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Vaisakha 9, 1907(Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Second Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 29, 1985/Vaisakha 9, 1907
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Amendment of CPWD Code

*631 SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether C.P.W.D. code has not been amended for the last 35 years ;

(b) whether work-charged workers, getting all allowances and benefits, available to the permanent workers, are called as work-charged workers, even after putting in service for about 40 years ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) No, Sir. The CPWD Code is being amended from time to time. The last amendment was made in August, 1983.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The workers in the work-charged establishment of CPWD are called 'work-charged', as their pay and allowances are charged to the works on which they are working.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are thousands of workers in the Works and Housing Ministry who are getting all the facilities like pension, gratuity, LTC, medical facilities and

general pool accommodation also. In a similar manner, all these facilities are being enjoyed by the work-charged workers also. I just do not understand why, when they are doing permanent nature of job—the job is permanent—they have been working for the last so many years and they are getting all the facilities, they have not been transferred to the regular establishment. My question is this. Is it not a fact that the work-charged workers are doing permanent nature of work and they can be transferred from one place to another place ; not only that, they can even be transferred from one city to another city ? The second part of my question is this. Is it a fact that, in the other Departments like the P&T, Civil Aviation, the Government of India Press, all industrial workers are taken on the basis of regular establishment ? Is it a fact that recently some lift operators, enquiry clerks and works assistants have been transferred from work-charged establishment to the regular establishment whereas many have been left and is there any plan to transfer the work-charged workers to the regular establishment ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The main thing the hon. Member wants to know is this. The work-charged workers get all the facilities which the regular employees get. The only difference is this. For the work-charged workers their duration of service is 60 years whereas in regard to those who are regular employees their age limit is 58. This is the only and main difference. The pension is the same. Leave is the same. Everything is the same. The question is this. Why then are they not made permanent ? This the hon. Member wants to know. It is true that the difference is only minor. But there are a large number of workers themselves who want, 'No, we should be treated under work-charged staff.'

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : That is not correct.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Under the leadership of the hon. Member.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : Secondly, there are three trade unions working there. Two of them want that they should be treated as they are being treated just now and one union led by my hon. friend wants that they should be treated as regular. I also consider that all of them should be brought together on the same desk and my officers are there and this matter can be thrashed out.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : It has nothing to do with the Union. My whole contention is that they are doing a permanent nature of job and when we talk about work-charged staff that does not sound a permanent job. When they are getting all the facilities and they are doing a permanent nature of work, then they should be definitely transferred to the regular establishment. The impression that is given to the hon. Minister, I don't think, is correct. I do not know whether the bureaucrats have given him this impression. I do not know who has given him this impression. As far as I am concerned, there is no dispute. The unions are all united on this issue that the work charged workers should be transferred to the regular establishment when they are doing a similar nature of work. When they are doing a permanent nature of work and when they are getting all the facilities which the permanent workers are getting and another thing, when they are transferable also from one city to another city, they should be shifted from work charged staff to regular establishment. My question has not been replied. My question is : whether there is any plan and is the Minister considering to transfer the work charged workers to the regular establishment in future ? I want a specific reply.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : I have already replied. I will call you. I will call others. I will ask the work charged staff. I will ask my officers to thrash out this matter. There is no big difficulty.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Do you agree that what I am saying is correct ? If you agree, you should accept it. There is no

question of calling me or other trade union leaders.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : Sometimes in human mind it occurs : if you give a little facility, what is wrong. The question of 2 years is not an ordinary thing. If I accept what you say, then their age limit will be reduced to 58. If the workers want, 'No, we should be treated as work charged staff.', then why let we give that facility to them, when we are giving them all the facilities that we are giving to the regular staff. Of course, their opinion will be considered. Whatever you have stated will be discussed across the table and I have got no objection in that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : The hon. Labour Minister is sitting here. It is surprising that he does not feel alarmed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This relates to Works and Housing. Why do you bring the Labour Minister here ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You kindly tell us the number of persons who have been working in your Department for 240 days regularly. Does the law permit you to continue these persons as unconfirmed even after their having worked for 240 days regularly. Why have the Labour Department not initiated any legal action against your Department ?

You violate the law by keeping a person employed for 240 days but not making his permanent even after that period and showing him absent for one day and then declaring him 'work-charged', Kindly state whether such workers cannot get all those benefits which are available to permanent employees.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : I want to inform Shri Daga that they are governed by Factories Act. They can do all the work which is done by other factory workers. You think that they are declared absent for any day. It is not correct. They are given all the facilities which are given to other workers according to the Factories Act. I have spelt out all the facilities that are given to the regular workers and to

these workers. If you go into this you will find the work charged workers get more facilities than those enjoyed by regular workers. Even then what he has stated will be considered but the workers want themselves to be kept as work-charged. Their interest is kept in mind.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : His question was why the Labour Minister did not feel alarmed.

[English]

SHRI AZEEZ SAIT : Sir, CPWD being the biggest employer, I would like to know whether they are ready to treat the work charge employees on permanent roll. I know what is meant by work charge.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : This has been answered already through another supplementary.

SHRI AZEEZ SAIT : In the earlier supplementary my friend was asking about transferring them to the regular thing. My question is what is the difficulty in CPWD to convert these workers into permanent workers ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR ; I have already told that these workers who are charged under work charge their age-limit is 60 years. I don't find there is any ambiguity. I have also said earlier that the whole matter will be discussed across the table.

SHRI AZEEZ SAIT : Sir, mine is a simple question whether these work charged workers will be treated as permanent or not ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : They are all permanent in the sense that they are treated as permanent workers. They are getting all the facilities. Even they get additional facility, namely, their retirement age-limit is 60 whereas in the case of permanent employees it is 58.

SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE : The reply given by the Minister is that he is more concerned with re-conciliation than the legal obligation whereas he should feel that he is under legal obligation to make work charge in parity with the permanent workers. There is difference between work-charge and permanent workers. Work-charge means so long as there is work they are

on the charge and the moment the work is over they are out. So, I would like to know whether he will treat the work charge employees in parity with the regular ones. If he is giving them all the benefits then why is he not making them permanent ? It seems the hon. Minister is evading the question.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : There is no question of evading. In the beginning when this thing was brought as work-charge then the CPWD might have no continuous work for them at that time. Later on it has been found that the whole concept is just on the same basis as those who are regular employees.

They derive some more benefits by categorising them under work charged. Government has absolutely no hesitation if the hon. Member and trade unionists and workers want that they should be converted as regular workers.

Genetic Research in the Country

*634. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there is a great scope for genetic research in the country;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction; and

(c) how far these are likely to result in promoting the research in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) ;

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Genetic research has great relevance in crop and animal improvement besides medical, industrial and related areas. Indian Council of Agricultural Research which is concerned with crop and livestock improvement has established in different parts of the country as many as 22 Central Institutes for the improvement of crops, commodities and livestock species. Besides, a large number of All India Coordinated

Research Projects with a number of centres in each project, and spread over the country has also been established to solve location specific problems of crops and livestock improvement through the application of genetic principles.

There are 23 Agricultural Universities in the country which have the discipline of genetics, in the agriculture, basic sciences and animal husbandry faculties to promote research and educational interests of the science of genetics.

Recently, the Government of India has established a National Biotechnology Board with a view to provide impetus for the advancement of genetic research in all the fields including agriculture. Under this programme, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has decided to set up three biotechnology centres, one each at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar and Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi to work on livestock and crop improvement and on the problems of their health.

Further, it is proposed to strengthen these facilities during the VII Five Year Plan to provide the required thrust for the development of genetic science as applied to crop and livestock improvement.

(c) With the application of genetic principles in plant and animal breeding programmes, a large number of high yielding varieties and hybrids of crops and livestock species have been developed which have provided an opportunity to increase agriculture and livestock production and their quality, in the country. Yet there are many problems which need to be solved on a continuing basis in order to sustain the progress of growth, and to stabilise production by minimising fluctuations due to different biotic and abiotic stresses. To achieve this, the national capabilities are proposed to be strengthened during the VII Five Year Plan. In addition to conventional mechanisms, the increased use of biotechnology and genetic engineering techniques are expected to provide fillip to the development of such aspects as the evolution of new plant types with built-in drought tolerance, higher photosynthetic efficiency, lesser vulnerability to the biological stresses such as diseases and pests,

exploitation and efficient use of biofertilizers tissue culture, embryo transplant etc.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I must congratulate the Minister because he has given detailed and elaborate reply which can create a scientific temper in the general rural mass of India and the agriculturist scope for genetic research in third world countries has been initiated by our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and continuously from that time the progress in the field of agriculture and biotechnology is improving day by day. Now we are much more self-sufficient in the field of agricultural produce. At the same time in the field of animals we are lagging behind. Will the Minister look into this matter? At the International Seminar of the Sixth Session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Bio-technology held at Vigyan Bhavan which was inaugurated by Shri R. Venkataraman, what are the detailed discussions and what is the outcome of that seminar which can be set up in the indigenous field and which can provide a fertile field for action in biotechnology? Secondly, what is the help expected from UNDO who have taken the initiative in this regard?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for he has been very generous in his comments. Under the dynamic leadership of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi it has been possible for the scientists in our country to make commendable research in the field of genetic engineering, molecular biology, tissue culture, etc. He referred to the International Seminar held at Vigyan Bhavan. I am happy to say that as a result of our great achievements in this field the UNDO has agreed to sanction three centres for post graduate research and education in bio-technology and we have decided to set up these three at IARI New Delhi, IVRI Izatnagar and NDRI Karnal. Indo-US collaborative project on Science and Technology has been established to work on genetic engineering to focus attention on gene transplant or gene manipulation with particular reference to nitrogen fixation by non-legumes International Centre for Bio-technology and Genetic Engineering for agriculture and medicine has been given to India. The nodal agency for coordination of this centre is

the Dept. of Science and Technology. In addition, a large number of ad hoc research schemes has been sanctioned by the ICAR for sugarcane, coconut, groundnut and jute besides the programmes initiated in a number of ICAR institutes as a normal work of the institute.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is proposing, in the best interest of the country, to have a national gene bank to preserve and conserve original species of crop and at the same time of animal to maintain the flora and fauna of our country for our eco system. If not, I would like to know whether the Government has any proposal to have such a type of bank in our country to show the world that India will lead in this also to give further research and development and know-how to the third world.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, in our country we have been able to conserve and preserve these genetic assets of our country through conventional methods. But the suggestions made by the hon. Member is valuable and we will give full thought to these suggestions and we will perhaps work out the necessity of such type of bank. We will try to have one in our country.

Subsidy to Small Fishing Trawlers and Unmechanised Boats

*636. **SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether big trawlers which are engaged in deep-sea fishing are given 50 per cent subsidy for diesel consumption;

(b) the reasons for denying the same to the small trawlers as well as un-mechanised fishing boats;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give subsidy on equal footing to all fishing boats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) No subsidy is given to the bigger trawlers engaged in deep by sea fishing. However, rebate on Central Excise Duty on

H.S.D. oil is available for deep sea fishing trawlers of 13.7 metre length fitted with engines of 150 b.h.p. and above at the following rates :—

(i) At the flat rate of 50%

(ii) Additional rebate of 50% of excise duty on each 1.08 KI. of diesel for every ton of prawn exported.

(b) to (d) The proposal to extend the scheme to the small mechanised boats was examined by the Government. It was not found possible to implement the scheme due to serious administrative difficulties and risk to the revenue.

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this is not the established policy of the Government to extend such subsidies to small farmers and marginal farmers. I do not know why there is a departure in the case of fishermen. Here they are supporting the big trawlers which are owned by rich people. As a matter of fact there is a saying that big fish swallows smaller ones. The big trawlers get a lot of catch and the small trawlers or rather those small mechanised boats are deprived of the catch by the big trawlers and over and above the subsidy is also not given to them. When the Government has given 50% subsidy in excise duty on diesel to big trawlers, they should examine the question of giving 100% subsidy to the smaller trawlers. I would like to know whether the Government is considering giving 100% subsidy to these small trawlers. Is there any proposal before Government or not ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member. But this subsidy has to be looked from different angle because in the deep sea fishing the biggest constraint in operation is fuel consumption. Sometimes it works out to the extent of 65% of the total cost of fishing in the deep seas. Therefore, to encourage deep sea fishing, we have to show this concession because we wanted to exploit the resources in the deep sea. The various points I have mentioned in the answer to the main question, we did take up with the concerned Ministry. It was discussed at various levels. It was also examined as to whether it will be

practicable to implement such a scheme. But we have not left it. We are still pursuing, if not in this form, at least in some other form like giving them rebate in the credit or providing them with some subsidies which could offset this kind of cost in the fishing industry. Even now we are pursuing it with the Ministries concerned. If you look at the details of the economic of this kind of rebate to the fishermen using these mechanised boats, it is very very marginal and to achieve this marginal result, we have to go through a very cumbersome method which is a kind of pilferage or manipulation. So we are thinking of providing them a simple system by which the fishermen will get some benefit. It may not be from this, but may be from other sources. We can subsidise that and we can assist the fishermen using the mechanised boats or even the smaller boats.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, before I ask a supplementary question on this, I want to remind the hon. Minister about another occasion on which he was present in the House, the hon. Finance Minister was present in the House, the hon. Prime Minister was present.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The Finance Minister was not present.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He was physically not present. (*Interruptions*) Sir, at that time in the presence of the Prime Minister, I had said that those mechanised boats which had a power of 150 HP and more, were getting the concession on the diesel duty. The mechanised boats having less than 150 HP are denied this concession and subsidy and therefore I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture to use his good offices with the Finance Minister and the Finance Minister will use his good offices with the Prime Minister to see that this concession is granted. At that time the hon. Minister got up and said "I am inclined to agree with Prof Madhu Dandavate regarding the demand that he is making". At that time, the Prime Minister was sitting very close to the Agriculture Minister. Fortunately with the permission of the Chair, the Prime Minister got up and said "I accept Prof. Madhu Dandavate's suggestions. Let the Agriculture Minister come through

the Finance Minister." Therefore, I would like to know whether you have already approached the Finance Ministry, convinced them about which you yourself are convinced, You have given the convincing answer, I know that in the bottom of his heart, he is in favour, But I do not know whether you have persuaded the Finance Ministry to accept this proposal and the Finance Minister finally has taken up this. If he had not taken up this, for god's sake and your own sake take a decision on this.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, like an astute trade union leader, the hon. Member has brought out certain elements which did not occur on the floor of the House, For example, he said that the Prime Minister readily agreed and directed. He did not accept it. He said "Let the Minister come through the Finance Minister". So, the keenness on my part is that I visited his constituency after that. I met the fisherman.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If you had informed me earlier, I would have given you mangoes and fish.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I sat with them and I saw almost all their operations from drying to cold storage and marketing and everything. I spent one full day. I agree with the hon. Member and the Professor that they need more assistance because this is the type of industry in which the bulk of our poormen are benefited. I should say that more than 70% of our fishermen are operating small boats which in fact are indigenously mechanised and they have improvised sort of devices by which they catch fishes. Some of them highly keen, some of them very progressive, some of them have set up their own cold storages, they have their own transport system, they have their own outlets. We could like to encourage such activities all over the country, As I said, I am still pursuing with the Ministry of Finance and I hope that they will be able to come out with some kind of help on the lines which they have shown to the big fishing trawlers. At the same time, my own understanding of the situation, after visiting the hon. Member's constituency is that this is not the only constituency where this kind of thing is prevailing. Sir, I also discovered that most of these small mechanised boats do not

use high-speed diesel oil. Most of them use kerosene and petrol. Even then, if you look at the element of relief drawn through these concessions which we are going to the big sea fishing trawlers, it works out to be Rs. 330 per kilo litre and down to a small man, it will come to the extent of 16.5 paise which will not be of that extent for which we should really go to the small fishermen. We are at the same time considering quite actively whether they should be given some more concessions, in other forms—just as I said that they should be provided machines, and engines at reduced rates. Then, they could be given more liberal terms on the credit side. They could be given more facilities on the landing sites. We could help them in building more landing sites which they could use. So, all these things are under the active consideration of the Government. We are working quite hard on this, and I am sure the hon. Members will agree with me that left to me, I will be able to handle the whole thing.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA : To make good use of the Indian economic zone, we have encouraged chartered fishing vessels, and the import of deep sea fishing vessels. It is a good policy that we have, and this encouragement should also be there. But may I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that these foreign fishing vessels which are supposed to operate only in the deep seas, are now entering into those areas where our indigenous fishing vessels are operating, whereby they are becoming competitors to our own indigenous fishing vessels, and not exploiting areas where they are supposed to be ?

May I know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to prevent these imported fishing vessels from entering the zone reserved for the Indian fishermen ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : We are quite aware of the situation, sofar as the use of our EEZ by the big vessels are concerned ; and we are quite vigilant. As a matter of fact, it is because of our being more tough that the number of fishing vessels has come down, because we were more harsh.

Recently, a review was made of the whole situation. We will not allow any big vessels to curtail or to encroach upon the areas which are meant for the smaller fishermen, or for the conventional fishing industry. But at the same time we have to encourage deep sea fishing, because that particular source is going untapped for long past, and we want to encourage deep sea fishing, which would give a boost to our exports. It will also provide a boost to our economy. At the same time, we are quite vigilant ; and I can assure the hon. Member that if he looks at the record of the past 2 or 3 years, he will find that this poaching has been reduced to almost nil.

SHRI D.B. PATIL : While replying, the hon. Minister has stated that there are administrative difficulties in giving subsidy to small trawlers. I do not understand what is meant by administrative difficulties. This is a very poor excuse. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the administrative difficulties are.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The distribution points are spread all over the country. It will be very difficult to earmark a particular outlet for the fishing industry, or for the farming industry or for the transport industry. So, there is a possibility of people misutilizing or abusing the facilities provided for fishermen, because there is hardly any earmarked outlet for fishermen. That is one. Secondly, it is difficult to see when a particular amount of HSD is being taken, it will be put on the engine with the boat, or it will be used in running the plant or something else. Therefore, the various departments which are handling the distribution of oil at various points in the country have expressed their difficulties.

Similarly, Finance Ministry also has its own problems. That is why I said that in the States also, they have different rates. So, these were the various difficulties due to which we said that administratively, it would be cumbersome, and if we could show the same extent of concessions to fishermen, through other methods, it will be much better, more easy to implement and more beneficial to the

small fishermen who are operating indigenous boats.

SHRI G.S. GHOLAP : The small fishermen are fighting for nearly 15 years this issue of rebate. It was unanimously decided at the conference in Hyderabad that it would be done. Even then it is not done. Now it is promised in some way it will be done. When is it likely to be done ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The issue which the hon. member is trying to raise, if it is excise duty on HSD, I am afraid, I have yet to recall to my memory any particular specific trade or any particular specific business which has been shown any concession. As I said in the beginning, as far as two deep-sea fishing vessels are concerned, it was considered that the economy of deep-sea fishing trawlers, the constituents of the HSD consumption is to the extent of 65 per cent ; and at that stage also, to boost the export of our deep-sea fishing, we gave rather incentives to those who will export the entire catch ; they will be given this much of bonus. So, it has nothing to do with a policy of distribution of HSD. I am afraid, the hon. member has not understood the implications of the whole thing. As I explained to the queries of Prof. Dandavateji and Shri Hussain Dalwaiji, we are at it and we are trying to find some way out.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Thousands of our poor fishermen are using country crafts. Recently, these country crafts are being started to be mechanised using out-board engines. The Minister now said that these out-board engines are using kerosene and not petrol. But the fact is that these poor fishermen are not being supplied that kerosene at all. They are giving subsidy to the big trawlers' owners ; they are giving subsidy for big trawler companies. But these poor fishermen are not getting kerosene at all. These were representations from the Kerala Chief Minister, Kerala Government and other States to the Minister to allot kerosene on subsidised rates and give special allocation. So far no action has been taken. Will the Minister of Agriculture take up this matter with the Petroleum Ministry so that kerosene

allocation is made for the poor country craft fishermen who are using out-board motors for mechanisation ? Secondly, we are allowing chartering for using potential of the deep-sea fishing, but there is a condition along with the chartering that after 3—5 years, after a specific period, these chartering companies should own these chartering vessels and Indian people should be trained. How many chartering companies are allowing chartering ? How many of them purchased these trawlers and made their own and how many men, our fishermen have been given training in these trawlers ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : So far as the hon. member's first part of the question is concerned, yes, we have already approached the Ministry of Petroleum for increasing allocation of kerosene to Kerala. But, at the same time, there are other incentives which the Government of India and the State Governments are giving to the small mechanised fishing sector. In some of the States, they have on their own, given relief on HSD, as I mentioned, by reducing their own sales taxes. In Maharashtra, the assistance given in this connection is at the rate of 15 paise per litre limited to Rs. 1000 per year per boat for purchases made through fishery cooperative societies or any authorised dealers of the HSD. In the Union Territory of Goa the subsidy of 15 paise per litre on HSD is granted. Similarly, in Lakshadweep, a subsidy of 30 per cent per litre is allowed by the local administration. For the economic betterment of the fishermen, coastal mechanisation programme has been one of the important schemes.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : These out-board motors are using only kerosene oil and not petrol.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : We have already approached the Ministry of Petroleum for allocating more kerosene to this kind of country boats which are fishing with the indigenous mechanised engines. I was going to mention that for mechanisation programme for which the hon. member was very keen and for the procurement of fishing requisites, various schemes of subsidy-cum-loan facilities are in operation in various States.

The element of subsidy varies from 10 to 70 per cent on the hull, engine and gear etc. in the various States. If you want I can read out the details.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can lay them on the Table of the House.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : In Kerala—the hon. Member specially wanted to know—fishing craft and gear are given to the traditional fishermen ; they are given catamaran, dug outs, canoes, and plank built boats and a 15 per cent grant by the Fishermen's Welfare Corporation.

The hon. Member also wanted to know about the loans for deep sea vessels. Eighteen vessels have been sanctioned for eight charters and 274 operating personnel have been trained for operating the chartered vessels in our country.

The hon. Member was trying to mix up chartering policy with the building of a permanent fleet in our country. Chartering policy is a transitory form in which we wanted originally to allow the big chartered vessels to fish in the deep sea for exploring our own resources with a view to provide training to our own people and also giving a chance to operate big vessels so that in future when we would have built our own fleet, there should be no dearth of technical hands. It is with this point of view that we have allowed chartering of big vessels in our deep seas. As soon as we are able to have our own fleet, and our own technical personnel, I am sure, that with the amount of training that is given and the investments given by the Government of India and the various States, it should be possible for us, within one year's period to stand on our own legs and do deep sea fishing. We are doing whatever is possible on our behalf to see that the coastal States are given all our encouragement to do deep sea fishing because it is only source to boost our economy and exploit the wealth in the sea.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan. Absent. Shri C. Madhav Reddi.

Labour Agreement between India and Qatar

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*638. **SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :**
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Qatar have recently signed an important labour agreement relating to the manpower relations ;

(b) if so, broad outlines of the proposal ; and

(c) the number of Indians likely to get employment in Qatar as a result of this agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

India and Qatar have signed on 11-4-85 an agreement concerning recruitment of manpower from India. The Agreement seeks to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. It organises and regulates the entry of Indian workers into the State of Qatar through Government channel or through registered recruiting agents. It provides for workers to be given an employment contract authenticated by both Governments.

2. A notable feature of the agreement is that in case of a dispute between an employer and the worker, there is scope for initial conciliation by the Qatari Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and if an amicable settlement fails, the complaint can be referred to the competent judicial authorities in Qatar. The Agreement also provides for the setting up of a joint committee to review implementation of the agreement.

3. Attached to the main agreement is a specimen model employment contract covers all the essential terms and conditions of employment : (i) salary (ii) working hours (iii) overtime (iv) transportation (v) accommodation (vi) end of service benefits and death and disability compensation.

4. It is not possible to forecast the exact number of Indians likely to get

employment in Qatar as a result of this Agreement. However, there are nearly 40,000 Indian workers presently employed in Qatar.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : There is a great exploitation of the workers in foreign countries and also in India at the time of recruitment and in this particular context I think that this is a step in the right direction and I should congratulate the hon. Minister for hammering out such an agreement. Will the Minister consider having similar agreements with other countries and will he also place a copy of the agreement on the Table of the House together with the model contract which the employer and the Indian workers are going to enter into ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : I will place the agreement on the Table of the House within a few days. We are also pursuing the other aspects of the agreement and with other countries for similar agreements.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What are the amenities that are provided by the Qatar government to the labourers and what is the period of agreement ? I would like to know them. Also, what are the conditions stipulated in the agreement.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : This agreement covered the salary, transportation, accommodation, working hours, overtime, and service benefits and death and disability compensation for casualties, etc. The agreement will take place soon—I do not know the exact time—there is no time limit.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : THE Minister is definitely aware of the fact that a lot of our workers are taken to Gulf countries and then they are exploited in a terrible manner, they are not given salaries properly as promised. Very often they lose their limbs, the manual workers especially and those in construction works are not provided with any insurance even. Even more than that, they are taken under very tempting promises and left stranded in some countries so that they never reach the Gulf countries. What are the stricter steps that the Government is taking now to control this type of activity and to bring to book such errant contractors ?

Government is definitely aware of the Arabisation policy of the Gulf countries. In view of the recession that is taking place, employment opportunities are first given to the people of that very country—in the case of Qatar to Qatari people—second preference is given to people from other Arab countries and only lastly and least the people from other countries. In view of that, there is going to be influx of those people back to India specifically to Kerala, Goa and Punjab, in the next few years. What steps or schemes or measures have the Government devised to absorb these people so that this may not create social tensions in the country ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : We have received some complaints. We are thinking of taking steps against such contractors including cancellation of their agreements, who are not honouring their agreements. They deposit with the Government Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs. Daily our officers are looking into the complaints and taking necessary action. About the return of our workers from foreign countries, we have nearly 10,000 workers in those countries. When they come back to India, we will see what can be done. At present I am not in a position to say anything as to what will be the position then.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : May I know whether the reservation policy in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is applicable for recruitment of manpower to foreign countries ? Has any agreement been made by the Government in this regard.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : Also tell us whether Mandal Commission's report is accepted by Gulf countries or not.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Most of the unskilled workers belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and minorities. But I do not have the figures.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : What is the amount of salary paid to the labour on monthly or weekly or per day basis ? What is the difference in wages between skilled workers and unskilled workers ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Unskilled labour gets Rs. 2000 per month and skilled labour get more than Rs. 3000 to Rs. 10000 per month.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Is it a fact that these rural people go to the Gulf countries in search of employment as the Government of India could not provide them employment opportunities here in India ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Unless we tap our resources, we cannot give employment to all.

News Division in Radio Stations

*639. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Radio Stations where news divisions are not there ;

(b) whether Sambalpur comes under this category ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(d) whether there is any demand from the people for having a news division there and starting the local news programme ; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The names of the 46 Radio Stations where presently AIR's Regional News Units have not been set up are as under :—

1. Visakhapatnam	2. Cuddapah	3. Bhagalpur
4. Darbhanga	5. Rajkot	6. Baroda
7. Rohtak	8. Trichur	9. Alleppey
10. Bhadravati	11. Gulberga	12. Mysore
13. Mangalore	14. Raipur	15. Gwalior
16. Jabalpur	17. Chhaterpur	18. Ambikapur
19. Rewa	20. Parbhani	21. Sangli
22. Jalgaon	23. Ratnagiri	24. Sambalpur
25. Jeypore	26. Jullundur	27. Ajmer
28. Bikaner	29. Jodhpur	30. Udaipur
31. Suratgarh	32. Tirunelveli	33. Coimbatore
34. Allahabad	35. Varanasi	36. Kanpur
37. Rampur	38. Mathura	39. Najibabad
40. Siliguri	41. Passighat	42. Tezu
43. Tawang	44. Tura	45. Nagercoil
46. Jagdalpur		

There is no Regional News Unit of AIR at Sambalpur. Representations have been received for the opening of such a unit. The facts are that such a unit is functioning in AIR, Cuttack, AIR Sambalpur is even now relaying daily two regional bulletins in Oriya broadcast by Cuttack.

The Regional News Units are generally set up in Capitals of States and Union Territories and at places where there is heavy news fall requiring from dissemination

point of view separate arrangements for coverage. Further from the financial and coverage points of view setting up of Regional News Units at too many centres will not be justifiable.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, the hon. Minister has given a list of 46 Radio Stations where AIR's Regional News Units have not been set up so far. In his reply, he has stated that generally the Regional News Units are set up in Capitals of States and Union Territories. I

would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there are any News Units set up in Radio Stations located outside the headquarters of States and Union Territories and if so, at how many such places and what is the basis for setting up of such News Units and whether Sambalpur, which is an important place in Orissa having justification for setting up of a News Unit, does not come under that category.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Sir, out of 88 All India Radio Stations, there are 46 Radio Stations where there are no News Units. The policy is that News Units should be established firstly at those Radio Stations which are located at State Capitals, and secondly, where plenty of news is available which requires to be broadcast. As far as Sambalpur is concerned, everyday two news bulletins in regional language are relayed from Cuttack. In addition, there is a full-time AIR Correspondent posted there. Thirdly, there are District News Letters in which thrice a week Sambalpur local news is widely broadcast.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sambalpur is an important place in Orissa which can even be called the second capital of the State. About one crore of population around that place depends on the Sambalpur Radio Station. This is an IADP area and is agriculturally developed, with Hirakud Dam project nearby. There are industrial complexes also like Rourkela, Rajgangpur, Brajaraj Nagar, etc. Lot of local news is there and the AIR Cuttack is not able to cater to that because of pressure of news from other twelve districts of the State. The two news bulletins, one for five minutes in the morning and the other for ten minutes in the evening, from AIR Cuttack are not sufficient to cater to the needs of the entire Sambalpur region. Furthermore, Sambalpur has a different culture in Orissa and has a dialect which is also different from the standard Oriya language. Most of the people in rural areas do not fully understand the Oriya language. Therefore, there was a demand from the public that this being a radio station mainly for agricultural area, the broadcasts relating to the agriculture, should be in the local dialect, and the Radio Station is doing that now. So, in view of all this and for the full achievement of the purpose behind the establish-

ment of the Sambalpur Radio Station, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will sympathetically consider the setting up of a Regional News Units there and the broadcasting of this regional news programme in local dialect.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Our survey shows that there is not enough news to justify setting up of a news unit there, but what I can do is to ask the local Director to include more items of Sambalpur news in the existing bulletins.

As far his suggestion that a complete news unit should be established there at this point of time, I cannot make any commitment, because I have to find out the cost-benefit ratio from financial angle and then only I can reply.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : As the hon. Minister has just now stated in his answer the regional news units of All India Radio are established in the capitals of States and Union Territories where there is plenty of news available. Kanpur is a big industrial city of north India. No news bulletin unit has been set up there so far and no news bulletin are broadcast from there. Will the hon. Minister take into consideration the importance of Kanpur for the setting up of a regional news unit there ?

[English]

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : As I said at the outset, out of 88 places, there are a number of places where there are no units. Then we have also to follow a consistent policy in response to any particular demand and within those parameters I will consider it.

[Translation]

Production and Export of Potatoes

*642. **SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a bumper potato crop this year which is far in excess of the requirement of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to export surplus potatoes;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the difficulty being experienced in doing so ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) The production of potatoes during 1983-84 reached a record level of 122.5 lakh tonnes. During the year 1984-85 it is expected that the production of potatoes is likely to exceed the level reached in 1983-84. However, the per capita consumption of potato is low in India as compared to many other countries.

(b) to (d) Export of potatoes is allowed freely under the present Policy. But actual export of potatoes has declined over the years for various reasons including uncompetitive price, problems of quality and standards, etc.

SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated in his answer, permission has been given for the unrestricted export of potatoes but as a result of various constraints as regards non-competitive price and quality etc. there has been a decline in the actual export of potatoes. I want to know from him the steps taken by Government to remove these constraints so that potato production is stepped up in States and we are able to push up its export.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I have stated some of the constraints in my main answer. Government have permitted potato growers to take to other alternatives like preparation of fried potato, potato chips etc. It would consume about 40 thousand tonnes. Besides this, Government are encouraging preparation of starch from low grade potatoes, converting them into potato flakes, potato mash and preparation of dry and dehydrated chips etc. In order to achieve the maximum yield of potatoes the farmers are being supplied with good quality seeds. Breeding centres have been set up throughout the country and experiments are being carried out through the State Governments. Then, the good quality seeds developed there are distributed so that the quality of potatoes is improved. I have stated in my main answer that there are some constraints in the

matter of export of potatoes. For example there is the packaging problem. We take help in that also.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Financial Assistance to States for Water Supply

*629. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria of granting financial assistance to State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme;

(b) whether Government of Orissa have approached the Union Government for some additional assistance for the above scheme to achieve the targets fixed under the 20-Point Programme; and

(c) if so, when and on what basis ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Funds under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply scheme are allocated to various States in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. The allocation is based on the number of problem villages to be covered, their population, the resource gap of the States for the programme, special problems of hilly and backward States and the Minimum Needs Programme provision made by the States in their own budgets. The capacity to utilise the funds and the targets for each state for coverage of problem villages is also taken into account.

(b) and (c) During the five year period 1980-85, grants amounting to Rs. 35.87 crores were released to the Govt. of Orissa under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. In addition, an amount of Rs. 850 lakhs was also released to them under the incentive scheme during 83-84.

and 84-85. During 84-85, an amount of Rs. 10.37 crores was released under Accelerated Rural Programme. The Govt. of Orissa requested for an additional release of Rs. 75 lakhs in March, 1985 against which Rs. 50 lakhs was released to them.

Schemes for Fisheries Development

*630. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH
PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the country has a vast potential for fisheries development;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes being implemented to exploit the potential fully; and

(c) the target of producing fish for the year 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) to (c) The vast potential of fisheries in the country is being increasingly exploited through several schemes and programmes being implemented both under States and Central Sectors. Some of the important programmes being implemented by the Central Government are as follows :

- (i) Assistance to the States in diversifying fishing activities and motorization of indigenous craft through loans/subsidy;
- (ii) augmentation of deep sea fishing fleet through a judicious mix of indigenous, imported and chartered fishing vessels;
- (iii) providing 33% subsidy on the cost of indigenously constructed deep sea fishing vessels;
- (iv) providing loans on soft term for purchase of deep sea fishing vessels through the Shipping Development Fund Committee;
- (v) augmentation of Fisheries Surveys and assistance for construction of fishing harbours at major and

minor ports and of the landing and berthing facilities at smaller fishing centres; training of fishery operatives for manning the fishing vessels;

- (vi) regulation of fishing by foreign vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone. For this purpose, 'The Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981' has come into force with effect from 2nd November, 1981;
- (vii) establishment of Fish Farmers' Development Agencies at district levels for development of aquaculture;
- (viii) construction of commercial size Fish Seed Farms hatcheries in States;
- (ix) Development of brackishwater fish for prawn farming in maritime States/U.Ts. and utilisation of saline lands in certain land locked States;
- (x) Development of resources for enhancing fish production; and
- (xi) Establishment of trout hatcheries for supporting trout culture on commercial scale.

2. The target of fish production envisaged for 1985-86 is 31 lakh tonnes.

Loss Due to Drought in Haryana

*632. SHRI RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sent any team to assess the loss due to drought in various parts in Haryana;

(b) if so, whether any report has been submitted by the team; and

(c) its main recommendations and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

Pension to Agricultural Workers

*633. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have any scheme to provide grant-in-aid to the States to meet at least a part of the expenditure incurred on pension to agricultural workers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) :

(a) and (b) At present there is no scheme to provide grant-in-aid to States/ Union Territories.

Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have Agricultural Workers' Pension Schemes.

In addition, almost all States/Union Territories have old age pension schemes through which pension ranging between Rs. 30/- and Rs. 60/- per month is paid to every eligible person, including agricultural workers.

Implementation of E.S.I. (Amendment) Act, 1984

*635 SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been representation from employees unions to stop implementation of the E.S.I. (Amendment) Act, 1984 ;

(b) if so, the salient features of such representation ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points made in the representations are, as follows :—

(i) The rate of employees' contribution has been raised without any

corresponding increase in the rates of benefits ;

(ii) The change in the eligibility condition for grant of sickness benefit will adversely affect the interest of casual and badli workers ; and,

(iii) Adequate arrangements have not been made for providing medical benefit to the new entrants.

(c) The position in the matter is as follows:—

(i) There has been marginal increase in the rate of contribution in respect of certain wage groups consequent on the introduction of the system of payment of contribution on percentage basis. The rates of benefits can, however, be enhanced at any time when funds so permit ;

(ii) The difficulties alleged to have been caused by the change in the eligibility conditions for grant of sickness benefit are being looked into ; and,

(iii) The State Governments have been advised to suitably augment the existing medical facilities to cater to the requirement of new entrants.

Import of Fertilizers in 1985-86

*637. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to import fertilizers on a large scale during 1985-86 ;

(b) if so, the quality and quantity of fertilizers proposed to be imported ;

(c) the main reason for importing fertilizers ; and

(d) the value of the fertilizers proposed to be imported ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SHING) : (a) and (c) Fertilizers are imported in varying quantities each year to meet the demand/consumption as

the indigenous production is unable to meet the country's demand of fertilisers.

(b) and (d) The variety of fertiliser imported are mainly urea, Dia-ammonium phosphate and Muriate of Potash.

No precise figures can be indicated at this stage about the quantity and value of fertilisers to be imported as it is reviewed from time to time.

National Policy on Drought

***640. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a National Drought Policy to prevent repetition of drought in various States every year :

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) whether Government are considering this proposal for Seventh Five Year Plan and if so, the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (d) The Drought Prone Areas Programme being implemented with the cooperation of the concerned States and also endorsed by the National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas is an expression of the National Policy in regard to long term measures to combat repetition of drought in the various States. It is proposed to continue this programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan also.

The Drought Prone Areas Programme was started during 1970-71 with the objective of restoring ecological balance and improving the productivity of land, water, livestock and human resources in identified drought prone areas. The Programme was endorsed by the National Committee on Development of Backward Areas in their report in 1981. The programme is being implemented as a Centrally sponsored scheme comprising of soil and water conservation, afforestation and pasture development, minor irrigation, dryland agriculture, livestock development etc., as an integrated area programme. These measures which are

of a permanent nature are expected to mitigate the rigours of drought and reduce the fluctuations in income caused by drought. Expenditure on this programme is shared equally by the Centre and the States and since inception an expenditure of Rs. 731.94 crores has been incurred on this programme upto January, 1985.

Damage to Foodgrains due to Non-availability of Storage Facilities

***641. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of tonnes of wheat and rice get spoiled due to non-availability of godowns and railway sheds during rainy seasons ;

(b) if so, steps being taken by the Central Warehousing Corporation to construct more godowns in the country, particularly in wheat and rice producing States and also to secure railway sheds for storing wheat and rice ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct godowns in Gujarat ; if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Certain quantities of foodgrains do get damaged for want of covered storage space.

(b) The Food Corporation of India is expected to construct additional storage capacity of 15.25 lakh tonnes during 1985-86. The Central Warehousing Corporation is expected to construct storage capacity of 6.00 lakh tonnes during the current year of which 4.59 lakh tonnes is likely to be available for foodgrains. The storage capacity would be located at different centres in the country, based on the need and operational considerations.

(c) The Food Corporation of India is expected to construct storage capacity of 1.81 lakh tonnes in Gujarat during 1985-86. The Central Warehousing Corporation is expected to construct storage capacity of 0.11 lakh tonnes in Gujarat during the current year of which 0.10 lakh tonnes is likely to be available for foodgrains.

Setting up of a Betel Development Board

*643. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a Betel Development Board ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Betel cultivation is on a very limited scale and it does not need a separate Board at present.

Workers Suffering from Asbestosis in Asbestos Factories

*644. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a majority of workers working in Asbestos Factories are suffering from acute asbestosis ;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to protect the workers from contracting diseases ; and

(c) the number of workers reported to have died from this disease since 1982 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) :

(a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

Statement

As per information furnished by the State Governments and Administrations of Union Territories, there are in all 74 factories manufacturing asbestos products and they employ 10,567 workers. Incidence of asbestosis among some workers have been reported. Studies conducted by the Organisation of the Directorate General

of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes in the years 1981 to 1983 in two units (viz. Messrs Digvijay Cement Company Limited, Ahmedabad and Messrs Hindustan Ferrodo Limited, Bombay) employing 960 and 1,200 workers respectively revealed that the incidence of asbestosis was to the extent of 6.5% and 7.2% respectively, among the 307 and 405 workers who were medically examined.

2. Asbestosis is a notifiable disease under the Factories Act and any Inspector of Factories or Certifying Surgeon who comes across such a case is required to report the matter to the State Government and the employers so that appropriate preventive and corrective steps could be taken. Measures for controlling harmful effects from air-borne asbestos dust in the workplaces have been laid down in the Factories Rules framed under the Factories Act, which are administered by the State Governments. The State Governments have been advised to enforce the provisions of law in the units strictly.

3. The Central Government have also set up in November, 1984 a Group of Secretaries for enquiring into the adequacy of steps taken in the country to shield workers in the asbestos industry, including asbestos mines, from its deleterious effects on their health.

Sick Sugar Mills

*645 SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick sugar mills run by Central Government at present in the country ;

(b) efforts being made to hand over these mills back to the local management ; and

(c) the sugar cost production ratio of these sick mills vis-a-vis the cost production ratio of other sugar mills run by the local managements in the same State ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :

(a) The Central Government is running eight sugar mills, the management of which

[Rao Birendra Singh]

have been taken over under the Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1978.

(b) Discussions with the owners/representatives of the owners of the mills are being held to explore the possibility of returning their mills to them.

(e) On the basis of the all-India average cane price of Rs. 22/- per quintal, the average cost of production of sugar works out to Rs. 405/- per quintal, approximately. The cost of production (without interest on long term loans) in seven out of eight Government managed mills is in the range of Rs. 376/- to Rs. 449/- per quintal except in the case of one mill.

[Translation]

Sheep Rearing in Hill Areas

*646. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out a comprehensive scheme to encourage sheep rearing in the hill areas of the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to chalk out such a scheme in consultation with concerned States ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) to (c) There is no Central Scheme for sheep development in the hill areas of the country. The State Government have taken up a number of programmes for sheep development in hill areas depending upon the priorities and available financial resources. Some of the important programmes of the State Governments are :

- (1) Sheep breeding farms for production and supply of improved breeding rams to sheep breeders.
- (2) Providing sheep extension services like breeding, health cover, improved shearing of wool through sheep and wool extension centres.
- (3) Organization of marketing facilities for wool and sheep.

Requirements of sheep development in hill areas will be kept in view while finalising the Seventh Five Year Plan.

[English]

T.V. Tower Obstructing Beauty of Taj Mahal

*647. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether 150 metre high television transmission tower across the Jamuna is obstructing the beauty of the Taj Mahal since the former stands prominently in the background ;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter by Government ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) to (c) T.V. tower at Agra is about 3.5 Kilometre away from Taj Mahal and is visible, in the background, only from some positions. However, the question of shifting the tower from its present site is being examined.

Maintenance of Projects Constructed by DDA

*531 SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Union Territory of Delhi some projects are being constructed by the D.D.A. while their maintenance rests with the Delhi Municipal Corporation ;

(b) whether on account of this dichotomy of functionalities a lot of delay in execution and final take over by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi takes place ; and

(c) the proposals Government have in view to solve this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi is the main civic body responsible for the running of the basic civic services in its area and hence all completed projects are to be handed over to it. The position is quite clear and there is no dichotomy of functionaries.

(c) With a view to effecting better coordination amongst the concerned agencies and to ensure removal of bottlenecks, if any, a Committee has been set up by the Government which consists of Secretary (Land & Building), Delhi Administration, Vice-Chairman, DDA and Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi with the Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Housing as its convenor.

**Misuse of Vacant Plot in Shanti Niketan,
New Delhi**

*4629. SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD
SINGH :
SHRI R.P. SUMAN :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 10247 on 7 May, 1984 regarding misuse of vacant plot in Shanti Niketan, New Delhi and state :

(a) whether the plot is still being used as a lavatory both by the humans and animals despite the fact that two years have elapsed since the plot was physically handed over to Sadhu Vaswani Mission ;

(b) whether no fence has so far been put up by the mission around the plot ; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to stop this standing nuisance and environmental hazard by invoking the provisions of the law ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) The plot in question was handed over to Sadhu Vaswani Mission on 29-4-83. The allottees have not yet started construction over the plot. As per the terms of allotment the institution is required to complete the construction of the building on the plot within a period of 3 years (including a grace period of 1 year) from

the date of handing over possession. It is the responsibility of the allottee to safeguard the plot from unauthorised encroachment/misuse by other persons after the possession of the plot is handed over.

(b) There is a fencing on the plot. But it has been damaged at places on account of misuse of the plot.

(c) DDA has asked to stress upon the Mission to ensure stoppage of the nuisance by repairing the damaged fence and by detailing some chowkidars. Action for cancellation of the lease can be taken only if the Mission does not comply with the conditions of lease including that of constructing the building within the permissible time limit of 3 years.

**Production Oriented Employment to
Rural Unemployed**

4630. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the percentage of rural unemployed to the total rural population ;

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of persons who remain unemployed throughout the year and the number of those who are under-employed ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide production-oriented employment to the rural unemployed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) According to the 32nd Round (1977-78) survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation, the percentage of unemployed (usual status) of the rural population for the age group 5+ was 1.55%.

(b) For the purpose of the Sixth Plan, the estimates of unemployment in March, 1980 for age group 5+ were worked out assuming that the rates of unemployment observed in the N.S.S.O. 32nd Round would not have changed. The estimates of rural unemployment for the age group 5+ in March, 1980 according to usual status and daily status are 7.22 million and 15.36 million, respectively.

[Shri Chandulal Chandrakar]

Usual status unemployment refers to relatively long term unemployment. The Daily status unemployment estimate brings out seasonal and part-time unemployment and under-employment.

(c) At present, this Department has one programme of self-employment, viz., Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and two programmes of wage employment, viz., National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). Salient features of the programmes are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Salient Features of Self/Wage Employment Programmes of Rural Development.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) :

As the major poverty alleviation programme in the VIth Plan, the objective of this programme is to provide assistance to families below the poverty line to enable them to attain an income well above the poverty line. This is to be achieved by providing productive assets and inputs to identified families below the poverty line.

The VIth Plan allocation for the programme was Rs. 1,500 crores, shared on a 50 : 50 basis by the Centre and the States. Credit to the extent of Rs. 3,000 crores was to be mobilised. Thus, the combined investment in this programme was to be approximately Rs. 4,500 crores.

In physical terms, the programme aimed at providing assistance to 15 million families (3,000 families on an average in each block), during the Plan period. As against the target of covering 15 million families, achievement upto February, 1985 was 15.7 million families.

National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) :

The National Rural Employment Programme which was launched in October, 1980 has the basic objective of providing additional gainful employment of the order of 300—400 million mandays every year simultaneously creating durable assets for strengthening the rural infrastructure and raising of the nutritional standards of rural poor.

Progress of employment generation as a result of various works taken up under the programme has been as under :—

Year	Employment Generation (Million mandays)
1980-81	413.581
1981-82	354.520
1982-83	351.20
1983-84	302.76
1984-85	285.04 (up to Feb. 1985) (Provisional)

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) :

The RLEGP has been introduced from middle of 1983-84 with the specific objective of improving and expanding employment opportunities for the rural landless with a view to providing guarantee of employment to at least one member of every landless labour household upto 100 days in a year. This programme was launched by the Government as it was felt that the hard core of rural poverty, particularly pertaining to the employment opportunities for the landless during the lean agricultural period when work is scarce, had to be tackled in a more direct and specific manner. Besides improving and expanding employment opportunities for the rural landless, the programme aims at the creation of durable assets for strengthening the rural infrastructure. During the Sixth Plan, an outlay of Rs. 500 crores was approved for the RLEGP which consisted of an outlay of Rs. 100 crores for 1983-84 and Rs. 400 crores for 1984-85. The employment generation was anticipated at 60 million mandays during 1983-84 and 300 million mandays during 1984-85. A total of 5.2 million mandays of employment was generated during 1983-84. During 1984-85 (upto Feb., 1985), the achievement was 192.46 (provisional) million mandays, as per reports received.

Filling of Reserved Posts in Song and Drama Division, Maharashtra

4631. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons appointed so far in each grade in the Song and Drama Division, Maharashtra ;

(b) the percentage of posts given to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of those appointments ;

(c) whether the reservation quota fixed for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes has been fulfilled ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) to (c) Recruitment to various posts in Song & Drama Division, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is done on all-India basis. The roster for watching implementation of orders regarding reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is also, therefore, maintained centrally and not on regional basis. Accordingly, no separate roster is being maintained for the Regional Centre of Song & Drama Division in the State of Maharashtra located at Pune. The total number of persons at present working in the Regional Centre, Pune, is as under :—

Group 'A'	—1
Group 'B'	—1
Group 'C'	—5
Group 'D'	—3

The percentage of the posts presently occupied by persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Pune Centre is as under :—

Group 'A'	—Nil
Group 'B'	—Nil
Group 'C'	—20%
Group 'D'	—66%

Appointment/promotion of all the persons working at Pune Centre has been made in accordance with the reservation orders.

(d) Does not arise.

Procurement of Processed Food Stuff from Canteen Store Department

4632. SHRI LALA RAM KEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to switch over the procurement of processed food stuff like fish and vanaspati etc. from Army Purchase Organisation to Canteen Store Department, Bombay which is primarily concerned with the purchase of items for local defence canteens ;

(b) whether this change has far reaching ramifications in the wider national interests ; if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the circumstances which led Government to this switch over disregarding the principle that indenter should not be the purchaser ;

(d) details of items of bulk purchase switched over to Canteen Store Department ; and

(e) whether the Army Purchase Organisation is being wound up ; if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (d) It has been decided that the Canteen Stores Department of the Ministry of Defence would take over the procurement of all processed food items from the Army Purchase Organisation in the Department of Food by 1-4-1986.

A statement listing the items taken over by the Canteen Stores Department following the decision is enclosed.

(b) No problem is envisaged as a result of the decision.

(c) The decision has been taken keeping in view the desirability of procurement through a single agency. The Supplies and Transport Directorate in the Army Headquarters is the indenter and the procurement is undertaken by the Canteen Stores Department which is a different agency.

(e) Winding up of the Army Purchase Organisation is linked to the implementation of the decision.

Statement

Items taken over by Canteen Stores Department following the decision

1. Processed vegetables.
2. Processed fruits.

[Rao Birendra Singh]

3. Soluble coffee.
3. Tea.
5. Processed meat.
6. Processed fish.
7. Milk products.
8. Egg powder.
9. Confectionary.
10. Cigarettes.
11. Corn flour.
12. Custard Powder.
13. Cornflakes.
14. Jelly crystal.
15. Sago.
16. Drinking chocolate.

Handing over of Jetty at Butcher Island to Bombay Port Trust by N.B.C.C.

4633. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) when the N.B.C.C. handed over Jetty at Butcher Island to Bombay Port Trust, the tender cost and the total cost involved ;

(b) the sources from where funds have been raised for the completion of work and how much arranged from each source ;

(c) whether the loans arranged have been paid back and if not, when these are likely to be paid ;

(d) whether the losses incurred on this work have been taken as work in progress for the past three to four years so as not to affect the profitability of the corporation ; and

(e) if not, the financial performance on this work as revealed in the annual accounts of the corporation from the time the work was taken up till it was completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) Handing over—June, 1984 of Jetty

Tender Cost—Rs 5.04 crores (excluding escalation).

Tentative Cost—Rs. 21 crores (approx.) excluding element of interest on loan.

(b) Rs. 13 crores from Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB).

(c) Not yet. NBCC propose to repay the loans out of the final award to be made by the Arbitrator.

(d) Pending a final award on the pricing pattern for the project, it would be improper to show the extra cost as loss. To obviate distortion of the financial results, additional reimbursable cost was shown as work-in-progress.

(e) Does not arise, in view of the position above.

Prevention of Further Growth of Cities

4634. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme of Central as well as State Governments to prevent any further growth of cities with population more than 10 lakhs ; and

(b) the details of such schemes along with their implementations ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) and (b) The approach of the Working Group for the Seventh Five Year Plan aims at containing population of metropolitan and other bigger cities by developing small and medium towns in the region and rural growth centres around the metropolitan cities to prove as counter-magnets. The main scheme in this regard would be integrated development of small and medium towns and growth centres to serve the hinterland and arrest flow of population towards the metropolitan cities. Seventh Five Year Plan is under process of finalisation.

Availability of Milk

4635. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita availability of milk in 1951 and 1981 ;

(b) the cattle population in 1951 and 1981 ;

(c) the reasons for decrease in the cattle population ; and

(d) the details of Government's proposal to improve the milk yield among milch animals, the action taken and results, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The annual per capita availability of milk in 1951 and 1981-82 was estimated to be 48.2 kg. and 48.1 kg. respectively.

(b) According to the Livestock Census, the cattle population in 1951 and 1977 was 155.295 million and 180.140 million respectively.

(c) There has been no decrease in the cattle population.

(d) The Government have adopted the following policies and strategies for improving the milk yield in cattle :

- (i) Genetic improvement of nationally important cattle breeds by selective breeding in their home-tracts and upgrading in other selected areas ;
- (ii) Cross-breeding of non-descript cattle with exotic dairy breeds ;
- (iii) Development of feed and fodder resources in order to provide adequate nutrition to livestock ; and
- (iv) Organisation of effective animal health services to support the production programme.

Successful implementation of cattle and buffalo development programmes in pursuit of these policies and strategies in the country has resulted in augmenting milk production with a growth rate of 4.6% in the decade ending 1982-83 as compared to only 1.1% recorded over the previous decade.

Non-Availability of Developed Grounds/Parks in Pushp Vihar, New Delhi

4636. **SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:** Will the Minister of **WORKS AND HOUSING** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints in respect of non-availability of developed grounds/parks as well as barbed wire around the grounds, in Pushp Vihar,

New Delhi ; if so, the number of such complaints received by the Director-General (Works), C.P.W.D. or other C.P.W.D. authorities since 1 January, 1985 till date and action taken in this regard ; and

(b) whether Government propose to provide developed grounds/parks as well as barbed wires around the developed parks to remove the grievances of the residents of that area ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) Yes. During this period four complaints have been received and are receiving due attention of the Central P.W.D.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Subsidy in the Sale Price of Fertilizers

4637. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state :

(a) the element of subsidy in the sale price of fertilisers for the farmers in each of the States/Union Territories as on 1 January, 1985 ;

(b) whether the element of subsidy is uniform or is graded in respect of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Small and Marginal farmers and other weaker sections of the society ;

(c) if so, the nature of the difference in each State ; and

(d) whether it is proposed to have a uniform pattern of subsidy or continue the existing graded system and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) to (c) The sale prices of fertilisers are uniform throughout the country and there is no separate sale price for cultivators belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes, Marginal Farmers and other weaker sections of the society. However, there is subsidy for purchase of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers and other inputs in all the development blocks of the country

[Shri Bata Singh]

which are covered under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), from within the overall limit fixed for a block. In addition, 25% of the cost of phosphatic fertilisers in areas covered under the project for intensive cultivation of groundnut in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu is provided by the Government of India under National Oilseeds Development Project.

The element of subsidy in the sale price of fertilisers sold to all the farmers, from the material produced indigenously, comes to an average of Rs. 2,316 per MT of nutrients, though it varies from plant to plant keeping in view the retention price for each producing unit as fixed by the Fertiliser Industry Coordination Committee in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers. In the case of imported fertilisers, the element of subsidy on an average works out to Rs. 2,033 per MT of nutrients. This quantum will vary with the source and the time etc. of purchase.

(d) As the sale price of fertilisers is already heavily subsidized, there is no proposal under consideration to change the present pattern, as enumerated in answer to part (a) to (c) of question given above.

Reservation for SC/ST in I.S.I.

4638. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS ; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in the Indian Standards Institute as on 1 March, 1982 and on 1 March, 1985 category-wise ;

(b) the number of SC and ST employees on these dates ;

(c) whether reservation rules in favour of SC and ST employees are being followed and rosters maintained in ISI ; and

(d) the reasons for the shortfall, if any, and the steps taken to fill the quota reserved for these communities ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) (a) The category-wise number of employees in ISI is as under :

Grade	As on 1 March, 1982	As on 1 March, 1985
I	449	519
II	475	542
III	609	718
IV	318	397
	<hr/> 1851	<hr/> 2176

(b) 240 291

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The shortfall is mainly in Grade I-Scientific and Technical posts. Until June, 1975, there was no reservation in Scientific and Technical posts at the lowest rung of Grade I filled by direct recruitment. Despite repeated advertisements and relaxed qualifications and standards, candidates of the required calibre are not available in various engineering disciplines such as Mechanical, Electrical, Marine, Naval Architecture, Metallurgy, etc.

It may however, be stated that the position is constantly under review and vigorous efforts are being made to complete the shortfall in all Grades as it may be seen that in 1980 the percentage of SC/ST candidates was only 8.8 per cent whereas on 31st March, 1985 it has increased to 13.2 per cent.

Constant efforts are being made to clear the shortfall at stated below :

- (i) Concessions in age, fee and TA ;
- (ii) Exclusive advertisements for SC/ST communities ;
- (ii i) Relaxation in experience and qualifications ;
- (iv) Relaxation in qualifying marks in the prescribed tests for various posts, that is, written/objective/ shorthand/typewriting tests, etc ;
- (v) Separate interviews-judged with relaxed standard ;
- (vi) Repeated chance for clearing shorthand/typewriting tests, ; and
- (vii) For shorthand/typewriting tests. typewriters are provided by the Institution free of cost.

Premium charged by Co-operative House Building Societies on Sale of Houses

4639. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have permitted the Co-operative House Building Societies in the capital to levy some premium on the sale of houses built on the land allotted by it to its members ; if so, at what rate ;

(b) whether Delhi Development Authority also levies some percentage of premium on the sale of houses while calculating it on the cost of land on which a property is built and if so, at what rate ;

(c) the value of the land which is taken into account for purposes of making such levies in Vasant Vihar, Shanti Niketan, Anand Niketan, West End, Safdarjang Enclave, and Panch Shila Park ; and

(d) the reasons for not taking into consideration the actual cost of land paid by a member to the society concerned instead of the prevailing market price ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A levy of 50% of the unearned increase in the value of land i.e. difference between the premium paid and cost of the residential plot at the time of sale is charged as unearned increase by the Delhi Development Authority.

(c) The value of the land for this purpose is prescribed by the Delhi Administration. The prescribed rate upto 31-3-1985 was Rs. 2500/- per sq. mt in these colonies. The rates from 1-4-85 are yet to be prescribed.

(d) A member shares increase of land value over a period of time attributable to the factors like fuller development of the area and its surroundings, provision of facilities like public transport etc., which are not contributed substantially by the member himself. The levy is also expected to discourage speculation and profiteering in land.

[Translation]

Functioning of Gorakhpur T.V. Relay Centre

4640. SHRI MADAN MOHAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to State :

(a) whether Gorakhpur Television Relay Centre is relaying the programmes to its capacity (10 KW) and if so, the reasons for frequent interruptions in telecasting the programmes;

(b) whether this 10 KW capacity is not being utilised fully and, if so, the reasons therefor ?

(c) the measures taken to remove the defects mechanical or otherwise; and

(d) whether Government, propose to augment the telecast capacity of this Centre keeping in view the popularity of its telecasts in Nepal and if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) to (c) There have been interruptions in the transmissions of TV transmitter, Gorakhpur due to power supply failures as well as occasional failures of equipment. A stand-by diesel generator has been provided at the TV centre to continue transmissions during power supply failures. The defects in the transmitter have also been rectified. The TV transmitter is now radiating the rated power of 10 KW.

(d) No, Sir.

[English]

Profit/Loss to Poultry Research Project of ICAR

4641. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTAIAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding loss and profit in relation to the progress of the Poultry Research Project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during the last five years; and

(b) the amount so far sanctioned by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) The All India Coordinated Research Project on Poultry Breeding is a research project and not a commercial proposition. In such projects there are no considerations of immediate profits or losses. The effectiveness of the research project is to be judged by the results produced on basic or applied aspects which would provide knowledge/technology which in turn will form the basis for large scale development programme. The project will also provide superior germplasm. In this project both the breeding strategies for improving poultry production for egg and broiler as well a number of superior strain crosses have been evolved.

(d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the Lok Sabha later.

Land Acquired by DDA in Village Garonda

4642. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 10116 on 7 May 1984 regarding the land acquired by DDA in village Garonda Neemka Bangar now known as Pratap Nagar and state :

(a) whether DDA has now acquired land within Khasra No. 402 to 407 and 385 to 395 in the area and has not paid any compensation to the owners/occupiers of the same;

(b) whether certain land owners in the area were given lands in lieu of their land in the area at Nand Nagari; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken to offer suitable compensation to the holders of land at the marked premises as in part 'a' above ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Land covered by Khasra Nos. 385 to 395 and Khasra No. 402 to 407 of village Garonda Neemka Bangar has been acquired by Delhi Administration. Compensation in respect of Khasra No. 389/2 (measuring 2 biswas), Khasra No. 395 min. (measuring 6 biswas) and Khasra No. 406 (measuring 5

bigha and 17 biswas) has been paid. Part payment of Compensation in respect of Khasra No. 390 to 392 has also been made. The compensation in respect of the remaining Khasras has been sent to the court of Additional District Judge on account of dispute, in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1984.

(b) Delhi Administration have reported that no case has been recommended by them to DDA for allotment of alternative plot in lieu of the land mentioned in part (a) of the question.

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

Agreement between India and Gulf Countries for Recruitment of Indian Labour

4643. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreement and/or are contemplating to have agreements with the Government(s) of the Gulf Countries for organising the recruitment of Indian labour in the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Indians who are likely to get employment opportunities in the Gulf countries during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A manpower agreement was signed with the State of Qatar on 11th April, 1985. Government have also approached other Gulf countries for concluding similar agreements.

(c) It is estimated that 2,00,000 Indian workers would get employment opportunities in the Gulf countries during the current year.

Distribution of Surplus Land to Landless Peasants

4644. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for distributing ceiling-surplus land to the landless peasants during 1984-85;

(b) the actual land distributed and the number of families belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes benefited; and

(c) what other help is being provided to such persons under the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The target fixed for distributing the ceiling surplus land to landless peasants during 1984-85 is 1,98,770 acres.

(b) The actual land distributed during 1984-85 is 1,58,230 acres as reported by the States. According to the information available with the Government of India for varying periods and compiled on 28-2-85, a total of 12.05 lakh beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Castes and 4.99 lakh beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Tribes were allotted ceiling surplus land and they constitute 53% of the total number of beneficiaries.

(c) Under a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme the assignees of ceiling surplus land are being provided financial assistance @ Rs. 2500/- per hectare as a grant for taking to profitable cultivation of the assigned land. The grant is to be utilised for simple land development, purchase of inputs and immediate consumption needs. The assignees of ceiling surplus land are also given priority for assistance under IRDP, NREP, RLEGP and other rural development programmes. The total assistance (excluding credit) that an allottee will be entitled to under various schemes should not exceed Rs. 8000/- per allottee.

Article "Censorship Dual Standards"

4645. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the article "Censorship

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| (1) Teri Bahon Mein | : | 'A' certificate with 5 cuts. |
| (2) Haste Khelte | : | 'U' certificate with 4 cuts. |
| (2) Apradhi Kaun | : | 'A' certificate without cuts. |
| (4) Naya Kadam | : | 'U' certificate with 4 cuts. |

Dual standards' appearing in the *India Today* dated 15 April, 1985 (pages 152-155) highlighting charges against the Chairman, Censor Board of giving U Certificates to films depicting violence, sex, nudity, rape and causing long delays in clearing the film etc.

(b) if so, steps proposed to be taken to ensure strict compliance of the censor rules; the number of films denied U certificates with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the films whose snaps appeared in the Magazine have been given U certificates; and

(d) if so, reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) Government have seen the article. However, the charges made therein are not correct.

All films intended for public exhibition in India are examined by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. The Board functions through a system of committees. As such it is not Chairman alone who decides about grant of certificate, category of certificate or cuts to be imposed.

The regional officers, members of the advisory panels and the members of the Board were directed from time to time to ensure effective implementation of the guidelines issued by Government.

During 1984, 368 Indian feature films were granted certificates other than 'U' certificate as these films contained scenes which were not considered fit for non-adults or it was considered necessary that warning should be given to the parents to decide whether the film could be seen by children below the age of 12 or not.

(c) and (d) The films whose snaps have appeared in the Magazine were given certificates as follows :—

The above certificates were given on the basis of the recommendations made by the Examining Committee or the Revising Committees as the case may be. It is not necessary that the snaps published in the Magazine actually appear in the films as certified by the Board.

Shortage of Milk

4646. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2084 on 8 April, 1985 regarding acute shortage of milk and milk products and state :

(a) when each of the strategies listed in reply referred to above was started, total funds released in the last three Plans, Plan-wise, for each of them and corresponding outcome in terms of increased production of milk and States where each was taken up;

(b) details of policies specified for Operation Flood project for attainment of specific objectives thereof and year-wise attainment of such objectives during the Sixth Plan; and

(c) whether Delhi, located in midst of States with high availability of milk and high per capita milk consumption, depends wholly on imported milk powder and butter oil to maintain its milk supply and if so, details thereof and corrective steps proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The policies and strategies mentioned in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2084 on 8th April, 1985 refers to the general approach adopted by the State Governments for cattle/buffalo development for milk production enhancement. The State Govt. in consideration of the broad policies/strategies have been undertaking/implementing various programmes as per their priorities and resources availability. The milk production is estimated to have increased from 22.50 million tonnes in 1971-72 to 36.3 million tonnes in 1983-84.

(b) Operation Flood II is being implemented based on three tier cooperative structure i.e. milk Producers, Cooperative

Societies at the village level, Milk Union at the District level and Federation at the State level. The programme is intended to bring 10 million farm families in the ambit of cooperative structure. The year-wise attainment of such objectives during the sixth Plan is given below :—

Period	Dairy Coop. Societies Organised (cumulative)	Farmers Member (cumulative) (in lakh)
1980-81	10,409	14.65
1981-82	18,422	21.23
1982-83	23,496	26.20
1983-84	28,614	31.26
1984-85	33,830	34.17

(as on Feb., 85)
(Provisional).

(c) Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy, Delhi do not depend wholly on imported milk powder and butter oil to maintain their milk supply.

[Translation]

Import of Camera Lenses for 3D Films

4648. SHRI KAMLA PARSAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether all Indian film producers will now produce '3D' films as some of them are already producing such films;

(b) if so, whether Government will provide facility to import camera lenses required for 3D films;

(c) if so, by what time and the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Production of films in India is in the private sector. It is for the producer concerned to decide whether he will produce 3D films.

(b) to (d) The import of camera lenses required for 3D films is already permissible under Open General Licence by Actual Users (Industrial) vide S. no. 1 of Appendix

6 to the Import and Export Policy April, 1984—March, 1988 (Volume I) subject to the conditions laid down in the Appendix. For importing such lenses, Actual Users (non-industrial) require a supplementary import licence which is to be issued on the basis of applications received by the licencing authorities concerned, duly recommended by the sponsoring authority, where the applications are approved by the Supplementary Licencing Committee.

[English]

Setting Up of Seed Farms in Bihar

4649. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of seed farms established or proposed to be established in Bihar to meet the requirement of seeds of various crops like wheat, bajra, oil seeds, maize, barley, paddy etc. and the location thereof ;

(b) the total estimated production of foundation seed and certified seed in these farms ;

(c) whether the production from these farms will be sufficient to meet the requirement of Bihar ; and

(d) if not, whether Central Government propose to help Bihar Government ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Inclusion of Bidi Workers, Weavers and Fishermen as Organised Labour

4650. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to include bidi workers, weavers and fishermen as organised labour ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Workers employed in Bidi, Weaving and Fishing industries are generally unorganised workers. Various measures have been taken and still are being taken to provide various facilities to them. A Welfare Fund already exists for bidi workers. As regards Weavers and Fishermen, Tripartite Study Groups have been constituted to make an indepth study into their working and living conditions. The Study Groups are expected to make recommendations for taking suitable legislative as well as administrative measures considered necessary.

Setting up of a 10 KW TV Transmitter at Mahe, Pondicherry

4651. SHRI K. M. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a 10 KW television transmitter at Mahe which is part of Union Territory of Pondicherry ;

(b) if so, the time by which it will be commissioned ; and

(c) whether Pondicherry Government have offered land free of cost to set up TV transmitter at Mahe ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Coverage of Radio Broadcasts Through Satellite

4652. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to hire (satellite) space to have repeaters and relay centres to improve the coverage of Radio broadcasts in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the names of the countries with whom Government have negotiated so far ; and

(d) the financial implication of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Agencies for Sale of Products/Provision of Services in Jammu and Kashmir

4653. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned agencies involving private parties/individuals in respect of sale of products/provision of services from Public Undertakings, Government controlled industries ; and

(b) if so, list of agency holders in Jammu and Kashmir State ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies has not sanctioned any such agency.

(b) Does not arise.

CLUSA Oilseeds Project

4654. SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any individual has set up or has interests in a vegetable oil factory in Gujarat where CLUSA vegetable oil has been allocated/diverted by NDDDB to help him covertly ;

(b) whether CLUSA vegetable oil has been diverted or allocated to any other vegetable Oil Factories under the fictitious names of coops ; and

(c) whether Government will make public, results of any evaluation/audit of CLUSA oilseeds project relating to last three years and whether such evaluation audit reports were placed before the Parliament at any time and if not, reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Dairy Development Board's (NDDDB) Project for Restructuring Edible oil and Oilseeds Production and Marketing is being implemented by the Gujarat Cooperative Oil-seed Growers Federation in Gujarat State. The gift oil received by the NDDDB under the Project from the Cooperative League of U. S. A. (CLUSA) is being supplied mainly to the Gujarat Cooperative Oilseed Growers Federation in that State. The oil gifted by CLUSA has not been diverted to any other vegetable oil factories under the fictitious names of cooperatives.

(c) The last evaluation of NDDDB's Oilseeds Project was carried out by a Joint Team in 1983. The broad recommendations made by the team were furnished to the Lok Sabha in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2369 on 12-3-1984 and to the Rajya Sabha in reply to Unstarred Question No. 162 on 15-3-1985. These are as under :

1. Procedure for licensing of processing facilities may be streamlined.
2. Centralised market analysis and forecasting functions may be developed.
3. The project strategy may be to stabilise year to year yield at a moderate level in rainfed areas rather than trying to substantially increase annual yields.
4. Society Secretaries should be given adequate training to perform their functions.
5. Where it is necessary to staff agricultural positions with non-agricultural candidates, intensive and formal training in agricultural subjects should be arranged for them.
6. There must be a firm commitment on the part of the State Governments and the NDDDB to place well qualified people in the upper level management positions of the federations and to keep these people to their positions at least three to four years.

7. State federations should be divided into geographical regions and the processing plants Manager should be given semi-autonomous jurisdiction within their area.
8. The movement of raw material or finished products across regions should be decided at federation headquarters.
9. Larger plants may be appropriate in irrigated areas where production, procurement and optimal capacity utilisation are more certain.
10. The State federations should gradually reduce the use of NDDB procurement support and begin utilising to the extent possible the commercial vehicles for procurement.
11. Procurement be conducted round the year.

Ban on Artists to Sing on Radio and TV

4655. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have banned artists to sing on radio and television who had toured South Africa ;

(b) if so, the name of such artists and how long the ban will remain in force on them ; and

(c) whether there were any such bans in the past also ; if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b) The following artists who had been granted an endorsement for South Africa on their passports as an exception to the rule, subject to the condition that no commercial benefit will be obtained by them and who have violated this condition, have been banned from giving performance over AIR and Doordarshan until further orders :

1. Shri Rajendra Metha and Smt. Neena Mehta.
2. Shri Jani Babu Qawwal.
3. Shri Pithukuli Murugadas.

4. Shri Jagjit Singh and Smt. Chitra Singh.

(c) Yes, Sir, In the past also some artists were banned for performing over AIR due to various reasons like fraudulent claims, misbehaviour, non-co-operative attitude, etc.

Indian Farm Technology for Nicaragua

4656. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noted the news-item in the "Times of India", dated 16 March, 1985 captioned "Indian Farm Technology for Nicaragua".

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to send Indian farmers to Nicaragua ; and

(c) the details of proposals that are being considered in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Dissatisfaction Amongst ICAR Employees

4657. SHRI BALASEHEB VIKHE PATIL :

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether great frustration now prevails amongst the agro scientists of the ICAR, New Delhi as there exists anomalies in the promotion policies of the agro scientists as detailed in the article appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated 21 February, 1985 ;

(b) whether the Supreme Court also in its judgement on December 16, 1983 had mentioned about the deplorable state of affairs in ICAR ;

(c) whether despite such strictures no steps have been taken by ICAR to curb remedy the anomalies ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the same and steps proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) There is neither frustration amongst the agro scientists of the ICAR nor do anomalies exist in their promotion policies. The promotions are given on the basis of 5 yearly assessment of the performance of scientists irrespective of the degrees possessed by them.

(b) The judgement pronounced by the Supreme Court in December, 1983 relates to 3-4 cases which occurred in the years 1972-74. Thus, the observations made therein by the Hon. Court reflect on the position obtaining in the Council at that time and not on the present state of affairs or functioning of the ICAR.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Improving the Working of FCI

4658. **SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD :** Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) the details of operational cost of the FCI during the last three years, year-wise.

(b) whether there is any proposal to progressively reduce the Central subsidy by improving the working of the FCI ; and

(c) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The details of operational cost consisting of movement, storage and distribution of the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise are as under :

	Rate Rs. per quintal		
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84*
1. Transit and storage shortages	6.89	8.16	—
2. Freight	13.92	17.08	16.83
3. Handling godown expenses	3.33	3.62	3.71
4. Godown charges	3.28	3.08	3.06
5. Interest	7.96	9.08	12.95
6. Administrative over-heads	2.49	2.89	2.80
Total :	37.87	43.91	39.35

*(Excluding transit and storage losses)

(b) and (c) The working of the Food Corporation of India is reviewed from time to time and efforts are made to ensure that subsidy is kept at the minimum level.

Extension of Advisory Service for Pepper Growers

4659. **PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for extension of advisory service for the pepper growers ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) There is separate programme for extension of advisory service for Pepper. However, the State Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture provide necessary advice on Pepper cultivation for increasing production and productivity. Quality planting material of improved varieties including hybrid pepper is also supplied.

Suggestions for amending Essential Commodities Act

4660. **SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :** Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received

a letter dated 22 January, 1985 addressed to the Prime Minister from the Federation of All India Foodgrains Dealers Association, Delhi proposing amendments to certain sections of the Essential Commodities Act :

(b) if so, the action taken on these proposals ;

(c) when Government are likely to bring legislation incorporating these amendments ; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) For ensuring equitable distribution and availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices to the common mass of people, the Government of India considers it necessary to keep various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in their present form.

[Translation]

Opening of Community TV Centres

4661. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of community television centres functioning in Bihar at present ; and

(b) the number of new centres planned to be opened in that State during 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) At present there are 247 VHF community viewing TV sets in the coverage zone of the TV transmitter at Muzaffarpur in Bihar.

(b) Deployment of 300 direct reception TV sets and 400 VHF TV sets for community viewing in the selected villages of three districts of Palamau, Singhbhum and Ranchi in Bihar is an approved scheme and action is in hand for its implementation during 1985.

[English]

Construction of Five Star Hotels in Delhi

4662. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether crores of rupees have been expended for the construction of Five-star hotels in Delhi, neglecting the rest of country, specially the rural sector ; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to maintain the uniformity for the entire rural sector in getting the cement and other building material including easy credit for development of the housing schemes and other essential construction works for the community ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Construction of hotels including Five-star hotels is mainly undertaken by private entrepreneurs. The building material for the purpose is obtained by the promoters subject to laid down procedure.

(b) Some of the important measures taken in this regard are as follows :—

(1) steps to increase the production of construction materials such as cement, steel etc. The Government are following a liberal policy towards granting of industrial licences for setting up cement factories.

(2) Introduction of the scheme of partial decontrol of cement with effect from 28-2-82 and making available levy cement for construction of houses upto a limited plinth area ;

(3) encouraging the use of locally available materials ; and

(4) provision of financial assistance under the Scheme of allotment of House-sites-cum-construction assistance to landless workers in rural areas.

Import of MOP from Manitoba in Canada

4663. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is exploring the possibility of entering into a long-term agreement to import MOP a potash-based fertilizer from Manitoba in Canada ;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached with the Government of Canada ;

(c) whether India imports its entire requirement of MOP as there is no indigenous availability ;

(d) whether the requirement for the current financial year is placed at 13.6 lakh tonnes ; and

(e) if so, the country which was th major supplier of MOP up till now ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is not possible to indicate a firm figure of MOP to be imported during the current financial year at this stage, since the whole question of import of fertilisers is reviewed from time to time.

(e) Canada is the largest single supplier of Muriate of Potash for the last three years.

Cattle Population in the Country

4664. SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the cattle population of the country both milch and dry and bullocks for draught purposes according to latest census ;

(b) whether this population came down considerably during the last 10 years ; if so, to what extent ;

(c) whether there is any scheme to limit the slaughter houses capacity in view of gobar gas potentiality through animal dung ; and

(d) whether the animal dung can be used as substitute for energy and fertiliser ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) According to the livestock census (1977), the milch cattle population was 49.780 million (23.188 million in milk and 26.592 million dry cows) and number of bullocks for draught purposes was 71.240 million.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Cattle dung can be used as a supplement for fuel in the kitchen and as manure in the field. However, it can neither substitute commercial energy sources like kerosene, coal, electricity etc., nor chemical fertilisers which are very essential for increasing crop production in the country.

Grant of Exemption for Construction Purposes

4665. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications received by Government so far from owners of large residential plots in Delhi for grant of exemption for construction purposes under various sections (separately) of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act ;

(b) the number of cases in which necessary exemptions have been granted and reasons for delay in deciding the remaining cases ; and

(c) whether Government propose to repeal or modify this Act as it has greatly hampered the construction activity and created problems for owners of large segments of urban land in the Capital which are not being utilised purposefully ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) and (b) Statement showing the total number of applications received for grant of exemption under various sections of the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976, the number of cases in which exemption has been granted and reasons for delay in deciding the remaining cases is as under :

Section of U. L. (C&R) Act.	Total No. of applications received.	No. of cases in which ememption granted	Reasons of delay in deciding the remaining cases
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
19	82	4	Despite repeated reminders, the applicants have not furnished documents/evidence to the effect that their trusts are public charitable or religious.
20	2432	1950	Most of the cases of multiple holding and are pending as the Competent Authority has not been able to issue assessment orders for want of document from the applicants and certain necessary clarifications from Municipal Corporation of Delhi/Delhi Development Authority.

(c) Proposals for amending the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 with a view to removing the practical difficulties in its implementation and with a view to promoting building activity are under consideration.

Broadcasting of TV Programme through TV Relay Centre, Berhampore

4666. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the difficulty faced by Government in broadcasting the Calcutta TV programmes through Berhampore TV Relay Centre ; and

(b) the time by which it will be removed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b) The microwave link required to enable relay of programmes produced at Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta by the TV transmitter at Berhampore is not yet available and is expected to be provided during 1986.

Import of Copra and Coconut Oil

4667. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are importing copra and coconut oil ;

(b) if so, the countries from which these are imported ; quantity-wise break-up for each country since 1980 ; and

(c) whether Government of Kerala has sent any representation against this import ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) State Trading Corporation of India which is the canalising agency of the Government for import of edible oils, has not imported copra. To relieve the pressure on the prices of indigenous cocount oil, State Trading Corporation imported 9044 MTs. of refined, bleached and deodorised coconut oil in 1984 from Philippines and Malaysia. The Government of Kerala has made a request recently for stopping of import of coconut oil in order to arrest the decline in its prices.

**Delhi School Teachers Co-operative
House Building Society**

4668 **SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1644 on 1 April, 1985 regarding Delhi School Teachers Cooperative House Building Society Ltd. Delhi and state :

(a) text of Delhi High Court directions in Civil Writ 659/77 under which present Managing Committee is allowed in office beyond 3 years statutory period ;

(b) whether said directions can override statutory term for continuance of Managing Committee ;

(c) if not, whether Government propose appropriate steps to supersede present Managing Committee ;

(d) the 'break-up' of expenses on different items incurred by present Managing Committee ; and

(e) the reasons for which approval of General Body of the Society to audited accounts have not been obtained and action taken or proposed to be taken in terms of Delhi Co-operative Societies Act ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) The relevant portion of the text is

available with this Ministry is reproduced below :

"after the allotment of plots has been made, a meeting of the General Body of the Society will be called for the particular purpose of electing a new Managing Committee. Only those persons to whom plots have been allotted will be called to the meeting and will be allowed to participate therein. The meeting will be called in the manner and on the dates directed by the court."

(b) and (c) The court orders cannot be contravened.

(d) The revenue expenditure incurred by the Managing Committee since 1975-76 is indicated in the statement attached.

(e) The Society has reported that audited accounts for the period from 1967-68 to 1974-75 were placed before the general body meeting and approval thereto was obtained. Later, balance sheets of the Society for the years 1975-76 to 1981-82 were present to the High Court of Delhi. The case of the Society is sub-judice in the High Court of Delhi and the affairs of the Society are managed by the Managing Committee under the directions of the High Court of Delhi under C. W. No. 659/77. Therefore, no action can be taken by the Registrar, Cooperative Societies in regard to this Society.

Statement

Revenue Expenditure of Delhi School Teachers Cooperative House Building Society Ltd.

Heads of Exp.	Approx. Amount
1. Printing & Stationery	.. Rs. 14,100/-
2. Postage	.. Rs. 12,500/-
3. Legal Expenses	.. Rs. 113,400/-
4. Conveyance	.. Rs. 21,100/-
5. Rent	.. Rs. 10,000/-
6. Salary	.. Rs. 135,000/-
7. Miscellaneous	.. Rs. 14,100/-
8. Advertisement	.. Rs. 29,700/-
9. Depreciation	.. Rs. 2,400/-
10. Audit Fees	.. Rs. 1,300/-
11. Typing Expenses	.. Rs. 1,900/-
12. Election Exp.	.. Rs. 700/-
13. Insurance	.. Rs. 1,800/-
14. Accountancy	.. Rs. 4,500/-
15. Donation	.. Rs. 1,000/-
16. Bank Charges	.. Rs. 1,300/-

[Translation]

Criteria for Setting Up of Doordarshan Centre on Priority Basis

4669. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for setting up of Doordarshan Centre on priority basis;

(b) whether more and more television relay centres are being set up for developing backward and undeveloped areas; and

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to set up television relay centres in Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh districts and if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL):

(a) The criteria for selecting locations for TV Centres include various factors like extent of resultant coverage to rural and urban population; service to backward, remote and border areas; availability of facilities for linkage with Programme Production Centres and other infrastructural facilities.

(b) Subject to availability of resources, TV service is being progressively extended to uncovered areas, including backward and undeveloped parts of the country.

(c) Extension of TV service to Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh districts would depend on the availability of resources for this purpose during future Plan period.

New Varieties of Sugarcane

4670. SHRI C. D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new varieties of sugarcane developed during the last ten years together with details thereof;

(b) the places where these new varieties of sugarcane have been developed, per acre production thereof and the quantity of sugar produced therefrom;

(c) whether Government have formulated or propose to formulate any scheme to maximise production and develop more varieties of sugarcane keeping in view the importance of sugarcane cultivation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Thirteen outstanding high yielding, high sugared varieties of sugarcane have been released for cultivation in different States.

In addition, a total of 334 superior varieties have been developed and sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore for zonal testing and subsequent release. Out of this, the varieties COC 671 developed at Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu), CoJ 64 of Jalandhar and CO 7314 and CO 7408 of Coimbatore are high sugared, early maturing varieties and are spreading rapidly.

(b) The places of development of these varieties along with yield and quality potential are given below:

Sl. No.	Variety	Place of development	State where released	Yield (tonnes/ha)	Estimated commercial cane sugar (Tonnes/ha)
1.	CoC 671	Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu)	Tamil Nadu	90.0	12.5
2.	CoC 8001			102.9	13.5
3.	CoC 8201			114.3	13.7
4.	CoJ 64	Jalandhar (Punjab)	Punjab	84.9	9.9
5.	CoJ 67			108.8	13.5
6.	CoS 767	Shahjahanpur (U.P.)	Uttar Pradesh	115.0	20.1
7.	BO-91	Pusa (Bihar)	Bihar	74.9	12.2
8.	CoA 7602	Anakapalle (Andhra Pradesh)	Andhra	94.8	12.8
9.	CoA 7701		Pradesh	94.1	10.6
10.	CoA 8201		95.1	12.3	
11.	Co 7508	Coimbatore	Andhra Pradesh	82.7	10.7
12.	Co 7219	Coimbatore	Maharashtra	159.3	13.7
13.	Co 7314	Coimbatore	Haryana	88.0	9.9

The 'Co' varieties are developed at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore and 'Co' varieties (like CoC, CoJ, CoS, CoA etc) are selected at respective places from the seeds supplied by Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is promoting research on development of varieties through Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore with germplasm centre at Cannanore, Kerala and regional testing centre at Karnal, Haryana. In addition, there is an All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane where emphasis is on location specific testing and selection of varieties.

To augment the development of location specific varieties, a national hybridization garden has been established at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore to make crosses and supply the fluff for supply to sugarcane research centres located in different parts of India.

Under the All India Coordinated Project, Breeders from different centres meet and identify varieties for testing and release in different zones.

During the Seventh Five Year Plan, it is proposed to strengthen all these activities.

[English]

Review of the Implementation of ESI (Amendment) Act, 1984

4671. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ESI (Amendment) Act, 1984 has increased the rates of contribution of the employees while reducing the corresponding benefits to them;

(b) whether women workers availing maternity leave will be particularly affected during subsequent benefit period; and

(c) if so, whether Government will review the amendment and refrain from its implementation pending review ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T.

ANJIAH) : (a) The rate of employees contribution has been slightly increased. There has, however, been no reduction in the rates of benefits admissible under the ESI Act.

(b) The qualifying condition for payment of maternity benefit has also been slightly modified. Previously, the qualifying condition was payment of contribution for at least 13 weeks. Now the condition is payment of contribution for at least half the number of days of the contribution period of 6 months i.e. 91 or 92 days. This change should not, normally, affect the interest of the women workers adversely.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of Agricultural College in Tripura

4672. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to establish an agriculture college in Tripura;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken in this respect; and

(c) when the college is expected to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) : The Government have agreed in principle to establish a Central Agricultural University in the North Eastern region. A review of the educational and research needs of the area has been completed and a project is under preparation for consideration of the Government of India. The question of locating one of the constituent agricultural colleges of the proposed university in Tripura will be decided when the project is approved by the Government.

Funds Allocated Under the D.W.C.R A.

4673. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation of funds under the Development of Women and Children in

Rural Areas Programme during 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the amount spent during these years; and

(b) how many women were benefited during these years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The revised budget under Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas is :

1983-84	—	Rs. 121.24 lakhs
1984-85	—	Rs. 433.75 lakhs

Expenditure

(a) 1983-84	—	Rs. 42.90 lakhs
1984-85	—	Rs. 292.95 lakhs

(b) The number of women benefited are : 30,942

During 1983-84	—	12,379
During 1984-85	—	18,563 (upto Dec '84)

R.L.E.G.P. in West Bengal

4674. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that the lack of resources released by Centre have adversely affected the RLEGP of West Bengal;

(b) the total allotment of money for this programme in West Bengal for 1984-85 and how much has been actually spent or released by Centre; and

(c) the reasons for not releasing the full amount to West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The lack of resources released by the Central Government has not adversely affected the implementation of the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme in West Bengal. On the other hand, further releases could not be made to the State Government during 1984-85 on account of poor utilisation of funds. As against an allocation of Rs. 3850 lakhs under the RLEGP for 1984-85,

an amount of Rs. 1538.30 lakhs was released to the State Government as first instalment. In addition, the State Government had an amount of Rs. 770 lakhs carried over under the RLEGP from 1983-84. As against the total availability of Rs. 2308.30 lakhs under the RLEGP, the State Government has till now only reported an expenditure of Rs. 514.949 lakhs. This expenditure relates to January, 1985. The full amount could not be released to the State Government as utilisation of funds released earlier was less than 50% of the total availability, as required for the release of the second instalment.

Increase in the Existing KW of Radio Stations of Orissa

4675. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed to increase the existing KW of radio stations of Orissa during Seventh Plan period;

(b) if so, the names of the radio stations and proposed increase thereof;

(c) funds provided during 1985-86, radio station-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open a new radio station at Bhavanipatna to cover adjoining areas of different districts such as Bolangir, Phulbani, Koraput etc.; and

(e) if so, the progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) The Seventh Plan proposals have not yet been finalised,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) In the approved Sixth Plan, there was no proposal to open a new radio station at Bhavanipatna,

(e) Does not arise.

Concession in Excise Duty to Fishermen Using Mechanised Boats

4676. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE ; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether concession is given in excise duty on mechanised boats for fishing with more than 150 horse power, but no such concession is available to fishermen using boats with lower horse power;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether hundred per cent relief will be given to fishermen using mechanised boats of less than 150 horse power; and

(d) whether a time frame will be fixed to introduce these relief ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A proposal to extend the scheme to the small mechanised boats was examined by the Government. It was not found possible to implement the scheme due to serious administrative difficulties and risk to the revenue.

Issue of Household Cards to Landless Workers under RLEGP

4677. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to issue household cards to landless workers covered under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme in the country;

(b) if so, whether the scheme for registration of landless workers in the country has been finalised;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Centre in this regard; and

(d) if so, how Government will effectively monitor the implementation of this programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c) The State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been asked recently to consider the introduction of identity cards to rural landless labour households for employment under some approved work/works in each project under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). The guidelines on the subject are contained in the Department of Rural Development's letter dated 21st March, 1985, addressed to the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments/U.Ts.

(d) Periodical Reports will be obtained from the State Governments/U.T. Administrations for monitoring the implementation of these guidelines.

People Affected by Drought and Floods

4678. **SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of people and the areas affected by the drought and floods in the country during the last three years and relief measures taken by Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : The number of people and the cropped areas affected by droughts and floods/cyclones in the country during last three years and the Central assistance for relief measures given to the States and Union Territories are indicated below :

Year	Type of calamity	Population affected (in lakhs)	Cropped area affected (in lakh hectares)	Ceiling of Central assistance sanctioned (Rs. Crores)
1982-83	Drought	2616.89	428.73	438.51
	Flood/ Cyclone	633.32	56.83	321.40
1983-84	Drought	1874.62	368.22	294.70
	Flood/ Cyclone	610.55	76.41	335.78
1984-85	Drought	991.28	320.84	200.66
	Flood/ Cyclone	446.58	56.56	344.90

The Central assistance for drought and floods covers the items, like, Employment Generation, Drinking Water Programme, Gratuitous Relief, Cattle fodder and conservation, Nutrition and Public Health Programme, Restoration of Public properties, Agricultural input subsidy, Assistance for conversion of short-term loans to medium-term loans in the Agricultural sector, etc.

Indians Working in Gulf Countries

4679. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indians working in Gulf countries have gone there through private organisations/agencies;

(b) if so, the names of such private organisations/agencies; and

(c) the number of Indians who have gone to Gulf countries through Government agencies during last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Till 25-4-1986, 965 private recruiting agencies have been registered with the Ministry of Labour. The first list of 778 recruiting agencies has already been printed in a directory and it is a priced publication. A copy has been placed in the

Parliament Library. The second list of registered recruiting agencies is under print and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) About 3266 workers have been sent by Government agencies.

Conversion of Non Mechanised Fishing Fleet into Mechanised One

4680. SHRI D. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is lagging far behind in comparison to other fishing nations in converting non mechanised fishing fleet into mechanised ones;

(b) the number of mechanised and non-mechanised vessels in each State and Union Territory having sea-fishing opportunities;

(c) whether Government propose to convert all non-mechanised vessels into mechanised vessels within certain time limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Statement showing the number of mechanised and non-mechanised fishing vessels in Maritime States and Union Territories

State/UT	Mechanised	Non-mechanised
1. Andhra Pradesh	800	37514
2. Gujarat	3548	4466
3. Karnataka	2100	6942
4. Kerala	2961	34660
5. Maharashtra	4167	8729
6. Orissa	775	9728
7. Tamil Nadu	3641	43343
8. West Bengal	577	3100
9. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25	N.A.
10. Goa, Daman & Diu	996	2513
11. Lakshadweep	223	N.A.
12. Pondicherry	231	2500
	20,044	1,53,495

N.A. = Not Available

Selection of Production Assistants

4681. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Doordarshan Selection Board selected certain persons as Production Assistants (Regular) ignoring the claims of the casual Production Assistants having experience ranging from four to seven years and that representations by the affected persons did not move the administration to rectify the injustice done to them ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to redress their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) to (c) Representations of some casual Production Assistants against the selection of candidates by Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi for regular recruitment of Production Assistants are being examined.

Materials Exported by N.B.C.C.

4682. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING

be pleased to state :

(a) whether N.B.C.C. had exported various materials to its Baghdad works ; if so, details regarding materials and its quantities and amount involved ;

(b) whether the materials were exported directly by the manufacturers or the deal was struck through some agency ; if so, the particulars of agency/agencies involved ;

(c) whether full quantities of materials sent have not been received at Baghdad ; if so, the items of materials found short in each consignment and their value ; and

(d) whether N.B.C.C. has taken any steps to report these matters to C.B.I. for enquiry ; if so, the latest position ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) to (c) A statement showing details for the last three financial years is attached.

(d) The matter was referred for thorough investigation by CBI who have informed that shortages have occurred in transit and prima-facie there is no case for their investigation. As advised by them, NBCC have lodged claim with the Insurance Company.

Statement

Sl. No.	Materials	Quality	Value of Order	Materials Exported by	Material found short	Value of material received short at Baghdad (Iraq)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1.	Immersion rods Bajaj make	10 Nos.	Rs. 1,067.00 (1982-83)	NBCC	Nil	Nil
2.	Fabric Paint	51 Tubes	Rs. 2,633.05 (1983-84)	NBCC	Nil	Nil
3.	Sieves Sets					
	(a) 8' dia	15 Nos.				
	(b) Lid & receiver	3 Nos.				
	(c) 12' dia	10 Nos.				
	(d) Lid & receiver	2 Nos.	Rs. 3,139.38	NBCC	Nil	Nil

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
4.	(a) 8' Brass frame sieves of size 1/2' 3/8', 4, 8, 16, 30, 50.	21 Nos.				
	(b) 100 mesh BSS	3 Nos.				
	(c) 200 mesh BSS	3 Nos.				
	(d) Lid & Pan	3 Sets.				
	(e) 12' dia brass frame test sieves	14 Nos.				
	(f) 100 Mesh BSS	2 Nos.				
	(g) 200 mesh BSS	2 Nos.				
	(h) Lid & Pan for the above	2 Sets.	Rs. 5,920.30	NBCC	Nil	Nil
5.	9 K.W. Immersion Heating elements 230/ 400 V, 60mm with 2' flange	10 Nos.	Rs. 5,445.00	NBCC	Nil	Nil
6.	Self starter for engine No. N 495	1 No.	Rs. 6,025.95	NBCC	Nil	Nil
7.	Self starter assembly & gasket	1 No.	Rs. 6,631.36	NBCC	Nil	Nil
8.	GI Pipes of various sizes					
			(1984-85)			
	(a) 15mm dia	2100 Mtr. (350 pcs.)	US\$ 1754.55	M/s Navjivan International South Patel Nagar, New Delhi	Nil	} US\$ 133870
	(b) 20mm dia	3900 Mtr. (650 pcs.)	US\$ 4245.15		425 pcs.	
	(c) 25mm dia	3200 Mtr. (534 pcs.)	US\$ 4908.80		234 pcs.	
	(d) 32mm dia	2900 Mtr. (484 pcs.)	US\$ 5766.65		384 pcs.	
	(e) 40mm dia	2780 Mtr. (464 pcs.)	US\$ 6392.61		12 pcs.	
	(f) 50mm dia	8490 Mtr. (1415 pcs.)	US\$ 27155.27		Nil	
	(g) 65mm dia	1870 Mtr. (312 pcs.)	US\$ 7685.70		312 pcs.	
	(h) 80mm dia	4150 Mtr. (692 pcs.)	US\$ 21405.70		1 pcs.	
	(i) 100mm dia	23445 Mtr. (3908 pcs.)	US\$ 172496.59		2376 pcs.	
	(j) 125 mm dia	8500 Mtr. (1417 pcs.)	US\$ 77715.50		Nil	
	(k) 150mm dia	19925 Mtr. (3321 pcs.)	US\$ 217511.26		1 pcs.	

Establishment of AIR Station at Phulbani	State	Production (No. of nut/ha.) (1982-83)
4683. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :	Andhra Pradesh	4136
(a) whether Government are aware that Phulbani in Orissa is ideally located for the establishment of an All India Radio Station ;	Assam	7062
(b) whether such proposal will be taken into consideration in view of the absence of adequate All India Radio network in Phulbani and its adjoining districts ; and	Karnataka	5204
(c) if so, the steps taken to expedite implementation of the above proposal ?	Kerala	4721
	Maharashtra	5455
	Orissa	4202
	Tamil Nadu	9969
	Tripura	1214
	West Bengal	10930
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4644
	Goa, Daman & Diu	4884
	Pondicherry	9000
	Lakshadweep	7786

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) Presently AIR Sambalpur covers the northern parts of Phulbani District and AIR Cuttack the eastern parts.

(b) and (c) This will depend upon the final shape of the Seventh Five Year Plan ; the Seventh Plan has not been finalised yet.

Coconut Production in Kerala

4684. DR. K.G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the production of coconut per hectare, State-wise ;

(b) whether Kerala has the lowest production per hectare of coconut ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase coconut production in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) ; (a) State and Union Territory-wise production of coconut per hectare is given below :—

(b) and (c) Although productivity of coconut in Kerala is lower than the All India average, it compares favourably with some other States and Union Territories. Reasons for low productivity in Kerala are as follows :

- (i) Overcrowding of existing gardens ;
- (ii) Existence of senile and unproductive palms ;
- (iii) Non-adoption of recommended package of practices ;
- (iv) Diseases especially root wilt and pests.

(d) The following steps have been taken to increase production of coconut in Kerala :

- (i) Production and distribution of disease free seedlings of high yielding varieties.
- (ii) Demonstration to popularise improved cultivation practices.
- (iii) Rejuvenation of diseased and unproductive coconut gardens,
- (iv) Financial assistance for replacement of diseased and unproductive palms.
- (e) Financial assistance for irrigation.

Allotment of Accommodation to the Employees of MCD and Delhi Administration from General Pool

4685. DR. C. S. VERMA : Will the

Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry also entertains applications from employees of MCD and Delhi Administration for allotment of Government accommodation from General Pool ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether some zones have been constituted by Government to deal with such applications, area-wise ; and

(d) if so, the location of the offices or zones so constituted dealing with such allotments to those employees residing in Delhi, particularly at Lawrance Road ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) and (b) Employees of Municipal Corporation of Delhi are not eligible for allotment of general pool accommodation and their applications are not entertained. Employees of Delhi Administration who are working in eligible offices and which are located in eligible zones are eligible for allotment of general pool accommodation.

(c) and (d) For the purpose of allotment of general pool accommodation eligibility zones have been prescribed and employees of only those offices which are located within the eligibility zones are eligible for allotment of general pool accommodation. Lawrance Road is not included in the eligibility zone. Details of eligibility zones are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Details of eligibility zone for allotment of general pool accommodation in Delhi

Postal Delivery Zones/Locality	Area included in the zones
(1)	(2)
Zone No. 1	New Delhi Municipal Area north of Rajpath covering Connaught Place and Circus, Paharganj, Parliament Street and House, Secretariat North, North Avenue, Bhangi Colony, Birla Mandir, Janpath (No. 13 onwards), National Stadium, Bengali Market, Rajghat, Kamla Market, Ajmeri Gate Extension and Vikram Nagar (Old Fort)
Zone No. 3	Lodi Estate, Golf Link, Jor Bagh, Ambassador Hotel, Kasturba Nagar (Sewa Nagar), Railway Colony, Defence Colony, Lodi Colony, Aligang Karbala (Pawan Nagar), Safdarjang Airport, Race Course Camp, A.F. Station, Kotla Mubarakpur, Andrews Ganj, South Extension Part I & II.
Zone No. 4	President Estate, Rashtrapati Bhavan and Willingdon Crescent Nos. 1 to 10.
Zone No. 5	From Model Basti to New Rajinder Nagar covering Tibbia College, Dev Nagar, Anand Parbat, Anand Nagar, Western Extension Area, New Rohtak Road, Beadonpura, Shadipura and Pusa Road.
Zone No. 6	From North of Ajmeri Gate Extension upto Rani Jhansi Road (Ridge Road) covering Lal Kuan, Darya Ganj, Jama Masjid, Red Fort, Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Civil Lines up to Khyber Pass.
Zone No. 7	Ridge Road upto Timarpur, Najafgarh Nala on the West and Rohtak Railway Line on the South, Malka Ganj Subzi Mandi, Shakti Nagar, Roop Nagar, Gulabi Bagh, Rana Pratap Bagh, Kamla Nagar, Jawahar Nagar,

(1)

(2)

- Pratap Nagar, Roshanara Road, Fruit Market, Birla Lines, Bagh Kare Khan, Sarai Rohilla, Kishan Ganj, Delhi University, Timarpur, Bharat Nagar and Nimri.
- Zone No. 8** Ranjit Nagar, Khampur, Shadipur, Patel Nagar East, West, and South, Government Milk Dairies.
- Zone No. 9** Kingsway Camp, Radio Colony, Hudson Lines, Harijan Colony, T.B. Hospital, Vijay Nagar, Nirankari Colony, Model Town.
- Zone No. 11** Defence Headquarters, Air Headquarters, Naval H.Q., Udyog Bhavan, Vigyan Bhavan Sunder Nagar, Nehru Museum, G.K. Club, G. Block, UPSC, South Block, Kashmir House, Bikaner House, Jaisalmer House, Khan Market, Jamnagar House, Pandara Road, Kaka Nagar, Wellesley Road Flats, Willingdon Crescent (Nos. 11 onwards), Janpath (Nos. 1 to 12), Satya Marg (Chanakyapuri) covering Ashoka Hotel, D-I and D-II Flats Viney Marg and Railway Road.
- Zone No. 12** Agricultural Research Institute, NPL Colony, Inder Pari, Wireless Village, J.J. Colony (Naraina).
- Zone No. 13** Hazrat Nizamuddin and Extension, Arab-ki-Sarai, Humayun Tomb, Sarai Kaley Khan, Nangli Razapur and Cooli Camp.
- Zone No. 14** Jangpura and Extension, Lajpat Nagar and Extension, Bhogal, Kailash Colony, Friends Colony, Sant Nagar, Hari Nagar Ashram, Amar Colony, Daya Nand Colony, Kilokri (Nehru Nagar), Srinivaspuri, Greater Kailash.
- Zone No. 16** From Medical Enclave (Ansari Nagar) except North of Medical Enclave (Kidwai Nagar) to Essex Farm on Mehrauli Road, Nauroji Nagar, Yusuf Sarai, Hauz Khas, Hauz Khas Enclave and Extension except I.I.T. Pinjra Pole Quarters, Green Park and Extension, Humayun Pur, Krishan Nagar, Arjan Nagar, Gautam Nagar, Safdarjung Development Scheme (Behind Nauroji Nagar).
- Zone No. 17** Malviya Nagar, Savitri Nagar, Hauz Rani, Begum Pur and Khirki and Chiragh Delhi.
- Zone No. 19** Kalkaji Township, Anand Mai Mandir, Overseas Communication Services, Govindpuri.
- Zone No. 20** Okhla Industrial Estate and Central Road Research Institute.
- Zone No. 22** R. K. Puram Sectors (1 to 12), Mohd. Pur and Munirka Villages, Sunlight Estate.
- Zone No. 23** I.N.A. Colony, I.N.A. Market, Railway Crossing I.N.A., L.B. Nagar, Kidwai Nagar, Kidwai Nagar East (North of Medical Enclave) Military Barracks, Sarojini Nagar, Railway Colony, DTU Shed, Netaji Nagar, Safdarjang

(1)

(2)

	Railway Station, Moti Bagh, Nanakpur, Mochibagh Village, TPT Company upto Dhaula Kuan.
Pushpa Bhavan	Offices located at Govt. Office Building Complex, Pushp Bhavan, Mehrauli Badarpur Road.
Katwaria Sarai	Katwaria Sarai
Vasant Vihar	Vasant Vihar.
Zone No. 15	Ramesh Nagar, Kirti Nagar, Moti Nagar, Zakhi Natraj Cinema, Milan Cinema.
Zone No. 31	Gandhi Nagar.
Zone No. 32	Shahdara.
Zone No. 51	Krishna Nagar.

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

4686. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities including Kerosene are rising high and the wholesale price index has recorded abnormal rise in recent weeks ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to bring down the prices to a rational level ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) In the past four weeks ending 13-4-1985, the all-commodities wholesale price index has moved up by 2.3%. During this period the prices of some essential commodities including Kerosene have moved up while the prices of some other essential commodities have moved down.

(b) The main thrust of Government policy has been to increase the production of essential commodities particularly the ones which are in short supply. The Public Distribution System is being expanded and improved. The supplies of some essential commodities are supplemented by imports. The export of essential commodities is regulated. State Governments are enforcing the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations to curb the activities of hoarders and blackmarketeers and other anti-social elements.

News-Item "A Messy Inter-State Bus Terminus"

4687. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'A Messy Inter-State Bus Terminus' appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated 27 March, 1985 and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve the state of affairs in the Inter-State Bus Terminus at Kashmiri Gate, Delhi and save it from being turned into a slum ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following steps have been taken to improve the working of the ISBT :—

- (i) Entry of ISBT buses in the arrival block to enable passengers to disembark is strictly ensured.
- (ii) It is also ensured that there is no default in the payment of licence fee by the buses leaving the ISBT.
- (iii) To avoid congestion at the terminus, buses are not allowed to be parked on the platform for more than 15 minutes before the departure time.
- (iv) An idle truck parking centre at Majnu-ka-Tilla at a distance of

2 km. from ISBT has been constructed to park buses in waiting.

- (v) Waiting places and other complexes meant for the passengers are kept neat and clean.
- (vi) Staff accommodation is provided for the staff of various road transport corporations and bus operators.

To ensure that these arrangements work effectively sufficient number of T.Is and security guards are always on duty. They also attend to complaints of operators and commuters. Adequate police arrangements are also available.

Officers of NBCC posted at Baghdad

4688. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officers of N.B.C.C. posted at Baghdad (Iraq) were involved in cases of moral turpitude in 1980 and this fact was reported to N.B.C.C. by Indian Embassy at Baghdad ;

(b) whether a committee of officers was sent to Baghdad for an on-the-spot study of the cases ; if so, details of the members of the committee, the expenditure incurred by them in Indian currency and in foreign exchange ;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report ; if so, the findings and the names of the officers involved ; and

(d) the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Reports about problems of management and suggestions about revamping of NBCC's unit at Baghdad were made.

(b) CPAM-cum-Secretary of the Corporation was sent to Baghdad to sort out urgent labour problems and was also asked to examine about the revamping of the administrative set up there, alongwith Chief Project Manager (Tech.) who had gone on tour separately. An expenditure of Rs. 6582/- on Air-ticket and other

incidentals and US \$450 on daily allowance to CPAM-cum-Secretary was incurred.

(c) and (d) CPAM cum-Secretary in consultation with the Chief Project Manager (Tech.) submitted a report which dealt with the revamping of the administrative set up. No incriminating evidence about moral turpitude was available even after discreet inquiries. However, for the effective administration of the management a few transfers had also been effected.

Supply of Foodgrains to Gujarat

4689. SHRI AMAR SINGH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rice, wheat and other cereal required by Gujarat Government for the Public Distribution System per month during 1984-85 ;

(b) the quantity actually supplied per month during 1984-85 to meet the demand ;

(c) whether the quantity supplied was much less than the requirement ; if so, how much and what are the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the details of requirement sent by State Government for 1985-86 and steps taken to meet the demands ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) A statement showing demand, allotment and offtake of foodgrains in respect of Gujarat for the year 1984-85 is attached. The allocations from the Central Pool are only supplemental to open market availability.

(d) The Government of Gujarat have sent a total demand for 50,000 tonnes of rice and 60,000 tonnes of wheat for public distribution system upto May, 1985, during the year 1985-86.

While the demand for wheat for public distribution system is being met in full, it has not been possible to meet the demand of rice in full in view of the limited availability of stocks in the Central Pool.

Statement

Statement showing the Demand, Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from the Central Pool for Gujarat for public distribution system during the year 1984-85.

Month	RICE			(In '000 tonnes) WHEAT		
	Demand	Allotment	Offtake	Demand	Allotment	Offtake
1984						
April	25.0	7.5	6.1	10.0	17.5	2.8
May	25.0	7.5	9.2	10.0	17.5	3.8
June	25.0	7.5	9.3	10.0	17.5	0.9
July	25.0	7.5	7.5	10.0	17.5	1.3
August	25.0	7.5	8.6	10.0	17.5	0.1
September	25.0	7.5	7.4	10.0	17.5	—
October	25.0	7.5	4.3	10.0	17.5	0.6
November	25.0	7.5	10.2	10.0	17.5	0.7
December	25.0	7.5	7.5	30.0	17.5	5.5
January	25.0	7.5	6.3	50.0	30.0	10.8
February	25.0	7.5	6.5	50.0	30.0	2.9
March	25.0	7.5	6.6	30.0	30.0	0.8
Total	300.0	90.0	89.5	240.0	247.5	30.2

Note : There is no regular demand or allotment for other cereals.

Staff in AIR and TV Centres

4690. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in All India Radio and Television Kendras throughout the country, particularly in Orissa as on the 1st March, 1982 and 1st March, 1985, category-wise;

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees on these dates, category-wise;

(c) whether reservation rules in favour of SC and ST employees are being followed and rosters maintained;

(d) the reasons for the shortfall, if any, and the steps taken to fill the quota reserved for SC and ST employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b) The information is being

collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The posts are to be filled by obtaining nominations/candidates from the zones of consideration, Employment Exchange, Staff Selection Commission, etc. or by considering applicants responding to open market advertisement. The shortfall, if any, occurs because of non-availability of persons in the zone or suitable candidates not being nominated by the nominating agencies. The recruiting authorities however continue their efforts.

Staff in PIB, DFP and DAVP

4691. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in Press Information Bureau, Directorate of Field Publicity and D.A.V.P. throughout

the country as on the 1st March, 1982 and 1st March, 1985 particularly in Orissa;

(b) the number of SC and ST employees amongst them;

(c) whether reservation rules in favour of SC and ST candidates are being followed and rosters maintained for that purpose;

(d) if so, the reasons for the shortfall, if any, and the steps taken to fill the quota reserved for these communities; and

(e) the number of reserved posts lapsed during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Hindi in Agricultural Education

4692. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the position regarding use of Hindi in agricultural education, research work, experiments and utilisation of experimental results, planning, publication and interviews;

(b) the proportionate number of books, reference books, papers and magazines in English and Hindi languages in the Ministry's library; and

(c) whether equal opportunities of promotion and confirmation are available to the persons engaged in Hindi work ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) In the Agricultural Universities of U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, medium of instruction for B.Sc. (Agriculture) only is both Hindi and English. For research, planning and documentation of experimental data, English is normally used. Utilisation of experimental research results in the research publications is in English, but for utilisation of these results for extension purposes, literature is issued not only in English and Hindi but also in regional languages. Hindi or

English or both are used in interviews depending upon the convenience of the authorities or Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board members and the candidates.

"Kheti", a monthly publication and two quarterly publications "Phal Phool" and "Krishi Chayanika" are brought out in Hindi. Popular crop series are also published in Hindi at the time of kharif and rabi.

(b) The number of English and Hindi books etc. in the libraries of the Ministry are as follows :—

	English	Hindi
Books and Reference Books	55,615	7,736
Magazines and Papers	532	73

(c) Yes, Sir.

Adoption of Villages for Socio-Economic Development of Backward Rural Areas

4693. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take effective measures for the socio-economic development of backward areas on the basis of voluntary adoption of villages by official and non-official organisations;

(b) if so, the details regarding the scheme;

(c) the number of villages in each State adopted by each organisation so far and the Central aid granted in their favour;

(d) the manner in which these villages are being developed; and

(e) the details regarding the guidelines issued by Central Government for the development of these villages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (e) Various schemes of rural development of the Central and

State Governments seek to bring about socio-economic development of rural areas in the country. There is, however, no specific scheme for the voluntary adoption of villages by official and non-official organisations for this purpose.

Unhygienic Conditions in Pushp Vihar

4694. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware about the unhygienic conditions of a Central Government Employees residential Colony in New Delhi (Pushp Vihar);

(b) number of complaints received by the Director General (Works). CPWD on the subject during the period 1 January, 1983 and 20 April, 1985; and

(c) action taken or proposed to be taken on such complaints and remedial steps taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fourteen.

(c) Road side drains and manholes are cleaned regularly by CPWD by engaging Departmental labour. Some of the residents are not carrying the garbage to the garbage bins in the colony. The CPWD is getting the garbage cleared periodically. It is expected that Municipal Corporation of Delhi will take over the services in the near future.

Maintenance of Government Quarters in Pushp Vihar

4695. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a number of Government quarters in Pushp Vihar, New Delhi (all the sectors), the cast iron fan boxes have not been covered with the Hylem Sheet covers, which creates a lot of problems for the residents, if so the total number of such quarters;

(b) whether a number of representations to this effect had been received by

Government during the years 1981 and 1983; if so, the number of such representations and the action taken by Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide these covers in such quarters in the near future; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The total number of such quarters is 2370.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Yes, Sir. Government propose to provide these covers shortly.

Refixation of Prices of Essential Commodities due to small coins shortage

4696. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that the prices of essential commodities are fixed by Government in such a manner that coins of small denomination which are not available are very much required at Fair Price Shops and Kerosene Oil Depots; and

(b) whether Government propose to review position of prices and fix the prices to the nearest round figure; if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Essential commodities supplied to States/Union Territories by the Central Government at pre-determined Central issue prices are sold to consumers through fair price shops at retail prices fixed by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations after adding incidental expenses, handling charges etc. The Central Government is aware of the shortage of small coins and necessary steps are being taken to overcome this shortage. Instructions have already been issued by the Union Finance Ministry to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to round off all transactions including fixation of prices of essential commodities to the nearest multiple of 5 paise.

Compilation and Publication of Biographies of Freedom Fighters

4697. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Publication Division has undertaken the compilation and publication of biographies of eminent freedom fighters under Builders of Modern India Series during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of such freedom fighters whose biographies have been published, year-wise, including the language of the publication; and

(c) whether any biographies are still pending for publication; if so, the details

thereof alongwith the reasons for this delay and likely date by which these would be published ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement-I showing the requisite information is attached.

(c) A statement-II of such biographies is attached. This is a continuous project and every effort is made to complete it as expeditiously as possible within the financial and other constraints. It is not possible to indicate the likely date by which these biographies would be published.

Statement-I

S. No.	Title	Language	Year
1.	K. Kamraj	English	1982-83
2.	Vithal Bhai Patel	-do-	-do-
3.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	Hindi	-do-
4.	Thakkar Bapa	-do-	-do-
5.	Rabindra Nath Tagore	-do-	-do-
6.	Dada Bhai Nauroji	Gujarati	-do-
7.	Rabindra Nath Tagore	Malayalam	-do-
8.	Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Punjabi	-do-
9.	K.M. Munshi	English	1983-84
10.	Sri Aurobindo	-do-	-do-
11.	Bipin Chandra Pal	-do-	-do-
12.	Subhash Chandra Bose	-do-	-do-
13.	P.S. Sivaswami	Hindi	-do-
14.	Jawaharlal Nehru	-do-	-do-
15.	Ramananda Chattopadhyay	-do-	-do-
16.	M.R. Jaykar	-do-	-do-
17.	Lok Manya Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Kannada	-do-
18.	Swami Vivekananda	Malayalam	-do-
19.	Kanducoori Veereslingam	Telugu	-do-
20.	Abul Kalam Azad	-do-	-do-
21.	Tele De Mascarenhas	English	1984-85
22.	Dr. Pattabhi Sitarammaya	-do-	-do-
23.	U. Tirot Singh	-do-	-do-
	Chand Devenand Saraswati	-do-	-do-
		-do-	-do-

S. No.	Title	Language	Year
26.	Swami Vivekananda	Hindi	1984-85
27.	S. Satyamurti	-do-	-do-
28.	Kandukoori Veereslingam	-do-	-do-
29.	Mazhrul Haque	-do-	-do-
30.	S. Srinivas Aiyangar	-do-	-do-
31.	Rabindra Nath Tagore	Assamese	-do-
32.	Swami Vivekananda	Kannada	-do-
33.	Ferozeshah Mehta	Marathi	-do-

Statement-II

S. No.	Title	Language	S. No.	Title	Language
1.	Tej Bahadur Sapru	Hindi	28.	Jyotiprasad Agarwal	English
2.	K. Kamraj	-do-	29.	Hakim Ajmal Khan	-do-
3.	Kasturi Ranga Iyengar	-do-	30.	Atom Bapu Sharneer	-do-
4.	G. Subramania Ayyar	-do-	31.	U. Kiang Nongbah	-do-
5.	Lala Lajpat Rai	-do-	32.	T. Prakasham	-do-
6.	Vithalbhai Patel	-do-	33.	Pandit Gopabandhu Das	-do-
7.	Sri Aurobindo	-do-	34.	V.O. Chidambaram Pillai	-do-
8.	K.M. Munshi	-do-	35.	Gopi Nath Paradoloi	-do-
9.	Bhulabhai Desai	Gujarati	36.	V.K. Krishna Menon	-do-
10.	Abul Kalam Azad	Kannada	37.	C.N. Annadurai	-do-
11.	R.N. Tagore	-do-	38.	Ravi Shankar Shukla	-do-
12.	Abul Kalam Azad	Malayalam	39.	J.B. Kripalani	-do-
13.	Subramania Bharati	-do-	40.	Jai Prakash Narain	-do-
14.	B.R. Ambedkar	Marathi	41.	G.B. Deshpandey	-do-
15.	R.N. Tagore	Telugu	42.	Maulana Mohammad Ali	-do-
16.	V.S. Hardikar	English	43.	Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi	-do-
17.	M. Vishwaswarayya	Hindi	44.	Keshav Chandra Sen	-do-
18.	Swami Vivekananda	Marathi	45.	Dr. M.A. Ansari	-do-
19.	Dewan Panga Charlu	Hindi	46.	Acharya Narendra Sen	-do-
20.	G.B. Pant	English	47.	Lala Lajpat Rai	Hindi
21.	C. Rajagopalachari	-do-	48.	Patabhi Sitarammaya	-do-
22.	Dr. Radhakrishnan	-do-	49.	U. Tirot Singh	-do-
23.	Rafi Ahmad Kidwai	-do-	50.	Dyanand Saraswati	-do-
24.	Dr. Zakir Hussain	-do-	51.	Rabindranath Tagore	Assamese
25.	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad	-do-	52.	Jamshetji Tata	Bengali
26.	Hanuman Prasad Poddar	-do-	53.	Rabindranath Tagore	Gujarati
27.	Ram Manohar Lohia	-do-	54.	C.F. Andrews	-do-

S. No.	Title	Language	S. No.	Title	Language
55.	C. Rajgopalachari	Kannada	65.	Jamshetji Tata	Tamil
56.	Swami Vivekananda	-do-	66.	K. Veereshlingam	Telugu
57.	Rabindranath Tagore	Marathi	67.	C.F. Andrews	-do-
58.	Ferozeshah Mehta	-do-	68.	Rabindranath Tagore	-do-
59.	C.F. Andrews	Oriya	69.	Rafi Ahmad Kidwai	Urdu
60.	Jamshetji Tata	-do-	70.	Swami Vivekananda	-do-
61.	Swami Vivekananda	-do-	71.	Sarojini Naidu	-do-
62.	Kasturi Ranga Iyengar	Tamil	72.	C.F. Andrews	-do-
63.	Annie Besant	-do-	73.	Mazhrul Haque	-do-
64.	Rabindranath Tagore	-do-	74.	Lok Manya Bal Gangadhar Tilak	-do-

Expansion of Field Publicity during Seventh Plan

4698. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to expand the functioning of Field Publicity Units in the country during the Seventh Plan ;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to provide separate field Publicity Units for each district of the country ;

(c) if so, the likely date by which it would be done ; and

(d) the number of Field Publicity Units in each State/Union Territory at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Statements showing the Number of Field Publicity Units in each State/Union Territory as on 29-4-1985

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of Field Publicity Units	S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of Field Publicity Units
States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	12.	Manipur	5
2.	Assam	12	13.	Meghalaya	3
3.	Bihar	19	14.	Nagaland	4
4.	Gujarat	11	15.	Orissa	11
5.	Haryana	4	16.	Punjab	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6	17.	Rajasthan	13
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	15	18.	Sikham	2
8.	Karnataka	11	19.	Tamil Nadu	10
9.	Kerala	11	20.	Tripura	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	22	21.	Uttar Pradesh	26
11.	Maharashtra	15	22.	West Bengal	15

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of Field Publicity Units
Union Territories		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12
3.	Chandigarh	1
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil
5.	Delhi	2
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu	1
7.	Lakshdweep	Nil
8.	Mizoram	3
9.	Pondicherry	1
Total Units :		257

Notes :

1. The two Union Territories, namely Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshdweep which do not have separate units are covered by conveniently located units in neighbouring States, namely Gujarat and Kerala, respectively.
2. Units located in a State/Union Territory usually operate within their respective States/Union Territories. In some cases however, a unit operates in nearby areas of neighbouring State/Union Territory also.

Misuse of Residential Premises in Rehabilitation Colonies

4699. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the latest policy followed by his Ministry or the Land and Development Officer in the matter of permitting the use of houses in the Rehabilitation colonies like Kalkaji for commercial purposes by the first allottee, second allottee and the subsequent owner in case of sale of the property ;

(b) whether it is permissible for one person to run more than one business establishment, one facing the main road in the colony and the other in the street

facing the property concerned and if so, the reasons for such misuse of residential premises ; and

(c) whether any additional premium is levied by the L&DO on part of these properties being used for commercial purposes; if so, what and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) The lessees of Rehabilitation colonies like Kalkaji, etc. are governed by the terms of Lease Deeds. The lessees who violate the terms of the lease by using the property for purposes other than those for which it is leased out, are required to get the breaches regularised temporarily on payment of misuse charges or remove them within the notice period of 30 days. This is applicable in cases of first allottee, second and subsequent owners. In the event of their failure, the lease is determined. However, some trades are exempted by the Government as condonable breaches.

(b) The lease is the essence of the agreement executed between the lesser and the lessee. The use of property is restrictive. The lessee is prohibited from using the demised premises for purposes other than that of residence. In case any breach of the covenants of Lease Deed comes to the notice of the lessor, the lessee is liable for action under the terms of the lease. However, at present there is a ban on inspection and issuance of notices in Rehabilitation colonies except where there is a request for sale permission, etc. and also if there is a complaint from the neighbours.

(c) In case any misuse in violation of the terms of lease is detected and the lessee makes request for its regularisation, the same is regularised on half yearly basis on payment of certain charges based on prescribed formula and the land rates fixed by the Government from time to time. In cases where the area is declared commercial by the DDA under the Zonal Plan and the lessee approaches the Land and Development Officer for conversion of the land use for the leased property, additional premium is charged, and the ground rent is also revised before granting permission for conversion.

4700.

Imported Foodgrains

WARA
ANT

SHRI V. SOBHANADREES-
RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD
AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to
state :

(a) the quantity and value of foodgrains which were imported from abroad but damaged and destroyed due to lack of quality, year-wise during the last three years ;

(b) the reasons for such wastage of foodgrains and steps taken to prevent this in future ; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against persons responsible for such wastage of public funds and material ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIREDNRA SINGH) :

(a) to (c) Year-wise details of the quantity and value of foodgrains imported from abroad during the last three years are given in Statement-I attached

Separate accounts of damages in foodgrains from imported and indigenous stocks are not being maintained as stocks once imported form a part of the general pool. The total stocks of foodgrains (both imported and indigenously procured) damaged during the last three years are given in Statement-II. attached.

Such damages have occurred mainly in CAP storage due to unexpected rains/storms. The steps taken to prevent such damages are construction of more covered accommodation and provision of adequate dunnage, use of water-proof polythene covers alongwith mono-filament nets/nylon ropes for proper lashing of polythene covers to prevent damages to them due to storm and aeration of stocks in clear weather.

Whenever negligence in taking the prescribed steps is found, prompt action is taken against those concerned.

Statement—I

Statement showing yearwise Quantity and Value of Wheat/Rice Imported

Year	Quantity of Wheat/Rice Imported During the Year		
	Commodity	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	C. I. & F. Value (In crore Rs.)
1982-83	Wheat	19.52	384.66
	Rice	Nil	Nil
1983-84	Wheat	37.38	726.36
	Rice	42.04	833.53
1984-85	Wheat	6.89	130.14
	Rice	10.70	224.38

Statement—II

Year-wise details of the Quantity and Value of the Foodgrains Damaged in Food Corporation of India

Year	Quantity of Foodgrains Damaged (in thousand tonnes)	Value of the Damaged Foodgrains (in lakh rupees)
1981-82	79	414
1982-83	48	326
		000

Achievements of OF-I and OF-II

4701. SHRI V. SOBIANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding proposals before Government for Dairy Development in the country ;

(b) the amounts spent, targets fixed and achievements made through Operation Flood-I and Operation Flood-II Programmes; and

(c) the details of the amounts released so far, Statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Operation Flood-II is a major dairy development programme now under implementation in the country. The Operation Flood-I terminated in March, 1981. The achievements of Operation Flood-I and Operation Flood-II vis-a-vis the key targets are as follows :

Operation Flood-I

	Target	Achievement
(i) Funds generated	Rs. 95.4 crores increased to Rs. 116.5 crs.	Rs. 115.44 crs.
(ii) Disbursements	Rs. 95.4 crores increased to Rs. 116.4 crs.	Rs. 116.54 crs.
(iii) No. of farm families benefited	One million	1.46 millions
(iv) No. of dairy cooperative societies	10,000	10,409
(v) Capacities created in four metropolitan cities	27.5 lakh litres per day	29.00 lakh litres per day

Operation Flood-II

	Target	Achievement (upto February, 1985)
(i) No. of Milksheds to be covered (No.)	155	135
(ii) No. of farm families to be benefited (Million)	10	3,417
(iii) No. of dairy cooperative societies to be organised	34,001	33,830
(iv) Amount spent	Rs. 485.5 crores	Rs. 257.65 crores (Provisional)

(c) The State-wise utilisation of funds under Operation Flood-I is given in Statement-I attached. The amounts disbursed to various States/Union Territories under Operation Flood-II are indicated in Statement-II attached.

Statement-I

The State-wise Utilisation of Funds under Operation Flood-I

States	Utilised (Rs. in crores)
Andhra Pradesh	4.82
Bihar	3.20
Gujarat	21.70
Haryana	3.70
Maharashtra	17.88
Punjab	5.12
Rajasthan	3.98
Tamil Nadu	14.17
Uttar Pradesh	5.65
West Bengal	14.73

Statement-II

Statement indicating the Amounts disbursed to various States/Union Territories under Operation Flood-II since Inception Upto 28-2-1985 (Provisional)

Name of State/Union Territories	Rs. in lakhs
1. Andaman & Nicobar	23.87
2. Andhra Pradesh	2182.09
3. Assam	213.57
4. Bihar	366.73
5. Delhi	498.34
6. Goa	106.75
7. Gujarat	3934.33
8. Haryana	520.70
9. Himachal Pradesh	21.96
10. Karnataka	473.60
11. Kashmir	28.93
12. Kerala	700.51
13. Madhya Pradesh	1963.26
14. Maharashtra	1512.05
15. Nagaland	1.00

16. Orissa	677.81
17. Pondicherry	37.63
18. Punjab	2076.13
19. Rajasthan	454.34
20. Sikkim	58.58
21. Tamil Nadu	1444.13
22. Tripura	18.83
23. Uttar Pradesh	664.42
24. West Bengal	745.64

Raising the Ceiling Limit for ESI Schemes

4702. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India have asked the State Governments to extend the coverage under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme by raising the ceiling limits from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1600/- per month;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of beneficiaries covered by ESI likely to be increased in different States if the ceiling limit is increased;

(d) the response from the State Governments, particularly from the Government of West Bengal: and

(e) the reasons, if any, given by the State Governments expressing their inability to raise the ceiling limits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b) The wage ceiling for coverage under the Employees' State Insurance Act was raised from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1600/- per month by the Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1984 and the same has been enforced with effect from 27-1-85. The amendment has been brought to the notice of the State Governments and they have been asked to make necessary arrangement for providing medical care to the newly covered employees.

(c) About 7 lakh additional employees (27 lakh beneficiaries including family members) have come under coverage in different States.

(d) and (e) No State Government have so far responded adversely to the raising of the wage ceiling for coverage.

Scheme to develop Small and Medium Towns in the Country

4703. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had undertaken a scheme to develop small and medium towns in the country;

(b) if so, the number and names of such towns selected, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred on this scheme during 1980-84;

(d) whether there is any scheme to

select new towns in the coming five year plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) As in Statement-I attached.

(c) As in Statement-II attached.

(d) and (e) The proposals for selection of new towns are being processed. The details can be made available only after the proposals are finally approved.

Statement-I

ANNEXURE-I

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ORGANISATION

Statement indicating the towns covered State-wise

State/UTs

I. ANDHRA PRADESH (Allocated towns 18)

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ramchandrapuram | 10. Medak |
| 2. Tenali | 11. Guntakal |
| 3. Anakapalli | 12. Chittoor |
| 4. Vizianagaram | 13. Gadwal |
| 5. Bhimavaram | 14. Nandyal |
| 6. Karim Nagar | 15. Proddatur |
| 7. Tirupathi | 16. Mchbubnagar |
| 8. Khammam | 17. Bhimuniapatnam |
| 9. Srikakulam | 18. Zahirabad |

II. ASSAM (Allocated towns 5)

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Tinsukia | 4. Jorhat |
| 2. Silchar | 5. Dibrugarh |
| 3. Tejpur | |

III. BIHAR (Allocated towns 15)

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Hajipur | 9. Deoghar |
| 2. Gopalganj | 10. Arrah |
| 3. Saharsa | 11. Hazaribagh |
| 4. Daltonganj | 12. Bettiah |
| 5. Chapra | 13. Giridih |
| 6. Dumka | 14. Dhanbad |
| 7. Chaibasa | 15. Katihar |
| 8. Begusarai | |

IV. GUJARAT (Allocated towns 17)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Anand | 10. Godhra |
| 2. Patan North | 11. Bhuj |
| 3. Porbandar | 12. Mehsana |
| 4. Valsad | 13. Khambhat |
| 5. Varaval Pattan | 14. Amreli |
| 6. Palanpur | 15. Kalol Saij |
| 7. Ankleshwar | 16. Sanand |
| 8. Dahod | 17. Dehegam |
| 9. Mehmabad | |

V. HARYANA (Allocated towns 6)

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. Narnaul | 4. Karnal |
| 2. Sirsa | 5. Kurukshetra |
| 3. Sohna | 6. Hissar |

VI. HIMACHAL PRADESH (Allocated town 1)

1. Simla (Kasumpti)

VII. JAMMU & KASHMIR (Allocated town 1)

1. Anant Nag

VIII. KARNATAKA (Allocated towns 16)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Hassan | 9. Humnabad |
| 2. Chitradurga | 10. Holenarsipur |
| 3. Tumkur | 11. Sagar |
| 4. Raichur | 12. Shahapur |
| 5. Hospet | 13. Jamkhandi |
| 6. Channapatna | 14. Kushal Nagar |
| 7. Kankanpura | 15. Ranibonnur |
| 8. Magadi | 16. Kearkala |

IX. KERALA (Allocated towns 9)

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Guruvayoor | 6. Tirur |
| 2. Kottayam | 7. Changancherri |
| 3. Trichur | 8. Badagara |
| 4. Kayamkulam | 9. Mallapuram |
| 5. Tellicherry | |

X. MADHYA PRADESH (Allocated towns 16)

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bilaspur | 9. Dongargarh |
| 2. Khajuraho | 10. Rajnandgaon |
| 3. Dewas | 11. Balaghat |
| 4. Itarsi | 12. Chindwara |
| 5. Rewa | 13. Harda |
| 6. Katni | 14. Waidhan |
| 7. Burhanpur | 15. Sidhi |
| 8. Morena | 16. Guna |

XI. MAHARASHTRA (Allocated towns 22)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Marmad | 12. Osmanabad |
| 2. Barsi | 13. Morshi |
| 3. Parli Vajjnath | 14. Hinganghat |
| 4. Yeotmal | 15. Jalna |
| 5. Satara | 16. Ambejogai |
| 6. Ratnagiri | 17. Selu |
| 7. Katol | 18. Degres |
| 8. Amalner | 19. Bhandara |
| 9. Parbhani | 20. Washim |
| 10. Kamptee | 21. Islampur |
| 11. Kinwat | 22. Baramati |

XII. MANIPUR (Allocated towns 2)

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. Cnandel | 2. Kakching |
|------------|-------------|

XIII. MEGHALAYA (Allocated towns 2)

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| 1. Shillong | 2. Tura |
|-------------|---------|

XIV. NAGALAND (Allocated town 1)

- | |
|-----------|
| 1. Kohima |
|-----------|

XV. ORISSA (Allocated towns 6)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Puri | 4. Rourkela |
| 2. Sambalpur | 5. Jeypore |
| 3. Balasore | 6. Dhenkanal |

XVI. PUNJAB (Allocated towns 8)

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Pathankot | 5. Phagwara |
| 2. Hoshiarpur | 6. Khanna |
| 3. Sangrur | 7. Bhatinda |
| 4. Moga | 8. Batala |

XVII. RAJASTHAN (Allocated towns 11)

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pali | 7. Nathdwara |
| 2. Baran | 8. Barmer |
| 3. Bhilwara | 9. Ganganagar |
| 4. Sikar | 10. Jaisalmer |
| 5. Churur | 11. Chittorgarh |
| 6. Sumerpur | |

XVIII. SIKKIM (Allocated town 1)

- | |
|-------------|
| 1. Jortheng |
|-------------|

XIX. UTTAR PRADESH (Allocated towns 23)

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Jaunpur | 6. Barabanki |
| 2. Fatehpur | 7. Raibareili |
| 3. Azamgarh | 8. Almora |
| 4. Hathras | 9. Etah |
| 5. Banda | 10. Balia |

11. Mahoba
12. Kashganj
13. Gajipur
14. Sitapur
15. Mainpuri
16. Hardoi
17. Bijnor

18. Orai
19. Deoria
20. Badaun
21. Amethi
22. Kashipur
23. Padrauna

XX. TAMIL NADU (Allocated towns 28)

1. Ootacammund
2. Karur
3. Dharampuri
4. Pudukottai
5. Tiruchangoda
6. Palani
7. Gobbi Chettipalayam
8. Manargudi
9. Dharampuram
10. Mettupalayam
11. Chengalpattu
12. Coonoor
13. Att-ur
14. Tiruvanamalai

15. Udamalpet
16. Nammakkal
17. Kovilpatti
18. Hosur
19. Pollachi
20. Theni-Allingram
21. Nagapattinam
22. Ranipel-Wallazapet Arcot
23. Ponruti
24. Karaikudi
25. Kallakurichi
26. Arni
27. Arakkonam
28. Shivaganga

XXI. TRIPURA (Allocated towns 2)

1. Udaipur

2. Kailash Nagar

XXII. WEST BENGAL (Allocated towns 20)

1. Kharagpur
2. Midnapur
3. Bankura
4. Kalimpong
5. Coochbehar
6. Purulia
7. English Bazar
8. Krishna Nagar
9. Sui
10. Tarkeshwar

11. Jalpaiguri
12. Siliguri
13. Darjeeling
14. Barhampur
15. Ballarhat
16. Bishnupur
17. Basirhat
18. Raiganj
19. Ranaghat
20. Katwa

Union Territories

I. A & N ISLAND (Allocated town 1)

1. Port Blair

II. ARUNACHAL PRADESH (Allocated town 1)

III. DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI (Allocated town 1)

1. Silvassa

IV, GOA, DAMAN & DIU (Allocated town 1)

1. Panaji

V. MIZORAM (Allocated town 1)

1. Aizawl

VI. PONDICHERRY (Allocated town 1)

1. Karaikal

Statement-II

Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Release of Funds & Expenditure till 31-12-1984.

Rs. in lakhs			
States/UTs.	Towns allocated	Funds Released	Expenditure
1. Andhra Pradesh	18	329.38	472.16
2. Assam	5	174.04	383.20
3. Bihar	15	303.21	370.24
4. Gujarat	17	330.13	503.79
5. Haryana	6	115.00	271.64
6. Himachal Pradesh	1	28.12	84.24
7. Jammu & Kashmir	2	18.76	N.A.
8. Karnataka	16	214.52	224.35
9. Kerala	9	290.35	428.68
10. Madhya Pradesh	16	232.09	465.62
11. Maharashtra	22	590.92	943.35
12. Manipur	2	9.10	N.A.
13. Meghalaya	2	18.90	N.A.
14. Nagaland	1	10.00	29.15
15. Orissa	6	180.27	298.34
16. Punjab	8	334.50	644.97
17. Rajasthan	11	423.80	604.67
18. Sikkim	1	5.50	N.A.
19. Tamil Nadu	28	744.40	1414.63
20. Tripura	2	17.40	37.47
21. Uttar Pradesh	23	416.60	612.47
22. West Bengal	20	462.82	224.85
Union Territories			
1. A & N Islands	1	—	13.25
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	—	—
4. Goa, Daman & Diu	1	30.50	35.70
5. Mizoram	1	22.50	N.A.
6. Pondicherry	1	4.00	N.A.
Total	237	5306.81	8062.77

Change in the structure of Agricultural Holdings

1971 and 1981 ; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

4704. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAI-RWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the noticeable changes in the structure of agricultural holdings between

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDR- AKAR) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House,

Statement

The comparative number of operational holdings and area operated during the agricultural years 1970-71 and 1980-81 are as follows :-

Category and size of operational holdings	Number of Operational Holdings (Million)		Area operated (million hectares)	
	1970-71	1980-81	1970-71	1980-81
1. Marginal (below 1 hectare)	36.20 (51.0)	50.52 (56.5)	14.56 (9.0)	19.80 (12.2)
2. Small (1-2 hectares)	13.43 (18.9)	16.08 (18.0)	19.28 (11.9)	22.96 (14.1)
3. Semi-medium (3-4 hectares)	10.68 (15.0)	12.51 (14.0)	30.0 (18.5)	34.56 (21.2)
4. Medium (4-10 hectares)	7.93 (11.2)	8.09 (9.1)	48.24 (29.7)	48.34 (29.7)
5. Large (10 hectares & above)	2.77 (3.9)	2.15 (2.4)	50.06 (30.9)	37.13 (22.8)
ALL CATEGORIES	71.01 (100.0)	89.35 (100.0)	162.14 (100.0)	162.79 (100.0)

The figures in brackets are percentages of totals in respective columns. The figures for 1980-81 are provisional.

Implementation of land ceiling laws following the National Guidelines 1972 obviously had impact on large holdings along with devolution of landed property through the process of inheritance.

Proposals Regarding Replacement of LPT by HPT during Seventh Plan

4705. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has submitted proposals, for inclusion in the Seventh Plan, for making provision to replace low power transmitters by high power transmitters in border districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner and Suratgarh which have large territory but less population ; and

(b) if so, whether Planning Commission has agreed to include these proposals in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) Replacement of low power transmitters by high power TV transmitters at a number of places in the country, including some places in Rajasthan, has been included in the VII Plan proposals. The VII plan is yet to be approved.

Ad-Hoc Allotment of Accommodation on Medical Ground

4706. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :
Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the period from January, 1979 to December, 1984 some employees/officers under Defence Ministry have been allotted ad-hoc accommodation on ad-hoc basis in Sadiq Nagar Locality on the grounds that father-in-laws of such staff/officers are suffering from T.B. disease;

(b) if so, the particulars of such employees/officers ;

(c) whether declaration given by employees was false because the father-in-laws in some cases were not declared dependants in records of such employees ; and

(d) if so, how such ad-hoc allotments have been made and what action Government propose to take in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Setting up of TV Relay Centres at Balasore and Baripada

4707. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the TV viewers of Balasore and Mayurbhanj Districts in Orissa have been urging since long to set up TV relay centres at Balasore and Baripada, the District Headquarters of aforesaid districts respectively ;

(b) if so, whether Government of Orissa have also requested the Union Government for the establishment of TV relay centres at both these places ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up TV relay centres at these places ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b) Such requests have been received,

(c) Extension of TV service to uncovered areas of the country, including Balasore and Mayurbhanj Districts of Orissa, will depend on the actual availability of resources during future Plan period.

Plan for Cultivation of Cotton in Gujarat :

4708. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any intensive cultivation plan of cotton is being carried out in Gujarat ;

(b) if so, since when and the area covered under this plan ; and

(c) the results achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme is under implementation since 1971-72 in Gujarat State. An area of 3.44 lakh ha. was covered under intensive cultivation in 1984-85.

(c) In the area covered under Intensive Cotton Development Programme, farmers have largely adopted improved package of practices laying more emphasis on timely sowing, use of certified seed, effective plant protection measures, etc. Since the inception of Intensive Cotton Development Programme in Gujarat (1971-72 to 1983-84), the average annual production has risen to 17.68 lakh bales as against 14.69 lakh bales in the years preceding the programme (1958-59 to 1970-71)

Research Programme for Biotechnology

4709. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to accelerate basic research programmes in the field of biotechnology to break yield barriers in major food crops and reduce dependence on non-renewable resources of energy ;

(b) if so, the names of the Research Centres where the basic research program,

mes are proposed to be undertaken for the above purpose ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) One National Research Centre on Biotechnology has been established in Indian Agricultural Research Institute for basic research in crop sciences. Similar work is in progress in the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack ; Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana ; Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod* ; University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, etc., which will supplement the research efforts of the above centre.

The major areas of investigation under this programme include use of advanced technology for genetic manipulation for the development of new plant types for obtaining higher yield of food crops, for enhancing nitrogen fixation efficiency of plants, for rapid multiplication of plants through cell and tissue culture etc.

Development of Sandy Land

4710. **DR. PHULRENU GUHA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to develop sandy land ; and

(b) if so, the States in which it is proposed to be developed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) Sandy land are mainly found in the desert areas and coastal areas. For the development of sandy lands in the desert areas, the Desert Development Programme has been started from 1977-78 with a view to containing desertification, restoring ecological balance and improving the productivity of land, water, livestock and human resources in these areas. This programme is in operation in 126 blocks in 21 districts of 5 States, viz. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and

Jammu & Kashmir. The main components of the programme are afforestation (with special emphasis on shelter-belt plantations, grass land development and sand dune stabilisation), development of ground water, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, etc.

Drinking Water during Seventh Plan in Delhi

4711. **SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the near future, natural resources of drinking water will fall short of the requirements of water for Delhi ;

(b) whether the present Yamuna water project as well as the Ganga Water Project which are the main supply projects of drinking water for Delhi have already proved to be insufficient ; and

(c) if so, what are the provisions in the Seventh Plan for supplying regular drinking water to citizens of Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing projects will provide water supply of 418 MGD as against requirement of 472 MGD in 1985.

(c) Proposals have been framed for augmentation of water supply in Delhi to 592 MGD by the end of Seventh Plan period at the rate of 70 GPCD (Gallons per capita per day) for urban population and at the rate of 30 GPCD for rural population. An outlay of Rs. 136.95 crores has been proposed for Delhi's water supply in the Seventh Five Year Plan proposals.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion in Hill Region of Uttar Pradesh

4712. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the river-valley catchment areas in hill regions in Uttar Pradesh likely to be taken up for their allround development and checking soil erosion during the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) whether any assistance from international organisations has been received for some such projects in these areas ;

(c) if so, the names thereof ; and

(d) the progress of work in these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects, soil conservation works have been proposed to be continued in the already approved and on-going catchments of Ram Ganga and Mata Tila falling in Uttar Pradesh during the Seventh Plan. In addition to above catchments, soil conservation works have also been proposed to be continued in the Seventh Plan in the catchments of Upper Yamuna and Upper Ganga under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers. The proposals for continuation of the above Centrally Sponsored Programmes in the Seventh Plan are under consideration of the Planning Commission and the same have also to be approved by the Ministry of Finance.

(b) to (d) With the objective of minimising deterioration of Himalayan eco-system, watershed management programme in 9 sub-watersheds falling in the watersheds of Nayar and Panar of the hill region of Uttar Pradesh are being covered under the World Bank assisted Project of Himalayan Watershed Management. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 65.5 crores, the World Bank assistance constitutes Rs. 43.8 crores over a period of 7 years. This Project was started in September 1983 and is being implemented through the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The details of progress from inception to 28-2-1985 are as follows :

1668 ha. was covered with horticultural and forest plantations, 95 numbers of engineering structures and 0.05 km. length of irrigation channel were constructed at a cost of Rs. 185.76 lakhs.

Uptil 31st August, 1984, 1.152 lakh US dollars have been disbursed in respect of the World Bank assisted Himalayan

Watershed Management Project in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Proposal to Increase the Pension of former M.Ps.

4713. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the pension amount of former Members of Parliament from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 750/- per month in view of the 200 per cent increase in cost of living index ; if so, when it will be implemented ;

(b) whether the former M.Ps will get 4 free railway first class passes every year ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L.BHAGAT) : (a) Yes. The proposal is under consideration of the Govt.

(b) and (c) The Joint Committee on Salary & Allowances of Members of Parliament have recommended for provision of facility of four journeys by rail, by First Class from usual place of residence of ex-MP to Delhi and back in a year. This recommendation is under consideration of the Government.

House Building Advance to Government Employees

4714. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether loans taken by Central Government employees are recovered from their monthly salaries ;

(b) whether Government employees who are members of the Group Housing Societies are not granted loans for construction of houses from their parent offices ;

(c) if so, whether they have to take loans from outside agencies at exorbitant rates of interest ;

(d) if so, keeping in view the plight of Central Government employees, whether

Government will allow them to take loans from their parent offices so that deductions could be made from their salaries on usual rate of interest and even after their retirement balance deducted from gratuity or Provident Fund etc. admissible to them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) House Building Advance is granted also to those Central Government employees who are members of Co-operative Group Housing Societies as per Rules/instructions in the matter.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Survey of Landless Persons under RLEGP

4715. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey of landless unemployed persons under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme has been undertaken ; and

(b) if so, the results of the survey ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Functioning of Medical Shop at Super Bazar, A.I.I.M.S.

4716. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is always great rush at the Medical Shop of Super Bazar at A.I.I.M.S. and one has to wait for at least 30 to 35 minutes to get medicines ;

(b) whether at least 50 per cent of the medicines are generally not available there ; and

(c) if so, steps Government propose to take to increase the strength of staff and

also to ensure that all the medicines are available there ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :

(a) to (c) Looking to the inconvenience of the customers and to provide better service to them, the Super Bazar has since (March end 1985) augmented the strength of the staff at their All India Institute of Medical Sciences branch and opened two service windows backed by adequate number of Pharmacists and one cashier each (as against one window earlier). Now the customers are promptly attended to and the waiting time has come down to 5 to 10 minutes. At present, one Chief Pharmacist, 7 Pharmacists, two cashiers and six other helping staff members are working in A.I.I.M.S. branch.

The Super Bazar has also informed that most of the commonly demanded medicines are available in the medical shop of A.I.I.M.S. Regular monitoring of stock is made and replenishment, when necessary, is arranged immediately.

Functions of Fishing Survey of India

4717. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) when was the 'Fishing Survey of India' set up ;

(b) the main functions of Fishing Survey of India ;

(c) the works done by Fishing Survey of India during the last three years ;

(d) the amount spent by Fishing Survey of India on various activities during these years ;

(e) various areas where fishing Survey of India has undertaken survey and allied activities ; and

(f) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The former Exploratory Fisheries Project, Bombay started as Deep Sea Fishing Station in 1946 was renamed as Fishery Survey of India (FSI) in December, 1983.

(b) The main functions of FSI are :

1. Survey of fishery resources and charting of fishing grounds within the Indian EEZ, both in time and space.
2. Monitoring of the deep sea fish resources for purposes of regulation and management.

3. Training of deep sea fishing operatives by providing invessel training to trainees of Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering ; and

4. Survey of Inland fishery resources.

(d) FSI has utilised the Plan and Non-Plan budget from 1982-83 as below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

1982-83		1983-84		1984-85 (upto February, 1985)	
Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
333.36	132.92	304.74	127.27	276.23	114.63

(c), (e) and (f) FSI has completed survey of demersal fishery resources within 40 fathoms. The potential yield from within this region is estimated at about 2.7 million tonnes. During the last 3 years emphasis has been given to survey area beyond 40 fathoms. Larger vessels of FSI have located several new demersal fishery resources such as Priacanthids, Indian drift fish, Black ruff, deep sea lobster, deep sea prawn etc. in the continental shelf and slope in certain regions of East and West coasts up to a depth of 500 Mts. The total area covered by survey is estimated at about 3 lakhs sq. kms. by bottom trawling and 0.55 lakhs sq. kms. by midwater trawling, long lining and purse-seining. Fishery chart of Wadge Bank has been completed and fishery charts of few regions where survey has been completed are under preparation. Every year about 60 trainees who have completed institutional training at Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training, Cochin have been undergoing invessel training on board survey vessel for the required 36 months sea-cum-fishing experience to qualify themselves for the certificate of competency examinations of Mate Fishing Vessel and Engine Driver (fishing vessel). FSI is proposed to undertake survey of inland water bodies such as reservoirs, lakes etc. during VII Plan.

Import of U.S. Films

4718. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether an accord on import of U.S. Films has been reached recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) how far it will go to help fill the vacuum of English films ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir. An agreement for import of films of MPEAA (Motion Picture Export Association of America) Group of Companies was signed on 1st April, 1985 between MPEAA and the National Film Development Corporation.

(b) The broad details of the agreement are as follows :—

(1) The agreement is for a period of three years from 1st February, 1985.

(2) It provides for import of 75-100 films per year on payment of a fixed canalisation fee of Rs. 26.50 lakhs per annum to NFDC in advance, in quarterly instalments.

(3) The annual gross film rental billings of MPEAA will be utilised in the following manner :

(i) Operating expenses, i.e. all operating, managerial and administrative expenses for liaison offices of MPEAA in India, import charges, payment of any taxes due to the Government of whatsoever nature or any other expenditure customary or related to the Film distribution—50%.

(ii) Interest-free loans to quasi-Government or Government-sponsored organisations including NFDC—17.5%.

(iii) Remittances in quarterly instalments, by member companies of

MPEAA—15% (subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 lakhs per annum).

- (iv) Various usages like production and co-production of films in India, travel and living expenses, transportation of employees, purchase of Indian films, etc.—17.5%.

(c) The MPEAA companies will import 75-100 films per year. It is expected that these films along with the English films that may be imported by the National Film Development Corporation, Non-resident Indians and private Indian parties on the basis of Film Market organised on the occasion of International Film Festivals of India/Filmotsavs would meet the requirements of cinema-houses showing English films.

Invitation to Journalists on T.V. and Radio Talks

4719. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to invite on T.V. and Radio talks by those journalists who are exclusively working for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b) Journalists are invited by AIR and Doordarshan to participate in talks, discussions or programmes, on the basis of their professional skills, field of their work and expertise in particular subjects or areas.

It may be mentioned that even now, on topics dealing with matters of relevance to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, experts, including journalists, who have specialisation in such topics are also invited according to the programme needs.

Posting of Regional Publicity Officer in Barmer, Rajasthan

4720. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 8591 on 24 April, 1984 regarding posting of Regional Publicity Officer in Barmer, Rajasthan and state the

time by which the Regional Publicity Officer will be posted in Barmer, the border district of Rajasthan and the publicity work speeded up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

Since the matter relating to further recruitment to the posts of Field Publicity Officers (Border) is still sub-judice, it is not possible to lay down any specific time frame for filling up the post of Field Publicity Officer (Border) in Barmer, Rajasthan.

Possession of Land by DDA to School Teachers Cooperative House Building Society

4721. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1645 on 1 April, 1985 regarding possession of land by DDA to School Teachers Cooperative H. use Building Society and state.

(a) whether there are certain cases of non-teacher members of the Delhi School Teachers Cooperative House Building Society Ltd. who have not yet been given the sub-lease of plots for allotment to them as being done for other members ;

(b) the number of such members and amount deposited by each of them with year of their membership and date of deposit ;

(c) whether Secretary of the Society instituted criminal cases on private complaint against non-teacher members, mostly Government employees ; and

(d) if so, reasons for instituting these false and frivolous cases on private complaint ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GAFOOR) :

(a) and (b) The Society has informed that all non-teacher members who have been cleared for execution of sub-leases vide High Court Order dated 3-8-1984 have been given their sub-leases.

(c) and (d) The Society has reported that no such cases based on the private complaints were filed, the cases were filed on the basis of judgement given by the Arbitrator and Appellate authority appointed by the High Court.

[Translation]

Opening of Cine Theatres in Rural Areas

4722. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are providing any incentives for opening cine theatres in rural and far flung areas where majority of the population comprises of the weaker sections of the society ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b) The Government of India do not have any scheme for providing incentives for opening cinema theatres in rural and far flung areas. However, the National Film Development Corporation a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking, operates a scheme of providing financial assistance for construction of cinema houses in rural, semi-urban and urban areas. Under this scheme an applicant is eligible to get a loan upto Rs. 1 lakh for construction of theatres in rural areas.

[English]

Second Channel for Calcutta Doordarshan

4723. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to introduce second channel for Calcutta Doordarshan ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The service is expected to commence by the end of 1985.

(c) Does not arise.

Report of the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore (West Bengal)

4724. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore (West Bengal) has prepared report(s) showing that the fish caught in the river Hooghly are highly contaminated with heavy metals which can lead to disastrous consequences ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether such contamination may lead to mal-functioning of kidneys, mental upsets, disfigured foetus, anaemia and bone diseases ;

(d) when was the report received by Government from Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute ; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (c) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute as a part of its overall research programme on the ecology of the Hooghly estuary has been studying the water pollution aspects in relation to aquatic productivity and fish abundance for a number of years. Monitoring of heavy metals in the Hooghly estuary was initiated in 1977 but detailed studies were undertaken only from 1980. These studies have indicated bioaccumulation of heavy metals (zinc, copper and chromium) in some species of finfish and shellfish.

(c) Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute has not done any work on bioassay using metal contaminated fish on animal or human beings. As such, no opinion can be offered on its impact on human health.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Based on the studies conducted, the Government will initiate appropriate action to control pollution of estuaries and other water systems.

Proposal for Separate Sugar Zone for Saurashtra and Central Gujarat

4725. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has submitted any report with regard to the proposal from Gujarat Government for formation of separate

sugar zone for Saurashtra and Central Gujarat ;

(b) if so, details thereof and action taken by Government thereon ; and

(c) if not, by when the report is likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices which had been entrusted among other things with the responsibility of looking at the existing zoning system with a view to its reorganisation, have submitted their report in 1984. The re-zoning proposals which include some recommendations pertaining to the existing Gujarat zone are of a nature which could create legal, administrative and logistic difficulties, in implementation. Detailed clarifications etc. are being sought from the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices which would have to be examined in depth by Government before a decision can be taken on these recommendations.

Objects of National Seeds Corporation

4727. **SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the original main objects of National Seeds Corporation ;

(b) whether the work load and objects were reduced after the establishment of seed corporations at State level, if so, details thereof ; and

(c) the details of coordination between National Seeds Corporation and State Seeds Corporations ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The main objects of National Seeds Corporation at the time of its establishment in 1963 were :

1. to carry on in India the production, processing, drying, storage, distribution and transportation of agricultural seeds ;

2. to enter into agreement with individuals, co-operative societies, corporations and Government

agencies in the growing, processing, drying, storing distribution, transporting and selling of agricultural seeds ;

3. to undertake by inspection and any other means seed quality control measures in all phases of the seed business carried on behalf of or in co-operation with the Corporation ; and

4. to store and stockpile reserve supply of any seeds needed for improvement of agriculture in India.

(b) With the establishment of state seeds Corporations under the National Seeds Programme, seed production, processing, storage and marketing activities were decentralised. Under the National Seeds Programme, the National Seeds Corporation was entrusted with additional responsibilities, in addition to its original objectives. These additional responsibilities were :

1. assessment of seed demand, co-ordination of certified seed production programmes of state seeds corporations and inter-State marketing of seeds ;

2. planning and organising production of breeder and foundation seeds in consultation with agricultural universities and institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research ;

3. providing technical assistance to state seeds corporations and others in design, procurement and installation of seed processing plants ; and

4. providing training facilities for personnel of state seeds corporations and other agencies.

(c) With financial assistance from Government of India, National Seeds Corporation contributes to share capital of the state seeds corporations set up under National Seeds Programme. For watching the interests of the Government and the Corporation in the state seeds corporations, representatives of the Government and the N. S. C. are appointed on the Boards of Directors of the state seeds corporations. The Board of Directors of National Seeds Corporation also includes representatives of state seeds corporations.

The National Seeds Corporation takes into account the indents of all the state seeds corporations while planning its production programmes. Production is organised, by the National Seeds Corporation through its contract growers and at its farms as also through the state seeds corporations and inter-State marketing is also done by the National Seeds Corporation.

Under the National Seeds Programme, creation of processing and storage capacity of seeds by state seeds corporations is monitored Centrally and the National Seeds Corporation assists the state seeds corporations in designing and erection of the plants etc.

Plan to Raise Foodgrains Production

4728. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any perspective plan to raise foodgrains production to 250 million tonnes within the next five years :

(b) whether Government have estimated as to how much additional resources have to be utilized in order to achieve the above mentioned level of production ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Storage of Foodgrains

4729. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the warehousing facilities available in the country at present are adequate ;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains being stored in the open at present due to non-availability of storage facilities ;

(c) what amount is required to provide adequate storage facilities at the present level of foodgrains production ; and

(d) steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The covered storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India is not sufficient to store the food-grain stock with the Corporation.

(b) As on 28-2-1985, foodgrain stock kept by Food Corporation of India in the open under polythene covers was 18.73 lakh tonnes. Adequate precautions are taken to protect these stocks against losses.

(c) The amount required for the creation of additional storage capacity is worked out on year-to-year basis, keeping in view the approved stock level and the storage capacity required for it. In the Central Plan for 1985-86, an outlay of Rs. 90.52 crores has been provided for construction of storage capacity by Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation, and the State Warehousing Corporations.

(d) The Food Corporation of India is expected to construct an additional capacity of 15.25 lakh tonnes during 1985-86 and is also making efforts to hire additional capacity from the Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporations and other sources. In addition, the Corporation is also making temporary storage arrangements in the form of Cover-and-Plinth (CAP) storage facilities to the extent required.

[Translation]

Supply of Wheat, Rice and Sugar to Uttar Pradesh

4731. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quota of wheat, rice and sugar issued by the Union Government to Uttar Pradesh in 1984-85 as against the demand made by the State ;

(b) whether there is shortage of wheat in most of the fair price shops in Uttar Pradesh because of issue of less quota of wheat to the State ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to supply more wheat to the State to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh were allotted a total quantity of 16.86 lakh tonnes of wheat and 3.20 lakh tonnes of rice during 1984-85, as against their demand for 12.50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 8.55 lakh tonnes of rice.

The monthly levy sugar quotas of various States including Uttar Pradesh have been fixed on the basis of a uniform norm and not on the basis of demand made by the State Governments. During the year 1984-85, a total quantity of 6.06 lakh tonnes of sugar was allotted to the State Government based on the norm of 425 grams per capita availability for a projected population as on 1-10-1983.

(b) The State Government is at present allotted a quota of 45,000 tonnes of wheat per month for public distribution system as per monthly demand received from them.

(c) Does not arise.

Training Imparted Under TRYSEM

4732. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of persons in the country who were imparted training under the 'TRYSEM' programme during 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the number of persons, out of them, who later on started their own industry based on the training ;

(b) whether a substantial number of youths trained during these years have not utilised the training received by them ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (c) The state-wise details of the youth trained and self-employed under the scheme of 'Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment' (TRYSEM) during 1983-84 and 1984-85 are given in the statement attached. With the provision of wage employment also for the trained youth from 1983-84 onwards, the position of employment of trained youth both for self-employment and for wage employment has improved. Compared to 2,06,663 trained youth in 1983-84, 1,14,339 were self-employed and 31,516 were wage employed accounting for 70.6 percent of the trained youth. During 1984-85, out of 1,39,823 trained youth, 69,439 were self-employed and 11,182 wage-employed accounting for 57.7 percent of the trained youth. The figures for 1984-85 are provisional and upto February, 1985.

Guidelines of the scheme do emphasize the full coverage of trained youth for self-employment/wage employment so that the training given is properly utilised. But this is not achieved in full in practice because of gestation period between completion of training and actually taking up the vocation, lack of sufficient aftercare of the trained youth, lack of motivation and interest on the part of the trained youth to pursue the goal of self-employment, some shortcomings in the administration of the scheme in some areas, etc. Efforts are continuously made to overcome these shortcomings. During 1985, services of the Nehru Yuvak Kendras in about 200 districts, are proposed to be utilised to improve the situation further and steps are also being undertaken to create nodal agencies for improving institutional training as well as aftercare of the trained youth under TRYSEM.

Statement

Number of Youth trained and Self-employed under TRYSEM in 1983-84 and 1984-85

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs.	Number of youth trained during		Self-employment of trained youth during (Number)		Percent of Selem- ployed youth to trained youth during	
		1983-84	1984-85 P.	1983-84	1984-85 P.	1983-84	1984-85
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10,071	8,608	8,277	5,028	32.2	58.4
2.	Asam	3,163	3,592	1,648	1,669	52.1	46.5
3.	Bihar	13,640	6,275	2,565	3,665	18.8	58.4
4.	Gujarat	8,701	8,572	5,207	2,756	59.8	32.2
5.	Haryana	2,679	1,818	310	188	11.6	10.3
6.	Himachal Pr.	2,858	1,491	1,696	742	59.3	49.8
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,712	2,227	3	641	0.18	28.8
8.	Karnataka	N.R.	6,534	N.R.	977	—	15.0
9.	Kerala	6,660	6,509	2,355	2,945	35.4	45.2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	21,427	15,448	15,773	7,971	93.6	51.6
11.	Maharashtra	12,238	3,798	4,552	4,430	39.2	116.6
12.	Manipur	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	—	—
13.	Meghalaya	—	Nil	—	Nil	—	—
14.	Nagaland	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	—	—
15.	Orissa	6,700	6,115	2,051	2,687	30.6	43.9
16.	Punjab	16,331	8,245	10,327	3,634	63.2	44.1
17.	Rajasthan	19,439	10,429	12,477	7,772	64.2	74.6
18.	Sikkim	240	N.R.	44	N.R.	18.3	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	30,970	11,995	15,830	3,967	51.1	33.1
20.	Tripura	534	280	318	593	59.6	21.1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	38,458	33,487	26,660	19,474	69.3	58.2
22.	West Bengal	6,926	N.R.	1,107	N.R.	16.0	—
23.	A&N Island	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Arunachal Pr.	6	44	—	22	—	50.0
25.	Chandigarh	—	118	—	29	—	24.6
26.	D&N Haveli	39	54	—	18	—	33.3
27.	Delhi	834	733	650	23	77.9	3.1
28.	G.D. & Diu	2,054	2,439	2,266	442	110.3	17.8
29.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Mizoram	528	717	323	224	61.2	31.2
31.	Pondicherry	178	246	—	169	—	28.0
ALL INDIA		2,06,663	1,39,823	1,14,339	69,439	55.3	49.7

P = Provisional figures upto Feb., 1985

NR = Not Reported.

Scheme to Augment Production of Temperate Fruit Crop in Hill Areas

4733. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is formulating any scheme in collaboration with certain international organisations for augmenting cultivation of temperate fruit crops in the hill areas of the country ; and

(b) if so, the names of the States where these schemes are proposed to be implemented and the names of the international organisations from which economic co-operation is proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Project entitled "Horticulture Development in U.P. Hills" has been posed to the World Bank for external assistance through Department of Economic Affairs for development of temperate fruit crops in U.P. Hills. The project is to cover 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh (Hill region) and the assistance is to be provided by World Bank.

[English]

Telecast of Oriya Programme through Delhi Doordarshan

4734. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of programmes in Oriya language telecast through Delhi Doordarshan from 1st January, 1985 till date ;

(b) total time given to Oriya language programmes from 1st January, 1985 till date ;

(c) the reasons why the regional languages like Oriya, Marathi and others are neglected by Delhi Doordarshan despite opening of a new channel ;

(d) whether efforts would be made to include various programmes like folk songs, folk music, folk dance, feature films, plays, film songs etc. of all the regional languages ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) and (b) A total of seven programmes, including two in the National Programme, were telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi from 1-1-1985 to 24-4-1985. The total duration of these programmes was 109 minutes.

(c) to (e) Within the constraints of facilities for production of programmes and transmission time, Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi telecasts programmes in various regional languages in formats like folk music, folk dances, plays, feature films, song and dances sequences from feature films, etc.

Utilisation of Resources for Rural Development

4735. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a supervising and monitoring authority to ensure the actual utilisation of resources for rural development, specially for IRDP, NREP and RLEGP keeping in view its huge commitment in the Seventh Plan period ;

(b) whether any memorandum has been received in this regard ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to engage an officer with statutory powers to regulate the resource distribution without any social and political discrimination towards Bihar and West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No, Sir. Every State/U.T. has arrangements for supervising and monitoring implementation of rural development programmes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme are being implemented through State Governments,

engaging an officer with statutory powers to regulate the resource distribution within the States may not be possible.

Coverage of Areas by T.V. Net-work

4736. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the remaining areas to be covered by T.V. net-work in the country are mostly hill areas, tribal areas and backward areas ;

(b) if so, the names of the States alongwith the areas to be covered and the places covered so far ;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to instal L.P.T. and H.P.T. during Seventh Plan period in hill, tribal and backward areas excluding the North Eastern areas ;

(d) if so, the areas proposed to be

covered during the 1985-86, State-wise and the places selected therefor ; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) With the completion of VI Plan Schemes, TV service is expected to be available to about 70% of the country's population spread over 48% of its area. This includes hill areas, tribal areas as well as backward areas. The areas remaining uncovered likewise include plain areas, non-tribal areas, etc. as well as hill areas, tribal areas and backward areas.

(b) A statement showing TV transmitters operating at present and those under implementation is attached.

(c) to (e) A number of TV transmitters have been proposed in the hilly, tribal and backward areas for installation during the VII Plan period. The VII Plan proposals are yet to be approved.

Statement

State/Union Territory	High Power Transmitters (EPI Centres)		Low Power Transmitters (LPT Centres)	
	Existing	Under Implementation	Existing	Under Implementation
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Assam	Gauhati	Silchar Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh Tezpur Silchar	Jorhat Diphu
2. Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Vijayawada*	Visakhapatnam	Warangal Kakinada Visakhapatnam Rajamundry Nellore Nizamabad Kurnool Anantapur Tirupati Adoni Cuddapah Mehboobnagar Karimnagar	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3. Bihar	Patna* Muzaffarpur Ranchi		Dhanbad Jamshedpur Gaya Bhagalpur Munger Purnea	Darbhanga Bettiah
4. Gujarat	Ahmedabad* Pij Rajkot	Dwarka	Surat Dwarka Vedodra Bhavnagar Navasari Bhruch Patan	
5. Haryana			Hissar Bhiwani	
6. Himachal Pradesh	Kasauli*		Kulu Shimla	
7. Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	Poonch Jammu	Leh Kargil Jammu	
8. Karnataka	Bangalore Gulbarga		Dharwad Mysore Mangalore Belgaum Bellary Devanagere, Bhadravati, Bijapur Raichur Gadag Betgari Hospet	
9. Kerala	Trivandrum*	Cochin	Calicut Cannanore Palghat Cochin	
10. Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal Indore Raipur		Jabalpur Gwalior Ratlam Sagar	Korba Singrauli

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
			Burhanpur	
			Rewa	
			Murwara	
			Bilaspur	
11. Maharashtra	Bombay		Parbhani	
	Nagpur*		Sholapur	
	Pune		Nasik	
			Kolhapur	
			Aurangabad	
			Sangli	
			Amravati	
			Malegaon	
			Akola	
			Dhule	
			Nanded	
			Ahmednagar	
			Jalgaon	
			Jalna	
			Bhusawal	
			Chandrapur	
			Latur	
			Gondiya	
12. Meghalaya		Tura	Tura	
		Shillong	Shillong	
13. Manipur		Imphal	Imphal	Ukhrul
14. Nagaland		Kohima	Kohima	Dimapur
15. Orissa	Sambalpur		Rourkela	
	Cuttack		Barhampur	
			Koraput	
16. Punjab	Amritsar	Bhatinda	Pathankot	
	Jalandhar		Bhatinda	
17. Rajasthan	Jaipur		Jodhpur	
			Ajmer	
			Kota	
			Bikaner	
			Udaipur	
			Alwar	
			Ganganagar	
			Bhilwara	
			Khetri	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
			Jaisalmer	
			Barmer	
			Suratgarh	
18. Sikkim			Gangtok	
19. Tamil Nadu	Kodaikanal*		Tiruchirapalli	Neyveli
	Madras		Salem	
			Vellore	
			Kumbakonam	
			Coimbatore	
20. Tripura		Agartala	Agartala	
21. Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad		Bareilly	
	Agra		Deoria	
	Varanasi		Moradabad	
	Gorakhpur		Aligarh	
	Lucknow		Jhansi	
	Mussoorie		Sultanpur	
	Kanpur		Rai-Bareilly	
			Faizabad	
			Etawah	
			Behraich	
			Shahjahanpur	
			Rampur	
			Pauri	
			Farukhabad	
			Sambhal	
			Nainital	
			Pithoragarh	
22. West Bengal	Asansol		Kharagpur	
	Calcutta		Malda	
	Murshidabad		Bardhaman	
	Kurseeng*		Shantiniketan	
			Balurghat	
UNION TERRITORY				
1. Arunachal Pradesh		Itanagar	Itanagar	Tezu Passighat
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands			Port Blair	
			Car Nicobar	
3. Goa, Daman & Diu	Panaji*			
4. Mizoram		Aizawl	Aizawl	
5. Pondicherry			Pondicherry	
6. Delhi	Delhi			

Note:—Power of transmitters asterisked (*) is being augmented to 10 KW.

Decline in the Price of Oilseeds of Rabi Crop

4737. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of rabi oilseeds notably rape-seed and mustard have crashed in anticipation of a record production despite adverse weather ;

(b) whether the State Governments have expressed the fear that an unabated down-trend in prices can prove a disincentive for the growers to boost production of these vital commercial crops ; and

(c) if so, the main reasons for their showing concern and the suggestions made by Union Government to the State Governments to remove this fear ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Production of rapeseed and mustard in 1984-85 is currently anticipated to be higher than that of last year. Market prices of rapeseed and mustard and other rabi oilseeds in the current season are lower than those prevailing in the last season but are generally ruling at levels above the support price for fair average quality.

(b) and (c) In anticipation of higher production of rapeseed and mustard, which is the principal rabi oilseed crop, Government promptly alerted all the State Governments for making institutional arrangements for market support for this crop. Immediately following the announcement of the support price of rapeseed and mustard, a standing arrangement was made for implementing market intervention through NAFED and in conjunction with the State cooperative marketing federations. Under this arrangement, the States have been authorised to direct their cooperative marketing federations to intervene in the market, whenever necessary, instead of each State seeking prior sanction of the Central Government for such intervention. The Reserve Bank of India has also been requested to extend necessary credit facilities to the cooperatives for this purpose. Some of the States drew attention to the fall in prices and requested the Central Government to take appropriate measure. However, Govern-

ment have already taken the necessary initiative in the matter.

Import of Sugar

4739. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to import five lakh tonnes of sugar this year to tide over the likely shortage of the commodity during 1985 ;

(b) if so, whether India had to import sugar last year for the first time after several years of surplus to meet a steep fall in output ;

(c) whether his Ministry has worked out the possible shortage during the current season on the basis of revised estimates of sugar production and demand;

(d) to what extent there will be a shortage of sugar and what are the main reasons for the same ; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the sugar production in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) The sugar production upto 7th April in the current 1984-85 season has reached 55.14 lakh tonnes as against 52.59 lakh tonnes upto the same date in 1983-84 season. The number of factories in operation as on 15th April this year are 143 as against 109 on the same date last year and it is, therefore, difficult to estimate with any degree of precision the extent of shortfall etc. at this stage.

The imports of sugar have been resorted to whenever considered necessary to keep the sugar availability in the country at adequate levels. In 1984 contracts were entered into for the import of about 5 lakh tonnes of sugar against which the actual quantity received upto 31-3-1985 is 4.83 lakh tonnes. This import had to be made since due to agro climatic factors and due to lesser availability of cane to the sugar mills there was a fall in sugar production in 1983-84 season to 59.16 lakh tonnes from 82.32 lakh tonnes in 1982-83 season. Some imports of sugar have been further contracted by

the State Trading Corporation of India for arrival in the current financial year 1985-86, but it is not possible to quantify the exact amount of import etc. at this stage, as the sugar production is still in progress.

(e) Payment of remunerative cane prices by the factories to the cane growers is being ensured to increase the production of sugarcane as well as sugar. Moreover, for augmenting the installed capacity of the industry, incentives by way of higher free sale quota and concessional rate of excise duty are being provided to the new factories/expansion projects.

Schemes to Strengthen the Cooperative Credit Movement for Farmers

4740. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of schemes have been drawn up to strengthen the co-operative credit movement for farmers during 1985-86 ;

(b) if so, whether these schemes will be for short term or long term ;

(c) what are the main points of the proposed schemes ; and

(d) by what time the same are likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Schemes are in the nature of both short term and long term arrangements for strengthening the Cooperative Credit Structure in the States and Union Territories.

(c) The following schemes are under consideration :

- (i) Comprehensive scheme for the development of short-term cooperative credit structure.
- (ii) Scheme for the development of long term cooperative credit structure.
- (iii) Special scheme for cooperatively weaker States and Union Territories,

(iv) Special scheme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(v) Extension and Training

(vi) Credit Planning and Monitoring.

(vii) Emergency fund scheme for weaker sections.

(viii) Pilot scheme for strengthening the credit delivery system.

(ix) Failed well fund scheme.

(x) Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund.

2. The main objective of all these schemes is to strengthen cooperative credit structure at all levels particularly at the village level to step up credit support for agricultural production programmes with larger flow of funds to weaker sections and less developed regions. It is proposed to transform the primary agricultural credit societies in a phased manner into multi-purpose service organisations capable of handling not only credit but all other supply and services including marketing and processing of agricultural produce and distribution of consumer goods. The basic idea is to provide all types of credit, including consumption credit to farmers. Importance is also given to mobilisation of deposits for augmenting resources of cooperatives. Under the schemes, financial support is proposed for the provision of physical facilities like office building, godown, strongroom and iron safe, cash counters, staff support, rehabilitation of over-dues, simplification of procedure extension and training. Measures are proposed for opening fresh line of credit to small and marginal farmers who are saddled with excessive debt burden by rehabilitating overdues and providing financial assistance to cover infructuous investment like failed wells. Special emphasis will be given to strengthening the credit structure in the cooperatively weaker states in North Eastern region. Financial assistance will be available for cooperatives organised mainly for SC/ST to improve their performance. Grant and subsidy are proposed for members belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for purchase of shares of cooperatives.

(d) These schemes have been included in the Annual Plan 1985-86.

Agro Service Centre Scheme

4741. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a larger number of Agro technicians and engineers are not finding a good outlet to be utilised in the rural development ;

(b) whether Government initiated Agro Service Centre Scheme to divert technically qualified youth for rural development ;

(c) if so, to what extent this scheme has been successful ;

(d) the names of the States where this is being implemented ; and

(e) the number of technically qualified youth who are now engaged in rural development ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Technical facilities are being continuously developed in the rural sector for utilising the services of engineers and technical personnels. Some of the technicians and engineers are working in agro service centres in the rural sector.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India launched Agro Service Centre Scheme in 1971-72. The twin objectives of the scheme were employment generation and provision of inputs and technical services to the farmers. The scheme was implemented through 17 Agro Industries Corporations established in various states of the country. The scheme was transferred to the state sector w.e.f. 1st April, 1979. As on 31st March, 1981 a total of 3206 Agro Service Centres were set up as reported by various Agro Industries Corporations.

(d) The scheme was implemented through State Agro Industries Corporations in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(e) Under the scheme 5534 persons were trained for setting up Agro Service Centres. The scheme was transferred to State Sector on 1-4-79. The Agro Service Centres are employing people as may be required by them from time to time.

Subsidy for Mechanisation of Fishing Crafts in Goa, Daman and Diu

4742. SHRI D.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether provisions are made by way of loan and subsidy for mechanisation of fishing crafts in the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu ;

(b) if so, the quantum of loan and subsidy given under this scheme during 1984-85 ;

(c) whether the amount has been disbursed and if so, the number of beneficiaries ; and

(d) the total demand for loans for mechanisation of fishing crafts in the Union Territory ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir..

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from Government of Goa, Daman and Diu.

Price Fixation for Sugar Cane and Levy Sugar

4743. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government issue any directive to the State Governments or give advice about fixing the price of sugarcane and if so, the directive given during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 to different States ;

(b) how was the price fixed in the States ;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to fix the price for levy sugar for

the entire crushing season of 1984-85 and whether any decision has been taken in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) There is no legal provision for the Central Government to give directives to State Governments on the fixation of the level of cane price. The Central Government fixes only the statutory minimum cane price.

(b) The Central Government is not aware of the parameters on which the State-advised prices of sugar cane were fixed by the concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) The Central Government have notified, in the Gazette of India, the detailed ex-factory levy sugar prices for the production of the 1984-85 season on 31st January, 1985, 28th March, 1985, and 25th April, 1985. Copies of the first two orders mentioned have also been laid on the Table of the Sabha on the 18th March, 1985 and 15th April, 1985.

Arrears to Sugarcane Growers

4744. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government give any subsidy/assistance to State Governments for increasing the price of sugarcane and if so, the formula adopted ;

(b) whether despite Central assistance a huge amount of arrears still remain to be paid to sugarcane growers all over the country and if so, the particulars for the past three years ;

(c) whether Government would arrange to pay the cane price directly so that arrears may not accumulate ; and

(d) if so, their reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Comparative position of cane price payments during 1982-83, 1983-84 & 1984-85 seasons is given below ;

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Season	Position as on	Total cane price payable	Cane Price paid	Balance	Percentage of the balance to the total amount
1984-85	28.2.85	814.42	681.30	133.12	16.3
1983-84	29.2.84	738.78	548.08	190.70	25.8
1982-83	28.2.83	800.26	590.64	209.62	26.2

As on 28-2-85, the cane price arrears for the 1982-83 & 1983-84 seasons amounted to Rs. 6.02 crores and Rs. 9.92 crores, respectively.

(c) and (d) Cane price is already being paid directly to the growers or their societies by the mills to whom the cane is sold. As per the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, cane price is required to be paid within 14 days of the delivery of cane. Enforcement of this provision lies with the State Governments who have the necessary field organisations and requisite powers.

Liberalisation of Licensing Policy for Sugar Industry in Maharashtra

4745. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD

AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether areas which grow enough sugar-cane in Maharashtra are being denied the opportunity of setting up sugar units because of the restrictions in the licensing policy ;

(b) whether a sugar mill bring in its trend, development of allied agrobased industries ; and

(c) if so, whether Government would have a look at the present restrictions and

liberalise them so that those units can come up ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) During the Sixth Five Year Plan, out of 60 new projects sanctioned so far, Maharashtra has got 22 new sugar projects. In order to avoid lopsided licensing in the sugar industry it was felt necessary to review the guidelines so as to have a balanced inter-State and inter Regional development. As the establishment of a new sugar mill acts as a powerful growth centre and contributes to the industrial development and economic uplift of rural masses, it was decided to confine new licences to backward and no sugar industry districts and to restrict the expansion capacity of an existing mill to 3500 TCD. However, expansion beyond 3500 TCD was to be permitted on techno-economic consideration with a view to establish agro industrial complexes. The revised guidelines are effective upto 30-9-1985.

(c) The VIIth Plan dealing with the sugar sector in totality is under examination.

Transfer of Grade 'C' Employees of CPWD

4746. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Grade 'C' employees are transferred from one circle to another circle of CPWD in Delhi on the basis of seniority ;

(b) if so, whether the CPWD authorities have transferred some grade 'C' employees by violating the rules ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) No, Sir. However, transfers are sometimes made for administrative reasons and on compassionate grounds.'

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

'E' Type Quarters Located in Dev Nagar, New Delhi

4747 **SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY :** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether type 'E' quarters located in Dev Nagar, New Delhi have been declared dangerous for living by the CPWD ;

(b) if so, whether some officers of CPWD who are not eligible for 'E' type of accommodation have been staying in these dangerous quarters for many years ;

(c) if so, whether officials who are basically entitled to this type of accommodation are being deprived of their rights ;

(d) whether several residents of the locality have unauthorisedly constructed rooms in the courtyards ; and

(e) if so, action taken by Government in the matter and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Rice in West Bengal

4748. **SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any appreciable increase in the productivity level due to increase in area under rice cultivation of high yielding variety in West Bengal during the past five years ;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) the variation in the average productivity of paddy in West Bengal during the last five years as compared to the variations in the average productivity of paddy in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab during the corresponding period ;

(d) what improvements have been noticed in rice production in the above States during the above period ; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase rice production in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The productivity of rice in West Bengal has increased from 1200 kgs/hectare in 1979-80 to 1478 kgs/hectare in 1983-84. The area coverage under high-yielding varieties of rice increased from 16.50 lakh hectares to 20.10 lakh hectares during the same period.

(c) and (d) A statement giving the minimum and maximum productivity and production of paddy in terms of rice achieved during the last five years in West Bengal and other selected States is enclosed.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to increase the productivity of rice inter-alia, include :

- (i) Increase in irrigated area under the crop ;
- (ii) Increased use of HYV and certified seeds ;
- (iii) Efficient water management and ensuring availability of water at critical stages of transplantation/crop growth ;
- (iv) Increased application of fertilisers and need-based use of micro-nutrients ;
- (v) Adequate plant protection measures ;
- (vi) Development of technology suitable for problematic areas ;
- (vii) Launching of a special rice production programme in Eastern States including West Bengal.
- (viii) Adoption of appropriate pricing procurement policies.

Statement

Minimum/Maximum Productivity and Production of Rice in Selected States, 1979-80—1983-84

State	Productivity Kgs/Hectare		Production (Lakh Tonnes)	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
West Bengal	1018	1478	49.5	79.4
Andhra Pradesh	1818	2109	63.1	85.7
Uttar Pradesh	505	1264	25.5	67.9
Madhya Pradesh	383	970	18.2	47.4
Punjab	2606	3144	30.4	45.5

[Translation]

Documentary Films on the Life of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

4749. **SHRI LALA RAM KEN :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of documentary films with the Television Directorate on the life of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, on weaker sections of society and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) the number of times, T.V. Centre-wise, these films were shown during the last one year ; and

(c) the number of documentary films proposed to be made on the life of and the contributions made by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in the near future and the arrangements made for their telecast.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) The films Division documentary titled "Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar" was telecast 7 times by various Doordarshan Kendras during the period 1-4-81 to 31-3-85.

As regards the number of TV programmes on the life of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambed-

kar, on weaker sections of the society and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, produced and telecast during the said period by various Doordarshan Kendras, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Doordarshan proposes to make 2 TV programmes on the life and contributions of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The present production programme of Films Division also includes one documentary film on the subject.

[English]

Suggestions from IAAS for Rural Development

4750. SHRI K. PRADHANI :

SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Association for the Advancement of Science has suggested some measures for rural development and poverty alleviation ;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have examined those suggestions ; and

(d) if so, the action taken for implementing those suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No, Sir. Government did not receive any recommendation from the Association.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Housing Projects During 1985-86 by HUDCO

4751. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Housing and Urban Development Corporation has sanctioned 97 new housing projects during 1985-86 ;

(b) if so, the name of the States where these new projects will be constructed ;

(c) whether any such new project has been sanctioned for Orissa ;

(d) which group of people will be benefited on completion of these projects ; and

(e) the amount sanctioned to Orissa for implementing these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) At the 86th Meeting of its Board of Directors held on 5-3-1985, HUDCO has sanctioned 97 new housing projects. All these projects were sanctioned in financial year 1984-85.

(b) These projects are in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) Three of these projects are in Orissa.

(d) The three projects in Orissa will benefit the families belonging to economically weaker sections in the rural and urban areas and low income group in urban areas.

(e) HUDCO has sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 174.64 lakhs for the three projects in Orissa.

Allotment of Houses to Freedom Fighters

4752. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the quota of houses/quarters fixed by Government for the freedom fighters ;

(b) whether some quarters have been allotted to them ; if so, their number ; and

(c) the number of applications pending for allotment and the action being taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) ;

(a) No quota of Government residential accommodation has been fixed for Freedom Fighters. Each request is considered on merits in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs ;

(b) Yes, Sir. At present, there are 20 freedom fighters who are allottees of Government quarters. Three more freedom fighters have been sanctioned allotment and they would get quarters in the near future.

(c) 14 applications are pending. The cases are at various stages of processing.

Misuse of ISI Mark on Cement Bags

4753. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints of misuse of ISI certification marks on the cement bags available in the market ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal

with such misuse of the ISI certification marks ; and

(c) whether Government have vested/propose to vest ISI inspectors with powers for conducting raids under police protection and to seize sub-standard cement bearing ISI marks ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the statement enclosed. Free replacements were given in cases where complaints were established and the concerned manufacturers were made to take corrective action to improve the quality of their product which was subsequently verified by ISI inspectors.

(c) Proposals are under the consideration of the Government.

Statement

Complaints Received from Consumers regarding Sub-Standard Cement carrying ISI Mark from 1 April 1984

S1. No.	Name of the Complainant	Licensee	Relevant IS : No.
1	2	3	4
1.	Golden India Tiles Co. (P) Ltd., Chandigarh	Bhupendra Cement Works, Surajpur	269-1976
2.	The Executive Engineer, New Delhi.	Diamond Cement, Dist. Damah	3535-1966
3.	The Executive Engineer, Store Dn No. 1, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi.	Cement Corporation of India, Akaltara (MP)	1489-1976
4.	— do —	C. C. I. Limited, Raipur	455-1976
5.	ESTC Limited, Amritsar	Jaipur Udyog Ltd. Sawai Madhopur	1489-1976
6.	Public Health Works, Govt. Polyclinic, Ahmedabad.	Udaipur Cement Works, Udaipur	269-1976
7.	Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Ahmedabad.	— do —	269-1976

1	2	3	4
8.	(Cement) Xen. Store, DDA, Delhi.	ACC Limited, Lakheri Cement Factory, Rajasthan.	1489-1976
9.	Punjab Cement Corpn. SAS Nagar.	A.C.C. Limited, Surajpur	1489-1976
10.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd., Visakhapatnam	Andhra Cement Co. Ltd. Visakhapatnam.	455-1976
11.	Garrison Engineer (P) Ltd. Bangalore.	Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd., Dalmiapuram	1489-1976
12.	The Commander Engineer (AF) Bangalore.	— do —	269-1976
13.	Vijaya Raja & Co., Coimbatore.	Veda Cements, Bangalore	269-1976
14.	Dr. Prakash Audi, Benzulin Goa	Panyam Cements Minerals Ltd., Kurnool Distt.	269-1976
15.	Asst. Exe-Engineer, Kottayam	India Cements Ltd., Madras	269-1976
16.	Executive Engineer, Kodungallur	ACC Cement, Madukarai	269-1976
17.	Chief Engineer, Hyderabad.	Andhra Cement Factory, Vijayawada.	269-1976
18.	Afcons Limited, Calcutta	Durgapur Cement Work	IS: 455-1976
19.	Neha Builders P. Ltd., Baroda.	Saurashtra Cement and Chemical Industries Ltd. Gujarat.	IS: 269-1976
20.	Gujarat Electricity Board, Baroda.	— do —	IS: 269-1976
21.	Dy. Executive Engineer, Dharoi Store, Dharoi Colony.	Shree Digvijay Cement Co. Ltd., Digvijaygram Gujarat.	IS: 1489-1976
22.	Gujarat Electricity Board	— do —	IS: 269-1976
23.	— do —	ACC Ltd., Sevalia	IS: 269-1976
24.	— do —	— do —	IS: 269-1976
25.	— do —	Saurashtra Cement and Chemical Ltd., Gujarat	IS: 269-1976

1	2	3	4
26.	Executive Engineer, Project Constn Dvn. Himatnagar	Shree Digvijay Cement Digvijaygram, Gujarat	IS: 1489-1976
27.	Dy. Ex Engineer, Port Project Sub Dvn. Rajpipla	— do —	IS: 1489-1976
28.	Gujarat Electricity Board, Baroda.	— do —	IS: 269-1976
29.	— do —	— do —	IS: 1489-1976
30.	Executive Engineer, Irrigation Project Division, Bodeli.	— do —	IS: 1489-1976

Setting up of Wage Board for Paper Industry

4754. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up any wage board for the paper industry;

(b) if so, whether it has started functioning; and

(c) if not, when Government propose to set up the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration at present to set up a wage board for paper industry.

Import of Newsprint

4755. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any backlog of import in newsprint supply;

(b) whether his Ministry have asked for more foreign exchange allocation for newsprint import;

(c) whether this allocation has been refused; and

(d) if so, whether there is likelihood of newsprint scarcity in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

Acute Shortage of Drinking Water in Orissa

4756. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute problem of drinking water in Orissa ;

(b) whether any report has been received by Central Government from Orissa regarding the number of villages affected ;

(c) whether Orissa has sent any project report to Central Government seeking assistance from United Nations International Children Emergency Fund to meet present drought conditions prevailing in that State ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) : (a) and (b) About 1300 villages in Orissa are likely to face shortage of drinking water on account of drought conditions.

(c) No such project report has been received by the Ministry of Works and Housing. The Government of Orissa requested the Central Government to assist in obtaining ODEX attachment for existing rigs through UNICEF.

(d) The request was recommended to the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund and they have agreed to procure and supply these attachments to Government of Orissa on priority basis.

Tripartite Committee to study the Hardships of Workers

4757. **DR. G.S. RAJHANS :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to constitute a tripartite committee to go into the hardships caused to workers due to lock-outs, sickness and closure of industries ; and

(b) if so, when the said committee is likely to be constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b) In the meeting held with the workers' and the employers' organisations on the 9th and the 10th April, 1985, a suggestion to constitute a Tripartite Committee to look into the problems of the workers effected by sickness and closures in industry was discussed. No decision has been taken so far to constitute such a Committee by the Government.

Review of Functioning of Fair Price Shops

4758. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any review has been undertaken by the Union Government on the functioning of the Fair Price Shops in the country during the past three years ;

(b) if so, the findings of the review ; and

(c) if not, whether any such review would be undertaken during the financial year 1985-86 and the likely date therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Union Government continuously reviews and monitors the functioning of the Public Distribution System in the country. The objective of such reviews is to see whether sufficient number of fair price shops have been opened in various State/Union Territories and whether consumers get satisfactory service from their allotted fair price shops. On the basis of such reviews, guidelines have been issued to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations from time to time during the last 3 years to improve the functioning of fair price shops by streamlining the system of supplies to them. Instructions have been issued to State Govts./U.T. Adms. that there should be no reason for complaints of 'stock outs' of essential commodities in fair price shops on some plea or the other. Their attention has also been drawn to the need of preventing cases of diversion of foodgrains from fair price shops to open market or their substitution by inferior quality of foodgrains through a system of regular inspections and strict supervision.

A periodical review of the working of the Public Distribution System of which proper functioning of Fair Price Shops is an essential aspect, is also made in the meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies of which all Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of States/Union Territories are members. Four such meetings were held during the past three years viz. on 19th May, 1983, 7th November, 1983, 26th May, 1984 and on 29th March, 1985. Since the review of the working of the Public Distribution System including the functioning of Fair Price Shops is a continuing process, it is not considered

necessary to carry out special review meeting during the year 1985-86.

Permanent Residence of Prime Minister

4759. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have so far not made a permanent residence of the Prime Minister of India ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether the present residence of the Prime Minister would be treated as the permanent residence for all future Prime Ministers of India ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Govt. have no proposal to treat the residence, presently in occupation of the Prime Minister, as the permanent residence of the Prime Minister. Suggestions have been received to the effect that a suitable residence should be constructed for the Prime Minister. Govt. have not yet taken a decision on these suggestions.

Diseases Affecting Pepper Vine

4760. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the major diseases affecting the pepper vine resulting in their destruction ;

(b) the percentage of vines destroyed due to these diseases ;

(c) the remedial measures taken to arrest the spreading of these diseases ; and

(d) the results achieved in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Quick wilt and slow wilt are the common diseases of pepper.

(b) Damage due to these diseases varies from place to place and season to season.

(c) For Quick wilt disease growers have been advised to adopt prophylactic measures which include spraying vine and drenching the base of the vine with one percent Bordeaux mixture and painting stem upto one meter with Bordeaux paste. In case of Slow wilt, nematodes can be controlled by chemical application.

(d) The control measures adopted have helped in checking the spread and intensity of the diseases.

Adoption of Scientific Cultivation by Pepper Growers

4761. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme in operation to enable the small growers of pepper to adopt scientific cultivation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the progress achieved so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Kerala Agricultural Development project provides for rehabilitation of 17500 hectares pepper plantations in Cannanore, Wynad, Kozhikode, Kottayam and Idukki Districts. The Project provides for replacing 50% vines with superior planting material, adoption of scientific cultivation practices and credit support. Besides the Schemes implemented by the Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur and the Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli and in the Union Territories of Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands provide for maintenance of progeny gardens of hybrid pepper and production of planting materials therefrom. The State Agriculture/Horticulture Departments in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have also established progeny gardens for production of planting materials.

(c) An area of 16736 ha. has been rehabilitated covering 18530 holdings in Kerala. About two million rooted cuttings of hybrid pepper Panniyur-I and other high yielding varieties are distributed annually to the growers in Kerala.

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Maharashtra and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Marine-Based Industrial Complex around Cochin Port and Shipyard

4762. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal at present to set up a marine-based industries complex around Cochin port and the shipyard ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider setting up such a complex in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c) There is no definite proposal in this regard. However, a limited area of ten acres of land divided into suitable plots has been earmarked in the Cochin Fishing Harbour area for development of fish based industries.

Sugar Factories in Gujarat

4763. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sugar factories functioning in Gujarat and the number out of those functioning in Saurashtra region ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to establish more sugar factories in Gujarat ;

(c) if so, their number ; and

(d) the number and location of the sugar factories likely to be established in Saurashtra region ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Out of 15 installed sugar factories in Gujarat, 12 worked during sugar year 1984-85, of which 4 pertain to Saurashtra region.

(b) to (d) No application is pending consideration for the establishment of new sugar factories in Gujarat. As and when

an application is received, it will be considered in accordance with the guidelines in vogue.

(Interruptions)

12:00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will come to all of you. Please sit down. I will call all of you.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, oath is to be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will call him. First I will finish this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Not myself. I have already taken !

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can daily take the oath, Professor, there is nothing wrong in that, Please sit down.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, in the last few days we have been demanding a discussion on the closure notice that is given by the management of Delhi Cloth Mills.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, I have received, I told you I will consider it.....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : 10,000 workers will be retrenched.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, that is already there. I am going to consider it. I have already received it, I informed the Member also. When he writes to me, I can also write to him about the same thing.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is a very serious problem, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told you, I will consider it, and I will get the information.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : I want to tell you one thing, Sir, because notices given for questions on this subject have been returned to us saying that 'your question is not admissible because this is a matter which concerns the Delhi Administration'. This is the kind of reply we are receiving, questions are being returned to us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will see.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : How do

you admit a Calling Attention motion if the same objection is raised ?

(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will see. Please sit down. I request all the Members to speak one by one.

SHRI K.R. NATARAJAN (Dundigal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I came to know through the newspapers that the Anandpur-sahib Resolution has been handed over to the Sarkaria Commission. I do not know the contents of the Resolution. May I request you to direct the Government to place on the Table the said Resolution.

AN HON. MEMBER . You circulate it to all the Members, Sir.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL (Muvattupuzha) ; Sir, on Saturday, the 27th, the Bank of Cochin was given moratorium without giving any notice for it. Now there is panic among the Kerala people in drawing the money from other banks also. It is a minority community. The major share is owned by the minority community. They have not shown any reason also. Three years back the condition.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER ; You give notice, Mr. Mundackal, I will see, I will consider it.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL : I have already given notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will consider it. Mr. Maken, what do you want to say ? Please be brief.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter is about DCM closure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told.....

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have raised this matter five times.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, you raised it, I will consider it.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : This matter is very important. Last week also when I raised this matter, you said that the Delhi

Administration has refused to grant permission for closure. But the problem does not end here, the problem is related to Works and Housing Ministry also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no, Mr. Maken, on that day the Minister replied to you that he won't allow the closure. Please sit down.

(Interruptions).

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : This is a very important matter. I have been raising it for the last two months.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Maken, you have said already and the Minister had replied to that.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : This is a question of 25,000 families. You have to listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have listened to you already. That is enough. You won't listen. Then nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already listened to you enough. Please sit down.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : You kindly give a patient hearing for one minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I heard you completely. I know what is the problem. Please sit down.

(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I heard everything. That is enough. I won't allow you. Nothing is going on record. You are taking too much liberty.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already considered your request. Please sit down. You come to my Chamber, I will discuss further. You come to my Chamber and I will discuss with you.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I went to your Chamber also.

** Not recorded.

(Interruptions).

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur) : Sir, why don't you listen to him ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already I considered his Calling Attention motion. I told you, please sit down, I will consider it.

(Interruption).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will consider, please sit down. I won't allow you. Nothing of whatever he speaks will go on record. Now, Mr. Somnath Rath.

(Interruptions).**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I don't want to reply. It is too much. I won't allow you. You are taking too much liberty.

(Interruptions).**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told you already, I am considering it. Why do you go on speaking. I told you that I will consider it. That is all.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : You have not considered.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am considering it. That is all.

(Interruptions).**

(Fd. by O)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have said that it will come. I am considering it. I have told him that I am considering it. That is all. I cannot say more than that.

(Interruptions).**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a big industry in this country which is retrenching 7 lakh workers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have told him that I am considering it.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : You must hear him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already heard him.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told him. He came to me and discussed with me also

(Interruptions).**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions).**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am considering his request. Why are you going on interrupting like this ? I have told you that I am considering it. There are so many priorities.

(Interruptions.)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : For the last 7 days, is it under consideration ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If it is the desire of both sides of the House, you can immediately take up this call-attention tomorrow. (Interruptions) Fortunately, the entire House is urging for the same. I think, the sense of the House should be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told them that I am considering it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It should be taken up tomorrow.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have no objection to the matter, namely DCM closure, being considered. We are as much concerned as anybody else. You may take a decision. We have no objection to that matter being considered.

But I would say that in this course of interruptions, I think, if there is any remark accusing the Chair** or any aspersion on the Chair must be expunged. But you may consider the matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that nothing will go on record. I cannot allow such an allegation. I would not allow such a thing. I have already said that it is unfair on the part of a Member to make an allegation against the Chair.

** Not recorded.

(Interruptions.)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is unfair.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : There is acute shortage and scarcity of drinking water in Ganjam district and other districts in Orissa. People are leaving village after village in search of drinking water. I have given a calling-attention notice on this subject. Please accept it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will consider it.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Distressing report has emanated from Orissa that 50 children are already dead on account of dysentery. Sorry, some friends here are not very serious about the matter. It is not only that.

Hundreds of boys and children are suffering from this disease. This is an infectious disease and it may spread to neighbouring States. As a matter of fact, it comes under Entry 29 of the Concurrent List. I would request the Health Minister to make a statement on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will consider it.

SHRI AZEEZ SAIT (Dharwad South) : Sir, I have given a Calling Attention in connection with a recent judgment of the Supreme Court. This is a very important matter. I would request you to take up the Calling Attention at an early date.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will consider it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, you kindly listen to me for half a minute. I think, there will be total unanimity, including from yourself on this.

Here is the text-book published by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary Education on Civics for the X Standard in which they have described Indian Parliament as Department of the Government. When we wrote to them, they said, "You can go to a court of law. But we will not

change the text-book." They have deliberately insulted our institution. If our children read such text-books, it will be a matter of shame for us. I have given a privilege notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already referred.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like you to examine that. It is under your consideration ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will consider it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Nice of you. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Papers to be laid.

12.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Notifications under Coconut Development Board Act, 1919 Fertilizer (Movement Control) Amendment Order, 1985 Review and Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table.

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 21 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 :—

- (i) The Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. GSR 716 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 1984.
- (ii) The Coconut Development Board Recruitment (Amendment) Regulations, 1984 published in Notifications No. GSR 1042 in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 1984.

(iii) **The Coconut Development Board Recruitment (Third Amendment) Regulations, 1984** published in Notification No. GSR 10 in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 1985. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 797/85].

(2) A copy of the **Fertilizer (Movement Control) Amendment Order, 1985** (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. GSR 351 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1985 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. (10 of 1955).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 798/85].

(3) A copy each of the following **Papers** (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) **Review by the Government on the working of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the years 1978-79 and 1979-80.**

(ii) **Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1978-79 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.**

(iii) **Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1979-80 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.**

(4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 799/85].

(5) A copy each of the following **papers** (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) **Review by the Government on the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation**

Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1981-82.

(ii) **Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 1981-82 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.**

(6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 800/85].

(7) (i) A copy of the **Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1983-84.**

(ii) A copy of the **Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon.**

(8) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-801/85]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare, 1985-86

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare for 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-802/85].

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour, 1985-86

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-803/85]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Departments of Ocean Development, Electronics and Atomic Energy for 1985-86

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table.

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Ocean Development for 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-804/85]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Electronics for 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-806/85].

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Atomic Energy for 1985-86.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-806/85].

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Kakade Sambhaji Rao Sahebrao
(Baramati)

12.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Situation arising out of the recent rise in price of essential and other commodities

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of the recent rise in prices of essential and other commodities and the steps taken by the Government in that regard."

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, this is a very important matter. You allow a discussion under rule 193 on this...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow it now. The Calling Attention is already admitted. Let the Minister reply.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): There was some improvement in the overall price situation in 1984-85. The annual rate of inflation declined to 5.8% in March, 1985 from 9.2% in the same month a year earlier. A notable feature of the price situation during 1984-85 has been subdued prices and easy availability of several essential commodities including cereals, edible oils and vegetables. It is indeed remarkable, Hon'ble Members will agree, that the wholesale price index of cereals moved down by 6.6% in the past two years ending March, 1985. There were, however, a few commodities the prices of which moved up during 1984-85.

2. After the presentation of the General Budget 1985-86, the wholesale price index is available for four weeks ending 13th April, 1985. During these four weeks the wholesale price index has moved up by 2.3%. A large portion of this increase has been due to Budget levies on or increase in administered price of some commodities. In the case of remaining commodities, there has been a mixed trend. The prices of some commodities have gone up while the prices of some other commodities have moved down.

3. Government attaches utmost importance to ensuring availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices. Both the Central and State Governments are monitoring the prices of essential commodities. The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of essential commodities, particularly those in short supply. The export of essential commodities is regulated keeping in view our domestic requirements. Some commodities are imported to augment domestic supply. The Public Distribution System is being expanded and its management is being improved to make essential commodities available at reasonable prices to the people, especially the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society. The

State Governments are enforcing the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations. After the presentation of the General Budget, the Central Government advised the State Governments to take strict action against erring traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding and blackmarketing.

4. Government is exercising constant surveillance to keep prices of essential commodities in check and every effort is being made to ensure their availability in every corner of the country. Hon'ble Members would agree that public awareness and cooperation are essential for Government's effort to succeed in this direction,

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. I addressed my calling attention motion to the Finance Minister because the phenomenon of the increasing prices is related more to the Finance Ministry than to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. In his statement, the Minister has admitted that the prices have increased after the presentation of the General Budget for the year 1985-86. During the discussion on the Budget some of my friends and I had expressed the apprehension that these Budget proposals would definitely lead to rise in prices. Though a number of counter-arguments were advanced to allay that apprehension yet in fact the prices have been increasing continuously. The Minister has quoted the figures of wholesale price index for the four weeks ending the 13th April 1985 and he has admitted that there has been an increase of 2.3% in the prices. I do not know the percentage of increase in wholesale prices, but I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister through you to the prices which are prevailing in the open retail market. Generally, there has been 15% increase in the prices in the open market in the cities and 30% increase in rural areas following the presentation of the Budget. The prices of cereals have risen but not to the extent to which the prices of sugar, edible oil, pulses, vegetables and spices have gone up. People are feeling the pinch of this increase. The increase in the prices has adversely affected the general masses. The prices of kerosene oil are sky rocketing. In my constituency in

Uttar Pradesh, from where I returned yesterday, kerosene oil is selling at the rate of Rs. 5.75 to Rs. 6.50 per litre while its controlled price is Rs. 2.45 per litre. I came to know from the newspaper reports that kerosene oil is being sold at the rate of Rs. 7 per litre in West Bengal and Bihar. The increase in the price of diesel has resulted in the increased transportation cost. The charges for transportation by trucks are going up. The bus fares have also been increased. The increase in the prices of diesel and petrol has further accentuated the taxi and scooter fares. Thus the people are facing a lot of hardships due to the rising freights and fares. There has been a 10% increase in the prices of tyres and tubes also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have collected certain information in this regard which I want to convey through you to the hon. Minister. As regards eastern UP. and particularly Ghazipur district, fire-wood was being sold there at Rs. 16 per maund during the pre-budget period but now its rate has gone up to Rs. 30 per maund. The kerosene oil which was being sold earlier at Rs. 2.45 per litre is now being sold at Rs. 3.50 or Rs. 4.00 per litre. The prices of dalda tin has gone up to Rs. 315 from Rs. 265. Sugar which was being sold in the open market at Rs. 5.50 per kg in now available at Rs. 7.00 per kg. The price of chillies has increased from Rs. 13 to Rs. 24 per kg. The price of salt which is an essential commodity of daily consumption has gone up from 50 paise to 75 paise per kg. The price of betel, which is relished not only in Varanasi but in various other parts of our country, has increased from 25 paise to 40 or 50 paise per piece. The price of gram has increased from Rs. 3.00 to Rs. 4.00 per kg, of Arhar from Rs. 5.50 to Rs. 6.50, of coarse rice from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3.00 per kg of meat from Rs. 18 to Rs. 24 per kg. Now I would like to invite the attention of hon. Minister to the price situation prevailing in Delhi. I am giving certain figures in this respect. The price of potato has increased from Re. 1 to Rs. 1.25, of onion from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.00, of pumpkin from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.00, of brinjals from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.00, of cauliflower from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5, of jack fruit from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6, and of green chillies from Rs. 4 to

[Shri Zahul Basher]

Rs. 8, of "arbi" from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per kg. It is a fact that there has been no increase in the prices of wheat and rice but the prices of pulses have definitely gone up. The prices of kabli gram has increased from Rs. 6 to Rs. 6.50, of moong from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8, of urad from Rs. 8 to Rs. 9, of gram from Rs. 6.00 to 6.50, of sugar from Rs. 5.00 to Rs. 5.50 and from Rs. 6.00 to Rs. 6.50 per kg. The rate of mustard oil has increased from Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 per kg. The price of ghee has come down from Rs. 50 to 45 per kg. The price of dalda per kg. has increased from Rs. 16.15 to 17.10, and of red chillies from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25, of turmeric from Rs. 20 to Rs. 22 of cummin-seed from Rs. 15.00 to 20.00 per kg. Similarly the price of washing soap Sunlight and the toilet soap Lifebuoy has increased from Rs. 2.25 to Rs. 2.50 and from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 2.65 per cake respectively.

Thus we see that the prices of essential commodities are continuously increasing. The prices of building material have tremendously increased. There has been increase of 40 per cent in the prices of iron bars and iron sheets. The increase in the price of cement is 10 per cent. The price per cement bag has increased from Rs. 62-64 to Rs. 70/-. The prices of toilet soap, tooth-paste, washing soap powder have increased. The prices of cosmetics based on petroleum products have also increased by 20 to 30 per cent. The increase in the prices is 15 per cent in the urban areas, 30 per cent in the rural areas and 50 per cent in the areas where there are no means of transport. The increase in the prices have affected the poor very badly. The rich people will not mind this increase because they can easily bear with it. The prices of luxury goods like refrigerators and air-conditioners have also increased. The rise in the prices of essential commodities has increased the burden on the poor people. The majority of the poor people, who were lifted from below poverty line during the last two years, have again come down below poverty line as a result of this price rise. The price base for determining the poverty line has become out-dated now. The level of income of Rs. 62 adopted as the criterion for deciding the poverty line has now been eroded due to current price-

rise following the presentation of the Budget and thus the number of people living below the poverty line has further swelled. The Minister has rightly admitted that the prices have increased after the presentation of the Budget. The prices had stabilised prior to the Budget. In some cases the prices were even falling down. I have got certain newspaper cuttings. The *Financial Times* of 16th October, 1984 says, "Essential commodities prices fall further". The issue of 27th October, 1984 says: "Seasonal decline in prices continues". The issue of 27th October, 1984 states: "Subdued trend in prices". The newspaper of 2nd December, 1984 says: "Downward trend in prices persists." In 1984-85 the prices were somewhat stabilised and in certain cases they were falling. But after the presentation of this budget the prices went up.

[English]

This is an unprecedented price rise in the history of any post-budget period.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the price-rise after the presentation of the Budget has been much more than anticipated. At this point the responsibility of the Food and Civil Supplies Minister begins. Whereas the price of any particular commodity was anticipated to rise by 5 per cent or 7 per cent or 10 per cent or it has actually increased by 10 or 15 or 20 per cent, Here I would like to say that the hon. Minister has failed to check this rising trend in the prices. It is the responsibility of the Food and Civil Supplies Minister to check the price-rise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the public distribution system is concerned, the Minister will be commending the functioning of the public distribution system in his reply because his reply will be based on the figures supplied to him by the State Governments or by the officers of his own Ministry. Like me, the hon. Minister is also elected from a rural constituency and he might be certainly knowing how the public distribution system is working in the villages. The public distribution system in the villages has become a matter of laughing stock. In Uttar Pradesh, fair price shops are being run through cooperatives. It is often seen that regular supply of

wheat, rice and kerosene oil is not made to the fair price shops.

They get supplies after four to five months. The festival of Holi has taken place, the festival of Id has passed, but nothing has been supplied to the people for these festivals through the Fair Price Shops. The public distribution system is working a bit properly in the urban areas, whereas in the far-flung rural areas of the country the public distribution system is not working properly. What measures are you contemplating to adopt to bring about improvement in the public distribution system? You simply say that it is the responsibility of the State Government to make the public distribution system function properly. But the State Governments have failed to manage the things rightly. The State Governments are not working satisfactorily in this respect. Some days ago I had occasion to talk to the Petroleum Minister about the supply of kerosene oil. He told me that the Central Government had supplied as much quantity of kerosene oil to the State Government of U.P. as had been demanded by them to meet their requirement. It was the duty of the U.P. State Government to have properly distribute the same district-wise and village-wise in the State.....(Interruption)...The Central Government release the required quantity of wheat, sugar, kerosene oil and other things to the States, but these things never reach the people for whom they are meant. In this context I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he is going to take to improve the public distribution system in the country. If you will leave all things in this respect to be done by the State Governments, then the problem will not be solved. The Minister should tell us what steps are being taken by the Central Government to improve this system. Hon. Members in this House and also the people outside this House are demanding that our public distribution system must be made an ideal one and should be extended throughout the country. It should be ensured that the essential commodities through Fair Price Shops are made available to the people particularly in the rural areas at reasonable rates. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what kind of public distribution system he wants to introduce to ensure the regular supply of essential commodities to the people.

While giving reply to the debate on his Ministry the Food and Civil Supplies Minister said that the State Governments were working the public distribution system properly and essential commodities were being distributed through the fair price shops regularly. If the same reply was to be given by the Minister today also then the very purpose of bringing this Calling Attention Motion will be defeated. In fact, the prices have gone up and it seems that this rising trend will continue for several years to come. The students of economics very well know that the prices do increase in a developing country. I would like to know how the public distribution system would be set right through better management.

It is apparent from the reply given by the hon. Minister and also from the speeches made by the Members that the black-marketing, the profiteering and the hoarding of essential commodities are taking place on a very large scale. 2.68 lakh cases were detected and 17,000 cases were filed in the court. but punishment was awarded only in 700 cases. The raids were conducted in 2.62 lakh cases and samples were also collected but only 700 offenders could be convicted. The conclusion which can be drawn on the basis of these figures is that either innocent people were arrested or something mischievous happened in between the arrest of the offenders and the judgement of the courts. I would like to know what preventive steps you are going to take at your level to check the blackmarketing, adulteration, profiteering and hoarding.

I would also like to know whether you are going to take any new steps to further strengthen the public distribution system. When Shri Mohan Dharia was a Minister, he got prepared a comprehensive scheme for the public distribution system. I would like to know what has happened to Shri Mohan Dharia's scheme. Why are you not implementing that scheme? If the said scheme needed further improvement, why are you not making the needed improvement in the same?

To sum up, I would like to know what steps you are going to take to check the rising prices and to give relief to the hard-pressed consumers. We should give a boost to the consumers' movement. We should all cooperate in further expanding the

consumers movement. What facilities will be provided for the success of the consumers movement? What facilities will be provided to the consumers societies or to those who will launch the consumers' movement.

[English]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, the hon. Member has drawn Government's attention to a very important matter, that is, of prices. I have already admitted that there has been increase in prices after the imposition of additional levies and increase in freights. The proposals were presented to Parliament and it was known and it was expected that there will be some increase in prices. But it is not due entirely to increase in levies and in freights alone. This Budget has been approved by Parliament. During the same period every year after the presentation of the Budget, simultaneously, the States also try to take measures to increase their revenues. They also increase taxes and duties on various items and even transportation charges are increased by States. So, it is not the increase only based upon these levies and increase in freight and fare which perturb the hon. Member or the House or should perturb us. Because, this was a conscious decision taken. In a developing economy, in a country like India, where there is so much demand on the Exchequer, for improving the conditions in villages and cities, providing employment to unemployment etc., all these things cost money. After all, the money has to come from the people. It is a well-known fact that the incomes chase the prices; also prices chase incomes. When prices go up because of additional levies there is demand for additional TA, DA, etc. If these instalments are released then there is further inflation. If large sums are allocated for development, then, either additional revenues have to be mobilised by the Centre and State Governments, both, or deficit financing has to be resorted to. That also means more money supply and further inflation. So, I am not at all defending the undue rise in prices. What I mean and explain to the hon. Member, is that some price rise was known and was expected. But it is where the price rise has been disproportionate to the additional levies and increase in fares and freights and various other things which were knowingly, consciously

resorted to and imposed, there the hon. Member would agree that the Government cannot do much. There are certain commodities which are sold under a system of administered prices and then for things like steel, kerosene oil, foodgrains as a whole, sugar in the public distribution system, controlled cloth and various other things, each administrative Ministry takes measures to see that administered prices remain in practice, in vogue and there is no exploitation by the traders, by the monopolists by playing with the lever of demand and supply forces one against the other. I agree with the hon. Member that it has been noticed that after the presentation of the budget, prices started rising. A rise of 2.3% in four weeks is no doubt a very sharp hike. It comes to 0.57% per week and I think it is unprecedented in my view because in earlier years, the price rise was not so high, constantly.

In some cases, the traders have taken undue advantages by creating psychological shortage. May be there was also some hoarding, as it generally happens during the pre-budget period. We took steps to see that action was taken against the hoarders and blackmarketeers. The system of check was not properly exercised by the States. We wrote to the State Governments, I personally wrote letters to the Chief Ministers. We have appointed officers for purposes of monitoring area-wise. We have asked them to visit the States. But as the hon. Member knows the enforcement of laws is the responsibility of the State Governments. I do not know what he expects the Central Government to do. I would like to inform him about the various measures that we are taking in this respect. But I would also welcome any suggestion from this House as to how they can equip me with powers which my Ministry does not have at present.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Delhi ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Delhi is part of the country and it is the capital of the country and therefore it is expected that things would be better in Delhi than in rural areas which the hon. Member pointed out. Exploitation is more in the far-flung and interior areas than in large cities and towns where Government can

exercise better check and vigilance. Sir, as I said, prices were showing a declining trend in the earlier period.

The rise over the previous year was only 5.8% as I have given in my statement, over 9-odd per cent in the previous year. Certain commodities like foodgrains showed a declining trend. Over the two years, there was a reduction of 6.6% in cereal prices.

Naturally, this was on account of large production, and it proves that to maintain a reasonable price level, what is required is adequate production. If anything is in short supply, no measures taken by the Government would be effective enough to control the prices and keep them in check. All that the Government can do is to resort to a system of statutory rationing or, alternatively, to resort to a system of statutorily fixing prices. But these measures, again, entail certain difficulties; and they have their own ills. It is not an easy job to statutorily fix prices and to control them. It might mean a very large policing effort, millions of cases to be prosecuted in courts, a system of raids, checks and arrests. Even then, it can be counter-productive, because controls mean creation of shortage and more hoarding for black-marketing, which is created by a psychology of shortage and scarcity. Therefore, what the present system is and what we are following, to my mind, is the best system which has been evolved and developed over the years through the experience that we have been gaining.

In certain things, there is dual pricing, as for instance in sugar, which is an important food item. One way to keep prices from rising unduly in the open market is to have a second channel of supply for essential commodities; and that is what we are doing for sugar. Levy sugar was being sold through fair price shops all over the country at one price viz. Rs. 4/- a Kg. Even the varying costs and other charges were re-imbursed by the Government. Any hike in transportation and other things do not affect this price to the same extent as other commodities at the retail level. Rs. 4/- was the retail price till 1st April. Now it is Rs. 4-40. The price has been raised by Government itself

on account of higher cost of production in the factories, and the higher price that we have had to pay to the sugar mills for the 65% portion of sugar taken up by us.

Similarly about foodgrains. We are distributing foodgrains at a fixed price. There is no reason why foodgrain prices should go up in Delhi, because there is enough allocation in Delhi. My information is that wheat through fair price shops is available in Delhi at a price of Rs. 1-78 per Kg. Regarding villages, in the producing States, certain States are surplus in wheat. Therefore, there should be no difficulty. People do not purchase wheat from fair price shops. They depend on the open market or their own produce. Even for sugar, take for instance the case of Maharashtra. When we issued instructions to all the States, two months back, just as I took over this Ministry, soon after that, I said, all commodities that are sold through public distribution system must reach the consumer everywhere and every person should get his fair share, whether it is kerosene or sugar or foodgrains or controlled cloth. Now, Maharashtra, recently contacted me and gave me an impression recently that it was impossible to supply levy sugar to the fair price shops in the interior, in the villages as the people don't want it; and I was surprised just because Maharashtra is a sugar producing State, if they do not want levy sugar in fair price shops, then it only means that people are either getting sugar cheaper in the open market less than Rs. 4.40 which is unbelievable or sugar is unauthorisedly being sold by the factories. One of the two things may be responsible. I do not know which is correct. Similarly, in foodgrains, we are increasing the allocation; we have enough of stock; our stocks, at present, are the highest ever maintained by the Government at the Centre—nearly 22 million tonnes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE

It is not correct to say that the fair price shops in Maharashtra did not want levy sugar. I don't think that information is correct.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : That is what I was told by the Maharashtra Government; that is why I have mentioned it. Similarly, there is allocation of edible

oil which is another very important essential commodity, food item. The allocation made is not taken. The offtake is less than the allocation in many States. Similar is the case about some foodgrains also in some States. If we are making adequate allocation and even that quantity is not being lifted and distributed, then I think the Central Government has done its duty. But things require to be looked into at the lower level in the States; in the districts. Cement is another item where government has a dual price policy. Now, cement, kerosene oil, they are directly distributed by the Ministries concerned—Petroleum Ministry and Textile Ministry. We try to monitor the whole thing. Now, we have started getting returns from them. I even noticed that the kerosene meant for public distribution for supply as essential fuel to villagers to poor people, to vulnerable sections of the society. In many States, part of this kerosene oil is distributed by the State authority to industries. Now, there should be a separate allocation for industries. Industries' need can be separately met by the Petroleum Ministry. But when it is allocated in bulk to a State and if large quantities of it are given to industrial units, then it is very difficult to keep a check as to where kerosene oil has disappeared, why shortage has been created. But we have now started looking very closely at the whole thing just because we felt that if the system was efficient, if the district authorities States authorities in the Civil Supplies Department, the Food Department did their duty, there is no reason why prices should rise unduly.

Then, Sir, on the pretext of higher freight and higher duties the traders tend to ask for higher prices. The consumers are mostly illiterate and they do not know some things. For instance, a consumer does not know what the local taxes are, what the amount of local taxes and even though we have regulated things and we have issued orders that just like the net weight the date of manufacture should be shown on the packages; the maximum retail prices to be charged will also be printed while it is sold in the retail market. Though the prices are printed, since the sales tax varies from State to State and certain other local levies are also there levied by the municipalities or corporations,

it is not possible to print the same amount of local taxes on the packages. And then the traders get a very good excuse to charge high prices and they say that these taxes are extra and they can charge the amount of taxes. They have to, under the law, display the amount of taxes, if not on the package then on a board. Sometimes they do not do it and the local authorities can naturally check them. The consumers also have to be vigilant and cautious. They should ask for the amount of taxes on a particular item. The consumers at times themselves do not want a cash memo or a receipt wherein the tax would have to be shown in writing and they want to avoid taxes and that gives a double advantage to the shopkeeper. He can charge more in the name of taxes, much higher than the actual amount and he can pocket that amount without paying it to the Government where it should be paid. So these are the various things making it difficult for us to check undue rise in prices and particularly in smaller places as the hon. Member mentioned. We have done all that we can.

The hon. Member wanted to know what we were doing in the matter. As I have said, the most important thing is to run efficiently the public distribution system for providing an alternate channel for the consumers.

Second thing is to see that laws are enforced.

The third most important thing—or probably the first important thing—is to increase the production so that the supply can meet the demands comfortably and easily.

And, for improving the public distribution system we have been contacting the States, trying to persuade them and we have brought about some improvements in our own management system. We notice that it is not always the States that were responsible for running the public distribution system regularly and efficiently. Take for instance sugar. If the factories do not despatch the allotted sugar to a State in time, if wagons are not available, naturally the fair price shop would go dry and they cannot issue sugar. If our food grains do not reach the State for the whole month in time and adequate stocks are

not maintained for issue to the State through the FCI godowns, then again there will be no foodgrains for issue.

If kerosene oil in bulk for the entire month does not reach a State from the Petroleum Ministry or the Oil Corporation, then naturally, it will be reaching in bits and the traders can always take advantage of that situation. They can say that the kerosene has not come, controlled cloth has not reached them, sugar has not reached them and so on. Same is the case with edible oil. If the STC fails to provide the entire allocated quantity of edible oil to State, the consumers would not be able to draw their whole month's ration. And if its coming is not certain, then the consumers, out of frustration, would not lift their own share and that can go to the black-market. For that purpose, we are trying to see that as many essential commodities in the public distribution system as possible should be made available at one point. That would increase the viability of these outlets also. For that we need the cooperation of the States because though we have increased the number of fair price shops—even in the month of January the number has gone up from 3.11 lakhs as on 1-10-84 to 3.15 lakhs as on 1-1-85 we want that there should be one fair price shop for every 2000 population and even in the remotest areas, tribal areas, mountainous areas and difficult to approach places—to run them regularly and efficiently where things are available everyday and in quantities that are the share of a consumer in one go if he likes to take the whole months supply and if he is a poor man and wants to take the supplies on weekly basis, there should be arrangements for that also, we need their cooperation. The State Governments are being consulted regularly. I held a meeting of the Advisory Council on public distribution system in the month of March. We are activating the district committees so that the District Collector becomes responsible for over-seeing and supervising the entire thing in his district whether the consumers get regular supplies, shops open in time, and action is taken for violation of laws for overcharging of prices. In this matter I need the full cooperation of hon. Members too.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : But we are not associated.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Even for that purpose I have to approach the States. I have already written to them. I will be requesting them again and again till they do it. But in your own respective States you are the important persons in the highest forum.

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : How much addition can you make in the responsibilities of a Collector while his problem is that he cannot even now attend properly to all the items of work entrusted to him ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : But the Collector should take action. If there are public representatives, it is in their hands to take action. Even if I catch any black-marketeer red-handed, I cannot take action against him.

SHRI RAM DHAN : Who is responsible for the price-increase in Delhi ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The information supplied by Shri Zainul Basher does not appear to be correct. As regards potato and onion.....

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : My information is absolutely correct because I personally went to the market and collected the information.

[English]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : You just said that the price of potatoes had increased from Re. 1/- to Rs. 1.25 per kg. Onion is selling in market at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg. As far as the question of levy sugar is concerned. This is being distributed through fair price shops at the fixed price of Rs. 4.40 and the price in the open market has generally gone up from Rs. 5.50 to Rs. 6.25 or even to Rs. 6.30 or a little more depending upon the market.

This is on account of rise in the price of levy sugar and the price that we have had to pay to the mills due to higher cost of production. So, that was inevitable. But there should be no concern about sugar because these prices are not unduly high prices, I maintain.

About the kerosene, Sir, in Delhi it is available at Rs. 2.11 per litre which is the administered price fixed by the Government. In Uttar Pradesh if it is selling at Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 in villages, as the hon. Member said, then it only means mismanagement, black-marketing, artificial shortage, and this mismanagement has to be corrected. But it can only be corrected with the cooperation of the State Governments. I hope you agree.

The meat prices have not increased.

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : We daily consume meat. We purchase it at the rate of Rs. 24/- per kg.

[English]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I also eat. My information is that goat meat in Delhi around the 20th of the April in all the main markets was selling at Rs. 22 per kg.

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Meat may be available in abundance in South Avenue.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : You might have purchased the best quality meat.

[English]

Anyway, I shall look into this if wrong figures have been provided. My information is it is Rs. 22 in three main markets in Delhi.

Then, Sir, about rice and wheat, hon. Members would agree that these are available in Fair Price Shops and there is no shortage of stocks. We can allocate adequate quantities to any State. Wheat we have plenty, but the States are not lifting much. It is also available in the market.

The prices of cereals have not risen appreciably even after the Budget.

These are the various things which, I hope, hon. Members would appreciate. Government is very vigilant about this whole thing and we have been made more

vigilant after this Calling Attention Motion, and will see what further can be done in the matter,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In the light of Minister's reply, I request other Members to be very brief and put some relevant questions instead of going on giving preambles and other things. I think you will cooperate with me on this.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is an admitted fact that prices are rising daily and this price rise is directly affecting the poor people whose main problem is how to earn their daily bread. The poor man has to think how much share of a bread piece he should give to his wife, how much to his children and how much he should consume himself. When he goes to the market he has to think what commodity he can afford to purchase with whatever money he has in his pocket so as to satisfy his hunger and thus he has to forego many other essential commodities.

My hon. friend has mentioned certain figures about the prevailing prices. Some of the figures given by him are correct but in some cases the prices are even more than he has quoted. At certain places the people are becoming victims of starvation. The poor man has to satisfy his hunger by taking only tea and bread because they are not in a position to buy other things. I do not want to repeat all the things which have already been narrated by other hon. Members. But I want to invite his attention to certain other things.

The hon. Minister has just said that the prices of certain commodities went up due to their production being less. I would like to know whether a system cannot be introduced under which the farmers could be given incentive to grow more pulses and oilseeds as compared to cash crops because at present the farmers prefer to grow cash crops more than other crops. The reason why the farmers now grow more wheat and rice is that these days these crops give them ready cash they get it not from the private purchasers but from Government agencies like the Food Corporation of India also. At present the prices of pulses

and edible oil are increasing because they are in short supply.

Now I would like to give a picture of the wholesale prices. What were the wholesale prices in 1983-84 and in 1984-85? The wholesale price of Rs. 275 per quintal of gram in 1983-84 increased to Rs. 460 per quintal in 1984-85. The wholesale price of Rs. 500 per quintal of moong in 1983-84 increased to Rs. 626 per quintal in 1984-85. Similarly the wholesale price of Rs. 450 per quintal of urad in 1983-84 increased to Rs. 550 in 1984-85. If proper attention is not paid to this situation, then we will not be able to check the rising prices and to give any relief to the poor people who want only bread to satisfy their hunger. Thus the poor people will go on experiencing hardship. Every year the prices will be going up after the presentation of the Budget and you will not be able to check the same. Some years ago, we have seen, the sugarcane producers had to burn their sugarcane in the fields because there was a bumper crop of sugarcane.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that he has not been able to check the widening gap between the wholesale and retail prices. There was a decrease of 6.5 per cent in the wholesale price of rice but the retail price of rice has come down only by 1.6 per cent. Similarly the wholesale price of onions has come down by 27.3 per cent but its retail price has gone up by 28.2 per cent. The wholesale price of mustard oil has shown a decline of 9.6 per cent but the fall in retail price is only 3.0 per cent. In the price of coconut oil the increase was .9 per cent but it showed an increase of 5.7 per cent in the retail market. The milk price has gone down by 0.6 per cent but its retail price has gone up by 0.2 per cent. I think we would not be able to check the rising prices unless we bring about an effective improvement in the system and unless the existing system is improved, we would not be in a position to give relief to those poor people who have sent us as their representatives to Parliament by casting their votes in our favour. As regards our distribution system, there are certain defects. Even at our fair price shops blackmarketing takes place in certain commodities which are supplied to such shops for distribution to the people at fair

price. When a consumer goes to a fair price shop he is told that the commodity he wants is out of stock but on the other hand the same commodity can be had from the same fair price shop clandestinely at a higher price. Thus the consumer is not getting the benefit of fair price shops. It is correct that the number of fair price shops rose by 27.6 per cent during the period from 1979 to 1984 but this increase is not in proportion to the increase in the population. I would like to remind you that the implementation of the price-tagging policy had its healthy effect on the price situation in Delhi. At that time the commodities of good quality were available at reasonable prices in the market. That system has not been reintroduced now.

13.12 hrs

[SHRI SHARAD DHIGHE *in the Chair*]

In this connection, I would like to ask some questions from the hon. Minister :

[*English*]

(1) Have you ever planned for planned cultivation of different agricultural goods according to the needs of the country ?

(2) Is there any Act for price-tagging of essential commodities ? And if so, why has it not been enforced ?

(3) The main function of today's Parliament is to keep control over public finance. For this purpose we have three different important Committees—the Public Accounts Committee, the Public Undertakings Committee and the Estimates Committee. The question of control of prices is also very important from the point of view of the voter who has voted us in this Parliament. I would like to know why a Parliamentary Committee for check on prices has not been formed so far.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, I have already given a detailed reply to the general questions which can be raised on the subject.

The hon. Member has mentioned the high prices of some agricultural commodities like grams or other pulses like moong, and vegetables, as was also mentioned by the earlier speaker. Sir, you would agree, I hope, that since prices can only be controlled properly and effectively through

increased production, one has to think how far the prices of commodities which are in short supply in the country already can be kept down—pulses for that matter or some other commodities. If we fix lower prices for these pulses like gram, moong, urad and masur, the natural result would be that production would go down further. In spite of these higher prices, the farmers have not found it profitable to cultivate these crops in larger areas and because of shortage, the prices are ruling so high. The moment production goes up, the prices will automatically come down as in the case of wheat. Therefore, we have to maintain a balance on the question of prices, particularly for commodities which we do not produce in adequate quantities. Oilseeds, for instance, is another commodity. We are spending Rs. 1000 crores or maybe more on import of edible oil, we have been doing it for the past few years and in spite of our best efforts, oilseeds production has not gone up sufficiently to allow us to curtail our imports. Now, if we, through Government measures, through regulations, artificially try to bring down the prices without the market forces having a free play, then it will mean further reduction in production. Therefore, hon. Member would also agree that there are certain commodities for which we have to pay remunerative prices to the farmer, but where the difference between retail prices and the prices in the wholesale or price at the farm level is too high, it becomes Government's responsibility to reduce the gap. There we have to take steps and we are taking steps. Take, for instance, vegetables. If *bindi* is selling at Rs. 8 per kg. in the market in Delhi, the farmer is not getting even Rs. 2 per kg in his field. It is these middlemen from one point to another.....

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Gap is too much.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Gap is too much. That is what I am saying, and in most of the things we notice that there is no reasonable relationship between the prices in wholesale and the prices at the retail level. There is very little relationship between the prices at the farm level and the prices at the retail level and it is for this purpose that we want more fair price shops and fair price shops taking up more items in the public distribution system.

More cooperative consumer stores are coming up. We provide subsidy and financial assistance to them. Stronger consumer protection movement should be there to help the Government and other authorities in each town and city. People should form their own cooperatives and set up consumer stores in Mohallas, in streets, in towns and wherever it is possible and the result is, immediately the prices of green vegetables would come down. But if we leave it to a few people—the monopoly of sale—at the retail level and if other people generally do not come forward, then it is difficult. Ladies, for instance, should be able to do something in the matter. 50 or 60 women in a *mohalla*, in a colony can come together and form a cooperative society and start a consumer store in the *verandah*. Every morning, they can send somebody to the wholesale market and get the needed vegetables and sell them two o'clock or the afternoon. That is the only thing. Otherwise, when we go to posh market, naturally they charge very high prices and prices also differ from place to place.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Your super market is also charging high.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Super market is not charging high price—not super bazar. I agree with you that prices in super bazar could be probably much lower. They can do it and we are working towards that end also. We have already taken steps. With the cooperation of public in general, even in areas where we have not been very successful, things can improve.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will request the hon. Members to be very brief and to the point.

Shri Kali Prasad Pandey—not here.

Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is an admitted fact that the prices are daily moving up and this unprecedented price-rise has made it difficult for the poor people to exist. The hon. Minister has admitted that the prices of certain commodities have gone up due to the additional levy imposed on them. But the point at

issue is that the additional levy has been imposed on only ten items while the prices of almost all the commodities have increased. Besides this, there are certain things which are available in abundance but the prices of the same are increasing due to hoarding. If there is anything which is in short supply, the price-rise can be explained, but when the commodity is available in abundance and artificial scarcity created by hoarding and the price is increased arbitrarily, then the responsibility of making that thing available at fair price rests on Government.

Black money has been generated in the country to such a large extent that it is playing a very big role in escalating the prices. It will be very difficult to contain the rising prices unless the craze for earning more and more unaccounted money is put to an end to. The people who have black money readily agree to pay as much price as is demanded by the seller for a commodity without caring for its actual price, with the result that the price of that particular commodity goes up further. They pay more than the actual price because they are in a position to do so, while the poor people have to suffer on this account because they have to bear the unnecessary burden of such price escalation.

There is a big lacuna in our existing laws. Provision is not there in the law to guarantee a comfortable and secure life to the people at large. Unless Government gives a guarantee of this, the people will go on amassing more and more money in order to lead a better life. These days everybody believes that he can lead a better life only if he has an amount of Rs. 5000/- in his pocket and he can make his life more secure if he owns Rs. 10,000. I want to say that these days security is linked with the money. In such circumstances, it becomes the duty of the Government to provide security to each and every citizen of the country so that he may feel that he will be able to get his requirements at fair prices whenever he wants. Such a guarantee will put an end to the vicious circle of generation of black money by dishonest means and hoarding of things.

I would like to say that there must be ceiling on movable and immovable property irrespective of the fact whether

it is in urban or rural area. We would not be able to check the price spiral unless such a ceiling is laid down. Today there is no ceiling on income. A man can earn and accumulate as much money as he can. The more a rich man earns the more is the burden on the poor. A rich man can meet his requirements by paying exorbitant prices for commodities but a poor man does not have the purchasing capacity even to buy the essential commodities. In this way the exploitation of the poor people continues unabated. The rich people are getting richer, In this context I would like to ask the hon. Minister two or three questions.

My first question is whether Government is going to take any such step as to make the lives of the people at large secure. Everybody should feel that he will get all his requirements at fair price whenever he wants them. Secondly, I would like to know whether Government are going to make an effective law for checking hoarding etc. Thirdly, I want to know whether Government intend to fix the prices of all commodities, whether essential or not, and to make it obligatory on the part of the shopkeepers to display the prices of all commodities. A stringent provision should be made in the law to severely punish those shopkeepers who do not display the prices. Such a law will serve the dual purpose of checking the price-rise and ensuring the availability of things to people at fair price.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Mr Chairman, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the inflation increases with the expansion of money supply. There is urgent need for containing the black money. Tax evasion should be checked because it leads to price-rise. But I do not agree to the point that black money has any major impact on the prices of essential commodities. In my opinion a man possessing black money cannot even eat much.

In our country, there are a large number of people for whom essential commodities should be supplied at fair prices. For this purpose there should be an effective public distribution system. If certain people can pay more than the

actual price of a particular commodity in a posh market like the Khan market of Delhi, I do not think it will have any major effect on the price situation all over the country.

As regards the law for preventing the generation of black money, a law entitled the Prevention of Black Money and Maintenance of Essential Supplies Act was enacted in 1981. It contained a provision for detention of the offenders also. Under this provision any person can be detained for a period of six months without trial. There are provisions in the existing laws which provide for stringent punishment to those who indulge in hoarding or black-marketing or violate the laws relating to essential commodities. Therefore, there is no need to make more laws for this purpose. The need of the hour is to enforce them effectively. Certain States like UP, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territory of Delhi have implemented these laws well. A number of people have been arrested. Several others have been detained. Upto 31st March this year, 790 persons were detained under the law meant for preventing black-marketing. Most of them are still under detention. Some of them have been released and in the case of some others the detention period has expired.

There are Acts like the Essential Commodities Act or the Essential Commodities Special Provision Act which provides for severe punishment. There is a provision for special courts. There is provision for summary trials too. A minimum period of imprisonment have been specified for different kinds of offences. Thus there are already a number of laws to deal with such evils.

A number of raids have been conducted. In 1984, 2.69 lakh raids were conducted under the Essential Commodities Act. About 8,821 persons were arrested. Five thousand people were prosecuted and 1,094 persons were convicted. A number of cases might be pending in the courts for final decisions. Property worth Rs. 10

crores was seized and that is in the possession of Government.

The laws are there but they are not honestly implemented in all the States. We are trying to see that these laws are enforced strictly in every state. Hon. Members should also make efforts in this direction. After all, all are in politics for the last several years. Old people come here. They are experienced and know where the defect is and how it can be removed.

I think, Mr. Malik will agree with me that Government has never lagged behind in making the rules, regulations and laws to meet any particular situation. We also try our best to get the laws implemented. I expect the cooperation of all of you in getting these laws implemented effectively but the fact is that certain States are not at all serious in implementing them. For example the West Bengal Government have not implemented the Black-Marketing Prevention Act. Hon. Members from West Bengal in this House daily express their concern about the rising prices but they do not want to detain anybody under these laws. Every state has its own powers. In such cases, we find ourselves helpless. Though there are laws, certain States do not enforce them. We ask for returns from them and receive some. We try to persuade them and use pressure also. The Centre is helpless to do more than this. If hon. Member has any concrete proposals, he should send them to me and I shall consider them seriously.

SHRI DHARM PAL SINGH MALIK : The shopkeepers do not display the prices.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Under the law it is obligatory for them to display the prices of different commodities. Not only this they should specifically mention on the board as to what the actual price is and what local taxes are but the consumers also should be vigilant in this respect.

STATEMENT RE : SITUATION IN
SRI LANKA

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): When I last apprised the House on the situation in Sri Lanka I had assured Hon'ble Members that the Government would take the House into confidence as and when there are fresh developments to report. On 25th April, PM in his statement in the House informed the House that the Government was following developments in Sri Lanka and their repercussions on India with concern and that Government have been in continuous touch with the Sri Lankan Government. A Special Advisory Group has since been set up. The Group will expeditiously examine and advise on the serious question of the large scale influx of refugees into India and also the problems of insecurity faced by our fishermen in the Palk Strait.

The situation in Sri Lanka continues to be tense. Violence which had somewhat slackened is again endemic. There have been disturbing reports of large-scale violence in the Eastern province involving Muslims and Tamils. This is a sad and serious development which will further aggravate an already complex situation. The sense of insecurity and uncertainty seems to have further heightened.

As Government have said in the House on several occasions we are deeply affected by the repercussions of the unfortunate ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. We have had to maintain a large and increasing number of refugees from Sri Lanka since July 1983; the exodus is continuing and the figure has now gone up to almost a lakh. While we have done whatever is possible to provide succour to the hapless refugees, the influx imposes heavy social and economic strains on us. The livelihood of our fishermen has been affected, they have been harassed and attacked. We have had to strengthen our surveillance and take other protective measures.

In this complex and grave situation

our primary objective is to ensure that Indian citizens are not under threat and our interests are protected. Simultaneously, we want to see a return to normalcy and stability in Sri Lanka which would permit the refugees to return in safety and dignity. Equally, we hope that a peaceful and negotiated settlement will be found for the problems faced by the Tamils in Sri Lanka without any further delay. We have reiterated that the Sri Lankan Government cannot find a solution to this problem through military means. A negotiated political settlement acceptable to all concerned will have to be found by the Sri Lankan Government.

It is essential that a political dialogue with all concerned is resumed early in Sri Lanka. For this an appropriate atmosphere needs to be created. The present disturbed state in Sri Lanka does not appear conducive to any meaningful efforts for negotiations. We hope that all efforts will be made to defuse the situation and tension. The initiative rests with the Sri Lanka Government and I sincerely hope that they will show the necessary political will and vision in this direction,

We would like to reaffirm our stand that a negotiated settlement acceptable to all concerned and within the framework of Sri Lanka's sovereignty, integrity and unity can provide the answer to the serious ethnic problem that has engulfed the country. I would like to once again make it clear that we do not believe in separatism. At the same time we do not believe that repressive measures can help in finding a solution to the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka.

We have been in constant touch with the Sri Lanka Government with a view to assisting them in finding a political solution. This has been through both diplomatic channels and visits by special envoys. In our recent exchanges which were free and frank, we have been given to understand that President Jayewardene will take some positive measures towards a political solution. We hope these measures will be implemented without any delay so that a suitable atmosphere for negotiation amongst all concerned can be created.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(I) Need to improve Telephone Services in Barauni (Bihar)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an important matter under rule 377. Barauni is an important industrial centre. Big industrial establishments like refinery, fertilizer factory, thermal power station etc. are located there. Factories like the Bata Shoe Factory, Spinning Mill etc. are functioning at Mokameh, 15 kilometers from Barauni. Thus, within a radius of 20 kilometers from Barauni, many big and small factories are engaged in production of some commodity or the other. It is regrettable that for such an important industrial centre, the telephone service is far from adequate. In fact, Barauni should have direct telephone link with the capital of the country but, not to speak of Delhi, it is not even properly linked with the State capital, Patna. From Barauni, it generally takes about three to four days to establish telephonic contact with Patna. It is even impossible to contact the nearby town Lakhisarai on telephone.

The saddest part of it is that although essential infrastructural facilities are already available there, yet the telephone service could not be run smoothly. About one and a half years back, a building had been constructed there for establishing an automatic telephone exchange. The project estimates for 600-line automatic telephone service had been sanctioned about three years back. But it is surprising that even after incurring a lot of expenditure on providing infrastructural facilities, automatic telephone exchange could not be established there till now. A 20-line exchange should have been set up there till the end of the last financial year. I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister to take immediate necessary steps to obviate the difficulties of the people and to ensure adequate use of communication service for the industrial progress of the country and to prevent wasteful expenditure by Government.

(II) Need to set up some heavy industry in district Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh) to remove unemployment among the youngmen.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI (Faizabad) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Faizabad is the most backward district of U.P. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the problem of unemployment among the youth of that area. This is one of those districts which have been declared most backward in the industrial sphere by the Central Government. Bikapur tehsil of this district is most backward. The youths living in the rural areas of this tehsil are beset with so many problems because of vast tracts of fallow land there.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to set up heavy industry in the public sector there so as to solve the problem of unemployment, keeping in view the availability of land and the backwardness of the region and the absence of any big industry there.

(English)

(iii) Need to take immediate steps to establish two more T.V. relay stations at Mokokchung and Dimapur in Nagaland.

SHRI CHINGWANG KONYAK (Nagaland) : At present we have a T.V. relay station at Kohima. But because of its low power transmitter and also due to topography and terrain, people of Phek, Wokha, Zunheboto, Mokokchung, Tuensang and Mon districts and Dimapur area are being deprived of viewing T.V. programmes through Kohima T.V. Relay Station.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to take immediate step to establish two more T.V. relay stations in Nagaland, that is, one at Mokokchung and another at Dimapur.

(iv) Need for Central assistance to Maharashtra for solving the drinking water problem in the scarcity hit villages in district Buldana.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhana) : The drinking water problem in Maharashtra State has assumed serious dimensions. The weather is getting hot day by day and the problem is getting more and more severe.

The team of officers from the Central Government which had recently visited some district headquarters to analyse the situation is a step in the right direction. What is most urgently needed is to implement the suggestions of the team of Central Government Officers.

During my recent visit to Buldana, my Lok Sabha constituency, I had discussion with the officials and I visited some difficult villages also. Out of 1392 villages in the district 397 villages are facing this problem. Because of lack of finance the problem has not been solved. Similar kind of situation exists in the other part of the State.

I request the hon. Minister to give necessary direction and the necessary finance to the State Government to solve the problem at the earliest.

- (v) Need to release adequate funds by the Centre to the Uttar Pradesh Government to meet the unprecedented drought situation in the State.

SHRI CHANDRA MOHAN SINGH NEGI (Garhwal) : Fight Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh, i.e. Pauri Garhwal, Almora, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Uttar Kashi, Dehradun and Nainital are facing severe drought condition resulting in damage of more than 50% of the Rabi crops and acute scarcity of drinking water. The above condition is also prevailing in 12 other districts i.e. Allahabad, Banda, Kanpur Rural, Hamirpur, Saharanpur, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Jhansi, Agra, Jaunpur, Ghasipur and Etah. Uttar Pradesh Government has requested the Army to provide 100 tankers and 175 canvas bags for transporting drinking water to the people of the affected area.

The Government of India should meet the demand of the State Government immediately and also release adequate funds to meet the unprecedented drought condition prevailing in the State.

- (vi) Need to purchase paddy from the paddy growers of Andhra Pradesh at the same price as is paid to Punjab farmers and also to give bonus to them.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : The Union Government has announced very recently its decision to allow any person or institution to export wheat saying that the godowns are full with foodgrains. The farmers in the South are wondering why the Government has not taken decision to allow fine and superfine rice that is grown in South also for export just as wheat is allowed. Though technically FCI has opened purchase centres, it is not purchasing paddy

from farmers of Krishna and Godavari districts but is purchasing rice from rice mills only. The FCI is however purchasing lakhs of tonnes of paddy from farmers of Punjab.

There is a difference of about Rs. 12/- per quintal of fine and super-fine varieties of rice that is procured in Punjab and that in Andhra Pradesh. Because of this, the farmers of Andhra Pradesh who are subjected to natural calamities often are put to loss. So, the FCI should pay the same price to the Andhra farmers also. In fact, one member of APC recommended giving of higher price to paddy produced in coastal States because of the risk element involved. The Government is announcing bonus to Punjab farmers while it does not do so in regard to the farmers in South. I would, therefore, urge the Union Government to look into all these matters and take necessary steps in this regard.

- (vii) Need to review the provisions of the Employees State Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1984

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI (Nabadwip) : The Employees State Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1984 has not been able to safeguard the interests of the employees. It has enhanced the rates of contribution of the employees while reducing the corresponding benefits to them. Employees' Unions have complained that the provisions of the Act as well as Rules of the General Regulations make it evident that the ESI Corporation is using the institution more and more as a profitable business at the cost of the employees rather than as a guarantee of social security to them. It is also relevant to mention that before the amendments were made there had been no endeavour on the part of the Government to get the opinion of the Central Trade Unions on the matter.

The Amendment has been particularly hard on women employees who will be deprived of their benefits during the period subsequent to maternity leave. The interests of substitute and casual workers have also been adversely hit.

Government should refrain from implementing the Amendment Act and review the provisions after discussion with the Central Trade Unions.

[Translation]

(viii) Need for early completion of Banspani-Jakhpura railway line in Orissa

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar)*: Sir, the Railway Ministry has approved the proposal for construction of a railway line linking Jakhpura with Banspani over a length of 179 kms. As a part of this programme, rail line has been laid between Jakhpura and Daitari. Unless the line is completed, iron ore from Barajamda sector cannot be exported to Paradeep over the shortest route. At present, the ore is exported by a roundabout route of 640 kms. If Jakhpura-Banspani line is completed the distance will be cut to half, viz., 320 kms. The transport cost will also be reduced correspondingly. This will mean a lot for promoting iron ore export through Paradeep. With reduced transport cost, the MMTC can offer higher discount to induce foreign buyers to take ore from Paradeep. The increase in the export of iron ore through Paradeep will help the growth of mining industry in Orissa. On the other hand, the decline in the export will result in complete closure of non-captive private mines. This will throw out of work thousands of Adivasi families, who depend upon activities connected with iron ore mining. The completion of Banspani-Jakhpura line is, therefore, of special significance to the tribal population. The Government of India, should, therefore, review the question of completion of the rail line from a wider perspective and accord high priority to this Project.

[English]

(ix) Need to alleviate the sufferings of people living in Khurda and Nayagarh (Orissa) due to acute scarcity of drinking water.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): All the drought-prone districts of Orissa, including Panchayat Sanutu areas of Khurda and Nayagarh sub-divisions are now faced with an acute drinking water scarcity with all sources having dried up. Many of the surface wells have gone dry, while levels in other sources have dropped abnormally in the affected districts. Acute water shortage has forced the Tribals living on hill slopes to

desert their dwellings and shift to the plains. Again, prolonged power cuts in the State have further added to the misery of the people. Even regarding, the Tubewells which were sunk under the 20-Point Programme for supplying drinking water, 30 per cent of them had either gone dry or had become non-functional due to poor maintenance. I urge upon the Central Government to under take special measures immediately on war footing for alleviating the sufferings of millions of people of Orissa for overcoming this drinking water crisis.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)

1985-86

[English]

Ministry of Commerce and Supply—Contd.

MR CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Commerce and Supply.

I will call the hon. Minister to reply at 2-45 P.M. in view of the fact that the Discussion on Sri Lanka has to take place at 4 P.M. Therefore I request hon. Members to be very brief.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: How much time is left? The time allotted is 6 hours.

MR CHAIRMAN: The Minister will start his reply at 2-45 P.M. in any case.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: How much time is left?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: 3 hours.

MR CHAIRMAN: Balance left is 3 hours, 6 minutes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Then, the reply will not be today.

MR CHAIRMAN: Shri Ananda Pathak.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Note on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

Commerce has stated that the main objective of commerce is mainly to organise, develop and regulate the country's external trade, to promote the export of Indian products and commodities and also to develop the textile industry, develop the jute industry and to promote the export of textiles, handicrafts, jute and silk products and other related matters.

The Performance Budget and the Annual Report of the Ministry have also painted a very rosy picture to demonstrate that the Government is determined to boost the export and to reduce the trade deficit and also the balance of payments. But what is the picture? What is the reality today? The picture is, as the Government report states, that in recent years, there has been a near-stagnation in the international trade flows. Why? Because, there is serious recessionary condition in world economy and the protectionist policies pursued by the industrialised countries, which the Government has admitted in its report. Who is responsible for this? My own impression is that the Capitalist and the Imperialist powers (who are trying to solve their deepening economic crisis at the cost of developing and under-developed countries) are primarily responsible for this. But unfortunately, the Government of India has also been following the same path of Capitalist development in our country,—the path which is mainly linked with the crisis-ridden world capitalist system—despite the fact that we have solemnly resolved to constitute India into a 'Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic' as the Preamble to the Constitution of India says. But we find that in practice the Government is not trying to develop the commercial activities with the socialist countries. Instead of increasing our trade with the socialist countries, we are more and more relying on the capitalist countries. India's share in the world trade is miserably negligible and the trade deficit has increased to Rs. 5895 crores in 1983-84 from the level of Rs. 5448 crores in 1982-83. This is your achievement. I do not know where this policy is leading to.

Sir, you have claimed that the India's total export has increased by 10.8% in 1983-84 over the Export of 1982-83 and

during the period from April to December 1984, it has registered an increase by 18.8%. In the meantime, it is to be noted that the Import has also increased by 9.8% in 1983-84 over the import of 1982-83 and during the period from April to December 1984 it has further increased by 12.8%. The fact remains that the trade gap is still very wide and you have not been able to assure that the gap will be narrowed down in the coming years.

Now, you have announced that your new Export-Import Policy in the Lok Sabha on April 12, and called it a "Balanced Policy" and it is neither 'liberal nor restrictive'. But a study of the policy would reveal that there is a substantial degree of import liberalisation. For the first time, this new policy would have validity for three years as against the practice of reviewing and announcing new Export-Import Policy every year.

You have decided to "decanalise" the import of as many as 53 items of which 17 have been shifted to Open General Licence. You have put another 201 items of Industrial machinery under Open General Licence. You have introduced a new import-export Pass Book Scheme to provide duty free access to imported materials for manufacture-exporters. In case of remaining "canalised" items you have undermined the role of manufacturing units of concerned commodities in the public sector as "canalising agencies" for their imports. And as promised in the Budget, a liberalisation of imports for computer system has been effected. On all account we find that the new Export-Import Policy is in the main directed towards import liberalisation. The role of the public sector in importing important items like oil and fertilisers and several steel items has also been minimised and the role of private sector has been highlighted very candidly. On the plea of drastically changing the procedure and streamlining them, import has not only been made quicker but also easier which will open the possibility of enlarging the bill of unnecessary imports.

14.00 hrs

That is how a clear measure of import liberalisation has been undertaken. It is

[Shri Ananda Pathak]

said that liberalisation would improve efficiency and technological revamping of Indian industry and that it would benefit consumers and also conserve foreign exchange in the long run, even though in the short run it may increase foreign exchange outflow. But in fact, the short-run foreign exchange outflow on account of liberalisation would push the balance of payments deeper into the red, would increase the country's debt burdens and consequently increase the debt servicing charges. Thus the possible gain in the long run would be offset by the burden resulting from certain losses in the short-run. Therefore, in the long-run also, we will not be benefited.

Moreover, apart from the obvious economic burdens as manifested in a worsening payment position, there would be far more serious burdens which would compel us to surrender to the diktats of the imperialist agencies and multi-national banks.

The signal is not far off to see. Our Commerce Minister has just returned disappointed from Washington after having meetings with IMF and the World Bank under the leadership of the USA.

Now Sir, coming to the question of acquiring latest technology, we have to keep in mind that import liberalisation would destroy the indigenous equipment making base and technology base and this would nullify even the small advance that India has made and even the small prospect that India has, of coming upto world levels as a technology generator in certain fields.

The new policy would pave the way for inviting multinationals who would flood the market with their products at the cost of indigenous products and fritter away the scarce foreign exchange. By this, only a handful of capitalists would reap high profits at the cost of consumers.

Therefore, the only solution is to snatch away these massive profits from the hands of private capitalists either through appropriate taxation or through reserving such fields for public sector. That is the only way of keeping out of this vicious circle.

But instead of adopting this course, the Government is liberalising imports, which apart from other ills, would also take away jobs from Indian workers. This is the fundamental difference between the socialist planning and capitalist planning. The main thrust of this policy is to liberalise imports, but no such stress and emphasis has been laid on export front. The Government has not taken positive and corrective measures to ensure the necessary infrastructure and other essential facilities for operation of export trade.

The provision for assisting small scale sector to export their products as much as possible, has been missing in this Policy Statement, whereas it was there in the Policy Statement which was announced last year.

Sir, we have a lot of exportable items like tea, jute, jute products, coffee, cashew, textiles, cotton fabrics, spices, fruits, engineering goods, etc. etc. But serious efforts have not been made to boost the export trade of all these commodities which are available for export. Although the money value of exports, according to the Report, has increased no doubt to some extent, but in terms of quantity we are exporting less and less. Take, for example, the decrease in the export of engineering goods. It is the maximum. The engineering industry is facing difficulties, and our talented engineers are also suffering.

As far as our import policy is concerned, we say that if you seriously study that policy from top to bottom, you will find that import liberalization has been adopted in the policy statement.

Coming to tea industry, although it was facing some constraint due to low prices and other factors two years back, there is now no constraint, and the prices have picked up. Our export has increased from 209 million Kg. in 1983 to 215 million Kg. in 1984; and the target for 1985 is 273 million Kg. There is still a possibility of increasing our tea export, if the Tea Board and other agencies work in a concerted manner. But it is not being done. Tea production is going up, and the domestic demand is also rapidly increasing, but the prices of common tea in the indigenous market is too high,

considering the purchasing capacity of our Indian consumers. Government should find ways and means of ensuring a reasonable price in the domestic market. However, I have no objection if our tea brings in higher prices from export.

Tea industry is earning profits. So, Government should see that the tea plantation owners plough back their profits for development. Otherwise, the same old constraints and difficulties may crop up again. They will divert their profits. That is why it is high time that Government finds out ways and means, so that they are compelled to plough back their profits and make arrangements for future development.

We expected that the Tea Trading Corporation of India would do something in ensuring reasonable prices for our consumers, as it is mainly engaged in tea trade, but it has miserably failed. According to a memorandum submitted by the TTI Employees' Union to our Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce, we find that the TTI is running in loss, dependent on bank debts and Government subsidies. It has no plan, its foreign contracts are faulty, its handling of negotiations is inept, it supplies sub-standard tea, and its overheads expenses are out of proportion. That is why TTI is now running in losses. If these maladies are not corrected or removed in time, it will go into liquidation.

This apart, big monopoly houses like Lipton, Brooke Bond and their subsidiaries have controlled and monopolized the entire market of tea. This monopolization is ruining the prospect of our tea trade, better prices for producers and a reasonable price for consumers.

You will be surprised to know that a few years back, a number of branches and Indian subsidiaries of multi-national corporations operating in tea plantations, including process and manufacturing, had been remitting crores and crores of rupees abroad annually. They remitted Rs. 639.78 lakhs in one year i.e. 1978-79 alone. Subsequent figures are not known to me. I have given notice of a question asking for information for subsequent years, i.e. upto date information from the Ministry regarding such remittances abroad.

Therefore, I urge upon the government to curb remittances abroad in the interest of our industry, workers and country.

Darjeeling produces 11 million kgs world famous finest tea in the world. But more than 44-45 million kgs tea is being sold abroad in the name of Darjeeling tea in the international market. In this way, they are tarnishing the image of Darjeeling tea which is the prime tea of our country. Such manipulations must be stopped at once. Darjeeling tea gardens are facing a lot of problems like low production, old bushes. There are so many maladies. We raised this point in the Consultative Committee meetings and also in Parliament many times. Thereafter the government sanctioned Rs. 43 crores for revamping and rejuvenation of Darjeeling Tea industry. But it has not been implemented. In fact in the Report I saw not a single tea garden has received money. There is the saying that the operation is successful after the patient has died. Let it not be repeated here. If that happens, then there is no use of spending so much of money. Therefore, I urge upon the government to implement it immediately before this tea industry finally dies.

Similarly, there are other industries, jute industries which are also facing a lot of difficulties. The main difficulty is that jute barons are not ploughing back the money; they are diverting it to other channels due to profit motive; due to diversification of money, the jute industry is suffering like anything. Lakhs and lakhs of workers are suffering from unemployment. They have decided to go on strike in the month of May 1985 for the nationalisation of jute industry. Their main demand is to open jute mills and give employment to the retrenched workers; and ultimately, the jute industry should be nationalised. The same is the case with textile industry. Lakhs and lakhs of workers are working there. Government is earning revenue from there. We are also exporting it. We find that this industry is also facing a lot of difficulties. It is suffering from many ills. Many workers have been retrenched. Many cotton mills have been closed down. They are also diverting money to other channels due to profit motive. The only solution is that this industry should be nationalised.

[Shri Ananda Pathak]

There are some textile mills which have already been nationalised, but their functioning is not upto the mark ; that is to be looked into and more textile industries should be nationalised in the interest of the workers, industry and the country.

In the South, there are so many other exportable commodities. Like Coffee, Cashew, Paper, Coir, Cardamom etc. They should be encouraged for more and more export so that our export may be pushed up and we can earn foreign exchange which very much required for our country.

There is the Enemy Property Act which is being administered by the Commerce Ministry. But the main problem is that refugees are coming from erstwhile East Pakistan into West Bengal. They have already come here ; they cannot go back. They have left there their property and other things. They are mainly concentrated in West Bengal. They prefer their claim in Calcutta. At present, the claim is being processed and scrutinised in Delhi, but the payment is being made from Bombay.

It is a time consuming process and many of the genuine refugees are deprived of their payments. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to see that the claim is received in Calcutta and if it is necessary it should be scrutinised there and the payment should be made in Calcutta itself. This would help in streamlining the procedure and also the refugees are also relieved of harassment and delay.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Debi Ghosal.

SHRI DEBI GHOSAL (Barrackpore) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity for rising and speaking for the first time in this House before the hon. Members and the hon. Ministers on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Commerce and Supply.

Speaking on this particular occasion, I would just like to remind this House—or inform this House—that I represent a constituency in West Bengal having about 21 mills out of all the 62 jute mills in the

country. There are 21 of the functioning jute mills are within my constituency and out of them 7 mills are closed.

The other day the hon. Minister for Textiles and Supply was speaking in the course of the debate. In his speech he could hardly find any scope for him to speak for more than three minutes on this very sensitive industry. I was very much interested in getting the present state of uncertainty prevailing in the area for the mills and the general workers of Bengal to be removed who depend on this very vital industry and the ancillary industries.

I do hope that the hon. Commerce Minister who is present here would be kind enough to know my feelings and observations and that he will do something in this respect so that the uncertainty prevailing in the area or in the State altogether as a whole can be removed and those people can be pulled out of the present state of distress.

You know that out of nearly 60 functioning jute mills almost 16 jute mills in the State are closed. There are almost one lakh of people depending on them a few lakhs more depend on other sources supplying ancillaries and other things connected with this industry. This is resulting in a chaos and economic uncertainty all over the State. Now in finding out the causes for such uncertainty and impasse we come across certain feelings and information that these are only because of the State Government, the financial institutions, bad managers with record of bad management resulting in the position as it is today and in some aspects the industrial unrest arising out of the differences between the trade unions or a department of the Government namely the Labour Department.

Now, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly make sure that these units which are closed at the moment but can be opened with some touch of assistance either from the State Government or the Central Government, should be opened immediately. I could gather that out of the seven mills closed, one mill is closed because the State Government machinery has failed to bring about a settlement or solution of a very flimsy dispute relating to the resentment of a section of workers to go from

one place to another. There is no other problem with that mill. But in this the best managed mill, and the most affluent mill in Barackpur, West Bengal, 5000 permanent workers are thrown out of their employment and earning because the Government's conciliation machinery has failed to convene a meeting and settle the dispute prevailing over there. Same is the case with another jute mill where a particular department has a problem. This also could not be settled and this mill also had the same fate as the earlier one. If you just identify these mills and isolate them, I can tell you that without doing much at least these two mills can be opened immediately. There are some other mills which have different reasons for their closure. Some have their own problems either created by themselves or had been induced directly or indirectly through the inaction of the State Government for years. Now, they have become sick and they do not have money. This can be apparently seen by anybody. The problems relate to their default in PF dues, ESI contribution, non-payment of gratuity to those who retired earlier. In these cases, the State Government has also shown enormous inaction and indulgence in managing these units. The commercial banks and financial institutions should also be touched in this respect. In some cases, because of lack of coordination between the Reserve Bank and the commercial banks, problems arose. In one case relating to this industry we have seen that some schemes were endorsed by IRBI on the question of viability and the same had been endorsed by the RBI to liberally assist the units to tide over a particular problem, the commercial banks did not come forward in time, as a result of which certain problems which could be avoided and the mills could be kept open, remained as it is and the mills had to close their shutters. And thereafter after a long gap, these problems could be sorted out and the mills were opened after a long period.

Recently we have seen a new thing which is unprecedented. The State Government, in order to get credit from the workers who are not literate enough to understand the things, decided to reopen three or four mills. They issued notices under Section 10 (3) to the managements to reopen those units, knowing fully well that they did not have enough funds and that

they had certain trade union problems to be sorted out first. But the State Government wanted to be hero and they just issued notices under Section 10 (3) asking them to reopen their units. The managements were given prior intimation to this effect at the same time so that they could go to the court in time and obtain an injunction, so that later on the State Government could say that because of the bureaucratic and bourgeoisie system of the judiciary all this has happened, so, what could the State Government do. Two such cases were contested by me and I had to be a party to oppose the injunctions moved by employers. Though the State Government was supposed to fight these cases they were found to be in default for absence. These are the things going on.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about the jute industry ?

SHRI DEBI GHOSAL : We have been discussing jute industry here. Unless both the Central Government and the State Government become seriously interested to sort out the problems with the commercial banks and unless the owners are also asked to sort out their problems and give a definite assurance about their efficiently managing the affairs in future, the industry will remain in an impasse for some more months causing enormous hardship to the poor workers. So, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly look into this problem.

The other day, when the hon. Minister of State for Supply and Textiles gave his reply on textiles, he should have covered jute also. Since he got hardly three minutes to speak on jute, most of the issues concerning jute could perhaps not be covered by him. So, I will request the hon. Commerce Minister, who is present here, kindly touch in his reply those aspects also which could not be covered by the Textiles Minister.

Now I will say something about tea. Tea is the second largest foreign exchange earning industry of the country and is located in the eastern parts of the country like Bengal, Assam and such other places. This is another industry wherein both the Central Government and the State Governments are getting good revenue and giving heavy advances through banks to improve their condition. The heavy cost of produc-

[Shri Debi Ghosal]

tion in this industry is very much coming in the way of our exports and earning foreign exchange owing to heavy competition from other countries. Since we are producing a better quality of tea, so this aspect should also be looked into so that this industry can prosper and the economy of Bengal, which is mainly dependent on jute and tea, is not allowed to be shattered for all time to come, and subsequently, with the improvement of these two industries, the State could be made a prosperous one as it was before.

I would request the hon. Minister to take a note of it that some of the cotton mills have closed down in our State. I know of a mill wherein IRBI was having 85 per cent of the shareholding of that mill. Only the remaining 15 per cent shareholding was owned by the management of that unit. If these remaining 15 per cent shares are also taken over by IRBI, the mill can be owned by IRBI itself. But they want the private industrialists to come forward and take over the unit which is sick now, but 85 per cent of those shareholding belongs to IRBI. Such sick units should be taken care of in such a way that the heavy shareholding by the Government agencies is not allowed to be passed on to the private entrepreneurs. The Government should rather think over whether this unit could be tagged with NTC or could be taken over straightway by IRBI.

Now I come to the question of payment of compensation to those who have come from Bangla Dosh and who have left their properties there. As an hon. friend from the other side was saying that when the cases for compensation after proper verification are disposed of, if at least part of the compensation amount could be invested in small or medium industries, that would perhaps give employment to some sections of younger people.

That at the moment we cannot think of. So, I would request that cases of those with industries, business or commercial establishments left behind and are in the waiting list for consideration by the Government may be expedited and after proper verification some money given to those people so that they could make for investment in the small and medium scale

industries. If this is done our State will feel benefited and the people will get an additional source of employment.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have already announced that the Minister will be called on to reply at 2.45. It is a vast subject and the time is very short.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Sir, you can give my time to Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: That means you would not reply at all.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : No, no. I will reply.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Anyhow, Sir, I will be brief.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, the time available to your party is six minutes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I know. That is my misfortune.

The plight of the Jute Mills and of workers in West Bengal has been dealt with here by many Members. We had a discussion on this through a Calling Attention notice on the 9th of this month.

I think as far as the Finance Minister is concerned, this is one of the testing grounds for him, for one of his main theses which he expounded during his presentation of the Budget was about what is going to be done with bad managers ; that they should not be allowed to remain in circulation. He said they should go out of circulation like bad money or bad currency. Well, the Jute mills are the testing ground for him. I do not know whether the Government is making any study to what extent the worth of these jute mills has been reduced to zero by these mis-managers, as I would like to call them. In some cases, it has been reduced to at least fifty per cent or less and the Minister had promised that action would be taken against such type of people. There are people owning mills, but they have nothing to do with the jute production at all. They are not interested in jute production. They are pure and simple speculators and racketeers. The people who own fine mills like the North Brook Jute Mill and the Dalhousie Jute Mill have never in their life been interested in

manufacturing jute at all. They are busy now trying to siphon off the money from these mills into other fields. Therefore, there is really a major crisis which we do not know how we are going to overcome. The jute mill owners have announced closures or lock-outs and at the moment 16 mills affected and about 75 thousand to 80 thousand workers are out of jobs. The main motivation of these closures or lock-outs was not really correctly reflected in the plea that they are suffering from shortage of raw jute and there is non-availability of fibre, which is causing them to close the mill. I had said that they have got certain motives here. One of them is to pressurise the Government into making further concessions to the mill-owners. Now, on the 25th of this month, just four days ago, the cat has been let out of the bag by no less a person than Mr. B.K. Jalan, who is the chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association. He held a press conference in Calcutta, which was widely reported.

14.34 hrs.

(SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair)

He had said clearly that he had certain demands to make. First demand was that the industry should be given relief from the Central and State taxes and duties for three months. Secondly, they want exemption from the Energy Control Order of the West Bengal Government and power cuts. I do not know how this is relevant because all these jute mills are running on their own generators. They do not depend on the State Electricity Supply at all for their supply. But anyway, he is making this demand. Thirdly, he has also demanded—it is very interesting. I did not know about this earlier—the escalation of duties on firms producing synthetic substitutes of jute goods. According to Mr. Jalan the Government here is encouraging a number of firms to produce synthetic substitutes of jute goods. All this time we used to be told that this was a danger abroad, in foreign countries, where people did not want to buy our jute goods and where they are going in for synthetics. According to Mr. Jalan, 68 units producing synthetic substitutes of jute goods had been registered in one month here in India, which together had

an annual production capacity equivalent to 500,000 tonnes of jute products and licences had been granted to 150 more such units. I do not know whether this is a fact or not. If it is so, I would like to have some confirmation or contradiction or something of this. I do not know whether this is a deep laid strategy on the part of the Government to pressurise the likes of Mr. Jalan in bringing down the prices of his jute sacking by encouraging other synthetic manufacturers. But I must say was surprised to read this. It is for the first time I have come across this particular complaint by our jute mill owners. Any way, the point is that they are out for some tax relief, some more concessions and some more subsidies and they say that without getting those things they are not going to reopen these mills. On the 9th of this month when the discussion was held here, Mr. Chandrasekhar Singh was handling the discussion, he gave a categorical assurance on a suggestion made by me that very soon a very high level meeting or conference would be called in which the Central Ministries, the State Governments, the Indian Jute Mill's Association, the National Jute Manufacturers Association, that is, the nationalised sector, and the trade unions or anybody else you like, who is concerned would be called to sit together, put their heads together, to try to find some solution to this crisis of these closed mills and get as many of them as possible opened. He said, the matter will be dealt with urgently. That was on the 9th. Today it is 29th. I just returned from Calcutta, I spoke to Mr. Jyoti Basu. He said, they have not informed them anything from Delhi as to whether such a conference is going to be held or not held. He said, 'All that we have told the Centre is that if such a meeting is to be held, it would be preferable if it is held in Calcutta and not in Delhi. Any way, that is a minor matter. To me it does not matter whether it is held in Calcutta or it is held in Delhi. But the point is the urgency of the situation requires that this type of conference should be held. Somebody is going on accusing the State Government—this has become a pet thing here—that it is because of the State Government's incompetence or failure or something like that. It is all right, we will argue on

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

this later on. At the moment nobody is showing any particular efficiency or competence to open these mills. Let us sit together, let us put our heads together and find out what is the trouble, how we can get over this and at least see that these mills are put back to work and the unemployed people get back their jobs. So, I want to know what the position is. Is this really under serious consideration or was that just said the other day in the House simply in order to placate the critics?

Secondly, I would say a word or two about this new export-import policy which was announced the other day. For three years—for the first time it is a policy which is not for one year only, but for three years—I can make out of course I also read in the papers, I was not surprised to see that Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh did return a disappointed man from these meetings he went to of the World Bank and IMF. But at least he should tell us a little more about it. What frustrates me is, we know what is happening, we know what the external environment is, we know how these people are trying to put pressures on all the developing countries and how they are succeeding to a large extent in scuttling our development and all that. But the Government of India for some reason—I do not know why it sticks in their throat, why they cannot speak about it. You are the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, you are the leaders of the non-aligned world and we have to get out of this mess together. Why not we try to take some initiative so that some concerted, collective action can be thought of by all the developing countries together to see that these people cannot squeeze us dry like this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many minutes more you want ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Up to the time the Minister replies. That is what he offered me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : No, Mr. Gupta, you know, your party has got only very limited time.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He made an offer. What can I do? I have taken his offer at face value.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. We have

to call other Members from the Opposition as well as from the Ruling Party.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I will request you humbly that this reply to this question...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Normally, I will not ask this question.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There were three hours and 6 minutes remaining out of the allotted time, when we began this debate...

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to the information passed on to me, the Minister has to start his reply by 2-45 p.m. There are so many Members also to speak. Kindly try to finish your speech in another 5 minutes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It is physically impossible. Even if I finish in 5 minutes, others would not be able to speak. We can continue tomorrow.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : In consideration of other Members try to finish your speech in 5 minutes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Further liberalisation of imports is their Government's policy, in my opinion, it goes against the basic interest of our self-reliant development and will further aggravate the debt crisis. It will harm a number of domestic industries. This decanalisation of 53 import items and putting 201 items of industrial machinery on the OGL is going to cripple also the expansion of very good machine building industry, industrial machinery building plant which we have got here. We have got it here in the public sector also like Hindustan Machine Tools or Heavy Engineering Corporation and all that. So, I am told that some variety of garments is also put on the OGL. If it is true, what is the logic of putting readymade garments which we were exporting at one time? Any way this export-import policy—which I cannot discuss now for lack of time—is, it appears to me, part and parcel of the philosophy expounded during the Budget presentation. The public sector role should be diminished further and the private sector people should be given a push and be allowed to run things in their way.

Then, finally, I would say about textiles. I am told that there is a shortage of raw cotton also. That is what we need

for our industry. But they are being allowed to export.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Long staple cotton is in surplus. Short staple cotton is in deficit.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Any way, regarding this threatened closure of DCM about which some references were made earlier this morning, I want to know whether the Central Government are actually seized of this matter or they are taking the plea as I was told in reply to a question of mine, "It is a matter which concerns the Delhi Administration and, therefore, does not come strictly under the purview of the Centre". I do not expect this kind of argument at all. This is a threatened major closure of one of the largest textile mills in the country. It is the camouflage. The order of closure is a camouflage and nothing else. It is camouflage for a huge land racket, racket in land profiteering which is, I think, being worked out in collusion with some people in organisations like the Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Administration and so on. This mill which occupies land including the mill premises and the workers quarters will now have a value of may be Rs. 600 or Rs. 700 crores. That value is being worth what they are in Delhi city. This is what these people are all for and they have suddenly decided to close down the mill in the name of not violating the master plan. Master-plan is in existence since 1966. For all these years, nobody ever bothered, nobody ever said that DCM situated at Bara Hindu Rao is violating the master-plan and should be made to shift somewhere else. After all these years, nearly 20 years, the proprietors of DCM have suddenly become great apostles of master-plan and decided that they must close down the mill. The real truth of the matter is, they want to convert this whole land into business establishment. They have said so; Business establishments will be allowed to either take it on rent or buy this land and they will make a huge profit, some Rs. 600 or Rs. 700 crores, out of it. This is one aspect, apart from the unemployment and the horrible suffering that is going to be imposed on thousands of workers and their family. So, I would request the Central Government to look into this

matter urgently and see to it that under no circumstances, permission is given to them for this closure.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the demands for grants relating to the Ministry of Commerce and Supply.

In the Annual Report of the Ministry, on p. 3, it has been stated that the export earnings increased by 15.3 per cent in 1981-82, by 14.1 per cent in 1982-83 and by 10.8 per cent in 1983-84. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is an increase or decrease in export earning. He should make earnest efforts to improve the export earnings.

There is free import of cellulosic and viscose fibres. As a result of that, a Company called the South India Viscose Ltd. at Sirumugai in Coimbatore district is at the verge of closure resulting in the unemployment of nearly 3000 workers. I would request the hon. Minister to consider it and stop the free import of cellulosic and viscose fibres and put a restriction on that. Already, Tamil Nadu is occupying 13th position in the industrial list. I would request the hon. Minister to encourage the industry and try to bring Tamil Nadu to the 2nd position and not to push it back.

With regard to textile industry, it is now becoming more sick. I do not know whether the sickness has been treated by a doctor or the root cause of sickness has been found out. As a doctor, I feel that sickness is due to starting of powerlooms in benami names by textile mill-owners which are more remunerative for them. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this aspect.

Our Prime Minister at a public meeting in Pondicherry said about the reopening of Anglo French Mills. I would request him to take earnest steps to re-open it urgently to alleviate the sufferings of workers and also see that it is nationalised.

The B&C Mills has recently been re-opened. But the workers are suffering a lot. I would request the hon. Minister to pay an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 2000 to

[Dr. A Kalandhi]

each worker.. The Finance Minister being the Commerce Minister also, he can influence the nationalised banks, the State Bank of India, to disburse loans immediately. They are asking the B&C Mill workers to give more production without modernisation of the Mill. Unless the modernisation is done, I do not think the workers can give more production and the Mill can survive. Again, I am afraid it may become sick and it may be closed down. I would request the hon. Minister to pay immediate attention to the modernisation of the B&C Mills.

Regarding handloom industry, unfortunately, the Finance Minister has levied an excise duty of 4 per cent on yarn. At the same time he says that they are encouraging the handloom industry. It is just like pinching the baby and rocking the cradle. He should remove the export duty on yarn so that the handloom industry can survive. The handloom stocks worth Rs. 200 crores are lying unsold for want of buyers. I would request the hon. Minister to give subsidy so that the rebate of 20 per cent can be increased to 30 or 40 per cent and the stocks are cleared. In this way, the handloom industry can survive.

Another suggestion of mine is that certain types of dhotis and saris should be exclusively allotted for the handloom sector so that the age-old industry can be prevented from perishing.

Coming to N.T.C., the time-scales of pay are not given to the NTC show-room workers whereas the time-scales of pay are given to the employees of the NTC mills. I may also point out that in Patana the showroom workers are given time-scales of pay whereas in Tamil Nadu the show-room workers are not given time-scales of pay. This discrimination should be removed and I request the hon. Minister to make note of this. I would urge upon him to see that time-scales of pay are given to the show-room workers also. I request him to consider this also.

Then, certain gold ores are found in Dharamapuri district. Earnest steps should be taken to explore the gold ores and set up a goldmine there.

I understand the Central Government has put a ban on trapping cobras and pythons. This is legitimate because they are poisonous snakes. But I cannot understand why they should put a ban on whips and water snakes. They are non-poisonous. The Irula community, Harijans, Scheduled Castes and Tribes of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are involved in trapping the whips and water snakes. They get Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per snake. I request the hon. Minister to remove the ban on whips and water snakes so that these Harijans, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people can earn their livelihood.

Regarding free import of electronic goods under OGL, the import of several electronic items has been liberalised under the new import-export policy which will be in force for three years. This will adversely affect the indigenous electronics industry.

We are importing potassium chloride for agricultural use. It is not required at all for agricultural use. This is sold for industrial use at a premium. The middlemen get an unearned income out of it. The import of potassium chloride for industrial use invites 220 per cent customs duty. I demand that the hon. Minister should put a ban on the import of potassium chloride for agricultural use.

With regard to the sericulture industry, I was a Member of the Central Silk Board for two years while I was a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha. They are not doing any work for the promotion of silk industry. We are losing our market to China and other countries in silk exports. I would request that two members from this industry should be included in the Central Silk Board also.

There is one industry called Spun India Private Ltd in Bangalore. They are doing very well now. We should take some members from the Spun Silk Ltd into the Central Silk Board. They can give some suggestions for the improvement of sericulture.

Similarly, in tea, we are losing to Srilanka and Kenya. We are exporting fish to meet just 1% of the world demand even though we have 200 KM of sea coast available for fishing. Japan and Taiwan together meet 80% of the world demand

for fish. Therefore, we should make use of our sea coastline properly so that we can also meet most of the world demand for fish,

Before concluding, I would quote from the annual report page 3 ;

' Meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee of the Ministry were held regularly with a view to ensure implementation of the policy of the Government regarding progressive use of Hindi in the Department of Commerce and Textiles and their various Attached and Subordinate Offices, Corporations etc."

This is mere waste of time and energy because Hindi is one of the 15 official languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. As such, you should not impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people by this sort of indirect methods. I request you kindly to drop the idea of promoting Hindi. Instead of that, kindly pay more attention of improving export earning and the working of the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Sir, since the time is very short I would like to point out only a few points. Our exports are not growing fast. Our imports are increasing. In 1978-79, we exported Rs. 5,726 crores. In 1983-84, it has come to Rs. 9,867 crores only. But our imports are increasing much faster. In 1978-79, our imports were Rs. 6,810 crores. In 1983-84, they have gone up to Rs. 15,762 crores. If you take countries like Korea and other small countries, they are exporting billions of dollars worth of goods while we are lagging behind and are not able to export goods of that quantity.

Minerals and metals and other raw goods can be processed in our country and they can be exported. By that way, we can earn huge amount of foreign exchange. We should take note of all these things.

In the textile industry, we can give liberal assistance. We should have developed very good market abroad by exporting garments. We are not able to develop our garments for export market. Earlier, we used to be one of the very few countries in textile export market. Our Bleeding Madras was very popular. But slowly it

has lost its popularity because we have not developed any new varieties. Because of this, we have lost the market.

With regard to high staple cotton, we are taking decisions very late. The result of this is the farmers are not getting proper price. The decisions should be taken early. The agricultural commodities are going into the hands of traders by the time the Government takes a decision. The farmer is not able to get the benefit. The Government should take decision early so that it will benefit both the marketability and planning. At present, for want of early decisions, the benefits are going into the hands of the middlemen and the traders.

As regards engineering goods, we should develop more export-oriented engineering goods. Then only we can export lot of engineering goods. We have enough manufacturing capacity of wagons. But, the wagon manufacturing industry has retrenched a number of workers from the industry. The result is, we are losing in the wagon export market because we are not able to produce wagons. We do not know what is going to be our production capacity in the country. The services should be planned ahead of industrial production. The South Central Railway is not able to supply even 50% of the required wagons for lifting cement, even though cement production has gone up very fast. The same problem exist in the matter of coal transport also.

Handicrafts and leather goods should be processed before exporting. We should export higher value goods instead of low value goods so that we will get higher foreign exchange.

If Hyderabad is made an international airport, lot of goods like meat, eggs, eatables, fruits and various other commodities can be exported to the Gulf countries where the market for them is very good. There is very good demand for these items there but we have not been able to develop in these areas.

We have exported all the molasses out of our country and now we are importing alcohol from outside into our country. This is because we are not able to take proper decisions. For instance, there is no

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proper development of the sugar industry. That is why, instead of exporting sugar, we are now importing sugar. We have to make proper planning in regard to sugar also.

During the monsoon time, if we import sugar, it will be damaged because we do not have enough warehousing facilities at the ports and also wagon facilities for transport. Also sugar is hygroscopic material and it absorbs moisture and therefore, it will present a big problem in distribution. Government have already released a lot of sugar from the factories; this is due to improper planning on the part of the Ministry. Therefore, these things call for some advance planning.

As I told you earlier we have to make efforts to improve our export market. We are in a very disadvantageous position in this respect now in the sense that we are importing more than what we are exporting. For example in the case of East Asian countries our imports were more by Rs. 1207 crores in 1983-84; in the case of ASEAN countries our imports are more by Rs. 508 crores; and in the case of West Europe our imports are more by Rs. 827 crores. Therefore, we are not at all in surplus except perhaps in the case of East European countries where there may be a little surplus.

In the case of deoiled rice bran and cotton seed extraction, the export markets have come down substantially. Government should come to their rescue by giving them some incentives so that those industries will survive.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, regarding the closed jute mills, Comrade Indrajit Gupta has spoken at length. Therefore, I do not want to repeat the same thing. I would only request the hon. Minister through you to put their heads together and solve this problem so that the closed mills and the sick mills may be reopened and the workers may be re-employed.

Regarding increasing agricultural exports, I have no objection, but we have to think of domestic consumption also at the same time. In the interest of domestic consumers, you have banned the export

of non-basmati rice. We are thankful to you for that. Why not extend that to fish and vegetables also? If you go through the figures of export of fish and vegetables from 1980-81 to 1983-84, you will find that in the case of vegetables, it was Rs. 220 crores in 1980-81; and the figure for 1983-84 is Rs. 312 crores. In the case of fish and fish preparations the figure was Rs. 213 crores in 1980-81; the figure for 1983-84 is Rs. 327 crores. In the case of meat and meat preparations, it was Rs. 55 crores in 1980-81; the figure for 1983-84 is Rs. 58 crores. I thank you for the generosity you shown to meat-eaters. But you have not shown that in respect of fish and vegetables. Do you know the market conditions in respect of fish and vegetables? Have you ever gone to the market and seen? The price of tomato is Rs. 6/- per kilo; the price of brinjals is Rs. 6/- per kilo; the price of ladies finger is Rs. 10 per kilo; the price of drumsticks is Rs. 10 per kilo; the price of fish starts from Rs. 20 per kilo and goes even upto Rs. 60 per kilo—for prawn. As you know, the Bengalis are fond of fish curry and rice; it is very palatable to us, very delicious and sumptuous also, I would therefore request the hon. Minister to extend his generosity to fish and vegetables also; please export vegetable and fish items in lesser quantity just to meet the domestic consumption. Rao Birender Singh was saying in the morning, "Take potato in the morning and onion in the night". Please do not say that.

Sir, I now come to tea. You know that what you consume and what we consume in the name of Darjeeling tea is not the real Darjeeling tea; it has only the label of Darjeeling tea. The total production of tea in the Darjeeling district particularly in the hilly areas, is only around 11 to 12 million kgs. But if you see the figure given, you will find that it is 43 to 45 million kgs. How is it possible? Wherefrom does it come? These things are done by blending; the Lipton and Brooke Bond people are making a lot of money by using the Darjeeling label. You are helping only those people. For developing the Darjeeling tea gardens you are doing nothing and it is a matter of great regret; Rs. 43 crores had been sanctioned two years before for modernisation of tea gardens and it was said that

it would be distributed through NABARD but even after two years not a single pie has been distributed for the development of Darjeeling tea gardens.

15 00 hrs.

Why has this not been done? What is the position of Darjeeling tea to-day? You will be astonished to know. I hope you might have read the Mulk Raj Anand's novel—*Two Leaves and a Bud*. The condition of the tea workers is still the same. The hon. Minister will agree with me and all the members whether of this side or that side, will also agree with me that the tea planters are just squeezing the tea gardens and not the two leaves and one bud only but all the leaves and all the branches they are squeezing. And they are not investing a single paise and in the 38 years after independence the condition of the tea gardens has not improved even a little bit: They are as bad as they were before.

A tea bush's longevity in an average is 100 years and what is the condition of the tea bushes to-day? 1 to 5 years—no plucking, 5 to 20 years—the best plucking period, 20 to 50 years—average plucking period and 50 and above—not suitable and a new plantation should come up. But the tragedy is that in regard to 50% of our tea gardens the average age is above 50 years. That is the tragedy and the tea planters are not interested in new plantation—rather they are interested to earn money in lesser period. You please look into it.

Then, Sir, you have constituted a Jute Development Board. May I know what is the function of it? Is it functioning at all? Is it doing any job for jute development? No work and nothing it does.

Another is the Jute Corporation of India which is another white elephant. It is doing nothing. It is a matter of great disgrace that after spending so much public money, nothing is done. JCI officers are having pleasure jaunts to London and other places. You have purchased 1.60 lakhs bales of jute from Bangladesh. All this has to be looked into.

With these words I thank you, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): I thank the hon.

Members for their valuable suggestions and even the critical comments, I take, are made with the best intention on their part to improve what they perceive to be the areas on which action should be taken.

The trade of a country is in fact linked with the world economy and to understand even one's own country's trade one has to see to the global context in which trade is going on. Therefore, before coming to the details I would like to present before the hon. House some of the aspects of the world trading situation.

After several years of deterioration as some hon Members have observed the world economy has taken an upturn. There have been increased inputs in the industrialised countries. Inflation has come down and the balance of payments position has improved in some of the developing countries and there has also been a record growth. But this recovery and upturn in economy is uneven and is fragile in its existence. It is confined to some of the highly industrialised countries of USA and Japan. There are still major areas of tension and discrepancy.

Imbalance of current account of industrialised countries, disparities in their fiscal policies and unemployment in Europe still persists. What is alarming is that in some of the developing countries the living standards have come down lower than what they were five years earlier.

The most disturbing fact in the present scenario is the high rates of interest of US dollar. This has sucked up the savings of the industrialised countries, the savings which they very much needed for structural changes, structural changes which could have boosted the exports of the developing countries and thereby that part of the exports of the developing countries is affected. Also these high rates of interest affect the capacity to keep inventories and as inventories are lower, the raw materials are lower and it is the developing countries that are affected, who are the main suppliers of raw materials.

Sir, it has been calculated that 1 per cent rise in the interest rate causes the rise in the debt burden of 3 billion dollars every year. Not only this, it has an

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effect on the exchange rate. By making the dollars scarcer the exchange rate is pushed up to dizzy heights which has its own impact. We have had its impact on our petroleum and oil products. The appreciation of the dollar has cost us Rs. 1000 crores. In such a situation of volatile exchange rates, planning is reduced to absurdity and the developing countries are subjected to several difficulties. The fragility of this recovery which is being talked of so much is reflected in the huge current account assets of the US economy. Of course, it is the high rates of interest and the appreciation of the dollar that has led to this situation and this has led to a new spurt of protectionist measures in one of the largest economy which certainly has an effect on us and on our exports. There is a tendency of this budgetary deficit of the US to become structural because as more and more budgetary resources are coming in for payment of interest and debts it becomes more deep-rooted in the economy to get to such a structural budgetary deficit. Well, they have made promises in Washington that they will reduce it but unless credible policies are pursued we cannot look forward in future to a stable recovery in the world economy and the industrialised countries owe it to the rest of the world that they follow sensible policies in their national policies.

Even their own institution of IMF has shown that if better policies are followed by the industrialised countries their growth is increased by half per cent the developing countries' growth is increased by one and a half percent but if they follow worse policies and their growth is reduced by 1 per cent then the developing countries are affected by two and a half per cent. That means the impact on the developing countries is far greater of what they do in their economies or what effect it has in their own economy. In this whole context the developing countries need to re-structure their economies to meet challenges of today's capital flow and particularly concessional capital flows.

We see no way to augment this. It is not only in this meeting in Washington that we have seen this; but we have seen this in Prague, in Belgrade and

earlier also we have seen it. There is more and more pressure that the developing countries adopt commercial borrowing. 'Commercial Borrowing' apart from being high-cost money follows the contours of creditworthiness. And following the contours of creditworthiness need not necessarily go to the country which needs it most. In fact this is what has happened. Bank loan was stopped really at the time when the country needed it most. And in that case, it is the World Bank and these institutions which we feel have come to a stage where they need a total reform, a total radical change. But even what they are, their flows have to be augmented; but even that we don't see coming forth, and committing more funds even to the existing institutions. And it has been observed that in 1984 itself there has been a negative flow of 15 billion dollars by the major borrowing countries. It is estimated that if things go as they are, by 1989 the World Bank will be not giving money; there will be a negative flow of resources to the World Bank.

Much has been said about the private investment to augment development. Well, where we need it, for exports and other vital items, we have harnessed it but it cannot be a substitute for governmental and concessional and institutional fold. Because a developing country like India needs great infrastructure for irrigation, for power, for ports, etc. All these mean high cost money and Banks and Commercial sources cannot be expected to provide us with the wherewithals to bear the debt burden or to finance these most vital infra-structures. In this situation it is a very difficult choice. With recession, with exports stalling, concessional flows, drying out, critical inputs becoming difficult, all these things cause slowing down of development thereby causing political discontent and it becomes very difficult, particularly for a democratic country, to manage the situation. Either it faces political discontent or it walks into a debt trap. This has been the situation on many developing countries where the things have been moving like that. Well, it is only exports then, that we can look forward which can save the situation. It goes to the credit of the leadership of our country that we have not walked into

the debt trap in spite of these difficulties. The country could steer clear of it; the country could finance its development by 93% of its own resources. India is looking forward. As I see it, we should not be complacent. Oil production was the main saving of our imports. Regarding the rate of growth of our production, as it happens naturally for anything that you produce, in the beginning the production rate is high; then it tapers off. But we had the same rate. While demand will grow, as development comes, IMF instalments will be due. So we will have difficulty of foreign exchange, particularly with concessional flows drying up. So, if a warning is made, in this situation, I think, it is a serious thing and we should take it up. I can assure you that the management of our debts have been something which we can be proud of. The country has not fallen into debt; it is not likely that we will go into debt. But we have to tighten our belts. We cannot paint a rosy picture all the time about the sacrifice which is needed to keep our economy independent, I think we will have to convey to the people that this is the problem. To maintain our independence we have said that we have sacrificed so much for the political reasons and this we have to convey to the people. When it comes to exports, it is the market that is important and here we have seen in Belgrade when the situation was bad, it was being promised that the world economy will recover and protectionism will go down. That was the promise made to the developing countries by the industrialised world. But instead of recovery, protectionism has increased in the name of Tariff quota price surveillance, countervailing duties, voluntary restraints, customs formalities, and a new phraseology of 'market injury' has been coined. This multifibre agreement is the symbol of the grey areas that have cropped up in the GATT rules. If we are to look to the imbalance of the whole thing, it is in spite of the fact that developing countries are the major suppliers, even then these discretionary, discriminatory protectionist measures are directed towards them.

In Textile, wearing apparel and footwear, the discretionary application is against the developing countries and it has been estimated that in the EEC 80% of

the existing non tariff measures in these sectors applies solely for differential rates in the developing countries while for the USA, it is 63% for textile and 30% for the apparel. If we see the proportion of how much we supplied to them, then in EEC, in 1980, it was assessed at 11% for textile and 12% for footwear which is not even half of the penetration ratio of other suppliers. So, while we are remaining suppliers, we are particularly discriminated against which is of great concern to all of us. I think we are told that "you are not competitive" and in things in which we have gained a comparative advantage, we are told that "your market is suffering". I think it is not that we need not speak up, we have always taken this cause and said and voiced our concern about it. So, in a way, protectionism in agricultural product does not allow the developing countries to achieve their potential, what they have as natural endowment of land and earn their necessary foreign exchange, it is not only costly, such protectionism, to the developing countries but also to the industrialised countries themselves. The world bank study itself brings out that to give the US worker 7 cents in the textile industry, the US Government has to spend one dollar. The ratio is 14 : 1. In Canada this study is being brought out. It is 70 : 1. So, it costs to all of us these sorts of policies.

I am very thankful to Mr. Indrajit Gupta, particularly when he asked : what went about in Washington and why does not India speak up ? Mr. Ananda Pathak also mentioned that the Finance Minister has come back a sad man. Not that I deny hopes about the major issues, but I participated in many of these discussions and so on the major issues of liquidity, of capital flows, of market access and of course concessional flows, of course these positions are not that they were any secret but I am thankful in the sense that the way some papers have tried to project it in a dismal manner.

I have been given an occasion to take the House into confidence and say as to what transpired there. In this, India did boldly come up. And because of India's firm stand only, some of the things that would have been road-rollered, could be stopped. There was an initiative straight-

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way, without fulfilling the previous commitment to come for a second round of trade negotiations, possibly with services in mind to be included in the liberalised regime or bring it under the GATT. That was the main preparation in this meeting in Washington. It was India's determined stand which was supported by the developing countries in a consolidated way that compelled these countries to commit themselves that there will be dismantling of protectionist measures and that serious efforts will be made to fulfil the work programme which was committed to in 1982 in the Ministerial Meet and which was in favour of the developing countries and only then, a possible foundation can be laid for a second round of negotiations. It was this argument that was recognised there. So, what they are trying now is under the GATT rules. Today, the developing countries, because of their balance of current account situation, foreign exchange paucity, for their need to raise revenues for their infant industries, legally allow a certain amount of protectionist measures. So they are within the GATT rules.

Now, the industrialised countries have built protectionist measures against the GATT rules. They say: "Come and negotiate, let us have negotiated reduction of non-tariff measures." How can we negotiate with something which is valid against something which is not valid? It is an unfair trade. It is like exchanging bad currency against good currency and India put this point forward and asked for a response. It even asked as to why these grey areas do crop up and as to why these protectionist measures crop up. We may have one round, we may have two rounds and we may go round and round, but unless we come to the core of the problem, we will never solve it. The core of the problem is this that while there is a provision that if some country violates GATT rules, it can retaliate, but the power of retaliation is unequal. The economic power which the industrialised countries have, the developing countries do not have. It is like saying to a twenty-five year old young man and a five year old small child: "All right, you both have got the power of retaliation. Whenever you do

not agree, you can give a box to each other. So, unless this equilibrium is restored or some justice is done, protectionist measures will crop up and all these international organisations will be looking helpless as to how they can go about. Or, there must be serious commitment to observe the rules of the game.

On the question of services, this is an area in which the developing countries still do not have a comparative advantage. Any liberalisation in these areas causes serious problems for us. We cannot expect banks and insurance companies coming and competing with our own. And the area of services is yet not defined. For USA, it may be banks and insurance, for Switzerland it may be tourism and for India, it may be jobs—green-cards to be given to countrymen here. And this is the precise problem that I posed there and put our view forward. I must say that finally, even then when they tried to road-roller this problem, India was the first to speak. Not that we did not raise our voice. We said that if it was going to be so, India would reserve its position. That means, the communique would have come that India does not agree to this position and it is not bound by it. It was then only that as one solid person, one by one each developing country, be it Argentina, China or Algeria, all of them said: "We reserve our position." There was a deadlock for about 6 or 7 hours, and finally a draft was put up, which was not agreed to by the industrialized countries. Finally, from the G-24 document, which was a document of the developing countries, some elements were read, and those elements were incorporated in the draft. Only then was the Resolution Communique issued. I think this is an initiative, this is an achievement which we should be proud of. India was never deterred in raising its voice not only about its concerns, but also about the concerns of all the developing countries.

About the policy, much has been said. Some have spoken well about the three-year policy. Some have been apprehensive about it. But the main reason for having a long-term policy was to remove the uncertainty year after year. If we can have a five-year plan, if we can look forward to a general development of the country,

there is no reason why on major issues of our trade directions, we cannot look ahead. Details pertaining to every year, licence-wise, this item and that etc. can be looked into, if our industries grow in area. May be then we can go restrictive. Or, if there is no need to be strong enough, we can bring in this. I think a major direction helps investments during a long term. There are certain other things also, because every time when the policy is to come, for some time the trade stops, to see what is going to happen. Not only this : we are going to bring a law on fiscal policy in September, to be coterminous with the plan. That is our general thinking. If we have an open policy, and take people into confidence as to what the Government wants to do, that encourages dialogue ; and we also get the feedback. If there are any corrections to be made, we can make the corrections. instead of springing surprises and then making amends.

A point was made that 201 items have been put on OGL and that it will hit the industrial machinery. Before we put these items on Open General Licence an intensive dialogue is held with the Ministry of Industry which looks to the indigenous angle, and only in areas in which it is necessary to give a positive push to the economy, are these things put ; that is, in the areas of oilfields ; leather ; electronics ; machines for jute manufactures ; machines for garments, not garments ; machines for hosiery not hosiery, automobiles, canning etc. where we really need a push to the economy. So, it is not that these will cause unemployment.

Yesterday, Dr. Adiyodi said that we must have a percentage of industrial growth. It is not in the campus of one unit or one factory. We have to look to the campus of the whole country. If there is going to be increased employment in the campus of the whole country, the campus of one unit should not be the final measure of judging a certain policy, or its impact.

Another very important and relevant element has been introduced in this policy, viz. that of net foreign exchange. Till now, rewards used to flow on gross foreign exchange earnings. Now this could conceal a high import content—i.e. 70% or

80% of imports and then 100% exports. But if there is someone who has no exports and is earning the same amount of foreign exchange, his contribution is much more. For eligibility of trading and export houses, we have now put nett foreign exchange earning growth as the criterion. That is what we will check up. It means that now in the agricultural sector or in areas where there is a high indigenous content, that will be the pivotal sector and it will get a push by this net foreign exchange idea that we have introduced ; and it is not only that that we have 200 machinery on OGL and forgotten about the indigenous. 67 items from OGL have gone into more restricted and limited permissible list. So, we are taking care of it and wherever there is a phased policy of indigenisation that clearance has to come from DGTD. Only then the licences are given. So, it is a balanced sort of policy. Technology is one thing. If we are connected with international trade, we have to come up with technology through which we have to compete and history is evidence of it, when there is technological gap or sliding back in any warfare, be it warfare or be it economic competition, we cannot cope up unless we are trained in technology.

On the administrative side, we have done decentralisation. The regional advance licensing committees have been set up ; the regional licensing authorities have been given more powers to give on the spot licences. They do not have to come to Delhi all the way.

Some points were raised that the small scale industries have been neglected. It is not so. The limit on capital investment on plant and machinery has been increased from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs. The minimum growth rate for entrepreneurs, merchants and exporters exporting select products from small and cottage industries has been reduced from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 20,000; that means if previously they did not do that much, then they had to go out. If they can maintain themselves with 20 per cent growth, then they can go on serving the small scale sector. Automatic licences we have abolished. 90 per cent of them have gone to OGL ; mainly the small scale sector has to come up ; mainly they will be the main gainers. 10 per cent,

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according to DGS&D's need analysis we have to put to more restrictive list and not on the automatic list. So, these are some of the considerations that we have had.

Yesterday Shri Srihari Rao mentioned that CCS and the subsidy is not sufficient. I think there is cost of earning dollars and we cannot make it that the REP is so high, that is what we earn is not worth it. But even in the new tax proposals upto 50 per cent of the profit from exports can have concessions if it is put as a reserve for purposes of business. So, that provision has been done; and that is why previous facilities that were given under 80.HC were withdrawn.

I must say that the CCI Office in the disposal of applications has done a good job. There were 4,51,217 applications. Under the Import and Export Trade Control Act, only 867 applications remained, that is 2 per cent remain to be disposed of, and that was because of some quasi-judicial proceedings or deficiency in the applications.

About liberalization and its effect, in this context, now there are certain imports which are independent of virtual policy whether you take a restrictive policy or you take a liberalised policy, those imports have to come. So, it is not policy sensitive; and those are like fertilizer, edible oil, PUI, iron and steel, non-ferrous metal, etc. This is not a policy sensitive element; and this constitutes between 1970-78 and 1981-84 50 per cent of our import. So, virtually, more than half is impervious to your policy.

There are eight finance imports which in the period of 1972 to 1980 are about 50 per cent. So, about 65 per cent to 70 per cent of the imports are above our policy. In the 35 per cent there are certain very necessary components, capital goods and raw materials. Then what we have left with is five or ten per cent. So, it is a storm in a tea cup that is being raised. The only thing that we have to keep in mind is that it does not go abnormally high. When you come to the point that the trade gap is growing and there is liberalisation in the policy the trade gap

in the current prices and with fluctuating rates of exchange is difficult to compare. In a growing economy we have to see how much trade gap an economy can bear. I think its ratio to the GNP is a better test of how much burden is there on the economy. If you look at that, you will find that the trade gap which was 5 per cent in 1980 had gone down to 3 per cent in 1983-84. And the same trend we are expecting in 1984-85. The gross figure may be more, but its ratio with the GNP is declining. And I do not think there is any need to worry on that score. Even the non-bulk imports which are policy sensitive, their ratio with GNP has not gone up abnormally high. It is 2.1 per cent, 2.4 per cent, 3 per cent. It is within those limits. That is why, we are not in the debt trap today. This explains the strength of the economy. The exports in the first ten months of 1984-85 have gone up by 18.6 per cent and imports have gone up by 8.4 per cent. And the trade gap is lower in the first ten months of 1984-85. So, that worry is absolutely met by these figures.

A mention was made by Mr. Prabhu about our share in the world trade. Our share in world trade did come down. But after 1980 it has been going up. It was 42 in 1980, 50 in 1981, 51 in 1982. So it is marginal. So, to say that it is coming down is not correct because the facts are otherwise.

Every time a comparison is made with Malaysia and Hong Kong. And it is said as to why India does not go like them. You cannot compare a large sub-continent with city States. Do these countries have the burden of defence and a large population on their head? The address of Hong Kong and Taiwan is mistaken. If you take the commercial address it will be New York. All the trading of the multinationals go into the data of those countries and we feel that they have gone ahead and that India has remained behind. It is not so. We should be proud of the fact that we have maintained with our own resources and we are not in the debt trap. We are paying our imports by our exports and invisible earnings. At the same time, we are able to defend ourselves and keep our independence. This is something we should be proud of. And we should not always

quote Hong Kong or Taiwan in this respect.

Yesterday, Mr. Prabhu made a point that our trade with USA is not rising. It is rising. A year before last it was 15 per cent and it had gone up to 18 per cent in 1984-85. Sometimes, USSR is our largest trade partner and sometimes USA is our largest trade partner. So, both are our largest trade partners.

Mr. Natarajan was complaining that our trading with socialist countries is not being given attention. I think, it is given the maximum attention. It has been a very useful arrangement. While market economies have been fluctuating, we have stability in our exports with the socialist market. The arrangement that we have of rupee payment, I think, for all that we buy it becomes a guarantee that that much we will export. It is a good arrangement that we have. And a stable growth has been shown by the fact that our total turnover with USSR was Rs. 1948 crores in 1984. It was expected to be $1\frac{1}{2}$ times more after five years. But not only did we cross the target in 1984 but we had almost doubled it, making it to Rs. 3764 crores and in 1985 we have a trade plan of Rs. 4620 crores. I think with the degree of sophistication in our economy and the mutual interest that we have, these markets we should cultivate and develop.

On the agricultural front Mr. Natarajan and Dr. Adiyodi made the point that we should make a thrust and that our export policy has to be employment oriented and manpower oriented. I agree with that because manpower is our natural endowment be it in agriculture, textiles, or handicrafts. We should cash upon it. Our agricultural exports have been of the order of Rs. 1452 crores in 1984-85.

Yesterday, a point was made by Dr. Adiyodi about the export duty on coffee. I think, some hon. Members who could not speak may also have it in mind. One lady Member gave me a letter about it. I am happy to announce that we have decided to reduce the duty on export of coffee from Rs. 720 to Rs. 570.

SHRI T. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR-APPA : When you have exempted tea

completely, can you not give full exemption here also ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Government has been bearing this duty. Exchequer also needs some revenue. When you ask for more plan allocations, these are the sources I have to tap.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : The problem is that the coffee growers when compared to the international prices are getting very much less. That is why, we are pleading for total exemption from export duties. The coffee plantations are mostly in the south. That is why we are making this demand.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : First you absorb this news and then we will see.

It was pleaded that there should be value added items in agriculture. For that we are having Agricultural Products Export Development Authority. It will take care of value added items of agricultural produce to be exported. That is how we can augment our realisation from the agricultural front.

A Spices Board is also being set up and in tea, you will be happy to note that...
(*Interruption*).

AN HON. MEMBER : We want to retain cardamom...
(*Interruption*).

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am coming to cardamom also. I will not leave any item if you don't take my time. I will come to each item. On tea, it was considered that the minimum export price which is Rs. 31 per kg. now, is high and is causing problems in our exports. The international prices have been coming down. Therefore, it was decided to reduce it to Rs. 26 from Rs. 31. Shri Pathak made a point that there should be a plough back in the tea. So, we have made a provision that 20 per cent of profits, if put with NABARD and then used with the NABARD's schemes for ploughing back and for its development, would be exempt from income-tax. This is one of the Budget provisions already. So, that has already been taken care of.

About tobacco, in Andhra Pradesh, the tobacco auction system has started and it

[Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

has given good results. The realisations have been higher. In Karnataka also, it was already there last year.

There have been record exports of tea. Hon. Members will be glad to know that tea has registered Rs. 750 crores of export earnings to this country and for this I want to thank the labourers, workers, and all those who are in trade and everyone who has been able to contribute to this national kitty. In spices, export earnings have been Rs. 150 crores, in leather Rs. 545 crores, and in custard oil Rs. 125 crores. These are all record exports.

Shri Kalanidhi mentioned that for leather, there should be higher value addition. Already we have made a provision in the Budget for crust leather and wet blue and wattle extracts. We have reduced taxes on 14 machineries. We have decided to give a big boost to leather exports. 87 machinery items will have concessional customs duty of 35 per cent. The two Leather Councils we have made into one and its headquarters would be in Madras.

There is a big plan to have leather industry in North-East also.

25 per cent of the area that had been damaged by drought, has been replanted.

About marine products, concern was expressed. New initiative has been taken in prawn farming and new technology has been adopted for its processing in which MPEDA will also share. This has also been decided.

On the engineering side, concern was expressed, but some of the reasons for this concern were protectionist tendencies and payment difficulties in Africa where they cannot give payments for whatever engineering goods we send there. But, however, till December 1984, there has been an increase of 14.1 per cent in exports and that is a good augury.

On the projects export side also, Rs. 67.83 crores of contracts have been secured.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Can you not negotiate with African countries for rupee exchange ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Well, I will have to go into details on this. My time is also running up, so, I will try to cover as much ground as possible in ten minutes.

One thing that I might report to you is that there have been some good achievements in the public sector. Therefore, the charge that the public sector is being neglected is not true. I may refer to you the record of the MMTC. It has got the highest turn-over of Rs. 2,750 crores in the year 1984-85. It is more than double the amount of the previous year. Its exports have gone to the highest level of Rs. 379 crores, which represent 38 per cent increase over the previous year. Non-canalised imports turn-over also has been three times of the previous year. This shows that we are not neglecting the private sector. We are proud of its performance.

Similarly our STC has also shown a good performance. It has also shown growth in turn-over and in its exports and I will be coming back to its performance shortly.

In regard to the iron-ore, I may point out that some of the new markets have been opened like that of China and for the first time Kudremukh concentrates of iron-ore are being exported to Japan. An export agreement of 10 million tonnes for the year 1985-86 has already been signed.

One point was being made about the Barajamda region. Now that the Paradip constraints have been removed, this problem would not be there. But in spite of the constraints the MMTC has decided to buy more than earlier. So, there has been progress on these counts.

Now coming to some of the specific questions about Darjeeling tea, I may say that we are taking care of these problems. It is true that the cost of production is high and the bushes are old. That is why we are formulating schemes. Twenty schemes have been sanctioned by the NABARD and about Rs. 25.87 lakhs in respect of eight gardens have already been disbursed. We will further expedite the disbursal of the amount for other schemes. The tea marketing policy has been strengthened and four sick tea gardens have been taken over. So, these are the measures

which we have taken on the tea side. I think these will satisfy the hon. Members.

SHRI ANAND PATHAK : What about the labelling of the Darjeeling tea? They are using its labels.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am aware of the problem. We have brought this to the notice of the UK authorities that it affects us and we are still having a dialogue with them.

The STC turnover has increased by 26% over the last year and the exports of non-canalised items have increased by 15 per cent. It has not reached Rs. 501 crores. There have also been off-shore trading operations by the STC worth Rs. 50 crores. So, I think within the time constraint, I have tried to cover most of the points raised by the hon. Members.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I would like to have a clarification. You have said that the Spices Board is being set up, but from the Cardamom sector there has been a demand that the Cardamom Board should be retained and there should be a separate Spices Board for pepper and other spices, because from pepper alone we get the maximum foreign exchange. So, there should be a separate Board for pepper and other spices and the Cardamom Board should be retained. I would like to know the views of the Government on that.

Again we demand for a total ban on import of coconut oil. What is your reaction to that? We want an assurance.

15.45 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The import of coconut oil is canalised through the STC. They import it only when asked to do so. It was only last year that about 10,000 metric tonnes of coconut oil was imported because there was shortage and there was also drop in its production. But now the STC and other agencies are not importing it. It is under some court order that one party has been allowed to import dry copra. So, that is the position. So, only under replanishment licence some import would be feasible.

About the problem of nutmeg, I would like to say that it is canalised

through NAFED. What it has brought in is much less than the gap that is there. So, this does not affect the internal market. And about cashew, you will be happy to note that we have given some ways and means to the Kerala Government to buy cashew there. So, all these problems from marine, to cashew to cardamom to nutmeg have been taken care of.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : And about the spices board.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I think I will be able to convince the Member separately. I think this is a good thing we are doing.

With these words, I thank the Members. With their support I hope I will be able to meet the challenge. And if there are any problems, I will always be there to solve them.

Dr. G. S. RAJHANS : What about the photo-composing equipment?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am quite aware of it Mr. Rajhans. I have taken note of it.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : You allow 20 per cent plough back for the tea-estates, but you are not giving this facilities to rubber and other plantations. That means it will be given to big estates and not to ordinary and medium estates. Why that discrimination?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Well, this scheme has been drawn up for the first time. Your point has been taken note of. That is all I can say at the moment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the demands for grants relating to the Ministry of Commerce and Supply to the vote of the House together, unless any Member decides that any of his motions should be put separately.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the demands for grants relating to the Ministry of Commerce and Supply to vote.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

The question is :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to comp-

lete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1986 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 10 to 13. “relating to the Ministry of Commerce and Supply.”

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants (General) 1985-86 in respect of the Ministry of Commerce and Supply voted by the House.

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985	Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY			
10.	Ministry of Commerce and Supply	57,33,000	—
11.	Foreign Trade and Export Production	1,35,87,38,000	18,20,58,000
12.	Textiles, Handloom and Handicrafts	43,75,32,000	36 62,97,000
13.	Supplies and Disposals	2,54,05,000	—
			2,86,69,000
			6,85,97,69,000
			91,52,93,000
			1,83,14,85,000
			12,70,28,000

SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we take up discussion under Rule 193. Shri P. Selvendran.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. SELVENDRAN (Periakulam) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today morning our hon. Minister of State for External Affairs made a statement about the prevailing situation in Sri Lanka. On 25th our young and dynamic Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi presented a picture of the state of affairs in Sri Lanka in his statement and he announced the constitution of an Advisory Committee of Experts to help him in having an assess-

ment of Sri Lankan situation and in formulating the course of action to find a solution for the problem. All of us reacted favourably to this announcement because it was an earnest attempt and we derived some solace because of impending course of action after carefully analysing the situation in Sri Lanka.

When I rise to speak on Sri Lankan situation. I am tossed between the words I have to utter and the feelings that I cannot fully give vent to. Today the Tamil race in Sri Lanka is being subjected to unprecedented cruelty not recorded so far anywhere in the history of the world. In the world map, the island of Sri Lanka looks like a tear-drop of Bharat Mata. But today on account of blood-curdling

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

events taking place there, this island has taken the appearance of a solidified blood-rock floating in the ocean. The minority Tamilian race is being massacred. The Tamil sisters are being raped. The life and property of Sri Lankan Tamils are being gobbled up by the leaping flames being fanned by Sinhala fanatics. Those who have to say 'I surrender to Buddha' are now saying 'I surrender to blood-shed'; it has become the national theme-song.

The human rights are being flouted and violated. The human civilisation is being decimated. The human culture is being buried in the bowels of earth. The Jaffna library which was the treasure-house of Tamil culture has been turned into ashes. Hitler's cruelty to Jews has been overshadowed by Jayawardhene's Government. Without the support of law Hitler murdered the Jews. President Jayawardhene's Government within the framework of law and with the help of army and Police is exterminating the Tamil race from the map of Sri Lanka. It is said that each Chapter of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* relates the murder of 1,20,000 Jews. But each utterance of Jayawardhene's Government is taking away the life of 100 Tamils. There is no difference between the *apartheid* policy of South Africa and the genocide of Jayawardhene Government. The barbarism of South Africa in Namibia is lesser in its rigour than the atrocities of Jayawardhene against Tamils. The *apartheid* policy of South Africa is a thorn in the foot of Bharat Mata; but the racial policy of Sri Lanka is a thorn in the eye of Bharat Mata.

A week before the Sri Lankan Navy chased a boat-load of Sri Lankan refugees numbering 200 and arrested them, in our territorial waters. Some days back 27 Tamils were shot dead in Palk Straits. The MOSSAD—the murder wing of Israel Army—and the mercenary force of S.A.S. of Britain are training the soldiers of Sri Lankan army in gorilla warfare. The Secret Police of Israel is crushing the Elam tigers. In North and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, where Sri Lankan Tamils are predominating, the Sri Lankan army is being amassed. The Sri Lankan Army men, who have had their training in Britain, are subjecting the Tamils to atrocities which are beyond words of

description. No mirror is needed to see the wound in the hand. These tragic events in Sri Lanka are the order of the day; they are so patent that they need no further confirmation.

It is not that Sri Lankan Government had entertained the idea of wiping out the Tamilian race just two or three years ago. The Sri Lankan Government chartered the course of action immediately after Independence in 1948. In 1948 the first act of free Sri Lankan Government was to forfeit the citizenship rights of 10 lakhs of people of Tamil origin, who had given their sweat and blood for the development of Sri Lanka. From 1949 onwards, 1,84,771 people of Tamil origin were sent to India as refugees. As a consequence of Sirimavo-Shastri Agreement signed on October 10, 1964, out of 9,75,000 stateless people of Tamil origin, 5,25,000 were to be given Indian citizenship and 3 lakhs Sri Lankan citizenship. In 1974, according to Sirimavo-Indira Gandhi agreement, India and Sri Lanka would give citizenship rights to the remaining stateless people on 50:50 basis. While India fulfilled its obligations, Sri Lankan Government has not done justice to its obligation. Even today more than a lakh of stateless people of Tamil origin with Indian passports are living like beggars in Sri Lanka. That is because Sri Lanka has not given its share of Provident Fund, Gratuity; etc. due to these plantation workers.

Sri Lankan Tamils have been denied equal opportunities in educational field and also in job opportunities. Tamils have been neglected in Army and Police. The atrocities being perpetrated by Sri Lankan Government since 1948 are going on endlessly; this can be compared only to the puranic example of ever-lengthening tail of Hanuman, never-ending length of Draupadi's sari and the countless steps of the throne of King Vikramaditya. The genocide of Tamil race in Sri Lanka seems to be perennial.

India is known for its contribution in the world's fight for human rights. India gave birth to Buddha, the apostle of Peace. India is the homeland of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence. India is the birth-place of Pandit Nehru who dedicated his life to human rights. India

[Shri P. Selvendran]

is known in the comity of nations for the sagacious leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi who sacrificed her life for the cause of world peace. Today India has the honour of recognising SWAPO, the organisation of freedom fighters of Namibia, under the dynamic leaders of Namibia. Our young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has taken this bold decision and has given the lead for other countries of the world.

I want that the Government of India should take expeditious steps to allay the apprehensions of Sri Lankan Tamils. Shri G Parthasarathi was sent to Sri Lanka to bring people across the table for talks. That generated hopes in our drooping spirits. An effulgent star of hope sprang up in our horizon of thinking. We started day-dreaming about a peaceful settlements. Unfortunately, all our dreams were shattered because of the recalcitrance of Jayawardhene Government. Again our hopes were kindled by the despatch of Shri Bhandari to Sri Lanka. Again our hopes were belied. If this process continues endlessly and if we procrastinate our firm line of action, then a day may come when we may have to say 'Operation successful, but the patient died'.

We are keen to find a solution through negotiations. That is because we are committed to peace. Sir, you will agree with me if I say that negotiations cannot be a success among two suspicious groups. A solution cannot be found when two sides meet under compulsion and confrontation. The talks will succeed by the mingling of two hearts in search of peace, not in pursuit of retribution and revenge. To expect reciprocity for our peace moves from the Government of Sri Lanka is like expecting blood donation from the insect which knows only how to suck the blood. We cannot expect mercy from the butcher. We cannot expect benevolence from Evil.

During the past two years of talks and negotiations, Sri Lankan Government has been arming itself to teeth. Arms and ammunitions worth Rs. 1000 crores have been procured from several countries of the world. Sri Lanka has entered into military agreements with America for the

supply of sophisticated arms. Sri Lanka has stepped up its anti-Indian campaign. Trincomalle, the most beautiful natural harbour on the east-coast of Sri Lanka, which is known as the key of Indian Ocean, has been given on long lease to American marines. Trincomalle has become the second Diego Garcia of Indian Ocean. There are 105 giant oil tanks here, which have been leased out to an American company. The American 7th fleet can be sheltered here without attracting the attention of outside forces. The entire Sri Lankan coast has been given for the so-called scientific research of USA under a long-term agreement.

All these activities have created an area of international terror in Indian Ocean. The southern parts of our country have not faced any threat of war all these years. Now even the southern parts have become susceptible to dangerous portends from Indian Ocean. If we do not find a solution to Sri Lankan problem, then the danger to Southern States will get intensified. We will be able to give protection to Southern States only after the Sri Lankan problem is resolved peacefully.

Our venerable Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivar. Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, lead an all-party Delegation to the hon. Prime Minister the other day and explained to him the consequences of any delayed action on our part in solving the Sri Lankan problem. He wanted protection to Indian fishermen. He wanted that Sri Lankan refugees should be sent back to Sri Lanka. We should create an atmosphere of amity in Sri Lanka for both Tamils and Sri Lankans to live in mutual trust and faith. The honour and respect of Sri Lankan Tamils should be restored. With due deference to these sentiments of our leader, our Prime Minister constituted the Advisory Committee on Sri Lankan problems. We are mollified to some extent by this immediate response from the Prime Minister. But I wish to say that a starving man cannot be asked to wait for the sweetened rice to be prepared and given to him; he should be given instantaneously some rice pudding. Then only he can be saved from death. Similarly, the Sri Lankan Tamils cannot be saved from such

Committees and confabulations. They need immediate succour for their survival.

I would like to remind the House of the swift action taken by the Government during the liberation war of East Pakistan. We gave recognition to Mukti Bahini and helped it in liberating Bangla Desh. We arranged the return of several lakhs of refugees from East Pakistan to Bangla Desh. Similarly, now we have recognised SWAPO to expedite the freedom of Namibia. We have endeared ourselves by recognising Palestinian Liberation Organisation. We want homeland for the Palestinians. Have we taken such concrete steps in the case of Sri Lankan Tamils? Should not the Government extend the hand of protection to Sri Lankan Tamils? Should we not wipe out the tears of Sri Lankan Tamil women whose honour has been destroyed? Should we not try to quench the quest of freedom for which the Sri Lankan Tamils are fighting their last-ditch battle?

Sri, Tamil race has survived so long on the strength of purity of Tamil women. Kannagi, the embodiment of purity, has the most honoured place in Tamil history. How long we can remain the silent spectators of sordid events taking place just 25 miles across our territory? Should the sigh of sorrow envelop the entire Tamil race?

Sri, India is inherently committed to human values. India is leading the non-aligned nations of the world. India gave to the world Panch Sheel, which has become the sheet-anchor of non-aligned nations. But Sri Lanka Government is spoiling the image of non-alignment policy not only by aligning itself with western nations by military agreements but also by violating with impunity the human values. I take this opportunity to demand that Sri Lanka should be expelled from the non-aligned group immediately.

Sir, in Sri Lanka human flesh has become equated with the flesh of sheep and cattle. It may not be a surprise if a board indicating that human flesh is available at that particular place is hung in certain parts of Sri Lanka. Tamilians are murdered. Tamil women are raped. It does not end with Sri Lankan Tamils.

Now Indian fishermen are being shot dead. They are arrested and put in the prisons in Sri Lanka. Their fishing boats are captured. Should we not protect our own fishermen from the persecution of Sri Lankan Navy? Should we not remove the atmosphere of terror among our fishermen?

The Sri Lankan naval boat entered our territorial waters to harass our fishermen. We captured that boat. In our inborn magnanimity we returned that naval boat to Sri Lanka. Similarly, the aeroplane carrying weapons and arms to Sri Lanka which would be used against Sri Lankan Tamils landed in Trivandrum because the petrol was running short to continue the flight. We were gracious enough to refuel the plane and permitted the plane to go with the military cargo to Sri Lanka. Our approach was that of the magnanimity of a lion towards the small rat. But what is the response from the other side? President Jayawardhene's Government is converting this benevolence of our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi into an act of cowardice on the part of our Prime Minister and his Government.

I would appeal to our hon. Prime Minister that we have to change our stance towards Sri Lanka. We have to modify our attitude towards the problems of Sri Lanka. We have also to alter our aptitude in regard to the solutions of this serious problem. We should immediately stop all assistance to Sri Lanka which has been committing genocide of Tamil race and which has murdered our innocent fishermen in our territorial waters. We should mobilise international opinion against the suppression of minority rights. We should invoke the Human Rights Commission to condemn such extermination of minority race.

Before I conclude, I would once again demand a radical change in our approach to Sri Lankan Tamil problem. I am sure that our hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi will formulate a more serious course of action to secure the protection of our fishermen and to protect the security of southern parts of our country. Unless the Sri Lankan Tamil problems are resolved, the southern parts of our country are susceptible to threats of war.

[Shri P. Selvendram]

I appeal to our hon. Prime Minister to have a fresh approach, a fresh angle to find a solution for the Sri Lankan Tamil problem.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

16.20 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: WITHDRAWAL OF
MONEY FROM THE CONTINGENCY
FUND OF INDIA FOR MEETING THE
REQUIREMENTS OF FUNDS FOR THE
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FOR
DELHI RIOTS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI-
MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): As the
Hon'ble Members are aware, my colleague
Shri A.K. Sen, Minister of Law and Justice
has made a statement in the Lok Sabha on
26-4-1985 announcing the constitution of
Shri Justice Ranganath Misra Commission
of Inquiry to inquire into the allegations
of organised violence in Delhi following
the assassination of the late Prime Minister
Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

2. The Commission is required to
start its work immediately. The necessary
funds for meeting the expenditure on
setting up of the Commission and for
meeting the day-to-day expenses, viz,
salary and allowances, office expenses and
travelling expenses, etc. have, therefore, to
be provided. The expenditure on this 'new
service' could not be foreseen and has not
been included in the Budget provisions
for the year 1985-86. It is, therefore,
proposed to withdraw Rs. 12 lakhs from
the Contingency Fund of India and place
it at the disposal of the Commission to
meet its expenses upto the end of August,
1985. The necessary expenses on the
Commission will be included in the first
supplementary estimates to be presented
to the Parliament in its next session and
the advance to be drawn from the
Contingency Fund shall be resumed to the
Fund as soon as supplementary—Appropriation
Act in respect of the above
expenditure on the Commission is passed.

16.22 hrs.

[SITUATION IN SRI LANKA—Contd.]

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM
(Salem): Last time when the Demands for
Grants for the External Affairs Ministry
were before the House I had spoken on
this issue. But since that day till today
things have worsened and have not
improved in the Sri Lankan situation,
especially the ethnic problem.

I would at the outset like to give a
few figures in order to emphasize and
really bring to light the gravity of the
problem. At the moment as stated by the
hon. Minister for External Affairs himself,
over 100,000 refugees have come into our
country from Sri Lanka. These refugees
have not come seeking better pastures or
for better economic advancement. They
have come because they have been driven
away from their homes physically and by
violence. They were chased from their
villages and had to literally run to the
boats. The idea obviously is to evict from
Sri Lanka all the Tamils. Not only that,
over 7,500 families have been killed since
1983. 'Killed' means butchered not by
private people but by state-organised
violence by the Army and the para-military
forces. As my friend here states, it was
State terror and the product of that was
that 7,500 people have been killed. Not
only that over 1,50,000 have been rendered
homeless there in Sri Lanka itself and they
are today in the refugee camps.

In addition to all this consciously about
2 lakh Sinhalese have been trained,
armed, made into para military forces and
those Sinhalese are nothing but ex-convicts
or rather undesirable anti-social elements
and they are going to be settled in those
villages from where the refugees who are
today in India have come. This re-settle-
ment is very obvious. These facts I bring
to the notice of the House to point out
that it is not just a sudden communal or
ethnic problem that has arisen out of
nowhere. This is not a matter where one
can say two communities because of their
internal differences fought and the problem
is an outcome of these two communities.
It is unfortunate but it is relevant to go

on record to say that the Sri Lanka Government has taken a partisan attitude. In so far as this ethnic problem goes it has taken this attitude right from the day Sri Lanka got Independence. It is not an attitude that is born on date. In fact, many Prime Ministers—two Prime Ministers to be accurate—belonging to different Sinhalese parties came forward and made agreements for compromise, made agreements of understanding, spoke of devolution of power, signed agreements but when it came to the point of implementing it they always backed out and they used the Buddhist clergy who not only saw to it that the agreements were not implemented but that immediately after the agreements were signed there was terrible violence, terrorism and riots which always took a heavy toll of Tamil lives and not Sinhalese lives. I have said this only to show from which side the aggressor was and where his violence came from.

Sir, it is not a matter for us to say that we would just have an advisory committee to look into this matter and consider how best to solve this problem. It is no longer a problem that can be dealt with in a calm and cool atmosphere. It is a problem that has taken proportions and soon it is going to be out of control. It is relevant for me to point out here that if this problem is not solved immediately there is a possibility that there will be ramifications even in our own country for the simple reason that the stories of rape, arson, loot and murder which the refugees have brought to the State of Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka are really one which shake the basic sense of humanity in every man. Are those beasts who do it or are they human being. One lakh may sound a small number by our population but one lakh of people who come with stories of murder, rape, arson and loot done by other communities are people who carry a lot of influence ; people who are able to convince people of our countries of what is going on.

Therefore, I would like to submit that it is not sufficient for us to make statements on the Floor of the House or table statements or have advisory committees. A little more action is required. By a

little more I mean the Government will have to be far more clear about what it wants and will have to categorically inform the Sri Lanka Government that this genocide, this violation of human rights is a serious matter and we are going to take it up in the world community and we are going to seek the assistance of the world community to bring all forms of pressure which we can to ensure that normal human sense devolves on a government which is allegedly elected by democratic means.

The reason why I say allegedly elected by democratic means is this. Form all the areas from where Tamil Liberation Front stood for Parliament. they won with thumping majority. All those people are today no longer Members of Parliament because of the Sixth Amendment. It is not that I am advocating separatism. But one must understand what was the pressure under which Tamil people of Sri Lanka live. It is a fact that they are a minority. We should know under what circumstances they were compelled to talk of separatism. Just like anybody else, the Tamil people also of Sri Lanka do know that a united Sri Lanka is definitely far better than a divided Sri Lanka from the point of view of economic progress, But what happens is that progress is denied to one section of the community. What happens when one community or one civilisation itself is being wiped out steadily in a planned manner, year by year ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State for External Affairs through you and even the Prime Minister, to note that on every instance whenever negotiations have taken place and agreements arrived at, talks have broken down, agreements not implemented and there have been riots. These riots have been organised riots. Sinhalese property has never been damaged. Sinhalese life has never gone. The murder has been murder of Tamils. Not only that. Every time the Sinhalese racial elements armed themselves during the period of talks, whenever a reasonable settlement came, they launched a violent attack, Whether sponsored or non-sponsored by the State, nevertheless, there is a very conscious effort to completely wipe out the race.

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are a few facts which it would be relevant for the External Affairs Minister to know. Firstly, it was in 1956, after the first civil disobedience movement there, that the famous Bandaranaike-Chelvanayagam pact came into being. That Pact was one which for the first time gave some devolution of powers and some autonomy to Tamils and Tamil areas. But that pact was never implemented. The Buddhist clergy saw to it that it was not implemented. It was a signed pact by a very powerful Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and a well known leader of the Tamils, a leader who was recognised. Both the persons in their individual capacity and in their official capacity carried the weight of both the nations and the society which they represented. But however the Buddhist clergy knew how to stop that agreement. Soon after the agreement was dropped and non-implementation took place, there was satyagraha, non-violence. I would like to point out that there was no violence, there was mere satyagraha. They adopted the Gandhian style; they said, by satyagraha we can bring sense to the majority. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the satyagraha brought a declaration of emergency. That declaration of emergency saw riot during emergency. It is unheard of, that when there is internal emergency declared by a State that riots on a large scale can take place, especially when people lose their fundamental rights allegedly you find that these very same people are able to launch an attack. It is very relevant to point out that this is not a new plan of the Sinhalese majority to reduce the Tamil population and to ensure that the Tamil population does not continue to live in Sri Lanka. In fact it is commonly said by the refugees that the army soldiers who went to their villages used to say: "Go back to your homeland." When they were asked as to what they meant by their homeland saying that Sri Lanka was their homeland, the soldiers replied that their homeland was down there in India and asked them to go back to Tamil Nadu. That is how they speak and that is their basic attitude. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with this background with the fact that there is a conscious and planned effort by the Sinhalese majority, sometimes tacitly, sometimes indirectly and

sometimes overtly supported by the State, this problem, I feel, cannot be solved by just requesting the President of Sri Lanka to take this matter seriously. This is a matter which if we as a country, this House, this political system, this national fabric wishes to solve this problem, we will have to take it up in a far more serious manner. In other words, it would be necessary for us to use all the weapons that we have in the diplomatic channels and every trick which we know, to somehow ensure that all the parties in Sri Lanka come to a consensus for solving this problem. It is my firm belief. I understand that even if the President of Sri Lanka wanted to sign a particular agreement and even if signs it, it is possible, his own Prime Minister would not support it, because his Prime Minister does not agree with it. His Prime Minister believes that the Tamils have to be quietened. Now, that is one example within his own party. But, there seems to be a vying up among the parties in Sri Lanka—i.e. on one side the Opposition parties and on the other, the ruling party, which is supporting this racial cause—they are vying with each other to try to ensure the majority 74 per cent Sinhalese population that they are more loyal to their cause than really solve the ethnic problem. There seems to be rather an irresponsible approach to this very crucial and fundamental problem, which is racial in colour. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is my humble request to the hon. External Affairs Minister as well as the Prime Minister that a small committee of parliamentarians be constituted who could go across to Sri Lanka and talk to the various leaders of the parliamentary parties there...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : And come back safely.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : If the Professor leads us, we will. There will be no problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You want to take only non-Tamils for safe arrival back.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The Deputy Speaker also can join. Anyhow, there should be no problem. I do not think the situation is such that if an official delegation of this House goes to

Sri Lanka, they can afford to take the risk of hurting any one of us bodily. It is a fact and let us not be unrealistic about it. The truth is, if a Committee goes across and talks to all the political parties and parliamentary parties there, it is possible for us to mediate and bring about a consensus among the various parties. If it is not possible to have a Parliamentary Committee, send this Advisory Committee which has been constituted. Let them at least go and do that and just not sit in India and chart out plans as to how to send leaders and special envoys to talk to Mr. Jayawardane when we all of us know that Mr. Jayawardane himself, in his own individual capacity, or even as the President of Sri Lanka, is incapable of pulling an agreement through. When we know the reality and when we have seen in the past that he has come to an agreement and again backed on it, why are we fooling ourselves?

Why don't we face the reality and say: 'All right, we want a negotiated settlement'? If the President is not able to deliver the goods, let us find out who can, and let us put some sense into them. Let us talk to them; let us make them realize that this is a matter in which they will soon be an outcaste in international society.

I humbly pray, and no longer plead, to the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs that they should take this matter up in a very serious manner. It is not sufficient, I once again repeat, to have a small advisory council and make statements. The people of Tamil Nadu, and I am sure the people of India, are looking forward to more action, and definitely more positive action. They want to see the results.

Before I finish, I would like to say that I think that six months at the present rate would do to compel the three-million population of Tamils in Sri Lanka to come back to India.....(*Interruption*) or go into the sea. In either events they cannot live there. A small figure would be relevant. There were 25,000 Sinhalese in the eastern portion of Sri Lanka in 1947. Today, there are 300,000 Sinhalese there. Those areas are being colonized over the last two decades. Consciously, the Sinhalese have

been taken from the south and the west, to the east and the northern parts and settled there, in order to reduce the population concentration of Tamils. This movement is going on in full swing on the one hand; and on the other, the Tamils are literally driven out of their homes by the Army, not by any small terrorist groups, because it is the Army consciously coming in convoys and vacating the Tamils.

Last time when I spoke in this House, I had welcomed the announcement made in a paper—or rather an official leak given by the Sri Lankan Government in the paper called 'Island' in Sri Lanka—which we reproduced in all our papers here, wherein a plan was charted out by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister allegedly, that there was an understanding entered into between Shri Ramesh Bhandari and the President of Sri Lanka on the withdrawal of troops from the affected areas in Jaffna and in the north, and in the eastern Sri Lanka also; then abandoning the 6th amendment, thereafter giving amnesty to all the young militants, and finally starting talks for devolution of powers either in the form of district councils or of regional councils. It all sounded very nice, like it did in 1984, earlier in 1981, and also in 1956. It is the same story. Annexure 'C' in 1984 is identical almost to the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayagam Pact. It is not a new story. It is the old story, it is the same old wine in the new bottle. That, is, the names of the signatories to the pact change, but the contents of the pact remain the same every time the pact has been drawn. But here, we were of the opinion that since Mr. Bhandari, the Foreign Secretary of the Union of India went and spoke to the President of Sri Lanka and an understanding was arrived at, at least there would be some signs of implementation. On the contrary I am sorry to say that the situation worsened. The Army has been literally let out in the streets of Jaffna, plundering, looting and murdering the people. The Muslim-Tamil affair which took place in the east is not a matter that came up automatically. It is a welcome communal turn given to this problem, because the Muslims are Tamils also in order apply the divide and rule policy.

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So divide the Tamilians on religion and thereby weaken them; that is the angle with which that movement started and that problem started. The situation is worsened and therefore, I sincerely doubt whether at all what we achieved by Mr. Bhandari's visit was to give the Srilankan Government more time to arm themselves, give their para military people better sophisticated weapons in order that they can continue effectively to complete their planned operation of removing Tamils from Sri Lanka. That is not the only problem; it is not only the story that the Srilankan refugees come and tell us or the economic factors involved in looking after them because they know only fishing, most of them, and our fishermen have been affected because of the fact that they have come here. But let us leave aside that. Our fishermen have traditionally been going across Kaccha Tivu and have been fishing there; and suddenly because of some interpretation—I do not know how it came into being—of the Kaccha Tivu agreement we found that the Government of India suddenly started feeling that it has lost those traditional rights and our fishermen who have been traditionally fishing and taking prawns from Kaccha Tivu have suddenly lost their source of living. It is a fact that many of our fishermen have been shot dead. What action have we taken regarding this? Have we retaliated in any forum against this? I am not asking the government to go ahead or ask the army to go and shoot the Srilankan fishermen. But have we taken any action on a firm basis? Why have we not solved this Kaccha Tivu problem? It is an agreement that has been signed between the two governments. It has got nothing to do with the ethnic problem. Why is it that we have not been able to ensure that rights of our fishermen are safeguarded? I have a sneaking suspicion that the relations between our two nations are not good as we claim it to be because the Srilankan Government does not seem to bother very much about what right India has under bipartite agreement. I request the hon. Minister to take this problem up as a serious matter; devoid of the ethnic problem, Tamilian problem; it has no connection; it is just a matter of retaliation; it is disconnected sometimes

and we can ask the Srilankan Government to settle this matter; and if not, I feel it is the duty of our government to give protection to our fishermen and see that their rights are safeguarded. If we do not do that, no citizen of our country would feel safe and their reaction will be that we talk of peace; we will talk and talk but when it comes to action, the government does not come forward.

This problem of Sri Lanka has to be solved, as I said, earlier, by a multi-pronged attack firstly through the diplomatic channel and secondly by campaigning in the world communities and taking it up in the world assemblies and pointing out to the world assemblies the genocide that is taking place. It is not difficult to do it. Even the US Human Rights Commission, the so called Human Rights Commission of the US Government has stated that there is a genocide in Sri Lanka.

Even the British have admitted it. Except for the Israelis—may be—almost every world power, every nation in the world knows that there has been genocide in Sri Lanka. They are just waiting to see whether India will react or not. Even in the last Human Rights meeting everybody was expecting India to take up the issue from the point of view of genocide and human rights violation. Somehow we do not seem to have taken it up seriously. It is time that we go to the world community, tell them the truth which they themselves know and force the world community to join us in ensuring that this genocide stops and this depravity ceases immediately. That is one side of the attack.

The second side of the attack, which is extremely necessary is for us to tell Sri Lanka in no uncertain terms that if any Indian citizen is harmed, we will not keep quiet, because they seem to be under an impression that we would not take steps to protect the rights of our citizens; because it is a fact that we have been reacting very slowly. There is a feeling among the fishermen in Tamil Nadu that the Government of India should rightfully have ensured that our rights to fish in the Kacchativu continue, but it has on the other hand backed out. This is an unfortunate situation.

On the third side of the attack it should be made very clear, and I do not know why we should feel guilty at the fact that there are militants—young militants—in our country. There have always been militants, but it does not mean that we should shy away from it. Why should we deny the fact that those young boys, who have been chased out of their houses, whose sisters have been raped, whose mothers have been murdered, whose fathers they have lost; they saw them being taken away, when they turn militant, why should we feel shy of recognising it? Why should there always be a backing out? We speak that we are against separatism. It is a fact that the whole Parliament, I am sure the whole House here would not support separatism and I can tell you this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and even Sri Lankan Tamilians will not talk of separatism. Just give them their minimum rights, give them the basic rights a human being has. If they are talking of separatism, it is because they do not see any signs or chances of getting any basic rights. Did not the TULF which won on a slogan of separatism in the elections agree to a pact for regional councils and sign the pact consisting of annexure 'C' and agreed to it merely because Mr. G. Parthasarathy and the Government of India told that this is sensible and they also felt? Does it not show that the TULF and the Tamilian organisations really and genuinely want a settlement and they are reasonable about it? It is the Sri Lankan Government which is playing up the word 'separatism'.

DR. A. KALANIDHI : For the restoration of rights.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : What my friend said is correct. It is not for separatism. It is for securing the basic rights. There is no restoration. We never had rights there in Sri Lanka.

The fact is, I would like the External Affairs Minister to take up this matter in a far more serious manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not wish to take more time, but I wish to say that it is high time that this House put on record that we want a solution to this problem on an urgent basis and every source that

is available with us should be utilised to ensure that a negotiated peaceful settlement is arrived at.

Last time I categorically said and I would repeat it here that the people of Tamil Nadu and the people of India itself will not wait till eternity for a settlement. They cannot continue to get massacred day by day. If this matter is not solved in the next three to six months, I would categorically inform the External Affairs Minister that the movement would take a different turn whether the Government of India comes forward or not.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali) : I am one with the previous speakers. The Telugu people may not directly be the sufferers, but we have the vicarious sympathy for the suffering of our Tamil brethren. Tamil and Telugu people are brothers from the very beginning.

Sri Lanka is called a tear drop in the Indian Ocean. I may add, depending upon the legend, that it is Sita's tear drop. The legend goes to say that Sita was imprisoned there. She cried and cried for her husband and, perhaps, one of her tears dropped there.

They say that Sri Lanka is the native land of Sinhalese. It is not as if Sinhalese were the originators of Sri Lanka. The history shows that this Island was inhabited by Indians. We have given to Ceylon our culture and our religion i.e. Buddhism. We gave Buddhism but unfortunately, we failed to give the compassion of Buddha to Sinhalese. It is a matter of shame that we have such Buddha disciples in Ceylon.

Ceylon is comprised of so many people of India—Bengalis in the beginning, southerners afterwards and the history shows that the early kings were Telugu people. It is a synthesis of so many cultures and nations. Now, in the present context, we call it a tear drop of India.

In this Island, from the very beginning somehow the Sinhalese became dominant. They began to harass the other people, mostly the Tamilian brothers. From the day Ceylon had its independence, Tamilians, mainly the Southern Indians, were treated as step-brothers or step-sons in the Island. They were never given full rights of the Island. Coming to the latest situat-

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ion, even though sixteen northern and eastern constituencies were swept by the Tamilian brothers, they were not treated as Members from those constituencies. This has been done by way of Sixth Amendment of the Constitution. This is an injustice done to Tamilians in particular and to all the South Indians in general.

You may see that all the projects contemplated in the north and east, have now come to a dead stop. The budget amount of Rs. 4 billion which was considered to be very high in Ceylon, has now gone up by three or four times. In this situation, in this glaring injustice that is done to the southern people of Ceylon, if there is a little bit of rebellion by the younger people, I cannot say it is a rebellion or violence or anything of that sort. I go to the extent of saying that the young Tamilians in Ceylon are justified in showing their anxiety by way of a little bit of violence. It is not in any way going to take away the kingdom of Ceylon. Now there is change in circumstances. The TULF Secretary General Mr. Amirthalingam, who was much applauded by our late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi as the ideal statesman, is not the same person now. It is the circumstances that made him perhaps a bit more violent or strong. It is envisaged that much time may not elapse when we can see moderate Sinhalese, moderate Tamilians in the entire Ceylon. This is because of the circumstances. In 1983, there was a violence in Ceylon and that was called the failure of civilization. This violence is the own making of the Sinhalese people, that is, the Government of Ceylon. I am not in a position to condemn the violent activities of our own younger brothers in Ceylon. It is a natural reaction to the action of the Government of Ceylon and we cannot find fault with them. What we have to see is how to solve the problem.

I was very attentively following the speech of Mr. Kumaramangalam. I was expecting that he would suggest some solution to our Government but I am surprised to see that there is no solution except again pleading...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : He belongs to Congress, therefore, he has not suggested anything.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : I am not speaking about the parties. We are at a different level. He was again pleading to the entire world community to find a solution. This is being done for a very very long time, from 1960 onwards as he has recounted to us. What is the practical solution? Even in the Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs also, India appeals to the entire world. India has also suffered the agony felt by the Tamilians because of the surveillance area, because of the prohibited area. Nobody is safe in Ceylon. No fisherman is allowed to transgress that area, no civilian is allowed to travel in that island. So, these are the sufferings being felt there. But what is the solution here? Is the solution to be one as suggested by the younger people that violence should be met with violence? So, our Government should sit and think whether it is a fact that it is not going to solve the problem by just sitting and preaching sermons? They should think of concrete steps, if possible, by pressurising the Sri Lanka Government to come forward for a solution. We are not lacking in our wisdom in finding out solutions.

AN HON. MEMBER : But how to pressurise them?

SHRI N. V. RATNAM : That is the duty of the Government to take steps and the entire Comity of Nations is not so helpless as to be unable to find a solution. So, let our Government think and seek a solution to this problem. As my friend was telling very sympathetically that the time is the essence in this matter and if you go on preaching and appealing to the Comity of Nations to find a solution, you should also keep in mind that you do not arrive at a situation when you don't find even one Tamilian in the entire Island of Sri Lanka. So, time is the essence of the matter. Of course, we as Telugu Desam people, are at one with the policy of the Government in its efforts to finding a solution. The Government are making their best efforts through Shri Parthasarathi and Mr. Bhandari and all of them are doing an excellent work. But is it sufficient to find out a solution? We find that it is not sufficient. Negotiations have failed. Of course, negotiations fail as my friend Mr. Kumaramangalam has said.

These negotiations began in 1956, but they cannot go on for ever, particularly when thousands of Tamilians have been brutally killed and their ladies are being subjected to so much of sufferings that we cannot describe them here in public. Civilization comes in the way to describe their sufferings.

Another tragic thing in the history is that these glaring injustices are being supported by many nations. That is an unfortunate situation in the history of civilisation. MUSSAD an agency of Israel is working through the US Embassy there. US is the major power in the world politics. As we see in the Press Pakistan has also declared its support to the Ceylon Government. UK is also supporting them. So, the tragic situation in the entire world history is that Israel, big powers and the so-called civilised nations are supporting this most uncivilised act of the Sinhalese Government. So, we have to come in the open. We need not feel shy of saying a truth and let us not feel shy about these things and condemn the acts however big and however powerful the nation may be. So, we must condemn the action of the US, UK and other powers which are supporting the Sinhalese Government. This is the first step the Indian Government has to take. So, I appeal to our Government to come into the open. Let us take a lead in the Comity of Nations, because after all the entire Ceylonese people are our people. They are all Indians. So, let us come into the open and condemn the acts of the so-called big powers.

How we get into this, one may ask. It is because the results are reflecting on the Indian economy, the economy of the entire India, as thousands and lakhs of people are coming into India and have become a burden not only to the State of Tamil Nadu, but to the entire India. So our economy is being affected by these refugees. That is how we resent it, and there is a reason for us and there is a ground for us to interfere in this matter because if we are not affected directly there is reason for us to go slow, but we are directly affected by the political situation in Ceylon. Our economy is grossly affected in that way. And it is not only the duty of Tamil Nadu, but it is the duty of the entire India to come to the rescue of

the refugees. First of all, I would like to suggest that our Government should come to brass-tacks and request the so-called super-powers because as we know that Ceylon is not a great force militarily and as they say, now the so-called soldiers are only the hooligans of society, they are not trained soldiers, but they are just outright hooligans of society. But they are called soldiers and so many atrocities are being committed on our people there. So, in this aspect, let us come to brass-tacks. Even the economy of Ceylon is so much affected that one day we may find that it is also going to be a starving nation and in that view also the entire comity of nations should take this into consideration, and I would submit that foreign investment in Ceylon was reduced from Rs. 7 billions in 1983 to Rs. 3 billions last year. And the Kanakasenthamarai cement factory which is the biggest cement factory in Jaffna district which is supplying cement to the entire Island, is now on the verge of closure and the fish triangle known as Jaffna-Mannar-Mullaitivu, which has got 40 per cent of its catch has now dwindled. Now, the total loss in the fishing industry only is considered to be Rs. 800 millions and 24 rural hospitals are now being closed for lack of qualified people. In this way Ceylon's economy has come to a great stop. In this situation it is the duty of all the countries put together to come to the rescue.

I may, at the end, refer to one fact, as my other friend was telling about the speech of Shri Jayewardene, which was sympathetically reported in the press. What he said was: "What is it I can do? I am a prisoner of circumstances." This seems to be the statement of Jayewardene. Is it true? The belief in the entire Island was that it was not true. It is because he is the most powerful man in the entire Ceylon now, he is the man who can do and undo things. So, it is a pretext shown to the world that he is a helpless man in the circumstances. That may not be true—it is not true at all. So, let all the nations put their pressure on him to solve this crisis. He is the only man who can do it and he needs pressure from big powers including India.

Of course, I am confident that as in many parts of the world, India can also

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come to the rescue in this situation. We have tried it in Iraq and Iran. Of course, Iraq or Iran are not directly connected to us. We sent our missionaries to try to find out solution where war is going on between the two neighbours. Here too, they can do it. Of course, it will not be very justified in saying that our Government is lagging behind. Due to some international difficulty, India may not come forward with so much vigour as we have expected or as pleaded by our brothers from Tamil Nadu. But it is time for us to come to the rescue to our own brothers in Sri Lanka. So, at this time, I would appeal to the Sri Lankan Government not in my own terms but in the terms of Mr. David Hopper, Vice-President of the World Bank. Some months ago, at the Sri Lanka Aid Consortium meeting, David Hopper, an experienced Vice-President of the World Bank said :

"I join all others at this table in hoping that there will be an agreement between the two communities. Minister de Mel referred to unspecified grievances of the minority community (i.e. Tamil community) that need to be rectified. As our concern is for the economic well-being of all the nation's people, we urge the Government to make an early address to the economic components of communal stress."

So, in these words of Mr. David Hopper, I would request the Government of India to come to the quick and immediate aid of Sri Lankan situation and help to find a solution.

Thank you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the 10th of April, when I spoke in this House, I like many of our colleagues, was greatly agitated and I think, we spoke with a lot of emotions. It is not as if the emotion is dried up today. But I think, in a debate of this nature exclusively devoted to the subject of Sri Lanka situation, I think, this House should know a number of facts. It should know the history of the problem and it should also appreciate the actions taken by the Government.

May I, at the outset, welcome the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on the 25th of April and the statement made by the hon. Minister of External Affairs today on the Sri Lanka situation? I would have occasions to comment upon the statement of the hon. Minister presently. On the 10th of April, I pointed out that there were two problems. One was the problem of refugees and the other was the problems of Indian fishermen. I am happy that the hon. Minister and the hon. Prime Minister in their statements have taken note of the vital distinction between the problem of refugees on the one hand and the problem of the Indian fishermen on the other, although both problems are the children of the same situation. Today, there is yet another problem. Regarding the clashes between Muslims and Tamils. Let us pause for a moment here and ask the newspapers, what is wrong with our understanding of the English language. Muslims and Tamils are not two different groups.

Muslims are Tamils. *Islam Engal Madham; Tamil Engal Mozhi*. Islam is our religion and Tamil is our language. This is what Muslims said. If today Muslims are being pitied against Tamils, we have to find out how this happened, when this happened and who were the forces behind it. Should not the world opinion be aroused on this pernicious "divide and rule" principle which I sincerely hope is not the aftermath of the visit of Mrs. Thatcher to the island of Sri Lanka?

This is what the Deputy Minister in the Sri Lankan Government, Mr. M. A. Mujeeb said :

"The violence is not merely a Tamil-Muslim clash. I have information that some external elements are instigating Muslims to attack."

This is a third dimension.

I think, the statement of the hon. Prime Minister and of the hon. Minister have taken note of these three dimensions to this very serious problem and the fallout in India and in Tamil Nadu, in particular.

Let me go back briefly to trace some milestones of history. A reference has been made in this House to the Bandranaike-

Chelianyakam agreement and the Senainy-aike-Chelianyakam agreement. There were negotiations; there were talks. What were the demands of Tamils? The Tamilians were demanding protection on three grounds, language, land and fundamental rights. They wanted protection to Tamil language; they wanted an end to colonisation and being driven out of Tamilian homelands and they wanted fundamental rights, like, every other citizen of Sri Lanka.

The answer of all the successive Sri Lankan Governments has been only Buddhism and only Sinhalism. This answer has been imposed, a theocratic State, a one-language State and a one religion State upon all the people of Sri Lanka.

Over the years, the Tamilians, feeling deprived and feeling totally second-class citizens in Sri Lanka formed the Tamil United Front. I think, the House should know when the Tamil United Front became the Tamil United Liberation Front. The Tamil United Front was formed to put forward three demands. When these three demands were rejected, they had no option but to form themselves into the Tamil United Liberation Front.

We swear by democracy. In July, 1977 the Tamil United Front fought the elections on the plank of a separate State. They overwhelmingly won the elections in constituencies in which they contested. Therefore, you cannot say that the Tamil United Liberation Front is an illegitimate child. The TULF is a legitimate child of the Sri Lankan revolution. It is a legitimate child of the evolutionary political process in Sri Lanka which went to the people and won the mandate.

Let me ask one more question. What is the State of Sri Lanka today? When we talk about negotiations, I have no doubt in my mind that the Government of India has taken up this matter very seriously. I am convinced from the information which I have otherwise, the information which is available to the country and the information which is available to the people that this Government, and the hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is seriously concerned with this problem. But let us understand, the nature of the Sri Lankan State. The judiciary has been

publicly humiliated. Because the Judges did not take their oath before President Jayewardene be removed then from their Judgeships closed the Court and re-appointed only some judges of his choice. Instant solutions before we suggest do this and do that, before we make rhetorical speeches, what is the nature of Sri Lankan state today? President Jayewardene is not Clement Atlee; Lalith Atulatumudali is not Lord Mountbatten. President Jayewardene's sole objective is to impose upon Sri Lankan territory a hegemonistic Sinhalese Buddhist fascist rule. They have publicly humiliated the judiciary. Because the judges did not take oath before the President Jayewardene, all the judges were stripped of offices; the court was closed and President Jayewardene appointed judges of his choice.

Every newspaper in Sri Lanka is controlled by the Government. In 1982, President Jayewardene extended the tenure of Parliament until 1989. Today the Sri Lankan Parliament does not have the support of the people. It is not a Parliament which owes its existence to the people. 16 Tamil Constituencies are unrepresented today, in Parliament. Under the Sixth Amendment, the MPs elected from these Tamil Constituencies were thrown out of Parliament. Today the State of Sri Lanka is not a State which can be accepted as a civilised State with a civilised form of Government with which you can do business in the normal way. Yet our Government is making efforts every day yet our Government has not allowed itself to be provoked, has not allowed to be carried away by emotion and our Government still swears by the unity, integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. In such a situation, I ask in deep anguish and with concern who are we to tell the Sri Lankan freedom fighters "You can ask for this and you cannot ask for more". Who are we to impose our values on Sri Lankan freedom fighters. If the right to self-determination is the basic right of every human Society of every ethnic, racial or any group and a situation arises in a country where they feel totally deprived of their rights and they carry on a struggle. I think it is not for us to tell them "You should ask for this and you should not ask for more".

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We cannot send them arms. We cannot send them the Indian Army. We cannot help them in asking for a separate State. But, who are we to tell the people of Sri Lanka the Tamils who are deprived of their rights and of their homeland and of their basic rights that "You ask for this and you shall not ask for more" ?

What can India do ? This is where the House is really perplexed. We have to suggest solutions. What is it we can do to bring the Sinhalese and the Tamils to a settlement ? What is it we can do to restore normalcy in Sri Lanka ? The first step is to protect our interests. What are our interests ? Our interests are the interests of Indian fishermen, to ensure that refugees do not come to India and that they remain in Sri Lanka and they are given their basic rights. Our interest is to ensure that there is no violence in Sri Lanka. The hon. Minister said today that our goal is to protect our interests and that is our primary objective. What is it that we can do ?

The first thing that the Indian Government should do is to tell President Jayewardene that India will bear no responsibility for deciding what the Tamil people want to ask for themselves. It is not for India to tell the Tamil people that you shall seek this goal and you shall not seek that goal. It is for the Tamil people to secure their future.

In 1876, a famous proclamation was made. I shall read a few words from that :

"Whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government...But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to provide new guards for their future security."

I think we should tell the world at large that it is for the people of Sri Lanka to struggle for their rights, that the struggle will lead them to autonomy, or it will lead them to confederation or it will lead them

to a federation or it will force them to seek the path of a separate State.

It is not for us to tell "You should seek this and not that." The cross will have to be borne by President Jayewardene himself.

The second thing we should do is to declare here and now that the security and peace in the waters that separate Sri Lanka and India will be India's sole responsibility and that we shall not tolerate the Sri Lankan Government sharing or claiming to share the responsibility with India to secure the peace and tranquility of these waters. I think we should make a clear declaration that, given India's position, given the geography given India's size and Sri Lanka's size and given the nature of the waters the security and tranquility of Gulf of Mannar, the Bay of Bengal and the Palk Straits are India's responsibility and that India will secure to both the Indian fishermen and the Sri Lankan fishermen the right to carry on their operations. This will send signals to the Sri Lankan Government. We should as a matter of fact, send a clear signal to President Jayewardene that India will no longer be merely an honest broker and honest mediator but India, by force of circumstances, is now compelled to play an active role in bringing about a settlement.

I want to say a few more things.

The United Nations Commission for Human Rights has documented some of the atrocities which have been committed in Sri Lanka. Last time I spoke from my own experience with the refugees. The International Commission of Jurists told the United Nations Commission for Human Rights that the security forces in Sri Lanka went berserk and resorted to arbitrary shooting and killing of the Tamils ; 108 signed affidavits pertaining to 74 incidents during August-December, 1984, were filed before the United Nations Commission for Human Rights.

The Pax Christ International which is a catholic peace movement, gave evidence before the UNCHR that "the Sri Lankan Government has called for foreign advisers and mercenaries, that the Sri Lankan Government is following a policy of colonisation and summary executions ; there have been instances of murders, including the murder of Father Mary Bastian."

The Amnesty International gave evidence before the UNCHR that human rights were violated in Sri Lanka.

Shri Shyam Bhatia, writing in the *Tribune*, speaks of a personal interview he had and he says :

“Mr. Manendra Kesivapillai, a Second Year science student from Jaffna University, told me that nails were driven into the heels of his feet to force him to confess ; chilly powder was rubbed into sensitive parts of his body ; and he was hung by his handcuffed wrists for upto eight hours a day in his prison cell. Doctors say that he will never be able to use his arms again because crucial nerves have been ripped apart.

Mr. Gamini Navaratne, Editor of the banned *Saturday Review*, after it resumed publication say that “people have been evacuated over an area of 100 metres off the coast and there are 250,000 refugees in the island of Sri Lanka apart from the 100,000 refugees who have crossed over to India”.

These are documented instances of genocide. ‘Genocide’ is not a word I am using ; the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi after serious deliberations on 15th August, 1983, used the word ‘genocide’ to condemn what was happening in Sri Lanka. If we believe that what is happening in Sri Lanka is genocide, if we really believe that the Tamils there are entitled to fundamental rights, entitled to equal rights, entitled to a homeland, entitled to language then the Government of India should vigorously pursue their efforts in this regard.

I welcome the appointment of the Special Advisory Group. I only wish that the hon. Minister had seized the opportunity—the opportunity is still not lost—when the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr. Hamid, made a statement that representatives from India were welcome to visit the island and see what was going on there. I think, India could still take that opportunity ; India should take that opportunity and send a group of Parliamentarians to Sri Lanka to go round the country to find out what has been happening and to reassure the people there that

they are not alone and that India will come to their succour. I think, the Government should pursue its efforts vigorously. The Special Advisory Group should invite us to give evidence. There are many things which I cannot say here, there are many solutions short of military intervention, there are many steps which can be taken. I do not think we lack wisdom or imagination. I think, the Special Advisory Group should call us, groups of people, party leaders, and take evidence ; they should ask for our opinion. I think he should pursue an active and dynamic foreign policy. I think the appointment of the Special Advisory Group the importance attached to it and the announcement made by the hon. Prime Minister himself vests that group with a great deal of authority, invests that group with a great deal of responsibility. I have no doubt that the Prime Minister and the hon. Minister for External Affairs will take note of the sentiments expressed in this House and the Special Advisory Group will act taking note of the great authority and the great responsibility vested in it. I only wish to take this opportunity to appeal to world opinion and to appeal to the nations of the world to see what is happening in Sri Lanka and strongly support India, strongly stand by the measures taken by India and to strongly mobilise world opinion on the side of the oppressed people so that soon and before the year is over, in Sri Lanka the Tamils will have their legitimate rights and peace and tranquility will prevail in Sri Lanka.

SHRI S JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): It is not necessary for me to go into the historical background of the issue because my predecessors have spoken at length on that aspect. It is a long story of broken pacts and I would like to concentrate on the contemporaneous events.

I think the Government in Sri Lanka has taken a leaf from the book of South Africa and also a leaf from the book of Israel. It has been pursuing a policy and its own version of apartheid. It has been deliberately and consistently, persistently and insistently discriminating against the Tamils on the basis of language for years not only in practice but in law itself. This is what has not been made known to Indians, let alone the people in other parts

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

of the world. In my view it has also taken a leaf from the book of Israel because we have seen how Israel after occupying the territories of Arab countries has been trying to settle their own people there so that the conquered parts become a permanent portion of their own nation. In Jaffna the Tamils are not merely being persecuted, they are not merely being driven out but they are sought to be reduced to a minority. It is basically a human rights question. Somehow our government has been pursuing a policy of what I may say, masterly drift. It has no policy whatever. We have been drifting aimlessly. We have not been able to mobilise international opinion in regard to the basic reality obtaining in Sri Lanka. When the problem arose in the erstwhile East Pakistan, our government launched a major international diplomatic and propaganda, offensive. But for some inscrutable reasons, as Mr. Kumaramangalam has rightly said, we have been feeling guilty and have no reason to believe that we should feel guilty at all. I have met many Indians who feel that this is purely an internal matter of Sri Lanka. It is not as simple as that at all. It is not as if only the people of Tamil Nadu should feel concerned about it. It is as much a problem of whole India as that of Tamil Nadu. I don't think that we should allow Tamil speaking people to gain a feeling that the rest of India does not so much bother about this matter. I happened to visit Tamil Nadu recently to canvass for my party's candidate—who, of course, lost—but it provided an excellent opportunity for me to have an insight into the feelings of people there. Their impression appears to be that only people of Tamil Nadu are feeling concerned about it and the rest of Indians are not. It is not in the interest of our country to allow the people of Tamil Nadu to develop this feeling though this feeling in my view is totally incorrect.

Sir, though many international journals and many correspondents have been reporting about the violation of human rights the government of Sri Lanka which launched a major offensive at the international level has been able to convince many

important sections of western public opinion that the Tamil rebel activities were somehow encouraged by us which is not true at all. We know it is not true but the responsibility for educating the people outside India about this reality devolves broadly on our shoulders. Have we succeeded in this respect? My own feeling is our government has failed miserably in this respect. It has not been able to tell the world about the realities in Sri Lanka and about the economic implications of influx of more than 1 lakh refugees into our borders.

Secondly, Sir, we want to see that the integrity of Sri Lanka as a nation is protected and preserved. But we have been making this blatant mistake of talking to Shri Jayewardene. In my view no point is served by merely talking to Jayewardene because Jayewardene himself is a powerless man and is a prisoner of extremist elements. All our envoys whether Mr. G. Parthasarathy or Romesh Bhandari have been talking only with Mr. Jayewardene. We reason to believe that forces which are not sympathetic to India and which do not exactly belong to Sri Lanka have also been operating from inside Sri Lanka and we have not been able to dissuade those forces from interfering in this matter.

Therefore, my view in the matter is that our government must gear itself up, brace itself up for a major propaganda and diplomatic offensive. We think Sri Lanka is a tiny island and we are a mighty nation and it will not be in the fitness of things to launch a propaganda offensive; it will not be in the fitness of things for us to engage ourselves in armed conflict with Sri Lanka. I am not certainly advocating that solution but it should not deter India from launching a diplomatic offensive.

Because, Sri Lanka has been somehow successful in painting India as a big brother breathing down the neck of Sri Lanka. Let us face up to this reality. At this rate our candle is being burnt from both the ends. Our Tamil brethren are being persecuted and driven out and relieved of their properties and their lives. Our own image in the comity of nations is suffering an irretrievable damage. Before we can persuade Mr. Jayewardene we must be

able to influence international public opinion. In this direction, our Government should take appropriate steps. That is the only solution because Mr. Jayawardhane and other friends in Sri Lanka would not have the courage to face up to India's pressure without support from certain other countries of the world. Unless we convince the people of those countries that Sri Lanka is in the wrong, we will never be able to persuade Mr. Jayawardhane to see reason. This is my submission. With these words I conclude. Thank you.

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN (Chidambaram): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, first of all, I support the points which have been spoken by the previous speakers for the betterment of Sri Lankan Tamils.

We have been stressing from the beginning of the Sri Lankan crisis, that there is need for a political solution, and not a military solution. President Jayawardene is holding a different view. The clashes between the Sinhalese and the Tamils and between the Tamils and the Muslims, Tamil Terrorism and the brutal actions of the Sri Lankan Army are all symptoms of a deep malady.

If we are insisting on a political solution, we should impress upon President Jayawardhane that there is no reason for Colombo to fear that Sri Lanka's territorial integrity will be endangered if the Tamils' demand for regional councils is conceded. President Jayawardhane still harps on District councils which are not acceptable to the Tamils.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister by the All-Party Delegation led by our hon. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M.G. Ramachandran contains the following demands :—

Withdrawal of Sri Lankan Army and Commando Forces from the Tamil Homelands.

Stoppage of further influx of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees into India.

Measures to enable those refugees already in India to return to Sri Lanka.

Checking of the colonisation of Tamil areas by Sinhalese civilians.

Sir, nobody can deny that these demands are the basis for a political solution of Sri Lankan problem.

We have not yet intensified our diplomatic efforts in this regard.

It is but proper to mention here how the Sri Lankan Government since the day of Independence has been fanning the ethnic clashes. The Sri Lankan Government's first attempt was to de-civilise the Tamil workers in plantations. After having done that, they have turned their attention to wipe out Sinhalese Tamils from the Island.

No agreement is sacrosanct for Sri Lankan Government. All the agreements just treated as instruments for strengthening Sinhalese fundamentalism. Even Lord Buddha is not spared in this effort. His statue is a convenient tool in colonising the Tamil majority areas.

I want to apprise the House how the Government of Sri Lanka has always been inimical towards the people of Tamil origin. The immigration of Tamil Estate workers into Ceylon started in 1827 and then their number was around 10,000. The Donoughmore Commission in its report presented to British Parliament in July 1928 recommended inter alia voting rights to Indian Estate workers in Ceylon numbering about 2,26,000. Under the provisions of Soulbury Commission, 7 members representing the Indian Estate workers in Ceylon were returned to Ceylon Parliament in 1948.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, immediately after independence, the Ceylon Government through its Citizenship Act, 1948 denied citizenship to anyone born after 15th November, 1948 even though his or her parents were born in Ceylon. Their representation in Ceylon Parliament was forfeited. Then, our beloved late Prime Minister Nehruji and Mr. Dudley Senanayake, the then Prime Minister of Ceylon, held detailed discussions on the issue of citizenship for persons of Indian origin working in the Estates when they attended the Queen's Coronation in London in June, 1953. The suggestion made by the Ceylon Prime Minister of compulsory repatriation of these persons over a period of years, was not accepted by our Prime Minister,

[Dr. P. Vallal Peruman]

Mr. Nehru. He reiterated India's policy that persons of Indian origin who had made their home in foreign countries should become full and effective citizens of that country and that they be fully accepted by the people and Government. The Indo-Ceylon Agreement concluded between Prime Minister Nehru and the Prime Minister Sir John Kotlewala of Ceylon in New Delhi in January 1954 did not refer to the question of repatriation. But in 1964, Prime Minister Shastri and the Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike agreed to take as their citizens a major proportion of the stateless people of Indian origin in accordance with a certain fixed ratio. In 1974, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike agreed that the remaining persons outside 1964 Agreement would be accepted by India and Sri Lanka in equal numbers. The Government of India has informed the Government of Sri Lanka that the 15-year period stipulated by the 1964 Shastri-Sirimavo Agreement and the extension granted in the letters exchanged between the Prime Ministers of the two countries in 1974 have ended on 30-10-1981.

But President Jayawardhane has recently declared that the stateless people of Tamil origin covered under the above two agreements should be repatriated to India. The agreement made on 26th June 1974 regarding the rights of Indian fishermen relates to international boundary in the Palk Strait. The Indian fishermen and the pilgrims had access to Kachcha Teevu, which they had enjoyed for ages. They were not to obtain travel documents or visas for this purpose. The vessels of India and Sri Lanka enjoyed their traditional rights in each other's waters.

The 23rd March 1976 Agreement between India and Sri Lanka, which is a supplement to the first agreement, prevents Indian vessels and the fishermen from entering their waters on the basis of some assumed line of control. The Indian authorities have concurred with the Sri Lankan interpretation.

This has given the handle to Sri Lankan Navy to harass, to humiliate and to hound the Indian fishermen out of their

own territorial waters. Near Kuchcha Theevu the Sri Lankan Navy vessels along with 15 plastic boats are roaming in our territorial waters. Our Coast Guard vessel with one plastic boat is unable to prevent their deprivations.

It is not that the Sri Lankan Government is trying to exterminate Sri Lankan Tamils only. The savage genocide in Sri Lanka is not simply a problem of Tamils but one of human distress. What Hitler had done without a law is being matched and outdone with a law by Jayawardhane Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have recognised SWAPO. We have recognised PLO. We recognised the Mukti Bahini before the liberation of Bangladesh. We are sending delegations to Iran and Iraq. We demand international sanctions against the Apartheid policy of South Africa. We condemn Israel for not granting homeland to Palestinians. We waged a raging and tearing campaign all the world over, when lakhs of refugees from East Pakistan poured into India in 1971. We must invoke the Human Rights Convention when the Tamil minorities in Sri Lanka are being brutally massacred and mauled. We must sensitise the public conscience against the actions of a few fundamentalists in Sri Lanka. Can we not publicly say that India cannot remain a silent spectator of the extermination of Tamil minority race in Sri Lanka? We know that the Mossad of Israel and the mercenary force SAS of British origin are training Sri Lankan soldiers in guerilla warfare. Can we not condemn this?

Nearly a lakh of Sri Lankan refugees have come to India and still they continue to pour in. Tamil Nadu cannot manage to handle such a large number of refugee families. The Centre must at least give the warning to Sri Lanka that it is not wise for President Jayawardhane to earn the wrath and ire of the Tamils in the sub-continent.

In conclusion, I welcome the Prime Minister's move to finally constitute a High Power Six-Member Advisory Group headed by the Union Home Minister so as to help in finding an immediate as well as long-term solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before we proceed with the other members, I want to get the permission of the House. We have now allowed two hours. How much time can we extend further ? For the present, we will extend it by another two hours and then let us see.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Instead of starting at six, we started at four O' clock. It may go upto 10 O' clock or even 12 O' clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As and when necessary, we can extend it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We will continue till the attendance is completely dispersed.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What is finally decided ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is extended up to all the hon. members finish their speeches.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, the magnitude of the Sri Lankan problem has already been forcefully described by my esteemed colleague. So I am not going into the details of the situation. The atrocities being systematically committed by the Sri Lankan military with the aid of the Sri Lankan Government are unworthy of a civilised Government. The imperialist forces which play a very prominent role in Sri Lanka's day to day politics are now out to destabilise Sri Lanka just as they want to destabilise India by creating ethnic problems. Of course, everyone knows that this is part of their global strategy to intervene in this area.

Tamil population in Sri Lanka is a part and parcel of Sri Lanka. They are Sri Lankans themselves, just as the Sinhalese population is Sri Lankan.

18.00 hrs.

And this Tamil population wants protection from the Government of Sri Lanka, sufficient protection from the Government of Sri Lanka, as a minority national group, to promote its culture and cultural heritage. This the Jayawardene Government is refusing to see. Unless and until the Jayawardene Government extends

protection, or whichever Government in Sri Lanka extends sufficient protection, to these Tamil nationals, this problem cannot be solved. It is a pity that instead of solving this problem, the Sri Lankan military which is supposed to protect the citizens of Sri Lanka is systematically attacking the Tamil population and throwing them out of Sri Lanka.

Some big global Powers are posing it as an entirely internal problem of Sri Lanka—which it is not. Firstly, this is a violation of basic human rights and human dignity. Secondly, this whole thing is not aimed only at pushing out Tamils from Sri Lanka. This endangers the security of our country. So, what I demand through you, Sir, from the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs is that we should arouse world public opinion in this context. What have we done in this regard ? We have done practically nothing.

We preside over the Non-Aligned Movement. Have we done anything to take this issue before the non-aligned movement ? We have been in the forefront, raising our voice against every attack against human rights in the world. That is the tradition of our freedom struggle, and our tradition since then. But have we done anything to raise this problem before the non-aligned movement and to arouse the opinion of the countries in this movement viz. this attack on the basic human dignity committed by the Sri Lankan Government ? We have failed in this.

We should also expose before the world public and world Governments the role of the American imperialists. This is not only a question of Sri Lanka Government launching an attack against the Tamil population, or posing a threat to India. We should identify the forces behind the curtain. We should expose the machinations of the American imperialists in Sri Lanka on this specific issue.

Already, the Israeli mercenaries are there. This special task force which is specially trained to commit attacks against the Tamil population, is being trained by the Israeli mercenaries. Israeli secret agents and commandos are there in Sri Lanka. This Muslim-Tamil riot to which

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

my esteemed colleague Mr. Chidambaram referred, is entirely the creation of this special task force which is trained by these Israeli commandos. Responsible Opposition political leaders of Sri Lanka have already come out with sufficient evidence that this is created by the mercenaries there, their Israeli commandos and the special task force. We should expose these forces before the world public opinion and tell them that the American imperialists and their Israeli agents are trying to de-stabilize this area, and trying to make this attack on the Tamils and push them out of Sri Lanka; and this is posing a serious threat to India also. This we should expose.

Have we used the world forum for this? What about the UN forum? We are not demanding that India should send our military to Sri Lanka, but we should demand before the UN forum that UN peace force should be sent to Sri Lanka so that Tamils are not affected by Sri Lanka military with the help of the government. This at least we should do.

When Bangladesh crisis occurred, our government sent special missionaries to world capitals, to countries all over the world, making our stand clear and saying about the attacks which were committed by the Pakistan military in Bangladesh. Have we done anything regarding this? We have not done anything till this day to arouse world public opinions. All our diplomatic channels should be used. I fully agree with my colleagues Shri Kumaramangalam and Shri Jaipal Reddy that all our diplomatic channels should be used to arouse world public opinions and pressurise the Government of Sri Lanka to arrive at a political solution.

We should take up the attack on our fishermen fishing in our waters. How dare the Sri Lankan Navy attacked our fishermen who have every right to fish in our waters? This has been raised in this House earlier by other members. What have we done in this respect? And this attack is still continuing. The Indian Government should take every appropriate step to stop this attack; and no power in the world should attack our fishermen fishing in our waters. We have every legitimate right to do so. The Indian

Government should take it seriously. I request the hon. Minister through you to make a categorical reply regarding this.

The exodus of refugees are coming to our country. That is exactly what Sri Lanka wants. We should demand that the Sri Lankan Government should pay compensation to us for taking care of these refugees because of the atrocities committed by their military and we should demand it in the world forums.

Once again, I demand that all diplomatic channels should be used, the UN forum should be used. We should demand the UN peace force should go to Sri Lanka and put an end to the atrocities committed against the Tamils. We should send special missionaries to world capitals as we had done during the Bangladesh crisis clarifying our position and exposing the imagination of the American imperialism. We should also use the forum of Non-Aligned Movement to expose the Sri Lankan Government before the Non-Aligned countries.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur); Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today when I talk of Sri Lanka, my heart is overwhelmed with grief. Even on an earlier occasion when the Demands of the Ministry of External Affairs were being discussed, I had said that this matter was not related to Sri Lanka alone but concerned the entire country. One lakh refugees have been driven out of Sri Lanka. They have reached India and have become a permanent burden on the economy of this country. The influx is still unabated. Therefore, I do not regard it as an internal matter of Sri Lanka. We have been surrounded by hostile neighbours i.e. Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China. Our relations with Burma are not very good. I reside near Nepal and can say that our relations with Nepal are also not good. What is happening today in Sri Lanka will happen in Nepal also after two or three years. If Government do not take steps in regard to Sri Lanka then all the people of Indian origin in Nepal would be driven out from there. History repeats itself.

[English]

Public memory is proverbially short but that short that we feel.

[Translation]

History is a witness to the fact that such developments had taken place four or five years prior to our conflict with China in 1962. If any Chinese leader visited our country those days then we used to say that the relations of both the countries were very good and cordial. Similarly if our leader went to China then we used to raise slogans of 'Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai'. Thus we were deceiving ourselves while China was preparing itself against us. The result was that we were defeated and even after 23 years now we could not get back even 23 inches of land from China. We swallowed that humiliation and thus became second rate and even third rate power in the eyes of the world. Therefore, it is not the problem of Sri Lanka alone. We have been surrounded by hostile neighbours and if we do not change our policy then the consequences would be sorrowful for us.

Last time when I was speaking on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs, I had brought to the notice of the House that I had received dozens of letters wherein the woeful tales of the refugees from Sri Lanka had been narrated. All these letters had been addressed to the Congress Party office and had been redirected to me. Most of those letter writers had been expressed their pleasant surprise that a person from North India was speaking for South India. Sir, our country is one. There is no South India or North India, Our problems are common. Therefore, I say it on behalf of the entire country and also on behalf of the people of North India that this problem is not the problem of South India but it is as much the problem of North India. One of those letters had been written by a sister from Jaffna. Sir, I can show that letter to you. In that letter it has been stated that she had come to Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka. She said that at midnight Sri Lankan forces made a forcible entry into her house, killed her husband, made her a widow and outraged her modesty. She has come to India but here also society is not prepared to accept her. Where has that Ram gone who had accepted Sita? Why is this society not accepting her? I want to write to her that her Ram is no more now and we are hanging our heads

in shame. I have no words to console her. I am unable to do anything for her. She has stated that she was not the only woman who had been molested but thousands of women had been subjected to molestation, but they are unable to say anything against it. Today we are witnessing all these unhappy incidents as silent spectators. We are in a fix as to what we should do about them. It is high time for us to speak our mind in categorical terms. We must say that we would not tolerate the humiliation and insult of our people any longer. Tamilians have been undergoing humiliation for the last so many years. The Sri Lankan Government has sent Sinhalese to the areas where Tamilians were in large number *i.e.* to Jaffna, North Sri Lanka and East Sri Lanka and have also set up a cantonment there so that they could continue the atrocities on the Tamilians. The Sinhalese are being protected by the armed forces when the former perpetrate atrocities on the Tamilians. Previously, as many as 13, 17 or 20 per cent of the Tamilians were in the army. But now they are only 2 per cent. People would remember Ravana, Hitler, Mussolini and Chengez Khan as the perpetrators of atrocities. But the name of Jayawardene would go down in the annals of history for his unleashed hell on the people there. Had Hitler been alive today, he would have hung his head in shame over the genocide being committed in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan forces attacked unarmed people and killed them mercilessly. People go to the market for shopping. They are lined up and killed. Thousands of people have been reported missing. The fact is that they have been taken to some unknown place and killed and burnt there. The people of the world do not know the type of atrocities being committed in Sri Lanka, because neither our country has, nor the Western press have, cared to apprise the world of these atrocities. You will recall that when we were having tension with East Pakistan, *i.e.* Bangla Desh, all the leaders of our country including our Prime Minister had gone abroad and they had apprised the world of the situation prevailing then. Today, why are we fighting shy of telling the world what is going on in Sri Lanka? We should go to the other countries and try to form world opinion against the atrocities being committed in Sri Lanka. Had there been some other country in our

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

place, it would have subjected Sri Lanka to a blockade and would have wiped out the military regime there. But I do not say that our Government should take such steps. What I want is that we should try to find a political solution to the problem of Sri Lanka. I congratulate our Prime Minister that he has taken up this matter quite seriously and has set up an advisory council but it is high time we told the Sri Lankan Government that we would not tolerate this situation any longer as it is no longer their internal matter and it is having an adverse affect on our country. I want to tell you the maltreatment meted out to our fishermen by Sri Lankan forces. Every member of this House should know that Sri Lanka is adopting such postures on the basis of the support it is getting from America. A station of the Voice of America is being set up in Sri Lanka, obviously for espionage work against India and it would pose a danger to our security. Then this matter would become all the more complicated and then we would not be able to do anything. Therefore, we should raise our voice against it right now so that the world may know what we want.

Sir, whenever such atrocities have been perpetrated in this world, the people working for human rights have raised their voice. The people striving for human rights had come to intervene in the Bhagalpur incident, but why are they not coming to stop the killings of thousands of Tamilians in Sri Lanka. Besides, there is one more question which needs to be considered in all seriousness. Whenever Jayewardene visits our country or whenever our representatives go to Sri Lanka, he says only one thing that Sri Lanka and India are brothers and that a political solution of the problem would be evolved. But when he goes to Pakistan he begins to discuss Kashmir there. Now-a-days Jayewardene is playing another mischief. He knows that there is a Government of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu. In an interview with foreign correspondents he said that India had nothing to do with this problem and it was the problem of the Tamil Nadu Government. Thus he is trying to incite the extremists there. Thus he is trying to drive a wedge between the Tamil Nadu Government and the Government of India. The

people of India will not tolerate such malicious propaganda of Jayawardene. It is a fact that neither are extremists being encouraged by the Tamil Nadu Government nor are Commandos being incited by the Government of India. We want a political solution to this problem but that should be an honourable solution. The past history of Sri Lanka bears witness to the fact that whenever an effort was made to give autonomy to the Tamilians there, the Sinhalese wrought havoc there and usurped all their rights. At present, the Sri Lankan forces are committing genocide. As such, the problem there has assumed dangerous proportions. If we choose to be silent spectators to these unhappy episodes in Sri Lanka, the time is not far off when we Indians will be driven out of all our neighbouring countries. We would be driven out of Nepal, Canada, Africa and then our people will not forgive us. They would ask why we did not raise our voice. Therefore, it is high time that we gave due thought to the problem.

A large number of Indians are settled in other countries. But the number of the Chinese settled in other countries is much more. But no Chinese citizen settled in other country has been driven out by that country. It is only because China is a force to reckon with. We only make speeches. Therefore, we should think over these problems seriously and tell to Sri Lankan Government that it is not their internal matter and that we would not tolerate this sorry state any longer.

[English]

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : First of all I thank the hon. Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, both Cabinet and State, for having allowed this discussion under Rule 193. I also thank the hon. Prime Minister for having readily responded to the call of our hon. Chief Minister, when he visited here. Immediately the Prime Minister came forward with a statement announcing the formation of the special advisory group to settle the ethnic problem of Sri Lanka. I am also thankful to the Minister of State for External Affairs for having made a statement. But at the outset, I would like to tell him that his statement

is not a new one. It does not have any new things. It is just like old wine in old bottle.

I would now like to trace the history of this problem. Then only some of the hon. Members will come to know what Eelam is and what Sri Lanka is and what Ceylon is and how Tamilians and Sinhalese settled there. This is an important thing because the Tamilians want their right restored which was taken away from them by the Britishers. That is their first demand.

If I trace the history in Sanskrit we call Lanka and in Tamil Elangai and Tamilians call it as Eelam. This is the first history we must learn. Then only can we deal with the Tamilian problem.

About 2,500 years ago the Sinhalese and the Tamilians settled in this Island. Afterwards in the subsequent years this Island was called as Ceylon by the Europeans. In the beginning this Island was ruled by the Tamil and Sinhalese Kings and the famous king of Tamilians were the Cholas and Pandyas. About a thousand years ago, the famous Chola King, Raja Raja Chola ruled the Island and later when time passed, the northern and eastern forces of this Island were occupied by the Tamilians and the rest was occupied by the Sinhalese. This is the position. In 1282 the Arya Chakravarty ruled the Island. Later in 1585, Portuguese went and settled there. In 1582 actually the Portuguese began to rule this Island. Jaiwardenapuram was their capital. In 1619 they captured the Tamil Rajdhani—Jaffna—and the last Tamilian King, Sangliyan, was hanged by the Portuguese in Goa. So, this is the history basically showing that the Tamil kings were ruling this Island. So, Tamilians have a better right in their demand for a separate State.

The British began to rule this place in 1755 after they occupied this Island. Wellington Prabhu, one of the famous men, who said and I quote his very words: 'Whoever is in possession of Trincomalee port he is having the key of that Island'. What does it mean? The possession of the Trincomalee port, he said, is a basic necessity for the control of this Island. One can have the best here. If anybody is having the base, he can attack Tamil Nadu, he can attack India. That is the main

thing which Wellington Prabhu stated. In 1815 Britishers captured Candy and they brought the entire Island under their control. The Britishers wanted to raise coffee, tea and rubber in the hilly areas. But the Sinhalese refused to work under their control. So, they decided to bring Tamils from Tamil Nadu. About ten lakh Tamils had been brought to this Island and they settled there. In the Island there were about three Rajdhanis. But to make it viable and to rule it under one umbrella, these three Rajdhanis had been brought under the rule of the Britishers. This is the very step which brought destruction to the Tamil nationals and which deprived the Tamil nationals of their separate entity. So the Britishers are the very persons who were responsible for it and they brought destruction for the Tamilians to live as a separate entity there. Later on Independence was given to India and Ceylon also asked for Independence. In 1948 Independence was given to Ceylon and from 1948 onwards Mr. Senanayake, Mr. Bandaranayake, Mrs. Bandaranayake and Mr. Jayewardene—all these people have been ruling this Island. When Senanayake began to rule in 1948 the population was 70 lakhs. Out of the population of 70 lakhs 69.4 per cent were Sinhalese, 28.9 per cent were Tamils and 1.7 per cent other people. A majority of the Sinhalese are Buddhists and a majority of the Tamils are Hindus, Muslims and Christians. Such is the case in Ceylon and the right of employment opportunity was denied to the Tamils. Here, employment opportunities for the Sinhalese is 72 per cent, but for the Tamils it is 11.2 per cent. How discriminatory these people are? Such is the situation prevailing in Sri Lanka.

Sir, here I want to say one thing. Our hon. Prime Minister who is the Chairman of the NAM, CHOGM and other things is doing much for Namibia, he is doing much to SWAPO and other countries and he has recognised even Namibia now. What prevents the Prime Minister from recognising at least the liberation movement in Sri Lanka, the Tamil United Liberation Front which is united there now? Why does he not recognise it at least inside Ceylon and outside Ceylon? The mere recognition of the United Tamil Liberation Movement itself will solve the problem. That is what I want to say. The Minister must come

[Shri Kolandaivelu]

forward with a statement saying that all the liberation movements inside and outside Sri Lanka are being recognised by India. If you recognise the militancy of the youth, the militant people who are agitating there, certainly they will have their separate Elam, they will have their separate entity. That is the position now. But what made the Government of India, the Prime Minister and other Ministers not to do it? They are not at all finding a practical solution for this. They are having some talks there, some lobby is going on there. What happened to Mr. G. Parthasarathy? Mr. G. Parthasarathy keeps on going to Ceylon. He has been there umpteen times. On the question whether his talks are fruitful, I think they are futile and fruitless. What happened to the Secretary, Mr. Bhandari? He has secret talks with Mr. Jayewardene, Athulathudali, Mr Premadasa, and Mr Tondaman also. What happens to this? It is being kept as secret. Supposing it is being kept as secret, is it a news worthwhile at least? They are not coming forward with practical things. So, I want to say that the External Affairs Ministry must come forward with a concrete proposal in order to settle this problem because at this time of grave and worsening situation, India's responsibility is equally grave and great. She has her sovereignty, self-respect, self-dignity and moreover, eternal moral strength. It is just like the home of Lord Buddha and the stature of democratic polity. India is involved in all these things inextricably and involved in this unprecedented tragedy of the innocent people being massacred, being killed and even ladies raped. These things must be stopped immediately.

What is the solution for this problem and tragedy? India should act now. In order to initiate a new hope and a new life to the Tamils there, India should act decisively. It is not only that. Our great leader Anna, elder brother said, at the time when he was released from the prison in 1962, when the Chinese aggression took place. When he came out of the prison, he said, "the Chinese have aggressed and trespassed into our territory. The nation must be saved first. Then only, I can have my movement for Dravida Nadu I can have it afterwards," He said, "If the

Chinese come as friends, I will assist them. If they come as foe, we will resist them." That is the very word uttered by our elder brother, Anna. Now, what happens to the Prime Minister and to the Government of India. Has Mr. Jayewardene come to India as friend or foe? Please judge him. If he comes as a foe, why don't you resist him? If he comes as a friend, you assist him. We do not mind. But you are not at all doing either of the things. That is the trouble which is happening.

Do you think that Tamils as a race are separated from India? Do you think that Tamils are at a long distance from Delhi and they are living very near to Eelam or very near to Ceylon, which is away from the Indian capital, Delhi? From Delhi, it may be not less than 1,500 miles. But from Tamil Nadu, they are very near. You may not be knowing the real problem. But in Tamil Nadu, they are taking a war path now. Even the people in Tamil Nadu are talking every day with regard to Ceylon or Sri Lanka. Can't you see any newspapers? In the *Hindustan Times* or the *Statesman* or the *Patriot* or the *Times of India*, every day we are seeing the news about the Sri Lanka situation. What happens to the Government of India. Why don't you solve this problem? You are merely filing the statements. You are merely saying that some political solution will have to be brought in. What is the political solution? At least, you say, what is that solution, diplomatic solution? What is it? You should have a concrete proposal. India is a big country.

You are having arms and ammunitions. You are having military on your side. See, what is happening in Sri Lanka. You must come with a concrete proposal. Otherwise, you cannot save the Indian Tamils and the Jaffna Tamils who are residing in Sri Lanka. See the pathetic tragedy. I want to show some photographs here. See, how the situation has gone from bad to worse. This is the tragedy of the Tamils. They are being killed and massacred. You see how innocent people have been killed. Don't you know the lady who was being raped and killed? This is the photo of the lady who had been raped and killed. So, that is the thing which is happening every day in Sri Lanka. So, I request the Government to take some concrete

steps immediately. Yes, it will be the first step to be taken by India that too after the demise of our mother, Indira Gandhi. When Mrs. Indira Gandhi was here, she gave freedom to Bangladesh. The mother actually carried the child for 9 months. After 14 days war, she delivered a "child", Bangladesh.

Why not our young dynamic Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi with an enthusiastic view, with a zeal of Nehru's family, do it? He has got the courage, he has got the military on his side, he has got young people on his side, he has got 700 million people on his side. Why doesn't he do it? After all, Sri Lanka is a tiny island. Can it not be crushed? Within 24 hours, it can be done. But I am not asking to crush it. I am making a request to the Central Government to see that Tamilians property and Tamilians' lives are protected. I pray and urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs to do something concrete about Tamilians and to save them.

Everyday, the Tamilian population is being reduced. About 1 lakh of Tamilian refugees, an exodus of refugees, coming to India and, particularly, to Tamil Nadu. It is increasing day by day. This has to be stopped; the genocide has to be stopped; the mayhem has to be stopped, the holocaust must be stopped. The Government of India must come forward with a concrete proposal in this regard by which if autonomy can be given to the Tamilians, please do it immediately, That is the thing I can suggest.

Now, you have come forward with an advisory group. But, unfortunately, Tamil Nadu is not represented in that advisory group. Particularly, our hon. Chief Minister or the Minister of Electricity or the Chief Secretary or somebody from Tamil Nadu must be represented in this advisory group.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whole of this afternoon I have been listening to the debate but I do not find much light. There is no doubt that the Sri Lankan Government and the Sri Lankan forces are butchering the Tamilian citizens there. Not only that. The whole motivation of the Government of Sri Lanka is to

eliminate the Tamilian population from Sri Lanka. That is one aspect of the problem.

Horrible stories of butchery, of oppression, of outraging the modesty of women, all these stories, really disturb the mind of the sanest of persons. It creates emotions; it creates anger. But no anger, no emotions, is an answer to the problem.

It has been repeatedly debated in this august House and a consensus has been reached that India stands for unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka being divided, being split up, will serve the interest of imperialistic powers not Tamilians, not Indians. India has taken a principled stand that we stand for unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. We have also made it clear and that is also the consensus in this House that we are opposed to any military solution. We are for a political solution through peaceful negotiations.

No doubt, the cooperation from the Government of Sri Lanka is not very much encouraging. But our effort to bring the parties to negotiation table is going on. Very recently, there was the visit of our Foreign Secretary to Sri Lanka and the joint communique issued on his visit has been undoubtedly accepted, and welcomed by every section of the people in India. How is it to be implemented? That is the problem.

The Minister of State for External Affairs should clarify how the joint communication and the agreement that have emerged are to be implemented. It has been categorically stated that any settlement reached must be within the framework of the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. At the same time, before any negotiations start, all violence should cease both by the Sri Lankan Army and by our angry young men who are indulging in violence.

Will the hon. Minister of State for External Affairs kindly elaborate how the violence can be stopped and how the Sri Lankan Government as well as the Tamil leaders will immediately go to the negotiating table?

It has been the effort of the Sri Lankan Government to somehow or other see that TULF is weakened. It does not believe in violence and they want to weaken TULF and resqueeze their mass base.

[Shri Brajamohan Mohanty]

It is high time that the top leaders should come forward and speak categorically against violence. There must also be a strong demand that the Sri Lankan forces must cease violence. The Sri Lankan forces must cease violence and they must be withdrawn from North and East of Sri Lanka.

What would happen if the Sri Lankan Government goes to different foreign countries either to borrow army or troops or forces or to accommodate foreign forces in Sri Lanka to crush the Tamilians? If their negotiations with foreign countries to this effect continue, what would be our stand?

My definite suggestion would be let the Government of Sri Lanka be categorically told that if they continue to go on negotiating with foreign countries in order to bring foreign forces into their country, it will be very difficult for the Government of India to maintain restraint and to remain neutral and that a stage might emerge when Government of India would be bound to intervene. It must be clarified to the Ceylon Government that it should not start any negotiation with the foreign countries to invite foreign forces into that island.

Is this an internal issue of the Sri Lanka Government or is this issue internationalised? Sri Lanka Government is taking steps every day to internationalise the issue. Why had they invited advisers from Israel which are now stationed in Sri Lanka? The Sri Lanka Government should first of all send back the Israeli advisers to their own country. After that only, negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the problem should start with Sri Lanka.

Every day false allegations and stories are circulated in Sri Lanka and such circulation is complicating the situation. It has been alleged by Sri Lankan Government that the Tamil terrorists have attacked Muslims to create communal violence. But the Opposition in Sri Lanka Parliament did not accept this. This is apparently a false story. In the Sri Lankan Parliament the Opposition asked "Wherefrom that story is coming? Why should the terrorists go and attack Muslims?" That itself shows that in their own country, the Government does not inspire confidence. Not only that.

False stories are being circulated that the Yasser Arafat's Organisation, the Palestinian Liberation Front is giving training to the Tamils for guerrilla warfare. That story has absolutely no basis.

My submission would be that a proper atmosphere for a negotiated settlement must be created and it is the responsibility of the Sri Lankan Government to create such an atmosphere. We know what is the motive of the Sri Lankan Government. Recently in the international forums they have equated the Tamils problem with the Sikh problem in India. I want to ask them: are the Tamils there enjoying the same equal social, political and economic rights as the Sikhs are enjoying in India? They only want to complicate the issue, they want to internationalise the issue.

I can submit to you that certain international forces are also working inside Sri Lanka and outside Sri Lanka to create complications, and the ultimate motive of certain forces, those who are imperialists is that Sri Lanka should be divided. It will serve their interests. The Government of Sri Lanka might be slow in understanding it. The ulterior motive of some external forces working inside Sri Lanka is that that the situation in Sri Lanka should be complicated. Those who are indulging in violence, those who claim themselves to be the participants of liberation movement, those who desire that the Government of India should extend recognition to this liberation movement, they are all being encouraged by certain external forces. (*Interruptions*) This will never solve the problem. It will only complicate the problem. This is not the way to solve the problem. The only way to solve the problem is through a negotiated settlement. (*Interruptions*) I do not believe that a Parliamentary delegation going to Sri Lanka will be of any help. That will only complicate the issue further. (*Interruptions*) My submission would be that it is not possible for India to accept violence for achieving the legitimate rights of the Tamil people. We must be very straight forward about it. This integrity and the unity of Sri Lanka must be accepted. Violence should not be accepted. An autonomy-oriented solution must be found out; it must be peaceful.

About international diplomacy or about seeking to create an international opinion, I am very much doubtful because our experience has been otherwise. The issue of Kashmir was taken to the UNO. But what has been the result? Who does not know it? Even Mahatma Gandhi gave his blessings to take the issue to the UNO. But nothing has come out of it except a protracted controversy in UNO. This is how international diplomacy plays its role. (*Interruptions*) So far as international diplomacy is concerned, my submission is that it is not that justice is honoured there, it is not that the truth prevails there. You have the experience of what is happening in South Africa. What has been the role of the Super Powers in different fields of activity? Naturally, my submission would be that we must stand by our principled stand; that means, without indulging in violence, we must create conditions for a negotiated settlement. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of External Affairs how it has to be phased out, how a negotiated settlement is sought to be brought about. I also want to know whether it has been accepted, once and for all, by the Sri Lankan Government that autonomy will be given to the Tamil population. I want to know—whether they will stop implanting false stories which divide the people and which complicate the situation, whether they will stop negotiations with foreign countries for getting arms or troops into Sri Lanka, whether they will stop all sorts of violence now being committed and the butcheries that are being committed by the Sri Lankan army—whether they will stop all these. Unless this is done, my submission would be that a proper atmosphere for negotiations, a proper atmosphere for a negotiated settlement will not be possible. So I would very much like the Foreign Minister to enlighten the House about it. Another thing. We must be very categorical and we should very categorically tell them that induction of even a single batch of foreign troops into the island will invite our intervention. There is no other way out.

Thank you very much.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :
I think the House will be unanimous in expressing its profound anguish and

sympathies for the victims of this tragedy which is taking place before our eyes in Sri Lanka and for the victims, those who have been killed or otherwise tortured, humiliated and forced to flee from their homes; the Parliament of India, of course, must at least convey to them their heartfelt sympathies and sorrow and convince them that we are sharing their sufferings and sorrow.

But I do not think it is necessary. understand the feelings and the sentiments of our members particularly those who are daily meeting the refugees from Sri Lanka and are listening to their stories. I understand their anguish but I really do not think it is necessary here to go into details and describe in detail the type of atrocities that have taken place. The central question is whether it amounts to genocide or not. I think there can be no two opinions on this question. Genocide is defined as the deliberate extermination of a particular community or a group. Deliberate extermination of a community or a group is defined as genocide. You can read any dictionary or encyclopaedia. That is the definition given of genocide. By that definition, certainly what is happening in Sri Lanka does amount to genocide.

I would just like to remind you in 1946 when the World War II just ended at that time the whole world was shocked and horrified at the full revelation of the kind of genocide which had taken place in Hitler's fascist regime. The UN General Assembly said—this is one of their statements :

“Genocide is a crime under international law which the civilised world condemns and for the commission of which the principals and the accomplices are punishable”

On the 9th December 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations approved of what is known as a convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide. By 1960 this convention has been ratified by 64 States. I was not able to find out whether India and Sri Lanka are signatories to that convention. But I presume India must be one of the signatories. I do not know about Sri Lanka. I presume Sri Lanka also must

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

be one of the signatories among the 64. What is interesting to find is that it is said there clearly :

"Genocide is not a matter essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of the State where the genocide is taking place."

19.00 hrs.

That State cannot claim it is a matter of internal or domestic jurisdiction. If it is considered to be genocide then it is a matter of international concern and any contracting State—that means any State which is a party to that convention—can call upon the United Nations Organisation to intervene and to take appropriate action under the United Nations Charter. I am just reminding the hon. Minister of this because of a common complaint of everybody and I make that complaint also that the ways and means which are open to the Government of India under the international conventions and under the United Nations Charter itself to bring up this matter, I do not know, whether before the Human Rights Commission, may be or even before some other body as a clear case of genocide which can be established also by facts, figures and documents which are available have been utilised to demand that Sri Lanka government must be condemned as being guilty of genocide and we must ask the United Nations what they are prepared to do or not to do to intervene in this matter which has not been done by the Government of India. Everybody wants to know why not ?

This is not a matter in which we need have a kind of sort of guilty conscience that because we are a big country and our shadow is falling on our small neighbour, therefore, anything we do or say might be interpreted as though we are trying to dominate or brow-beat a small nation. Of course, I am totally against any military intervention. I cannot agree with any such demand. I am totally against that. My party is against that. I do not find any such proposal anywhere. I have a copy of the memorandum presented to the Prime Minister of India four days ago by a delegation of all-party members led by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

(Interruptions) In this certainly I don't find any such proposal. But the point is that to take up this matter in a suitable way in an international forum and demand that appropriate action be taken is nothing which will militate against the fact that we happen to be a big country and Sri Lanka happens to be a small country. That way Israel is a small country. It is committing all kinds of barbarity and violating all United Nations resolutions which have been passed but because Israel is sought to be condemned, Israel cannot claim that it being a small country should be given this kind of concession. This is one thing on which I would like that the Government should tell us whether they are doing it or not.

In any case I think the youngmen who have taken to arms—we may call them terrorists, liberation fighters or Tamil Tigers—they certainly cannot be equated with the other side. This is one of the few examples of organised terrorism and murder being carried on by the people wearing the government uniforms, the armed forces of the State. They are the people on the one side who are committing the worst kind of vandalism and terrorism and certainly this cannot be equated with the youngmen on the other side who have suffered tremendous provocation as a result of what is going on there and are doing something for which they are not able to control themselves at the moment. But the Government is out to terrorist massacre and exterminate the Tamilian community. I do not think that the Tamil Tigers or extremists—I cannot say for sure that there is not a single incident—their targets are ordinary Sinhalese citizens at all.

Their targets are the Police or the Army people or such people. It is they whom they are attacking. You may not agree or approve of it. But the other side is out to butcher the ordinary civilian population among the Tamils. And the two cannot be possibly equated. Now, Sir, this delegation led by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has pleaded with the Government of India to take all possible steps to try to bring about a negotiated settlement. Also they have asked, of course, for a high-powered delegation to mobilise international opinion against

genocide. It is very good. They have said that the Sri Lankan Government should withdraw its army from those areas which are inhabited by the Sri Lankan Tamils and seek a viable political solution, etc. etc. I must protest here against something which was said by my young friend Mr. Kumaramangalam. He is not present at the moment. If I heard him correctly he alleged that all parties in Sri Lanka, both the Government party and all the opposition parties, were competing with each other and vying with each other, for provoking this kind of Sinhalese chauvinism against the Tamils in order to get popularity. This is simply not a fact. He may not know it. And I give him the benefit of ignorance.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Even his father would not have said it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have with me here, Sir, the Joint Appeal which was issued, which was signed, by Bernard Soysa, General Secretary, Lanka Samasamaja Party, K. P. Silva, General Secretary, Communist Party of Sri Lanka and Vijaya Kumaranatunga, General Secretary, Sri Lanka Mahajana party. These are all opposition parties. And they have had the courage, while they are inside Sri Lanka, and issued this appeal and the statement in which they very strongly condemned the UNP Government and they have said this :

'Experience has shown that the UNP Government is the principal cause for the many sided crisis in which the people of our country are now engulfed and the principal obstacle to any democratic solution or attempted solution of this crisis.'

They have also said—

'To make matters worse, a systematic campaign of confrontation and brinkmanship has been unleashed against India, thereby endangering our own security, disrupting the traditional good neighbour relations that have existed between our two countries, damaging the non-aligned movement, and assisting U.S. and other imperialist forces who are fighting hard to prevent the Indian Ocean becoming a zone of peace.'

And then they have said—

"Our parties therefore welcome and support the rising demand in all parts of the country for an immediate cease-fire by the Government and the armed youth groups. The good of ices of any willing party domestic or foreign, should be readily availed of to bring about such a cease-fire and arrange the modalities of direct negotiations between the Government of Sri Lanka and all organised representatives of Tamil opinion, including those of the armed youth groups."

So, it is not correct to say that all parties in Sri Lanka are supporting Jayawardhane in this campaign of genocide. Not at all.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : I think this is a good contribution to this debate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Your 'hear, hear' is never recorded...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Without permission if he speaks I will not allow it to be recorded.

At the moment it appears that Mr. Jayawardhane—President Julius Jayawardhane—who is a Christian President of a Buddhist nation is not serious about a negotiated settlement. There may be many reasons for it. Near about, in our own country, we have some examples of people who say something in private and then in public they are under the pressure of such extremist forces that they don't dare to speak out. I don't know if he is suffering from the same fate. But then he also wants Sri Lanka to be a sort of protectorate under a western umbrella. Because this will help him. If he is able to put across the story that security and safety of poor, little Sri Lanka is being threatened by India, which is just wanting, just waiting to invade the country. Earlier you remember he used to say that "we are likely to be invaded by India, anyday and if so, we will fight to the last drop of our blood and all that". He said that in an earlier statement also about a year ago "this helps him to get arms from abroad, to get financial assistance from abroad, to get military and police advisers, secret service advisers from countries like Israel and even to get foreign troops if it become necessary." He

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

has asked Mrs. Thatcher to consider his request favourably in case it is required. So, he wants them and they want him. And they want him because this is a strategic outpost situated in the centre of the Indian Ocean. If you see the map, you will see Sri Lanka's strategic position and one thing you can say for sure that unless a miracle takes place, the Conference under the United Nation auspices on making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace which is due to be held again in 1986, will not be held in Colombo and it cannot be held in Colombo and Americans would certainly be interested to see that one of the reasons would be that such conditions should continue so that then it becomes possible to say that it is impossible to hold a Conference there, International Conference there. The two previous attempts for holding that Conference were sabotaged—everybody knows—by the United States.

Then, about Tricomalee, I do not want to go into that. Many times this has been raised in this House. There is a special position in this whole design with this high power transmitter which has been set up by the American and all that. So what is happening is not unconnected with this whole background. Anybody can understand if that that is something that weakens and is much more serious and much more dangerous problem and may even go to the extent of affecting our own security.

Sir, the anti-India propaganda made is like this—you will find it here I have got this address made to the Parliament of Sri Lanka by the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the 20th of February 1985 and what does he go on harping everywhere? He is harping on what he calls forces of international terrorism and he says that no solution will be possible unless terrorism is first eliminated, which means finish off Tamils. This is all he means.

“The Government of Sri Lanka made representations on several occasions to the Government of India that there is evidence that terrorists operating in Sri Lanka are being trained in camps situated in India. We have also complained that the leaders of this movement live in India and meet and conduct these illegal activities in India.”

This is another falsehood. All parties do not agree with this view.

“The Government of India has denied that terrorists are trained in camps in India, that they operate from there and cross over with arms to Sri Lanka. We have suggested a joint surveillance Zone which will attempt to prevent infiltrations into Sri Lanka of Terrorists from Indian soil. This surveillance can also prevent movement of refugees from Sri Lanka to India. Why should India object?”

Then he says :

“There is documentary evidence that some of those in positions of authority in South India are actively responsible for attempts to unite the Sri Lanka Tamil Terrorists Groups under a common programme”.

The whole thing is an anti-Indian propaganda campaign.

“We have to protect ourselves against international terrorists. But it is very difficult to safeguard against terrorism while guaranteeing the freedom of the individual. If you want to suppress terrorism, then you cannot bother much about the freedom of the individual. We have to combat terrorism and defeat it with all the resources at our command. We may have to equip ourselves to do so at the expense of development and social and economic welfare plans. Let us then unitedly decide to do so and as one Nation and one People bend ourselves to this task”.

Somebody mentioned correctly that in the joint communique he has signed on his visit to Pakistan with the President of Pakistan. So the main concern is how to combat terrorism. The word ‘terrorism’ has become a phrase. India is supposed to be a guilty party. It is sheltering terrorists, organising terrorists, training terrorists, sending them to Sri Lanka from here.

I am quite sure that he is carrying on this campaign throughout the world, among so many countries of the world, much more energetically than we go to present our side of the picture. Of course, this anti-

Indian propaganda is, I think, intended only to provoke us. And I personally feel that we should not be provoked. We should not be provoked into taking such a false step which would facilitate further intervention by outside forces and outside powers because they would like that. They would like us to do something which would lead them to shout throughout the world that India is an aggressor, India is doing this, India is doing that and therefore people must rush to the rescue of Sri Lanka from all over the world. We must be careful about that. That does not mean that we should sit passively and do nothing regarding the safety and security of the Indian fishermen near the Palk Straits, whenever they have been harassed, attacked or even killed within the territorial waters of India, and this is continuing in Kacha Thivu. According to the agreement, it is defined quite clearly, which are our waters and which are theirs. So, I do not understand why our Coast Guard, our Navy and all that, cannot be more effective, efficient and vigilant in giving due protection to these Indian fishermen. Surely, we can do it. We are well within our rights and if someone fires a shot in our territorial waters, surely we can retaliate. Nobody can accuse us of having violated any international law. So, I would say Sir, that political settlement, of course, is a must, though this seems a distant prospect at the moment. But talks for this political settlement cannot begin unless there is a ceasefire and ceasefire cannot take place, unless Jayawardene first of all agrees to call off his army and to withdraw his army from the Tamil majority areas of the North and East. Then only, other people can prevail upon these youths, the militants, the tigers also to observe some kind of a truce. You cannot expect them first to lay down their arms while the army goes on running amuck all over the place. I do not know what efforts Government of India is making in this direction. I do not know what this Advisory Group is supposed to do which the Prime Minister has set up and whether it is a group or not. People are always there to advise him in any case, but if they like to consult for this advice the other parties' leaders, and the political parties and opposition parties, I think it is not a bad idea. They are not under compulsion to take our advice. But at least they should listen to us, particularly

the parties which are functioning more prominently in Tamil Nadu, because every day they are face to face with this problem. I do not know the conditions of the refugees who are in the camps and I trust and hope that the Tamil Nadu Government, with all its great sympathy and support for this cause, must be making adequate arrangements in those camps wherever the refugees have been kept to see that they do not lack in any way, in food or shelter or clothing and milk for the children and so on. So long as this settlement cannot be brought about, we better face the reality. What is the reality? More refugees will come. How many refugees came from Bangladesh across the border, do you remember, pouring across like human torrent and tide? Here, there is water in between, which makes it difficult. If there has been no water boundary and if there were an adjacent land boundary, I do not know, by now how many lakhs would have come. But they will come. They will have to come and they will have to be received by us. They will have to be given shelter and succour. There is no other way until this settlement comes and the people are free to go back to their country. That is what happened in Bangladesh. But our Armed Forces, let me remind the House, did not intervene in Bangladesh, until an attack had been launched on the Western border. It was only when Yahya Khan's forces launched a military attack across our border in the West, that it was decided to send our armed forces into Bangladesh. Upto that time, we did not go in. We were waiting near the border, that is all. The people of Bangladesh were also suffering terrible atrocities and havoc at the hands of the Pakistani military. You remember all that.

So, I do not have much more to say. I will just say that we would like to know from the Government, and get some firmer assurance from them, that apart from diplomatic moves, about which we are not taken much into confidence—what Mr. Bhandari's discussions there were, and what emerged out of them, as far as Government know—they can make a proper assessment of the situation on the basis of what talks took place there, or of Mr. Parthasarathy's earlier efforts, and all that. But we want some kind of a diplomatic

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

and political offensive, an offensive campaign which does not put us in any kind of a difficult or an embarrassing situation at all. I do not want that President Jayawardene should go round the world, or send his emissaries round the world, propagating that we are the greatest supporters of international terrorism when we are doing nothing. Then Sri Lanka will be turned into another Lebanon or a Cyprus if we are not careful. A big international conspiracy is on. You have seen with your own eyes what has happened within a few years to Cyprus; how it is divided into Turkish-occupied area, and the rest is left as it were, and they cannot do anything about it; or what has happened to Lebanon in the last three years. There is nothing to prevent Sri Lanka becoming that. It will be a constant thorn in our flesh, I tell you, after that, just a few miles away from our shores.

Therefore, in our own interest, and equally in the interests of our Tamil brothers and sisters there, I hope Government will be more energetic, and it will have the full support of the country behind it, if it takes energetic measures and takes us into confidence.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): The House should be unanimous in expressing its deep sympathy with the Tamil friends in Sri Lanka who are suffering at the hands of the Army of the Sri Lankan Government. I share the sentiments expressed by all the previous speakers in this House.

We are passing through one of the most delicate phases in the history of Indo-Sri Lankan relations at this juncture. I must admire that our Prime Minister, Government of India and the Ministry of External Affairs, given the situation as it is to-day, are trying their best to see that a negotiated and peaceful settlement is arrived at, to safeguard the interests of our Tamil brothers in Sri Lanka.

Before we think of any solution to this problem, we must see the background, as Mr. Indrajit Gupta has now put forward before this House. The Sri Lankan Government of Mr. Jayawardene has unfortunately played into the hands of a kind of

international super power rivalry whereby it is now subjected to international intrigues of Super Powers. To-day, Sri Lanka has become the beneficiary of a Special Defence Acquisition Fund by certain Super Powers, and they are erecting an Ultra Sophisticated Intelligence Gathering System in Sri Lanka. This joint surveillance with Sri Lankan Government is going to operate near about the Ocean areas. Sri Lanka has not consulted India to have the joint surveillance there. Militarily, therefore, Sri Lanka has become a kind of security problem, as in the western front, the border has become alive. Similarly, unwittingly Sri Lanka has played into the hands of the Super Powers.

The diplomacy of the super powers wherein it has almost become a security concern for India, so far as the Indian zone is concerned. Therefore, today, beginning from the shores of Sri Lanka to Dwarka, the entire sea front has been militarised. Therefore, we have to look to the broader question as to how Sri Lanka has posed a military problem so far as India is concerned. Therefore, I would like to say that so far as the problems of Tamils are concerned, there is no way out knowing full well the situation that is developing; we cannot afford to have a confrontation at this stage. Therefore, what our Minister and the Prime Minister have suggested is that we must try to have a kind of negotiated peaceful settlement wherein first the ceasefire should take place between the Srilankan Government army and the Tamils who are trying to safeguard themselves by resisting the attacks of the Srilankan military. Therefore, we should like to know from the hon. Minister when our Fishermen's security is endangered and they are not able to go for fishing in our own waters, what steps they have taken to ensure security to our fishermen? What steps are being taken to see that further influx of refugees from Sri Lanka to India, do not take place. It is now one lakh. So, these are the measures which we want today to be highlighted by our hon. Minister because he has made a very good statement in the House. We should definitely know what steps in this direction our government is taking so that we are moving towards a kind of negotiated peaceful settlement with Sri Lanka, so that this problem is not further aggravated.

Here I find till today that the international super powers are trying to tell our neighbours that India always behaves like a big brother towards its small neighbours and they are today trying their best to see that our frontiers both in the West and also in the Indian Ocean, they want to make it live frontiers; they want that India should be involved in a kind of confrontation and a conflict so that those timings will be chosen when Sri Lankan Government will move its army and then Pakistan will try to strike in our western front. These are events which we should take into consideration before we should take any further action, so far as military action is concerned, so far as Sri Lanka is concerned. Have you seen any positive response so far, have you found out, during our discussions with the Sri Lankan Government, any positive indication that they are intending to come to a peaceful settlement of this problem of these Tamils who are organising themselves to resist attacks of the Sri Lankan Army?

I had been to Vietnam when the war was going on against the mightiest power USA. In those days, I could see writings on the walls. Bao Dai was the King there in those days. Bao Dai ruled Vietnam in the day and Ho Chi Minh in the night. Therefore, it is the duty of Sri Lankan Government to see that they must liberalise their attitude because they should learn lessons from us. We are also facing problems inside our country. But we are liberalising our attitude because ours is a democracy. Any society, any government, when it is in the process of development, there must be a kind of internal conflicts and contradictions. There are democratic solutions to these internal contradictions. In communist societies, there are regimental solutions to these internal contradictions. As long as we grow, many problems are coming up and we are trying to find out democratic ways how to solve these internal contradictions.

And, similarly as Sri Lanka is our neighbour we should also try to tell them that they should find out a democratic solution to the internal contradictions that they are facing today, to this ethnic problem. Militarily the Jayewardene Government will never be able to solve this problem, I have seen those days of Vietnam.

The Jayewardene Government will not be able to suppress the young men, the young Tamilians who are resisting the army attacks. I would like to say this. This is the verdict of history. Sri Lankan Government should read such writings on the wall. It should not try to delay the solution to the ethnic problem. If they delay then the young Tamils who have taken up arms for their survival will succeed and ultimately Eelam will be established. There are the lessons from history. Therefore, it is high time that the Sri Lankan Government should find out the ways and means and see that they arrive at a negotiated settlement. Therefore, I fervently appeal to them and also to our Government, that they should rouse the international opinion against the attack of women in Sri Lanka and in other places and we should try to mobilise the public opinion in all the capitals, in international capitals, that Sri Lankan Government is trying to suppress and completely annihilate an ethnic population of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Therefore, I would submit that the more we delay, the more the things get complicated. Therefore we should like to know whether any positive indications have come by now from the Sri Lankan Government in this direction.

We should try our best to see that a solution is found, that the Sri Lankan Government comes forward with a solution. But if the attitude that we are the 'big brother' is taken, then Sri Lankan Government would take advantage of that kind of attitude and we will be facing a very difficult and military situation wherein Sri Lanka will be the base of one of the super powers and super power rivalry will also help the Sri Lankan Government to weaken the security of our own country. Therefore, this problem should be looked into and an immediate solution should be found out through a negotiated peaceful settlement. This is a problem which the Tamils are facing in Sri Lanka. Otherwise, it will have an effect on our country as our friends have suggested. Tamil Nadu is near Sri Lanka—just about 25 km from it—and I hope that an immediate solution will be found through the efforts of the Special Advisory Group which has been constituted by the Prime Minister. It is a good step in the right direction. I hope that within two or three

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

months some steps will be taken to settle this matter peacefully.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am glad to participate in this discussion on Sri Lanka which has arisen as a result of the memorandum our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had submitted to the hon. Prime Minister of India. I was going through the memorandum. It almost looked like the statement made by the Minister of State for External Affairs on the 9th.**

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU: It is too much for our hon. Member to say it. *(Interruptions)*

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: All the parties including the CPM, CPI and others also agreed with it.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU: How can he say that? It is a common issue.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is this? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Kalanidhi; whether you like the memorandum or not, you cannot make an allegation, Do not make any such allegation.

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Please remove that word. All parties participated in it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I am saying, I appreciate the hon. Member's sentiments. But whether he likes the memorandum or not that is an entirely different matter. But to say like that is an allegation. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: We are asked to make very short speeches. *(Interruptions)*

I am the last person to criticise you.

Adding insult to injury the Prime Minister submitted a statement on 25th April in this House which is being quoted by many of our friends including Mr. Kolandaivelu, who has said that it is an old wine in an old bottle. But it reminds me of an old proverbial story where a new church was to be constructed and the old one was to be demolished and the dismantled stones of the old church were to be

used for the construction of a new one. This statement is a conglomeration of many statements made in this House. Hence, I feel that the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister is insipid and totally disappointing to the entire country and in particular to the people of Tamil Nadu and Tamilians in Sri Lanka. It is only a jugglery of words. Now, you have instituted a special advisory group to resolve the problem. It is only a delaying tactics. Ever since Independence we have been seeing committees, commissions, groups, sub-groups, the result of which was zero.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Round table conference is also called zero.

DR. A. KALANIDHI: I accuse you directly that you are helping Nazi Jayewardene to gain time to equip himself with the latest military equipment, arms and ammunition. Already there is Mosad of Israel and SAS of Britain. Now in Tricomalee the super powers have set up a high power transmission centre. Now by giving him time you are helping the Sri Lankan Government to exterminate the Tamils in toto.

I am quite surprised that in the Non-Alignment Conference which met this month in Delhi you had shown extraordinary anxiety and enthusiasm in recognising the South West African Peoples' Organisation and had gone on requesting other countries to liberate Namibia from South Africa. You are seeking the help of the United Nations Security Council. And more than that, you have issued a commemorative stamp in recognition of SWAPO. In what way, are we inferior to SWAPO? Is it because Tamils are 1500 miles away from Delhi? Do you think that Tamils are cheaper in this country? Even for the independence of this country Tamils had shed their blood. I want to know whether in Namibia there is any genocide economically, socially and culturally and genocide of human beings. There it is only racial discrimination and apartheid problem. You have gone out of your way to help Dr. Najuma of SWAPO, whereas you have conveniently forgotten our Tamil brethren.

I was also surprised to see some of the photographs that had appeared in the daily newspapers that in the NAM meeting our

** Not recorded.

respectable Prime Minister was holding one hand of Yassar Arafat and Mr. Natwar Singh was holding his other hand. When Yassar Arafat become tired to drop his hand, our Minister of State for External Affairs went to his rescue in holding his hand further. He was showing great enthusiasm. I do not have any grudge against Yassar Arafat. I respect him; I salute him. At the same time, when it comes to Eelam Liberation Organisation, you conveniently forget them. When it comes to them you say that they are violent. I want to know whether PLO people are holding roses in their hands and Tamils are holding bayonets and bullets. In any liberational organisation a certain amount of violence is bound to occur. So, there is no difference at all between PLO and the ELO. When you say that they indulge in violence, do you know as to what made them to indulge in violence and adopt military tactics?

The Tamils are deprived of all the rights and finally they have come to the conclusion that there is no other go except carrying the bullets in their hands. The same thing is happening there that has happened in Palestine, whereas you are quoting the Tamil militants as violent. I tell you, even in the British period, during the independence struggle we had indulged in violence. Bhagat Singh indulged in violence Mahatma Gandhi never liked that but Bhagat Singh has joined the immortals of Indian history. Don't forget that. I just want to compare the two organisations, PLO and ELO. After the independence of Israel, 15 lakhs of Arabs were deprived of their voting rights and colonisation of Jews in the Arab speaking areas took place. Arab civilians were bombed, murdered and butchered. So also in Sri Lanka it is a similar thing which has made the PLO organisation to come up there. After the independence of Sri Lanka in 1948, the same thing happened here. Tamils are deprived of voting right and legal remedies. Ten lakhs of estate labourers are deprived of their voting right and legal remedies. Civilians are bombed, they are butchered, they are murdered and gradually colonisation of the Sri Lankan people in the Tamil speaking areas has taken place. So, totally there is no difference between the PLO and the ELO. I, therefore request the Government to consider this issue.

Now, I just quote what happened in Uganda. When Idi Amin was the President of Uganda, he gave a notice to the Gujarati people there to go out of the country within 24 hours. Our Government seriously considered that, sent a special plane there and brought all the Gujarati people safely whereas in the case of Tamils, even the boats are taken by our younger brothers, the Tigers, and you block the boats. When the Jordanian plane landed forcibly at Trivandrum for want of fuel, I got the information at 11 O' clock in the night. I gave a telegram to the hon. Minister for External Affairs and the Prime Minister to stop that flight, but they said that the arms were not meant for killing the Tamils. Do you mean to say that they will write on the plane that these arms are meant for killing the Tamils? I do not understand what you keep in mind. Our Prime Minister has gone to the extent of going to solve the problem between Iran and Iraq and he wants to end war between the two. I am quite happy and I welcome it. When he goes to that extent of solving the problem, I am surprised because he is a grandson of our father of Panchsheel, Paridit Jawaharlal Nehru. I do not think you have even the guts like the Americans. To save only 1,000 people in Grenada, the Americans resorted to the use of military whereas ten lakhs of people are suffering in Ceylon and you do not have even the mind to think about them. I am sorry about this. I want to point out to the External Affairs Ministry that Sri Lanka never used to be a friendly country to India. I assure you categorically that Sri Lanka never used to be a friendly country to India. During the Non-Aligned Meet when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was Chairing the Meet and she brought a move to condemn the United States for converting Diego Garcia as a military base, it is the Sri Lanka Government that blocked the move. You should understand that. It is the Sri Lanka Government which effectively blocked the move brought by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Secondly, in 1971, when there was a war between Pakistan and India to liberate Bangladesh, the Sri Lankan Government permitted only the Pakistani planes to land there for refuelling. Don't forget it. Now they have allowed Trincomalee to be used for setting up a high-

[Dr. A. Kalanidhi]

power transmitter to spy our country. Clauses 5 and 6 of the Katcha Theevu Pact have been violated. The fishermen are not allowed to fish. Tourists are not allowed for the last four years to go there even to celebrate the festival. My beloved younger brother Dhanapathi of AIDMK, while he went there as a tourist, was murdered brutally. Recently in Trincomalee one Mr. Amirthalingam—not the one who is leader of TULF but I am talking about another young fellow was murdered there. There is a Brahmin street in Sri Lanka. The beautiful Brahmin girls with voluptuous lips and scintillating eyes, were brought out of their houses and were raped, not once but many times, not by one person but by many persons, not in front of other people but in front of their own parents and brothers. Not only that, after raping, their breasts were chopped and were attached to the sacred threads of the Brahmins. Do you mean to say that still you have to wait and see all the nasty things that are happening in that country? Pregnant women's abdomens were ripped open with the bayonets, foetus were removed, dashed against the wall and crushed against the buckled heels of the Army. Still you preach and want us to maintain peace. Recently a couple was brought from Jaffna. The lady was laid in front of her husband. The betel-nut tree ends were brought together and her legs were tied. Finally they severed the edge of the betel-nut trees resulting in tearing of the lady into two pieces. After all these instances you want us to maintain peace. You still want us to be a silent spectator.

I think there is a fear in the mind of the Union Government that if we recognise the Tamil Eelam, the super powers will quote it and compare it with the Khalistan movement. If any super power compares Khalistan with Sri Lanka, I can tell you they are living in fool's paradise. The Sikhs are having equal rights in the country. They can educate their children in any part of India. They have got better rights. They can come to Tamil Nadu and start their educational institutions. In fact, in my Constituency there are two schools opened by the Sikhs. Adarsh Vidyalaya opened by the Sikhs is there in my Constituency. Sikhs have got every

right in this country. In fact, they are a better community in this country and are living in a better manner. All the automobile shops are owned by the Sikhs in Tamil Nadu. So, there is no point in comparing Khalistan movement with the Sri Lanka Movement. So, you need not have that fear.

There is another fear, I understand, in the mind of the Union Government: whether the Tamils of Tamil Nadu will ask for a separate State? As quoted by my beloved friend Shri Kolandaivelu my affectionate founder leader of the Party, Great Arignar Anna had dropped the idea of a separate Dravida long ago. We are second to none in this country in upholding the integrity, unity, sovereignty and dignity of the country. When Dr. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he gave Rs. 6 crores when the war between Pakistan and India broke out during 1971, while Uttar Pradesh which is the biggest State in this country, was able to contribute only Rs. 4 crores. That shows we are still upholding the integrity of the country.

Some people misinterpret the recent statement made by our leader Mr. Karunanidhi as separatist statement. It is absolutely nonsense. What he mentioned was: that "till my life time I will not permit my brothers to ask for a separate State, if you do not recognise the Eelam separation or Eelam movement, after my life my brothers will not wait for that and will not tolerate that. But as long as I am alive, I will not permit them to ask for a separate State." My friends have misinterpreted it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In that case he must live up to eternity.

DR. A. KALANIDHI: Because something wrong has come in the mind of some of the hon. Members, I must clarify it

There was an agitation in the city of Madras today. Five thousand people belonging to my party got arrested. Seven Members of the Legislative Assembly and one Member of the Legislative Council also got arrested. My beloved friend, N. V. Somu, representing North Madras Constituency also got arrested today. We are not against the Central Government; nor are

we against the State Government. It is only to awaken you from deep slumber, it is only to make the Central Government to realise that you are sleeping too much, please be awake and try to listen to the voice of the people of Tamil Nadu. That is our request.

Finally, many Members say what is our suggestion. I can only say first we should sever diplomatic ties with Sri Lanka. Secondly sever economic and trade ties so that there is an economic crisis in Sri Lanka and the Jayawardene Government is pressurised to listen to the Indian Government. Finally carry on with the bullet and bayonets. Do not hesitate. When the influx problem came and affected the neighbouring States like West Bengal and other parts of India, Sardar Swaran Singh, who was then the External Affairs Minister, said in a statement that the Yahya Khan regime had made the people to revolt against Yahya Khan. So, there was every justification for India to interfere and liberate Bangladesh.

'There is every justification for India to interfere and to liberate Bangladesh'. That is what Sardar Swaran Singh said. So, let me quote the same words and let me make use of his words for the liberation of Tamil Elam.

I want to quote from the statement issued by the Minister today. He said :

"There have been disturbing reports of large-scale violence in the Eastern province involving Muslims and Tamils. This is a sad and serious development which will further aggravate an already complex situation. The sense of insecurity and uncertainty seems to have further heightened."

By this, the Minister has rightly mentioned who is the cause of it.

In this connection, let me quote from *The Hindu* dated 27th April 1985 :

"The independent Citizens Committee of Sri Lanka which conducted an inquiry into the Tamil-Muslim riots says that "some personnel of the Special Task Force were involved in the violence.

The report, submitted to the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene yesterday, said that STF personnel,

according to the eye-witnesses, aided and abetted the violence in Karaitivu, Eravur and Kathankudy. In Karaitivu, a Tamil majority coastal village in Amrai district, mobs of youth allegedly supported by the STF men, destroyed all the 2,000 houses of the village.

The inquiry was conducted by Dr. Frank Jayasinha, consultant to the Colombo-based International Centre for Ethnic Studies.

"Three days of violence erupted leaving a trail of destruction, that included 11 dead, over 40 hospitalised, 12,000 homeless, and a rapid succession of events that have overrun the eastern province," the report said.

Navatkulam, a Tamil village near Kathankudy, was destroyed on April 2 and armoured cars of the police commandos were alleged to have been present during the attack, the report said. On April 24, there were two outbreaks of fire in Batticaloa municipal limits destroying 125 houses.

"Why was no effort made by the Government to restore order and to contain the outbreak of violence? Why were no clear instructions issued to the security authorities in this regard?" the report asked."

I want to say that you do not want to openly say that all these things are happening with the connivance of police and the Army, and you have conveniently forgotten the whole thing. I would tell the hon. Minister that there is nothing wrong in proceeding militarily against Sri Lanka. When Mrs. Indira Gandhi was there in 1971, she proceeded with war against Pakistan. In this House she was praised and worshipped by one and all, even by our Opposition leaders including Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Kali Matha Devi. Here I assure you that if you proceed with war against Sri Lanka in the same way, I will bow to you and I will worship you as a hero of the country and even I am prepared to resign my post and offer my seat to the Congress (I).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : For God's sake, don't do that.

DR. A. KALANIDHI : Even if that is not possible, at least simply recognise that Tamil Liberation Organisation. Then they

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will look after everything themselves. There is a saying in Tamil and that is :

Kanniyar kaduikkan kathivittal

Kalaiyarku Mamalalyum Kadugakum.

The meaning of this is—If the women-folk show the signal through their eyes, the mountains will be made into mustard by war heroes. So, just a small wink is sufficient for the heroes to crush the mountains into mustard.

I am extremely thankful to the Deputy Speaker who has permitted me to speak for so much of time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I allow everybody.

DR. A. KALANIDHI : If anybody else has occupied the Chair, he would have made me sit soon. I am extremely thankful to the hon. Deputy Speaker for this.

(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I allowed every one to speak. I have never restricted any one.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI (Madras South) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for calling me to speak a few words. I can assure you, I will not take 20 minutes when I can say it in five minutes.

I welcome the statement made by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on the 25th of April on the latest development in Sri Lanka. Our hon. Minister of External Affairs has also made a statement on this vital issue.

Sir, our hon. Members have already spoken on the history of Sri Lanka and also what is happening today about the morbid state of affairs in Sri Lanka today. So, I do not wish to go into those things in detail. But their anguish and pain is quite understandable because as I am coming from Tamil Nadu and being a Tamilian, I can well join them in their feeling and I also seek from the Prime Minister a very speedy remedy to solve this ugly situation in Sri Lanka. When I say, "as a Tamilian", I also say as an Indian because I feel that this is not causing distress to the people of Tamil Nadu alone but it is causing distress

to all the people of India. Sir, our hon. Member has said that India has arms. We are well equipped. Why can't we use arms on a small country like Sri Lanka? Sir, I feel that it is easier said than done. It is because, we should think about the repercussions. What about the international situation that we have to face? I feel that only through.....

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : You are from South Madras constituency. Don't forget.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI : I talk here not only as a Tamilian but also as an Indian. I repeat that. So, one has to try and solve this very delicate situation with care. Our Prime Minister is handling this situation with great care and great caution. The gravity of this situation looms large on all of us and I would say that India's policy has been one of fostering relation, to have mutual understanding, trust and friendship. It is a pity that Sri Lankan Government has not been able to appreciate this. Instead, the situation in Sri Lanka is worsening day by day. The killings and violence are continuing every day. We see these unfortunate things in the newspapers. We are not only deeply shocked but grieved and pained to know what is happening to our Tamil brothers and sisters. I would like to say that Tamil Nadu is really flooded with refugees and their condition is really pathetic and pitiable. They have been uprooted. They have lost their families. They have been rendered homeless. They have become destitutes, I happened to meet some of the women refugees and I have listened to them. Their sobs, stories—not only stories—the real happenings and their distress is so horrifying that words cannot express unless one sees or experiences such atrocities and violence that has been committed on these poor Tamilians.

Sir, I would suggest that a high-power delegation of Members of Parliament from both the Houses may be constituted to go and visit Sri Lanka so that we can meet our counterparts and share their opinion and see how things can be smoothed out and sorted out in a peaceful manner, through negotiation. Our Opposition Member has now suggested that the Centre is slumbering. Sir, I would ask, what is the Centre supposed to do? The Centre has to take a very cautious step. I would ask,

why does their leader, Mr. Karunanidhi not go there, see the things and solve this problem?

20.00 hrs

It would be the wisest thing for Mr. Karunanidhi to do, instead of sitting there in Tamil Nadu and attacking the Centre.

From the floor of the House, I appeal to all the hon. Members who would go as a delegation that violence must stop as the first step prior to holding a broad-based discussion. That will bring faith and confidence. Sanity can only prevail when heads will become cool.

I congratulate our Prime Minister who has assured our people about the dire need to solve the problem and also about the special advisory group which will resolve the problem.

I once again repeat that Sri Lankan Government is trying to do all they can to drive a wedge between our Muslim brothers and our Tamil brothers and they are stooping to all sort of things because of certain influences which we are all aware of. So, this problem has to be tackled with care. It is a very sensitive issue. I am sure, our Prime Minister will rise to the occasion and see that we have a peaceful solution to this ugly problem.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of 30 lakhs Tamil population in Sri Lanka is deteriorating from bad to worse. Thousands of Tamils are killed by the military. Most of them are innocent civilian people. Hundreds of militant Tamil youth are killed by the army.

The army is creating reign of terror. On the pretext of retaliating the militants' operation, the army is destroying everything that belong to Tamils. They are killing women, old people and children as well. Several hon. Members have narrated the details which I do not want to repeat.

The Sri Lankan Government has introduced a series of measures calculated to beat down the Tamil people and these security regulations had brought in an "Emergency" specially in the North and the East of Island. The entire Jaffna area is declared

as "security zone for specific purposes." One cannot use a private vehicle. Even to use a bicycle, one has to obtain a permit from the Superintendent of Police. It is a classic example how fundamental rights are denied to Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. To enter or leave Jaffna, one has to obtain a permit from Assistant Government Agent.

The Sri Lankan forces are conducting a harsh and remorseless campaign of intimidation among the Island's Tamil minority. By means of random murder, indiscriminate shooting, beatings, torture and plunder ill-disciplined trigger-happy soldiers keep the Tamils in the North in a state of constant fear.

With the vanishing of reason, the fight against Tamil separatist terrorists now has the shrill tones of naked ethnic struggle. The predominantly Sinhalese army seems to have a free hand as it cracks down on the civilian population of overwhelming Tamil Northern Areas leaving all rules to be followed to winds.

Military restrictions and the army's savage response to the Tamil terrorism have almost shut down the economy of this region. At least 25,000 fishermen are prohibited from fishing which is the only source of living for them. Already food and other articles are in short supply in this Jaffna area and if food is not supplied in required quantities, the people are going to die of starvation.

Women have been selling their necklaces and bangles to buy food but few dealers now have any money left to buy the jewellery even at low prices. Business came to a grinding halt.

Many thousands of Tamils left Lanka for India and some to Europe. Thousands of youth were rounded up and held in army camps. There is strong evidence of beating, torture and murder of young men in army custody. Scores of doctors, engineers and accountants have left Lanka in the past few years making the country feel the pinch in certain fields.

People are dying because they cannot be taken to hospitals in the 6 P.M. to 5 A.M. curfew. Jaffna Hospital is running out of vital drugs, oxygen and anaesthetics and minimum medical facilities are not available to Tamil citizens there.

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

Army's rampage, massacre and brutality has swung even moderate Tamil opinion against the authorities. Father Michael Samy, Vicar-General of Jaffna said :

"People live in fright and despair. They feel helpless. There is no equality or democracy left here any more. Tamils are being treated as second-class citizens. The Tamils see no future for themselves and their children in Sri Lanka. They are convinced that they are being edged out by the Sinhalese from all walks of life.

"In fact, the atrocities of the army and the police and the attitude of the Government in denying basic democratic rights to Tamils and the acts of majority Sinhalese population has made the minority Tamil population to demand Tamil Eelam and subsequent increase in the terrorist acts by militant youth mainly in retaliation to the excesses committed by the Sinhalese forces."

The Sri Lankan Government's latest announcement of a policy to settle 30,000 Sinhalese families in the Northern and Eastern provinces will only further worsen the situation. It will be like adding fuel to fire. It is against the promises made in November, 1983 "Annexure C" that "the demographic pattern of the Northern and Eastern provinces will not be upset by the colonisation policy."

The more alarming part of the proposal is that "the men proposed to be settled in the Tamil areas are going to be armed and trained in the use of fire arms."

I warn Shri Jayewardene that this will lead only to civil war in the sub-continent. So, the Sri Lankan Government should be warned that under any circumstances, it should not take up this dirty colonisation policy.

Unfortunately, both China and Pakistan are selling arms to Sri Lanka. Israeli Instructors and British SAS have been hired by Sri Lankan Government to assist its soldiers. It is very unfortunate that these countries are helping the Sri Lankan Government in killing thousands of innocent Tamil civilians. Let us appeal

to all those nations to stop supply of arms and aid to Sri Lanka.

However, I would like to bring to your notice the fact that both the militant Tamil youth as well as the Sri Lanka Government must realise that neither terrorist activity nor the army operation is going to solve the problem. The only answer to the ethnic problem is political solution.

Political solution should enable the Tamils to have more say in the administration of the areas in which they are in predominance. It should accept more autonomy for the Tamils within the framework of United Sri Lankan Country as many of the Tamil leaders are saying that they are not for separation.

In this connection, I would suggest that the Advisory Bodies recently nominated by Sri Lanka Government should suggest Provincial Councils in the Tamil predominant areas of North and South and the Chief Ministers should be elected by the people there and not nominated by President Jayewardene and continued at his pleasure as suggested by President Jayewardene. The Provincial Councils should be entitled to exercise limited legislative powers; they should have control over the administrative machinery as well as police within their provinces. The Advisory Committee should, in their negotiations with the Sri Lankan Government see that this basic principle is accepted by the Sri Lankan Government.

If the Sri Lankan Government does not try for negotiations and come to a political solution but, on the other hand, continue with army reprisals and reign of terror on the Tamil population, I suggest that the Government of India should not keep quiet; it cannot close its eyes for too long when thousands of our Tamil brethren are massacred there; it should rise to the occasion and ask the Sri Lankan Government to stop forthwith the massacre of the Tamils, failing which India will be compelled to interfere just to protect the interests of the 30 lakh Tamil population there.

A happy sign is that all Tamil militant groups have recently set aside their differences and joined hands together to fight

unitedly. This may bring President Jayewardene to negotiating terms which he has hitherto refused.

I am also happy that the Prime Minister has announced the Government's commitment for the welfare of three million Tamils there. He has announced constitution of an Advisory Group to negotiate with the Sri Lankan President, Mr. Jayewardene. Let it be done without further loss of time.

A refugee relief fund should be formed, and the Tamil refugees should be given all help because many of them have lost all that they possessed in Sri Lanka. I express on behalf of my Party our fullest sympathies with the three million Tamil population of Sri Lanka and our support in their fight for achieving basic democratic rights, self-respect and self rule for all those people in the areas in which they are predominant.

With these words, I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for having given me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM (Hazi-pur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by hon. Members in the debate about Tamilians in Sri Lanka. Today, the question before us is not that problem in Sri Lanka is their internal problem or it is a problem between Sri Lanka and the Tamilians but we should view it as a problem between Sri Lanka and India and consider what steps we should take about the treatment being meted out to Tamilians by the Sri Lankan Government.

India is a non-aligned nation and we believe in non-aggression. At the same time, we also believe that human rights and fundamental rights of every individual in the world should be ensured. We are trying to apprise the world of our stand in regard to this problem. Wherever human rights and fundamental rights are in danger, we have always raised our voice in our country as well as in the conference of non-aligned nations.

We cannot afford to be silent spectators to the atrocities and injustices being perpetrated on the Tamilians in Sri Lanka,

Certain foreign elements are inciting people to raise the demand for Khalistan in our country. They also incite the people in Nagaland to raise a demand for a separate State. They are interested in the disintegration of our country, but about Sri Lanka these foreign elements have been adopting an altogether different attitude. When we point out that the fundamental rights of the Tamilians in Sri Lanka are in jeopardy, these elements try to disintegrate our country. They do not talk about the rights of the Tamilians who are the nationals of Sri Lanka but they say that they are Indian nationals and, therefore, they should be driven out of Sri Lanka and in this way they are posing a problem for our country. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the fact that before Independence in British India, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka were not separate countries. They all were parts of British India. But the Britishers had our country partitioned and created Pakistan. Thereafter when a demand for ensuring the fundamental rights of the persons living in Bangladesh was raised, a fight ensued there and we too had to intervene in the matter. In this way, Bangladesh was created. Now the problem before us is that on the one hand we say that the people should be given fundamental rights but on the other hand these foreign elements would say that we are raising the issue of fundamental rights of the Tamilians in Sri Lanka with ulterior motives. Then these foreign elements would ask us why we are not agreeing to grant independence to Nagaland and why we are not conceding the demand for Khalistan. I would like to submit that after following the two-nation theory, Hindus and Muslims were separated and Pakistan created. India became free and our Constitution came into being. Then we, the people of India, accepted in our Constitution that we were all Indian nationals irrespective of whether we are residing in Punjab, Kashmir or Tamil Nadu or in any other part of the country. As such, all Indian citizens got equal fundamental rights. No discrimination was shown towards anybody. All are Indians and have the full rights of Indian citizenship. Therefore, no discrimination has been shown towards anybody to which

[*Sri Rana Ratan Ram*]

ever area he may belong. If any foreign element wants to interfere in our affairs, his action would amount to interference in our internal matters. We should not forget that in British India they had partitioned the country on the basis of the two-nation theory, and thereafter Bangladesh had been created. Today lakhs of Tamilians are residing in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Government are perpetrating numerous atrocities on them. A look at our ancient history would reveal that when injustices and atrocities had reached their peak in Lanka, Lord Rama was born to put an end to all the injustices and atrocities being perpetrated there. If we do not stand by our Tamilian brethren like Lord Rama, then Lord Rama would again be born in Sri Lanka and would help the people there in their fight for fundamental rights and human rights. No power on earth would be able to prevent such a thing from happening. Even the Sri Lankan Government would be helpless in the matter. Therefore, the Government of India should take necessary steps before long. We are the Chairman of the non-aligned countries and therefore we do not want to commit aggression. We should try to create world opinion in the matter. We should put in our best endeavours to see that the fundamental rights and human rights of the Tamilians in Sri Lanka are safeguarded. We should tell the world that if the Sri Lankan Government did not do justice to the Tamilians in Sri Lanka, then the Government of India would fight for their independence as well, just as they have fought for the independence of other countries.

***SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajamundry)** : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are debating a very vital issue which is engaging the attention of the entire country. The situation in Sri Lanka concerns not only our brothers in Tamilnadu, but all of us. Sri Lanka is a Buddhist country. Buddhism speaks of nothing but non-violence. Yet Sri Lanka which professes Buddhism is not practising the very basic tenets of that great religion. The atrocities perpetrated on our Tamil brothers in Sri Lanka are quite innumerable. They are playing

with the honour of Tamil women. Children are being butchered. Young men are being wiped out on one pretext or the other. Many of the Members who spoke earlier have given a very detailed account of everything that is going on in Sri Lanka. The exodus of refugees is still continuing unabated. I am afraid, Sir, if the situation continues to be like this for some more time, there will be hardly any Tamilian left in the island. Perhaps this is how Sri Lanka wants to solve the Tamil issue once and for all. Yet we are watching like dumb spectators.

Sir, Sri Lanka Government has launched a campaign against us the world over that we are displaying a big brother attitude towards them. They are carrying on the propaganda that they are a tiny island and that with our vast size and population are threatening their very existence. The Sri Lankans want to camouflage the issue by resorting to this false propaganda. It is just like a wife who beats her husband to pulp and then goes out and cries for help. This shows our leniency. Perhaps we were too good to Sri Lankans. Now the time has come to do something concrete. Sir, we are too good and too reluctant to say anything so far. They have taken this as our weakness. When cat goes blind naturally any rat will revolt. It is a simple truth. Let us not forget it. Now the time has come to put this policy aside. The Sri Lankans are transgressing our international boundaries. They are entering our territorial waters without any fear and killing our fishermen. They enter our waters, they poach in our waters and finally kill our fishermen in our waters. See their audacity. How long are we to tolerate all these things? The Government should stop being too good to Sri Lankans and take some concrete steps to try to set the things right.

Sir, the need of the hour is an immediate solution to the vexed problem. Whether by peaceful negotiations or otherwise, we must see that a permanent solution is found out. No effort should be spared to find out a solution to the Sri Lankan problem. Government must think

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

how best it can help solve the problem permanently.

We must also launch a counter propaganda. We must counter the Sri Lankan propaganda at all levels that we are behaving like a big brother. This false propaganda must be countered vehemently and especially in the international fora.

Sir, it is not sufficient if we discuss the matter here and it is covered by the press. What is required is an attempt to solve the problem immediately. Keeping in view the sentiments expressed in this House, the Government must think how best it can solve this problem whether by peaceful negotiations or otherwise.

Now there is scope for a misunderstanding among North and South Indian brothers. You should not allow your South Indian brothers to think that the situation would have been different had some North Indian State instead of Tamilnadu been involved in it. You should not give any chance to people to think on these lines. We are one. The country is one. The nation is one. So you must make an all out effort to assuage the feelings of South Indian brothers.

Sir, I appreciate the dignity with which the Government of India treated this matter. They remained calm and quiet in the face of many provocations. I also laud the efforts of Tamilnadu Government and the people to rehabilitate the refugees who are pouring in every day. The entire nation must go to their rescue now.

Once again requesting the Government to make all out efforts to hammer out a solution to this issue, I conclude. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI SUNDARARAJ (Pudukkottai): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter which we are discussing today is of great concern not only to the Tamil speaking people, but of the whole nation. It is high time—and the time has come—under the dynamic leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to give an answer and to evolve a strategy, to solve this ethnic problem of Sri Lanka.

The present situation in Sri Lanka under the Presidentship of Shri Jayawardhane is not new. It has been the norm for the Sinhala Tamil to experience frequently recurring racial and religious violence, accompanied with sudden deaths of beloved ones, inflicted by armed forces, besides incurring loss of properties and wealth by arson and looting. These violence and destructions are being unleashed by armed forces of the State under the pretext of fighting Terrorism.

Sir, immediately after Independence, nearly one million Indian Tamils who were living in Sri Lanka were de-franchised and their parliamentary representations were reduced to nil. They became the first victims of a planned act to suppression. This was followed by the State-sponsored Sinhala colonisation of traditional homeland of Tamils and Muslims, the passing of Sinhala Only Bill, and the denial of fundamental rights in the 1972 constitution which was passed against the wishes of the Tamils. They imposed restrictions on the employment and education of Tamils. The Tamils had protested against the above Acts through non-violent movements but to no avail. Instead far from redressing their grievances, it resulted in imprisonment, torture, deaths of thousands of innocent lives and finally deprivation of parliamentary representation of Sri Lankan Tamils. They were fighting in a non-violent way but they were attacked by armed personnel who were killing them brutally. My friend, Dr. Kalanidhi has mentioned a few instances as to how killing was going on in Sri Lanka. Even small babies, small boys aged between 12 and 13 Years were taken into custody on the pretext that they had violated the curfew orders and they were killed in jails and their dead bodies were thrown into the rivers and canals. So, such brutal killings are going on in Sri Lanka. Of course, we can understand the delicate position of our country. The Central Government is seized of the problem. But at the same time we should remember that we have a traditional friendship with Sri Lanka. We have constitutional responsibilities. We, as a Chair-person of the Non-Aligned Movement have got a greater responsibility. The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs has mentioned in his statement

[Shri Sundararaj]

that we have been in constant touch with the Sri Lankan Government with a view to assisting them in finding a political solution. Sir, we have been expecting for the last three years that the President of Sri Lanka would find a peaceful solution to the problem. But he has not taken any concrete decision so far. Till date he has not been able to take any decision. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister when this ethnic problem will be stopped once for all. When would the brutal killings by the Sri Lankan army be stopped? I would request the Government of India to indicate clearly or fix up the time limit say three months or even six months, that the ethnic problem would be solved. Now, before the things get worse in Sri Lanka, I would request the Government of India to consider seriously solving the burning problem there. Some kind of action is to be taken which may help the people of Tamil origin there. If no immediate action is taken, then after a year or so, if the hon. Minister goes to Colombo and asks the Sri Lankan President: Have You solved ethnic problem of Tamil origin? he would reply 'yes' and add that 50% of the Tamil origin people have been killed by the Sri Lankan army people, 25% of them have gone back to India as refugees and the rest 25% have died of starvation. So, 100% of the problem has been solved. There will be no more problem. This will be the reply Mr. Jayawardane will be giving. So, Sir, the problem should not be allowed to continue like this. Already 13% of Tamils have died in Sri Lanka. The Tamils hope that something good would be done for them in the near future by the Government of India. The Government of India should take initiative and see that things are normal in Sri Lanka so that the civilian people belonging to Tamil origin live in peace, their fundamental rights are restored, their property is restored to them, and their kith and kin are restored to them.

In this connection, I may submit that even though the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu along with the Opposition party leaders came to Delhi and discussed the matter with the hon. Prime Minister, the DMK leader, Shri Karunanidhi, could neither come to the all-party Conference

on Sri Lanka at Madras or at Delhi. I could not understand the logic behind it. *(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Chief Minister of Madras asked Mr. Karunanidhi to come over to Delhi. *(Interruptions)*.

Sir, I would personally appreciate the kind gesture of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and thank him for the initiative taken by him by having an all-party conference in Madras on two or three occasions and discussing the matter with an earnest desire to solve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

Doctors advised him not to go to Delhi due to his ill health, because he underwent an operation for his kidney transplantation. But still, he came to Delhi to discuss the matter and find a solution. But our great leader, the former Chief Minister, he is in the streets mobilising people for agitation. For what?

DR. A. KALANIDHI: Not against the Government.

SHRI SUNDARARAJ: Of course. But you still want to do something which cannot be achieved.

DR. A. KALANIDHI: In the political arena, he is trying to awaken the people from their deep slumber...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDARARAJ: But you cannot find a solution in Madras in the streets. We have to find the solution in Delhi under the Prime Minister's guidance. Only when we can have talks, we find a solution. We cannot find a solution by speaking in platforms in Madras or in villages.

(Interruptions)

DR. A. KALANIDHI: His own MLAs asked for military action in the Assembly.

SHRI SUNDARARAJ: The Congress Party never asked for military action.

DR. A. KALANIDHI: I can challenge his statement. Congress MLAs have asked for military action.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Mr. Sundararaj, please try to wind up.

SHRI SUNDARARAJ : The Congress Party never asked for military action. I have never asked for military action. I have been in the Legislature in Tamil Nadu for the past seven or eight years. I have never asked for military action. We are people with ideas and we will do things.

DR. A. KALANIDHI : You are taking a dual stand.

SHRI SUNDARARAJ : We are always on a single standpoint. I would like the Central Government and our beloved Prime Minister, who is the saviour of the down trodden and oppressed people of the whole world, to come out and help the people and see that the Tamil people in Sri Lanka— young and old, women and children, have a peaceful life.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I thank all the members who took an active part in this debate, to express their concern about the prevailing tension in Sri Lanka. Many hon. members observed that India is not only facing insecurity on one side, but now in the South as well, we are facing problems. Some outside powers are also involved in creating a feeling of insecurity in India by interfering in Sri Lankan internal matters, because they are indirectly forcing the government of Sri Lanka not to go in for any solution. They are doing this by creating continuing tension there in Sri Lanka and thus creating problems for India also. Some members also expressed their concern over the killings of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. We are also reading about this in the newspapers as well.

All this reminds me of Ramayana. Shri Rama went to Sri Lanka to conquer and control some evil forces. At that time, a bridge was laid to Sri Lanka from India to give way to Shri Rama to cross the sea and go there. Because of the involvement of certain external forces in Sri Lanka, they are creating problems there and in this way they are trying to threaten the security of India. Sri Lanka is not able to construct a bridge to invade India. They are killing the Tamil people and throwing their bodies into the sea. There are so many corpses and it appears to me that they are constructing a bridge with these corpses. In Ramayana, a

bridge was constructed to go there and conquer the evil. I do not know whether they have a grudge. They are killing the Tamils, and we are all concerned about this. The Minister may take note of these things and reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) : Sir: I thought that the Deputy Speaker had already taken my speech as read.

I fully share the sentiments expressed by the hon. Minister, and I really share their feelings. Not only this House, but the whole country shares their feelings. I would also like to assure my brothers from Tamil Nadu that it is not a question of Tamil Nadu or Tamilians. It is a national question. We treat it as a national question. Therefore, there should be no apprehension about it, because we will always treat these questions as national ones. We are all united; we are all one. We will stand together to face any challenge which might come from any side.

It is a fact that the Tamilians of Sri Lanka have felt discriminated against, for a long time. The discrimination is of various types, citizenship, rights, status of the Tamil language, recognition of Buddhism as the State religion, State-sponsored colonization schemes in traditional Tamil areas, discrimination in employment, discrimination in education and inequality in industrial and economic development of Tamil-dominated areas.

Naturally, all these discriminatory practices resulted in frustration, and that frustration has expressed itself in various types of agitation, or what they call terrorism. But I would here very frankly like to say that in this country, we never encourage any kind of terrorism, nor have we provided any facilities for training of terrorists in this country. These allegations of Sri Lanka is totally baseless, which we repudiate.

It is a fact that after the violence of 1983, our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi used her good offices with the Sri Lankan Government, particularly with President Jayawardene, and told him that this question of Tamils of Sri Lanka

[Shri Khursheed Alam Khan]

had to be decided, had to be solved through a negotiated, political solution, and that he could not find a solution through military means. This advice, and these good offices were accepted both by the Tamils of Sri Lanka as well as by President Jayawardhane. But unfortunately, the All Parties Conference which was called, and which was in session for about 12 or 11 months, failed to reach any conclusion; and it had to be disbanded by the President. This was rather unfortunate.

Here, it is to be made very clear that we cannot impose any restriction. Some hon. Members have said that India was trying to impose upon or giving some kind of advice to the Tamils, viz. as to what they should do, and what they should not do. I would like to make it very clear that we cannot impose any restriction or conditions on Tamils of Sri Lanka. we never attempted this; we have just tried to use our good offices for bringing about a political solution. So, it is entirely for the Tamils of Sri Lanka. They have to take a decision, and they have to decide their course of action, in their own wisdom.

We shall give full protection to our fishermen, because that is our duty; and instructions have been given to our Navy and to our Coast Guard; and the result of our instructions is that after 13th February, there has been no killing of any of our fishermen.

One more thing I would like to say, in respect of the five fishermen who were killed. We have lodged a very strong protest with the Sri Lankan Government, and also have asked for compensation. In the meantime, the Prime Minister has sanctioned Rs. 10,000/- per family, as an *ex-gratia* amount. But our compensation claim against Sri Lanka is still there.

Surely, we want a solution of the problem on an urgent basis. We are very serious. A number of speakers have said that Government of India should be more serious. I think we are very serious, and the seriousness is obvious from the fact that even the Prime Minister only the other day came here and made a statement, and he has set up this group. The group

has been formed especially to look into the problems of refugees as well as into the problems of solving this issue by peaceful means and by negotiated settlement; and surely we would take advantage of the advice...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Who are the members of the group ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : Home Minister, Mr. Parthasarathi, myself, Cabinet Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary. (*Interruptions*) Naturally, it has been formed by the Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*) I am also representing one lakh people as you do.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Our constituency is bigger.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : I have got eight lakh and 75 thousand voters.

It is a fact that about one lakh of refugees are already in the country. We are looking after them and we consider that it is our responsibility and our duty to look after them, their basic requirements. It is also a fact that we have made it very clear to the Sri Lankan Government that whatever solution will be arrived at, these refugees who are in this country, the conditions should be created in such a fashion that they go back to their country in safety, dignity and honour. But so long as they are here, we will look after them.

It is a fact that this new element of Muslim dimension is a very dangerous thing because it is an old game of divide and rule; and actually we feel that the Muslims are also Tamils; they speak the Tamil Language and therefore there is no difference between the two. But, surely, there is a hidden hand which is trying to divide the two. I hope better sense will prevail amongst the Muslims in Sri Lanka and they will see through this game and they will not be caught in this game. It is also a fact that this is a definite and calculated instigation. This is a notorious old game, as I said, but, we earnestly hope that people will realise, particularly the Muslims of Sri Lanka, will realise that it is their cause also which is being fought by other Tamils.

We are aware about the intrusion of foreign agencies in Sri Lanka. This is a very serious thing because we do not want any foreign agencies so near our country and particularly the SAS which is providing training to the commandos or the Mossad which is a notorious agency like the CIA. Therefore, we never want that these agencies should be allowed to come into Sri Lanka. We have made this it very clear to the Srilankan Government. Similarly, we do not appreciate that they have allowed a broadcasting station of the Voice of America to be installed there; it will not be in the interest of this region and we want that this region should be free from all such agencies. Just as we want that the Indian ocean should be a zone of peace, similarly, we don't want any kind of intrusion into our region.

We are really astonished at President Jayewardene's statement about Jammu and Kashmir which he gave in Pakistan. We tried to find out what actually he had said, but we have not been able to get any version from the Srilankan Government. But what had appeared in the Pakistan Press is really deplorable and we never thought that a person of President Jayewardene's status will stoop down to making such a statement.

It is a fact that there have been certain restrictions on fishing of our fishermen. That is due to the economic zone and naturally this has created some problems. But we hope that once some solution is arrived at, there will be some responsibility of making some kind of arrangement for fishermen also.

One has to hang one's head in shame when we listened to the various types of things which the hon. members from the other side had said, particularly the disrespectful treatment to the women. This is very unfortunate because women and children have got nothing to do with any agitation. We wanted that this sort of treatment should not have been meted out to them. I can only say that from what has been said—I have listened to all the hon. Members—that it is nothing but very brutal, but barbaric, inhuman and cruel.

PROF. N.G. Ranga : The treatment, that is, what they have done to women and children,

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : I would once again like to mention that the Prime Minister is extremely concerned of the whole problem and therefore he took the immediate decision to constitute the Advisory Group to handle this problem and he is doing all that is possible to arrive at an understanding with the Sri Lankan Government so that immediate steps are taken to arrive at a political solution.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This Advisory Group, is it going to accept advice or give advice ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : Both. I hope you are satisfied now, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Wonderful imagination.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : I would also like to mention that the Human Rights Commission is seized of this problem and we will continue to raise this problem at the Human Rights Commission.

About the Group which has been formed, one of the hon. Members said that there is no representation of the South. I would like to say that this Group is not based on regions. This Group is above all States, it is a national group.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : We are more concerned with this problem.

(Interruptions)

DR. A. KALANIDHI : But it will be proper to have a member from the South.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : But your problem is our problem when we say that it is a national problem.

DR. A. KALANIDHI : There should be a member from South.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : You better decide who will represent Tamil Nadu between you two!

(Interruptions)

Mr. Parthasarathi is from the South. But I would not say that it is on the basis of South and North and East and West. It is on the basis of national problems and therefore I think it should be accepted by all.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Their Chief Minister does not belong to All India ADMK but he belongs to 'All India', Anna DMK !

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : I would not like to go into those intricacies.

We have always said that we believe in the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, but surely the Tamilians there will have to be given a respectable position in Sri Lanka. They will have to enjoy the same privileges and rights as enjoyed by the Sinhalese. They cannot remain as second class citizens.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They have always been second class citizens there.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : I think we will ensure and as everybody here is taking up their cause they should be able to achieve what they should get.

It is a fact that the restricted zone, prohibited zone, surveillance zone, have caused lot of trouble to fishermen of Tamilian origin. I believe, that more than 1,50,000 people are deprived of their profession and they are in camps, they are facing lot of problems. The Government of Sri Lanka will have to take up this matter. We have brought it to their notice that after all they should not be deprived of their profession and facilities should be given to them to go out for fishing.

Some hon. Members have said that we are afraid of Sri Lanka acquiring arms. Let Sri Lanka or any other country acquire as many arms as they want. But we can assure them that we are prepared to face the challenge from any side from any country at any time.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : We do not want to attack anybody.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : We have never done that. I would also mention here one thing. Shri Indrajit Gupta mentioned in his speech that in 1971 we did not declare war. We did not attack Pakistan. It was Pakistan which declared war and we had to go to defend ourselves.

It is a fact that the vessel which was confiscated by our Navy was returned to

the Sri Lankan Government. But it was returned to them on the understanding that they would never allow any intrusion in our waters in future. I am glad to be able to say that they have taken a lesson and they have not repeated it so far.

It is a fact that Sri Lankan Government has been dragging its feet in implementing whatever agreement or understanding was arrived at with the various parties in Sri Lanka. We feel that they should have done it long ago. Unfortunately, this has not been done and they are still dragging their feet.

We have made it clear more than once to the Sri Lankan Government and the authorities there that whatever they may do, they will not be able to solve this problem by means of the military. They will have to go to the negotiating table and only by negotiation they will be able to find out a solution which will be acceptable to all within the framework of the Sri Lankan Constitution. At that time also, it will be necessary to remember that one lakh refugees are in this country and they have all to go back with honour, dignity and safety.

Quite a few Members were anxious to ask as to what we have tried and what we have told the Sri Lankan Government. There also I would like to say that personalities do not count really it is a question of achieving the objective; who goes there, who talks to them and how many times who has gone, the personalities are not very relevant. It is the objective that we want to achieve. And the objective that we have suggested to them has been withdrawal of troops from Tamil areas—and they should be sent back to the barracks the civil administration should take over the keeping in abeyance the policy of settlement of 30,000 Sinhalese families in the pre-dominant areas of Tamils; withdrawal of the Sixth amendment to the Constitution, removal of restrictions from restricted and prohibited surveillance zone; the intrusion of a foreign agency in our region is a matter of great concern to us; we do not want this in this region. That was the reason also that we had refused their proposal of joint patrolling by two Navies. We said that this could not be done in isolation. If a solution is to be found, it has to be found in totality.

By just having joint patrolling there will be no solution.

One hon. Member said about 7500 people had been killed. To tell you frankly, there are no authentic figures available about the number of people killed or the number of people who are imprisoned, because they have not furnished any such figures. It is only through newspapers or whatever the source of information of the hon. Members that this information is available.

I have already said that the allegation that terrorism is encouraged in India is totally baseless and false. Whatever propaganda they are doing, I can assure you that steps will certainly be taken to ensure that this baseless propaganda is contradicted. But we will do it in a dignified manner and not in the manner that they are doing.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : What about recognition of liberation movement ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : I think, this question is quite complicated and it may not be possible for me to say anything about it at this moment.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There can be nationalisation of liberation movement.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : I think, neither nationalisation nor de-nationalisation.

21.00 hrs.

President Jayewardene, in his banquet speech for Mrs. Thatcher mentioned that British troops were stationed in quite a few places in some countries. Of course, the information that we have and the information that is supplied to us, has stated that he did not ask for stationing of troops in his own country, Sri Lanka. But the hon. Members can draw the inference as to what he meant by this. Otherwise what was the necessity of mentioning that troops were here and troops were there ? Actually the inference is very obvious which can be drawn by the hon. Members.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What was the assurance given to us by the British Government ?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : The British Government said that nobody can abuse their hospitality or can misuse anything from their side. Mrs. Thatcher in her talk with the Prime Minister, only gave her own views about the whole matter but she very categorically said that she had mentioned to President Jayewardene that a political solution had to be found to this problem and there was no other way.

I am sorry to find that one of the hon. Members said that the Prime Minister's statement, the other day, was disappointing. I think the Prime Minister made a statement of facts. Surely a statement of facts has to be made whether you call it disappointing or you call it not disappointing. He made a statement of facts and immediately took action also by setting up of this Group, which shows his concern about the whole issue.

It is not a fact that we are afraid of Khalistan. If we take a more active interest in the matter of Sri Lankan Tamils, this khalistan and other things are no consideration to us. We are all united on this one matter that.....(Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER : There is no connection between the two.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : There is no connection but apart from that, we are all united on this one point that whatever is happening in Sri Lanka has to be treated as a national question and, therefore, there is no question of its comparison with anything that is happening anywhere else.....(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Even Longowal has announced that he is opposed to Khalistan.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN : Good. I quite agree that the majority in Sri Lanka has not only to be fair to the minority but has to be generous also because this is the only way by which you can win over the hearts of the minority community whether they are Buddhists or Christians or Muslims or whatever they are.

In the end, I would like to say that geography, history, culture and shared values link India with Sri Lanka. Similarly, it has been India's constant effort to develop cordial relations with Sri Lanka to

[Shri Khursheed Alam Khan]

ensure peace and stability in the region and, therefore, we have been stressing upon Sri Lanka, its people, its government and its President that they have to take immediate steps to ensure that a political solution is found to this problem so that this problem is finished for ever and the trouble is over and all the people of Sri Lanka live happily thereafter because it is very necessary for this region that there should be peace, there should be no such problems. We want to live with peace and friendship with all our neighbours. This is our policy. This policy we have been pursuing and we will continue to pursue and I am quite sure that Sri Lanka, its people and its government will see reason and arrive at a negotiated agreement. A negotiated solution of this problem with least possible delay so that the miseries and sufferings of the people are ended. Naturally, when we make an appeal to the government, to the people and to everybody of Sri Lanka, let everyone of them unite on this question, just as here we are all united. If they are also united and if the political will is also there, I am sure there will be no difficulty in finding a political solution to this problem.

I think I have practically covered all the points.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
What is to be done about Sri Lanka?
That point has been left out.

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN :
We are pursuing it and I am sure you are one of us.

I would once again like to thank all the hon. Members who have taken part in this debate. Some of the hon. Members have made very valuable suggestions and I can assure them that whatever valuable suggestions they have made, they will receive our earnest consideration. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I wanted to thank you by saying that my speech can be taken as read.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What about the dinner to follow?

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN :
We expect that the Speaker will not speak. Today the Speaker has spoken. So you ask dinner from him.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd

Notification under Customs Act, 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. 137/85-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1985 together with an explanatory note reducing the export duty of Coffee from Rs. 720 per quintal to Rs. 570 per quintal, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

21. 07 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Tuesday, April 30, 1985 Vaisakha 10, 1907 (Saka).