachal Pradesh	19	19	18	20	19	19
Assam	22	23	21	35	30	29
Bihar	55	57	58	96	89	83
Chandigarh	25	29	24	30	40	43
Chhattisgarh	26	26	24	28	28	27
D and N Haveli	36	36	40	39	39	45
Daman and Diu	34	31	30	36	34	35
Delhi	29	28	36	37	34	34
Goa	21	24	24	23	25	25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	32	32	31	34	34	34
Haryana	28	30	26	30	32	27
Himachal Pradesh	17	16	16	15	15	14
Jammu and Kashmir	15	16	13	17	17	16
Jharkhand	43	44	41	54	47	37
Karnataka	29	27	26	27	25	24
Kerala	25	24	21	25	27	25
Lakshadweep	16	14	14	22	22	22
Madhya Pradesh	36	35	35	31	30	29
Maharashtra	27	30	30	31	31	31
Manipur	19	20	19	19	20	22
Meghalaya	15	16	16	18	18	18
Mizoram	14	15	14	19	19	18
Nagaland	19	19	20	22	21	20
Orissa	27	33	26	30	30	27
Puducherry	18	17	16	21	21	23
Punjab	27	28	19	24	23	21
Rajasthan	27	27	26	25	24	23
Sikkim	15	12	12	15	15	14
Tamil Nadu	30	30	29	28	27	27
Tripura	23	24	19	28	27	25
Uttar Pradesh	50	45	44	39	36	35
Uttarakhand	24	23	23	20	19	19
West Bengal	47	39	30	47	42	40
ALL STATES	32	32	30	33	32	31

Reservation and scholarships in Central Universities

†1503. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all facilities regarding reservation and scholarships are being provided to SC and ST students in Central Universities, as these are provided in other universities;

(b) whether officers and employees belonging to SC, ST Community, working in Central Universities are being provided facility of reservation, etc.;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would provide the said facilities to the concerned mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Reservation to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students is provided in admission in all Central Educational Institutions including the Central Universities except in minority institutions. There is reservation for SC and ST students, as per Government norms, in the 'Central Sector Scheme of Scholarships for College and University Students' being operated by this Ministry. In addition, financial assistance is also provided by UGC to SC/ST students under the schemes namely Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, Post Doctoral Fellowship and PG Scholarship for professional courses.

(b) SC and ST candidates are also given reservation in employment in Central Universities as per Government norms.

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

(d) Government is fully committed to provide reservation to SC and ST in admission, scholarship and employment as per Government norms.

Setting up of Basava study centre in University of Karnataka

1504. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is aware that the Twelfth century social reformer Basaveshwara made a remarkable contribution to the cultural, social and religious history of India including Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to set up Basava study centre in Central University of Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Universities are autonomous institutions governed under the provisions of their respective Acts and Statutes and Ordinances framed thereunder. Section 6 (xi) of the Central Universities Act 2009, under which the Central University of Karnataka has been established, stipulates that the University has the power to establish such centres and laboratories or other units for research and instruction as are, in the opinion of the University, necessary for the furtherance of its objects. Establishment and abolition of Schools/Departments/Centres/Halls/Colleges/Institutions by the University will be governed by the Statutes of Central University of Karnataka. Such proposals have to be considered by the Statutory bodies of the respective University in accordance with their Statutes and the Ministry has no role to play in this regard. The Central University of Karnataka has, however, informed that they have sent a proposal to University Grant Commission for setting up of Sharana, Sufi and Daasa Studies Centre at the University, which comprises of Basava studies.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of model colleges in educationally backward districts

†1505. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an announcement had been made regarding establishment of one model college each in 374 educationally backward districts during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the number of districts which have started the studies by establishing such educational institutes in accordance with the said announcement;
- (c) whether Government has failed in establishing these colleges; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information supplied by University Grants Commission (UGC), about 50 Model Degree Colleges in 50 districts across 7 States have become functional.

(c) No, Sir. As part of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Central Government decided to establish these Model Degree College in each of the identified 374 higher educationally backward districts. However, these Model Degree Colleges are set up by the State Governments having territorial jurisdiction.

(d) Does not arise.

IIT status for Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute

†1506. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any letter has been received from Members of Parliament of 2004-05 regarding making Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute situated in IIT Roorkee Campus in Saharanpur as a fully independent IIT;
- (b) if so, the action taken thereon;
- (c) the details thereof;
- (d) the hindrances in making the above mentioned institutions located in Saharanpur into an independent IIT;
- (e) whether Government would convert them into an autonomous IIT by removing those obstacles; and
- (f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Central Pulp and paper Research Institute, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, which was established to promote R & D in the field of Pulp and Paper, is not located in the IIT-Roorkee Campus at Saharanpur. At this stage it has not been found possible to confirm the receipt of any letter from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament way back in 2004-05.

(d) to (f) Government Policy as at present does not envisage for conversion of any Research Institute, including Central Pulp and paper Research Institute, into an IIT.

E-ticket booking transaction failures

1507. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of e-ticket bookings that failed during the last one year;
- (b) whether it is a fact that 37 lakh and 45 lakh e-ticket booking transactions have failed during May, 2012 and June, 2012, respectively;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether overall failure rate for e-ticket bookings in May and June, 2012 was 72 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of action IRCTC would take in this regard to redress the situation and mitigate the failure rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) During the period from April 2011 to March 2012, while 11.62 crore tickets were booked successfully through the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website, in 96.12 lakh cases payment was settled but tickets were not booked.

(b) and (c) In May 2012 and June 2012, in 13.19 lakh and 11.41 lakh cases respectively payments were settled but tickets were not booked. The reasons for such incomplete transaction included non availability of lower berths, entry of wrong password, network failure, etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) In addition to regular monitoring of the system, the following measures have been taken to improve the functioning of the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website:

- Capacity of the servers has been upgraded to meet the demand.
- Internet Bandwidth has been increased from 350 Mbps to 450 Mbps.
- IRCTC is continuously coordinating with various banks regarding payment gateway to reduce failed cases. This has resulted in improvement in success rate of transactions.

Losses suffered due to failure of power grids

1508. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of losses suffered by Railways due to failure of Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern power grids for two consecutive days recently, zone-wise;

(b) the details of train services affected due to grid failures, zone-wise;

(c) whether Railways have any plan for captive power plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of captive power plants of Railways at present, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Due to electricity grid failures on 30th and 31st July 2012, 1106 Mail/Express/Passenger trains suffered loss of punctuality besides freight trains on Indian Railways. Zone-wise details of affected Mail/Express/Passenger trains are given in Statement (*See* below). Financial losses due to such failure are not quantifiable.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways (IR) has decided to set up its own captive power plants. IR is setting up its first coal based captive power plant of 1000 MW capacity at Nabinagar in Bihar in East Central Railway in Joint Venture (JV) with NTPC. One more coal based captive power plant of 1320 MW capacity has been planned to be set up at Adra, West Bengal in South Eastern Railway in JV with NTPC.

IR has also planned to set up one gas based plant of 700 MW capacity at Thakurli in Maharashtra in Central Railway.

Statement

(a) and (b) The zone-wise details of trains affected due to electricity grid failure on 30th and 31st July 2012:

Sl.No.	Date	Railway	M/Exp.	Pass.	Remarks
1	30.07.12	NR	164	0	
2	31.07.12 and 01.08.12		125	0	0
3	30.07.12 and 31.07.12	ECR	68		Including Passengers
4	30.07.12 and 31.07.12	NCR	232	13	
5	30.07.12 and 31.07.12	SER	62	56	
6	30.07.12 and 31.07.12	WCR	18	8	
7	31.07.12	NER	1	1	
8	31.07.12	ECOR	23	0	
9	30.07.12 to 31.07.12	ER	56	0	
TOTAL			749	78	
1	30.07.12 and 31.07.12	Diverted	2	0	
2		Cancelled	14	249	
3		Partially Cancelled	2	12	
GRAND TOTAL			767	339	1106

Overhauling and servicing of railway coaches

1509. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during safety audits by Commissioners of Railway Safety, it has been found that thousands of railway coaches being run have not been overhauled or serviced ignoring the safety of passengers, particularly in Central, Northern and NE railway;

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

(c) the reasons therefor, zone-wise;

(d) whether responsibility would be fixed for not overhauling/servicing railway coaches in spite of clear rules in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of action taken in this regard, zone-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. No coach overdue Periodical Overhauling (POH) is allowed to run in service on Indian Railways in contravention to laid down maintenance norms. All the coaches are overhauled as per laid down prescribed schedules in all Zonal Railways.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Availability of working instructions at railway level crossings

1510. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that working instructions, which is a must at the level crossings is not being made available at the level crossings/railway gates in vernacular language;

(b) whether deviations if any, have been identified at the railway level crossings in Jharkhand; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Working instructions for level crossing gates are being issued in Hindi and English. Wherever felt necessary, Zonal Railways make them available in vernacular language also.

- (b) No, Sir.

- (c) Does not arise.

Safety standards

1511. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite being one of the largest employers in the world, Railways are several decades behind global standards when it comes to safety;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to improve safety aspects in trains as well as at railway stations; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. Various safety standards of world class have been adopted in different departments of Indian Railways to prevent train accidents keeping in view the practical feasibility in Indian conditions and financial constraints of the railways.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent

accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Anti Collision Device (ACD)/Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), etc.

As regards security in trains as well as at stations, it is pertinent to mention that Policing on Railways is a State Subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order are the statutory responsibilities of the State Governments concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police. However, Railway Protection Force supplements the efforts of GRP by deploying their staff for escorting of important trains in affected areas and access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

Besides, following measures are being taken by the Railways for security of the passengers:-

- 1275 trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force daily on an average, in addition to escorting of 2200 trains by Government Railway Police in vulnerable and identified routes/sections.
- An integrated Security System consisting of electronic surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, access control, Anti-sabotage checks has been finalized to strengthen surveillance mechanisms over 202 sensitive and vulnerable Railway Stations.
- Railways maintain regular coordination with State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India at various levels to ensure better security of the travelling passengers as well as Railway system.

Single agency to regulate container handling facility

1512. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has urged Railways to become investor-friendly so that the private sector can collaborate with its expanding role;

(b) if so, whether CII referred to the so-called 'gaps and lacunae' in Railways container rail operations and sought a single agency to regulate further development of any container handling facility; and

(c) the ratio of railway revenue receipts from transportation of goods items like coal, coke, ore and minerals, vehicles, foodgrains, etc. and revenue receipts from operating passenger/tourist/maharaja luxury trains or similar foreign-tourist attracting steam engine trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) from time to time makes suggestions for greater collaboration of Private Sector in various enterprises of Indian Railways. This is part of an ongoing interaction with Trade and Industry that carries out the rail-users.

(b) As per available records, no communication has been received from Confederation of Indian Industries regarding "gaps" and "lacunae" in Railway's container rail operations and a single agency to regulate further development of any container handling facility.

(c) Ratios of various commodities in the actual Goods earnings in 2011-12 are as under:

Commodity	Earnings (Rs. in cr.)	% age share
Coal	38168.04	42.7%
Raw Material for Steel Plants	1566.46	1.7%
Pig Iron and Finished Steel	5379.10	6.0%
Iron Ore	7021.87	7.9%
Cement	9038.75	10.1%
Foodgrains	6250.10	7.0%
Fertilizers	5197.71	5.8%
P.O.L.	4741.35	5.3%
Container Service	3621.76	4.1%
Other Goods	6853.86	7.7%
Misc. goods earnings	1500.00	1.7%
TOTAL	89339.00	100.0%

The revenue receipts in 2011-12 from passenger operations, including various luxury trains are Rs. 34,606 crores.

Queues at ticket windows at railway stations in Mumbai

†1513. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that queues at ticket windows at Mumbai suburban railway stations are getting longer and longer day by day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inspite of this Railways have already decided to close down the CVM machines, an alternate mechanism of getting tickets;

(c) if so, instead of closing down the said mechanism why technical problems are not removed from it; and

(d) the measures being taken to shorten the queues at railway ticket windows and to dispense tickets quickly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) During the current Financial Year (upto July 2012), the suburban traffic in Mumbai area has grown at a rate of approximately 2% in terms of number of passengers.

(b) As Coupon Validating Machines (CVMs) are stand alone machines not integrated with computerised Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) of Indian Railways, it has been decided that CVMs in their present form may be allowed to continue till 31.03.2014.

(c) Action has already been initiated to explore the feasibility of linking CVMs with UTS.

(d) With a view to facilitating the issuing of unreserved tickets and to reduce the queue length at unreserved ticket windows, a large number of steps have been taken which includes provision of UTS, provision of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs), appointment of Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBSs), etc.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Safety and security measures

1514. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the preparedness adopted by Railways and speedy measures that are proposed to be taken to attend to the difficulties in terms of safety, security, amenity and medical aid for on-board passengers in trains blocked for indefinite hours due to various reasons; and

(b) the details and current status of the safety and security measures being adopted by Railways, especially for various passenger trains including Rajdhani Express, which are running through insurgency affected areas in the country, particularly in the North-Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Policing on Railways is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order is the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. Whenever any passenger carrying train is blocked for indefinite hours due to various reasons, adequate number of railway staff and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel with required equipments are sent by first means from the nearest railway station for safety and security of the travelling passengers. Government Railway Police (GRP) and Civil Police are also informed to provide security to the passengers of the train. Passengers of the train are carried to next station for onward journey in case a train is blocked for indefinite hours. Besides, pantry car contractors are asked to ensure sufficient raw material for cooking the food and availability of drinking water. All long distance passenger carrying trains are provided with first-aid boxes containing essential drugs and dressing materials. Augmented first-aid boxes with wider range of medicines, disposable medical material, etc. have been provided with Train Superintendent of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express and Guards of other nominated trains. A doctor with a paramedic staff has been provided in Durante Trains as a pilot project.

(b) Important Mail/Express/Passenger trains including Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police in insurgency affected areas and vulnerable sections. Railways maintain regular co-ordination at various levels with State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to ensure better security to the passengers as well as the Railway System.

Starting a new weekly train

1515. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a weekly Gandhidham-Howrah train *via* Morbi-Surendranagar was announced in the Railway Budget 2010-11;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting the train along with other newly started trains; and

(c) the actions proposed by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. In her Budget Speech for 2009-10 Hon'ble Minister for Railways (MR) only announced a new train Howrah-Gandhidham Superfast Weekly Express. She did not specify that this train will be *via* Morbi-Surendranagar. In her Budget Speech of 2010-11, Hon'ble MR re-assured the House that Howrah-Gandhidham Superfast Weekly Express which had been announced in 2009-10 Budget Speech would be started by 10th March, 2010. The route *via* Morbi-Surendranagar was not specified. This train No. 12937/12938 between Gandhidham and Howrah was introduced from 13.03.2010 and runs *via* Samakhiali and Dhrangadhra.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Railway projects in Andhra Pradesh

1516. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of gauge conversion, doubling, new railway lines and electrification projects pertaining to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Railways have taken steps for early completion of the above projects;

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

(d) the time by which the above projects would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The details of various ongoing/sanctioned gauge conversion, doubling, new railway line projects falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh are as mentioned in table below:

S.No.	Name of Project and length	Year of sanction	Latest updated cost (in Rs. crores)	Expenses incurred (in Rs. crores)	Outlay proposed in the budget for 2012-13 (in Rs. crores)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Lines						
1	Akkanapet-Medak (17.2 Km)	2012-13	114.37	0	1	The project has been sanctioned in 2012-13. Preliminary activities undertaken.
2	Bhadrachalam Road-Sattupalli (56.25 Km)	2010-11	337.05	0.01	1	Preliminary activities have already been undertaken. Railways have to bear the land cost only and the remaining cost is to be borne by M/s Singreni Coal Company Ltd. (SCCL), who are yet to deposit the amount.
3	Bhadrachalam Kovur (151 Km)	2012-13	923.23	0	1	The project has been sanctioned in 2012-13. Preliminary activities undertaken.
4	Cuddapah-Bangalore (Bangarapet) (255.4. Km)	2008-09	2050	44.36	20	The new line is being constructed in five phases. The construction for three phases has already been undertaken.

5	Gadwal-Raichur (60 Km)	1998-99	270	257.85	2	The works for Gadwal-Pandurangswamy Road (28.8 Km) section have been completed. The work for the remaining sections are under execution in various stages.
6	Gudur-Durgarajapatnam (41.55 Km)	2011-12	277.4	1	5	Preliminary activities of the project have already been started.
7	Gulbarga-Bidar (140 Km)	1997-98	776	307.52	20	The project is being implemented in three phases. The works for Phase-I (Khanapur-Homnabad) has been completed except for certain minor works. The works for the Phase-II (Homnabad-Hallikhed) and Phase-III(Hallikhed-Gulbarga are under progress.
8	Jaggayapet-Mallacheruvu (43.1 Km)	2006-07	313.24	116.8	30	Jaggayapet-Mallacheruvu section (19.10 Km) has been completed. The work on Mallacheruvu-Jaanapahad section (24 Km) has already been taken up.
9	Kotipalli-Narsapur (57.21 Km)	2000-01	1047.31	9.48	2	The detailed estimate of this project has been sanctioned and work is being taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	Kakinada-Pithapuram (21.5 Km)	1999-00	125.68	0.01	5	Requisite clearance from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) is still awaited.
11	Macherla-Nalgonda(Suppl) (92 Km)	1997-98	480	0.35	10	Final location survey at revised location is in progress.
12	Manoharabad-Kotapalli (148.9 Km)	2006-07	791.59	0.76	2	Final location of the project has been completed and Detailed estimate has also been sanctioned.
13	Munirabad-Mahabubnagar (246 Km)	1997-98	1290	118.87	20	Yeramaras- Yadalpur section (14.5 Km) of the project has been completed and commissioned. Deverkada-Marikal (16 Km) section is targeted for completion in 2012-13. The work for the remaining sections are under execution in various stages.
14	Nadikude -Srikalahasti (309 Km)	2011-12	1313.99	0	2.5	The work for Final Location survey taken up.
15	Nadyal-Yerraguntla (126 Km)	1996-97	883	571.01	50	The works for Phase-I of 1 this project from Yerraguntala-Nossam(50 Km) has been completed and section opened for

16	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam (113 Km)	2006-07	930	367.2	0.0	goods traffic. Nossam-Banganapalle section (45.30 Km) is targeted for completion shortly. The work for the remaining sections are execution in various stages.
17	Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad (177.49 Km)	1993-94	925.3	551.1	50	The work Venkatachalam-Krishnapatanam section and Venkatachalam Road Jn to Kommarapudi- Bye pass line has been completed. The work for remaining sections has also been taken up.
						Peddapally-Karimnagar-Jagityal section (83.53 Kms) has been completed Jagtiyal Mortad section is scheduled for completion shortly. The land acquisition for Mortad-Nizamabad section is under progress.
Doubling						
1	Daund-Gulbarga Doubling and Pune-Guntakal Electrification (224.9 Km)	2009-10	1514.45	88.47	0.0	The project has been delayed due to delay in sanction of 2nd Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan. Survey of Final Location survey has been completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	Guntur-Tenali Doubling with Electrification (24.38 Km)	2011-12	129.9	0.02	10	The work has been transferred to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd(RVNL) and Final Location Survey is in progress.
3	Kazipet-Vijaywada 3rd line with Electrification (219.64 Km)	2012-13	1054.35	0	1	The work has been sanctioned in 2012-13.
4	Krishnapuram-Venkatachalm doubling with electrification (23 Km)	2011-12	87.34	0.09	0.0	Preliminary activities has been completed.
5	Mancheryal-Peddampet Patch Tripling (4.37 Km)	2010-11	105.66	2.5	50	Preliminary activities has been completed.
6	Mudkhed-Parbhani (81.43 Km)	2011-12	334.32	0.09	1	Preliminary activities has been completed.
7	Raghavpuram-Mandmari patch tripling (24.47 Km)	2008-09	136.22	49.37	30	The overall physical progress of the work is 25%.
8	Raichur-Guntakal (81.1 Km)	2003-04	221.93	215	0.0	The project is being executed by RVNL from ADB funding through National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).
9	Vijaywada-Gudivada-Bhimvaram-Narsapur, Gudivada,Machlipatanam & Bhimvaram with electrification (221 Km)	2011-12	1009.82	1	20	Preliminary activities are underway.

(b) and (c) Railways have a huge throw forward of ongoing projects. Due to limited availability of resources, Railways have requested State Govts/beneficiaries to come forward for sharing cost of Projects. Four projects are taken up on cost sharing basis with Government of Andhra Pradesh and two projects have been taken up with contribution from Industry.

(d) No time frame has been fixed for completion of these projects.

Safety proposal for railway commuters in Mumbai

1517. SHRI N. K. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a safety proposal for local railway commuters in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of total deaths of commuters while travelling in local Mumbai railway in the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) All possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents in the Mumbai suburban area and these are closely monitored.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The number of persons who lost their lives while travelling in local trains in Mumbai suburban area during 2009 to 2011 and the current year from January to June, 2012, is as under:

Year	Loss of lives
2009	636
2010	741
2011	748
January to June, 2012	365

Eviction of small licensees/vendors

1518. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IRCTC in violation of Railway Board's office order No. 2005TC/III600/5 dated the 9th March, 2006 had evicted small licensees/vendors under reserved category without the segregation of all GMU/SMUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof with a list of total number of such license holders under reserved category like women, SC/ST and minority who were evicted and dispossessed during November, 2009;

(c) whether Railways have taken any steps to restore those licensees following the catering policy of 2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. There is no such order of aforesaid file number issued by the Railway Board.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. No such Policy exists.

(d) Does not arise.

Security at railway stations

1519. SHRI RANBIR SINGH PARJAPATI:

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the aftermath of terrorist attack at Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal (CST) station on 26 November, 2008, it was decided to strengthen security at railway stations to check recurrence of such terrorist attacks;

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

(c) whether entry and exit points at stations are unmanned and there is no check on ingress and egress of unauthorised vendors etc.; and

(d) whether CAG conducted a sample check of 74 stations to ascertain the measures taken by Railways to strengthen security at railway stations and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order over railways is the statutory responsibility of States.

Railways, through the Railway Protection Force (RPF), are supplementing efforts of States in providing security over railways.

For supplementing efforts of States, security has been identified as one of the priority areas by Railways for strengthening and up-gradation. Efforts made to strengthen railway security in recent past include nomination of 202 stations for installation of Integrated Security System, procurement of modern security related equipment, setting up of an All India Security Help Line, networking of RPF Posts and Security Control Rooms, establishment of a commando training center and three new Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) Battalions, up-gradation of RPF training centers etc.

(c) The entry/exist points are manned by the RPF, Government Railway Police (GRP) and ticket checking staff at important railway stations. Entry of unauthorized persons, including unauthorized vendors, is prevented by on duty staff at entry points. Action is also initiated against unauthorized vendors by the RPF under extant provisions of the Railways Act.

(d) Performance Audit on security management in Indian railways has been conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Major audit findings contained in the CAG report relate to coordination with States, implementation of Integrated Security System, access control, Escorting of train, lodging of FIRs etc.

Laying of double railway line between Meerut and Saharanpur

1520. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether laying of double railway line from Meerut to Saharanpur under Northern Railway is underway;

(b) if so, the length of the railway line laid, till date;

(c) the cost of the project, amount allocated and spent, so far; and

(d) the time by which the work of doubling of the railway line on this section is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) Patch doubling of Meerut-Muzaffarnagar section (55.47 km) has been sanctioned in Railway Budget 2012-13 at an anticipated

cost of Rs. 289.79 crores. An outlay of Rs. 1 crores has been provided for the work for 2012-13. Target date of completion of the project has not yet been fixed. Doubling of Muzaffarnagar-Tapri single line section is presently not under consideration. Tapri-Saharanpur section has already been doubled in the past.

Recommendations of expert group

1521. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group, headed by Shri Sam Pitroda regarding modernization of railway bridges and tracks, rolling stocks and signalling equipments;

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

(c) the action Government intends to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. The recommendations are presently under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Black marketing of tickets

1522. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that authorities have not been able to curb the black marketing of tickets and touts engaged therein;

(b) whether tickets under Tatkal do not reach the genuine passengers and all the tickets are sold within minutes of the opening of counters; and

(c) if so, the positive and concrete steps being taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. Regular and surprise checks are conducted by Railways to curb the black marketing of tickets and activities of touts.

(b) Tatkal tickets are sold only to genuine passengers on production of self attested photocopy of one of the prescribed proof of identity and the passengers have to carry the same in original during travel. The demand for

reserved accommodation (General as well as Tatkal) varies from time to time, train to train and class to class. During peak rush period when demand outstrips the availability, the reserved accommodation gets exhausted within a short duration. However, during non-peak period the accommodation remains available for comparatively longer period.

(c) Some of the major positive steps taken with a view to streamlining the booking under the reservation system and the Tatkal scheme are as under:

- i. Tatkal tickets are sold one day prior to the date of journey. The timing of opening of reservation of Tatkal tickets has been changed to 10.00 hours on the previous day of journey instead of 8.00 hrs. as per earlier provision.
- ii. Tatkal tickets are issued only on production of a self attested photocopy of one of the 9 prescribed proofs of identity mentioned in the scheme and carrying the same proof of identity, in original, during the journey is mandatory.
- iii. No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets except under special circumstances like late running of train by more than three hours, cancellation of trains, etc.
- iv. Duplicate Tatkal tickets are generally not issued and if issued under exceptional circumstances it is on payment of full fare.
- v. Access to Tatkal bookings has been denied to agents both through internet as well as across the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters between 10.00 hrs & 12.00 hrs.
- vi. Closed Circuit Television equipments have been installed at some major passenger reservation system Centres to keep a watch on the activities of Reservation Counters.
- vii. A maximum of four passengers are permitted per PNR on Tatkal tickets.
- viii. In addition, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Limited has taken several steps to ensure improved access to the e-ticketing system for bonafide passengers and to prevent misuse of the

system by unscrupulous elements *e.g.* introduction of Captcha to check fraudulent booking through automation software, booking of only two tickets per IP address between 1000 hours and 1200 hours to avoid multiple booking from the same office/internet cafe, disallowance of Quick Book option and booking on cash card between 1000 hours and 1200 hours, condition of booking only two tickets between 1000 hours and 1200 hours by individual users, *etc.*

Old and outdated railway bridges

1523. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of old and outdated railway bridges in the country, including Madhya Pradesh, which require strengthening and reconstruction on a large scale, as on date;

(b) whether any comprehensive scheme has been chalked out for strengthening and reconstructing these bridges in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated for the scheme and the time-limit by which these old and damaged bridges are likely to be reconstructed/strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) No age norms are laid down for the railway bridges. There is no outdated bridge on Indian Railway system. The rebuilding/rehabilitation/strengthening of bridges is undertaken on the basis of their-physical condition and not on the basis of age. Information on Railway Bridges is maintained zone-wise and not State-wise. As on 01.04.2012, there are 33,395 Railway Bridges which are more than 100 years old. A regular and rigorous system of inspection of Bridges is followed on Indian Railways. Under this system all the Bridges are thoroughly inspected once a year by designated officials. In addition, the inspecting officials also inspect the Bridges during their routine inspections. Rebuilding/rehabilitation/ strengthening of Bridges is undertaken on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections. As on 01.04.12, 3596 Railway bridges are sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation/strengthening, which include bridges of all ages. The zone-wise breakup is as under:

Railway	Central Railway	Eastern Railway	East Central Railway	East Coast Railway	Northern Railway	North Central Railway	North Eastern Railway	Northeast Frontier Railway
Bridges	128	345	556	144	354	146	3	129
Railway	North Western Railway	Southern Railway	South Central Railway	South Eastern Railway	South East Central Railway	South Western Railway	Western Railway	West Central Railway
Bridges	218	226	170	327	116	108	340	286

During the last five financial years, a total of 6,011 Rail Bridges have been rebuilt/rehabilitated/strengthened on Indian Railway system.

Eco-friendly toilets in trains

1524. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways propose to introduce eco-friendly toilets in trains which do not allow refuse to fall on the tracks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the likely expenditure and time by when such toilets are to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far nine trains are provided with 504 bio toilets for in-service trials. Based on the experience gained and outcome of these trials, it is planned to induct eco-friendly toilets progressively in the trains.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The investment required and time frame for their full scale adoption will depend upon the changes necessitated from time to time due to the exigencies of their usage pattern and other service conditions.

Railway projects in Punjab

1525. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government is going to complete double railway line between Sirhind and Nangal in Punjab;

(b) the criteria to raise the height of platforms and by when the platforms of Ropar, Ghanauli and Bharatgarh would be raised;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would start a new train between Nangal and Haridwar; if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Doubling of Sirhind-Nangal Dam rail line is not a sanctioned work.

(b) and (c) Criteria for provision of platform is as under:

- High level platform for 'A1', 'A' & 'C' category stations.
- Medium level platform for 'B' & 'D' category stations.
- Rail level platform for 'E' & 'F' category stations.

Work for raising of platform at Ropar Station is targeted for completion during the year 2012-13. Being 'E' category stations, Ghanauli and Bharatgarh are provided with rail level platforms, as per norms.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. At present, 12063/12064 Haridwar-Una Link Express (tri-weekly) is available for passengers of Nangaldam desirous of travelling to Haridwar. Introduction of trains on Indian Railways is an ongoing process subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability, availability of resources etc. However, introduction of a new train between Nangaldam and Haridwar is not feasible at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

Passenger amenities at Moradabad railway station

1526. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger amenities at Moradabad railway station in Uttar Pradesh are inadequate; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for providing adequate passenger amenities at this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, provision, improvement and augmentation of facilities at a station is a continuous process.

Recent train accidents

†1527. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents in the country is on the rise;
- (b) the details of train accidents that took place between 1 January, 2012 and 31 July, 2012;
- (c) the number of persons killed or injured in these accidents; and
- (d) whether Government has conducted inquiries into these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The number of consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings have declined from 239 in 2003-04 to 169 in 2004-05, 169 in 2005-06, 123 in 2006-07, 129 in 2007-08, 115 in 2008-09, 100 in 2009-10, 93 in 2010-11 and further to 77 in 2011-12. In the current year, during April to July 2012, the number of these accidents have marginally increased from 21 to 24 in comparison to the corresponding period of the last year.

(b) and (c) During January to July 2012, a total of 44 consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings took place on Indian Railways. These include 4 collisions, 30 derailments, 3 accidents at Manned Level Crossings, 6 incidents of fire in trains and 1 miscellaneous train accident. 67 persons lost their lives in these consequential train accidents and 225 persons sustained injuries.

(d) Yes, Sir. Out of the above 44 consequential train accidents, 10 accidents have been inquired into by the Commissioners of Railway Safety under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the balance 34 have been inquired into by the Departmental Enquiry Committees.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Railway tracks in North-east, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

1528. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of railway tracks in North-East, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; and

(b) the proposals for laying new railway tracks in these regions alongwith their details, plan outlay and time-frame so fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) 2450.95 km of Railway Network in North East Region, 296.26 km in Himachal Pradesh and 344.91 km in Uttarakhand exist as on 01.04.2011 (As per latest compilation available).

Details of new line projects in progress in North East (NE) Region, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand alongwith their length, total cost and outlay during the current year are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)					
Sl. No.	State	No. of projects	Length of ongoing projects	Total cost of ongoing projects	Outlay in 12-13 for ongoing projects
1.	Assam and NE Region	13	965.04	22575.88	1490.00
2.	Himachal Pradesh	3	180.07	4025.13	26.00
3.	Uttarakhand	4	210.24	4871.12	55.50

During the year 2012-13, 115.75 km. of new lines are targeted for completion in N.E. Region.

These projects will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Introduction of fast moving trains

1529. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways would consider introduction of fast moving main line MEMU trains between Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar-Khurda Road-Puri, Bhubaneswar-Khurda Road-Berhampur, Bhubaneswar-Dhenkanal-Angul-Talcher, Cuttack-Paradeep and Rourkela-Rajgangpur-Jharsuguda;

(b) whether DMU service would be introduced between Titlagarh-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda sections; and

(c) whether stations at aforesaid places would be remodelled and upgraded with modern passenger amenities for the suburban passengers/commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(c) Upgradation of stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken based on need, *inter-se* priority of stations and availability of funds.

Manning of unmanned railway level crossings

1530. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Railways are planning to man the unmanned railway level crossings at Bandalo, Korai, Jodabar railway plot or construct the underway bypass at these places alongwith extension of railway foot over bridge with the provision of passing of two wheelers like cycle, motorcycle and rickshaw at Jajpur Keonjhar Road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): The details are as under:

- (i) **Bandalo:-** The Level Crossing (LC) No. 167 near Bandalo is an unmanned LC with negligible traffic. State Government has been requested for approving its closure from safety considerations. Consent of State Government for closure of LC is still awaited.
- (ii) **Korai:-** There is one manned LC No. 137 and another unmanned LC No. 136 leading to Korai village. There is a proposal to provide Subway at both the LCs. However, consent of State Govt. for closure of LCs is still awaited.
- (iii) **Jodabar:-** The unmanned LC No. 143 leading to Jodabar village is proposed to be replaced with a Subway. The work has been sanctioned and the consent for closure of LC from District Magistrate has been received.

- (iv) **Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road:-** This is a pedestrian FOB provided at the station. This can not be extended for two wheeler like cycle, motorcycle, and rickshaw.

Trains between Delhi and Kanpur

1531. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is feasible to run trains between Delhi and Kanpur via Mathura, Kasganj, Farrukhabad and Kannauj;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of trains being run;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective action being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Introduction of train between Delhi and Kanpur via Mathura, Kasganj, Farrukhabad and Kannauj is not feasible at present due to operational and infrastructural constraints.

Railway projects in Punjab

1532. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the pace of laying of new railway lines, conversion of narrow gauge to broad gauge and setting up of new railway projects in Punjab are far behind as compared to other States; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) All ongoing new line and doubling works falling fully/partly in the State of Punjab are progressing satisfactorily as per availability of resources except Chandigarh-Baddi new line which has been stalled following refusal by State Government of Punjab and Chandigarh Administration to

provide land for the project. Taran Taran-Goindwal and Abohar-Fizilka new lines have been completed in recent times. Jalandhar-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi and Jakhal-Mansa doubling projects are also at an advanced stage. There is no ongoing gauge conversion work in Punjab.

Investment tracking system

1533. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Investment tracking system, to ensure speedy implementation of projects, has been put in place;

(b) if so, the various measures adopted and implemented under the said tracking system for speedy implementation of railway projects under South Central Railway and other zones of railways with details thereof; and

(c) if not, the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is huge shelf of ongoing projects and limited availability of resources. As a result, funds get thinly spread and projects progress as per availability of resources. As on 01.04.2012, there are 347 ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects requiring about Rs.1.47 lakh crore for their completion.

Funds for completion of railway projects

1534. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh recently requested him for early release of its 50 per cent share, for the current financial year, for completion of existing railway projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the details of action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No such request has been received from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

Circular regarding purchasing items from SSI units

‡1535. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railway Board, according to a circular in 1993, had directed all Railway Divisions and officials to purchase 358 items exclusively from SSI units;
- (b) whether this step had been taken to encourage small scale industries;
- (c) if so, whether all Divisions are complying with this direction or some Divisions are violating it;
- (d) whether Railways have taken a report in this matter from all Divisions and if so, when was it taken; and
- (e) the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. The said instruction of Railway Board was issued in 1998 based on O.M. No. 1(9)/90-EP&M-Vol.II dated 18.3.1998 of Ministry of Industries, Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Instruction is being complied by all divisions.
- (d) Yes, Sir. Report is taken in August 2012.
- (e) The details of confirmation from Zonal Railways are given in Statement.

Statement***Details of configuration from Zonal Railways***

All Zonal Railways have advised that the instructions of Railway Board with regard to purchase of 358 items exclusively reserved for SSI units are being followed and there is no violation.

CAG report on railways, budget

1536. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether a recent CAG report has termed Railways' budgeting as faulty;
- (b) if so, the details of the observations made by CAG regarding financial position of Railways; and
- (c) the steps taken by Railways to improve its finances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) C and AG has laid Report No.3 of 2012-13 for fiscal 2010-11 on Railways has suggested certain measures to improve the financial position of the railways and to strengthen the budgetary and monitoring mechanism for better transparency and control. Some of the suggestions are:

- rationalization of both freight and passenger tariffs
- increasing the market share of Railways in bulk commodities
- timely revision/raising of bills and realization of dues including arrears
- exploring alternate sources of finance its capital expenditure
- to focus more on viable projects
- presentation of policy statements and reviews under FRBM Act. etc.

As per procedure such reports are examined by the Ministry and Action Taken Notes are submitted to C&AG.

(c) In order to improve its financial health, Railways are making every effort to augment its earnings and for controlling the expenditure. On the earnings front, in addition to rationalization of the freight and fare rate structure, efforts are being made for achieving a higher growth in volume of passenger traffic through running of special trains, attachment of coaches to accommodate passenger demand. Railways are also exploring avenues of revenue receipts so as to achieve the targeted receipts, which *inter-alia* includes resource generation from land utilization and through advertisements and publicity, early completion of capacity enhancement projects, aggressive marketing strategies to capture additional freight traffic etc. Besides, Railways are making all efforts to contain the expenditure through austerity and economic measures and by better manpower and inventory management, better assets utilization and improved fuel efficiency.

Lack of funds for railway projects

1537. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that railway projects are not being implemented due to lack of funds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would consider to shift this burden towards the freight rates; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Work on all the sanctioned projects have been taken up as per availability of resources. Railways have huge throwforward of ongoing projects. As a result, funds are thinly spread prolonging period of completion. As on 01.04.2012, 347 ongoing projects of new line, gauge conversion & doubling require Rs.1.47 Lakh Crores for completion.

(c) No, Sir. As these projects are primarily funded through Gross Budgetary Support, their expeditious completion is linked to the level of support from the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Misuse of tatkal tickets by agents

1538. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that tickets issued under tatkal scheme are misused by agents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking against the agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) With a view to reduce the scope for misuse, Tatkal tickets are issued on production of self attested photocopy of one of the prescribed proof of identity and the same in original is required to be carried during the journey, to verify the bonafide of passengers. However, during peak rush periods when the demand outstrips the availability, some cases of black marketing of reserved tickets by touts come to notice at the time of surprise inspections and preventive checks conducted at reservation offices.

During the period from April 2012 to June 2012, a large number of checks were conducted during which 930 unauthorized agents/touts were apprehended/prosecuted.

(c) During the current Financial Year (upto June 2012), Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has permanently deactivated 14 subagents for involvement in irregularities. Moreover, with a view to keep a check on the activities of agents booking Tatkal tickets, following additional steps have been taken:

- i. The timing of opening of reservation of Tatkal tickets has been changed to 1000 hours on the previous day of journey instead of 0800 hours as per earlier provision.
- ii. Access to Tatkal bookings has been denied to agents both through internet as well as across the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters between 1000 hours & 1200 hours.
- iii. Captcha has been introduced to check fraudulent booking on internet through automation software.
- iv. Booking of only two tickets per IP address between 1000 hours and 1200 hours is permitted to avoid multiple booking from same office/internet cafe.
- v. Quick Book option and booking on cash card is not allowed between 1000 hours and 1200 hours.
- vi. Individual users can also book only two tickets between 1000 hours and 1200 hours.
- vii. No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets except under special circumstances like cancellation of train, late running of train by more than three hours, etc.
- viii. Duplicate Tatkal tickets are not issued except on payment of full fare.
- ix. Facility of change of name is not available under this scheme.

Doubling of railway lines in Odisha

1539. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA:

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the doubling of Sambalpur-Talcher, Delang-Puri, Cuttack-Baranga, Bansapani-Tomka-Daitari and Jharsuguda-Rengali railway lines in Odisha which are of public importance; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by Government to complete these projects on urgent footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The status of various doubling projects in Orissa are as under:

(Rs. in crores)					
Name of doubling Project	Latest anticipated cost	Exp. upto Mar, 2012	Outlay 2012-13	Progress	Target date of completion
Sambalpur-Talcher (174 km)	679.27	0	40	0%	March,2013 (Angul-Kerejang section)
Delang-Puri (29 km)	170	0.48	40	0%	December, 2014
Cuttack-Barang doubling (14 km)	200	154.21	25	76%	April, 2013
Bansapani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhapura doubling (180 km)	942.45	42.35	100	4.5%	Not fixed.
Jharsuguda-Rengali (26 km)	213.13	153.82	25	73%	December, 2012

All these projects are progressing as per availability of resources.

Proposals from Government of Odisha

1540. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposals from Government of Odisha for sanction of railway links including missing links Nuapada-Gunupur BG Rail-link to Thiruveli, Badampahar to Keonjhar and Rupsa-Burhamara to Chakulia to expedite the mineral and industrial development of the State; and

(b) if so, when were these proposals received and what action has been taken in respect of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Details of each and every demand for railway projects received at various levels is not centrally maintained. Naupada-Gunupur gauge conversion work has been completed and survey for its extension upto Thiruvelli has been taken up. Badampahar-Keonjhar new line survey has been completed and as per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 80 Km long line has been assessed as Rs. 619 crores. State Government of Orissa has been requested to provide land free of cost and share 50% of the construction cost of the project. Buramara-Chakulia new line has been taken up as a part of Rupsa-Bangriposi gauge conversion project and is being executed through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Hostels for wards of railway employees

1541. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of hostels commissioned, so far, for the children of railway employees in the country;
- (b) whether these hostels are sufficient to meet the requirement;
- (c) if not, whether Government proposes to construct more hostels for the wards of railway employees; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Indian Railways run 24 subsidized hostels for wards of railway employees.

(b) to (d) As per policy, hostels are set up for wards of Railway employees at centers of education. Proposals exist for expansion of hostel capacity at Pune and for new hostels at Lucknow, Tiruchchirappali, Coimbatore, Indore, Vadodara and Nagpur.

Black marketing of tatkal tickets

1542. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether tatkal tickets are not available to common man and the agents/touts in connivance with railway officials get all tickets under fictitious names and sell them at a very high premium to needy persons;

(b) if so, the action Government proposes to take against such agents/touts;

(c) whether zone-wise surprise inspections have been carried out against such agents/touts in last two years; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether some agents/touts have been arrested during this period and if so, zone-wise details thereof including the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Tatkal tickets are sold only to genuine passengers on production of self attested photocopy of one of the prescribed proofs of Identity and the passenger has to carry the same in original during travel.

However, with a view to check the malpractices in reservation by unscrupulous elements, regular and preventive checks are conducted against touts by Railways at the reservation offices, major stations and in trains. Touts so apprehended are taken up under the provisions of law. Further the Tatkal Scheme has been revamped and the following steps have been taken to reduce the scope for its misuse:

- i. Tatkal tickets are issued only on production of a self attested photocopy of one of the 9 prescribed proofs of identity mentioned in the scheme and carrying the same proof of identity during the journey is mandatory.
- ii. No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets except special circumstances like late running of train by more than three hours, cancellation of trains, etc.
- iii. Duplicate Tatkal tickets are not issued except on payment of full fare.
- iv. Access to Tatkal bookings has been denied to agents both through internet as well as across the computerized PRS counters between 10.00 hrs & 12.00 hrs.
- v. A maximum of four passengers are permitted per PNR on Tatkal tickets.

- vi. The timing of opening of reservation of Tatkal tickets has been changed to 10.00 hours on the previous day of journey instead of 0800 hours as per earlier provision in order to reduce the scope of cornering of tickets by touts and also to balance the load on the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) as well as on internet.
- vii. In addition, Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has taken several steps to ensure improved access to the e-ticketing system for bonafide passengers and to prevent misuse of the system by unscrupulous elements. The major steps taken by IRCTC include the following:
- a) Introduction of Captcha to check fraudulent booking through automation software.
 - b) Agents of IRCTC are not permitted to book Tatkal, Advance Reservation Period (ARP) opening as well as normal tickets between 0800 hours and 1200 hours.
 - c) Booking of only two tickets per IP address between 1000 hours and 1200 hours to avoid multiple booking from the same office/internet cafe.
 - d) Quick Book option and booking on cash card have been disallowed between 1000 hours and 1200 hours, and
 - e) Booking of only two tickets between 1000 hours and 1200 hours has been permitted for individual users, subject to a total of 10 tickets per month per individual user ID.

(c) and (d) The details of checks/surprise inspection carried out against agents/touts; and numbers of touts apprehended/prosecuted and action taken against them during the last two years i.e. 2010-11 and 2011-12 is given in Statement.

Statement*Checks carried out and touts apprehended during last two years*

The number of checks/surprise inspection carried out against agents/touts; and numbers of touts apprehended/prosecuted and action taken against them during the last two years 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as under:

Railway	Number of checks conducted against touts		Numbers of touts apprehended/prosecuted and action taken against them					
			2010-11			2011-12		
	2010-11	2011-12	Apprehended/ prosecuted	Convicted	Fine Realized (Rs.)	Apprehended/ prosecuted	Convicted	Fine realized (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central	6149	6554	172	92	89,700	353	185	3,30,650
Eastern	93	124	190	25	45,500	200	64	89,900
East Central	1301	1267	66	66	16,000	81	81	1,12,000
East Coast	1728	1366	48	30	96,000	21	13	47,600
Northern	3982	6781	225	58	2,27,100	208	33	1,80,200
North Central	4090	4502	36	18	1,21,500	27	4	19,000
North Eastern	1135	927	13	-	-	5	-	-

Northeast Frontier	2893	2879	11	1	-	4	1	5,000
North Western	1449	1544	30	21	6,200	21	3	5,400
Southern	19255	20355	50	9	28,000	121	27	1,96,000
South Central	5353	3874	72	14	55,700	122	17	83,500
South Eastern	1131	1024	30	1	5,000	83	-	-
South East Central	4170	5419	26	-	-	39	-	-
South Western	553	549	342	340	1,41,9000	290	287	14,08,700
Western	6697	6816	85	20	46,950	196	52	1,53,250
West Central	917	969	8	5	1,500	75	21	29,500
TOTAL	60896	64950	1404	700	21,58,150	1846	788	26,60,700

Written Answers to

[24 August, 2012]

Unstarred Questions

Train accidents at unmanned crossings in Punjab

1543. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four girls, all sisters, were killed and at least 20 injured when a train hit the school bus ferrying them at an unmanned crossing at Kot Mehtab Singh near Amritsar recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such tragedies at unmanned crossings have continued unabated in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) On 30.07.2012 at 07.10 hrs., while the Train No. Rail Bus 30008 was on run between Beas and Goindwal Sahib Stations of Firozpur Division of Northern Railway, one school bus dashed against the Rail Bus at Unmanned Level Crossing (UMLC) No. C-8. As a result, four school girls lost their lives, four girls sustained grievous injuries and 17 girls sustained simple injuries (all occupants of the school bus). Cause of the accident is stated to be the failure of the bus driver in observing safe practices laid down in the Motor Vehicles Act while negotiating the unmanned level crossing.

(c) and (d) The number of consequential incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users have increased during the last year in Punjab. The number of such incidents in Punjab during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from April to July, 2012 is as under:

Year	Number of incidents at unmanned level crossings in Punjab
2009-10	06
2010-11	06
2011-12	10
2012-13 (during April to July, 2012)	05

Check on heating of axles and wheels of train coaches

1544. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are manual checkings at some stations to find out about overheating of axles and wheels of trains, but it is not enough and is not done at all stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to make it mandatory to check axles and wheels of trains at regular intervals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) To detect overheating of Axle boxes, manual checking is being carried out only at designated stations. Visual vigil is also kept on the train by train passing staff on all enroute stations.

(c) and (d) Instructions already exist to check axles and wheels at prescribed regular intervals at stations nominated by railways.

Representations for gauge conversion

1545. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received representations for gauge conversion from various organizations/road users as well as from Government of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, when do Railways intend to take up the same and probable time-frame for completion of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Requests are received at various levels including Divisions, Zonal Railways and Railway Board and a compendium is not maintained. However, the details of gauge conversion proposals received in recent past pertaining partly/fully in the State of Gujarat and their status is as under:

(i) Ahmedabad-Botad (170.48 km): The work has been included in the Budget 2012-13. Preliminary activities taken up.

- (ii) Dhasa-Jetalsar (104.44 km): The work has been included in the Budget 2012-13. Preliminary activities taken up.
- (iii) Ahmedabad-Mehsana (68.78 km): Survey has been taken up.
- (iv) Khambhat-Khambhat Port: Survey has been taken up.
- (v) Nadiad-Bhadran: Survey not yet taken up.

The sanctioned works mentioned in (i) & (ii) above, will be completed in coming years as per the availability of resources. The works mentioned from (iii) to (v) have not yet been sanctioned.

Development of railway lines in Gujarat

1546. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have received any request from Government of Gujarat for development of various railway lines for overall development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC);
- (b) if so, when does the Ministry intends to start these projects; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways has received a request from Government of Gujarat for development of various railway lines for overall development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). The details and present status of the proposals are furnished below. Most of the projects mentioned by Government of Gujarat have been completed and preparatory works like survey have been taken up for others:

Gauge Conversion

	Particulars	Length (Km)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Ahmedabad-Dholera Investment Region	Ahmedabad-Botad-Bhavnagar	266	The Gauge Conversion of Ahmedabad-Botad section has been sanctioned in Budget 2012-13. Botad - Bhavnagar section is already in the Broad Gauge (BG) network.
Dahej-Bharuch Investment Region	Dahej-Samni-Bharuch	64	The Gauge Conversion of Bharuch - Samni - Dahej has already been commissioned.
Palanpur- Siddhpur- Mehsana Industrial Area	Viramgam-Samakhiyali	182	Already converted to Broad Gauge.
	Navlakhi-Malia-Rajkot	72	Already converted to Broad Gauge.
	Mehsana-Patan	40	Already converted to Broad Gauge.
	Mehsana-Viramgam	54	Already converted to Broad Gauge.
	Viramgam-Surendranagar	65	Already converted and operating.
	Samakhiyali-Gandhidham-Kandla	64	Already converted and operating.
	Gandhidham-Anjar-Mundra	70	Already Broad Gauge.
Doubling			
Dahej-Bharuch Investment Region	Bharuch-Dahej	64	The single line section has been recently commissioned. The need for doubling will be considered based on the traffic justification.

1	2	3	4
Palanpur- Siddhpur-Mehsana Industrial Area	Pipavav-Rajula-Dhasa- Botad-Surendranagar-Mehsana-Viramgam	391	Doubling not proposed at present except Viramgam-Surendranagar section which has been sanctioned. Doubling of remaining sections will be considered based on traffic justification.
Mundra-Palanpur	Palanpur-Samakhyali-Gandhidham-Mundra	334	Mundra-Adipur portion is proposed to be doubled by M/s Mundra Port SEZ Limited. Doubling of Adipur-Gandhidham Section has been commissioned. Doubling of Gandhidham-Palanpur, proposed by Kutch Railway Corporation has been approved by Railway Board and being processed for necessary approvals.
	Gandhidham-Kandla	12	The work has already been completed.
New Rail Lines			
Ahmedabad-Dholera Investment Region	Bhavnagar-Adhelai-Dholera-Vataman-Petlad	170	A new survey has been taken up in 2012-13.
	Bhimnath-Dholera	16	A survey is in progress.
	Khambhat-Khambhat Port	5	A new survey has been taken up in 2012-13.

DMIC Rail Infrastructure: Port to Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) connectivity for functional Ports

Sl. No.	Major Ports	Spur Rail Connectivity for Ports	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1	Mundra	Mundra-Gandhidham-Samakhiyali - Radhanpur - Palanpur Doubling of BG Line (Survey work in progress in Palanpur-Samakhiyali and Mundra - Adipur)	Port connectivity already exists, doubling of the line has also been proposed.
2	Dahej	Dahej - Bharuch Doubling of BG line	The need for doubling will be considered based on the traffic justification.
3	Pipavav	Pipavav - Botad - Surendranagar - Viramgam - Mehsana - Palanpur - Doubling of BG line.	Doubling not proposed at present except Viramgam-Surendranagar section, which has been sanctioned. Doubling of remaining sections will be considered based on traffic justification.
4	Hazira	Surat - Hazira New Rail Link.	Earlier, an SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) was proposed by RVNL (Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.) for implementation of this project, for which the alignment is yet to be finalized by the Gujarat government. However, a proposal for developing this line on “private line” model has been received from Hazira Port and is under examination.

1	2	3	4
5	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar - Botad - Ahmedabad Broad Gauge Line Bhavnagar - Adhelai - Dholera-Vataman - Petlad New Rail Link.	1. The Gauge Conversion of Ahmedabad - Botad has been sanctioned in the Budget 2012-13. Botad - Bhavnagar section has already been converted to Broad Gauge. 2. A new survey for Bhavnagar -Petlad has been taken-up in 2012-13.
6	Kandla	Kandla - Gandhidham - Samakhiyali - Radhanpur - Palanpur Doubling of BG Line (Survey work in progress)	Doubling of Gandhidham-Palanpur, proposed by Kutch Railway Corporation has been approved by Railway Board and is being processed further.

DMIC Rail Infrastructure: Port to Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) connectivity for upcoming Ports

Sl.No.	Major Ports	Spur Rail Connectivity for Ports	Length in Kms.	Name of Section	Remarks
1	Bedi Port	Bedi Port-Jamnagar Station	12.78	Jamnagar -Rajkot	A new survey has been taken up in 2012-13.
2	Porbandar Port	Porbandar Port-Porbandar station	5	Porbandar-Jamnagar	A new survey has been taken up in 2012-13.
3	Chhara Port	Chhara Port-Kodinar (extension of Veraval - Sonath BG line to Kodinar)	47.92	Veraval -Rajkot	To be developed under PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model.

4	Mahuva Port	Mahuva Port-Mahuva Station.	8.5	Pipavav-Surendranagar	To be developed as a private siding by the Port.
5	Kachhigadh Port	Kachhigadh Port connectivity- Veraval station	5	Okha-Jamnagar	To be developed as a private siding by the Port.
6	Nargol Port	Two junction arrangements at Bhilad to Sanjan	11.2 from Sanjan ST 15.3 from Bhilad	Surat -Mumbai	To be developed as a private siding by the Port.

Dholera Special Investment Region:

1. Dholera - Bhimnath new rail link - Status already furnished in the above table.
 2. Bhinath - Botad - Ahmedabad - Status furnished in the table.
 3. Bhavnagar - Vataman - Petlad - Status furnished above.
 4. High Speed rail line from Ahmedabad-Dholera - At present, there is no consideration for such proposal.
- (c) Does not arise.

Unsafe drinking water at railway stations

†1547. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of those railways stations, particularly the ones situated in metro cities, where water supplied by Railways was not found to be fit for consumption;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to supply pure drinking water to railway passengers;

(c) whether Government would also make arrangements for monthly testing of drinking water being made available at the stations;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Drinking water, which is suitably treated before consumption is, supplied at all the Railway Stations. Regular monitoring of water quality is done through testing for residual chlorine every day at all the major stations of Indian Railways including metro cities and periodically in all other stations. Bacteriological tests are also done at all the stations. Suitable corrective action is initiated immediately wherever unsatisfactory samples are detected. The list of stations lying within jurisdiction of metro cities where unsatisfactory samples were detected as some point of time is given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

*List of of stations in metro cities where water supplied by railways
was found unfit at some poin of time in the current year*

Ahmedabad - Sabarmati and Ahmedabad, Bangalore - Bangalore City, Kolkatta - Howrah, and Bandel.

Mumbai - Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Matunga, and Kurla.

New Delhi- Hazrat Nizamudin, Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Anand Vihar Terminal.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Railway works under western railway

†1548. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the works planned to be carried out at Nagda Junction, Ujjain and Dewas railway stations under Ratlam Division of Western Railway in order to make them model railway stations;

(b) whether length and height of platforms of the above three stations would be increased;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether length and height of platform No. 4 and 5 at Nagda Junction is appropriate for long distance trains; and

(e) if not, by when the work of increasing the height and length of these platforms would be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Nagda, Ujjain and Dewas Railway stations have already been developed under 'Model' station scheme. Further, the following works have been sanctioned at these stations.

Nagda: Raising and extension of platform No.4&5 from Medium Level to High Level for 24 coaches, Replacement of LED based name board of station, Cement Concrete apron on Platform No.1&2 and provision of upper class waiting room.

Ujjain: Improvement to platform cover (platform No.2/3 & 6/7), raising of platforms (platform No. 1,2/3 & 4/5), improvement to circulating area, Replacement of LED based name board of station, Cement Concrete apron on Platform No.2, augmenting sitting space on Platform No.1, and extension of platform shelter.

Dewas: Extension of platform No.2 for 24 coaches and provision of Pay & Use Toilets.

(b) and (c) Work of raising and extension of Platform No. 4&5 at Nagda station and extension of platform No.2 at Dewas station have been sanctioned.

(d) and (e) Works of raising and extension of platforms No.4&5 from medium level to High Level for 24 coaches at Nagda junction have already been sanctioned. Their completion depends upon inter-se-priority of works and is subject to availability of funds.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Funds requirement for safe operations

1549. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are in dire need of Rs.1 lakh crore over the next five years to transport people and goods safely; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction so far, especially for Andhra Pradesh compared to other States, and the action plan prepared, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) High Level Safety Review Committee (Kakodkar Committee) has recommended investment in Railway safety related works to the tune of Rs.1 Lakh Crore over a five year period. The report of the Committee is under examination by Ministry of Railways.

Funds are not allocated State-wise.

Authenticity of data for GDP

†1550. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided by Government to take certain new steps to bring authenticity in the data to be issued regarding Gross Domestic Product of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the results received regarding the authenticity, as a result of these steps, have been assessed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Central Statistics Office (CSO) releases Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates based on authentic data. The system of GDP compilation provides for revision of base year once in five years. At that time the reassessment of existing sources of data and inclusion of new data sources including improved coverage is taken up.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Short Notice Question. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala. ...(*Interruptions*)... You can put your question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला (गुजरात): प्रधानमंत्री ...(*व्यवधान*)... इस्तीफा ...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you not putting a question? ...(*Interruptions*)... Short Notice Question. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Minister for Science and Technology can answer. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री रामचन्द्र खूँटिआ (ओडिशा) : बहस करो ...(*व्यवधान*)... discussion करो ...(*व्यवधान*)...

Use of science and technology in farming activities

2. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken or going to be taken by Central Government for use of science and technology and knowledge economy to provide tools/equipments for women engaged in farming which can reduce drudgery in farming activities like sowing, weeding, pre and post harvesting operations including cleaning, sorting and packing?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research through the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal, Directorate of Research on Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar, and the cooperating centres of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture and AICRP on Home Science located at different state agricultural universities/research organizations all over the country has been making efforts in applying knowledge, science and technology to develop tools and equipment for reducing drudgery of women in various farming activities. Till date 33 tools/equipment have been refined/ developed for use by women involved in agricultural operations.

During last five years, the above centres also carried out 325 Frontline Demonstration programmes on women-friendly tools and equipment, for creating awareness and skill development benefitting over 3400 women farmers and workers.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will now go to Papers to be laid on the Table.
...(Interruptions)...

I Notification of the Ministry of Human Resource Development**II Reports and Accounts (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11) of various Technological educational Institutes and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. 1. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education), under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004, along with delay statement:—
- (a) G.S.R. 108 (E), dated 28th February, 2012, publishing the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Financial and Administrative Powers) Amendment Rules, 2012.
 - (b) G.S.R. 109 (E), dated 28th February, 2012, publishing the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Procedure for Appeal) Amendment Rules, 2012. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7430/15/12]
- II. (i) (1) a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section(4) of Section 22 of the National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007:—
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7139/15/12]

- (ii) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
- (i) (a) Annual Accounts of the Dr. Harisingh Gour Viswavidyalaya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 31 of the Central Universities Act, 2009.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7289/15/12]
- (iii) (a) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur (West Bengal), for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.
- (b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7141/15/12]
- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above School.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7140/15/12]
- (v) (a) Annual Report of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iv) (a) and (b) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7286/15/12]

- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vi) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7296/15/12]
- (vii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Tamil Nadu, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7299/15/12]
- (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan implemented by State Education Mission Authority of Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (viii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7297/15/12]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Mizoram, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ix) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.7295/15/12]

**Reports and Accounts (1994-95 and 1995-96) of
JKSAIDC Ltd. Srinagar and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) Twenty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, 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 [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.7193/15/12]
 - (b) Twenty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, 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.
 - (c) Reviews by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.7194/15/12]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Railways

II. MoU between Govt. of India and the Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd. and CONCOR

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. (i) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) Notification No. G.S.R. 570 (E), dated the 17th July, 2012, publishing the Railways (Punitive Charges for Overloading of Wagon) Rules, 2012, under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.7164/15/12]
- (ii) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) Notification No. S.O. 1716 (E), dated the 27th July, 2012, appointing the 15th day of August, 2012 as the date of commencement of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Amendment Act, 2012, under sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Amendment Act, 2012. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.7163/15/12]

- II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd., for the year 2012-13. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.7161/15/12]
 - (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and the Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), for the year 2012-13. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.7162/15/12]

MOU between Govt. of India and ITI

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Telecommunications) and the Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI), for the year 2012-13. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.7372/15/12]

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to present, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table:—

- (i) One Hundred and Fortieth Report regarding laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited (MAIDC), Mumbai, Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), Goa and Goa Meat Complex Limited (GMCL), Panjim;
- (ii) One Hundred and Forty-first Report regarding laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Rajghat Samadhi Committee (RSC), New Delhi; Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), New Delhi; and Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Private Limited, New Delhi; and
- (iii) One Hundred and Forty-second Report regarding laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi; Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Mumbai and Lakshadweep Building Development Board (LBDB), Kavaratti.

...(Interruptions)...

**REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY**

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy (2011-12):—

- (i) Twenty-ninth Report on 'Availability of Identified Non-Conventional Resources of Energy — Their Potential *vis-a-vis* Utilization' pertaining to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and
- (ii) Thirtieth Report on 'Functioning of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission' pertaining to the Ministry of Power.

...(Interruptions)...

REPORTS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I beg to lay to lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Fifth and Sixth Reports of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

...(Interruptions)...

**REPORT OF DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Twenty-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2012' pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

...(Interruptions)...

**STATEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES**

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Statements of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources:—

- (i) Statement showing Further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Twelfth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Tenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Augmentation of Depleted Ground Water Level, Sustainable Development, Conservation, Management, Use of Ground Water and Prevention of Water Pollution'; and
- (ii) Statement showing Further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Thirteenth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eighth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2011-12)' of the Ministry of Water Resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the Business advisory Committee in its meeting held on the 23rd August, 2012, has allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business, as follows:—

Business	Time Allotted
1. Consideration and passing of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2011 after it is passed by Lok Sabha.	1 hour
2. Motions for modification of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Rules, 2011 published in the Gazette of India, dated the 11th November, 2011, <i>vide</i> Notification No. G.S.R. 804(E) and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 2011 admitted in the name of Shri K. N. Balagopal, M.P., and Shri Sitaram Yechury, M.P.	2 hours

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, statement by Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Mahant. ...(*Interruptions*)...

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Implementation of the recommendations contained in the Thirty-third 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 (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-third Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Action Taken by the Government on Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, announcement of Government business by Minister, Shri Rajeev Shukla. ...*(Interruptions)*...

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Sir, I beg to announce that the Government Business in this House for the week commencing 27th August, 2012, will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Further consideration and passing of the Architects (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:-
 - (a) The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill, 2011.
 - (b) The Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2010.
 - (c) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2012 — to replace the Ordinance; and
 - (d) The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Special Mentions ...(*Interruptions*)... Special Mentions are to be laid ...(*Interruptions*)... I can allow Special Mentions to lay on the Table of the House ...(*Interruptions*)... It is only laying on the Table of the House ...(*Interruptions*)...

SPECIAL MENTIONS*

Demand to take steps for setting up the proposed railway wagon factory at Cherthala in Kerala

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the Railway Ministry the inordinate delay in the implementation of the proposed wagon factory project at Cherthala in Kerala. A joint venture project between the Government of Kerala and the Indian Railways was announced in the Union Railway Budget, during the year 2007, for the setting up of a wagon factory at Cherthala. The first pre-feasibility study-report of the project done by the RITES was available with the Railways in 2007. The Railways and the Government of Kerala came to an agreement on the utilization of auto cast and steel fabrication factories, which are State public sector companies, for the production of wagons for the Railways. The shareholder-agreement, with 51 per cent for the Railways and 49 per cent for the State of Kerala, was signed between the Railways and the State of Kerala in 2009. Thereafter, the proposal for the setting up of the joint venture project was put on the back-burner. This shows that the Railways had not shown any enthusiasm in the implementation of this project.

Recently, the Railway Convention Committee expressed displeasure at the lack of seriousness on the part of the Railways and blamed the Railways for the inordinate delay in the implementation of the project. In the Railway Convention Committee meeting held on 04.02.2011 at New Delhi, the Railway Board officials stated that the re-study by the RITES would be completed in three months. In the meeting held on 19.09.2011, the hon. Union Minister stated that by 15th October, 2011, RITES would submit the report about the wagon factory at Cherthala and that a model would be worked out and finalised within the next three months. But the Railways have done nothing in this regard.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to intervene in this issue and take urgent steps for the implementation of this project.

*Laid on the Table.

**Demand to bring a legislation for complete ban on manual scavenging
and take steps for rehabilitation of manual scavengers**

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Odisha): Sir, an estimated 1.2 million scavengers in the country are involved in sanitation. Apart from social atrocities that these workers face, they are exposed to certain health problems by virtue of their occupation. These health hazards include exposure to harmful gases like methane and hydrogen sulfide, cardiovascular degeneration, musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis changes and intervertebral disc herniation, infections like hepatitis, leptospirosis and helicobacter, skin problems, respiratory system problems and altered pulmonary function parameters.

Mahatma Gandhi first called for the abolition of manual scavenging but the degrading practice continues. Between 2002 and 2003, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment admitted existence of 6,76,000 scavengers. According to a survey by Bezwada Wilson of the Safai Karmachari Association, an estimated 12 lakh scavengers are present in the country. According to Sulabh, four to five million people were working as scavengers in 2005 and were often employed by the local civic bodies to clean excrement in public places. This situation persists despite the fact that Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993, is in force.

The sewer workers' health hazards include exposure to harmful gases, cardiovascular degeneration, musculoskeletal disorders, infections, skin problems and respiratory system problems including accidental deaths.

I urge upon the Government to bring a legislation to completely ban the manual cleaning of sewers and public and private latrines, and create alternative employment for the persons involved in manual scavenging.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia.

**Demand to give permission to increase MBBS seats in Osmania and Kakatia
Government Medical Colleges in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, Osmania Medical College was established in 1846 and is one of the oldest medical educational institutes in the world. Osmania Medical College is the only educational institution in India and, possibly, in the world where every medical specialty has a separate training hospital. And, Kakatiya Medical College was set up in 1950s and is also one of the premier institutions in Andhra Pradesh.

Even though both the medical colleges are very old and contributing a lot to medical education in the country, the number of seats have not been increased over the years. Even after 166 years of Osmania Medical College's existence, it has got only 200 MBBS seats and Kakatiya Medical College has got just 150 MBBS seats.

For 2012-13 academic year, the Medical Council of India has given permission to increase medical seats to various other Government and private medical colleges, but denied the same to Osmania and Kakatiya Medical Colleges citing insignificant and unjustified reasons.

On filing a petition, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, after ascertaining the facts, has directed the MCI to immediately allocate 50 seats each to Osmania and Kakatiya Medical Colleges. It also directed the Government of Andhra Pradesh to rectify deficiencies identified by the MCI within one month. But, so far, the MCI has not given permission to above medical colleges.

In view of the above, I request the Minister of Health to direct the MCI to immediately give permission for these colleges to increase the number of seats as directed by the High Court. Otherwise, poor meritorious students are put to loss, and it tantamounts to denial of higher educational opportunities to poor meritorious students.

Demand for early completion of Chittoor Mega Food Park in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY (Andhra Pradesh): Chittoor Mega Food Park is the first Mega Food Park being established in the country at the total cost of Rs. 126.54 crores, in village Mogili, at Chittoor District in Andhra Pradesh. Out of fifteen Mega Food Parks sanctioned during the Eleventh Plan by the Ministry of Food Processing, this is the first Mega Food Park approved by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The Mega Food Park Scheme was approved by the Government during the Eleventh Plan, with an objective of developing adequate infrastructure facilities with effective supply chain management from farm gate to retailer outlet in a market driven manner. The approval of first phase of Chittoor Mega Food Park was accorded in the year 2009. Till date only 50-60% works at the Central Processing Centre (CPC) have been completed. Special Purpose Vehicle viz. M/s Srimi Mega Food Park Pvt. Limited have floated tenders for various components of basic enabling, core processing and non-core infrastructure at the CPC. However there has been inordinate delay in completion of this project. The early completion of this Mega Food Park will not only generate employment but

people of Chittoor District will also be benefited from the project. There will be economic development in the region. I, therefore urge upon the Government to take necessary action and direct the concerned agency for early completion of this project.

Concern over armed attack in a Gurudwara in the United States of America

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी, दिनांक 5 अगस्त, दिन रविवार को अमेरिका के विसकंसिन नगर में स्थित एक गुरुद्वारे में 3-4 आतंकवादी गोलीबारी करते हुए घुस गये और उससे वहां स्थित भारतीय मूल के सिख समुदाय के करीब 6 लोगों की मौत हो गयी, 20 लोग घायल हुए व 80 लोगों को चोटें आयीं। यह घटना दिन के समय हुई, जिस समय ये सभी लोग प्रार्थना के लिए जुटे थे। इस घटना से केवल अमरीका में ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरे विश्व में बसे सिख समुदाय में आक्रोश फैल गया है।

यह पहली घटना नहीं है, बल्कि विश्व के अन्य देशों में भी यही घटनाएं भारतीयों के खिलाफ हो रही हैं। पिछले समय पाकिस्तान में हिन्दुओं के जबरन धर्म परिवर्तन को टीवी पर दिखाया गया था। विदेश में रहने वाले भारतीय अपने आपको असहाय व असुरक्षित महसूस कर रहे हैं। हमारी सरकार के विरोध के बावजूद कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जाती है। वहां पर स्थित हमारे दूतावास भी केवल कागजी पढ़ा-लिखी के लिए रहते हैं। पिछले सत्र में भी हम लोगों द्वारा विरोध किए जाने पर माननीय मंत्री जी ने हमें आश्वासन दिया था, परन्तु कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई। अमरीकी सरकार ने भर्त्सना तो की, पर कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई।

इस घटना से पूरे देश में सिख समाज उत्तेजित है, जिसके कारण तमाम जगह विरोध प्रदर्शन हो रहे हैं।

यदि इस पर कोई कठोर कार्यवाही न की गई, तो देश में कोई अप्रिय घटना भी हो सकती है। हमारा आपसे अनुरोध है कि माननीय विदेश मंत्री द्वारा सम्बन्धित मामले में की गई कार्यवाही का लिखित विवरण देने का कष्ट करें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past twelve 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: It is Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us take up Special Mentions. ...*(Interruptions)*... You may lay it on the Table, Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav and Dr. Prabha Thakur.

SPECIAL MENTION (Contd.)***Demand to give Patna University the Status of Central University**

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (बिहार): महोदय, पटना विश्वविद्यालय बिहार राज्य का सबसे पुराना विश्वविद्यालय है। बिहार ही नहीं, अपितु यह देश के पुराने विश्वविद्यालयों में से एक ख्याति प्राप्त श्रेष्ठ विश्वविद्यालय है। इसे केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय बनाने के लिए लोक सभा में पहले कई बार मुद्दा उठाया जा चुका है, परन्तु सरकार ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया। केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय का दर्जा न मिलने के कारण यहां शिक्षकों तथा विशेषज्ञों की भारी कमी हो गई है, इसके कारण शिक्षक और छात्र का अनुपात काफी गिर गया है तथा इसका प्रभाव वहां शिक्षण की गुणवत्ता पर भी पड़ा है। बिहार के छात्र इसी कारण बाहर चले जाते हैं और देश तथा विदेश के कोने-कोने में नाम और ख्याति अर्जित करते हैं। अतः इस brain drain को रोकने के लिए बिहार में शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता को बढ़ाना होगा और इस प्रयोजन से पटना विश्वविद्यालय को केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय का दर्जा देना होगा, ताकि बिहार भी इन छात्रों की उपलब्धियों से वंचित न रहे और देश तथा विश्व में शिक्षण तथा तकनीक के क्षेत्र में एक स्थान बना सके।

अतः मेरी तथा बिहारवासियों की सरकार से मांग है कि पटना विश्वविद्यालय को केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय का दर्जा अविलम्ब दिया जाए।

**Demand to frame strict rules for Central Board of Film Certification
to curb portrayal of obscenity and violence in films**

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): महोदय, गैंग्स ऑफ वासेपुर तथा डेल्ही-बेल्ही जैसी कुछ फिल्मों में अश्लील गालियों की भरमार है। इसके अलावा, ये फिल्में हिंसा, अपराध, बैर एवं गलत रास्तों से कमाए धन की ओर नई पीढ़ी को आकर्षित करती हैं। ऐसी फिल्में परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य के साथ नहीं देखी जा सकतीं। गौतम बुद्ध और महात्मा गांधी के इस देश में, जहां पीढ़ियों के भारतीय संस्कार हैं, इस प्रकार की फिल्में उन संस्कारों पर कुठाराघात है। ऐसा लगता है कि जैसे सेंसर बोर्ड केवल नाम मात्र को रह गया है तथा उचित एवं अनुचित भाषा एवं दृश्यों का फैसला करने का सेंसर बोर्ड का कोई ठोस मानदण्ड नहीं है। भद्दी गालियों एवं अपराधों से भरपूर फिल्म को वास्तविकता दिखाने वाला सिनेमा कह कर उसे हर प्रकार के अश्लील दृश्य दिखाने की खुली छूट देख कर तो यही लगता है कि जैसे सेंसर बोर्ड की आवश्यकता ही नहीं रही है। हिंसा एवं अपराधों के माध्यम से धन कमाने के रास्ते को जिस प्रकार से गैंग्स ऑफ वासेपुर जैसी फिल्मों में महिमामंडित किया जाता है, वह हमारी किशोर तथा युवा पीढ़ी को अपराधों के जरिए रातोंरात लखपति,

*Laid on the Table.

करोड़पति बनाने के लिए ही प्रेरित करता है। ऐसा संदेश युवा मस्तिष्क पर कितना गहरा नकारात्मक प्रभाव डालता है, इस विषय में सेंसर बोर्ड के लिए सख्त गाइड लाइन बनाने की आवश्यकता है। इस प्रकार की फिल्मों को किसी भी हाल में प्रोत्साहन नहीं दिया जाना चाहिए, जो देश, समाज एवं हमारी भावी पीढ़ी के लिए बहुत घातक हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Monday, the 27th August, 2012.

The House then adjourned at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 27th August, 2012.