slum. As far as integrated low cost sanitation scheme is concerned, I would like to
tell the hon. Member that in the Eleventh Plan, we had sanctioned Rs. 545.16 crore
which were to be spent by the States for removal of manual scavenging. Out of
this, Rs. 340.25 crore were spent by the States and before the Supreme Court, all
the States stated that there was no manual scavenging being done in the urban
areas. But, when the 2011 Census report came, it found out that still there were
more than 2,08,000 manual scavengers in the urban areas. So, we have come up
with another plan now and we are asking the State Governments to implement this
plan. We have earmarked around Rs. 367.33 crores in the new phase looking at the
report of the 2011 Census.

Setting up Industrial Growth Centres in Assam

9364. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for setting up of Industrial Growth
Centres in Assam;

(b) if so, the location-wise number of Industrial Growth Centres set up so far
in the State;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) if no funds have been allocated so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND
SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. The Growth Centre Scheme was discontinued with effect
from 31st March, 2009.

(b) and (c) Three Growth Centres were sanctioned in the State of Assam as per the
details given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of State</th>
<th>Number of Growth Centres sanctioned</th>
<th>Approved Project Cost</th>
<th>Total Central Grant released</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>1. Chaygaon Growth Centre</td>
<td>16.15</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Matia Growth Centre</td>
<td>22.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Chariduar Growth Centre</td>
<td>25.43</td>
<td>12.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(d) Does not arise.
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, the Minister, in her answer, has stated that three Growth Centres have been set up in Assam. I want to ask from the Minister: What are the years of sanction of these three Growth Centres? Whether the grant given by the Commerce and Industry Ministry has been utilised and whether it covers the infrastructure like power, road connectivity and allied things under the Growth Centres. As far as my knowledge goes, all these three Growth Centres are still incomplete. So, what is the answer of the Minister to complete these Growth Centres so that industrial development takes place there?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, the Growth Centre Scheme was actually initiated in the year 1988 and there was a detailed impact evaluation that was conducted by the National Productivity Council, NPC, in 2006. Sir, however, we do feel that the Scheme did not really take off or go the way we wanted this scheme to go. So, actually, this Scheme has been discontinued though the three Growth Centres in the North-Eastern region, which have already been given, would definitely be supported by the Government.

Sir, coming to the specific question that my hon. colleague has asked, there have been three Growth Centres sanctioned for the State of Assam — one is in Chaygaon, the second one is in Balipara and the third one is in Matala. Sir, coming to the Chaygaon Growth Centre, it was sanctioned in 2003. The approved cost was around Rs.16.15 crore. The Central grant that was approved and released was Rs.15 crore and the share of the State Government that was released was around Rs.1.15 crore. Sir, the utilisation certificates have come in for about Rs.15 crore. Now, when we look at the infrastructure that needs to be created there, largely, it has met the infrastructure requirements which are supposed to be provided by the State.

Sir, coming to the Chariduar Growth Centre in Assam, the Balipara one, this was a project that was sanctioned in 1997. It was sanctioned for an approved cost of Rs.25.43 crore. The Central grant approved was around Rs.15 crore and the Central grant that was released was around Rs.12.16 crore. The share of the State Government released was around Rs.2.02 crore and the total expenditure that has been incurred on this is around Rs.16.72 crore and the utilisation certificates have been provided only for around Rs.11.16 crore. So, utilisation certificates to the full are yet to come in. Sir, when we look at the infrastructure that needs to be established there, for the water treatment plant and the effluent treatment plant, a detailed engineering is still in progress and that has not been completed.
Coming to the last one, which is the Matia Growth Centre, this was sanctioned in 1997 and the project cost was around Rs. 22 crores. The Government of India has released resources to the tune of Rs. 15 crores and the Government of Assam has provided Rs. 2.57 crores. Again here, the Utilisation Certificates have come in full. But I do agree with the hon. Member that the infrastructure requirements are completely not in place and the State Government needs to look into this.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister that she also visited Assam recently and she has a first-hand knowledge about industrialization in that part of the country. Sir, this scheme of Growth Centre has been discontinued since 2009. In 1997, the North-Eastern Industrial Promotion Policy was announced and that was re-declared in 2007 with a view to promoting industrialization in that industrially backward region. Now so many incentives have been given for the growth of industries in the North-Eastern Region, particularly, Assam. In fact, the entire North-Eastern Region, including Assam, has been declared a tax-free zone. But, in my view, the purpose has been defeated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your supplementary?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: I say this because if you compare the tax-free zone in Himachal Pradesh or other States, in Himachal Pradesh, you don't have to pay tax at all. But, in the North-East Region, including Assam, you have to pay the tax and then you get it back. Now, whatever duties or taxes, which you are getting back after paying, these are considered as 'income from other sources' and are taxed by the Income Tax Department. So, by one hand, you are giving the concession, but by the other hand, you are taking it back. How can industries be promoted in this manner? And that is the reason why the industrial growth is very slow and investments have stopped coming. That is why, even though this policy has been declared twice, yet, it is still an industrially backward area.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, the 'Look-East Policy' begins from here. We are very concerned about the growth of the North-Eastern Region, and the Government of India is committed to ensuring that there is industrial development in the North-Eastern Region. Sir, besides the Growth Centre Scheme, which I have already detailed about, there is also the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme which is in place to ensure that States can, actually, avail funds under the Scheme to provide the necessary infrastructure to improve the industrial growth in those particular regions. Sir, more particularly, when it comes to the North-East,
there is special dispensation where even though we provide resources to the tune of 75 per cent, under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, to the other parts of the country, to the North-Eastern Region, as a special dispensation, we support about 90 per cent. When it comes to the subsidy scheme which the hon. Member was, actually, referring to, this Special Package for Himachal Pradesh will be over in 2013 and the NEHP, 2007, will, however, continue till 2017. And, for the North-Eastern Region, if the hon. Member has any specific issue and problem, then, he can, definitely, approach us and we can always look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kumar Deepak Das. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, my supplementary is whether the Ministry will take up this matter of taxation with the Finance Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Minister has already said that.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the North Eastern Region industrial growth has been crippled due to non-allocation of funds. Most of the national projects have been crippled due to poor allocation of funds. One of the instances that have been given by the hon. Minister in her written reply was that three Industrial Growth Centres have been sanctioned in 2008. But this scheme has been discontinued on 31st March, 2009. The approved project cost for three Industrial Growth Centres has been given in the written reply. Out of Rs.16.15 crores, the total Central grant released was Rs.15.00 crores, then, for the second Centre, out of Rs.22.00 crores, Rs.15.00 crores was released, and for the third Centre, out of Rs.25.343 crores, Rs.12.16 crores had been released. This is the main cause for the non-industrial growth in the North Eastern Region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: I am putting my specific question. We know that North Eastern Region is the 12th mega hot spot of biodiversity in the world. May I know from the Minister whether she will focus thoroughly on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, water, clean energy, tourism and comprehensive projects for the industrial growth of the North Eastern Region? ... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members to allow the Question Hour to proceed.

SEHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, as I mentioned earlier, the North Eastern Region is very close to our hearts. We are definitely concerned about the growth
of the North Eastern Region. The hon. Member has said that the Centre has released only Rs.15.00 crores and Rs.12.00 crores. The Growth Centre Scheme is actually a shared programme. The size of the project should be around Rs.30 crores, not to exceed Rs.30 crores. Even if the cost of the project is Rs.30 crores, then, the Central Grant will be Rs.10 crores, of course, Rs.15 crores for the North Eastern Region and also for the Special Category States. The State Government’s share will be around Rs.5 crores, financial institutions contribute about Rs.4 crores, the nationalised banks will contribute around Rs.1 crore; and the market borrowings could be to the tune of Rs.10 crores. This is the sharing pattern under the scheme. Unless the Utilisation Certificate comes in to the Government of India, the second instalment can’t be released to the State Government. If there was anything pending with the Government of India, it may be because the Utilisation Certificate has not been given to the Ministry of Commerce.

Coming to the protection of agriculture and other aspects that the Member has raised, let me once again assure the House that we are completely concerned, and we will do whatever we can in our capacity to support the North East Region.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the interest of the industrial development of the North Eastern Region, the Government of India has given transport subsidy to the entrepreneurs for the development of the industrial sector in the region. But on many occasions it came to the notice that there is an allegation that without establishing any industry many so-called industrialists have collected transport subsidy. The large scale corruption, the large scale irregularities are taking place in that region. There are industries functioning only for the name sake. I think the CBI has also registered cases against some people on the subsidy that they are availing of. May I know from the Minister whether the Government is going to curb these types of irregularities? May I also know from the Minister whether the Government is going to take action against the corrupt people who are taking money and not doing anything for the industrial development of the North Eastern Region?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWAR: Sir, in reality, this question does not arise out of the Growth Centre because this is more specific to the Growth Centre Scheme. However, let me apprise the hon. Member that the Transport Subsidy Scheme, the TSS, was actually initiated in 1971 and has been amended from time to time, and this is in implementation in 14 States and UTs, including the eight States of the North-Eastern Region. Sir, since the inception of this scheme an amount of Rs. 2948.95 crores have actually been released to the State
Governments and the Union Territories, including Rs. 2490.73 crores for the North-Eastern Region itself. If there are any specific cases of misappropriation of funds, Sir, it can always be brought to the notice of the Ministry and Ministry will initiate action against them.

**Social Security Scheme for unorganised sector**

*365 SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIHYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of people engaged in the unorganised job sector for their livelihood;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to cover them under any Social Security Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) As per the survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization in the year 2009-2010, the total employment in the unorganized sector in the country was 43.7 crore.

(b) to (d) With a view to providing social security to unorganized workers, the Government enacted the "Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008". The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the central level to recommend social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers. The Government has initiated steps in the context of all these social security benefits.

The Government launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide smart card based cashless health insurance, including maternity benefit, cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum on family floater basis to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganised sector. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme is presently being implemented in 26 States/Union Territories and more than 3.31 crore smart cards have been issued as on 30.11.2012.

The Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) was launched on 02.10.2007 with a view to providing insurance cover to the head of family or one earning member of rural