

COMMUNAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY DURING THE YEAR 2007 (JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2007)

9.1 The overall communal situation in the country remained under control. During the year 2007 (up to December, 2007), the country witnessed 761 communal incidents in which 99 persons were killed and 2,227 persons sustained injuries, while during the preceding year, 698 communal incidents occurred which claimed 133 lives and caused injuries to 2,170 persons. The Central Government has been closely monitoring the situation and keeping a strict vigil on the activities of individuals and organisations to ensure that the situation remains under control. The activities of all organisations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country, are under constant watch of the law enforcing agencies. Advisories have been issued from time to time to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in this regard.

Legislation to Deal With Communal Violence

9.2 A Bill titled 'The Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005' was introduced in Rajya Sabha on December 5, 2005. The Bill was referred to the Department related Standing Committee on Home Affairs. Report of the Department related Standing Committee has been received. Several individuals and organisations have also made suggestions in respect to the Bill. The report and various suggestions received from individuals and organisations are being examined in the Ministry, in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Relief and Rehabilitation

9.3 Central Government announced a relief and rehabilitation package for the victims of communal riots in Gujarat of 2002. It consists of additional ex-gratia assistance in death and injury cases and cases of damage to residential and uninsured commercial properties; preference in recruitment in para-military forces, etc. to children/family members of those who died in the riots. So far, an amount of Rs.70.55 crore has been released to the Gujarat Government for disbursement to the beneficiaries/claimants in death and injury cases.

The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH)

9.4 The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, was set up in 1992 as an autonomous body under the administrative control of this Ministry. The Foundation promotes communal harmony, fraternity and national integration. Some of the important activities of the Foundation include:

- providing assistance for the physical and psychological rehabilitation of child victims of communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence, with special reference to their care, education and training. Since its inception, it has extended financial assistance of Rs.23.42 crore for rehabilitation of 9,319 children up to December 31, 2007;

- giving grants to States/UTs for organising debates; seminars; workshops; paintings; posters/slogans and essay writing competitions; music and cultural programmes; mushairas; etc. under programme 'Reach';
- giving grants to States/UTs for organising inter-community "milans" on important festivals like Id, Deepawali and Christmas;
- associating itself under the project 'Samanvaya' with important intercommunity festivals like, "Phoolwalon- ki-sair" in Delhi, 'Nauchandi' in Meerut and 'Deva Sharif' in Barabanki with a view to promoting better understanding, communal harmony and national integration;
- assisting non-governmental organizations under the project 'Co-operation'; and
- granting fellowships for undertaking research in field situation in the communally sensitive districts.

National Communal Harmony Awards

9.5 National Communal Harmony Awards were instituted by the NFCH in 1996 to be presented separately to 'individual' and 'organisation' categories for outstanding contribution in the field of communal harmony and national integration for at least 10 years and 5 years respectively. The selection is made by a jury chaired by the Vice President of India. In addition to a citation, the Award consists of an amount of Rs.2 lakh in the individual and Rs.5 lakh in the organisation category. The National Communal Harmony Award is announced on the Republic day. For the year 2006, the Award was conferred on the Institute for Socialist Education, Delhi in the organisation category and Shri Rabindra Nath Upadhyay of Assam in the individual category. The award was presented by the President of India on May 23, 2007. Dr. Ram Puniyani of Mumbai and Setu Charitable Trust of Mumbai have been selected for the National Communal Harmony Awards for the year 2007 in the individual and organisation categories respectively.



Kabir Puraskar and National Communal Award Ceremony

Kabir Puraskar

9.6 A national award, designated as 'Kabir Puraskar', was instituted in 1990 to promote communal harmony by recognising acts of physical/moral courage and humanity exhibited by an individual for saving the lives and properties of the members of another community during communal riots, caste conflicts or ethnic clashes. The Kabir Puraskar (Grade-III) for the year 2006 was conferred on Shri Ram Babu Singh Chauhan of Uttar Pradesh and presented by the President of India on May 23, 2007. Shri Khalifa Gufran of Uttar Pradesh has been selected for Kabir Puraskar (Grade III) for the year 2007.

Sankalp Divas and Qaumi Ekta Week

9.7 Instructions were issued for observance of 'Sankalp Divas' on October 31, 2007 and 'Qaumi Ekta Week' during November 19-25, 2007.



Union Home Minister administering pledge to officers and staff of the Ministry during the Qaumi Ekta Week.

GRANTS-IN-AID

9.8 Voluntary organisations are encouraged to undertake activities for the cause of national integration and communal harmony such as intercommunity celebration of national days and

festivals, cultural shows, essay and painting competitions, inter-regional camps, exchange of visits, public meetings, exhibitions, etc. The Ministry encourages all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to hold essay competitions on topics relating to national integration and communal harmony for college/ university students at the State level and for school children at district level. Rs.2,88,141 have been released to six States and two UTs up to February 29, 2008 for conducting Essay Competitions for school children and college students. Few proposals are under process.

Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry

9.9 The Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry (LACI) was set up on December 16, 1992 to enquire, inter-alia, into the sequence of events leading to the demolition of Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure at Ayodhya on December 6, 1992. The work of the Commission is now at an advanced stage of completion. The tenure of the Commission has been extended up to April 30, 2008.

FOREIGNERS AND CITIZENSHIP

9.10 The Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for immigration, visa, foreign contribution and citizenship related matters. Entry, exit and stay of foreigners in India is regulated by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) and the State Governments.

FOREIGNERS AND VISA

Entry and Movement of Foreigners

9.11 Entry, exit and stay of foreigners in India are governed by two principal Acts, namely, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport (Entry into

India) Act 1920. Under the present visa regime, while the initial visa is granted by Indian Missions/ Posts abroad, on entry into the country their stay and exit is regulated by the Bol and the State Governments.

9.12 During the year 2006, 44,47,167 foreigners visited India registering an increase of 12.09 % over the previous year. The highest number of foreigners were from Asia (16,65,048), followed by Europe (15,61,044), North America (8,88,662) and Africa (1,44,048). The maximum number of foreigners who visited India were from United Kingdom (7,34,240) followed by USA (6,96,739), Bangladesh (4,84,401), Canada (1,76,567), France (1,75,345), Germany (1,56,808), Sri Lanka (1,54,813), Japan (1,19,292), Australia (1,09,867) and Malaysia (1,07,286).

9.13 A total of 1,37,474 Foreigners (Non-Missionaries) were registered and staying in India as on December 31, 2006. The maximum number of foreigners registered were in Delhi (25,355) followed by Karnataka (22,210), Tamilnadu (18,784), Gujarat (13,098) and Maharashtra (12,253). Students (17.39%) accounted for the highest percentage followed by Employees (10.02%) and Tourists (4.73%)

9.14 During the year 2006, 11,120 foreigners were arrested for various violations of the Foreigners Act or for violating provisions of other Immigration Control Rules & Regulations, while 14,933 foreigners were deported during the year.

Indo-Bangladesh Visa Regime

9.15 The Indo-Bangladesh Visa regime is governed by the Revised Travel Arrangements (RTA) signed between India and Bangladesh on May 23, 2001 at Dhaka. The RTA provided for a review after a period of five years or earlier. In order to review the RTA, a meeting between India and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka on June 18-19, 2006 and both the sides agreed that a Travel Arrangement

would be formalised in the next meeting which would be fixed through diplomatic channels. Further, in the seventh Home Secretary level talks held in Dhaka during August 24-27, 2006, both sides agreed to adhere to the letter and spirit of the RTA to promote a greater people-to-people interaction.

Release of Pakistani Prisoners

9.16 During 2007-08 (up to March 10, 2008), Government of India repatriated 66 Pakistani civil prisoners and 58 Pakistani fishermen, whose travel documents had been issued by the Pakistani High Commission in Delhi and who had completed their sentences. The Government of Pakistan repatriated 37 Indian prisoners and 150 Indian fishermen, across Wagha Border till March, 10, 2008.

9.17 A Judicial Committee on Prisoners has been set up by both India and Pakistan. Four retired Judges from both the countries have been appointed to the Judicial Committee. The mandate of the Committee is to seek early repatriation of those prisoners in the respective countries who have completed their prison sentences and also to ensure humane treatment to all the prisoners. To fulfill the mandate, the first meeting of the Joint Judicial Committee was held at New Delhi on February 26, 2008.

Immigration control

9.18 Immigration is an important sovereign function of the Government exercised through Immigration Check Posts (ICPs). There are 77 ICPs in the country of which 6 are controlled by Bol and 5 are controlled by Bol along with the concerned State Police. The remaining 66 ICPs are managed by the State Governments on an agency basis on behalf of the Central Government. A proposal to bring an additional 27 major ICPs, under the control of Bol is under consideration. Together these would cover around 99 per cent of the international passenger traffic.

Recent Initiatives

9.19 Modernisation programme of ICPs, which was initiated in 2004-05 for improving immigration services in the country continued in the current year. 33 Major ICPs are covered under the programme. Computer systems have been upgraded at 26 ICPs and upgradation at 7 ICPs is underway. New Immigration Control System (ICS) software has been installed at 26 ICPs for improving the speed of immigration clearance and installation at 7 ICPs is under progress.

9.20 Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) have been installed at 22 ICPs and installation at 5 ICPs is under progress. Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines have been installed at 24 ICPs. Networking of Central Foreigners Bureau (CFB) of BoI with major ICPs, Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) and Foreigners Division of the Ministry for sharing relevant information to improve immigration related functions is at an advanced stage of completion. This would result in a perceptible improvement of immigration services.

9.21 Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) mandating all airlines flying into India to provide passenger particulars electronically in the prescribed format, within 15 minutes of their taking off from the port the outside India to the concerned immigration authorities had commenced on a pilot basis at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi with data from Air India from July 1, 2006. It is proposed to implement APIS Phase-I at 6 International Airports namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Cochin from April, 2008. APIS would reduce immigration clearance time and improve security screening of passengers .

9.22 Modernisation and upgradation of Immigration services is one of the Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) of the Government under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). National Institute of Smart Government (NISG) has been commissioned for outlining the scope of the project

for development of an e-Governance model for Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking. The model envisages a comprehensive re-engineering and convergence of these processes with a view to streamlining and simplifying them, towards establishing an efficient and transparent integrated system for the delivery of these services.

Indian Citizenship

9.23 Indian Citizenship (IC) can be acquired by birth, descent, registration and naturalisation as per the provisions under Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 1956. The procedure and forms for acquiring IC have been simplified and rationalised. The application forms, procedure, etc. for acquiring IC has been hosted on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)

9.24 OCI scheme has been made operational from December 2, 2005. The application form, procedure, brochure and frequently asked questions have been hosted on the Ministry's website. The scheme has generated a very enthusiastic response from the Indian diaspora. So far, more than 2,00,000 persons have been granted OCI registration.

9.25 In order to re-issue/issue duplicate OCI registration certificate/visa in respect of new passport, change of personal particulars, wrong filling of personal particulars at the time of online application, and loss/damage of OCI documents subsequent to OCI registration, a supplemental on-line service namely OCI Miscellaneous Services has been launched on January 1, 2008.

REGULATION OF FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION

9.26 The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 regulates, the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution and acceptance of foreign

hospitality by certain categories of persons or associations.

9.27 The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, 2006 to replace the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on December 18, 2006. The intention of the Bill is to consolidate the law to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution and of foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest.

9.28 After introduction, the Bill has been referred by the Rajya Sabha to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. The Bill, at present, is under examination by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee.

9.29 FCRA on-line service for grant of registration under the Act is already operational and the facility for on-line filing of application for prior permission to receive foreign contribution has also been launched with effect from November 12, 2007.

9.30 During the year 2007-08 (up to December 31 2007) 475 organisations have been granted registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 and 255 organisations were granted prior permission to receive foreign contribution. The total receipt of foreign contribution during 2006-07 reported and compiled so far (as on March 10, 2008) is Rs.6,252.09 crore.

CENSUS AND VITAL STATISTICS

9.31 The Office of Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner (ORGI) is an Attached Office

of the Ministry. Registrar General and Census Commissioner performs the following functions :

- conducts the decennial population census and tabulation and dissemination of the census data under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948, and the Census (Amendment) Act, 1993;
- co-ordinates and unifies, at the national level, the work relating to implementation of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 and compilation of data of vital statistics on births and deaths; and
- estimates the national and state level fertility and mortality measures through a well represented sample under the Sample Registration System (SRS).

9.32 Since the year 2003, the Registrar General of India (RGI) has been functioning as National Registration Authority and as the Registrar General of Citizen Registration under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003.

PILOT PROJECT ON MULTIPURPOSE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS (MNIC)

9.33 The Citizenship Act, 1955 was amended in 2003 and Section 14A was inserted, which provides that the Central Government may compulsorily register every citizen of India and issue National Identity Card to him. Simultaneously, Citizenship Rules, 2003 have been enacted laying down the procedure to be followed for giving effect to this intention.

9.34 To understand the complexities involved, along with the technical specifications and technological requirements for the national roll out, it was decided in April, 2003 to implement a Pilot

Project on MNIC. The Pilot Project has been under implementation since November, 2003 in selected areas of twelve (12) States and one (1) Union territory covering a population of 30.95 lakh. Total approved cost of the Pilot Project is Rs.44.36 crore which includes the cost of production and distribution of identity cards (Rs.18.10 crore), creation of population register (Rs.9.28 crore), creation of infrastructure at twenty MNIC centres and Office of Registrar General of India (Rs.3.54 crore) and lease line connectivity (Rs.1.76 crore), etc.

Progress of implementation of Pilot Project

9.35 The Pilot Project has been nearing completion. 11.5 lakh cards have been personalised till end of February, 2008 and the rest are in the process. For personalisation of identity cards, chip modules have been sourced from Philips (NXP), Bangkok, and plastic for cards from Germany. The Holograms have been sourced from United Kingdom (UK). However, pre-printing of the identity cards has been done within the country due to security considerations. The sourcing of material as well as personalisation has been done by a Consortium of Public Sector Undertakings namely Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Electronics Corporation India Limited (ECIL) and Indian Telephone Industries (ITI).

Unique Identification Scheme (UID)

9.36 A parallel scheme, namely, Unique Identification Scheme (UID) has been undertaken by the Department of Information Technology at the behest of the Planning Commission with the objective of preparing a database of residents using data of the Election Commission of India. In order to avoid duplication of efforts and infrastructure because both the schemes (MNIC and UID) have commonalities, the Government have set up an

empowered Group of Ministers to look into issues of collation between the two initiatives.

CENSUS - 2001

9.37 Unlike the past censuses, when it took much longer to release the data, almost all the data of 2001 census on the population and its characteristics such as age, scheduled caste/scheduled tribe, religion, literacy, disability, marital status, fertility, economic activities, etc. has been released by 2006. The data on language/mother tongue has, however, been released in 2007.

Data on language/mother tongue

9.38 Language/mother tongue is an important attribute of a population, and has great relevance in a pluri-lingual and pluri-ethnic land like India. The Census of India has been the only source of language/mother tongue data and it has been collected and published at the successive decennial censuses for more than a century. Since no separate question is asked on ethnicity except in respect of the scheduled tribes, language data has been thus a direct source of information on it. The number of Scheduled languages has been 22 in 2001 with the inclusion of four languages viz., Bodo, Dogri and Santali from the list of Non Scheduled languages and Maithili which was a mother tongue upto 1991 Census.

9.39 Of the total population of India, 96.56 percent have one of the Scheduled languages as their mother tongue; the remaining 3.44 per cent is accounted for by other languages. Hindi has returned the largest number of speakers (41.03 per cent) followed by Bengali (8.11 per cent). The Non-Scheduled languages are 100 in 2001 (against 96 in 1991) and are having a total of 3,36,02,851 speakers.

Statement showing Number and percentages of Speakers for top 10 Scheduled languages: 2001

Scheduled languages	Number of speakers (in '000)	Percent to total population
Hindi	422,049	41.03
Bengali	83,370	8.11
Telugu	74,003	7.19
Marathi	71,937	6.99
Tamil	60,794	5.91
Urdu	51,536	5.01
Gujarati	46,092	4.48
Kannada	37,924	3.69
Malayalam	33,066	3.21
Oriya	33,017	3.21

Data on National Classification of occupations (NCO) of Workers

9.40 Based on criterion of “type of work performed”, the Census provides grouping of occupations reported by economically active population viz., workers. The occupations of all the workers engaged on the same type of work are grouped together irrespective of the industrial classifications of establishments in which they are engaged. The data obtained at census 2001 has been classified on the basis of National Classification of Occupations 2004. It emerges that ‘elementary occupation’ comprising simple and routine tasks, requiring use of hand-held tools and physical labour, has recorded the largest growth (115.2%). This is followed by the occupations requiring higher level of skills like legislators, senior officials and managers (52.7%), and professionals (50.6%) and skilled agriculture and fishery workers (41.6%).

Comparative Statement of Main Workers in different Divisions as per National Classification of Occupations (NCO) during 1991 and 2001

Divisions	2001* (in '000)	1991 (in'000)	Growth 1991-2001
Total Main Workers (OW+ HHI)	143,937	100,632	43.0
1 Legislators, Senior Officials and Manager	4,741	3,105	52.7
2 Professionals	7,657	5,083	50.6
3 Technicians and Associate Professionals	9,149	6,844	33.7
4 Clerks	6,833	6,196	10.3
5 Service Workers and Shop & Market Sales Workers	28,352	21,218	33.6
6 Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers	6,840	4,831	41.6
7 Craft and Related Trades Workers	33,624	26,589	26.5
8 Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	13,074	11,120	17.6
9 Elementary Occupations (includes unclassified)	33,665	15,646	115.2

* For comparison, 2001 figures exclude Jammu & Kashmir as no census was conducted in 1991 in J&K.

9.41 At the 2001 Census, slum population was counted for the first time in the history of censuses in the country. The identification of slums and their population was, however, limited to towns having more than 50,000 population at the 1991 Census. 640 cities/towns have returned 42.6 million population living in slums. Later in November 2007, another Report has been brought out following a special request from the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation for identification of slums in small and medium size towns having population between 20,000 - 49,999. 1,103 towns in 23 States/UTs have reported additional 9.8 million slum population (based on 2001 Census) taking the total slum population in the country to 52.4 million.

Data on Individual Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

9.42 State Primary Census Abstracts for individual Scheduled Castes and State Primary Census Abstracts for individual Scheduled Tribes based on Census 2001, have been released in electronic format.

Data Dissemination

9.43 Disseminating the results of 2001 Census is an important component like data collection. Though most of the information collected in 2001 Census have been tabulated and made available to the users, the work of sensitizing the data users has been continuing. The Census of India Website has been extensively modified with additional data contents provided at the new Website along with facility for fast locating and accessing of the census data. Facility for

making online payment while purchasing various census data products (like reports in print, data on CD, maps, etc.) has been added. Another feature of generating customised tables on demand has been introduced for optimum use of census data collection. 34 Data Dissemination Workshops were organised across the country highlighting the important results as well as sensitizing users about availability and use of census data. The Census Organisation has also participated in 17 book fairs or exhibitions for publicity and sale.

Preparation for the Next Decennial Census 2011

9.44 Preparations have begun for the next Census in 2011 with the undertaking of field trials in May-June 2007 for testing the response to selected questions with different formulations. This has been followed by Conference on Technology Options for 2011 Census held on December 3-4, 2007 at New Delhi. The Conference which was inaugurated by Union Home Secretary, was attended by representatives of census organisations from abroad, industry from both outside and within the country, telecom service providers, etc. It deliberated on the issues relating to development in Intelligent



Union Home Secretary chairing the conference on Technology Options for 2011 Census

Character Recognition (ICR) technology, use of hand-held devices in data capturing, data transmission and out-sourcing of non-core activities in 2011 Census.

Meetings/Conferences/Trainings/Projects

9.45 During the current financial year, senior officers of ORGI have visited abroad in connection with different workshops and meetings etc. sponsored by United Nations Organisations on different topics as given below:

- UN Expert Group Meeting on Contemporary Practices in Census Mapping and use of Geographical Information System, New York, during May 29 – June 1, 2007.
- USAID-WHO Technical Meeting on “Scaling-up Best Practices in Family Planning, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (FP/MNCH): Achieving Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Near East.”- Bangkok, Thailand on September 3-8, 2007.
- Workshop on “Planning of National Population Censuses” held at Geneva, Switzerland during October 3-5, 2007.
- United Nations Regional Workshop on Census, Cartography and Management at Bangkok, Thailand during October 15-19, 2007.
- United Nations Expert Group Meeting on “Measuring the Economically Active Population in Censuses during November 5-9, 2007 at New York.
- Technical Workshop sponsored by UNFPA detailing census methodology on the Short Form/Long Form approach during December 17-21, 2007 at the United States Census Bureau, Washington DC, USA.

9.46 All the officers/officials who have joined ORGI afresh have been provided with induction training at the Office of RGI.

Implementation of the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969

9.47 The registration of births and deaths in the country is done by the functionaries appointed by the State Governments under the RBD Act, 1969. The RGI coordinates and unifies the registration activities across the country while the Chief Registrars of Births and Deaths are the chief executive authorities in the respective States.

9.48 The proportion of registered births and deaths has been increasing over the years. However, there is still a wide variation across the States in the level of registration. The States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have achieved cent percent level of registration of births; the States of Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Orissa have achieved more than 85%, while in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh less than 40% of the births are being registered. The level of registration of deaths is lower than that of births in most of the States. More than 90% of deaths are being registered in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Punjab. The percentage is 80% or more in the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. In the States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, the death registration is below 35%. Lower level of death registration is largely due to non-registration of female and infant deaths.

9.49 There is significant increase in level of registration of births in the States of Bihar (8.9%), Rajasthan (8.4%), Orissa (5.0%) and there is marginal increase in level of registration of births in Madhya Pradesh (2.2%), Karnataka (1.8%) and Haryana (1.3%) while the level of registration of births has declined in Maharashtra (6.6%), West Bengal (6.3%), Gujarat (5.4%) and Andhra Pradesh (1.2%).

9.50 With a view to improving the registration of births and deaths in the country and creating awareness among the public about their rights under the RBD Act, the National Campaign on Birth Certificates was continued in 2007-08. Nearly 1.85 crore birth certificates have been issued in the 2nd Phase of the National Campaign (April 2005 to October 2007) in addition to 3.73 crore issued in the 1st Phase (November 2003 to March 2005).

9.51 More than 35 years have passed since the enactment of RBD Act. However, the Act was not amended to provide for the changes which have taken place during these years. A Committee under the Chairmanship of the RGI has reviewed the provisions of the RBD Act, 1969 to enlarge the ambit of the Act to cover street as well as adopted children and to simplify the procedure of registration of births and deaths so that the public is not demotivated to register. Consultation with the State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments have been completed on the proposed amendments. The proposal is with the Department of Legal Affairs for vetting.

Sample Registration System (SRS)

9.52 Since its inception in 1970, the SRS has been a continuous source of data on fertility and mortality which, inter alia include infant mortality, child mortality and female mortality. The SRS sample is replaced every 10 years.

9.53 The SRS sample based on 2001 Census frame covers 7,597 sample units (4,433 rural and 3,164 urban) spread across all States and Union territories, encompassing about 1.3 million households and nearly 7 million population. The SRS based estimates of birth rate, death rate, natural growth rate and infant mortality rate for the year 2006 at the national level are 23.5, 7.5, 16.0 and 57 respectively; For the States/Union territories, birth rates varied from 14.9 for Kerala to a high of 30.1 for Uttar Pradesh.

9.54 Life Tables, in essence, present the life history of a hypothetical group or cohort as it is gradually diminished by death and help understand the implication of observed age-specific death rates (ASDRs) in terms of the number of persons expected to die or survive after attaining a certain age. The latest Life Tables based from SRS data using the quin-quennial estimates of ASDR, relate to the period 2001-2005. As per this, expectation of the life at birth for India is 63.9 years for females and 62.3 years for males.

9.55 The SRS based estimates of birth rate, death rate, natural growth rate and infant mortality rate for the year 2006 at the national level and for States/Union territories, separately for rural and urban areas, are at **Annexure-XX**.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS' PENSION

9.56 Indian freedom struggle is unique in the history of mankind. Persons from all walks of life, free from all barriers of caste, creed or religion worked unitedly for a common cause. It was the struggle and sacrifice of several generations of people, starting from 1857 and continuing up to 1947, which brought freedom to the country. Millions and millions of people participated in the freedom struggle.

Pension Schemes

9.57 In 1969, the Government of India introduced a scheme known as the 'Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners Pension Scheme' to honour freedom fighters. In 1972, on the eve of the 25th Anniversary of India's Independence, a regular scheme called the "Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme" was introduced for granting pension to freedom fighters. This Scheme was liberalised and renamed as the "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme" with effect from August 1, 1980. Salient features of 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980' are given below:

(i) **Eligibility:** The following categories of freedom fighters are eligible for the Samman Pension under the Scheme:

- Eligible dependents of martyrs;
- A person who had suffered minimum imprisonment of six months on account of participation in freedom struggle;
- A person who on account of his participation in freedom struggle remained underground for more than six months;
- A person who, on account of participation in the freedom struggle, was interned in his home or externed from his district for a minimum period of six months;
- A person whose property was confiscated or attached and sold due to participation in the freedom struggle;
- A person who, on account of participation in freedom struggle, became permanently incapacitated during firing or lathi charge;
- A person who lost his Government job for participation in freedom struggle; and
- A person who was awarded the punishment of 10 strokes of caning/ flogging/whipping due to his participation in freedom struggle.

(ii) **Dependents:** Spouses (widows/widowers), unmarried and unemployed daughters (up-to maximum three) and parents of deceased freedom fighters (as also of martyrs) are eligible for grant of dependent family pension under the scheme.

(iii) **Special Dispensation For Women and Weaker Sections of the Society:**

The eligibility criteria for grant of pension on grounds of jail suffering specifies a minimum period of six months which the freedom fighters should have undergone in connection with the freedom movement. However, as a special dispensation for women freedom fighters and for the freedom fighters belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the minimum period has been kept at three months.

Other Facilities To Freedom Fighters

9.58 Apart from pension, freedom fighters are also provided the following facilities by the Government of India:

- free railway pass (1st Class/AC Sleeper) for freedom fighter and widower/widow, along with a companion, for life;
- free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and hospitals run by Public Sector Undertakings under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises. Central Government Health Scheme facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents;
- telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half the rental;
- General Pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to freedom fighters living in Delhi;
- widow/widower of the freedom fighter is also permitted to retain the accommodation for a period of six months after the death of the freedom fighter;

- accommodation in the Freedom Fighters' Home set up at New Delhi for freedom fighters who have no one to look after them;
- In addition to the above facilities, ex-Andaman freedom fighters are also entitled to the following facilities:
 - (a) free voyage facility for freedom fighter and widow, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion; and
 - (b) free air travel facility for freedom fighter, to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion.

9.59 All major facilities provided to freedom fighters are also extended to their widows/ widowers.

Enhancement in pension

9.60 There has been periodical review of the rate of freedom fighters' pension and it has gone up from the initial amount of Rs.200/- per month in 1972 to Rs.10,634/- in 2007. The current rate of pension and dearness relief payable per month to various categories of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given below:

S. No	Category of freedom fighters	Basic Pension (in Rs.)	Dearness Relief (in Rs.)	Total amount of pension (in Rs.)
i	Ex-Andaman political prisoners	7,330	4,984	12,314
ii	Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India (other than INA)	6,830	4,644	11,474
iii	Other freedom fighters (including INA)	6,330	4,304	10,634
iv	Widow/widower of above categories of freedom fighters	Entitlement same as of respective deceased freedom fighters		
v.	Unmarried and unemployed daughters (upto three)	1,500 each	1,020 each	2,520
vi.	Mother and father	1,000 each	680 each	1,680 each

Expenditure on welfare of freedom fighters

9.61 There is a provision of Rs. 440 crore in the sanctioned budget grant of Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2007-08 for payment of pension and Rs.35 crore for free Railway passes to freedom fighters. An amount of Rs.440.53 crore has been incurred on payment of Samman pension to freedom fighters till January, 2008.

9.62 Under the Scheme, 1,70,200 freedom fighters and their eligible dependents have been sanctioned Samman pension till January, 2008. State-wise break-up of freedom fighters/their dependents who have been sanctioned Samman pension is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Number of freedom fighters/their dependents who have been sanctioned pension
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14,573
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	4,438
4.	Bihar	24,870
5.	Jharkhand	
6.	Goa	1,436
7.	Gujarat	3,596
8.	Haryana	1,685
9.	Himachal Pradesh	624
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,806
11.	Karnataka	10,084
12.	Kerala	3,228
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3,468
14.	Chhattisgarh	
15.	Maharashtra	17,732
16.	Manipur	62
17.	Meghalaya	86
18.	Mizoram	04
19.	Nagaland	03
20.	Orissa	4,189
21.	Punjab	7,008
22.	Rajasthan	811
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	4,099
25.	Tripura	887
26.	Uttar Pradesh	17,990
27.	Uttarakhand	
28.	West Bengal	22,484
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	03
30.	Chandigarh	89
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	83
32.	Daman & Diu	33
33.	Lakshadweep	0
34.	NCT of Delhi	2,044
35.	Puducherry	317
	Indian National Army (INA)	22,468
	Total	170,200

Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters.

9.63 A Committee of eminent freedom fighters has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Minister of State for Home Affairs to look into issues of freedom fighters and give suggestions for redressal of their problems and complaints and for improving the facilities for freedom fighters and their dependents. Three meetings of this Committee have so far been held on April 25, 2007, October 31, 2007 and December 28, 2007.

Honouring Freedom Fighters

9.64 On the anniversary of the Quit India Movement, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, honoured some of the distinguished eminent freedom fighters from various States/Union Territories at an 'AT HOME' function held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on August 9, 2007. 127 freedom fighters from various parts of the country attended this function and interacted with the President, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries in an informal manner.

Hyderabad Liberation Movement

9.65 In 1985, sufferers in border camps who participated in Hyderabad Liberation Movement for the merger of the erstwhile State of Hyderabad with the Union of India during 1947-48 were made eligible for grant of pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980. The Shroff Committee (from 1985 to 1996) listed 98 border camps and recommended 7000 cases. All cases recommended by the Shroff Committee were sanctioned pension during 1985-1996. The C. H. Rajeshwara Rao Committee (from 1997 to 1998) recommended about 13500 cases. Cases recommended by C. H. Rajeshwara Rao Committee were referred to the State Government for verification. In July, 2004, the Ministry recognized 18 additional border camps. In January, 2005, the Government approved enhancement in the estimated number of beneficiaries from about 11,000 estimated in 1985 to about 15,000, with the stipulation that only those applicants who participated in the freedom struggle up to September 15, 1948, i.e., before the police action in Hyderabad, would be eligible. This stipulation has been adopted prospectively for all pending cases.



The President of India Interacting with the Distinguished Freedom Fighters

Goa Liberation Movement

9.66 The movement for liberation of Goa from the Portuguese rule which started in 1926 gained momentum after the end of the Second World War. The entire Movement can be divided into the following three phases:

I	Phase-I	From 1946 to 1953
II	Phase-II	From 1954 to 1955
III	Phase-III	From 1956 to 1961

9.67 Freedom fighters of the movement during its various phases who fulfilled the prescribed eligibility conditions and in whose cases records of sufferings were available have already been granted pension. In February 2003, Government of India relaxed the eligibility criteria under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 to grant pension to those freedom fighters of Phase II of Goa Liberation Movement who had been sanctioned State freedom fighters' pension by the State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh by August 1, 2002.

Honouring the Participants of Arzi Hukumat Movement

9.68 The participants of the Arzi Hukumat Movement of Junagarh had agitated in 1947 against the decision of the then Nawab of Junagarh to accede to Pakistan. The Arzi Hukumat Movement lasted for less than three months - from August 15, 1947 to November 13, 1947 when Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel entered Junagarh. The agitation was significant in as much as it contributed to the consolidation of India's territorial configuration.

9.69. The participants of this movement do not qualify for Central Samman Pension as they do not fulfill the eligibility criteria of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980. However,

the patriotic fervor of the participants of this significant event against Junagarh's accession to Pakistan is not disputed and the acknowledgement of this movement was considered apt, especially in a year when other freedom related movements are being commemorated by the Government of India.

9.70 As a special dispensation, the Government has decided to honour the 159 Arzi Senanis identified by the Manibhai Doshi Committee set up by the Government of Gujarat in 1998 with a cash award of Rs. one lakh each accompanied with a letter of appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the Government of India. In case of demise of the Arzi Senani, the surviving spouse, and, in case of demise of surviving spouse also, the eldest unmarried daughter, if any, is to be given the cash award.

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

Sri Lankan Refugees

9.71 Due to ethnic violence and continued disturbed conditions in Sri Lanka, a large number of Sri Lankan refugees have entered India since July, 1983. The number of refugees in phases is indicated below:

Phase	Period	No. of Refugees
Phase-I	24.7.1983 to 31.12.1987	1,34,053
Phase-II	25.8.1989 to 30.4.1991	1,22,078
Phase-III	31.7.1996 to 30.4.2003	22,418
Phase-IV	12.1.2006 to 26.2.2008	20,419
Total		2,99,268

9.72 Refugees are of the following two categories:

- (i) Stateless persons who had not applied for Indian citizenship or those not yet conferred Sri Lankan citizenship; and
- (ii) Sri Lankan citizens.

9.73 The responsibility for such persons is basically that of Sri Lanka. Government of India's approach is to discourage their movement but if any refugees belonging to these categories do come, they are granted relief on humanitarian grounds with the ultimate object of repatriating them back to Sri Lanka.

9.74 With a view to preventing fresh mass influx of Sri Lankan refugees, several measures, including intensified coastal patrolling, collection and collation of advance intelligence and strengthening of Naval detachments in Tamil Nadu have been undertaken.

9.75 While 99,469 refugees were repatriated to Sri Lanka up to March, 1995, there has been no organised repatriation after March, 1995. However, some refugees have gone back to Sri Lanka or left for other countries on their own. At present, about 74,110 Sri Lankan refugees are staying in 117 refugees' camps in Tamil Nadu and one camp in Orissa. Besides, about 22,090 refugees are staying outside the camps of their own, after getting themselves registered in the nearest Police Station.

9.76 Upon fresh arrival, refugees are quarantined, and, after complete verification of their antecedents, they are shifted to refugee camps. Pending repatriation, certain essential relief facilities are provided to them on humanitarian grounds. These facilities include shelter in camps, cash doles, subsidised ration, clothing, utensils, medical care and educational assistance. The entire expenditure on relief to Sri Lankan refugees is incurred by the State Governments and is subsequently reimbursed by the Government of India. An amount of Rs.397

crore (approximately) has been spent by the Government of India for providing relief and accommodation to these refugees during the period from July, 1983 to December, 2007.

Repatriates from Sri Lanka

9.77 The Government of India agreed to grant Indian Citizenship to, and to accept repatriation of, 5.06 lakh persons of Indian origin, together with their natural increase, under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreements made in the years 1964, 1974 and 1986. Out of these 5.06 lakh persons, 3.35 lakh persons along with their natural increase of 1.26 lakh, comprising 1,16,152 families, were repatriated up to December, 2006. The repatriate families have been provided with resettlement assistance. No organized repatriation has taken place from Sri Lanka after 1984 due to disturbed conditions there. However, some repatriates arriving in India on their own are being rehabilitated under various schemes in Tamil Nadu.

Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Ltd. (REPCO), Chennai

9.78 Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Ltd. (REPCO Bank) was set up in the year 1969 as a Society under the Madras Cooperative Societies Act, 1961 (No. 53 of 1961) [now the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 (No.39 of 2002)] to help promote the rehabilitation of repatriates from Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Vietnam and other countries. The management of the Bank vests in a Board of Directors, on which two Directors represent the Government of India. The total authorized capital of the Bank was Rs. 5.25 crore as in March 2007. The Government of India has contributed Rs.1.96 crore, towards the paid-up capital. Four Southern States (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala) have contributed Rs.0.90 crore and other share-holders have contributed Rs.2.22 crore. As per its bye-laws, the administrative control over Repco Bank is, at

present, with the Government of India. The Bank has paid an amount of Rs.45.08 lakh as dividend @ 23% for the year 2006-07 to the Government of India. Audit of the Bank is up-to-date. The Annual Accounts and the Annual Report of Repco Bank for the year 2006-07 have been laid in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on December 4, 2007 and December 5, 2007 respectively.

Rehabilitation Plantations Limited (RPL), Punalur, Kerala

9.79 Rehabilitation Plantations Limited (RPL), an undertaking jointly owned by the Government of India and the Government of Kerala, was incorporated in the year 1976 under the Companies Act, 1956, for raising rubber plantations in Kerala to resettle repatriates as workers and employees. The management of the Company vests in a Board of Directors, on which two Directors represent the Government of India. The paid-up share capital of the Company (as on March 31, 2007) was Rs.339.27 lakh. The Government of Kerala holds Rs. 205.85 lakh and the Government of India Rs. 133.42 lakh of the equity in the Company. Since the State Government is the majority shareholder, the administrative control over Rehabilitation Plantations Limited is with the State Government. During the financial year 2006-07, the Company made a profit before tax of Rs.1132.33 lakh and of Rs.963.48 lakh after tax. The Company has paid a dividend of Rs.26.68 lakh to Government of India @ 20 per cent of the paid-up share capital during the year 2006-07. The Annual Accounts and the Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited for the year 2006-07 have been laid in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on December 4, 2007 and December 5, 2007 respectively.

Tibetan Refugees

9.80 Tibetan refugees began pouring into India in the wake of the flight of His Holiness Dalai Lama in the year 1959 from Tibet. The Government of

India decided to give them asylum as well as assistance towards temporary settlement. Care has been taken to retain their separate ethnic and cultural identity.

9.81 As per information provided by Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the population of Tibetan refugees in India in February, 2008 was 1,10,095. Majority of these refugees have settled themselves, either through self-employment or with Government's assistance under agricultural and handicrafts' schemes in different States in the country. Major concentration of the Tibetan refugees is in Karnataka (44,468), Himachal Pradesh (21,980), Arunachal Pradesh (7,530), Uttarakhand (8,545), West Bengal (5,785) and Jammu and Kashmir (6,920). The Ministry of Home Affairs has spent an amount of about Rs.18.17 crore up to December, 2007 on resettlement of Tibetan refugees.

9.82 The Rehabilitation of Tibetan refugees is almost complete and only two residuary housing schemes are at various stages of implementation in the States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Relief & Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons from Pak occupied Kashmir, 1947, and non-Camp Displaced Persons from Chhamb Niabat Area, 1971

9.83 Relief packages were announced by the Government of India in April and August 2000 for granting ex-gratia relief and some other benefits to displaced persons from Pak occupied Kashmir, 1947, and to non-camp displaced persons from Chhamb-Niabat area, 1971, respectively. For displaced persons from Pak occupied Kashmir, 1947, the package comprised of Rs. 25,000/- ex-gratia payment per family, cash compensation in lieu of land deficiency, allotment of plots and improvement of civic amenities in 46 regularized colonies. For displaced persons from Chhamb-Niabat Area, 1971, the package comprised of Rs. 25,000/- ex-gratia payment per family.

9.84 The role of Government of India is largely limited to release of funds to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Implementation of the relief package is largely the responsibility of the State Government.

9.85 The Central Government has released Rs. 6.17 crore for the implementation of these relief packages. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has utilised Rs. 4.21 crore till December, 2007.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND WEAKER SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

Redressal of complaints pertaining to sexual harassment of work place

9.86 The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a five member complaint committee for redressal of complaints pertaining to sexual harassment at work place, if any, made by aggrieved women employees of the Ministry. The Committee has one male and four women members, including Chairperson, and a member from the Young Women's Christian Association as an NGO member.

9.87 The Committee received one complaint regarding sexual harassment at work place during the year which was examined by the Complaint Committee and necessary action has been taken on the recommendation of the Complaint Committee for the redressal of the grievance of the complainant.

Benefit to Physically Handicapped Persons

9.88 The Central Government have prescribed 3% reservation in employment to physically handicapped persons (one per cent each for blindness or low vision, hearing impairment and locomotor disability or cerebral palsy).

9.89 There are 9 visually handicapped and 14 orthopaedically handicapped persons working in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

9.90 On account of the nature of work, all categories of posts of 'combatant personnel' of the Central Police Forces are exempted from section 33 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participations) Act, 1995.

Crime Against Women

9.91 Crime against women includes crimes where they alone are victims or the offence is specifically committed against them. These are broadly classified under two categories, i.e., the crimes identified under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) such as rape, kidnapping & abduction for different purposes, dowry deaths, torture, molestation, sexual harassment and importation of girls and crimes identified under Special Laws such as Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, etc.

9.92 The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) collects statistics relating to crime against women and compiles it on annual basis. From the statistics provided by NCRB, it is observed that a total of 1,64,765 incidents of crime against women (both under IPC and SLL) were reported in the country during 2006 as compared to 1,55,553 during 2005 recording an increase of 5.9% during 2006.

9.93 The Bureau of Police Research and Development under the Ministry of Home Affairs has been organising various programmes and workshops to sensitize police officers of various levels in the States towards prevention of crime against all vulnerable sections of the society, including women and children. State Governments are also sensitized regarding crime against women and children by including these issues in the agenda for discussion in the annual meetings of the Directors General of Police and Chief Secretaries.

GENDER BUDGETING

9.94 The following initiatives have been taken for the benefit of women by various organisations of this Ministry:-

(A) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- Family Welfare Centres (FWCs) at Reserve Battalions (Bns.) and Training Institutions have been set up exclusively for the benefit of women at Mundali (Orissa) and Bhilai (Chhattisgarh). These family welfare centres are specifically for women to learn new skills and augment their family income by earning through activities like stitching, handicrafts and production of food items, etc.
- In the next year 2008-09, an FWC for RTC Anantpur (Rajasthan) has been proposed which would involve an estimated expenditure of Rs.5 lakh during 2008-09.

(B) Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)

- BPR&D, which is responsible for undertaking studies on police problems as well as coordinating policies and programmes for police training etc., has undertaken a number of activities for the benefit, welfare and development of women in police. A provision of Rs. 40.92 lakh in B.E. 2007-08 has been made for the following schemes benefiting women:-
 - (i) Research Study (Rs.5 lakh);
 - (ii) 3rd National Conference for Women in Police (Rs.10 lakh);
 - (iii) Research study on the impact of vocational programmes on the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners in the States of Chhattisgarh

and Madhya Pradesh on contract sampling basis (Rs. 83,000) ;

- (iv) Research study on status appraisal of judicial pronouncements regarding women prisoners and their accompanying children awarded to Prof. Deepti Srivastava, Bhopal (Rs.1.66 lakh) ;
- (v) Research study on identification of Best Prison Practices awarded to Dr. Upneet Lalli, Chandigarh (Rs.1.59 lakh);
- (vi) Award of Junior Research Fellowships for doctoral work in Police Science and Criminology as per the guidelines laid down by the UGC (Rs.8 lakh);
- (vii) Courses on Crime Against Women vis-à-vis Human Rights, Juvenile Justice & Human Rights at Central Detective Training Schools under BPR&D (Rs. 1.5 lakh);
- (viii) Seminar-cum-workshop on "Trafficking of Persons and Role of Police in the country" (Rs.2 lakh);
- (ix) Vertical Interaction Course for IPS and other Senior Officers on issues relating to Gender & SC/ST categories (Rs.1.5 lakh);
- (x) Women training programmes at Central Detective Training Schools under the BPR&D (Rs.8 lakh);
- (xi) Pandit Gobind Ballabh Pant Award Scheme – Publication of Hindi Books (Rs. 84,000).
- Two women have been awarded Research grant totaling Rs.3.25 lakh. One installment amounting to Rs.83,000 has been awarded for Research study on the impact of vocational programmes on the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Two women have been

selected for the award of Doctoral Fellowship on Criminology and Police Science. Apart from this, 6 women were sanctioned fellowship amount totaling Rs.3.18 lakh for the Doctoral Work on Criminology and Police Science. Four courses on Crime Against Women have been completed. Rs.1.5 lakh has been spent on this programme. Nineteen Seminars cum Workshops on trafficking of personnel and role of police in the country are being organised for which expenditure of Rs.8.53 lakh shall be incurred during 2007-08. Nineteen Numbers of Vertical Interaction Courses for IPS and Senior Officers on the issues relating to Gender & SC/ST have been organised so far and Rs.1.05 lakh has been spent on these course programmes. BPR&D has projected a total amount of Rs.52.92 lakh for the above programmes in BE 2008-09.

(C) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- For the year 2007-08, CRPF has proposed the following schemes exclusively benefiting women:-
 - (a) Day care Centre/Creche
 - (b) Gender Sensitization
 - (c) Health Care Centre
 - (d) Improvised Service
 - (e) Nutritional care centre
 - (f) Women's Hostel
- An amount of Rs. 8.59 lakh has been earmarked in BE 2007-08 by CRPF for the above schemes. A Creche has been opened in Group Centre (GC) Jammu and another crèche is proposed to be started at 88 Bn (M) in Delhi. Magazines, etc. are being provided in GC Sindri. In GC Sindri, monthly meetings are organised by lady MO to sensitize female workers. Gender Sensitization Courses are being organised in GC Jammu regularly

during various meetings, sainik sammelans and as a part of various training courses. Western Sector (Maharashtra) has procured Multi-purpose Gym and allied equipment for Health Care Centre. Transportation services are provided weekly from Sindri to Dhanbad. Provision has been made for ladies room for lunch break etc. for women staff of offices in GC Sindri. Music systems, TV, periodicals, etc. have been provided in GC Jammu. Nutrition care related magazines and separate room for ladies in GC Sindri are provided. Central Sector (Lucknow) is providing nutritional food to lady employees in the family way. Medical check up organised and Iron/multi vitamin tabs distributed by Special Sector, Delhi.

- CRPF has made a provision of Rs. 11.35 lakh in BE 2008-09 for the following schemes benefiting women :-
 - (i) Day care Centre/Creche (Rs. 2.5 lakh)
 - (ii) Gender Sensitization (Rs. 0.6 lakh)
 - (iii) Health Care Centre (Rs. 4 lakh)
 - (iv) Improvised Service (Rs. 1.45 lakh)
 - (v) Nutritional Care Centre (Rs. 2.3 lakh)
 - (vi) Women's Hostel (Rs. 0.5 lakh)

(D) Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- During the year 2007-08, SSB has proposed the following schemes exclusively benefiting women :-
 - (i) Day Care Centre & Women Sensitization (purchase of medicine, tonics, lady health care, medical professional, dietician & nutritional care and fitness trainer;
 - (ii) Gender Sensitization.
- An amount of Rs.1 crore had been earmarked by SSB for the above schemes.

Crime Against SCs and STs

9.95 The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (PCR Act) and the SCs/STs(Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (POA Act) are two important Acts for safeguarding the interests of SCs/STs. These enactments have extended positive discrimination in favour of these weaker sections of the society in the field of criminal law as they prescribe penalties that are more stringent than corresponding offences under the Indian Penal Code. Government keeps a constant watch on the enforcement of the PCR Act and the POA Act and rules thereunder, and analysis of crime data relating to areas of concern is periodically carried out by the Government.

9.96 As per statistics compiled by the NCRB, it is observed that a total of 27,070 incidents of crime against SCs were reported in the country during 2006 as compared to 26,127 incidents during 2005 recording an increase of 3.6% during 2006.

9.97 In respect of cases registered of crime against STs, a total of 5,791 cases of crime were reported in the country in 2006 as compared to 5,713 cases in 2005 showing an increase of 1.4%.

9.98 The provisions of the POA Act are implemented by the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations. In compliance of these provisions several State Governments have taken, inter-alia, the following steps for combating crimes against the SCs and STs:

- Special Cells have been established;
- Atrocity prone/sensitive areas have been identified;
- Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts have been designated for the purpose of providing for speedy trial of offences under the Act;
- Nodal Officers have been nominated for coordinating the functioning of the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police or other authorised officers; and
- State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, and District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up.
