

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा नाम उमाकांत लखेड़ा है। मैं हिंदुस्तान, जो हिंदी अखबार है, उसका दिल्ली में चीफ ऑफ ब्यूरो हूँ। प्रधान मंत्री जी, मेरा आपसे यह सवाल है कि आपसे पहले भारत में जितने भी प्रधान मंत्री हुए हैं, इकॉनॉमी के बारे में वे लोग बहुत ज्यादा नहीं जानते थे, यह देश की खुशकिस्मती है कि आप इकॉनॉमिस्ट हैं और आपने आजादी के बाद का, भारत की इकॉनॉमी के उताव-चढ़ाव का बहुत लंबा समय देखा है, मेरा आपसे यह सवाल है कि आज प्राइस राइज पर कंट्रोल क्यों नहीं है? ऐसा क्यों होता है कि इनफ्लेशन कम होता है और महंगाई बढ़ती है? पहले के जमाने में मंत्री जब बयान देते थे, तो अगले दिन महंगाई घट जाती थी, आज ऐसा क्यों होता है कि आपके जो मिनिस्टर्स हैं, आपके मंत्री जो बयान देते हैं, उसके अगले दिन महंगाई बढ़ जाती है? ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है कि इकॉनॉमी सरकार के कंट्रोल में नहीं है और आम आदमी का जिंदा रहना मुश्किल हो गया है? कॉमन मैन को ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार के नियंत्रण में चीजें नहीं हैं। इकॉनॉमी का जो स्लो डाउन है और जो महंगाई है, आप उस पर अपने विचार प्रकट करें।

उत्तर : देखिए, इकॉनॉमी के बारे में आपने जो कुछ कहा, उसमें कुछ सच्चाई है और कुछ सच्चाई नहीं है। हमारी इकॉनॉमी अच्छी हालत में नहीं है, यह कहना ठीक नहीं होगा। दुनिया भर में, सितम्बर, अक्टूबर, 2008 में, जब से फाइनेंशियल क्राइसेस आया, दुनिया की बहुत सारी इकॉनॉमीज कोलेस्प हो गईं, ग्रोथ रेट बहुत नीचे आ गया, उसका भारत की इकॉनॉमी पर कुछ असर तो पड़ा, लेकिन बहुत हद तक हमने उसे बचाकर रखा है। 2008, 2009 में हमारा ग्रोथ रेट 6.7 % था, अगले साल, पिछले साल 2009-2010 में यह बढ़कर 7.2% हो गया, और इस साल मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है कि हमारा ग्रोथ रेट 8.5% के करीब होगा। यह कहना ठीक है कि इनफ्लेशन प्रॉब्लम है। मैंने जो स्टेटमेंट आपके सामने रखी है, उसमें मैंने इसको माना है कि इनफ्लेशन से भारत

की जनता को तकलीफ होती है, लेकिन यह पिछले एक, दो साल की बात है और इसके लिए बहुत हद तक इंटरनेशनल क्राइसेस, पार्टिकुलरली दि क्राइसेस इन पेट्रोलियम प्रॉडक्ट जिम्मेदार हैं। साथ ही साथ पिछले साल यह भी देखने में आया कि भारत में एक बहुत बड़ी चुनौती सामने आई, ड्राउट आया, उसके साथ ही साथ कुछ इलाकों में फ्लड्स भी आए, जिसका देश की आर्थिक हालत पर, खास कर कीमतों पर असर जरूर पड़ता है, लेकिन मेरा विश्वास है कि आने वाले दिनों में, खास तौर पर दिसम्बर तक हम इनफ्लेशन की दर को तकरीबन 5 या 6 प्रतिशत के करीब ले जा पाएंगे।

QUESTION : Sir, switching to foreign policy, we have seen two major initiatives from your Government, to engage Pakistan and tie up the loose ends on the nuclear deal. On Pakistan, why did you choose to resume the dialogue with Pakistan at the Foreign Ministerial level at Thimphu? Will this be a full-fledged dialogue? Is there going to be a change in nomenclature? Is it going to be a composite dialogue or anything else? On the U.S. front, are you confident of having the Nuclear Liability Bill through the Parliament and tie up the loose ends?

ANSWER: As far as your first question is concerned, Pakistan is our neighbour. It is my firm belief that India cannot realise its full development potential unless we have the best possible relations with our neighbours and Pakistan happens to be the largest neighbour of ours.

There have been problems. I don't have to go into them and it has been my efforts to try to reduce the gap between our two countries without surrendering or without affecting our vital national interest. It is my conviction that the major problem between our two countries why we haven't been able to make headway in the composite dialogue is that there has been lack of adequate trust. The trust deficit is the biggest problem and unless we tackle the trust deficit, we cannot move to substantive negotiations, and, at Thimphu, the Prime Minister Gilani and I have agreed that trust deficit is a major problem blocking progress in the direction of

moving forward and that it should be our common endeavour to bridge or to reduce this trust deficit. That is why we have agreed that the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries would meet.

With regard to the nuclear issue, well, I have no doubt that as far as the Nuclear Agreement with the United States is concerned, it will move forward. We have need to ensure that our country does have an effective nuclear liability compensation arrangement. We need this if we have to become a major nuclear energy power; and for this reason we have sent a Bill to Parliament. I am convinced that this Bill, which is before Parliament, it will be before the Standing Committee, will have the support of all political parties interested in India's growth, interested in ensuring that India's nuclear power programme moves forward.

QUESTION: Sir, my question is, did the UPA-I underestimate the threat of Naxal violence and is the country having to pay the price for security agencies not estimating the reach and the capacity of Naxals in creating this situation in the country where it seems like your Government is really dousing fires?

ANSWER: Well, if you remember, I have been saying for the last three years that Naxalism is the biggest internal security challenge that our country faces, and, therefore, it is not correct to say that we have underestimated the magnitude of the problem that we face on account of the rise of Naxalism.

प्रश्न : सर, अभी National Sample Survey की एक रिपोर्ट आयी है जिसमें यह बताया गया है कि मुसलमान इस देश में तालीम के मैदान में, एजुकेशन के मैदान में सबसे पिछड़ा हुआ तबका है। आपने अपने पिछले regime में एक हाई लेवल सचचर कमेटी के नाम से प्राइम मिनिस्टर की सचचर कमेटी बनायी थी, जिसने बहुत सारी recommendations की थीं और Ministry of Minority Affairs को आपने इसकी

जिम्मेदारी दी थी कि उन recommendations पर अमल करे। मैं आपसे यह सवाल करना चाहता हूँ कि सच्चर कमेटी पर अब तक जो अमल दरामद हुआ है, उस पर जो अमल किया गया है, उससे आप personally कितने satisfied हैं?

उत्तर : देखिए, मुझे यह कहने में कोई हिचकिचाहट नहीं है कि भारत में जो तालीम का सिलसिला है, उसमें मुसलमानों की उतनी बड़ी भागीदारी नहीं हुई, जितनी होनी चाहिए थी।

उत्तर : सच्चर कमेटी ने इस बात पर जोर दिया है और उसके बाद प्राइम मिनिस्टर का 15 नुक्तों वाला जो प्रोग्राम बनाया गया है, उसमें इस बात पर खास जोर दिया गया और इसके लिए पिछले दो सालों में काफी कुछ काम हुआ है, अभी और काम करने की आवश्यकता है। हमें इसके लिए पूरी ईमानदारी से आगे बढ़ना है।

QUESTION: Sir, there has been a controversy over the last few days over the Home Minister's statement, and you also must have heard that statement. The Home Minister had said that he has a limited mandate, as far as tackling naxal terror is concerned. Subsequently, he has given an interpretation of the same issue saying that he meant that it was a mandate of the States to tackle, whichever the interpretation. First, we would like a clarification from you, as the head of this Government on whether there is a limited mandate to tackle naxal terror that has been given to the Home Minister, and, secondly, you yourself on several occasions have said that naxal terrorism is the biggest challenge for this country. Will you leave it to the States to tackle this?

ANSWER: Well, naxalism has emerged as the biggest single internal security challenge. This I have been stating for the last three years. With regard to what has been stated by the hon. Home Minister, he has explained what he meant by his having a limited mandate. These are issues which are strategy issues which will be discussed in the appropriate forum of the Cabinet

whenever the opportunity arises. But, as far as I am concerned, I do recognize that although law and order is primarily the States' responsibility, this is a problem which has acquired a magnitude that cooperation between the Centre and the States is absolutely necessary and that the Central Government must help the States in every possible way.

प्रश्न : प्रधान मंत्री जी, आपने नक्सली समस्या के हल के लिए जो बात कही है, क्या इस तरह की रिपोर्ट सही है कि कई राजनीतिक पार्टियों के लोग, जैसे ISI आतंकवादियों को मदद करती है, ऐसे ही राजनीतिक पार्टी के नेताओं से फिरोती लेकर, नक्सली लोग पैसा इकट्ठा करते हैं और उस पैसे से हथियार लेते हैं तथा उसके बाद मासूम लोगों को मारते हैं। इसी तरह से मानवाधिकार के नाम पर कुछ एक्टिविस्ट उनको जाकर मदद करते हैं, देश में संविधान के खिलाफ प्रचार करते हैं। क्या इस तरह की राजनीतिक फोर्सों और सोशल एक्टिविस्ट को रोकने के लिए आप कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे और कम से कम उनकी फंडिंग बंद हो, उसको सुनिश्चित कर, ऐसे CRPF या दूसरी फोर्सों राज्यों को देंगे, जिससे उनको रोका जा सके?

उत्तर : देखिए, नक्सलाइट फोर्सों को पैसा मिलता है, जिससे वे हथियार वगैरह खरीदते हैं, तो इस बात से तो कोई इनकार नहीं कर सकता। आपने लेकिन जैसा कि आपने कहा कि मानवाधिकारों पर रोक लगाई जाए। भारत एक डेमोक्रेटिक कंट्री है। डेमोक्रेसी में हर एक इंसान को यह हक है कि वह अपने विचार जनता के सामने रखे और उसके विचार इस तरह के हों कि वॉयलेंस का प्रचार न किया जाए, उनपर कोई पाबंदी नहीं लगाई जा सकती।

QUESTION: Sir, some leaders of the Congress Party have brought attention to another issue as an internal security issue, which is the issue of Hindu terrorism. And the Congress has, in its briefings, been suggesting that the

Government should do, perhaps, more on that issue. The prominent leaders of the party have said that they have written to you about it suggesting that the Home Minister should set up a special cell. Do you think it is such a grave threat, and do you think that more needs to be done in that area?

ANSWER: Well, terrorism is a major national security issue, but terrorism has no religion. Terror, if it is being sponsored by particular religious elements, it has to be dealt with effectively and purposefully. And, therefore, our Government's policy is that whatever be the source or terror, whether it is Muslim involvement or Hindu involvement, regardless of religion, I think, we must tackle that problem effectively.

QUESTION: I believe you are going to Kashmir very soon. Are you close to a deal with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and have we revived these backchannel talks and are you optimistic that during your tenure we will find a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue?

ANSWER: Well, I have said more than once that we are willing to discuss with Pakistan all outstanding issues and the only condition is that Pakistan's territory should not be utilized for spreading terror in India, against India. As far as my visit to Kashmir is concerned, it is a visit to one of the States of the Union. There I would like to review the development programme, and, as far as the political situation in Jammu & Kashmir is concerned, we have a democratic Government, how it is functioning, I would like to discuss with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, what more can be done to accelerate the pace of development. Furthermore, I would like, I think, once again to appeal to all elements in Jammu & Kashmir that our Government is ready for a dialogue provided all these groups which are outside the political mainstream shed the path of violence.

प्रश्न : प्रधान मंत्री जी, सन् 2004 में सत्ता में आने में साथ ही आपने आर्थिक विकास की मौजूदा गति को ज्यादा बेहतर बनाने के लिए, ज्यादा संतुलित बनाने के लिए बात की थी और कहा था कि जो सामाजिक, आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़े वर्ग हैं, खास कर अनुसूचित-जाति और जनजाति के लोग, एस.सी./एस.टी लोग हैं, उनके लिए अफर्मेटिव ऐक्शन इंट्रोड्यूस किया जाएगा। आपने यह भी कहा था, यह कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम के पेज संख्या दस पर दर्ज है, जिसको अभी यूपीए - टू ने खारिज नहीं किया है, उसमें आपने यह कहा था कि हम अफर्मेटिव ऐक्शन आरक्षण सहित निजी क्षेत्र में इंट्रोड्यूस करने के लिए डॉयलाग चलाएंगे और जल्दी ही इसका फैसला करेंगे। इस बारे में मंत्रियों का एक समूह बना, जिसकी अगुवाई शरद पवार जी ने की थी। इसके बाद फिर कॉर्पोरेट सेक्टर और निजी क्षेत्र के जो बड़े दिग्गज हैं, उनकी अगुवाई में एक कमेटी बनी, जिसने गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया को भी अपनी रिपोर्ट से परिचित कराया। इस देश के 24% से ज्यादा एस.सी./ एस.टी. , जिनमें सबसे ज्यादा अधिक व्यवस्था या सरकार विरोधी आंदोलन भी बाई चांस बहुत तेज हो गए हैं, उनमें इस बात को लेकर छटपटाहट थी कि सन् 2004 से लेकर आज तक सरकार जो असंतुलन दूर करने की बात करती है, आर्थिक विकास को इनक्लुसिव ग्रोथ में कंवर्ट में करने की बात करती है, वह आखिर क्या वजह है कि अफर्मेटिव ऐक्शन के इतने महत्वाकांक्षी एजेंडे को भूल गई, मैं आपसे इसका जवाब चाहता हूँ?

उत्तर : देखिए, जो अफर्मेटिव ऐक्शन है, उसको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए हमें एक माहौल तैयार करना है, जिससे बिजनेस, इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेड के लोग इस काम में हमारी मदद करें। इस काम को आगे बढ़ाने की पूरी-पूरी कोशिश की जा रही है और मेरा यह भी मानना है कि अभी इसको और तेजी से आगे बढ़ाने की जरूरत भी है।

प्रश्न : मेरा आपसे यह सवाल है कि नक्सलवाद के मामले पर क्या आपको राज्य सरकारों से उस तरीके का सहयोग और समर्थन मिल रहा है, जिस तरीके से आपको उम्मीद है? क्योंकि तमाम तरह की आपकी जो खुद की राजनैतिक पार्टियां हैं, श्री दिग्विजय सिंह जैसे लोग इस तरीके की बातें करते हैं कि नक्सलवाद से निपटने की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकारों की है। एक तरीके से कहीं सरकार के स्तर पर यह भ्रम फैलता है कि गृह मंत्रालय कुछ दूसरे तरीके से सोचता है, पार्टी दूसरे तरीके से सोचती है, राज्य सरकारें दूसरे तरीके से करती हैं और इस दौरान naxalism लगातार बढ़ता जा रहा है। इस संबंध में आपकी प्रतिक्रिया क्या है?

उत्तर : राज्य सरकारों के मुख्य मंत्रियों से मेरी कई बार बातचीत हुई है और मेरा विश्वास है कि तमाम राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्री इस बात को समझते हैं कि naxalism पर कंट्रोल पाना देश की progress के लिए बहुत जरूरी है। मुझे इस बारे में कोई संदेह नहीं है कि राज्य सरकारें और भारत सरकार मिलकर काम कर पाएंगे।

QUESTION: You have said, in your opening statement, that all the UPA constituents are united in their commitment to provide the country with a strong and purposeful Government. My question is that in the next year, that is, 2011, four States will be facing Assembly Elections where the UPA constituents will also be facing elections. Will the seat adjustments, in these elections, have any impact on the stability of the Government at the Centre because we find some discontent with these parties, as far as seat adjustment is concerned?

ANSWER: I think, we are too far away from the elections. Right now, my mind is concentrated on economic, political and social issues of inclusive growth. When the time comes, we will take appropriate decisions in all these matters.

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा सवाल आपसे वही पुराना वाला है। इस बार अपने पहले साल में अपने मंत्रिमंडल को, अपने कामकाज को आप कितने नम्बर देते हैं? दूसरा, इसी से जुड़ा हुआ सवाल है कि जो जातिगत जनगणना की बात है, क्या उस पर सरकार ने कोई अंतिम फैसला किया है क्योंकि ऐसा लगता है कि कांग्रेस पार्टी के भीतर भी कई लोगों की राय इसके विपरीत है?

उत्तर: पिछले चंद दिनों से टेलीविजन चैनल पर, प्रिंट मीडिया में हमारी सरकार की नीतियों पर काफी बहस हुई है, प्रेस ने और टेलीविजन मीडिया ने कुछ मार्क्स भी दिए हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि मेरे लिए यह उचित नहीं है कि मैं इस बहस में पड़ूँ। भारत की जनता यह फैसला करेगी, आप लोग फैसला करेंगे, मीडिया वाले फैसला करेंगे कि हमारी performance कैसी रही है।

QUESTION: Have you finally decided in favour of caste census?

ANSWER: I had made a statement in the Parliament in which I had said that we would take into account the views expressed in Parliament by various sections of opinion. And, I will ask the Cabinet to consider that. That process is on.

QUESTION: You have, just now, referred to the problem of trust deficit with Pakistan. What are your expectations from Pakistan to reduce this trust deficit?

ANSWER: We are going to make a beginning. The composite dialogue had been suspended soon after the attack on Mumbai. Subsequently, the process has not moved forward and this will be the first major effort to deal with the underlined cause, that is, lack of adequate amount of trust between our two countries. I am hopeful that this process can move forward. That was, at least, the message I got from talking to the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

QUESTION: Mr. Prime Minister, you have spoken in the past, in the context of Jammu and Kashmir, of your Government having zero tolerance towards the violation of human rights. Five years ago, the Central Bureau of Investigation indicted several Army men for the murder of five innocent Kashmiri villagers at Panchalthan. They were killed in 2000. The CBI investigated the case and filed a chargesheet indicting officers and personnel of the Rashtriya Rifles for murder. Five years have passed. The trial has not yet started because the Ministry of Defence refuses to grant sanction to prosecute. Is this not a violation of the assurance that you gave that your Government would have zero tolerance towards violation of human rights?

ANSWER: I once again repeat that our Government has zero tolerance for violation of human rights of all our citizens. I am not familiar with the details of this particular incident. I will look into it.

QUESTION: I just want to bring to your notice that there have been many accidents and incidents. Seventy-six jawans were killed in Dantewada. Yesterday, we had a terrible air accident. In these incidents, we see that sometimes Ministers offer resignations, and sometimes, they don't. But, when they do, you reject it. Who is accountable for all these things? Could you please explain to us?

ANSWER: As the Prime Minister of the country, I am accountable to the Parliament; I am accountable to the people at large. So, I express my deep sorrow at these incidents, whether it is Dantewada incident or the tragedy that took place in Mangalore. There are issues which have to be tackled. We have to go into the causes of all these tragedies, what can be done to put in place systems and procedures that so far as humanly possible, these incidents and these tragedies are not repeated again and again.

SHRI HARISH KHARE: We have some representatives of foreign media also.

QUESTION: Foreign journalists, in India, are facing a lot of problems in getting the PIB cards. Temporary cards are issued for us and I faced a big problem in getting into this Press Conference hall. I took me about 20 minutes. I understand that issuance of permanent cards takes from six months to two years, making it impossible for us to be functional. Your Excellency, may I ask you to talk to your Government to solve this problem?

ANSWER: I am very sorry to hear that it took you so long to enter into this building. I will certainly ask the relevant Minister or the Ministries to look into this issue.

QUESTION: Let me, first of all, congratulate you on completing first year, and the question that you were responding to that you would like the people of this country to cast a judgment on your functioning. Well, on a poll, which was done on our channel, an overwhelming majority was supporting you and your effort. But, my question is related to something which is bothering a lot of countrymen and that is related to corruption within your Government, specifically I am talking about the Telecommunication Ministry. Now, in the first stint of the UPA Government, when the 2-G spectrum was done, a pittance was generated. When the 3-G spectrum was done, more than Rs. 73,000 crores were generated. Do you not think that there is something seriously amiss here? Or, do you think that Telecom Minister, Mr. A. Raja, is completely in the clean?

ANSWER: This matter has been discussed in the Parliament. He has expressed his views in public. I think, day before yesterday, he gave a long interview to *The Hindu*. I have also discussed this issue with Mr. Raja and he has told me that what he did was to implement a policy which was in place, that he had the recommendations of TRAI and of the Telecom Commission supporting a course of action.

It is certainly true that if you compare figures of what was collected by 2G process as against 3G process, there is a huge gap. But, I think, one has to look at this whole problem in proper perspective. There was a particular policy which was in place since 2003, before our Government came into power, and Mr. Raja's point was that it would amount to discrimination against various new entrants if a different yardstick was appointed. Subsequently, some complaints were received by the CVC. The CVC has asked the CBI to look into this. That process is on. Pending that investigation, it is not proper for me to express any definite opinion. I would like to say that our Government has been very clear right from the beginning that corruption is a problem, and if I come to know that there is any involvement at any level in corruption, we will take action.

QUESTION: I have a very short question, Sir. Has Congress benefited from the coalition politics? And, will there be a UPA-III?

ANSWER: I think, you have experience of the first five years. We are in the sixth year. Although we are a coalition Government, we have given our country a Government which works, which has delivered high rates of growth, which has accelerated the process towards inclusive growth. I have every reason to believe that we will move forward; we will complete our term. As far as what happens after this term, we are, I think, too far away from that event for me to offer any opinion.

प्रश्न : जनाब, वजीरे आजम साहब, मैं आपसे यह सवाल करना चाहता हूँ कि एक एनेमी प्रॉपर्टी ऐक्ट, 1965 है, जिसमें, जो लोग इंडिया से पाकिस्तान चले गए थे और जिन्होंने, यहां प्रॉपर्टी छोड़ दी थी, उनके खिलाफ 1965 में यह ऐक्ट बना था। चालीस, पैंतालीस साल से इस पर कोई अमल नहीं हुआ। जो लोग छोड़कर गए थे, पिछले दिसम्बर, 2009 में, वे तमाम लोग, जो उनके मकान में रह रहे हैं, उनको नोटिस जारी किया गया है कि आप लोग ये मकान खाली कर दें, क्योंकि यह सरकार का मकान है। क्या आप यह समझते हैं कि जो लोग यहां से गए थे, वे एनेमी थे? जो

लोग रह रहे हैं, उनमें ज्यादातर, 99% मुसलमान हैं। इससे काफी मुसलमानों को परेशानी हो रही है और इसको शैतानी कानून कहा जा रहा है। यह डिमांड है कि इस कानून को खत्म किया जाए। इस बारे में आप क्या सोचते हैं?

उत्तर : देखिए, इस सवाल का जवाब देने में मुझे हिचकिचाहट है। मेरे पास पूरी जानकारी नहीं है। मैं आपसे यह दरखास्त करूंगा कि आप इस काम के बारे में जानकारी लेने के लिए प्राइम मिनिस्टर ऑफिस से संबंध रखें।

QUESTION: Sir, do you support creation of new States in the country?

ANSWER: Well, there is no agreement as of now to create new States. There have been demands for the creation of the Telangana State. That matter has been referred to a Committee under a very distinguished former Judge of the Supreme Court. Pending the receipt of that report, it is very difficult for me to offer any meaningful comments.

प्रश्न : महोदय, जिस समय आप वित्त मंत्री थे, उस समय इस देश में अजीब आर्थिक सुधार कार्यक्रम लागू हुए, जो आज तक लागू हैं। आप प्रधान मंत्री बने तो वे सुधार कार्यक्रम और अधिक तेजी से बढ़ने लगे। आज हमारा देश एक फास्ट डेवलपिंग कंट्री बनने जा रहा है। मेरा प्रश्न है कि क्या आतंकवाद और नक्सलवाद जैसी समस्याएं जो आज इस देश में विद्यमान हैं, हमारा जो बढ़ता हुआ आर्थिक सुधार कार्यक्रम है, कहीं न कहीं वह उनमें रोड़े अटका रहा है?

उत्तर : देखिए, आर्थिक सुधारों, आतंकवाद और नक्सलवाद में क्या जोड़ है, यह तो मेरे लिए कहना मुश्किल है, लेकिन मैं यह जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि आर्थिक सुधारों का पूरा फायदा उठाने के लिए हमें नक्सलवादियों पर और terrorist elements पर पूरा-पूरा कंट्रोल करना होगा। अगर हम कंट्रोल नहीं कर पाएंगे तो इससे देश की आर्थिक हालत पर कुछ खराब असर भी पड़ सकता है।

QUESTION: Mr. Prime Minister, my question is regarding Rahul Gandhi. When is he likely to join your Cabinet? Have you asked him again any time after last year's swearing-in to join your Cabinet since he is being projected as the next Prime Minister of the country?

ANSWER: Well, Rahul is well qualified to hold a Cabinet post. I have discussed with him on a number of occasions though I don't remember exactly the date when I last discussed this matter but he has always been reluctant to give a positive answer, telling me that he has duties to perform in reviving the Congress Party and he is doing a very good job. I have every reason to believe that as and when he is ready to join the Cabinet, he would be a very, very appropriate addition to the Cabinet.

QUESTION: Sir, just to reiterate what my colleague was asking, do you see the possibility of your retiring during this present tenure and making place for Rahul Gandhi, giving him a chance to become Prime Minister of this country?

ANSWER: Well, let me say that I sometimes feel that younger people should take over. As and when, I think, the Congress Party makes that judgment, I would be very happy to make place for anybody the Congress Party may choose.

QUESTION: Sir, some States like Kerala are not implementing the Central Government schemes properly. They are even changing the name of Central Government schemes to claim credit. What measures do you plan to take to make the implementation of the Central Schemes more effective and transparent?

ANSWER: Well, I think the Planning Commission and the relevant Central Ministries are in constant dialogue with the State Governments to ensure that various Centrally-sponsored schemes or Central sector schemes are properly implemented.

प्रश्न : आपको प्रधान मंत्री बने करीब 6 साल हो गए हैं और इस दौरान सभी विपक्षी पार्टियों ने जब भी आपके ऊपर हमला किया है, तो यह कहकर किया है कि, you are a weak Prime Minister. आप एक कमजोर प्रधान मंत्री हैं, जबकि आपको प्रधान मंत्री के पद पर काम करते हुए 6 साल हो चुके हैं, Do you feel stronger than before? Are you a happy man when you go home? जैसे आप कह रहे थे कि नम्बर देना देश का काम है, मीडिया का काम है, क्या आप अपने आप से, अपनी performance से संतुष्ट हैं, satisfied हैं?

ANSWER: Well, the honest answer is, I could do better than what I have done, but I am reasonably satisfied with the pace at which I have been working.

प्रश्न : प्रधान मंत्री जी, इस बार आपको 2009 के चुनाव में जब व्यापक बहुमत मिला था और कुल मिलाकर 316 सांसदों के साथ मिलकर आपने सरकार बनाई थी। हमने इस कटमोशन में देखा कि आपकी संख्या 272 से नीचे आ गई है, तो क्या आप इस बात के लिए चिंतित हैं कि आपकी सरकार लगातार अल्पमत की तरफ बढ़ रही है?

उत्तर : हमारी यही कोशिश होगी कि हमारी सरकार को पार्लियामेंट में बहुमत मिलता रहे। हम इसके लिए भरपूर कोशिश करेंगे।

QUESTION: Sir, my question is, whether the UPA Government has taken action to check illegal mining activities in Orissa, which is posing a serious national threat.

ANSWER: Well, the Mines Ministry is looking after this matter, and I have every reason to hope that if anything concrete comes to the attention of the Government, we will take effective action.

QUESTION: Sir, on behalf of my Paper and the people of Tamil Nadu, first of all, we congratulate you for the completion of the first year of the UPA-II Government. Sir, my question related to the water dispute. You know well in Southern India Tamil Nadu is one of the States which is totally depending on water for its own requirement on the neighbouring States. You know the ground reality. During the last month, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was in Delhi, and while addressing a public meeting, he made a statement that the Centre is merely acting like a spectator in water disputes as well as in inter-linking of rivers. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu made it very clear

that the nation's integrity seems to be meaningless if the Centre continues to be a spectator. What is your reaction to it?

ANSWER: Well, let me say that I do agree that water is emerging and is going to become a major issue in years to come. But, it is not correct to say that the Central Government is only a mere bystander. I think, there are certain established rules, laws of the land which have to be implemented. There are tribunals which have been appointed to go into the various aspects of dispute between various States about the utilization of water. Within the four corners of the law, every possible effort is being made and will be made to find amicable solution to these problems.

QUESTION: Sir, your opening remarks as well as the UPA's Programmes touch upon various reform measures you have initiated. But, it is silent on one crucial reform that the country badly needs, i.e., the political reform. We spend tens of thousands of crores of rupees on the political system, for which there is no institutional form of funding. So, this money is mobilized through corruption, loot of the exchequer, sale of patronage, whether for mining or anything else or by extorting money from the public. Unless you have institutional means of financing political activity, economic growth will come down, your hopes of realizing fast paced, broad based growth will not be achieved, and Government schemes will continue to lose money through diversion. We cannot hope for this kind of a reform from many people, but we can expect this from you. So, what is being done to initiate reform of political financing?

ANSWER: Well, this is not a new question. It has been debated earlier also. There is no doubt, I think, general awareness of the fact that financing of political parties and financing of elections is a source of generating what is come to be known as black money in our country, but it requires a broad based consensus among various political parties to move forward.

QUESTION: Thank you very much. Good morning, Mr. Prime Minister. Sir, there have been instances of mismatch in the views on a number of issues

between the Party and the Government, beginning from the Sharmel Sheikh episode, then the price rise, then the RTI amendments and, recently, Naxalism, of course. Have the party's view at times been undervalued, and, is there a need for a larger coordination mechanism to ensure that views are synchronized?

ANSWER: Well, there is no dearth of effective coordination mechanism. I think, I am very fortunate that I have the benefit of constant advice and guidance by the Congress President, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Invariably, we meet every week to discuss all major issues or issues that need to be discussed. So, there is no basis for the belief that there are no effective coordination mechanisms for coordinating the work and coordinating the views between the Government and the Congress Party.

QUESTION: Mr. Prime Minister, in your second term in office, do you miss the structured support that you received from the Left for most of your first term?

ANSWER: Well, if wishes were horses, even beggars would ride. I know it cannot become a reality. But, I would like all likeminded political parties, who care about the well-being of our people, who support the general approach towards inclusive growth, which we are trying to put in place, to come and join us in carrying forward this process of sustained and equitable development.

प्रश्न : प्रधान मंत्री जी, केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल के एक मंत्री ने विदेश जाकर विदेशी कंपनियों की वकालत की, दूसरे मंत्री आई.पी.एल. के चक्कर में रहे, एक अन्य मंत्री ने दूसरे मंत्रालय पर टिप्पणी की, एक मंत्री पश्चिम बंगाल में बैठकर अपना मंत्रालय चला रहे हैं, आप इस सारी स्थिति को किस तरह से देखते हैं?

ANSWER: There are several issues which concern the relations between me and my Ministers and it would not be proper for me to, I think, discuss these issues in broad public daylight.

प्रश्न : प्रधान मंत्री महोदय, हमारे पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री, राजीव गांधी जी ने 1987 में एक बात कही थी और राष्ट्रीय चिंता जाहिर की थी, वह चिंता आज भी जस की तस है कि जो भी काम सरकार के स्तर पर हो रहा है या किया जा रहा है, वह जो आम पब्लिक है, गांव स्तर के लोग हैं, वहां तक जस का तस नहीं पहुंच रहा है। बात पंद्रह पैसे की हो या दस पैसे की, तर्क के हिसाब से देखा जाए तो आप आठवें प्रधान मंत्री हैं और सातवें व्यक्ति के रूप में हैं। व्यवस्थाएं कई बनी हैं, कई चल रही हैं, कई बातें भी हो रही हैं, लेकिन वहां तक जो नहीं पहुंच रही हैं, क्या उसके लिए आपने कोई ठोस कार्यक्रम बनाया है? क्या आपके सामने कोई मॉडल है कि केंद्र से जो सौ रुपया जाता है या एक रुपया जाता है, वह जस का तस वहां पहुंचे? इसी से जुड़ा एक सवाल है कि आपने पिछली सरकार में डॉ. कलाम की सलाह पर बहुत अच्छी व्यवस्था की थी, Providing urban amenities in rural areas. मेरा सवाल यह है कि उस व्यवस्था की स्थिति क्या है? धन्यवाद।

उत्तर : देखिए, बहुत से प्रोग्राम्स हैं, उन तमाम प्रोग्राम्स के द्वारा क्या, कुछ किया जा रहा है, उनमें क्या, कुछ खामियां हैं, इसके लिए एक बहुत बड़ी बहस की जरूरत होगी, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि प्रोग्राम्स or स्कीम्स with लीकेजस हैं।

उत्तर (क्रमागत) : इससे इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता। लेकिन फिर भी मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारी सरकार की भरपूर कोशिश रही है और रहेगी कि इन लीकेजेज पर काबू पाया जाए। आप देखिए कि Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme जो है, इसमें जो खामियां हैं वे कम से कम हों, leakages

कम से कम हों, इसकी काफी कोशिश की जा चुकी है, ombudsmen बिठाए गए हैं, Members of Parliament को उसमें जोड़ा गया है। यह एक continuous process है। इसको आगे रखने के लिए और भी आवश्यकता है और उसमें हम जरूर आगे बढ़ेंगे।

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा आपसे बड़ा सीधा सा सवाल है। आप दो महिलाओं की राय पर चलते हैं। एक महिला आपके घर पर हैं - मैडम गुरुशरण कौर और दूसरी महिला कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी हैं। किसकी राय आपके लिए ज्यादा suitable होती है?

ANSWER: Well, I think, I am very privileged to have the benefit of constant advice from both, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and my wife. But both of them deal with different subjects, and I welcome the advices from both of them.

QUESTION: How do you respond to the Opposition's allegation that the Government had misused the CBI for winning crucial supports in the No Confidence Motion in July, 2008, and, then, again, during the Cut Motion in April, 2010. The instance they cite to the point is CBI's observation in the Supreme Court that it will consider scrapping the DA case against Ms. Mayawati and also the DA case against Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav.

ANSWER: There is no truth in the statement that our Government is misusing the CBI. People should know that as far as dealing with offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act is concerned, the CBI is autonomous. Its superintendence is only in the purview of the Chief Vigilance Commissioner. Our Government does not interfere, in any way, in that area.

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि क्या केबिनेट विस्तार की संभावना है? क्या मुलायम सिंह यादव जी को भी आप केबिनेट में लेना चाहते हैं? इस तरह की खबर आयी थी कि समाजवादी पार्टी ने ममता बनर्जी से निजात दिलाने के लिए आपको सपोर्ट देने का भरोसा दिया है या आपको ऑफर किया है।

उत्तर : केबिनेट में विस्तार करने का क्या आगे कोई प्लान है, इसके बारे में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि इस विषय पर इस प्रेस कॉन्फेंस में अनाउंस नहीं किया जा सकता। जब भी इस संबंध में आगे कोई कदम बड़ेगा, आपको उसका ज्ञान हो ही जाएगा।

प्रश्न : सर, आपकी सरकार को 6 साल हो गए हैं और पार्लियामेंट अटैक का जो आरोपी है - अफज़ल गुरु - चार साल से उसकी mercy petition आपकी सरकार के पास है, जिस पर काफी समय से बात हो रही है। आपकी सरकार के कुछ लोगों ने इसे कानून व्यवस्था का मामला भी बताया है। क्या आपको अच्छा लगेगा कि आपकी लीडरशिप में इस देश को सॉफ्ट स्टेट कहा जाए?

ANSWER: 'Soft State' or 'Hard State', I think, is a matter of perception. Perceptions can vary from person to person. Same person can have different perceptions at different times. Perceptions can vary among individuals. As far as the case, which you have referred to, is concerned, there is a law of the land and legal processes are there in our country. I think, they should be allowed to have their own course.

QUESTION: How differently you and your Government intend to work in these five years than past five years?

ANSWER: Well, this is a long journey which we started six years ago. We have important successes to our credit. But, I think, we have to get rid of chronic poverty, mass ignorance and disease which still afflict millions and millions of our people. Therefore, our task is well laid out to get rid of this chronic poverty, mass ignorance and disease. And, whatever is needed, I think, we need a high rate of growth, and in this statement, that I have submitted to you, I have said that we need, in the medium term, a growth rate of ten per cent per annum; we need to invest more in infrastructure -

social and economic; we need to increase the productivity and efficiency of our agriculture; we need to work with all the State Governments to ensure that our development programmes deliver the right amount of benefit to all people, particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minorities. And, therefore, our path is well laid out and we need the support of our people to carry forward this tremendous amount of effort that is needed to make a success of this programme.

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि देश में क्रिकेट को लेकर काफी हो-हल्ला होता है और काफी लोग देखते भी हैं। मेरा सवाल यह है कि इस मामले को लेकर संसद में काफी हंगामा हुआ और IPL का मामला सामने आया। उसमें आपकी सरकार के दो मंत्रियों के नाम भी शामिल थे। जो दूसरा सबसे बड़ा विवाद है, वह यह है कि IOA और खेल मंत्रालय के बीच हाल ही में जो विवाद चल रहा है कि जो पदाधिकारी हैं, वे 12 साल से ज्यादा नहीं रह पाएंगे, इस पर आपकी राय क्या है?

ANSWER: I did not follow the question.

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि संसद में IPL को लेकर काफी हंगामा हुआ कि वहां पर किस तरह से काले धन का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है, ब्लैक मनी लगा हुआ है और उसमें आपके दो मंत्रियों का नाम भी शामिल है।

ANSWER: Let me answer that. संसद में इस पर बहस हुई और उसका जवाब भी फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब ने दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री इन बातों की तहकीकात कर रही है और अगर उसका कोई नतीजा निकला, तो we will take effective action.

QUESTION: What are your reasons for believing that you will succeed in building a relationship based on trust with Pakistan?

ANSWER: Well, I can't say that I know the answer. It is our obligation to make every effort to normalise relations with India's neighbours. That is essential, I have always believed, to realise development potential of our country. We will make every effort; whether we succeed or not, that only the future can tell.

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा एक छोटा सा सवाल है कि पिछले 6 सालों में क्या आपके दिमाग में रिटायरमेंट का ख्याल आया और क्या चीज आपको रोकती रही?

उत्तर : देखिए, मुझे जो काम सौंपा गया है, वह काम अभी अधूरा है। जब तक यह काम पूरा नहीं हो जाता, मेरे रिटायर होने का सवाल नहीं उठता।

QUESTION: Sir, my question is that infrastructure is a major problem in the North East. In spite of sufficient funds having been given for the North East Region, for the development of infrastructure sector in the North East Region, the situation remains the same. In spite of all efforts, corruption is rampant over there. What are your comments on that; and is any action being taken for that?

ANSWER: All I can say is that our Government has increased very substantially the allocations for the development of infrastructure in the North Eastern Region. I think the amount of money that we have allocated has never been allocated before. It is the solemn obligation of the State Governments of the North East and the people of the North East to pool their wisdom, knowledge and experience to see that these funds are properly utilised.

QUESTION: Sir, in the last one year, we have seen a perceptible difference in the running of your Government from the last five years. There have been incidences, where the perception is that you have not been able to get your own way in many things, beginning with the appointment of the Finance

Minister of your choice. My question is, is there a growing distrust between you and the Congress President in this last one year which was not there in the five years of UPA-I? Secondly, Sir, are you a little uncomfortable this year?

ANSWER: I have answered your question before. There is not an iota of truth that there is any element of distrust or mistrust between me and the Congress President. The Congress President is the Leader of the United Progressive Alliance. She is the President of the Congress. I am a Congressman. Therefore, there is no question of there being a gap in thinking or a gap between me and the Congress President when it comes to doing things which our Government should be doing.

QUESTION: Sir, my question is just the same one. The National Advisory Council has been set up for the second time and it is being considered a kind of super Cabinet which will put an impact on the policies of the Government. Do you think that, first, this is a super Cabinet and whether it will create a problem for running the Government?

ANSWER: It is not a super Cabinet; it is an advisory body. It brings to bear on social sector development a perspective essentially of the civil society, its various actors, and that is a very important input. The National Advisory Council, in the past six years, I think, it is not there for the last couple of years now, but when it did exist, it made very effective contribution to pushing forward the programme of social development by our Government.

QUESTION: Sir, there is a section of intelligentsia in this country which thinks that you are too pro-America and can even ignore national interests. Even the Left, during the last term, accused you of working on American agenda. How do you respond to that?

ANSWER: Well, I am working only to an agenda which, I believe, serves India, to the best of my ability. I don't think there is any thing that I can say on this matter. It is for the public and the people of India to judge.

प्रश्न : प्रधान मंत्री जी, कट मोशन के दौरान मायावती और मुलायम सिंह, दोनों की पार्टियों ने आपका समर्थन किया था। ऐसा कैसा हो सका? ऐसा माना जाता रहा है कि इनके और सरकार के बीच कुछ डील हुई थी।

उत्तर : कोई डील नहीं हुई थी। मैं आपको पूरा यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में आपको जो गलतफहमी है, आप उसको दिल से निकाल दें।

प्रश्न : सर, आपने कहा कि जातीय जनगणना को लेकर कैबिनेट प्रस्ताव को आगे बढ़ा रही है, क्या आपको नहीं लगता कि इस फैसले से आप देश को एक बार फिर मंडल युग के दौर में ले जा रहे हैं?

प्रश्न : आपने यूपीए-1 के समय में हायर ऐजुकेशन सेक्टर में रिजर्वेशन के दौरान जो डिवाइड आया था, उसे देख लिया था।

उत्तर : मैंने यह नहीं कहा कि हमने फैसला किया। मैंने कहा कि कैबिनेट में इस विषय पर चर्चा होगी और जो भी निर्णय होगा, वह जनता के सामने आ जाएगा।

QUESTION: Mr. Prime Minister, do you have any specific milestones that Pakistan should fulfil to reduce the trust deficit? How do you value our relationship with US? Are we going to get access to Headley?

ANSWER. Well, I have been assured by the highest in the United States Administration that we will get access to Mr. Headley.

QUESTION: Mr. Prime Minister, in the first five years, you were called a weak Prime Minister. There was a tough opposition; there was the Left. Well, you answered them; but do you think of being weakened by your own Party this time round? We have Mr. Jairam Ramesh; we have Mr. Chidambaram; the list is, in a sense, endless? Has your Party weakened you?

ANSWER: I don't have any such feelings. I welcome a dialogue between Ministers and we are a democracy; we are a country of a billion people and in this large country, I think, it is very important that we should explore and take advantage of the diverse opinions that may exist in a country as large, as complex and as diverse as India is. So, personally, I think this is an advantage. I think it is a healthy development that Ministers give their opinion freely though, of course, it is very important that in matters which are before the Cabinet, I think, these things are first taken up in the Cabinet itself.

QUESTION: Sir, let me congratulate you first for your completion of first year of the second term as Prime Minister and you have had the rare honour of carrying with you the Lefts and the anti-Lefts in two terms. Now, I would like to know from you one thing. Sir, what is the feeling of the Prime Minister when a Minister who is the Member of your Cabinet ignores the collective responsibility and differs strongly with the Government and airs the differences in the public? What is your feeling?

ANSWER: Well, I think, I have said that it is not good that Ministers should air their differences in public. The Cabinet meets every week and I am very pleased to tell you that our Cabinet, in the last six years, have met almost on schedule every week. So, Ministers have plenty of opportunities to express their views, and, it is, therefore, I agree with the view that I think if these views are first aired in the Cabinet, then that is the right thing to do.

QUESTION: Mr. Prime Minister, my question to you is, you mentioned that India cannot realize its full development potential unless it achieves peace

with its neighbour, Pakistan. Now, which of the two, a double-digit economic growth or peace with Pakistan, is your pet project for UPA-II? By that what I mean is, which is the one on which you may even stake your Government like you did last time on the question of Civilian Nuclear Agreement?

ANSWER: Well, we will work in both the directions to ensure that our country gets a growth rate of about 10 per cent in the medium term. Also that there is peace and amity in our neighbourhood, that the differences with Pakistan are reduced to a level whereby, I think, we can create a greater atmosphere of trust between our two countries.

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा प्रश्न POK तथा अक्साइचिन को लेकर है। आप इतिहास के अच्छे जानकार हैं और आपको मालूम है कि ये भारतीय क्षेत्र थे। क्या किसी भी बायलेटरल रिलेशन टॉक्स के ऊपर या किसी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर भारत ने इन दोनों क्षेत्रों को वापस लेने की मांग उठाई है? इस बारे में आपकी सरकार का क्या कहना है और आप क्या कदम उठाएंगे?

उत्तर : आप जरा दोबारा बताइए, मुझे समझ में नहीं आया।

प्रश्न : सर, मेरा प्रश्न POK और अक्साइचिन क्षेत्र को लेकर है, यह फैक्ट है कि ये भारतीय क्षेत्र थे, जिसे पाकिस्तान ने ब्रिटिश फौज के इशारे से POK को कब्जा लिया था। वहां पर जो आतंकवादी शिविर चल रहे हैं, वे उसी क्षेत्र में चल रहे हैं। भारत उनपर हमला करके उन शिविर क्षेत्रों को भी हटा सकता है। इन दोनों क्षेत्रों को वापस लेने के लिए, आपकी सरकार क्या कोशिश कर रही है?

उत्तर : देखिए, पाकिस्तान के साथ बहुत से मसले हैं। अभी तक जो बातचीत हुई है, वह इस बात पर नहीं पहुंच सकी कि जो आपने प्रश्न उठाए हैं, उनका कोई हल निकल सके।

QUESTION: Sir, my question to you is this. You are in your sixth successive year as the Prime Minister of India, and, Sir, what would you say, is the most important legacy issue for you in this tenure?

ANSWER: Well, I think, I am not really bothered about the legacy issues. I have a task to accomplish. I am trying to do that to the best of my ability. For the rest, the legacy or what are the issues for legacy, it is for the historians to pronounce judgments.

SHRI HARISH KHARE: Thank you very much, Ladies and Gentlemen. The Press Conference comes to an end now.