

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXVIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Edition)

Tuesday, February 14, 1995/Magha 25, 1916(Saka)

<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
18/13(from below) 19/23	SHRI SOBHADREESWARA RAO VADDE	SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE
19/4(from below)	Delete 12.00 hrs.	
40/27	SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN	SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN
43/25(from below) 59/8	Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADYAY	Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY
154/24(from below) 202/8	SHRI S.M.LALJAN PASHA SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY	SHRI S.M.LALJAN BASHA SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY
212/12	RESOLUTION	RESOLUTION
238/7(from below)	[SHRI P.C.CHACKO IN THE CHAIR]	[SHRI P.C.CHACKO IN THE CHAIR]
250/20	SHRI	THE

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, February 14, 1995/Magha, 25, 1916 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar):
Point of information. We are not given a copy of the papers that are laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will explain to you later.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Sugar Under PDS

*1. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether sub-standard sugar has been distributed in the recent months through Fair Price Shops in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry to ascertain the facts; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). No, Sir However, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that in the case of about twenty fair price shops, sugar supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) was found to be infested. They have reported that infested stocks of sugar have not been distributed to the consumers and FCI has been requested to replace such stocks of sugar. No other specific complaint of this nature has been reported by any other State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) and (d). A team of officers of the Food Corporation of India was constituted to investigate the matter. The team found that some of the sugar bags in the FCI godown at Mayapuri had dead insects on the seam of some bags. No infestation was found inside the imported sugar bags which

were selected at random basis. The Food Corporation of India has reported that though the possibility of cross-infestation in some stray cases on the surface of the sugar bags stored in the FCI godowns alongwith foodgrains cannot be ruled out, such cross-infestation will not enter the sugar bags because of special packing of imported sugar with polythene liners and double stitching.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to congratulate hon. Buta Singh on his becoming a Minister and that too the Minister of Civil Supplies. I would also like to advise him to keep himself off from the scandals like the recent Sugar scandal to maintain a clean image and set an ideal before the country.

In his reply, the hon. Minister stated that microbe mix sugar was found in 20 fair price shops in Delhi. The Food Corporation of India constituted a team to look into it and stopped its sale. There is the Government of Bharatiya Janata Party in Delhi. Our Minister of Food Swung into action and raided the godowns to stop its supply otherwise this microbe mix sugar would still have been selling in Delhi. He has stated about Delhi's 20 shops only. There are many districts in Madhya Pradesh where adulterated sugar is being sold. Have you made any correspondence or issued any guidelines to the State Governments for immediately stopping its sale?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I thank the hon. Member for his well wishes. I would like to tell him that Doctors have advised me not to take sugar. Therefore, I can be totally impartial with regard to sugar. This could be achieved with the help of both the Food Corporation of India (F.C.I.) and the hon. Minister of Delhi Government. Both the teams visited shops. We have reached the conclusion that sugar in godwons is totally safe for use. Complaints against only 20 shops were received in Delhi and action has been taken against them. F.C.I. will replace the contaminated sugar with the fresh one. We have not received such complaints from any other State and when we receive one, we will definitely take action.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: My second supplementary question is that the team of officers constituted by the F.C.I. said in its report that non-living microbes were found on the outside of the sacks of sugar and not in sugar container. They were of wheat, rice etc. and had got stuck to sugar-bags. This means that the hon. Minister indirectly admits that rotten foodgrains are supplied to the people. Is the Government going to formulate any scheme to prevent supply of rotten rations to the public so that our countrymen are given quality wheat, rice and sugar?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a specialists team was deputed to examine sugar alone. It is true that

microbes were found in the store where sugar was stored. Other foodgrains like wheat, rice were also stored there and it is possible that microbes from other foodgrains reached the sugar bags and when these bags were opened, it was necessary to make them free of these microbes. Therefore, F.C.I. has asked not only Delhi Administration but all the States that at the time of allotment of rations, distribution should be made after making it germ free. Now, there is possibility, as the report says, that these microbes were on the outer side of other foodgrains bags and later got mixed with sugar as were found after the sugar bags were opened. In this connection, as the Hon'ble Member and other Members of Parliament have said, it will be ensured that foodgrains distributed under civil supplies are of good quality so that the consumers face no difficulties.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister with reference to his reply that what is the authenticity of such enquiry which has been conducted by that very department which deals with distribution and storage in which irregularities were found? F.C.I. made arrangements for sugar which was found microbe mixed and the same agency conducted the inquiry. Will the Hon'ble Minister allow a non-partisan extra-departmental agency to conduct the inquiry so that peoples' apprehensions about its impartiality are mitigated and its authenticity established?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after Delhi Administration received such complaints, the F.C.I. deputed a team of quality control specialists there and subsequently, the Minister of Food and Supplies, Government of Delhi also went there. There was, then no need of further inquiry. In case a need of impartial inquiry in any matter is felt in future, it will be conducted so that there is no scope for suspicion. I would like to add here that the Quality Control Wing of F.C.I. is quite independent and the findings of the enquiry conducted by them have been acceded to. Besides the Government of Delhi sent its own Supplies Minister who also corroborated the veracity of the findings of this enquiry.

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently, the allotment of PDS sugar to various States is based on old statistics of family cards.

Admittedly, there is inadequacy of sugar in PDS. The population has gone up. The number of family cards has been increased by three times. Will the Government come forward and increase the quantum of PDS sugar to cope up with the present situation?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, the quantum which is already fixed is quite satisfactory. In case if there is a demand from a particular State or section of the people, it will be reviewed.

SHR P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, the shortage is felt everywhere.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

sugar is not made available to the consumers of the rural areas of the country on the occasion of prominent festivals like Holi, Diwali, Christmas, Id etc. They have to face many hardships and even if it is available, the quantity is so inadequate that it only adds to one's dismay. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether such discrepancies in distribution, where the consumer is not even provided the fixed quantity of sugar, will be removed and the system reformed and such other malpractices like less weight of sugar at the time of allotment in the godowns etc. checked? Has the Hon'ble Minister any schemes envisaged in his mind to reform the distribution system?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the annual reports reveal that the jurisdiction of PDS is ever increasing. As per the weight and measurement standards, every consumer is given the minimum fixed quantity of sugar and allotment is made to states on the basis of this and with regard to festivals, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that in order to ensure proper arrangements of distribution in rural areas, the Government of India is in touch with the State Governments who are allotted and required quantity of sugar 2-3 months prior to the festival day. More sugar is allotted, if need be.

As I said earlier, efforts will be made and care taken to ensure that quality of rice, wheat and sugar under public distribution system is fully controlled. It is continuous process.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: What about F.C.I. godowns?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I have already stated that we are in receipt of regular report of F.C.I. godowns. Inspection is conducted wherever felt necessary.

[English]

Train Accidents

*2. **SHRI HARADHAN ROY:**
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents and derailments occurred during the months of December 1994 and January 1995 in each zone;

(b) the main causes of those accidents;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured and the total loss suffered by the Railways, zone-wise;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the victims;

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to minimise such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The number of train accidents and derailments that occurred during December '94 and January '95 on the Zonal Railways is as under:—

Railways	December '94 and January '95	
	Total Accidents (inclusive of derailments)	Derailments
Central	13	11
Eastern	3	2
Northern	10	8
North Eastern	9	6
Northeast Frontier	4	4
Southern	10	4
South Central	6	3
South Eastern	13	13
Western	7	5
TOTAL	75	56

(b) The main casuses of the accidents that occurred during the period December '94 and January '95 are:

(i) Failure of Railway Staff	—	37
(ii) Failure of persons 'Other than Railway Staff'	—	14
(iii) Equipment failure	—	10
(iv) Sabotage	—	2
(v) Combination of factors	—	3
(vi) Incidental	—	2
(vii) Under Investigation	—	7
Total:	—	75

(c) The number of persons killed and injured in train accidents as also loss to railway property in these accidents during December '94 and January '95 is tabulated below:—

Railway	Dec. '94-Jan. '95		Dec. '94-Jan. '95		Dec. '94-Jan. '95	
	No. of passengers killed/injured in train accidents		Other (Mainly at level crossings)		Loss to Railway Property in train accidents (Rs. in lakhs)	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured		
Central	—	—	8	10	119.54	
Eastern	—	—	—	—	1.58	
Northern	—	—	2	—	104.28	
North Eastern	5	119	3	2	20.35	
Northeast Frontier	—	—	—	—	0.60	
Southern	7	21	5	5	132.78	
South Central	2	18	4	—	10.00	
South Eastern	—	—	—	—	212.34	
Western	—	1	2	9	84.13	
	14	159	24	26	685.60	

(d) No compensation has been paid so far and the same will be paid when the accident claims are filed by the claimants and decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

However, a sum of Rs. 2,32,250/- has been paid as ex-gratia to the injured and the dependents of the dead.

(e) Some of the safety measures taken to minimise accidents are:

(i) Nearly 17,000 drivers with less than 10 years active driving service have been specially-screened and deficient drivers given out-of-course crash training.

(ii) 40,000 station staff have also been subjected to special screening and deficient staff imparted safety training.

(iii) Instant Action Groups have been launched on certain nominated trains to check entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches or persons carrying inflammable/explosive material.

(iv) Two high-level Safety Teams have been making extensive spot check and inspections of field installations and practices.

- (v) Stringent penalty to the extent of 'dismissal' or 'removal' from service is being imposed on staff causing serious train accidents.
- (vi) The elimination of collisions has been made as one of the mission areas for the General Managers of the Railways.
- (vii) Nearly 60,000 staff attended safety camps and refresher training courses during the last one year.
- (viii) Overdue track renewals on all important routes are being liquidated.
- (ix) 500 unmanned level crossings are being manned at a cost of Rs. 25 crores.
- (x) The track circuiting works on Rajdhani and Shatabdi routes have been speeded up.
- (xi) Carriage and Wagon examination of rolling stock has been strengthened and rationalised.

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Accidents happen mainly due to signal failures and our Government spend thousands of crores of rupees on signalling system. But even then accidents continue to take place the data furnished show that the number of train accidents is 75 and the number of derailments is 56. That part (a) of my question is why the funds provided are not being utilised properly?

Secondly, the level-crossing are yet to be manned fully. Several accidents are caused due to this. I wanted to know in part (b) of my question that by when those un-manned level crossing would be madded properly.

Thirdly, I would like to know by when the ongoing work of track-renovation would be completed by the Railways.

[English]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, so far as the railway accidents are concerned, even today the biggest factor is human failure. I am glad to say that it has come down drastically. If you look at the figure, the number of accidents is only 75. The break-up is : Central—13; Eastern—3; Northern—10; North Eastern—9; Northeast Frontier—4; Southern—10; South Central—6; South Eastern—13; Western—7. It is based on the density of the traffic. If you look at the figures, you will find that the number of accidents occurred due to human failure is only 37. It has come down. The number of accidents occurred due to equipment failure like signalling and all that which he ws talking about is hardly 10.

If you look at the figures, there is a lot of reduction in the accidents, particularly on the unmanned level crossings. If you look at the size of the country and the Railway network, it is such larger. Looking at the level crossing accidents and the precious human lives that we have been losing particularly, in the rural parts, in the last Budget, as all the hon. Members are aware, we provided about Rs. 25 crores especially for this purpose.

Generally, at every level crossing the traffic is assessed every year and the level crossings are upgraded. Based on the upgradation of the level crossings we decide and if it is to be manned we man it, if something more is to be done we do that.

As the Railways have taken a decision in the last Budget, we are also taking this up with the State Governments. He have written to all the chief Ministers. Now with the Panchayati Raj System coming into being, we also want to take up with the village panchayats so that we can have their cooperation also and see how we will be able to manage this and reduce the level crossing accidents.

Level crossing accidents are not the responsibility of the Railways. It is only because the track goes across the villages, the Railways become party to it. But the accidents occur mainly due to the negligence of the road users. So this is the factor.

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: My second question is that it is a matter of shame for the Ministry of Railways that the dependents of those 14 people killed have not so far been provided a single paise in compensation. No decision has been taken in regard to the time by which the compensation would be provided. Though, the Government have not yet issued the death certificates to the dependents of those who were killed, how will they claim it as they are not educated? Was any officer sent by your Ministry to help them stake their claims or were some other steps taken in this regard?

Secondly, I would like to know as to how many train accidents happened at level crossings. No specific answer has been given in this regard. I would like to know the time by when the Government would pay compensation to the dependents of the deceased and what steps are being taken for this? Besides, are the Government making any arrangements to provide jobs to the dependents of the deceased on compassionate grounds?

[English]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, on the question of claims, I would say that there are Claims Tribunals and quasi-judicial bodies where a magistrate is also there on the Claims Tribunal.

Now the number of claims tribunals has been increased, there is no delay in paying the compensation at all. The delay will be only on the part of the people who are either the victims or the near relatives or dependents as they have to prove that they are the real heirs. If they have not been able to prove themselves, there is delay from their side. It is not the Railways' fault. Once they prove and satisfy the judiciary or the Claims Tribunals, there is no such delay.

In all such matters we have been paying the compensation very quickly. In Claims Tribunals there is no pendency of cases and there is very quick disposal of cases.

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Have any steps been taken in regard to the report on the rail mishap which occurred on Bombay Khadrkpur routes?

[English]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: No, Sir.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker Sir, from the answer to part (a) of the question it appears that most of the accidents have taken place due to derailment. Out of 75 total accidents, derailment accidents are 56 as is mentioned in the answer to part (a).

Now the measures therefor taken should include in a big way the renewal of old tracks, overdue tracks. The answer to part (e) of the question says that overdue track renewals on all important routes are being liquidated. That is one of the measures taken by the Railways. I would like to know the details regarding this measure during the period, December 1994 to January 1995. In physical and financial terms, what is the measure taken as far as the overdue track renewals are concerned, particularly in Central and Western Railways, where most of the accidents are due to derailments?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, so far as derailments are concerned, I agree with the hon. Member that it is one of the areas of concern for us, not because of any serious accidents or anything that it is creating but it affects the punctuality. The through-run of the traffic gets affected resulting into punctuality loss and it brings a bad image to the Railways.

The structure of rails is one of the reasons for such derailments in addition to other things. We have been taking lot of steps including track machines. Now we are going in for another latest equipment, which can take x-rays. If we mount that equipment to Rajadhani or Shatabdi or any of the superfast express train engines, it can x-ray the entire track to the length and breadth and it will show a graph where the track is weak so that the Railways can take immediate measures to correct it.

I can assure the House that the railways is quite concerned about its image. We do not want to lose even money and cause inconvenience to the human life or to the passengers. The image of the Railways depends such upon the safety, security and punctuality. We are quite conscious about it. If you look at the last Budget and even the earlier Budget, Railways had made considerable efforts in giving a thrust to the safety aspect and quite a sizeable investment had been made.

Coming to the specific question of the hon. Member, Shri Sharad Digheji, so far as Western Railway is concerned, as he could see, the number is only five, which is very negligible, whereas in the Central Railway, the number is hardly 11. If you look at the length of the Central Railway, which it runs, it should not be a very serious thing. But our intention would be even to reduce that.

Import of Fertilizers

*3. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fertilizers imported and indigenously produced in India during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto December, 1994);

(b) the value of these fertilizers, year-wise;

(c) the subsidy paid by the Government for these fertilizers for the supply to the agriculture sector, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of fertilizers?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The details of fertilizers imported since 1992-93 are as under:—

(figures in lakh tonnes)

Fertilizers Imported	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (upto Decem-ber, 94)
Urea	18.57	28.40	20.64
DAP*	15.57	15.69	8.25
MOP*	17.61	14.28	15.45
SOP	0.05	—	—
NPK	1.30	—	—

* Figures of imports effected after decontrol and decan-lisation are only approximations.

There is no indigenous production of potash as the country does not have any known and commercially viable source of this nutrient. Eighteen types of fertilizers with varying combinations of nitrogen, phosphate & potash are produced in the country. The quantities of fertilizers produced during the period in question are given below in nutrient terms:

(Quantities in lakh tonnes of nutrients).

Year	Nitrogen(N)	Phosphate(P)	Total (N+P)
1992-93	74.30	23.06	97.36
1993-94	72.31	18.15	90.46
1994-95 (Upto Decem-ber '94)	58.26	17.83	76.09

(b) The costs of production of indigenous fertilizers vary from product to product and from plant to plant, depending upon a variety of factors, such as feeds-tock, technology, vintage and location of the plant. The difference between

production costs and the value as realised from the market is a function of the market forces, the regulatory framework applicable and the policies of subsidisation.

The Cost and Fright value of the fertilizers imported on Government account during the period under consideration is as under:

Year	C&F value of fertilisers imported on Government account (Rs. crores)
1992-93	2216.00
1993-94	1300.18
1994-95	1180.47
(upto Decemebr '94)	

(c) The subsidy disbursed for indigenou and imported chemical fertilizers used for agricultural purposes during the relevant years is as follows:

Year	Subsidy on controlled fertilizers (Rs. crores)	Special concession on decontrolled fertilizers (Rs. crores)
1992-93	5796.11	339.73
1993-94	4398.97	517.33
1994-95	2944.72	145.00
(upto Decemebr '94)		

(d) Within the constraints of the availability of feedstock an draw materials, efforts have been made to optimize the indigenou production of fertilizers. During the period under reference, the installed capacity of fertilizers in terms of nutrients has increased from 113.53 lakh tonnes to 118.14 lakh tonnes. The overall capacity utilization has also been rased from 88% to 90% in respect of nitrogenou fertilizers and from 82% to 84.3% in respect of phosphatic fertilizers. The gap between the availability from these sources and demand is bridged by imports. Fertilizers companies have also been encouraged to set up joint ventures in other countries, richly endowed with the feedstock and raw materials required for production of fertilizers.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have carefully gone through the statement placed on the Table of the House. It does not answer all my questions. The question of fertilizers in linked with the production of foodgrains. It seems that the present production of foodgrains has got stuck at 188 million tonnes. I wanted to ask something about the fertilizers industry and to what extent is our policy on fertilizers is responsible for this stagnant production of foodgrains, but I have been receiving phone calls since yesterday. The first question that I want to ask in Lok Sabha is regarding the availability of urea and its increasing prices. Is it true that urea is not available in

adequate quantity and at reasonable rates? Is the distribution of urea faulty? Who is being punished for this fault? How is this system being streamlined?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand of urea is increasing because the control has been lifted from phosphate and potash and it has resulted in the price-hike. Now, as a result thereof only urea is being used which is not good for the soil. Since I am a consumer I am putting forth a consumer's viewpoint but I would like to know why urea is not being made available to the farmers at reasonable rates and what steps are being taken by the Government in this direction? I will put my second question after that.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a consumer and I am a farmer myself and am always careful that no such step is taken which harms the interests of the farmers and which prevents availability of good products. The steps are taken after carefully considering these points. So, as soon as(Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one bag of urea worth Rs. 117 is being sold in Madhya Pradesh at Rs. 300. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Please listen to my reply first. Why so many people have stoop up before my reply. At present I am replying to the question asked by the hon. Members Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, do not ask in this manner. If a question is important then ask it after seriously considering its.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: There is a big unrest among the peasantry. He is misleading the House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: The control was removed from potash and phosphate fertilizers as it had been decided by the Joint Select Committee of both the Houses in 1992 that barring Urea all other fertilizers should be made control free. That is why it was decontrolled and now only urea remains to be made control free. That is why, the demand for urea was more than ever before and due to the fact that phosphate and potash were decontrolled, rates has also been affected. As far as it is possible and considering that we give subsidy also and all the aspects put together, I feel the increase in the rate of urea is not much. (Interruptions) You do not listen. Please listen to my reply first. I would like to state for the benefit of the hon. Members that the work of distribution and increase in supply when a demand is sent to the agricultural department from the State Government it is decided by everyone as to what kind of fertilizer can be made available, in what quantity and from which source. When the demand is referred to me we make the supply depending on the production available. Then the other process starts as to which district should be provided

manure and the whole work is undertaken by the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. It does not appear to be a good method.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: The more important point is in every state this very act empowers the state government to see as to who indulges in black marketing; what is the fixed fair price and who is taking a higher price and to take action against him.

Sir, whenever such news items appear in newspapers or hon. Members have drawn our attention towards such incidents, my department has taken action and it has written to the concerned State Governments or Chief Secretary of the concerned State. The cuttings of such news items are sent to them and wherever such cases are found directives are sent there on for making proper inquiry and taking legal action into the matter. It is your right but not my responsibility. I know about some states where there are complaints of blackmarketing but action is not being taken against them who are found guilty for it. It is not fare that you blame me for all such things.

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not yet listened, the reply. Hon. Minister is evading from his responsibility.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: I am telling my responsibilities *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Hon. Minister is shifting his responsibility to Agriculture Minister and states as Central Government has nothing to say in this matter. After all Centre has control over the production, distribution and import of fertilizers. The Hon. Minister has said that prices of fertilizers have not been increased too much. I would like to ask my first question, it is not the second question but supplementary to first one. How much will you increase the prices of fertilizer which are more increased in the department of the hon. Minister?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Hon. Member plays with words and takes them otherwise. In respect of this question I would like to say that neither the Agriculture Department, nor the State Governments nor myself shirk from the responsibility but there is a official procedure and there is a law and accordingly I told that the government decides in consultation with Agriculture Department what is state-wise requirement of fertilizer and uria. When it is decided the department of Agriculture sends statewide requirement and consumption for rabi and kharif crops separately. Accordingly...*(Interruptions)* we distribute the fertilizer. I would like to tell you that in spite of so many hurdles and knowing the performance of several factories because of obsolete technology for increasing production this year we have fixed 18 per cent target. We have increased 8 per cent so far. There are several types of problems in some factories that's why this 10 per cent production has not been achieved. Even then this year we have increased 9 per cent production. We import fertilizers in accordance to the requirement of farmers. Thus by filling

the gap we distribute it accordingly. Neither we allow scarcity of fertilizers for farmers not we let it happen in future also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, where is my question...*(Interruptions)* where is my second question. That was clarification about quantity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of opinion which cannot be answered.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: That was not meant for reply. That was asked to clarify the misunderstanding of the hon. Minister. My second question is whether steps have been taken to increase the production. The Hon. Minister was telling that those steps are not sufficient. Several factories are lying closed and several are running in losses. Two public sector factories i.e. HFC and FCI, are incurring losses since their commencement. At one time it is said that design is defective and at other time equipments is blamed for that. There is over-staffing also. RCF and PPC are also incurring loss. These factories are facing more and more problems after decontrol of fertilizers. PDIL, which was earlier earning profit, is now incurring loss. My question was that in view of the losses incurred by those factories how would you reduce the import of fertilizer? It is a fact that there is no reserve of potash in our country but the quality of fertilizer can be improved by adopting other methods so that we may become self-sufficient in this field. Why have you not taken such steps?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: We have taken appropriate steps according to our resources. As I have told you that the technology of our factories is obsolete. There is so many defects in it. There is over staffing too even then this year we have increased the production by 8 per cent. Apart from it Rs. 109 crore were given to run these factories smoothly at least for next six months. Earlier this expenditure was Rs. 69 crore. These people were given money without any work. We have revived FCI and HFC by spending Rs. 40 crore more. It includes five factories. In these circumstances our production has been increased by 90 thousand tonnes per month and during the next 5 months it will be raised by 4.5 lakh tonnes.

On other side the people who are setting up their own factories they will start production in coming few months or years. Apart from it keeping in view the scarcity of gas etc. the Government has decided to set up factories in collaboration with other countries, at those places where gas and other raw material is available in abundance. That production will come here and we will give them their share. Thus we have signed agreements with three countries i.e. Oman, Iran etc. and discussion with another 2-3 countries is in progress.

Demand for fertilizer is increasing every year. Every farmer wishes to use fertilizer for the crops of rice, fruits or any other crop. Since the first Five Year Plan we have increased the production of fertilizer by 100 tonnes. Along

with it we also import fertilizer. Therefore I said that we are leaving no stone unturned. But most attention is being paid in this direction that we may produce more and more fertilizers within the country so that import could be reduced.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has told that the rate of imported DAP is equivalent to the rate of raw material. The cost of raw material increases in factories and the whole subsidy is given to factory owners and not to farmers. I seek hon. Minister's clarification on it. I would also like to know that what measures are being taken by the Government for removing the acute shortage of urea and other fertilizers in Punjab.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: So far as urea is concerned. I have told you earlier that we produce it mostly within the country. Raw material for the other fertilizers is not available in our country therefore we have to import all these fertilizers from foreign countries. The Rates of these fertilizers depend upon their rates in international market. In spite of it we give subsidy in urea in our department. The department of Agriculture is giving subsidy even today on decontrolled fertilizers at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per tonnes which we import from outside. We given subsidy on fertilizers wherever it is necessary. We keep the interests of farmers in our mind. The production cost and selling price is calculated thereafter the difference is covered by giving subsidy. The farmers may get the maximum benefit, we try for that and it will be continued for ever.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has not told about the difference between rates of the imported fertilizers and raw-material. Hon. Minister has not replied to that.

SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND: Mr. Speaker Sir, two important incidents took place in Bihar during last few days. Today I will raise an issue in respect of Bihar, since it is concerned with my honour. Two incidents occurred there an accused was beaten there....

MR. SPEAKER: You may please raise it after question hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise it later on.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record...

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not like this....

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record....

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, her party has

created a chaos throughout Bihar. At least she should not be allowed to create disorder here in the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, she is creating a disorder here also.

11.46 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Lovely Anand came and sat on the floor near the Table.... (Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir it is highly inflammable*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you just hear me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, They killed an IAS officer, Shri Krishnaiah, a person coming from poor family and belonging to a weaker section. I also come from Andhra Pradesh. They have brutally killed him. It is a most unfortunate thing. They have no concern for his family. ...*(Interruptions)* What right have they got to take this stand? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, let me talk to her. Madam, will you hear me?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen me. Whatever you have said does not go on record in this way. If you say it properly only then it will go on record and if necessary an action will also be taken on it. You are a new Member. I will allow you to raise this issue after question hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen me first. If the House feels it necessary to take into account your sources, pains and anxiety, it will do so. Do not behave, like this. In this way you come in the wrong side. Please take your seat. I will allow you.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do so. There is no use of it. I will let you speak later on. Whatever we can do, we will do. If you do so, we will not help you.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you speak properly you will get the assurance, if not, you will not get assurance even and an action will be taken against you. Do not start your Parliamentary career like this way. Go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not give that, the Government have to give that. I will let you understand a lot of other things also later on. At present you take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: See, do not start your Parliamentary Career in this way.

11.51 hrs.

[At this stage Shrimati Lovely Anand went back to her seat]

MR. SPEAKER: We are thankful to you.

[English]

I will allow you later.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the private dealers appointed by the N.F.L., exploit the farmers. Not only the farmers get lack of fertilizers but they are also being compelled to lift the insecticides and pesticides of poor quality in abundance. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he would give the responsibility of distributing fertilizers to the marketing societies instead of the private dealers?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, many suggestions have been received till now. If some people say that distribution should be made only through the co-operative societies, some people say that it should be done only through the societies of registered people while some other people say that it should be done through private traders. After keeping all these things in mind the company has decided to appoint dealers. There are rules and regulations framed for this purpose. If the hon. Members think that somewhere something is wrong then I will write to the State Government or to the concerned company. I will abide by my duty so that the hon. Members think that I have done the utmost at my level.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask some questions for reply from the hon. Minister. Whether any responsibility has been fixed for the continuous scarcity of urea? The quantity of urea distributed during the last six months in the State? On what basis urea is made allotment of by the companies to the dealers and how many dealers have been appointed by the Government during the last 6 months in Bihar and what was the process adopted or their appointment?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the replies of all the queries raised by the hon. Member I am not aware of the numbers and location of the dealers, and how they have been selected. But I would like to say that Bihar from where both you and I come from, has been given more than it used to get earlier....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time when I had asked the question, I was told that I remain in fairy land by the hon. Agriculture Minister and today it has taken a real shape. Today urea has become costly and its artificial scarcity is being created, while its production has gone up but disorder in its distribution among the people is the main cause of price hike. At that time I had also asked

the question and today also I would like to know if the scarcity of fertilizers is being created in a planned manner? To remove this death, the Government is importing cow dung. When I raised this point last time, the hon. Agriculture Minister has said that I was in wrong side. But after three days when it appeared in the newspapers that the Government of India is importing cow dung. Articles were appeared in news papers.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is totally a base less talk.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if such a nexus is going on with the foreign countries to increase the import and to reduce the capacity of the fertilizer factories? Whether the old factories are being closed down, these are not being maintained and the new factories are not being given the raw material. I think there is a foreign conspiracy behind it. Whether it is a fact that the indigenous factories are being closed down to promote import and a conspiracy is being hatched to import cow dung?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: It is totally wrong that the cow dung is being imported. I have already given the replies of all the previous queries. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has said that it is totally wrong. But 2-3 months back, the details of the import of cowdung had appeared in the newspapers and the quantity and the names of the countries from where it was being imported, were also appeared whether the Government has contradicted it. (Interruptions)

Why did the Government not condemn it. (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is wrong. He talks base less. [English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us understand that the statements made on the floor of the House should be accepted. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHOTEY SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has just now said that.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, I have not called your name.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, though the hon. Minister has said that the production of fertilisers has increased, but yet it is a fact that the per hectare consumption of fertilisers is very less when compared to several countries. In view of the fact that the irrigated area expansion is not going at a brisk pace, the only solution will be to get more production through increased consumption of fertilisers.

So, in view of this fact, will the Government reconsider its present policy and give weightage to G.V.K. Rao Committee's Report which had suggested that fertiliser price should not be enhanced by more than seven per cent once in three years, otherwise it would have adverse

impact on the consumption of fertilisers? That is what has happened in the last three years.

So, will the Government come forward and categorically assure this House that it would go by the recommendation of the G.V.K. Rao Committee's Report and would bring down the prices of potassic and phosphatic fertilisers?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: It creates inconvenience when many questions are added as parts to the main question. I have already said that the demands of our farmers are increasing day by day and year by year. Their attitude towards the use of fertilisers is increasing. It is also a fact that our farmers did not know as much earlier as compared to the farmers of other countries and now they are acquainted with. Then it is right that we are increasing our production in ratio of their increasing demand. We have given its data also but it is less as compared to our demand and we make it up by importing it. Besides it we are trying at our level least to fulfil the demand... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Are you reducing the price..

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a question Hour and you do not do like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Sir, these prices were going on for the last 2 years and we have raised it this year. The increase is less than the ratio of the amount fixed for procuring food grains by the agriculture department and the price of Urea has not gone up more than eight and half per cent during the last three years... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHOTEY SINGH YADAV: Sir, at the time of annual allotment the manufacturing companies give assurance to the State Governments that they would supply so much fertilizers to them in the said year. The companies which gave assurance to Uttar Pradesh on the direction of the hon. Minister or due to some other reasons, have not fulfilled it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if some action would be taken against the companies, which have not fulfilled the annual assurance. If so, whether the Government will ponder over to increase the quantity, as per the need of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: The Government has already done the allotment but we have given more on the demand of the Chief Minister

or the other sources also. We have also said that we have fulfilled the demand and we will do so wherever it is necessary. I would like to lay a copy of the details on the table of the House regarding what we had given last year, what we have given and what we are likely to give so that the people can see where is the dearth.

SHRI CHOTEY SINGH YADAV: Mr Speaker, Sir...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Agricultural Land

*4. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural land is required to be expanded and developed to achieve the targets of agricultural production by the end of the Eight Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether additional undisputed land is lying idle for distribution and development;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have asked the State Governments for proper distribution of this land;

(e) whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The strategy for increasing the agricultural production in the 8th Five Year Plan lays emphasis on increasing the productivity of crops from the existing cultivated land through the implementation of Thrust Programmes on various important crops by adopting a system approach.

(b) and (c) The land available for distribution free from all encumbrances in the different States is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(d) The issue relating to the distribution of ceiling surplus land has been discussed at various fora including Revenue Chief Ministers' Conferences wherein the States have been advised to take administrative as well as legal measures for expeditious distribution of available ceiling surplus land.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, guidelines based on the recommendations of the Chief Ministers' Conference held in 1972 have been issued to the States/U.Ts. for

implementing land ceiling laws. A copy of these guidelines is Annexed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Area Available for Distribution free from all Encumbrances

(As on September, 1994)
Area in Acres

S.No.	States	Net area available for distribution
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6886
2.	Assam	38040
3.	Bihar	4515
4.	Gujarat	19114
5.	Haryana	4483
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4183
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	5575
8.	Karnataka	Nil
9.	Kerala	2382
10.	Madhya Pradesh	959
11.	Maharashtra	631
12.	Manipur	3
13.	Orissa	696
14.	Punjab	89
15.	Rajasthan	7896
16.	Tamil Nadu	796
17.	Tripura	—
18.	Uttar Pradesh	947
19.	West Bengal	—
UNION TERRITORIES		
20.	D. & N. Haveli	343
21.	Delhi	63
22.	Pondicherry	81
ALL INDIA		97632

Statement-II

Guidelines drawn up on the basis of the conclusion of the Chief Minister Conference on Ceiling on Agricultural holdings held on July 23, 1972

Level of Ceiling

(i) The best category of land in a State with assured irrigation and capable of yielding at least two crops a year should have ceiling within the range of the 10 of 18 acres taking into account the fertility of soil and water conditions.

Allowance may be made for land irrigated from private sources and capable of growing at least two crops in a year by equating 1.25 acres of such land with 1 acre of land irrigated from public sources and capable of growing at least two crops in a year. The ceiling for such land irrigated from private sources shall not, however, exceed 18 acres.

The term "irrigation from private sources" shall mean irrigation from tubewell or lift irrigation from a perennial water source operated by diesel and/or electric power.

There will be no reclassification of land falling within the

categories referred to in clauses (ii) and (iii) below for the purpose of the ceiling law consequent upon the completion of a private irrigation scheme subsequent to the 15th August, 1972.

(ii) In the case of land having assured irrigation for only one crop in a year, the ceiling shall not exceed 27 acres.

(iii) For all other types of land the ceiling shall not exceed 54 acres. In areas where there is potential for sinking tubewells the ceiling for dry lands may be kept below 54 acres in the discretion of the State Government.

(iv) In special cases like desert areas and hilly areas the ceiling for category (iii) may have to be relaxed. The State Governments may discuss specific cases with the Ministry of Agriculture before formulating their ceiling laws.

(v) In the case of owners with holdings consisting of different types of land, the total holdings after converting the better categories of land into the lowest category shall not exceed 54 acres.

II. Unit of Application of ceiling

(i) The unit of application of ceiling shall be a family of five members, the term "family" being defined so as to include husband, wife and minor children. Where the number of members in the family exceeds five, additional land may be allowed for each member in excess of five in such a manner that the total area admissible to the family does not exceed twice the ceiling limit for a family of five members. The ceiling will apply to the aggregate area by all the members of the family.

(ii) Where both the husband and wife hold lands in their own names, the two will have rights in the properties within the ceiling in proportion to the value of the land held by each before the application of ceiling.

(iii) Every major son will be treated as a separate unit for the purpose of application of ceiling.

It should be ensured that there is no discrimination between major children governed by different systems of personal laws.

III. Retrospective Effect

The amended ceiling laws should be given retrospective effect from a date not later than 24th January, 1971. A specific provision should be made in the ceiling law making it clear that the onus of proving the bonafide nature of any transfer of land made after that date will be on the transferor.

IV. Exemptions

(i) The exemption in favour of plantations of tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom and cocoa should continue.

(ii) Lands held by the Bhoodan Yagnya Committee, Cooperative Banks, Nationalised Banks, Central or State Governments and local bodies should continue to enjoy exemption. Similarly, land held by industrial or commercial undertakings for non-agricultural purposes should be exempted from the ceiling law.

(iii) In the case of registered cooperative farming societies exemption may be granted with the stipulation that while computing the ceiling area for a member his share in the cooperative society will be taken into account alongwith his other lands.

(iv) Lands held by Agricultural Universities, Agricultural Colleges, Agricultural Schools and Research Institutions should be exempted from the ceiling law.

(v) State Governments may, in their discretion grant exemption to the existing religious, cheritable and educational trusts of a public nature. The institutions or trusts will not be exempted from the operation of tenancy laws and all the tillers of the land should be brought in direct relationship with the trusts or institutions to the exclusion of all intermediary interests.

No exemption should be allowed to private trusts, of any kind.

(vi) In the case of existing Gowshala of a public nature and existing stud farms, the State Governments may take a decision in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

(vii) No exemption should be allowed in the case of sugarcane farms. However, for the purpose of research and development sugarcane factories may be permitted to retain an area not exceeding 100 acres.

(viii) For the purpose of ceiling the existing orchards may be treated as dry land and no additional land should be allowed to be retained as recommended earlier. Coconut and arecanut gardens, banana orchards, guava garden and vine yards will not be treated as orchards. When surplus orchard land vesting in Government is distributed, the assignees should be required to maintain the orchard in tact.

(ix) All other existing exemptions including that in respect of lands given as gallantry award should be withdrawn.

V. Compensation

(i) Compensation payable for the surplus land on imposition of ceiling laws should be fixed well below the market value of the property so that it is within the paying capacity of the new allottees mainly comprising the landless agricultural workers who belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(ii) The compensation may be fixed in grades/slabs and preferably in multiples of land revenue payable for the land.

(iii) The scheme for compensation should be worked out in such a manner that there will be no financial burden on the Central and State Governments.

VI. Distribution of Surplus Land

While distributing surplus land, priority should be given to the landless agricultural workers, particularly those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

VII. Target for enactment of New Laws

The amended ceiling laws should be enacted by 31st December, 1972.

VIII. Inclusion in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution

All the amended laws should be included in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution.

IX. Implementation

Implementation will be the responsibility of the State Governments. They would set up non-official bodies at appropriate levels and place competent official organisation in order to administer the ceiling legislation. The concurrence of the Central Government will be obtained in respect of any incidental departure from the guidelines necessitated by the special conditions prevailing in any State or Union Territory.

Marine Resources

*5. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any survey on marine and inland fish resources;

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

(c) whether the Government contemplate to formulate a national policy on fishery;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the assistance given by the Government during the last three years to promote marine and inland water fisheries, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) Survey of marine and inland fish resources are being undertaking from time to time and based on such surveys the marine and inland fish resources have been identified as follows:

Marine Fishery Resources

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| (i) Length of Coast line | 8129 Kms. |
| (ii) Continental shelf | 5.12 lakh Sq. Kms. |
| (iii) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) | 20.20 lakh Sq. Kms. |
| (iv) Estimate annual production potential | 39 lakh tonnes |
| (a) from area within 50 metres depth | 22.1 lakh tonnes |
| (b) from area beyond 50 metres depth | 16.9 lakh tonnes |

Inland Fishery Resources

- (i) Rivers and Canals 1.73 lakh Kms.
(ii) Reservoirs 20.90 lakh ha.
(iii) Tanks and ponds 22.54 lakh ha.
(iv) Beels, Ox-bow lakes, derelict water bodies, etc. 13.00 lakh ha.
(v) Brackishwater area 12.35 lakh ha.
(vi) Estimated annual production potential. 45 lakh tonnes.

State-wise details are furnished in the attached Statement-I

(c) and (d) The Government have constituted an Export Group to Formulate a National Fishery Policy covering all aspects of the Fisheries Sector. Various Ministries, Departments, Organisations, State Governments, Private Institutions and Individuals, who are closely connected with various activities of the Fisheries Sector in the Country, have been co-opted as Members of the Expert Group.

(e) Details giving State-wise central assistance provided under Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years to promote marine and inland fisheries are at *Statement-II*.

Statement-I

State-wise Inland and Marine Fishery Resources as in 1993

Sl. No.	State/UT	Inland			Marine			
		Length of River and Canals (Kms.)	Area of Reservoirs (lakh ha.)	Area under Tanks and Ponds (lakh ha.)	Beels oxbow, Lakes and Derelict water (lakh ha.)	Brackish water (lakh ha.)	Continental Shelf (000 Sq. Kms.)	Length of Coast Line (Kms.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11514	2.34	5.17	—	0.64	31	974
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2000	—	0.01	0.03	—	—	—
3.	Assam	4820	0.55	0.21	1.10	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	3200	0.60	0.95	0.05	—	—	—
5.	Goa	250	0.03	0.03	—	—	10	104
6.	Gujarat	3865	2.43	0.71	—	0.95	164	1600
7.	Haryana	5000	—	0.10	0.10	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3000	0.40	0.01	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	27781	0.07	0.17	0.06	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	9000	2.11	3.52	—	0.08	25	300
11.	Kerala	3092	0.30	0.03	—	2.43	40	590
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20661	2.91	1.17	—	—	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	3200	2.79	0.32	—	0.10	112	720
14.	Manipur	3360	0.01	0.05	0.40	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	5800	0.08	0.02	0.40	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	1745	—	0.02	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	1600	0.17	0.50	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	4500	2.56	0.64	1.80	4.33	24	480
19.	Punjab	15270	—	0.07	—	—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	N.A.	1.20	1.80	—	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	900	—	—	0.03	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	7420	0.53	2.24	5.24	0.56	41	1000
23.	Tripura	1200	0.05	0.12	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31200	1.50	1.62	1.33	—	—	—
25.	West Bengal	2526	0.17	2.76	0.42	2.10	17	157
26.	A & N Islands	115	0.01	0.30	—	1.15	35	2000
27.	Chandigarh	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	54	0.05	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	12	—	—	—	—	—	27
30.	Delhi	150	0.04	—	—	—	—	—

Sl. No.	State/UT	Inland				Marine		
		Length of River and Canals (Kms.)	Area of Reservoirs (lakh ha.)	Area under Tanks and Ponds (lakh ha.)	Beels ox-bow, Lakes and Derelict water (lakh ha.)	Brackish water (lakh ha.)	Continental Shelf (000 Sq. Kms.)	Length of Coast Line (Kms.)
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	4	132
32.	Pondicherry	247	—	—	0.01	0.01	1	45
TOTAL		173287	20.90	22.54	13.00	12.35	504	8129

— : Nil or Negligible

@ : Included in Brackish water area

N.A. : Not Available

Source State/UT Govts.

Statement-II

Central assistance provided during the period 1991-92 to 1993-94 to promote inland and marine Fisheries.
(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State/UT	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80.51	238.54	76.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	8.00	13.00
3.	Assam	10.41	20.35	84.45
4.	Bihar	42.05	49.00	72.75
5.	Goa	54.03	4.70	7.45
6.	Gujarat	199.56	244.30	397.97
7.	Haryana	31.50	45.75	104.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.10	12.10	7.11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.15	12.00	27.00
10.	Karnataka	49.03	93.37	188.31
11.	Kerala	591.49	578.02	1040.38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	92.83	65.46	202.66
13.	Maharashtra	237.36	23.20	241.95
14.	Manipur	5.29	34.00	7.00
15.	Meghalaya	—	1.00	1.00
16.	Mizoram	1.00	29.50	8.00
17.	Nagaland	1.00	27.00	2.00
18.	Orissa	961.07	1664.33	1376.08
19.	Punjab	32.00	61.00	27.00
20.	Rajasthan	1.00	33.43	38.09
21.	Sikkim	—	2.00	1.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	142.54	502.15	1189.54
23.	Tripura	10.03	14.18	24.73
24.	Uttar Pradesh	139.09	178.37	235.37
25.	West Bengal	235.27	219.00	250.21
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10.15	4.08	6.08
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	10.28	4.70	8.38
30.	Delhi	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	2.59	0.53	0.80
32.	Pondicherry	57.36	49.87	54.65

Privatisation of Tourist Trains

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

*6. Shri C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

(a) whether the Government have awarded contracts to private parties to run tourist trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the routes for which such contracts have been awarded?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Global bids were invited by the Ministry of Railways in May 1994 for ownership, marketing and management of Palace-on-Wheels type Tourist Train Services on popular tourist circuits to provide transport infrastructural support for the National Tourism Synergy Programme of the Department of Tourism to attract five million tourists by 1997-98. On a scrutiny of the 23 bids received, it has been decided to award contracts for 5 Tourist Trains on four Circuits to the following parties:

Circuit	Name of the Party
(1) Delhi-Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi (Khajuraho)-Varanasi-Lucknow-Delhi	(1) M/s. Sterling Holiday Resorts India Pvt. Ltd., Madras.
(2) Bombay-Aurangabad (Ajanta/Ellora)-Nanded Secunderabad-Hyderabad-Pune-Bombay	(2) M/s. S.S. Patil, Secunderabad.
(3) Goa (Madgaon)-Mangalore-Mysore(Belur/Halebid)-Hospet (Hampi)-Bangalore-Goa (Madgaon).	(3) M/s. East West Travels & Trade Links Ltd. New Delhi.
(4) Bangalore-Mysore-Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanyakumari-Trivandrum-Cochin-Mettupalayam (Ooty)-Bangalore	(4) M/s. Sterling Holiday Resorts India Pvt. Ltd. Madras. (5) M/s. L.S. Patil, Secunderabad.

[Translation]

Sale of Consumer Goods

7. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to protect the rural consumer against the sale of consumer goods in misleading packets by big companies under the revised rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review these rules immediately; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to incorporate the public views in the proposed amendments?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Provisions to protect consumers against sale of consumer goods in misleading packets exist under various legislation. Some of the legislation are listed below:

(1) The standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 1977,

(2) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986,

(3) The MRTP Act 1969,

(4) The Drugs Price Control Order,

(5) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

(c) and (d) As far as the Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 1977 and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are concerned, which are administered by this Ministry, their review depending on the need, is a continual process. The Ministry takes into consideration the public views before making amendment to any of the provisions.

The Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers and Director General of Health Services have informed that they also take into consideration public opinion before amending the provisions of the legislations administered by them.

External funds for Forestry

*8 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any external agencies have been funding the forestry projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the funds made available during the last three years; and

(c) the progress made in implementing the projects and the extent of area covered, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) yes Sir, the World Bank Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, Overseas Development Administration (ODA), U.K., Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and European Economic Community (EEC), are funding forestry projects in the country.

(b) During the three years ending 31 March, 1994 an amount of Rs. 479.78 Crores has been made available by way of reimbursement by various external funding agencies for implementing afforestation project in the country.

(c) A Statement giving project-wise details is enclosed.

Statement*Progress of Implementation of the Externally Aided Forestry Projects during the last three Years (April 1991 to March 1994)*

Sl. No.	Title of the Project	Aid Agency	Project Period	Progress from April 1991 to March 1994	
				Expenditure (Rs. in Crores)	Physical Achievement (Area Covered in Hectares)
1.	Social Forestry Project, Bihar	SIDA	1985-86 to 1991-92	6.59	7741
2.	Social Forestry Project, Karnataka	M.B./ODA	1983-84 to 1991-92	13.18	8655
3.	Social Forestry Project, Kerala	W.B.	1984-85 to 1992-93	22.86	9144
4.	National Social Forestry Project, (UP,HP,Raj,Euj)	W.B./ USAID	1985-86 to 1992-93	243.15	486872
5.	Forestry Development Project, West Bengal	WORLD BANK	1992-93 to 1996-97	27.93	185688
6.	Forestry Sector Project, Maharashtra	WORLD BANK	1992-93 to 1997-98	26.85	27465
7.	Social Forestry Project, Tamil Nadu	SIDA	1988-89 to 1992-93	68.52	58751
8.	Social Forestry Project, Orissa	SIDA	1988-89 to 1992-93	71.87	42605
9.	Dungarpur Integrated Wastelands Development Project, Rajasthan	SIDA	1992-93 to 1996-97	2.87	504
10.	Aravalli Hills Afforestation, Haryana	EEC	1990-91 to 1997-98	32.41	17850
11.	Afforestation along ISNP, Rajasthan	OECT (JAPAN)	1992-91 to 1994-95	26.25	18746
12.	Afforestation of Aravalli Hills Rajasthan	OECF (JAPAN)	1992-93 to 1996-97	42.80	40340
13.	Western Ghats Forestry and Environment Project, Karnataka	CDA (U.K.)	1992-93 to 1996-97	14.81	7722

Sl. No.	Title of the Project	Aid Agency	Project Period	Progress from April 1991 to March, 1994	
				Expenditure (Rs. in Crores)	Physical Achievement (Area Covered in Hectares)
14.	Forestry and Eco-Development Project for Changeg Area, Himachal Pradesh	FRS	1994-95 to 1998-99	1.10	395
				603.59	744476

Modern Forest Fire Control Method

*9. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:

PROF. PREM DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme called "Modern Forest Fire Control Methods";

(b) since when the scheme has been under operation;

(c) the details of major equipments/assistance provided under the scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the work done thereunder alongwith the amount granted and spent during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) "Modern Forest Fire Control Methods" is a centrally sponsored scheme under which 100% financial assistance is provided to the states. The objectives of the scheme are prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires with a view to protect and conserve the forests and improve their productivity. Under this scheme, central assistance is provided to the states for procurement of hand tools, fire resistant clothing, fire fighting equipment, wireless sets, creation of fire lines, construction of watch towers and for publicity purposes.

(b) The scheme has been under operation since 1992-93 in 11 States namely; Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Statement I and II are enclosed.

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Items for which assistance provided upto January 95	Financial Assistance Provided upto January 95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hand tools, fire lines, fire resistant clothes, fire finder, wireless sets, research & development, publicity, watch towers.	7.62
2.	Bihar	-Do-	6.06
3.	Gujarat	-Do-	16.40
4.	Himachal Pradesh	-Do-	34.72
5.	Karnataka	-Do-	21.00
6.	Kerala	-Do-	13.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	-Do-	80.80
8.	Maharashtra	-Do-	21.10
9.	Orissa	-Do-	11.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	-Do-	13.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh	-Do-	8.00

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State	Amount Granted (Rs. in lakhs)			Amount Spent (Rs. in lakhs)		
		92-93	93-94	94-95	92-93	93-94	94-95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.00	1.62	—	—	—	information will be received only after the close of the financial year.
2.	Bihar	6.07	—	—	—	—	-do-
3.	Gujarat	5.00	8.00	3.40	5.00	3.95	-do-
4.	Himachal Pradesh	8.00	19.72	7.00	8.00	11.73	-do-
5.	Karnataka	8.00	13.00	—	8.00	6.56	-do-
6.	Kerala	5.00	8.00	—	—	5.23	-do-
7.	Madhya Pradesh	8.21	48.44	24.15	—	—	-do-
8.	Orissa	7.00	4.00	—	—	—	-do-
9.	Tamil Nadu	5.00	8.00	—	—	—	-do-
10.	Maharashtra	8.00	13.10	—	—	—	-do-
11.	Uttar Pradesh	8.00	—	—	—	—	-do-

Livestock Sector

Statement-I

*10. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the locations of the Central Cattle Breeding Farms functioning in different agroclimatic regions of the country;

(b) the basic objectives, approach and strategy adopted by the Government for the development of live-stock sector;

(c) the success achieved so far, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the schemes pertaining to this sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) There are seven Central Cattle Breeding Farms.

Northern Region	: 1. Andeshnagar 2. Suratgarh
Western Region	: 1. Dhamrod
Southern Region	: 1. Hesserghatta 2. Alamadhi
Eastern Region	: 1. Semiliguda 2. Chiplima

(b) Objectives, approach and strategy for development of livestock sector, adopted by the government, are given in Statement-I.

(c) State-wise position is given in Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, A review was made during 1988 by a departmental Committee.

Objectives, Approach and Strategy for Livestock Development

- (i) Expand and strengthen infrastructure for artificial insemination, improve its efficiency and effectiveness using frozen semen technology for crossbreeding purposes.
- (ii) Create a seed stock of qualitatively superior bull mothers and bulls which would form the nucleus germplasm pool for rapidly building a national milch herd of high productive cattle and buffaloes. For this purpose; modern technology such as embryo transfer technology will be used in increasing measures.
- (iii) Bring about genetic improvement of important livestock breeds through selective breeding and crossbreeding of low production nondescript stock, both for milk and draught purposes. Important indigenous breeds will be conserved.
- (iv) Establish linkages between rural milk producers and urban consumers by replicating the 'Anand' pattern of dairy co-operatives in the country, and lessen the adverse impact of regional and seasonal imbalances in milk procurement and marketing.
- (v) Improve the productivity of pasture lands by introducing improved fodder seeds and increased use of wastelands for fodder production.

- (vi) Optimize the use of crop residues through provision of appropriate supplements and conservation of dry fodder through densification, baling, pelletization etc.
- (vii) Promote stall feeding to progressively reduce overgrazing of village grazing lands and denudation of marginal lands.
- (viii) Intensify co-operative efforts in various sectors of animal husbandry, e.g. sheep, poultry and piggery, to prevent exploitation of primary producers by middle men and provide requisite inputs at reasonable cost, resulting in raising the income levels of rural poor.
- (ix) Develop and promote more efficient feeds and strengthen the feed industry.
- (x) Develop adequate animal health services for protection of livestock, with special emphasis on rinderpest eradication and foot and mouth disease control.
- (xi) Strengthen the marketing infrastructure for livestock products like wool, meat and eggs, and organize export oriented programmes for these products.
- (xii) Improve the processing facilities employed in the sector, with special emphasis on the modernisation of abattoirs and feed milling units.
- (xiii) Co-ordinate and integrate all the department/agencies in the planning and implementation of activities in the animal husbandry sector.
- (xiv) Improve the database in respect of livestock and livestock products.
- (xv) Use technological inventions for increasing productivity of livestock products.

STATEMENT-II

A. Farm-Wise/State-Wise Production of Bulls (1992-94)

State	Farm	Production of Bulls in Number.	
		1992-93	1993-94
(i) Uttar Pradesh	Andeshnagar	81	70
(ii) Rajasthan	Suratgarh	17	19
(iii) Gujarat	Dhamrod	36	46
(iv) Karnataka	Hesserghatta	28	28
(v) Tamilnadu	Alamadhi	46	39
(vi) Orissa	Semiliguda	83	100
(vii) Orissa	Chiplima	53	55

B. Supply of Bulls to different States

State	No. of High Pedigreed Bulls Supplied for Breeding	
	1992-93	1993-94
(i) Andhra Pradesh	5	9
(ii) Arunachal Pradesh	—	10
(iii) Gujarat	1	6
(iv) Haryana	2	—
(v) Himachal Pradesh	10	—
(vi) Karnataka	16	9
(vii) Kerala	—	1
(viii) Maharashtra	37	35
(ix) Madhya Pradesh	—	3
(x) Mizoram	—	10
(xi) Orissa	35	1
(xii) Punjab	12	—
(xiii) Rajasthan	15	3
(xiv) Tamilnadu	33	46
(xv) Tripura	4	6
(xvi) Uttar Pradesh	65	60
(xvii) West Bengal	—	2

Drug Price Control Order

*11. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have notified the new Drug Price Control Order;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure compliance of the conditions outline in the DPCO by the drug manufacturers; and

(d) the measures taken to ensure availability of the decontrolled drugs in the market at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In accordance with the Modifications in the Drug Policy 1986, which were announced in September, 1994, the drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 was notified on January 6, 1995. Its salient features include a single list of price controlled drugs and formulations based on the criteria enunciated in the policy fixation of ceiling prices for commonly marketed standard pack sizes of formulations and making its compliance obligatory for all manufacturers; encouragement to production from basic stage by way of higher rate of return by 4 per cent, exemption from price control for production of a new drug from the basic stage, not produced elsewhere and if developed through indigenous R&D; utilisation of DPEA funds for higher education and research in pharmaceutical sciences and technology. The DPCO 1995 lays down a more transparent procedure for the working of the price control mechanism,

which is in the ultimate interest of consumers as well as manufacturers.

(c) and (d). The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 has been issued in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Any contravention of any of the provisions of DPCO 1995 is punishable in accordance with the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Associations of the Pharmaceutical Industry have been advised to caution all their members to exercise restraint and self-discipline in respect of prices of medicines, which have gone out of price control and ensure that their prices are not raised unreasonably so that the Government is not constrained to exercise its powers to bring these medicines under price control.

Consumer Courts

*12. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned Consumer Courts in doldrums' as reported in the Statesman dated January 30, 1995;

(b) whether any amount has been sanctioned for the Consumer Courts;

(c) if so, the manner in which the amount is likely to be distributed to Union Territories/State Governments;

(d) whether the Government have ever reviewed the functioning of the Consumer Courts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and factors responsible for steep increase in cases in these Courts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount of sixty one crores has been agreed to, in principal, by the Planning Commission for disbursement. However, no amount has been sanctioned so far. The Ministry has sent a scheme to the Planning Commission suggestion the manner in which the amount is to be distributed to the State Governments and Union Territories.

(d) and (e) The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission organized an All India Conference of Presidents and Members of the State Commissions on 24th January, 1994, whether the Statewise position of pendency was reviewed and recommendations were made to provide additional infrastructure, staff, funds etc. Government also reviews the position of pendency of cases in consumer courts from time to time. The main factors responsible for the steep rise in pendency of cases are frequent adjournments and irregular attendance particularly in District fora.

[Translation]

Employment to Tribals

*13. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to provide employment to the tribals in the various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c). The various schemes launched by the Ministry of Rural Development, namely, the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) are beneficial to the tribals and other weaker sections of the society. The Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) launched by the Ministry of Urban Development caters to the creation of employment for urban poor target groups and beneficiaries belonging to the weaker sections as well as Scheduled Tribes which constitute special target groups.

[English]

Coconut Development Board

*14. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coconut Development Board has been revived/revamped;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Government to the Coconut Development Board during 1994-95;

(d) the broad details of the performance of the Board during this period;

(e) whether any study has been made by the Government recently to determine the production and productivity of coconut in the major coconut growing states; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) Coconut Development Board is presently working with almost full complement of members including a full time Chairman who has been appointed recently.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2032 lakhs had been allocated to the Coconut Development Board under Budget Estimates for 1994-95.

(d) A Statement in enclosed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The question does not arise.

Statement

The 8th Plan Scheme 'Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India' is being implemented by the Coconut Development Board in 19 States/UTs. The progress reported under various components during 1994-95 is as following:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Targets for 1994-95		Achievements during the year	
		Phy.	Fin.	Phy.	Fin.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Production and distribution of Planning material:				
	(a) Establishment of DSP Farm	280 ha.	71.15	220 ha.	39.349
	(b) Nursery attached to DSP Farms	3.0 lakh seedlings	43.30	1.21 lakh seedlings sown	7.038
	(c) T×D Scheme	4.5 lakh seedlings	42.187	1.5 lakh nuts sown	9.677*
	(d) Regional coconut nursery	Establishment & maintenance of 2 nurseries	4.275	One nursery started in Nagaland	0.713
	(e) Seed Procurement Unit	5.0 lakh seed nuts	2.94	12.352 lakhs	1.083
2.	Expansion of Area				
	(a) Fresh Planting	3690 ha.	110.70	3834 ha.	106.275
	(b) 2nd year maintenance	10391 ha.	142.311	1141 ha.	12.422
	(c) 3rd year maintenance	8987 ha.	137.159	133 ha.	1.086
		33750 ha.	936.778	—	372.026*
3.	Integrated Farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement.				
4.	Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar	7 million parasites	11.211	rearing parasites going on	3.823
5.	Coconut Technology Development Centre	Setting up pilot plant for coconut processing. Sponsoring research project providing assistance to industrial units, co-operative societies, artisans	129.45	For the setting up pilot plant the allotment of site is under consideration of the Govt. of Kerala. One co-operative society given financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh for copra making. 23 farmers were given assistance for improved copra dryers. Research project on 'Spraydrying of coconut milk' completed.	

* Funds released to the State Govts. They will report full achievements, later.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Extension and Publicity	Publication of journals, books, booklets, promotional activities, training programmes, and exhibitions etc.	73.10	Besides performing these activities the CDB has assisted the Doordharshan in the production of a series on coconut in 15 episodes. Participated in 14 exhibition/seminars. A series will be broadcast by the AIR, Kozhikode under the technical guidance of the Board shortly.	22.38
7.	National information Centre	Conducting surveys, project evaluation maintenance of database on coconut and consultancy cell attached to headquarters.	9.72	A survey on technology for productivity improvement progressing survey on disease indexing is being initiated, and, inputting into database is also progressing.	1.864
TOTAL (Scheme)			1714.281		588.392
Administration			317.340		130.587
GRAND TOTAL			2031.621		718.979

DSP—Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farms.

Assistance from Japan

*15. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN:

Will The Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has evinced interest in providing assistance for caying out forestry projects in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government of Japan has also agreed to assist the environmental conservation project for Upper and Lower lakes of Bhopal and industrial pollution control project for Calcutta;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance to be provided/provided in each case; and

(d) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):
(a) The Government of Japan, through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), is providing financial assistance for two forestry Projects in Rajasthan. Another Forestry Development Project in Rajasthan has been negotiated with the OECF recently. An OECF fact finding mission is looking into forestry projects for Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

(b) Negotiations have also been held with the OECF

recently for providing assistance for the project on Conservation and Management of upper and lower lakes of Bhopal and Industrial Pollution Control in West Bengal;

(c) and (d) The details and status of the projects are given in the Enclosed Statement.

Statement

1. Afforestation and Pasture Development along Indira Gandhi Canal (Rajasthan).

This project is under implementation since 1991 at a cost of Rs. 107.50 crores. This is being implemented in Bikaner and Jaisalmer Districts in Rajasthan. The OECF is providing 85% of the expenditure incurred on the project. Upto Sept. 1994, 1053 million Yen have been reimbursed by the OECF.

2. Afforestation Project for the Aravalli Hills. Rajasthan.

The implementation of this Project was started in 1992-93 at a total cost of Rs. 166.90 crores in the Aravalli Hills of ten Districts in Rajasthan. Till Sept. 1994, the OECF have reimbursed 1361 million Yen against the expenditure incurred on the project. The OECF assistance is 85% of the total expenditure incurred.

3. Forestry Development Project Rajasthan

This Project has been negotiated with the OECF in January 1995. The total project cost is Rs. 139 crores. The project implementation will start after agreement is signed with the OECF.

4. Conservation and Management Project of Upper and Lower lakes of Bhopal (M.P.)

The total cost of this project is Rs. 247 crores for a period of 5 years for which the OECF would provide 7055 million yen. This project has been negotiated with OECF in January 1995. The implementation will start after agreement is signed with OECF.

5. Project on Industrial Pollution Control in West Bengal

The total project cost is Rs. 45.39 crores equivalent to 1525 million Yen. The project will be implemented by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board. The project has been negotiated with the OECF in January 1995 and the implementation will start after the loan agreement is signed with OECF.

6. Forestry Project posed for OECF assistance

Forestry projects for Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been posed to OECF for financial assistance and are being looked at by the OECF fact finding team. The total costs for each project are:

- (i) Integrated Forestry Development Project, Gujarat—Rs. 682 Cr.
- (ii) Conservation and Development of Forests, Tamil Nadu—300 Cr.
- (iii) Forestry and Environment Project for Eastern Plains, Karnataka—Rs. 264 Cr.

Wildlife Products

*16. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent seizures of animal skins and other wild life products in large quantity at various places;

(b) if so, the details of the items seized and the value thereof;

(c) the action taken against the culprits; and

(d) the steps taken to check the killing and illegal trade of animals, particularly the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Regional Deputy Directors of Wildlife Preservation of the Ministry of Environment & Forests posted at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta & Madras, in co-operation with local enforcement authorities, have seized illegal consignments of wildlife and wildlife products from time to time. Details of the seizure made in the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I. In addition, State Governments also have made similar seizures. Proper valuation of the seized items cannot be made as their trade is prohibited.

(c) Action in these case has been taken against the offenders under the Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972 and other relevant Acts and rules.

(d) Statement-II is Enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl.	Item seized	Number of pieces		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Part)
1.	Snake skin/articles	3385	7477	21
2.	Jackal skin/articles	2	1	539
3.	Leopard skin/articles	1	43	9
				(Cut Pieces)
4.	Leopard Cat skin	—	2	1
5.	Raw hide/articles	10	13	1
6.	Crocodile skin/articles	13	—	—
7.	Civet Cat skin	—	5	145
8.	Deer skin articles	1	7	6
9.	Mink/Marten skin (in kgs.)	553	—	—
10.	Rabbit skin/articles	92	—	—
11.	Common fox/Red (in Kgs.)	2	—	416
12.	Grey Wolf skin	—	90	—
13.	Tiger skin	—	9	3
				(Cut pieces)
14.	Bengal beaf skin/articles	—	—	—
15.	Jungle cat skin	—	5	942
16.	Otter skin/articles	—	129	—
17.	Fishing cat skin	—	3	7
18.	Desert cat skin	—	2	212
19.	Clouded leopard skin	—	33	8
20.	Desert fox skin	—	—	796
21.	Domestic Cat skin	—	—	2
22.	Ibex skin	—	—	1
23.	Alexandrine parakeet	—	—	105
24.	Hill Myna	—	—	15
25.	Munia	—	—	1000
26.	Black headed munia	—	—	120

Statement-II

The steps taken by the Government to protect the endangered wild animals include:

1. Hunting of Scheduled wild animals has been banned by law.
2. Central assistance is provided to State UT Govts. for strengthening anti-peaching infrastructure.
3. Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.
4. Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.
5. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central

Govt. for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

6. International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
7. Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

Production of foodgrains

*17. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:

Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the production of foodgrains in the country during the coming five years taking into account the current rate of population growth;

(b) if so, the percentage rise anticipated in the requirement of foodgrains during the above period; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to attain the estimated foodgrains requirements?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) According to the Eighth Plan document, the estimated foodgrain requirement for 1997 and 2007 will be around 208 million tonnes and 283 million tonnes respectively.

(c) The Government is implementing Integrated Cercals Development Programmes each for rice, wheat and coarse cereals as also National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) to raise production and productivity of foodgrains.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

*18. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the location of Krishi Vigyan Kendras established during the year 1994-95 till date;

(b) the number of Kendras proposed to be established during the remaining period of 1995, location-wise;

(c) the number of proposals for establishment of such Kendras received from the State Governments during the period 1993-95 till date;

(d) the number of proposals out of them pending for clearance;

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(f) the specific measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to establish new Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Fifty-four Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established during the year 1994-95. The location of these centres are given in the enclosed *Statement I*.

(b) Thirty-one Krishi Vigyan Kendras are liked to be established during the remaining period of 1995. The location-wise KVKs to be established during the year 1995 is listed in the enclosed *Statement II*.

(c) No formal proposals have been received from the State Governments during the period 1993-95 till date.

(d) One hundred and twelve requests/proposals received from various organisations and VIPs are pending for clearance.

(e) Subject to availability of resources and ICAR norms for establishment of KVKs, these requests/proposals are likely to be cleared by the end of IX Five Year Plan.

(f) Efforts are being made to get additional funds for establishment of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country.

Statement I

Location of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (K.V.Ks) Established During The Year 1994-95

Name of State	S.No.	Name of District	Host Institution
1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	1.	Una	HPKVV, Palampur
	3.	Mandi Kangra	HPKVV, Palampur Foundation for Organisational Research & Education, New Delhi.
Jammu & Kashmir	4.	Leh	S.K.U.A.S. & T., Srinagar
	5.	Kathua	Shiva Gramodyog Mandal, Kalibari, Kathua.
Punjab, Haryana	6.	Panipat	CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar.
West Bengal	7.	Burdwan	Hindustan, Fertilizer Corporation Limited, West Bengal.
	8.	Birbhum	Vishwa Bharati Shanti Niketan, Distt. Bolpur.

1	2	3	4
Bihar	9.	Bhojpur	Sone Command Area Development Agency, Patna.
	10.	Jamui	Shram Bharati, Khadigram, Jamui.
	11.	Madhubani	HFC, Sindri, Dhanbad
	12.	Dhanbad	HFC. Sindri, Dhanbad
Assam	13.	Golaghat	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.
	14.	Cachar	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.
Mizoram	15.	Lunglei	Government of Mizoram
UTTAR PRADESH	16.	Pithoragarh	GBPUA&T, Pantnagar.
	17.	Muzaffarnagar	Swami Kalyan Dev Trust, Muzaffarnagar.
Maharashtra	18.	Nasik	Yeshwantrao Chavan Mah. Open University, Nasik.
	19.	Parbhani	Jeevan Jyoti Charitable Trust, Parbhani.
	20.	Kolhapur	D.Y. Patil Education Society, Bombay.
	21.	Buldana	Satpuda Education Society, Jalgaon.
	22.	Nagpur	C.C.R.I., Nagpur.
	23.	Nanded	Jawaharlal Nehru Instt. of Education Science & Technology, Nanded.
	24.	Solapur	Shabari Krishi Pratishtan, Solapur.
	25.	Akola	Suvide Foundation Risod, Akola.
Gujarat	26.	Bharuch	Bharatiya Agro-Industries Foundation, Pune.
	27.	Vododara	Mangal, Bharati, Vadodara.
	28.	SURAT	Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardar Krishi Nagar.
RAJASTHAN	29.	RAJSMAND	Rajasthan Agricultural Univ. Bikaner.
	30.	BARAN	Rajastahn Agricultural Univ., Bikaner.
	31.	Dausa	-do-
Madhya Pradesh	32.	Seoni	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
	33.	Tikamgarh	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
	34.	Khandwa	JNKVV, Jabalpur.
	35.	Rajgarh	JNKVV, Jabalpur.
	36.	Guna	JNKVV, Jabalpur.
	37.	Sorguja	JGKVV, Jabalpur.
Orissa	38.	Dhenkenal	CRRI, Cuttack.
	39.	Angul	CRRI, Cuttack.
	40.	Kendrapada	OUA&T, Bhubaneshwar.
Karnataka	41.	Mysore	J.S.S. Mahavidya Peeth, Ramunuja Road, Mysore.
	42.	Kolar	Karnataka Welfare Society, Chickballapur.
	43.	Bellary	U.A.S. Jharwar.
	44.	Belgaum	Belgaum Integrated Rural Development Society, Neganur.
	45.	Raichur	U.A.S. Dharwar.
Kerala	46.	Pathanamthitta	Christian Agency for Rural Development, Thiruvalla.
	47.	Kollam (Quilon)	K.A.U., Munuthy.
	48.	Idukki	Bapooji Sewak Samaj, Kaumeuli.
Tamil Nadu	49.	Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu Board of Rural Development, Thuppagannapally.
	50.	Salem	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
	51.	Nellai Kattaboman	Ratnavel Subramanian Educational Trust, Dindigula Anna. Distt.
	52.	Madurai	Centre for Development & Communication Trust, Kamachipuram, Theni.
	52.	Kamrajar	Mayer Trust, Madhrai.
Pondicherry	54.	Karaikal	Govt. of Pondicherry, Pondicherry.

Statement II

Name of State	Sr. No.	Location
Punjab	1	Sangrur
	2	Faridkot
	3	Jalandhar
Haryana	4	Rohtak
	5	Ambala
West Bengal	6	Nadia
Bihar	7	West Champaran
	8	Palamau
Assam	9	Sibsagar
Arunachal Pradesh	10	Lohit
Meghalaya	11	Cheerapunjee
Nagaland	12	Mokok-Chung
Tripura	13	North Tripura
Uttar Pradesh	14	Moradabad
	15	Deoria
	16	Farrukhabad
	17	Azamgarh
	18	Mainpuri
	19	Khammam
Andhra Pradesh	20	West Godavari
	21	Adilabad
	22	Vishakhapatnam*
Maharashtra	23	Raigarh
	24	Amravati*
Madhya Pradesh	25	Shivpuri
	26	Betul*
Kerala	27	Kottayam
Tamil Nadu	28	Thanjavur*
Gujarat	29	Sabarkantha*
	30	Junagarh*
Delhi	31	Delhi*

* These KVKs will be established out of the drop-out cases from the 78 approved KVKs. Administrative sanction already issued.

[English]

Eighth Five year Plan

*19. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted mid-term appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas where the performance remained sluggish; and

(d) the measures taken to improve the performance in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Necessary exercises pertaining to the Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Eighth

Five Year Plan (1992—97) are underway in the Planning Commission.

(b) to (d) These questions will arise only after the completion of the Mid-Term Appraisal.

[Translation]

Pollution Control in Fertilizer Plants

*20 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

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

(a) whether any pollution tests have been conducted in the fertilizer plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken for pollution control in fertilizer plants during 1995?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). Monitoring of pollution control measures in fertilizers plants and any action to be taken consequent thereto is the responsibility of the State Pollution Control Boards. However, Government have been collecting data on effluent/emission from major nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizer units from time to time.

At present, 11 major units in operation are not able to meet the prescribed pollution control standards. Out of these 11 units, 3 each belong to the Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) which have been declared as sick companies by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Because of acute liquidity problem, FCI and HFC have not been able to install the required pollution control facilities in full. Any action for revival of these 6 units, including installation of full complement of pollution control measures, would depend on the final outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority. Other 5 units have indicated that they would be able to conform to the prescribed pollution control standards by the end of 1995.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

1. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to convert metre gauge line into broad gauge line between Siliguri junction and Alipurduar junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

DMU Rakes

2. DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of DMU provided in the various sections of Eastern Railway;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase such rakes on Sealdah-Gede, Gede-Ranaghat, Asansol-Jhajha, Andal and Saintia and other sections of Eastern Railway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) There are 17 DMU Push-Pull rakes running on various sections of Eastern Railway.

(b) and (c) Introduction of more such rakes is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility, availability of the stock and traffic justification.

Electric Loco Shed

3. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of names of electric loco sheds at present functioning under different zonal railways; and

(b) the number of electric engines handled in each loco shed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) At present, there are 20 Electric loco sheds and 2 Electric Car Sheds functioning in the various railways. The details are given below:

	Railway	Shed Location	Locomotive Holding
(1)	CENTRAL	JHANSI	111
		ITARSI	114
		AJNI	109
		BHUSAVAL	115
		KALYAN	125
(2)	EASTERN	MUGHALSARAI	147
		GOMOH	86
		ASANSOL	129
		SEALDAH*	12
(3)	NORTHERN	GHAZIABAD	128
		KANPUR	129
(4)	SOUTHERN	ARAKKONAN	129
		TAMEARAM*(M.G.)	20
(5)	SOUTH CENTRAL	LALLAGUDA	69
		VIJAYAWADA	122
(6)	SOUTH EASTERN	TATA NAGAR	148
		BONDAMUNDA	95
		EHILLAI	141
		WALTAIR	97
(7)	WESTERN	TUGHLAKABAD	114
		VADODARA	120
		VALSAD	52

*Electric Car Sheds where Electric Locos are maintained.

Electrification of Adra-Midnapore Section

4. SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for electrification of Adra-Midnapore section of South-Eastern Railway is pending with the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for early clearance of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) Planning Commission has approved in principle the electrification of Adra-Midnapore section of South-Eastern Railway.

[Translation]

'Rajiv Paryavaran Yojana'

5. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far under the Rajiv Paryavaran Pariyojana introduced in fifty districts of the country;

(b) the total funds allocated and the expenditure incurred under the scheme upto 31st December, 1994; and

(c) the targets fixed by the Government under this yojana by the end of Five Year Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The concerned State/UT Governments are formulating Integrated Action Plans for the districts selected under Rajiv Paryavaran Pariyojana.

(b) and (c) Separate funds have not been allocated so far under the Pariyojana. In Rajiv Paryavaran Pariyojana, the emphasis is on implementation of all the ongoing schemes of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, environment related schemes and programmes of other Central Ministries and State Governments in a coordinated and intensive manner so as to create a visible and measurable impact within a time span of five years.

Agricultural Development Schemes

6. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have submitted some schemes relating to agricultural development to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof, separately; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted a proposal for inclusion of a project—Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agriculture Support Project for World Bank Assistance. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is already

engaged in conducting studies for different components under this project. The project preparation is still in the initial stages.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has also forwarded a project proposal for Training and Extension of Women in Agriculture to be funded by the Government of Netherlands. The Project has been returned to Government of Uttar Pradesh for certain modifications.

The Government of Gujarat had sent a proposal for inclusion under the World Bank Agriculture Development Project in 1992. Since the World Bank had desired to take limited number of projects which were already under process, the Government of Gujarat was informed accordingly.

Environmental Projects of Uttar Pradesh

7. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects taken up in Uttar Pradesh for the conservation of environment and forests with Central and foreign assistance during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided in each case; and

(d) the details of the projects proposed to be taken up in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) to (c) The details of the projects taken up in Uttar Pradesh for the conservation of environment and forests with central and foreign assistance during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 alongwith achievements both financial physical are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The projects are continuing in nature.

Statement

(Rs. in Lachs)

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Broad objectives	Extent of funding	Status	Achievement during the three years 92-93, 93-94 and 94-95 Financial	Physical
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	To develop National Parks and Sanctuaries	100%	Ongoing	191.22	12 National Parks covered
2.	Eco development around National Parks and Sanctuaries	To provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of National Praks	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	16.61	1 National Park covered
3.	Project Elephant	To ensure long term survival of elephants	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	40.88	1 Area covered
4.	Project Tiger	To ensure viable population of tigers	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	240.00	2 Tiger Reserves covered
5.	Eco development around Tiger Reserves	To provide alternative sustenance to communities living on fringes of Tiger Reserves	100% NR 50% R	Ongoing	31.02	2 Tiger Reserves covered
6.	Assistance to Botanic Gardens	To upgrade Botanic Gardens	100%	Ongoing	46.25	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases
7.	Ganga Action Plan	Pollution abatement of river Ganga Yamuna & Gomti	Phase I 100% Phase II 50%	Ongoing	5230.30	6 Class-I Towns covered

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Modern Forest Fires Control Methods	Controlling Forest Fires to protect and conserve forests	100%	Ongoing	8.00	Target fixed in terms of financial releases
9.	Paryavaran Vahini Scheme	Creates environmental awareness through active participation of public	100%	Ongoing	3.92	14 Paryavaran Vahinis constituted
10.	Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	Raising Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	100%	Ongoing	9.00	NA
11.	Seed Development Scheme	To develop infrastructure for quality seeds	100%	Ongoing	18.65	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases
12.	Grants in aid Scheme	Undertake work connected with afforestation and wastelands development	100%	Ongoing	84.37	9 Projects sanctioned
13.	Afforestation of closed mines of Mussorie Hills	Afforestation	100%	Ongoing	69.99	720.40 ha. Area covered
14.	Integrated Wasteland Development Project Jalaun District	Wasteland Development	100%	Ongoing	29.00	800.0 ha. Area covered
15.	Field Evaluation of tissue culture propagated plants in Tarai Region	Afforestation	100%	Ongoing	3.19	NA
16.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development projects Scheme	Promote afforestation and Eco-development	100%	Ongoing	1031.29	9562 ha. area covered
17.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme	Augmenting supply of fuelwood and fodder in identified fuelwood deficit districts	50%	Ongoing	504.28	6819 ha. area covered
18.	Assistance for abatement of Pollution	To strengthen State Environment Department and State Pollution Control Board	100%	Ongoing	71.75	Targets fixed in terms of financial releases
Externally Aided						
19.	World Bank assisted Industrial Pollution Control Project	Strengthening of State Pollution Control Board	State Pollution	An assistance of Rs. 166.96 lakhs was provided for setting of Regional Laboratories		
20.	World Bank assisted Industrial Pollution Control Project —Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)	Setting up of CETPs		An amount of Rs. 24.00 lakhs as Central Government Share provided for setting up of CETPs.		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	National Social Forestry Project (NSFP)	Afforestation				The project was started in 1985-86. The project was concluded in March, 1993. Total expenditure of Rs. 286.95 crore was incurred. During the year 1992-93, Rs. 45.66 crore was provided to the State.

NR — Non Recurring; R — Recurring NA — Not Available

[English]

Construction of Double Lines

8. SHRI ANIL BASU:
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADYAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for construction of double lines from Sheoraphuli to Tarakeswar and Ranaghat to Krishnanagar;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Illicit Transport of Tigers

9. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of tigers in the country in 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;
(b) whether the Government are aware of the illicit transport of tigers from the country to other countries, particularly to Taiwan; and
(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for protection of tigers and to stop illicit transport of tigers from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per the All India Tiger Census carried out during the years 1989 and 1993, the estimated number of tigers in the country was 4334 and 3750 respectively.

(b) and (c) It is a fact that a number of Indian tigers are poached every year to meet the demand of illegal trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body. The steps taken by the Government to prevent such poaching of tigers and their smuggling are as under:—

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have been advised to

strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the Tiger Reserves.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to set up a Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger Areas.

Mini Branch Stores

10. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some suppliers have been permitted by the Super Bazar to make supplies of their items direct to the mini branch stores surpassing the regional distribution centres;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of such suppliers and the items supplies directly to the mini branch stores during 1994 and January, 1995;

(d) the names of the competitors of the suppliers who make supplies to the regional distribution centres and who make supplies direct to the branch stores;

(e) the manner in which the Super Bazar ensures the quality and quantity of such products being supplies directly to the branches and to the regional distribution centres; and

(f) the steps taken to discontinue the practice forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The direct supplies were introduced in order to overcome difficulties experienced by retail outlets resulting in delays and non-availability of fast moving items;

(c) and (d) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) In the direct supplies those items are taken which are Laboratory tested before the introduction. Proper store and accounting procedure is being followed in respect of direct supplies as in other cases as well.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

List of the Suppliers & Items for Direct Supply to mini Branches and the Name of Competitors who make supplies at RDCs.

S.No.	Name of Suppliers who make supplies direct to mini branches	Items	Name of Competitor who make supplies at RDCs.
1.	M/s Colgate Palmolive	Tooth Paste, Soap etc	M/s Hindustan Lever M/s Balsara Hygenic Products etc.
2.	M/s S.P. Enterprises	Dhoop, Aggarbatti	—
3.	M/s Kumar Pvt. Ltd.	Washing powder	M/s Hindustan Lever
4.	M/s Gopal Soap Factory	Washing Powder etc.	M/s Procter & Gamble
5.	M/s Ambey Laboratories	Phenyle	M/s G.M.H.R. (555 W.R.) etc.
6.	M/s Swarn Enterprises	-do-	M/s Bengal Chemicals
7.	M/s diamond Laboratories	-do-	—
8.	M/s M.K. Industries	White Deodrant	—
9.	M/s Diamond Laboratories	-do-	—
10.	M/s Metropol India Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	—
11.	M/s Elegant Perfurmerly	Dhoop Aggarbatti	—
12.	M/s A.V.M. Chemicals	Vishwas cleaning Pdr.	—
13.	M/s Alemco India Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	—
14.	M/s Vini Marketing	Tooth Brush	M/s K.S. Agencies
15.	M/s Unique Enterprises	-do-	M/s J.L. Mourison
16.	M/s Pan Foods Ltd.	Jam/Tomato Ketchup	M/s Nafed
17.	M/s Kisan Products	-do-	M/s Nastle India Pvt. Ltd.
18.	M/s Makkar Bros.	Vermacillies	—
19.	M/s R.N. Chadda	-do-	—
20.	M/s Palco's Quality Confectioners	Biscuits	Britania Cremica etc.
21.	M/s Quality Bakers	-do-	
22.	M/s J.R. Foods Products	-do-	
23.	M/s Paljee & Co.	-do-	
24.	M/s Paljee Foods Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	
25.	M/s Magic Foods	Custard Powder/Baking Powder/Corn-flour & Jelly etc.	M/s Corn Products.
26.	M/s Homacol Sales Corpn. Liquid Soap		M/s Wiekfields.

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh

11. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has submitted any crop production strategy and contingency plan chalked out by the State Agricultural University seeking financial assistance for implementation of such plan to get the desired target during the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance so far provided by the Union Government to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

F.A.C.T.

12. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up expansion schemes for Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) and its other divisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the above schemes have been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether the withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizers have affected the functioning of FACT; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) to (d) A 900 tonnes per day ammonia plant is being constructed by FACT at Cochin at a cost of Rs. 618.43 crores, to be mechanically completed by September, 1996. No other expansion scheme has been proposed by FACT.

(e) and (f) Although, in the short run, the company faced problem in marketing of their phosphatic products immediately after decontrol of phosphatic fertilizers in August, 1992, the situation is gradually improving. On its part, Government is giving the special concession on decontrolled phosphatic fertilizers only to indigenous products with a view to enabling the industry to compete with imports.

Withdrawal of Azimganj Andal Local Train

13. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that people are facing great difficulties own to withdrawal of Azimganj-Andal local train;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to restore the train; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Consequent to *disannulisation* of the section, Andal-Azimgang Passenger has been re-organised to run as DMU Push-Pull train between Andal-Sainthia and Passenger train between Rampurhat-Azimganj with connecting services between Sainthia-Rampurhat.

Suburban Services

14. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:
SHRI AMAL DATTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing number of suburban trains running in Calcutta, Sealdah and Kharagpur Divisions is not sufficient keeping in view the passenger traffic during peak hours;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps are being taken to provide better suburban services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) The demand for travel is more during peak hours. However, suburban services in Calcutta area are by the large adequate. Improvement in suburban services including introduction of additional services is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Trains via Asansol

15. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run one of the New Delhi-Puri trains i.e. Puri Express or Purushottam Express via Asansol;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational constraints and due to its being well patronised on the existing route.

Electrification of Stations

16. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan for electrification of 141 stations during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the total stations to be electrified in each state alongwith the total amount to be spent thereon;

(c) whether there is any demand from Andhra Pradesh Government that more railway stations should be electrified during 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the railway stations are likely to be electrified during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Statewise position of the Railway stations electrified/under electrification during the year 1994-95 and the amount spent or to be spent thereon is as under:—

Name of States	Total Stns. planned	Stns. where work of electrification already completed in 94-95	Stations where works are in progress and are likely to be completed in 94-95	Balance stations where works are in progress and likely to be completed in 1995-96	Amount spent/to be spent in 1994-95 (in Rs.)
Andhra Pradesh	8	8	—	—	7,28,000
Bihar	32	7	18	7	34,53,843
Delhi	3	—	3	—	11,50,000
Gujarat	3	2	1	—	1,83,000
Karnataka	4	1	1	2	1,30,000
Madhya Pradesh	8	4	2	2	2,25,000
Maharashtra	11	10	—	1	9,88,369
Orissa	9	—	2	7	1,00,000
Rajasthan	15	3	7	5	38,20,001
Uttar Pradesh	28	5	13	10	55,93,000
West Bengal	20	—	20	—	10,13,000
Total	141	40	67	34	1,73,84,213

Revised Plan Outlay

17. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- the revised plan outlay for 1994-95, State-wise;
- the break-up of the outlay between the Union Government and States concerned;
- the amount released by the Union Government and the total expenditure incurred by each State as on December 31, 1994;
- the per-capita revised outlay on the basis of median population during 1994-95, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (d) Revised plan outlays for 1994-95 of three States, out of the adjustment proposals received from nine States, have been finalised as follows:—

Sl. No.	State	Revised Outlay 1994-95 (Rs. crores)	For capita revised outlay 1994-95 (Rs)
1.	Gujarat	2240.00	511
2.	Kerala	1260.00	413
3.	West Bengal	1483.31	206

The total Plan transfers to the States by the Union Government in 1994-95 upto 31.12.1994 are given in the Statement attached. Expenditure figures of the States will

be available only after the end of the financial year 1994-95.

Statement

Total Plan Transfers to the States of Normal Central Assistance, Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects and other Projects, Special Central Assistance for Hdp/Wgdp and Plan Revenue Deficit Grants in 1994-95 upto 31 December, 1994.

States	Rs. in crores
1. Andhra Pradesh	954.95
2. Arunachal Pradesh	232.25
3. Assam	725.08
4. Bihar	1029.90
5. Goa	39.09
6. Gujarat	260.25
7. Haryana	164.81
8. Himachal Pradesh	227.15
9. Jammu & Kashmir	1120.86
10. Karnataka	388.61
11. Kerala	407.54
12. Madhya Pradesh	672.03
13. Maharashtra	554.64
14. Manipur	160.33
15. Meghalaya	149.65
16. Mizoram	141.94
17. Nagaland	152.18
18. Orissa	517.15
19. Punjab	619.16
20. Rajasthan	618.10

States	Rs. in crores
21. Sikkim	104.03
22. Tamil Nadu	820.89
23. Tripura	194.47
24. Uttar Pradesh	2152.68
25. West Bengal	664.08
Total	13081.82

Quality Symbol for Farm Produce

18. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal/scheme to introduce quality symbol for farm produce in the country;

(b) if so, whether the All India Federation of Organic Farming has formulated any certification programme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the certification programme and the nodal agency for authorised quality symbol; and

(d) the time by which the certification programme and the quality symbol for farm produce are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) with a view to facilitate the experts of organic products, Government have set up a Standing cum - Accreditation Committee to evolve policies and procedures for accreditation of inspection and certification agencies. The Committee will accord approvals after duly scrutinising credentials of various applicants.

[Translation]

Mother Dairy Milk

19. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the prices of milk and milk products sold by the Mother Dairy have been increased recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the private milk suppliers and public thereto;

(d) the number of times the prices of Mother Dairy milk have been increased during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 and the extent thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide the milk at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

The Mother Dairy has revised the consumer prices of milk with effect from 1.2.1995 as under:—

	Rs. per litre
Full Cream Milk —	Rs. 12.50
Toned Milk —	Rs. 8.50
Toned Milk —	Rs. 9.50

(in polypacks)

Mother Dairy had to increase the procurement prices paid to the State Dairy Federations. To maintain viability, the consumers prices were increased.

(c) There has been some adverse reactions from the public.

(d) A *statement* is enclosed.

(e) The Mother Dairy is a Subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board and they have full power to determine the sale price of milk.

Statement

The details of change in prices since 1992-93 are given below:

	Rs. per ltr.
Double Toned Milk	
20.5.92 to 30.9.92	7.00
Toned Milk	
1.10.92 to 31.12.92	8.00
1.1.93 to 30.06.93	7.50
1.7.93 to 08.11.93	8.00
9.11.93 to 13.05.94	7.00
14.05.94 to 05.12.94	8.00
6.12.94 to 31.01.95	7.50
Standardised Milk	
(in Polypacks)	
20.05.92 to 30.9.92	10.00
Full Cream Milk	
(in Polypacks)	
11.09.92 to 30.09.92	11.00
01.10.92 to 30.06.93	10.00
01.07.93 to 08.11.93	10.50
09.11.93 to 13.05.94	9.50
14.05.94 to 17.09.94	10.50
18.09.94 to 05.12.94	11.50
06.12.94 to 31.01.95	11.00

New Trains

20. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN:
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains alongwith their destinations introduced during 1993-94 and upto December 1994; and

(b) the broad details of requests for introducing more new trains lying pending at present with the Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(English)

Essential Commodities

21. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA):
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rice is being sold in Delhi at very high rates;
(b) if so, the number of times prices of rice and wheat were increased under PDS during the last three years;
(c) whether any State is distributing rice and wheat at lower price than that fixed by the Union Government;
(d) if so, the details thereof and its impact on other states;

(e) whether financial assistance has been provided to States in this regard during the above period;

(f) whether the Union Government have any proposal to formulate a uniform price policy for the whole country to reduce the prices of rice, wheat, sugar and other essential commodities sold under Public Distribution System as well as retail/wholesale shops; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for getting good quality of rice in time and also at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The end retail prices of rice sold through the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Delhi are:

- Rs. 5.73 per kg for common rice
Rs. 6.57 per kg for Fine rice
and Rs. 6.90 per kg for Superfine rice.

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that the open market retail price of rice in Delhi as on 9-2-95 was around Rs. 8.50 per kg.

(b) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of rice and wheat for distribution under PDS since 1.1.1992 are as under:—

(Rs. per Quintal)

Effective from	Wheat		Rice	
	Common		Fine	Super-fine
28-12-1991	280	377	437	458
11-01-1993	330	437	497	518
01-02-1994	402	537	617	648

Foodgrains for distribution in areas under the Revamped PDS are issued at specially subsidised prices which are Rs. 50/- per Quintal lower than the CIPs for PDS mentioned above.

(c) to (e) As per available information rice and wheat are being distributed at prices lower than the Central issue Prices in a few States as per details given below:—

State	End Retail Price In Fair price Shop		Rice Fine	Super-Fine	Remarks
	Wheat	Common			
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	3.50	—	For identified poor households only.
Karnataka	3.45	5.10	5.35	5.45	-Do-
Maharashtra	3.00	4.40	5.20	5.50	For Integrated Tribal Development Project Blocks only.
Tamil Nadu	—	3.50	4.75	4.75	For all consumers.

End retail prices of foodgrains are fixed by the State Governments themselves. No specific financial assistance has been provided to any State/UT to enable them to distribute foodgrains at prices lower than Central issue Prices.

(f) Commodities allocated by the Central Government for the PDS in States/UTs are issued at uniform Central issue prices for all States/UTs.

(g) Central Government has laid down quality standards for procurement and issue of rice by the Food Corporation of India. State Governments are their wholesale nominees are given the opportunity to inspect the stocks of rice before accepting the same from the godowns of FCI. State Governments have been advised to take effective enforcement measures against unscrupulous elements indulging in malpractices.

Pending Cases

22. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in various District Forums and the State Commissions in the country, State-wise as also before National Commission;

(b) the steps taken to reduce the arrears and ensure redressal of the complaints within a period of six months; and

(c) the number of vacancies pending at present in each of these forums?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) This Ministry complies such information on quarterly basis. Based on the information available with the Central Government, a *Statement* has been compiled and is enclosed.

(b) Many of the State Governments are converting part

time district fora into full time. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 also provides for setting up of additional District Fora in a district depending upon the work load. However, the responsibility of setting up of additional District Fora lies with the State Governments.

(c) This information is not compiled by the Ministry.

Statement

STATE/UT	STATE COMMISSION			NO. OF APPEALS			DISTRICT FORUMS			PERIOD ENDING
	NO. OF COMPLAINTS			FILED SINCE INCEPTION	DISPOSED SINCE INCEPTION	PENDING CASES	FILED SINCE INCEPTION	DISPOSED SINCE INCEPTION	PENDING CASES	
	FILED SINCE INCEPTION	DISPOSED SINCE INCEPTION	PENDING CASES							
Andhra Pradesh	1119	333	786	3493	2826	667	64186	51442	12744	31/12/94
Arunachal Pradesh	5	—	5	5	—	5	60	56	4	31/12/94
Assam	353	128	225	164	73	91	2201	929	1272	30/ 9/94
Bihar	707	406	301	1293	554	739	18593	10370	8223	30/ 9/94
Goa	104	84	20	214	175	39	1173	791	382	30/ 9/94
Gujarat	1500	865	634	1177	842	335	29896	15751	14145	31/ 4/94
Haryana	276	254	22	2489	1622	867	31533	22645	8908	30/ 9/94
Himachal Pradesh	350	88	262	740	82	658	5195	4058	1137	30/ 9/94
Jammu & Kashmir	41	9	32	10	—	10	2470	446	2024	31/12/93
Karnataka	975	783	192	1587	717	870	14411	5067	9344	31/ 3/94
Kerala	1245	811	434	2593	1306	1287	50011	36326	13685	30/ 9/94
Madhya Pradesh	402	271	131	1491	1153	338	26598	14810	11788	30/ 9/94
Maharashtra	2060	1107	953	3591	1506	2085	42340	29048	13292	30/ 9/94
Manipur	3	1	2	16	4	12	499	481	18	30/ 9/94
Meghalaya	4	3	1	1	1	—	4	2	2	30/ 6/94
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	129	110	19	30/ 6/94
Nagaland	4	—	4	—	—	—	13	6	7	30/ 9/94
Orissa	1270	759	511	1099	331	768	10907	6948	3959	30/ 9/94
Punjab	382	262	120	410	403	7	10855	6996	3859	30/ 9/94
Rajasthan	3623	787	2836	3571	1453	2118	55800	42511	13289	30/ 9/94
Sikkim	1	1	—	—	—	—	43	15	28	31/12/94
Tamil Nadu	1567	1283	284	2408	1827	581	26089	16241	9848	30/ 9/94
Tripura	41	38	3	56	36	20	539	390	148	30/ 9/94
Uttar Pradesh	1534	691	843	8034	2369	5665	86249	49742	36507	30/ 9/94
West Bengal	2214	400	1814	650	354	296	16503	3491	13012	30/ 9/94
Andaman & Nicobar	9	5	4	8	4	4	87	77	10	31/12/94
Chandigarh	531	263	269	277	180	97	5640	2806	2834	30/ 9/94
D&N Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	9	10	30/ 9/94
Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	16	16	30/ 9/94
Delhi	2296	1406	890	1838	1237	601	26099	17283	8816	31/12/94
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	1	1	—	18	15	3	31/12/94
Pondicherry	45	39	6	177	163	14	778	656	122	30/ 9/94
TOTAL:	22661	11078	11593	37393	19219	18174	528969	339534	189455	

In National Commission, as on 1.2.1995, 1911 appeals (including revision petitions) and 440 complaints are pending.

Report of Fisheries Development Corporation

23. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fisheries Development Corporation has submitted any report on the impact of industrialisation, construction of various dams, polluted water and fishing in the coastal sides of the Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the said Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) It is not clear as to which Fisheries Development Corporation is being referred to. No such report has been submitted to the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Central State Farms

24. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under the Central State Farms in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the area of land being utilized for production of seeds of various foodgrains; and

(c) the quantum of seeds produced in these Farms during 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Total area of land under Central State Farms in Uttar Pradesh is indicated below:

(i) Central State Farm—3828 ha. Bahraich.

(ii) Central State Farm—191 ha. Raebareli.

(b) Area of land being utilised for production of seeds of various foodgrains in the above two farms is as under:

(i) Central State Farm—2716 ha. Bahraich.

(ii) Central State Farm—165 ha. Raebareli.

(c) Quantum of seeds produced in these two farms during 1993-94 is given below:

(i) Central State Farm—33683 quintals Bahraich.

(ii) Central State Farm—1325 quintals Raebareli.

Consumption of Fertilizers

25. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare consumption of fertilizers in Bihar during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide any special assistance to the farmers for the proper usage of fertilizers during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The estimated per hectare consumption of fertiliser nutrients in Bihar is 56.82 kg/ha. during 1992-93 and 56.69 kg/ha. during 1993-94.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to provide any special assistance to the farmers in Bihar for proper usage of fertilisers. However, central assistance is available to all the State Governments including Bihar under the following schemes for ensuring judicious use of fertilisers:—

(1) Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers; and

(2) National project on Development of Fertiliser Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas.

[English]

Development of Greater Bombay

26. SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide central assistance during the current Plan period for the development of Greater Bombay city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government for development of that city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the newly introduced Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities, an amount of Rs. 16 crores is proposed for release to Bombay during 1994-95 as Central share under the scheme. Allocation for subsequent years will depend upon the proposals to be received from the Maharashtra Government, performance of the projects taken up and budgetary allocations.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra has prepared a project report under the Mega City Scheme, covering development works pertaining to urban infrastructure in Greater Bombay. The funds will be used to take up a mix of remunerative, cost recovery and non-remunerative projects.

Manganese Extraction

27. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land in the Bisgod forest has been leased for manganese extraction;

(b) whether indiscriminate mining has wrecked the ecology of Uttara Kannada;

(c) whether a massive demonstration was organised to protest against indiscriminate mining;

(d) whether ecologists have appealed to stop mining in the region; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for renewal of mining lease under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for manganese extraction in Bisgod forest of Uttara Kannada district. However, formal approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 has not yet been accorded by the Ministry.

(b) to (e) Reports have been received in this regard and it has already been decided to constitute a Committee to enquire into the issues.

[Translation]

Halt at Hatisa Bhagwantpur

28. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have granted approval for construction of railway halt at Hatisa Bhagwantpur between Hathras city and Mursan railway stations; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JEFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Halt of Shatabdi Express

29. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide halt of Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Lucknow at Bareilly Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) 2003/2004 New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express does not run via Bareilly.

Fruits and Vegetables Price

30. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is uniformity in prices of the fruits and vegetables being sold by the outlets of the Mother Dairy in Delhi;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the difference in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The variation is mainly to avoid problems of underpricing/overpricing in relation to the open market where the prices vary from locality to locality.

(c) Not necessary in view of above.

[English]

Danapur Railway Division

31. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up railway station/halts and construction of over bridges under the Danapur Railway Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Two proposals for opening

of halts over Danapur Division were received. The proposal for opening of halt at Jamira between Ara and Kulhai stations was examined in the past and the same was found neither financially justified nor feasible on passenger amenity grounds. The other proposal for opening of a halt at Gumti No. 51 at Kuwardah village between Bihiya and Kauriya stations is under examination.

Construction of one foot-over bridge at Luckeesarai was included in final Works Programme for the year 1995-96 subject to availability of funds.

(Translation)

Pollution Control

32. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the level of pollution in India as compared to other countries;

(b) whether some industrial units, vehicles and indiscriminate and illegal denudation of forests are the main cause of pollution;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any comprehensive policy for conservation of environment and for checking pollution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the report "Global Pollution and Health" prepared by World Health Organisation (W.H.O.) and United Nations Environment Programme (UWEP), the levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) in respect of Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay rank 4th, 6th and 13th respectively among 54 cities of the world. With respect to sulphur dioxide, these cities rank 27th, 18th and 37th respectively among 41 cities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have formulated comprehensive Policies for conservation of environment and checking pollution. These include Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution and the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development. The Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollutants. The National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement of Environment and Development sets out priorities on conservation of natural resources such as land and water; prevention and control of atmospheric pollution including noise pollution and industrial development by using a mix of promotional and regulatory steps.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Impact assessment of Ravva Oil and Gas Field

33. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:

SHRI D. VENKATESHWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the blow out in the oil well at Pasarlapudi in Andhra Pradesh, the joint venture company of Australia has asked the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute to conduct an environmental impact assessment for the Ravva Oil and Gas Field coming up in the same State;

(b) whether the studies to be undertaken by NEERI also aim at assessing the existing environmental status of the project area to identify the positive and negative impacts due to the proposed developments and to suggest measures for mitigating the adverse impact;

(c) if so, whether any studies have been made in this regard so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) No, Sir. The project proponents have approached NEERI for conducting an environmental impact assessment study for the phase II development of the Ravva offshore oil and gas fields. The proposal has no relevance to the blow out in the oil well at Pasarlapudi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Studies with respect to the proposed development have not been initiated.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Shortage of Urea

34. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the farmers in all the States are facing a lot of difficulties in getting sufficient urea for this Rabi crop and have to purchase it from black market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The availability of urea in the country, which is under price and movement controls, has been adequate with reference to the assessed demand of the State as reflected in the allocations made for the current Rabi season under the Essential Commodities Act,

1955 (ECA) except for temporary and localised shortages in some States. These shortages arose due to low opening stocks for Rabi 1994-95, changes in the demand pattern induced by favourable meteorological conditions, production cutbacks in some units and occasional slippages in the arrivals of vessels as well as movement problems.

Although balanced distribution of urea within the States is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, the occasional localised shortages experienced during the current Rabi season have been promptly met by rushing supplies from alternative sources. Under Essential Commodities Act 1955, the powers of enforcement in regard to black marketing and other unfair trade practices in fertilisers vest in the State Governments.

The improved overall availability of urea in the field has been able to support 5% increase in the sales during the period from 1.10.94 to 31.1.95 as compared to the corresponding period of the last Rabi season.

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve the availability of urea during the current Rabi season:

(i) The indigenous production of urea has been optimised by deferment of the shutdowns and revival of production in the 3 closed sick units of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Limited (HFC) and Fertiliser Corporation of India (FCI).

(ii) The pace of arrival of imported urea has been stepped up and its handling at ports has been expedited.

(iii) The despatches of urea from plants/ports have been accelerated.

(iv) Monthly despatches of urea have been programmed in consultation with the State Governments and the supplies have been intensively monitored to ensure timely and equitable distribution of the available material in conformity with the current demand of the States.

[English]

Super Bazar

35. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new suppliers introduced in the household, footwear and furniture department of the Super Bazar during the last 12 months, month-wise;

(b) the reasons for adding these items particularly when the Super Bazar had on its inventory those items from the established and reputed manufacturers;

(c) whether a steel almirah by the brand name 'Llyod' was introduced few months back;

(d) whether the almirah has been found of sub-standard quality; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against guilty officials?

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Introduction of new item is a normal trading practice and is allowed keeping in view the availability of range of items for consumer demands and their preference.

(e) In order to ensure quality standards, checks/ inspections are carried by Quality Control wing of Super Bazar and it was during one such check that it was found that the Almirah supplied by M/s. 'Lloyd' were not meeting the specifications approved for the supply. The supplies had been stopped forthwith and on the goods supplied by them 5% penalty to the cost value has been imposed.

Statement

List of Suppliers introduced between Feb. 94 to Jan. 95.

S.No.	Name of Supplier	Introduced on	Name of Deptt.
1.	M/s Zypher Shoe Factory	28.2.94	Footwear Deptt.
2.	M/s Charamkala Audhogyic Utpadan Sehakari Samiti Ltd.	2.2.94	-do-
3.	M/s Lloyd Safe Co.	21.4.94	Furniture Deptt.
4.	M/s Bhargava & Bhargava	7.12.94	-do-
5.	M/s Vital Display System Co.	9.11.94	-do-
6.	M/s Shivam Agencies	23.3.94	House Hold Deptt.
7.	M/s Federal Agencies	-do-	-do-
8.	M/s Beebay Enterprises	-do-	-do-
9.	M/s Mansarover Industries	-do-	-do-
10.	M/s Sumati Teflok Coatings	15.4.94	-do-
11.	M/s Emiclays	1.6.94	-do-
12.	M/s Sweet Home Appliances Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
13.	M/s Orient General Industries Ltd.	-do-	-do-
14.	M/s K.S. Agencies	15.6.94	-do-
15.	M/s Plazacable Electric Pvt. Ltd.	17.8.94	-do-
16.	M/s Prexton Cables India	31.8.94	-do-
17.	M/s Singer India Ltd.	21.9.94	-do-
18.	M/s Sehgal Sons Mktg. Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
19.	M/s Devi Dyal Aluminium Inds. Pvt. Ltd.	-do-	-do-
20.	M/s Suvudha Appliances	28.9.94	-do-
21.	M/s Delhi Plastic Emporium	30.11.94	-do-
22.	M/s Krishna Trading Co.	-do-	-do-
23.	M/s Dolphin Electric	7.12.94	-do-
24.	M/s Abhinav Enterprises	28.9.94	-do-

Dahod Workshop

36. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of a new wagon supplied by Private Wagon Builder and Rehabilitation cost of wagon in Dahod workshop;

(b) if rehabilitation of wagons is economical in comparison to trade, the action being taken to increase the out turn of Dahod workshop;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Rehabilitation cost of Box (Vaccum Air Brake) type wagon in Dahod Workshop is about Rs. 2.50 lacs. This type of wagon has not been manufactured/ supplied by the Private Wagon Builders for the past ten years.

(b) Comparison in cost is not possible as old Box wagons are being rehabilitated only in Railway workshops and not by trade and also no new Box wagons are being procured from trade. Outturn of rehabilitation is dependent on the arisings of old Box wagons requiring rehabilitation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Chemical and Fertilizer Units

37. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more subsidy to chemical and fertilizer units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of subsidy paid to chemical and fertilizer units in Rajasthan during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Subsidy on controlled fertilizers is the difference between the retention price of the individual units and the sale price fixed by the Government. Currently, only urea, which is a straight nitrogenous fertilizer, is covered under the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme. Presently, there is no proposal for any change in this regard.

(c) The details of the subsidy payments in respect of controlled fertilizers to the fertilizer units in Rajasthan during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Amount of Subsidy (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	— 76.29
1992-93	— 65.34
1993-94	— 106.73

Death of Leopards

38. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Leopard's rare species has become extinct with the death of two leopards in the Delhi zoo;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Captive Breeding Project in India has come to an end;

(c) whether the Government have gone into the reasons of death of the leopards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the zoo lacks in veterinary expertise and infrastructure to deal with the animals particularly the imported animals; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The report indicated that one of the leopards died on 14.11.1993, due to acute broncho Pneumonia and Chronic interstitial nephritis whereas the other one died on 26.3.1994 due to senile pulmonary emphysema.

(e) The veterinary facilities with the zoo are basic in nature. Specialisation in treatment of different types of wild animals are yet to be properly developed in India. However, the veterinarians treat the animals on the basis of their basic academic knowledge and broad experience.

(f) Indian veterinary Research Institute is taking steps to start a 9 month course for veterinarians on veterinary aspects of wild animals management.

Doubling of Railway Line

39. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for doubling the railway line from Delhi to Meerut;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). Multiple/double lines exist between Delhi and Muradnagar. It has been decided to take up the doubling between Muradnagar and Meerut city in the coming years.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Milk Supply in Delhi

40. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated daily requirement of milk in Delhi;

(b) how much of it is presently met by the Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to open more D.M.S. and Mother Dairy booths in Delhi, and

(d) if so the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The total requirement of milk in Delhi is estimated at 25 lakh litre daily.

(b) The Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) and Mother Dairy Delhi are supplying approximately 10.35 lakh litres of milk daily at present.

(c) and (d). As regards DMS decision has been taken to open new booths. As regards Mother Dairy, a statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Details of opening of new milk booths of mother dairy in Delhi

The Mother Dairy, Delhi has commissioned 400 Bulk Milk Vending Booths on the basis of sale potentials and viability of operation. In addition, the Mother Dairy has identified side for opening of more than 100 Bulk Milk Vending Booths during 1995-96 and have referred the same to D.D.A./ M.C.D. etc. the location are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Local Authority	Total No. of sites referred	Locations
1.	D.D.A.	26	Chitranjan Park, Rohini, Alaknada, Chilla, Saidulajab Pul Pahladpur, Pitampura, Lado Sarai, Zafrabad, Jhilmil Colony, Paschim Vihar, Mandawli Fazalpur, Housing Society, Priyadarshni Vihar, Jhilmil Colony Phase-II.
2.	M.C.D.	66	Shastri Nagar, Trinagar, Okhla, Indra Park (Palam-Colony), Subhash Nagar, Pankha Road, Badarpur, Samaypur Badli, Kanti Nagar, Chander Nagar, Nand Nagri, Nangloi Village, Okhla Industrial Area, Shalimar Bagh, Gowindpuri, Nirankari Colony, Loni Road, Badarpur Extension, Sangam Vihar, Khanpur, Masjid Moth.
3.	M.C.D., (Slums)	12	Dakshinpuri, Sultanpuri, Tiik Vihar, Daulatpur, Mangolpuri, Budhnagar (Naraina), Kalyanpuri.

[Translation]

Super Bazar

41. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one kilo packet of "Tata" salt sold from the branches of Super Bazar in November, 1994 was found to be under weight;

(b) whether these packets were returned by the South Avenue Branch/other branches on the complaint of consumers;

(c) if so, the details of action taken against the company for defrauding the consumers;

(d) whether the Government propose to order an inquiry into this case; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER

AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) No such packets were returned as there was no complaint recorded.

(c) to (e). Does not arise.

[English]

Passenger Facilities

42. SHRI JAGAT VIR SIGNH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic passenger facilities provided at Bilhaur and Kanpur stations of Uttar Pradesh are inadequate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) All basic facilities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled have been provided at both Kanpur and Bilhaur Railway Stations.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Industrial Pollution in Gujarat

43. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding industrial pollution in various districts of Gujarat during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to check pollution in the State during the above period; and

(d) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. We have received such complaints during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 & their No. received were 145, 173 and 199 respectively. Most of these complaints pertained to water pollution caused by the discharge of untreated or partially treated industrial effluent. Complaints have also been received about the air pollution caused by emission of particulate matter from soda ash, cement and chemical industries.

(c) and (d). Gujarat Pollution Control Board have carried out investigations in respect of these complaints and on the basis of investigation reports, initiated action in accordance with the provisions of the relevant regulations. During the last 3 years, 352 cases have been filed in

the courts against the industries violating the prescribed environmental standards. Further, the Central and State Governments have taken action to provide Common Effluent Treatment Plants at various industrial estates in Gujarat to enable small scale industrial units to treat their industrial effluent before being discharged. Finances are also being made available through World Bank assistance to install pollution control equipments in industries. The State Pollution Control Board has reported that most of the large and medium scale industries have provided adequate pollution control facilities and are operating these facilities satisfactorily.

Earthquake Victims

44. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage, out of the total earthquake victims of Latur and Osmanabad in Maharashtra which have been rehabilitated so far;

(b) whether the expenditure incurred thereon has been assessed;

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

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding mis-utilisation of funds meant for their rehabilitation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Pending permanent rehabilitation of 52 relocated villages under the Maharashtra Earthquake Rehabilitation Project, 25,000 affected families have been provided temporary shelters. Constructions of about 6,000 houses under the project has been completed and another 11,000 are under construction.

(b) and (c). According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra, Rs. 36.00 crores has been spent so far for constructing about 6,000 houses under the project.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Does not arise.

Subsidy on Imported Urea

45. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
PROF. PREM DHUMAL:

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

(a) whether there is likely to be a shortfall for payment of subsidy on imported urea in 1994-95;

(b) if so, the estimated amount thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the shortfall is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Based on the estimated quantity of imports and prevailing international prices, a provision of Rs. 1166 Crores has been made for payment of subsidy for import of urea during the current year.

The adequacy of the provision is under constant review and if need be, additional requirement of funds will be placed before the Parliament as per the prescribed procedure.

Public Distribution System

46. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any national policy for implementing a new uniform public distribution system in the whole country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS) in its meeting held on 21-3-93 set up a Committee of Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies in State Governments to give their recommendations for formulating a National Policy on PDS in the country. The Committee of Ministers, has among other things, made the following observations:—

(i) In a country as large and diverse as India a rigidly uniform system of PDS can not be implemented.

(ii) Unless the relatively better off sections are excluded from entitlement to PDS foodgrains, the poorer households can not be provided with more foodgrains.

(iii) All States/UTs should implement the principle of exclusion of the relatively better off categories so that access to PDS can be restricted to the needy

and deserving sections of the society.

Restoration of Fertilizers Subsidy

47. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Governments have demanded for restoration of fertilizer subsidy to 1992 level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). Only Karnataka has asked for restoration of fertilizer subsidy on decontrolled fertilizers to the 1992 level on the ground that their consumption has decreased because of hike in their prices.

(c) As the Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers were decontrolled on the recommendations of the JPC, there is no proposal at present to go back to 1992 level.

River Pollution

48. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the water of certain rivers has been polluted;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have made any study in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government has a National Water Quality Monitoring Network to regularly monitor the river water quality, based on the results of National Water Quality Monitoring data, 13 heavily polluted and 26 medium polluted river stretches have been identified.

Government had launched the Ganga Action Plan in 1985 and the Yamuna Action Plan in 1993 to clean the polluted stretches of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. Schemes are also under formulation for cleaning the polluted stretches of other major rivers in the country, as part of the proposed National River Conservation Action Plan, which is in the final stages of formulation.

[Translation]

Concessions for Journalists

49. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the provisions of facilities to be provided by the Railways to the journalists recognised at State level;
- (b) whether such facilities are being provided to the journalists recognised at district level also;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) At present, Rail travel coupons at 25% concessions in First Class and 50% concession in Second Class/Sleeper Class, for journeys upto 2500 Kms. per month on bonafide press work, are issued to Press Correspondents accredited to the headquarters of State Governments/Union Territories, and residing within a radius of 25 Kms. of the respective capital.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The scope of existing concessions is not being enlarged due to financial constraints.

[English]

Irregularities in Reservations

50. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SURAJ MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are number of touts who collect the reservation in advance in large scale from Railway reservation authorities;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last six months, zone-wise;

(c) whether existing rules of the Railways are not sufficient to check these irregularities and to punish the touts; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). A total number of 1416 such cases were detected during August, 1994 to January, 1995. The Railway-wise break up is as under:—

Railway	No. of cases detected
Central	10
Eastern	368
Northern	16
North-Eastern	nil
Northeast Frontier	nil
Southern	239
South-Central	104
South-Eastern	116
Western	563

(c) and (d). The existing provisions for dealing with such cases were made more stringent in the Railways Act, 1989. To check the activities of touts, surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance staff at the station premises and also in the trains.

Vacant Posts

51. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several zonal Railways and production units are being run without a General Manager;

(b) if so, the names and other details thereof;

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The posts of General Managers on five zonal Railways, viz., Northern, North Eastern, Southern, South Central and South Eastern Railways and three production units, viz., Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Diesel Locomotive Works and Wheel & Axle Plant are being manned by making local arrangements.

(c) and (d). Proposals for appointments in these posts have already been sent for approval of the competent authority.

New Railways Lines

52. SHRI ANIL BASU:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for construction of railway line from Bardhaman to Tarakeswar via Arambagh and extend it further to Bishnupur and 3rd railway lines between Bandel and Bardhaman and Chandrapur to Shaktigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether there is no direct rail link between Bardhaman and Purulia;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Bardhaman is linked to Purulia via Asansol.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal to introduce a direct train between Bardhaman and Purulia via Asansol due to operational and resource constraints.

Toxic Wastes

53. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sweden and other countries are using this country as a dumping ground by exporting their toxic waste material;

(b) if so, the details of the assessment, if any, made

by the Government and the nature and quantity of the toxic waste exported by these countries to India annually;

(c) whether these toxic waste affected the environment and vegetation; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the dumping of toxic waste in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, have notified the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, which provides for regulating the generation, collection, storage, transport, treatment, disposal and import of hazardous wastes. According to Rule 11 the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw material, after examining each case on merit. Any import of hazardous wastes would come under the purview of these Rules.

Annual Plan

54. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the States whose Annual Plans for 1995-96 have been approved till 31st January, 1995;

(b) the States whose annual plans are under review;

(c) whether the discussions in regard to finalisation of annual plans with all State Governments have been held; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (d). Annual Plan sizes of the following States for the year 1995-96 have been finalised:—

(1) Kerala, (2) Haryana, (3) Mizoram, (4) West Bengal, (5) Assam, (6) Meghalaya, (7) Nagaland, (8) Tripura, (9) Punjab, (10) Himachal Pradesh, (11) Rajasthan, (12) Tamil Nadu, (13) Madhya Pradesh (14) Goa, (15) Sikkim and (16) Karnataka. Of these 16 States, official level discussions for finalisation of detailed sectoral outlays have been concluded for Kerala, Haryana, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab and Rajasthan. Official level discussions for the other States have been scheduled and will be concluded after proposals in this regard are received from the State Governments.

Annual Plan sizes for 1995-96 of the remaining nine States could not be finalised so far for various reasons such as holding of elections, want of proper assessment of States' own resources, etc.

Retention and Sales Prices of Fertilizers

55. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the gap between the retention price and the sales price of fertilizers has been increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the implications of such increasing gap on the economy; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The gap between the retention price (i.e. the cost of production plus the return on network as assessed by the Government for individual units) of the controlled fertilizers and the statutorily notified sale price is paid by the Government as subsidy. While in the case of individual plants there are instances of production in this gap, on overall basis the gap is on the increase because of increased cost of production and non-adjustment in full of these increases in the sale price to the farmers.

To contain the mounting subsidy bill, all phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were decontrolled w.e.f. 25.8.1992. Further, the price of urea was increased by 20% w.e.f. 10.6.1994 and simultaneously low analysis nitrogenous fertilizers were removed from the price control.

[Translation]

20 Point Programme

56. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated to each State under 20-Point Programme during the last two years; and
- (b) the funds utilised by each State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b). The Planning Commission does not allocate funds specifically under the 20-Point Programme. The State Governments provide for different items of the 20-Point Programme under sectoral heads in their Annual Plans. The Department of Programme Implementation monitors only the physical performance under selected items of the 20-Point Programme. Therefore, information regarding financial performance is not available.

[English]

Feroke River Bridge

57. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work on the Feroke River Bridge of the Railways has been started;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and
- (e) the cost escalation due to delay in executing this work in time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. But due to unusual conditions of river bed in the middle of stream, the work on construction of Piers 1,2,3 & 4 could not progress as per the original construction method. Work on abutments and piers 5 & 6 has been completed.

Due to revision in methodology of construction, revised commercial offer has since been obtained from the contractor.

(d) The balance work will require approximately two full working seasons for completion after award of the revised contract.

(e) The delay is mainly on account of technical problems, which may result in increase in cost. The quantum of increase depends upon the revised value of contract.

Task Force for Aquaculture

58. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have constituted a Task Force for Aquaculture;
- (b) if so, the composition, terms and references thereof; and
- (c) the status of this Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a). Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a Committee for drafting guidelines for States regarding environmental safeguards for shrimp aquaculture.

(b) and (c). The Committee consists of 10 members under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary In-charge of Fisheries of this Department. Members are drawn from Ministries of Agriculture, and Environment & Forests; Marine Products Export Development Authority; Indian Council of Agricultural Research; Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture; State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal; private

sector and Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery.

The terms of reference of the Committee include review of the present status of shrimp aquaculture in the country vis-a-vis its socio-economic and environmental impact and drawing up suitable guidelines, indicating the measures to be adopted in the environmental monitoring and environmental management plans to be incorporated in the shrimp aquaculture projects for mitigating the adverse impacts, if any of aquaculture on the environment.

[*Translation*]

Railway Projects

59. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many development projects of Railways have been suspended due to resource constraints;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to solve this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The following projects have been temporarily frozen due to constraint of resources:

New line:	Howrah-Amta
Gauge Conversion:	Lalkua-Kashipur
	Samdhari-Bhildi
	Mehsana-Patan

(b) and (c). Efforts are being made to get more funds from Planning Commission under these Plan Heads.

(d) The work will be taken up when resources become available.

[*English*]

Foot Overbridges in Kerala

60. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the foot overbridge at Tellichery Railway Station in Kerala has commenced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) whether passenger amenities commensurating with the revenue earnings at this station have been provided;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to introduce computer system at Tellichery station; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). There is no proposal at present for construction of a foot overbridge at Tellichery Railway station.

(d) and (e). Passenger amenities, at Stations, are provided based on volume of traffic handled. Tellichery Railway Station has been provided with two high level platforms, a waiting hall measuring 262 sqm., shelters on platforms measuring 2352 sqm., 9 water taps, adequate seating arrangements, 6 latrines, etc. Improvements to waiting hall have been carried out recently at a cost of Rs. 1.84 lakh. As a measure of further development, works pertaining to provision of shelters on platforms No. 1 & 2 and improvements to lighting have also been taken up at a cost of Rs. 8.54 lakh. These facilities are considered adequate commensurate with the volume of traffic dealt with at Tellichery.

(f) and (g). Work of provision of computerised reservation at Tellichery has been taken up and targeted for completion during 1995-96.

Research on Drip Irrigation

61. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been carried out about the use of drip irrigation for coconut cultivation; and

(b) if so, the details and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research on drip irrigation on coconut is in progress at (a) The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, (b) Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, Calicut, (c) Kerala Agricultural University, (d) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, (e) Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University.

The experiments conducted on coconut indicate that (i) drip irrigation with 30 litres of water/day/tree is sufficient for coconut under Kerala conditions, (ii) for avoiding clogging problem one mm micro tube seems to be sufficient since discharge rate is high, (iii) for drip system in laterite soils using four emitters / tree with a discharge rate of 2 litres/hour was found adequate.

[*Translation*]

Jaunpur Railway Station

62. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to beautify the Jaunpur railway station of Uttar Pradesh and its surroundings;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated and the financial allocations made on this account; and

(c) the time by which the beautification work is likely to be started and the likely time of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. As both, Jaunpur and Jaunpur City, stations are being maintained properly as per norms, there are no proposals to further beautify the stations.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Public Distribution System

63. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that the Public Distribution System stands paralysed in the tribal areas of Gujarat for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of essential commodities and smooth functioning of the Public Distribution System in the tribal and backward areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Central Government has not received any specific complaints regarding failure of PDS in tribal areas of Gujarat.

(c) Central Government has been making allocation of foodgrains at specially subsidised prices in the RPDS areas in Gujarat which include the Blocks covered under the Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP). Additional allocations have been earmarked and allocated to the Government of Gujarat for distribution in these areas. The functioning of PDS and RPDS was recently reviewed with the States/UTs including Gujarat and State Government requested to pay special attention to the offtake of foodgrains in RPDS areas.

[English]

Food Items for Pantry Cars

64. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ. No. 2258 dated August 9, 1994 regarding food items for pantry cars and state.

(a) the procedure adopted by the Northern Railway to procure/buy food items including biscuits for pantry cars for the trains emanating from Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) the details of such food items purchased during the last one year, quantity-wise, item-wise, brand-wise, source wise, rate-wise and procedure-wise;

(c) the reasons for not purchasing these items from the leading manufacturer(s)/their suggested authorised distributors or the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(d) the corrective steps taken to buy the food items including biscuits from Kendriya Bhandar and leading manufacturers to check any possible irregularity therein?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The procurement of raw material for preparation of food items is made from standard/government sources such as Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandars and other similar units. Biscuits are purchased on rate contract basis either directly from the approved firms/manufacturers or their authorised distributors.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Statement

Details of major food items purchased by the Base Kitchen, New Delhi from January, '94 to December, '94 for service of meals and breakfast in the trains originating from New Delhi.

Sl. No.	Name of Items	Brand	Source	Procedure	Quantity	Average rate Rs.
1.	Bread	Premium	Authorised Distributor	Rate Contract	48799 Nos.	8/-Each.
2.	Biscuits	Glucose	-do-	-do-	1470 CB	208/-per CB
3.	Red Chillies		Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar, Sharamik Udyog.	Rates prevalent on the day of supply	1450 Kgs.	35/-per kg.
4.	Haldi		-do-	-do-	1160 kgs.	30/-per kg.
5.	Ilaichi (Big)		-do-	-do-	484 kgs.	80/-per kg.
6.	Hot spices		-do-	-do-	362 kgs.	600/-per kg.
7.	Khush Khush		-do-	-do-	374 kgs.	70/-per kg.
8.	Besan		-do-	-do-	535 kgs.	19/-per kg.
9.	Atta		-do-	-do-	78675 kgs.	6/-per kg.
10.	Rice		-do-	-do-	35250 kgs.	22/-per kg.
11.	Pulses		-do-	-do-	10060 kgs.	19/-per kg.
12.	Vegetable Ghee Panghat No. 1		DCM, HVOC	Wholesale rates fixed from time to time	2726 tins	515/-per tin of 15 kgs.
13.	Eggs		Appd. Tenderer	Open tender	3,30,300 Nos.	115/-per 100
14.	Chicken		-do-	-do-	61,555 Nos.	43/-each
15.	Fish		-do-	-do-	20,660 kgs.	60/-per kg.

Sl. No.	Name of Items	Brand	Source	Procedure	Quantity	Average rate Rs.
16.	Frooty	Frooty	Manufacturer	Proprietary basis	11725 cases	120/-per case of 27
17.	Frozen Peas	"Safal"	Authorised Distributor	-do-	13,580 kgs.	29/-per kg.

Price of Cloves

65. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average price of cloves during each of the past three years;

(b) whether the price of cloves in the country has been declining continuously for the past three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether cost of production of cloves has increased during the above period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The annual average wholesale prices of cloves in some selected markets for the last three years are given below:

Rs. per kg.

Year	Nagarcoil	Bombay	Kottayam
1991-92	255	225	257
1992-93	230	157	233
1993-94	201	113	165

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decline in the prices of cloves in the major markets of the country is largely attributed to the increased supply of the commodity in the markets.

(d) and (e). The estimates of cost of production of cloves are not being generated by the Government.

Restoration of trains

66. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kanchanjungha Express and Sealdah-Mughal Sarai Express have been withdrawn and there is no other train on this route;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these trains are likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). 5657/5658 Kanchanjungha Express and 3133/3134 Sealdah-Mughal Sarai Express have been suspended for mobilisation of rolling stock for clearance of extra rush of traffic during Ardh Kumbh Mela at Allahabad. Alternative services are available.

(c) Kanchanjungha Express has been restored from 11-2-95 and Sealdah-Mughal Sarai Express is being restored from 16-02-1995.

Directorate of Millets Development

67. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2380 on March 15, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision with regard to transfer of the Directorate of Millet Development from Madras to Jaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location identified for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which this Directorate is likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a): No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

68. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total subsidy sanctioned for supply of fertilizers to the cultivators during 1994-95;

(b) the rate of subsidy on various products;

(c) whether the subsidy has been given to the manufacturers and included in the wholesale/retail price; and

(d) the estimated proportion of the volume of fertilizers subsidies which has been utilised by the small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) & (b). During 1994-95, under the scheme for concession on sale of decontrolled fertilizers to farmers, an amount of Rs. 250 crores has been sanctioned so far.

The rate of concession is Rs. 1000/- per tonne on MOP and indigenous DAP, Rs. 340 per tonne on SSP and ranging between Rs. 435—999 per tonne (depending on their P&K content) on indigenous complexes.

(c) and (d). The concession at the above rates is reimbursed to the manufacturers after the reports of sales of fertilizers to the farmers are verified by the State Governments. The scheme covers all categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

[Translation]

Sugarcane Production

69. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Government for increasing the production of sugarcane in the country;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the average sugarcane production and actual production during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have fixed the target for sugarcane production during 1994-95;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the estimated production likely to be achieved as per the available trends; and

(f) the funds provided to each State during each of the last three years and during 1994-95 (till date); to boost the sugarcane production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented so far to increase the production of sugarcane in the country. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on sugarcane has been proposed to be implemented during the remaining period of VIII Five Year Plan. Under this scheme emphasis is proposed to be given on training to the farmers, farm workers including women on newly developed production technology, demonstration, quality seed production, distribution of improved implements etc.

(b) and (c). The average production of sugarcane during 1991-92 to 1993-94 was 236.36 million tonnes. The year-wise actual production has been as under:

Year	Production (Million tonnes)
1991-92	253.99
1992-93	228.03
1993-94	227.06

(d) and (e). The target of sugarcane production for 1994-95 has been fixed at 250 million tonnes; against which the production is estimated at 245.61 million tonnes.

(f) In view of the answer given in part (a), question does not arise.

[English]

Funds for Agricultural Development

70. SHRI HARADHAN ROY:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for agricultural development during the current financial year to each State;

(b) the actual amount utilised by these States so far; and

(c) the State Governments which have sought additional funds during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The Planning Commission finalises the sectoral allocations for the Annual Plans of the States in consultation with them for different sectors of development. A statement showing state-wise outlays agreed to for Agriculture and Allied Sector for the current financial year (1994-95) is enclosed.

(b) The information regarding actual utilisation of funds is collected only after the end of the financial year.

(c) No additional outlays under Agriculture and Allied Sector under the State Plan have been asked for by the States while sending adjustment proposals for the Annual Plan 1994-95.

Statement

Annual Plan 1994-95
Outlays Under Agriculture & Allied Activities
(Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Approved Outlays
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6470
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4293
3.	Assam	13933
4.	Bihar	15802
5.	Goa	1134
6.	Gujarat	13331
7.	Haryana	7514
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10011
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9446
10.	Karnataka	22758
11.	Kerala	19225
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18505
13.	Maharashtra	37287
14.	Manipur	2451
15.	Meghalaya	4199
16.	Mizoram	2402
17.	Nagaland	2110
18.	Orissa	15012
19.	Punjab	8955

1	2	3
20.	Rajasthan	24555
21.	Sikkim	1292
22.	Tamil Nadu	24360
23.	Tripura	3226
24.	Uttar Pradesh	36768
25.	West Bengal	9600
Total—States		314639

[Translation]

Consumer Price of Milk

71. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether there has been an increase in consumer price of milk inspite of increased production of milk;
- if so, the average consumer price of milk at present at national level;
- the steps envisaged for increasing the milk production during the next two years along with the target set for 1994-95;
- whether the Government have issued licences to private sector after the Milk and Milk Products Order has come into force on June 9, 1995; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The consumer price of milk depends upon such factors as cost of production, collection, chilling, processing etc. Price of milk is lowest in the flush season (November, February) and highest in the lean season (May to August). The average price of milk marketed by the cooperative/public sector in the country during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 was Rs. 6.4, 7.5 and 8.0 per litre respectively.

(c) All round efforts are being made to increase milk production in the country. The strategies being pursued in this regard are as under:

- Genetic improvement of nationally important cattle breeds by selective breeding in their hometracts and upgrading in other selected areas;
- Cross-breeding of non-descript cattle with exotic dairy breeds;
- Genetic improvement of important buffalo breeds by selective breeding and upgrading of non-descript buffaloes in other areas;
- Development of feed and fodder resources;
- Organisation of effective animal health services to support the production programme;
- Implementation of Operation Flood Programme; and
- Integrated dairy development for non-operational, hilly and backward areas. The target set for milk production for 1994-95 is 63.5 million tonnes.

(d) No, Sir. The Milk and Milk Product Order 1992 is concerned with the registration of units.

(e) Does not arise.

Unreserved Trains

72. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to introduce fully unreserved trains on the more busy routes for the convenience of passengers; and
- if so, the details of the routes and the time by which such trains are proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The feasibility of introducing fully unreserved trains is under examination and action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

Strengthening of Railways

73. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have formulated any plan for streamlining and strengthening the financial position in various sectors of the Railways;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) In line with the past, an Action Plan has been launched on the Railways in 1994-95 also to augment earnings and reduce working expenses, inter-alia, to generate additional resources internally. The broad areas which the Action Plan is covering are:—

- Energy Conservation.
- Better asset utilisation.
- Elimination of redundant activities and wastage like:
 - Expeditious condemnation of Steam Locos, Steam Cranes, Steam Sheds etc.,
 - Closure of redundant yards etc.,
 - Critical control over consumption of high value items,
 - Cost control, cost reduction and cost effectiveness in all on-line and off-line activities,
 - Better Inventory Control.

(c) Implementation of the above Action Plan is a continuing exercise. However, due to implementation of

this a saving of about Rs. 250 cr. is contemplated in the Revised Estimates of the Ordinary Working Expenses in the current year. This is after absorbing the post-budgetary factors like hike in diesel and electricity tariffs.

[English]

Production of Fertilizers

74. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

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

(a) the total production of each of the fertilizers in the country during 1992, 1993 and 1994;

(b) the system being adopted to ensure availability of fertilizers to small farmers;

(c) the total demand made by the States for fertilizers during the above period;

(d) the gap between the demands and the supplies made to States in 1994;

(e) the reasons therefor; and

(f) the amount of subsidy proposed to be paid by the Government to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A statement showing the production of each of the fertilizers in the country during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 is attached.

(b) Crop season-wise fertilizer supply plans are

formulated to ensure timely supply of controlled fertilizers in the various States. However, ensuring availability to the different categories of farmers is primarily the concern of the State Governments. The overall availability of controlled fertilizers is regularly monitored in coordination with State Governments, fertilizer manufacturers, pool handling agencies and the Railways. Government also keeps a watch over the availability of decontrolled fertilizers.

With a view to improving availability of fertilizers to small farmers, Government have advised State Governments and fertilizer industry to make fertilizers available in small bags, particularly in hilly and inaccessible areas.

(c) to (e) The details of consumption, production and import of all fertilizer nutrients (N+P+K) in the last three years is given below:

	(Lakh Tonnes)		
	Consumption	Production	Imports
1992-93	121.55	98.63	29.88
1993-94	123.66	90.47	31.66
1994-95 (Estimate)	143.87	102.89	24.29
			(upto Dec. 94)

For production of fertilizers in the country, indigenous raw materials are available mainly for nitrogen. In the case of phosphate, domestic raw material constraints do not permit self-sufficiency in production. Potash is fully imported as there are no known and exploitable reserves of Potash in the country. In view of these limitations, the gap between the indigenous production and consumption is met by imports.

(f) Subsidy in respect of controlled fertilizers is being given to the manufacturers directly and not through the States. Even the special concessions on decontrolled fertilizers are not presently being routed through the States.

Statement

The Production of each of the fertilizers in the country during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94

(000 MT)

Name of Product	Production 1991-92			Production 1992-93			Production 1993-94		
	QTY	N	P	QTY	N	P	QTY	N	P
UREA	12830.7	5902.1	0.0	13122.9	8038.5	0.0	13148.3	6846.2	0.0
A/S	547.0	114.9	0.0	561.9	118.0	0.0	621.9	190.5	0.0
CAN	447.2	111.8	0.0	545.1	138.3	0.0	888.2	185.5	0.0
A/C	112.5	28.1	0.0	122.3	30.6	0.0	130.7	32.7	0.0
DAP	2865.3	515.3	1318.0	2595.4	457.2	1183.8	1950.5	351.1	897.3
20:20	654.5	130.9	130.9	859.6	171.9	171.9	882.9	176.0	176.8
SSP	3009.0	0.0	481.4	2250.7	0.0	360.1	1900.0	0.0	304.0
15:15:15	338.1	50.4	50.4	351.5	52.7	52.7	303.1	45.5	45.5
ANP (20.7:20.7)	278.8	57.3	57.3	290.1	80.1	50.1	287.2	55.3	55.3
17:17:17	895.0	118.2	118.2	890.4	117.4	117.4	483.7	54.4	82.2
10:28:26	335.5	33.8	87.2	281.3	28.1	13.1	251.0	25.1	85.3
12:32:18	323.2	38.8	103.4	275.1	33.0	88.0	193.2	23.2	81.8
14:35:14	18.8	2.8	6.8	29.7	4.2	10.4	10.6	1.5	3.7
19:19:19	175.8	33.4	33.4	122.9	23.4	23.4	129.4	24.6	24.8
29:28	382.2	107.0	107.0	342.9	96.0	96.0	284.2	79.8	79.6
18:20	103.2	15.5	20.8	104.7	18.8	20.9	87.8	14.0	17.8
23:23	148.3	32.3	32.3	168.4	38.3	38.3	10.2	2.3	2.3
14:28:14	55.0	7.7	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL:	23308.0	7301.3	2592.2	22712.8	7430.3	2306.2	21321.0	7231.2	1815.7

Sub-Urban Railway

75. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide Sub-urban railway facility to Bangalore City; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Push-pull DMU services are already running between Bangalore City-Tumkur-Arsikere, Bangalore City-Mysore, Bangalore City-Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore City-Yelahanka and Bangalore City White Field in Bangalore.

Forest Development in Andhra Pradesh

76. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a large scale depletion of forest land in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the Eastern Ghats, during the recent past;

(b) if so, the factors attributed to the same; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken/propose to take to develop the forest cover in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Comparison of State of Forest Reports 1991 and 1993 of Forest Survey of India shows that actual forest cover of Andhra Pradesh has declined by 34 sq. km. on account of Podu cultivation particularly in East Godavari, Srikakulam, Vishakapatnam and Vijaynagarum.

(c) The steps which the Government have taken/propose to take to develop forest cover of Andhra Pradesh are as under:

(i) Number of seedlings distributed and area afforested in the State during the last three financial years:

S.No.	Year	Area afforested (ha.)	Seedlings distributed (in lakhs)
1.	1991-92	56590	11775.91
2.	1992-93	47453	1102.63
3.	1993-94	34538	917.19

(ii) A World Bank-assisted integrated forestry development project is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh.

(iii) Involvement of people is being actively promoted for protection and management of forests in the state.

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

77. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought additional funds for implementing various Centrally sponsored schemes in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Casual Labourers in Railways

78. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of casual labourers in Railways are still waiting for re-appointment;

(b) if so, the latest position thereof as on 31.12.94, zone-wise; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for their reappointment?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) As per the extant policy, casual labourers borne on Live Registers and Supplementary Registers are re-engaged in their turn according to seniority on the availability of further work. The Casual labour awaiting re-engagement are given preference in the matter of engagement.

[English]

Shatabdi Express

79. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any views were obtained from People's Representatives of Dehradun regarding the timings of Shatabdi Express being run between New Delhi and Dehradun;

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

(c) the composition of the train in terms of various classes and whether the Government have catered for ordinary second class passengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The timings of trains are decided

keeping in view the availability of path/platforms at the originating/terminating stations as well as enroute and other operational feasibilities. The suggestions received from various quarters including public representatives are also kept in view.

The demands for introduction of Shatabdi type of train between New Delhi and Dehradun were received from Governor/U.P. and other public representatives.

(c) and (d). The train is running with a composition of one I A.C. Chair Car (Executive Class), seven A.C. Chair Cars and two Power Cars. Shatabdi type of trains are fully reserved air-conditioned trains and do not have second class accommodation.

EMPLOYMENT

80. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated jobs proposed to be created by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the actual achievement made in generating employment during the current plan in each State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) The Eighth Plan envisages creation of additional employment opportunities of around 43 million during the Plan period, corresponding to an average annual growth of 5.6% of the economy. In the first two years of the Plan during which the average annual growth of economy has been about 3.9%, around 12 million additional employment opportunities are estimated to have been created. No State-wise estimates have been made in this regard.

Hazardous Chemical Industries

81. SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hazardous chemical industries in Maharashtra as on March 31, 1994 and the locations thereof;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the number of such industries in the State during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the growth of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) In order to keep a check on the growth of hazardous chemical industries, 21 chemicals/group of chemicals have been included in the list of industries in respect of which industrial licensing is compulsory. Government permits manufacture of

hazardous chemicals after satisfying various aspects like safety, environmental angle, etc. As per the available information, at least 18 chemical industries are engaged in the manufacture of hazardous chemicals in the State of Maharashtra. Out of these, during the last three years, two new industrial units have been licensed.

Gauge Conversion

82. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved the gauge conversion work of Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The conversion of 235 Kms. MG Line to BG is estimated to cost Rs. 219.63 crores.

(c) In the coming years subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

Production of Roses

83. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval to the Mishan Flora India Limited Company for the production of roses of international standard in the country;

(b) if so, the names of places where such units are likely to be set up; and

(c) the time by which such units are likely to be set up?

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

(b) The unit approved for Mishan Flora India Ltd. Company is being set up in Karnal (Haryana).

(c) It is expected to commence production by end, 1995.

[English]

Accident of Churchgate-Virar Ladies Special

84. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner of Railway Safety, while conducting enquiry into the unusual occurrence involving 635 Dn. Churchgate-Virar Ladies Special on 13 October, 1993 on Western Railway, had made certain recommendations regarding certain local features on western Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the following-up action taken so far by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations made by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle include:—

(i) deputing lady constables to accompany ladies special trains, (ii) protective netting being provided on all electrical fittings to avoid pilferage by anti-social elements, (iii) leakage in roofs of the coaches to be rectified, (iv) checking entry of hawkers in ladies special trains, (v) providing speeder emergency lighting in the coaches, (vi) improving the alarm chain apparatus, (vii) completing fire prevention measures, (viii) wider publicity through press and other media soliciting public empathy towards railway staff to avoid manhandling of them at accident spots, and (ix) surveying desirability of continuance of ladies special trains, etc.

(c) The following action has been taken by the Railway on these recommendations:— (i) lady constables have been deputed on ladies coaches by Government Railway Police authorities, (ii) protective netting on all electrical fittings has already been provided, (iii) repair of leaking roofs are being done as a regular measure before the onset of every monsoon. Other minor repairs and patch work is being done invariably on all rakes at the time of periodical over-hauling, (iv) checks against entry of hawkers and college boys, etc. in ladies coaches are done by launching special drives by associating police authorities, (v) for providing improved illumination level in the coaches incandescent lamps are being gradually replaced by flourescent tube lights, (vi) for improving working of the alarm chain apparatus, work of providing guide clips has been completed on all EMU rakes, (vii) fire prevention measures have been completed on all rakes, excepting 3 on which re-wiring work shall be completed very shortly, (viii) wider publicity through press and media have been launched soliciting public empathy towards railway staff and requesting them not to manhandle railway staff. Such publicity would be carried out at regular intervals, (ix) Ladies Specials have been found to be popular. Western Railway has increased the number of sub-urban services and have also introduced many other facilities for the convenience of the commuters.

Production of Rice and Wheat

85. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made about the production of rice and wheat produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether India is in a position to export these commodities;

(c) the total target production of these commodities set an and actually achieved during the above period;

(d) the details of arrangements made for storing the excess foodgrains in the country;

(e) whether the scheme of 'food-for-work' is also proposed to be reintroduced in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The targets and production of rice and wheat during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are as follows:—

(In million tonnes)

Year	Rice		Wheat	
	Target	Production	Target	Production
1991-92	76.50	74.68	56.50	55.69
1992-93	77.25	72.86	57.00	57.21
1993-94	78.50	78.97	58.50	59.13

(d) The Government through the Food Corporation of India has the following course of action to meet the additional storage capacity required on account of excess stock of foodgrains:-

(i) All the vacant storage capacity available with State and its agencies are being shared.

(ii) All the Warehousing Corporations (Central and State) have been approached for additional storage capacity requirement.

(iii) The construction of on-going godowns is being expedited.

(iv) FCI's own CAP capacity is being enhanced to the extent land is available in the existing godown premises as well as on land in its possession where godown is still to be constructed.

(v) National Airport and Defence Authorities are being approached for hiring abandoned airstrips for creating large CAP complexes.

(vi) Encouraging private parties to construct plinths for open storage as well as covered godowns.

(e) to (g) Under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), a part of wages is paid in the form of foodgrains not exceeding two kilograms per man day and 50% of wages in cash. The payment of wages in foodgrains is however optional depending upon the prices of foodgrains in the open market so that workers are enabled to obtain foodgrains at prices not higher than which may be notified by the Government of India. During the year 1994-95, 12 lakh Mts. of foodgrains have been allotted for the implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme.

f16Pollution causing Industrial Units

86. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any country-wide survey was undertaken to identify the pollution causing industrial units;
- (b) if so, the details of these units, state-wise; and
- (c) the action taken against these polluting units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A survey has been undertaken in the large and medium sectors in the identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries. The details of the survey, state-wise, is given as follows:—

S. No.	State/UT	Total number of units identified
1.	Andhra Pradesh	173
2.	Assam	15
3.	Bihar	62
4.	Goa	06
5.	Gujarat	177
6.	Haryana	43
7.	Himachal Pradesh	09
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	08
9.	Karnataka	85
10.	Kerala	28
11.	Madhya Pradesh	78
12.	Maharashtra	335
13.	Meghalaya	01
14.	Orissa	23
15.	Punjab	45
16.	Rajasthan	49
17.	Sikkim	01
18.	Tamil Nadu	119
19.	UT Chandigarh	01
20.	UT Delhi	05
21.	UT Pondicherry	06
22.	Uttar Pradesh	224
23.	West Bengal	58

(c) These units have already been directed to install adequate pollution control systems on a time bound basis to comply with the prescribed standards.

[Translation]

Development of Seeds

87. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the seeds of various foodgrains and commercial crops developed by the scientists of the country during the last three years; and
- (b) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the development of such seeds during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) (a) The

details of the seeds of various foodgrains and commercial crops developed by the Scientists of the country during the last three years are given in statement enclosed.

(b) The varieties are developed through multidisciplinary research and as such there is no separate funding only for the development of varieties.

Statement

The details of the seeds of various foodgrains and commercial crops developed by the scientists of the country during the last three years.

1	2
1. Rice	: Heera, CST-7-1, Haryana Basmati-1, VL Dhan-221, IR 64, CR-1002, Lunishree, PNR-381, Ajaya, Narendra Dhan 359, Pusa 44-33.
2. Wheat	: MACS-2496, Malviya Wheat-318, PDW-215, Samgam, HS-295, WH-592, HS-277, HPW-42, HP-1633, DWR-162, K-88, PBW-299, DL 784-3, GW-173, GW-190, DWR-195, UP-2338, DL 803-2, HI-8381, WH-896, HP-1731, DT-46.
3. Maize	: Trishulata, Deccan-107, Deccan-109, Mahikanchan, Megha, KH-593.
4. Sorghum	: PKV-400(SPV-860), Palyur, CJ-38, CSV-15 (SPV-946), SSV-84, COH-4 (SPH 506), CSH 14, CSh 13 R, K-10, CSV 14 R.
5. Barley	: Alfa-93, HBL-113.
6. Pearl Millet	: ICMP 8203, MP 155, Pusa Safed, Mallikarjuna, Mukta, RCB-169, HHB-67, VBH-4, ICMB-155, Eknath, MLEH 104, RAJ-171, MH 322 (Pusa 322), ICMV-221.
7. Small millet	: (i) Finger millet VL 124, VL 149, A 404 GPUK-3 (ii) Kodo millet L 5224 (Nagarjuna), L 1387 (Sagar) (iii) Foxtail millet Bhawna. (iv) Barnyard millet KE 12, (Chandan), VL 21, VL 29
8. Chickpea	: JG 74, RSG 44, EG 372, Sadabahar, ICCV-10, Uday (KPG-59).
9. Pigeonpea	: Jawahar Arhar 4, ICPL 87119, Pusa-9, Paras (H 82-1)
10. Moongbean	: RMG-62, BM-4, MUM-2, MH 88-111.
11. Urdbean	: TPU-4, LBG-402.
12. Fieldpea	: Jawahar Matar-5, JP-885, KFP-103
13. Lentil	: JL-1, Sapna, Pant Lentil-4, Shivalik (Lens-4076)

1	2
14. Rajmash	: Malviya Rajmash-137, HPR-35.
15. Sugarcane	: Co 86032, Co 87025, Co 87044, Co 87263, Co 87268.
16. Cotton	: SVPR 1, LK 861, L 381, LRK 516, RST 9, CICR HHL, Mech 4, NHH 390, CAHH 468, TM 1312, JKHYZ, CICR HH2.
17. Tobacco	: 1. FCV Tobacco: Gauthami, Vrigina 1158 Tobacco Natu, Natu Special. 2. Chewing Tobacco: Meenakshi, Vaishali Special.

[*Translation*]

Felling of Trees

88. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban felling of trees and impose stern punishment in case of violation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to check illegal/indiscriminate felling of trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The felling of trees is controlled under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and State Government legislations, which prescribe the penalties for illegal felling. Offenders are prosecuted under the relevant law. State Governments also take suitable precautionary measures by way of intensive patrolling and peoples' participation in Forest Protection Committees.

Chhitauni-Bagaha Bridge

89. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction work of Chhitauni-Bagaha railway bridge over river Gandak under the North Eastern Railway is likely to be completed;

(b) whether the gauge conversion of the said line is likely to be completed during this period;

(c) the amounts contributed by the concerned State Government and other institutions; and

(d) the time by which the outstanding amount of their contribution is likely to be paid by them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) By 31.12.96 provided the other participating co-sharers viz., Ministry of Water Resources, Government of U.P. and Bihar release their share of funds.

(b) The line is being constructed as a BG line.

Connecting MG lines from Valmikinagar to Narkatiaganj and Khadda to Gorakhpur are proposed to be converted subject to availability of resources.

(c) Ministry of Water Resources, Governments of U.P. and Bihar have so far deposited amounts of Rs. 7.10 crores out of Rs. 29.63 crores, 10.50 crores out of 32.12 crores and 12.97 crores out of 26.20 crores respectively.

(d) The other co-sharers are being frequently pursued at the highest level to pay their dues as per agreed programme but they have not been forthcoming. They are required to pay their entire shares by 31.3.96.

[*English*]

Navjeevan Express

90. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to extend Navjeevan Express upto Hapa (Jamnagar) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

[*Translation*]

Assistance to Small Farmers

91. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to stop the assistance being provided to small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this matter was raised in the Conference of the Chief Ministers held in Delhi during 1994; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government on the suggestions made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) No Chief Minister Conference on Agriculture was held during 1994. However, in the Chief Ministers Conference held on 5th March, 1993 some of the States raised the issue for continuation of the scheme for Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers and thereby a proposal has been made for continuation of this scheme during the remaining period of 8th Plan to complete the incomplete works.

Extension of Sangam Express

92. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Sangam Express upto Varanasi in view of the public demand;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to attach an AC second class coach in the said train; and

(c) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) One AC 2 Tier coach is already running by Sangam Express on daily basis.

[English]

Social Statistics

93. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Statistics has taken fresh initiatives for improving the coverage and quality of social statistics; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) To make available time series data on various indicators on different areas of social concerns, a regular publication entitled "Selected Socio-Economic Indicators for India" is being brought out from 1987. Latest issue of the publication pertains to 1992. The number of indicators included in publication had increased from 46 in 1987 to 74 in 1992.

In view of the increasing importance of gender specific statistics, within the realm of social statistics, a project on the development of such statistics was undertaken by the Department of Statistics in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), in implementation of which a National Workshop on Improvement of Statistics on Gender Issues was organised during April 28-29, 1994 to ensure interaction between users and producers of data on different gender issues. The workshop identified key gender issues specific to India and the statistical indicators on which time series data need to be collected.

The National Sample Survey Organisation under the Department of Statistics regularly collects data on employment-unemployment, literacy, housing conditions etc., in their socio-economic surveys. Initiatives had been also taken to collect information on newer areas of concerns e.g., gender issues, problems of weaker sections, ageing, maternal and child health, etc.

Indian Forest Act, 1927

94. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated countrywide consultations to finalise the draft of a legislation to replace the Indian Forest Act, 1927;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be finalised;

(c) whether the views of the State Governments would be taken into consideration before finalisation of the legislation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether several non-governmental organisations have opposed the proposed Forest Bill;

(f) if so, the apprehensions raised by these non-governmental organisations; and

(g) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (g) A draft of a legislation to replace the Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been circulated to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for their views. Their views would be taken into consideration in the finalisation of the draft. Consultations have also been initiated with non-governmental organisations whose views would also be taken into consideration. Some non-governmental organisations have differed with some of the provisions and have emphasized that there must be adequate provision to ensure the participation of local people, particularly tribals, in forestry.

Night Train Between Lucknow and Kanpur

95. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of hardships encountered by the commuters for not having night train service between Lucknow and Kanpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing such train (after 5063 UP from Lucknow at 20.55 hrs.) on the route; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No such hardships have come to the notice of the Government as there is not much regular commuter traffic between Lucknow and Kanpur after 2055 hrs.

(b) Neither commercially justified due to lack of traffic nor feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

White Revolution in Gujarat

96. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to white revolution, animal husbandry and fisheries being implemented in Gujarat;

(b) the amount of allocation made during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the targets fixed and actually achieved in respect of these schemes during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) (a) and (b): The details of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to White Revolution, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, being implemented in Gujarat, alongwith the funds released during 1992-93 and 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) As a result of the Implementation of various Schemes, the targets fixed and achievements made in respect of milk, egg and wool production and the area covered under the scheme of development of fresh water aquaculture, in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as under:

	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
i. Milk (million tonnes)	3.45	3.80	3.55	3.55	3.80	3.65
ii. Egg (million)	3.50	4.73	3.60	3.60	5.00	3.70
iii. Wool (000'kg)	2.30	1.67	1.86	1.90	1.89	1.90
iv. Water area brought under fish culture (ha)	*	3899	*	3125	*	5761

*Targets not fixed.

Statement

Details of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes pertaining to White Revolution, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, being implemented in Gujarat, alongwith the funds released during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95
(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Extension of Frozen Semen Technology	—	1.20	—
2.	Assistance to Feed and Fodder Development	—	—	14.75
3.	National Project on rinderpest eradication	34.84	14.25	43.00
4.	Assistance to States for control of animal diseases	14.27	164.36	—
5.	Assistance to States for modernisation/improvement of abattoirs	—	26.28	22.75
6.	Integrated Sample Survey	22.13	20.00	14.35
7.	National Bull Production Programme	2.00	188.00	—
8.	National Ram/Buck Production Programme	22.50	15.00	—
9.	Development of Pack Animals	6.60	8.65	—
10.	Animal Husbandry Extension Programme	—	2.51	—
11.	Fishery Harbour at Minor Ports	30.56	109.63	—
12.	Development of Fresh Water Aquaculture	15.00	17.00	—
13.	Integrated Brackish water Fish Farm Development	11.50	36.16	—
14.	Development of coastal Marine Fisheries	173.60	233.00	101.00
15.	Welfare of Fisherman	1.38	—	—

[English]

New Railway Track

97. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to construct new Railway track in lieu of the existing one

between New-Jalpaiguri and Siliguri junctions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

[Translation]

Fake tickets

98. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases detected regarding sale of fake tickets in each zone especially on the Delhi-Saharanpur section during 1993-94 and upto December 1994;

(b) the action taken against the persons involved therein; and

(c) the effective measures taken to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) to (c): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Action Plan

99. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the measures are being adopted for achieving economy to meet the Corporate Plan objective of a 15% reduction in cost of Transportaion by 2000 A.D;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been proposed by Government to achieve the above objective;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the operating ratio is expected to improve during 1994-95;

(f) the extent to which it is higher than previous year; and

(g) the measures being taken by the Government to improve the operating ratio in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (d): continued efforts are being made to reduce the cost of operation. Various measures have been adopted towards achieving this goal. These include improvement in asset utilisation improvement in asset reliability, elimination of accidents, improving man power productivity and energy efficiency and thus, improving the operating ratio of the system. Since the Corporate Plan is spanning over 15 years from 1985-2000 the efforts are continuous and achievement can be observed in improved operating ratio.

(e) to (g): The budgeted operating ratio in 1994-95 has been kept at 85.4% as against 82.9% in 1993-94. A plan in this regard has been launched during the year. The above steps are expected to improve the operating ratio.

Railways Outlay

100. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mid-term review discussion on the Eighth Five Year Plan held recently with the Planning Commission by his Ministry;

(b) whether the Railways original plan projection for the Eighth Five Year Plan had been drastically scaled down by the Planning Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the original plan as projected by the Railways and the outlay actually sanctioned by the Planning Commission;

(d) whether the financial performance of the Railways during the first two and a half years has been satisfactory despite setbacks in the revenue earning sectors;

(e) if so, the details of the sectors where railways has suffered setbacks in revenue generation; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to keep up the revenue generation targets of the Eighth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The discussions on Mid-term review of Eighth Five Year Plan centred around the level of traffic materialising vis-a-vis the projections. With the economy poised to grow at a higher pace no revision was suggested by Planning Commission.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e): Yes, Sir. However due to disturbance in many parts of the country during 1992 and less offer of traffic from core sectors in 1993-94, the performance of Railways suffered a setback Particularly in freight revenue. The performance of Railway-vis-a-vis targets set in this regard is compared below for the year 1992-93 and 1993-94:

Freight Earnings
(Rupees in Crores)

Year	R.E.	Actuals	Variations
1992-93	11100	10903	(—)197
1993-94	12830	12557	(—)273

Apart from the above, freight outstanding are also increasing mainly because of the State Electricity Boards and Power Houses not making timely payment of Railway dues.

(f) An Action Plan was launched in 1992-93 and 1993-94 to strengthen the financial position of the Railways by augmenting earnings and containing working Expenses. As a result of this, it was possible for the Railways to contain the Working Expenses in 1992-93 and to reduce the same by about Rs. 200 crore in 1993-94. Similar steps to contain the working Expenses have also been taken in the current year. Suitable marketing strategies have been adopted for carrying more freight traffic. Efforts have been initiated to realise the outstanding dues from the major customers.

Haldia Petro-Chemicals Project

101. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Haldia Petro-chemicals Project has since been cleared by the Government;

(b) if so, whether investment and possible loan patterns have also been finally worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) As intimated by the Government of West Bengal the estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3600 crores which is proposed to be financed through debt-equity ratio of 2:1. A sum of Rs. 950 crores in the form of loan is proposed to be raised from financial institutions. The balance of the loan component will be availed of from banks and through public issue.

(d) Work on the project is continuing. The project is scheduled for completion in the first half of 1998.

Prices of Essential Drugs

102. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether any analysis regarding fluctuation in drug prices since the announcement of the New Drug Policy in September 1994 has been made by the Government;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the number of price-controlled drugs is less than the number of drugs proposed to be brought under price control;

(d) whether the entire range of life saving drugs has been or proposed to be kept out of price control;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and its impact on the consumers particularly from the weaker sections; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure availability of essential drugs at reasonable prices to common man and to control fast rising prices of these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT

OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the Modifications in the Drug Policy 1986, which were announced in September, 1994, the Drugs (Prices Control, under 1995 (DPCU) has been notified only recently on January 6, 1995 and no analysis has been made in this short period of about one month after its issue.

(c) to (e) The selection of drugs under Price Control included in the DPCU, 1995 is in accordance with the criteria enunciated in the Modifications in the Drug Policy and it is estimated that about fifty per cent of the drugs in the market (by value) are covered under Price control.

(f) DPCU has been issued in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the essential Commodities Act 1995 to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices. Any contravention of any of the provisions of the DPCU 1995 is punishable in accordance with the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act.

Theft of Booked Luggage

103. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the theft of luggage booked in 2723 and 2724 A.P. Express between New Delhi to Hyderabad or back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted in this regard;

(d) the number of such incidents and value of booked luggage stolen during 1994 till date, zonewise;

(e) the action taken against the persons involved in such incidents; and

(f) the concrete measures being taken to prevent such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) One case of theft from SLR of train No. 2723 A.P. Express Ex-Secunderabad to New Delhi was reported over Central Railway in which the entire stolen property valued Rs. 15,000/- was recovered with arrest of 4 criminals and dealt under the provisions of RP (UP) Act during the year 1995 (Upto January).

Besides, during the year 1994, a total of 14 cases of shortages of booked luggage from the SLRs/Luggage Van of train No. 2723 A.P. Express Ex-Secunderabad to New Delhi, valued Rs. 24,450/- were reported at New Delhi Railway Station. Similarly, 6 cases of shortages from SLRs/Luggage Van of train No. 2724 A.P. Express Ex-New Delhi to Secunderabad were reported at Secunderabad in 1994. The consignees have not declared the value so far.

During the year 1995 upto January, 11 cases of shortages of booked luggage from the SLRs of train No. 2723 A.P. Express Ex-Secunderabad to New Delhi have been reported at New Delhi Railway Station. The

consignees have not declared the value so far. While no such case has been reported from the SLRs of train no. 2724 A.P. Express Ex-New Delhi to Secunderabad at Secunderabad during the year 1995 (Upto January).

The enquires in all these cases are in progress to ascertain whether the shortages reported relate to criminal interference or are due to short loading, misdespatch or misdeclaration.

(f) RPF staff is being deployed to escort the SLRs of train No. 2723 and 2724 A.P. Express to contain such cases. Close coordination with GRP, Commercial Department of the Railways and local police authorities are being maintained to prevent such cases.

[Translation]

Remote Sensing Technique

104. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is possibility of adequate increase in the agricultural production and conversion of barren land into fertile one with the help of Space Technology and remote-sensing technique;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of increase in agricultural production registered so far with the help of the above technique alongwith the details of future comprehensive schemes of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Remote sensing techniques are valuable tools in assessing the status of soil resources. These cannot directly increase agricultural production. The national Bureau of Soil Survey and Land use Planning of Indian Council of Agricultural Research has extensively used this technique for mapping soils, assessing soil degradation and developing soil maps. Based on remote sensing information and ground truth the soil resource of the country are being mapped. This information, in turn will be used in developing suitable production strategies and efficient use of natural and other resources.

(c) The remote sensing techniques provide periodic updated and systematic information on natural resources related to land, water, forest, minerals, soils, oceans etc. The mapping of these resources at district, state and country level is expected to provide an efficient and powerful tool for resource managers, decision makers and planners. The over-all productivity will depend on the production strategies developed on the basis of this scientific information. The research programmes are being strengthened keeping in view these objectives.

[English]

Shortage of Sugar

105. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inadequate supply of sugar to the Fair Price Shops in Delhi and other parts of the country, the consumers were not able to get their quota from the Fair Price Shops during December 1994 and January 1995; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken/proposed to be taken to supply full quota of sugar to the Fair Price Shops during the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that adequate supply of sugar could not be made to a number of Fair Price Shops during December, 1994 and January, 1995. No such specific complaint was received from any other State Government/UT Administration during the same period.

(b) Reluctance of the fair price shops owners in Delhi to accept imported sugar and problems of co-ordination between Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation are reported to be the reasons for inadequate supply of sugar to Fair Price Shops in Delhi. The Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that they have decided to take over the distribution of levy sugar from FCI with effect from March, 1995. The validity period for lifting of sugar quota for December, 1994 and January, 1995 was suitably extended by the Central Government.

Resource Mobilisation

106. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of PANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have expressed concern over the poor resource mobilisation efforts by the State Governments during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the target set for mobilisation of resource in each State during the above period;

(c) the actual resource mobilised by each State during this period;

(d) the share of the Union Government in the mobilisation of resource; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government for resource mobilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (e): The approved plan outlay has been decided having regard to the commitment of the State's own resources and likely Central support. The State's resources/plan expenditure is reviewed every year in the

Annual Plan discussions at various levels (including at the level of Deputy Chairman and Chief Ministers/Governors). In case of shortfalls in resource mobilisation against the commitments made, the States have been advised, time to time, to take effective steps for mobilising the resources, improve the working of State level public enterprises and effect economy in non-plan revenue

expenditure, improved collections of small savings, etc. to avoid shortfalls in plan expenditure. State-wise details of the approved plan outlays, State's resources and Central support for first three years of Eighth Plan, actuals/preactuals/latest estimates of resources mobilised by the States and Central support made available and also Plan expenditure are given in the *Statements I to III attached.*

Statement - I

Approved outlay, State's on Resources and Central Support 1992-93

(Rs. Crores at current prices)

STATES	Annual Plan			Actual		
	Approved Outlay	States own Resources	Central Support	Plan Expenditure	State's Own Resources	Central Support
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Special Category						
1. Arunachal Pradesh	245.00	0.00 (-32.80)	245.00 (258.85)	237.90	4.21	280.11
2. Assam	960.00	0.00 (-650.55)	960.00	649.15	-462.01	1007.28
3. Himachal Pradesh	486.00	90.00 (-266.78)	396.00	489.50	-177.66	378.32
4. Jammu & Kashmir	820.00	0.00 (-704.38)	820.00	620.00	-320.58	867.03
5. Manipur	210.00	2.04 (-62.91)	207.96	156.82	-113.10	207.13
6. Meghalaya	241.00	23.47 (-54.79)	217.53	198.78	-50.00	195.70
7. Mizoram	160.00	1.81 (-42.86)	158.19	165.18	-33.08	167.93
8. Nagaland	185.00	0.00 (-177.91)	185.00	110.19	-187.65	206.45
9. Sikkim	110.00	1.10 (-41.36)	108.90	102.53	-20.09	108.87
10. Tripura	282.00	19.36 (-168.73)	262.64	220.00	-156.88	244.28
Total (A)	3699.00	137.78 (-2203.07)	3561.22	2950.05	-2116.84	3663.10
B. Non Special Category						
11. Andhra Pradesh	1660.00	305.17	1354.83	2401.41	718.45	1682.96
12. Bihar	2202.73	574.25	1628.48	1201.04	-251.64	1452.89
13. Goa	152.50	81.77	70.73	162.11	94.68	67.43
14. Gujarat	1875.00	1124.79	750.21	2382.49	1541.63	840.86
15. Haryana	830.00	427.61	402.39	751.30	351.04	400.26
16. Karnataka	1915.00	1056.65	858.35	2187.50	1373.64	813.86
17. Kerala	913.00	85.68	827.32	782.69	-37.18	819.87
18. Madhya Pradesh	2400.00	1181.12	1218.88	1979.15	662.49	1316.66
19. Maharashtra	3160.00	2025.58	1134.42	4584.34	3470.26	1114.08
20. Orissa	1405.00	240.56	1164.44	909.16	24.11	885.05
21. Punjab	1500.00	-619.19	2119.19	1018.45	96.53	922.12
22. Rajasthan	1400.00	369.01	1030.99	1460.36	430.65	1029.71
23. Tamil Nadu	1751.00	2905.60	1455.40	1935.14	597.18	1337.96
24. Uttar Pradesh	3853.00	12.42	3840.58	3054.80	-253.99	3308.79
25. West Bengal	1542.64	-145	1688.45	994.75	-143.96	1130.71
Total (B)	26559.87	7015.21	19544.66	25804.69	1673.89	17131.08
Grant Total (A+B)	30258.87	7152.99	23105.88	28754.74	6557.05	20794.11

Parantheses figures relate to totals.
Pre-actuals.

Statement-II*Approved outlay, State's on Resources and Central Support 1993-94*

(Rs. Crores at current prices)

STATES	Annual Plan			Pre-Actual		
	Approved Outlay	States own Resources	Centra. Support	Plan Expenditure	State's Own Resources	Cent. Supp
1	2	3	4	5	6	
A. Special Category						
1. Arunachal Pradesh	290.00	1.25 (-24.36)	288.75	263.91	3.99	279.5
2. Assam	1027.00	-118.07	1145.07	856.44	-561.38	1166.43
3. Himachal Pradesh	560.00	96.00 (-239.60)	464.00	560.00	-272.80	417.14
4. Jammu & Kashmir	880.00	0.00 (-683.38)	880.00	684.00	-1067.44	1110.80
5. Manipur	230.00	3.40 (-75.69)	226.76	177.36	-81.84	267.30
6. Meghalaya	281.00	14.00 (-55.10)	267.00	196.47	-111.68	245.86
7. Mizoram	185.00	2.50 (-22.56)	182.50	183.89	-60.94	212.91
8. Nagaland	203.50	1.38 (-173.47)	202.12	168.41	-193.02	289.18
9. Sikkim	120.00	1.21 (-48.84)	118.79	100.12	-33.72	118.32
10. Tripura	310.00	21.68 (-164.29)	288.32	218.00	-78.30	250.01
Total (A)	4086.50	23.35 (-1605.55)	4063.31	3408.60	-2457.13	4357.46
B. Non-Special Category						
11. Andhra Pradesh	1851.00	234.58	1616.42	2905.97	763.36	2142.61
12. Bihar	2300.00	498.40	1801.60	750.00*	-758.59*	1783.57*
13. Goa	170.00	107.35	62.65	152.32	96.44	55.88
14. Gujarat	2137.00	1358.13	778.87	1609.26	703.77	905.49
15. Haryana	920.00	395.80	524.20	782.74	411.31	371.43
16. Karnataka	3025.00	2139.10	885.90	2766.87	1610.36	1156.51
17. Kerala	1000.00	46.63	953.37	1037.56	156.69	880.87
18. Madhya Pradesh	2400.00	1106.53	1293.47	2296.15	751.23	1544.92
19. Maharashtra	3804.00	2587.76	1216.24	4105.23	2641.14	1465.09
20. Orissa	1450.00	236.86	1213.14	987.55	43.20	944.35
21. Punjab	1250.00	-146.68	1396.68	1007.70	-310.64	1318.34
22. Rajasthan	1700.00	571.90	1128.10	1694.10	464.02	1230.08
23. Tamil Nadu	2101.00	545.02	1555.98	2558.13	946.89	1611.24
24. Uttar Pradesh	4050.00	-192.95	4242.95	2674.23	-474.33	3148.56
25. West Bengal	1550.00	-96.71	1646.71	1009.67	-228.42	1238.09
Total B	29708.00	9391.72	20316.28	26338.48	6816.43	19797.03
Grand Total (A+B)	33794.50	9415.07	24379.59	29747.08	4339.30	24154.49

Parentheses figures related to totals.

*Revised outlay/Estimates.

Statement III

Approved outlay, State's own Resources and Central Support: 1994-95

(Rs. crores at current prices)

States	Annual Plan			Latest Estimates		
	Approved Outlay	State's own Resources	Central Support	Plan Resources	State's own Resources	Central Support
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
A. Special Category						
1. Arunachal Pradesh	335.00	3.00	332.00	333.48	-1.19	334.67
2. Assam	1051.00	-154.88	1205.88	539.00	-654.18	1193.18
3. Himachal Pradesh	650.00	211.84	438.16	127.98	-546.44	418.48
4. Jammu & Kashmir	950.00	0.00 B.	950.00	240.33	-1408.67	1649.00
5. Manipur	240.00	-30.00	270.00	194.95	-52.95	247.90
6. Meghalaya	281.00	-27.09	308.09	169.32	64.80	234.12
7. Mizoram	207.66	-18.08	225.74	129.02	-81.72	210.74
8. Nagaland	220.00	-32.50	252.50	63.16	-196.59	259.75
9. Sikkim	135.00	-16.00	151.00	94.98	-52.79	147.77
10. Tripura	310.00	-31.03	341.03	213.17	-64.86	278.03
Total A	4379.66	-94.74 B	4474.40	1849.45	-3124.19	4973.64
B. Non-Special Category						
11. Andhra Pradesh	2130.00	-60.59	2190.59	2010.37	-272.34	2282.71
12. Bihar	2400.00	331.95	2068.05	2400.00 †	331.95 †	2068.05 †
13. Goa	182.00	104.36	77.64	163.48	82.48	81.00
14. Gujarat	2240.00	1343.78	876.22	1475.00	596.56	878.44
15. Haryana	1025.00	371.71	653.29	855.55	302.26	553.29
16. Karnataka	3275.00	2094.95	1180.05	3138.73	1951.80	1186.93
17. Kerala	1260.00	214.41	1045.59	1576.43	180.84	1095.59
18. Madhya Pradesh	2750.00	1154.92	1595.08	1523.21	22.75	1500.46
19. Maharashtra	4400.00	2822.56	1527.44	5239.95	3352.51	1887.44
20. Orissa	1951.00	689.57	1311.43	1169.56	-39.48	1209.04
21. Punjab	1450.00	308.00	1142.00	1031.12	-162.49	1193.61
22. Rajasthan	2450.00	1008.54	1441.46	2345.11	903.65	1441.46
23. Tamil Nadu	2750.00	738.70	2011.30	2683.97	672.67	2011.30
24. Uttar Pradesh	4562.00	-114.07	4676.07	2988.70	-1792.04	4780.74
25. West Bengal	1706.00	-44.20	1750.20	1367.99	-179.82	1547.81
Total B	34531.00	10984.59	23546.41	29969.17	5951.30	23717.87
Grand Total (A+B)	38910.66	10889.85	28020.81	31818.62	2827.11	28691.51

Perenthese figures relate to totals.

† Annual Plan Estimates.

B Excluding (-) Rs. 656.77 crores of Jammu & Kashmir which was not included in Plan Resources.

Note: The Central Support and State's Own Resources do not tally with Plan Expenditure always as some States cover up the gap through deficit financing in case of shortage in Plan Resources.

Intercity Trains in Andhra Pradesh

(b) Does not arise.

108. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Guntur with other cities and towns in Andhra Pradesh through inter city trains during 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a): There is no such proposal at present.

Fishing Harbours in Kerala

109. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the fishing harbours sanctioned for Kerala during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the amount allocated for each of these harbours;

(c) the details of the work completed so far on each of these projects;

(d) whether the Government have asked the Government of Kerala to complete the work on these projects within the stipulated period; and

(e) if so, the response of the State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is Annexed.

(d) and (e): The progress of construction of fishing harbours is reported by the State Government from time to time and reviewed by a Central Monitoring Committee. State Government have shown keen interest to complete the projects at the earliest.

Statement

Year	Name of Fishing Harbour sanctioned	Total cost sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Government of India's 50% share (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	Details of work completed.
1991-92	1. Mopla Bay	564.00	282.00	65.00	(i) weigh bridge completed. (ii) Approach road to breakwater completed. (iii) Core of groyne laid upto 350m out of total length 550m.
	2. Chombal	556.00	278.00	90.00	(i) Land acquisition completed. (ii) weigh bridge completed. (iii) Approach road 60% completed. (iv) Compound wall Northside completed.
1992-93	—	—	—	—	—
1993-94	1. Thangassery (Stage-II)	569.50	284.75	25.00	(i) Main breakwater core completed 940 m out of total 1685 m. (ii) Leeward breakwater core completed 130m out of total 550m. (iii) Dormitory Completed. (iv) Inspection house completed. (v) Electrification of building completed.
1994-95	1. Kayamkulam	624.60	312.30	—	Initial arrangements to start the works are being made.

[Translation]

Ecological Development Programmes

110. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat has requested the Union Government to start Ecological Development Programmes in the State;

(b) whether the Government have also received such requests from other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests funds a number of schemes which have long term ecodevelopment objectives. There are also schemes implemented by other Ministries which have similar objectives. However, no proposal for starting "Ecological Development Programmes" has been received from the Government of Gujarat or other States.

(c) and (d) A list of schemes funded by the Central Government contributing to long term eco-development is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS	
A. National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board.	
1.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects.
2.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects.
3.	Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants.
4.	Grants in Aid to Voluntary Agencies.
B. Forestry and Wild Life Wing	
5.	Development of National Parks and Sancturaries.
6.	Project Elephant.
7.	Development of Infrastructure for Protection of Forests from Biotic Interference.
8.	Association of Schedule Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of degraded forests.
9.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods.
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
10.	Integrated Wastelands Development Projects.
11.	Drought Prone Area Programme.
12.	Grants in Aid to Voluntary Agencies.
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	
13.	Soil Conservation in the catchment of River Valley Projects.

[English]

Production of Jute

111. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated production of jute during 1994 season;
 (b) the estimated acreage under jute during 1994 season;

(c) the estimated increase or decrease in production and acreage in 1994 as compared to preceding season;

(d) the average market price of jute of standard quality as compared to the support price during the 1994 season; and

(e) the estimated stock of jute in the country with the cultivators at the end of 1994 season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The estimated production of jute during 1994-95 season is 74.1 lakh bales of 180 kgs. each.

(b) The estimated area under jute during 1994-95 season is 681 thousand hectares.

(c) The estimated increase/decrease in production and area in 1994-95 as compared to the preceding season i.e. 1993-94 is as follows:—

	1993-94	1994-95*	%increase/ decrease
Area (in '000' hectares)	697	681	(-) 2.3
Production (in lakh bales of 180 kgs. each)	73.8	74.1	(+) 0.4

*Provisional

(d) A Statement showing the wholesale average market price of jute of standard quality as well as minimum support prices during 1993-94 season is annexed.

(e) The estimates of the stock held by the farmers are not collected.

Statement

Wholesale prices of Raw Jute during the year 1993-94

		Rs. per quintal	
State/Centre/ Variety		Minimum Support Price	Annual Average
WEST	W-5	466.00	710.41
BENGAL Calcutta	TD-5	491.00	745.83
ASSAM Nowgong	TD-5	450.00	658.75
ORISSA Kedupatna	W-5	451.00	740.00
Danpur	W-5	451.00	693.33
BIHAR Purnea	TD-5	476.00	693.33

[Translation]

Shortage of Fertilisers

112. SHRI POOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

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

(a) whether there is shortage of fertilisers in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to open their agencies in the villages having one thousand population to bring the fertilisers within the reach of the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The availability of urea in the country, which is under price and movement controls, has been adequate with reference to the assessed demand of the States as reflected in the allocations made for the current Rabi season under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) except for temporary and localised shortages in some States. These shortages arose due to low opening stocks for Rabi 1994-95, changes in the demand pattern induced by favourable meteorological conditions, production cutbacks in some units and occasional slippages in the arrivals of vassels as well as movement problems.

Although balanced distribution of urea within the States is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, the occasional localised shortages experienced during the current Rabi season have been promptly met by rushing supplies from alternative sources. The improved overall availability of urea in the field has been able to support 5% increase in the sales during the period from 1.10.94 to 31.1.95 as compared to the corresponding period of the last season.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal for opening Central Government agencies in the villages for distribution of fertilisers. The policy of the Government is to widen the network for retail distribution of fertilisers, which comprises State Government agencies, cooperatives institutions and the private trade. The number of retail fertiliser outlets has increased from 1.56 lakhs in 1984-85 to 2.48 lakhs in 1992-93.

Agricultural Research

113. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether the country has made the required progress in regard to research and development work for the purpose of boosting the agricultural production;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has suggested to invest atleast one percent of agricultural gross domestic production on research and analysis;

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the total percentage of agricultural gross domestic production being spent on the research and development work on agriculture at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Committee on Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) (Sept. 1993) has recommended that the "outlay for agricultural research should be targetted to reach a graded level of one percent of total agricultural Gross Domestic Production, if there is to be any meaningful achievement in the country's research."

(d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in its inter-action with the Planning Commission has been emphasising this point.

(e) Based on documented latest figures (992-93) expenditure on Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Education by ICAR/DARE, it is 0.186%. This does not include expenditure by the State Government on the State Agricultural Universities and other research units operated by them. Since agriculture is a State subject, such expenditures are quite significant.

[English]

Allocation of Palm Oil

114. SHRI YELLAI AH NANDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Palm Oil supplied to various States during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the quota of palm oil to the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The allocation and lifting of imported palmolein for PDS (State-wise) during the financial years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is indicated (in the enclosed Statement).

(b) to (d). Imported edible oil is allocated to State/UTs on the basis of demand received from them and availability of stocks in the Central Pool.

Statement

Statewise Allocation and Lifting of Imported Edible Oils under PDS for Financial Years 1992-93 to 1994-95
(Qty. in MTs)

S.No.	State/UTs	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
		Alloc.	Lifting	Alloc.	Lifting	Alloc.*	Lifting**
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10094	9037	7000	4600	33500	28789
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	253	79	150	10	150	17
3.	Assam	400	50	200	30	900	390
4.	Bihar	1500	230	364	50	—	—
5.	Goa	1520	819	1050	758	2500	1946
6.	Gujarat	6150	4999	6000	4500	21800	17804
7.	Haryana	700	546	400	22	500	58
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1400	1786	300	667	700	621
9.	J. & K.	1100	285	500	—	—	451
10.	Karnataka	9000	7611	2700	893	8500	8369
11.	Kerala	9800	8851	9077	4994	6000	4899
12.	Madhya Pradesh.	2200	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	6500	6815	2600	2445	12500	6034
14.	Manipur	761	466	200	200	1000	—
15.	Meghalaya	600	214	200	53	1400	224
16.	Mizoram	700	679	200	120	1100	192
17.	Nagaland	600	841	652	416	3600	2011
18.	Orissa	1000	2499	1000	—	8800	4335
19.	Punjab	700	95	—	—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	700	81	1400	130	—	—
21.	Sikkim	685	285	300	250	600	300
22.	Tamil Nadu	7863	5999	1500	149	12000	10495
23.	Tripura	250	—	200	—	150	30
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1500	—	1200	—	—	—
25.	West Bengal	2000	573	2167	1586	10500	6484
26.	A. & N. Islands	600	404	100	100	230	50
27.	Chandigarh	100	12	100	—	—	—
28.	D. & N. Haveli	150	150	100	90	490	290
29.	Delhi	3229	3525	4000	1218	1795	1881
30.	Daman & Diu	250	251	250	168	795	475
31.	Lakshadweep	250	255	275	237	150	130
32.	Pondichery	1200	1037	225	208	4524	3529
TOTAL:		73855	58474	44910	23894	134184	99804

*Data upto 9.2.1995

**Data upto January, 1995

Revision of Rates by Super Bazar

115.SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the event of the approval of revision in rates the Super Bazar has been increasing the rates of the items already in its stock without getting stocks on the revised rates;

(b) if so, the details of the items of which rates were so revised in the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that objective with which the Super Bazar was set up could be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) Revision of rates is a normal trading practice which is undertaken depending on factors such as procurement cost, revision in taxes/excise duty and trend in the local market. The collection of detailed information sought regarding the items of which rates were so revised in the last one year involve heavy labour and manpower and will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved thereof.

(c) The business operations of Super Bazar are decided, controlled and monitored by the Managing Committee of the Store which ensures availability of quality products on competitive rates. The Government also reviews the working of Super Bazar periodically and suggests measures for further improvement in its working.

[Translation]

Plastic Technology Training Centres in U.P.

116. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up plastic technology training and service centres in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the locations thereof; and

(c) the time by which these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET), an organisation under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Deptt. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals), has centres located in various parts of the country including the Headquarter centre at Madras. One such centre is also located at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. As the existing centre at Lucknow is looking after the requirements of the Plastic and its allied industries in U.P., there is presently no proposal to set up any additional centre of CIPET in U.P.

[English]

Replacement of Level Crossings

117. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to replace level crossings in Bombay with road over bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The system of replacing a busy level crossing by a road over/under bridge is that the State Governments propose the works giving priorities. The Railways then examine the cases and include such of them in the Works Programme for which the various pre requisite formalities have been completed by the State Governments.

On suburban section of Railways in Bombay, following works of construction of road over bridges in replacement of level crossings are in progress/planning etc.

I. Details of Road over bridges under construction.

S.No. Details of Works

1. **Kalyan-Ambernath section**
Construction of road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 41 at Km.60/1.
2. **Kandivili-Borivili section**
Construction of road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 32 at Km. 33/7-B.
3. **Ville Parle**
Construction of Road and foot over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 22 at Km. 18/15-16.

II. Details of Road over bridges proposed to be included in Railway's Works Programme 1995-96.

S.No. Details of Works

1. **Santa Cruz-Ville Parle section**
Construction of road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 21 at Km. 19/4-5.
2. **Borivili**
Construction of Road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 33 at Km. 34/7-8.
3. **Kandivili-Milad section**
Construction of road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 31 at Km. 30/2-3.

III. Proposals received from the state Government which are under planning.

S.No. Details of Works

1. **Ghatkopar-Vikhroli section**
Construction of road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 14 at Km. 22/12-13.
2. **Bhandup-Mulund section**
Construction of road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 17. at Km. 27/10-11.
3. **Chunabhatti-Kurla section**
Construction of road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 1 at Km. 13/12-13.
4. **Sewri-Wadala section**
Construction of road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 7 at Km. 7/3-4.

Blow out in ONGC Oil Well

118. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
DR. K.D. JESWANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the impact of the environment damage on account of the blow out in the oil well at Pasarlaudi in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the assistance being provided to the local people by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) and (b) The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board has commenced continuous monitoring of ambient air quality at the blow out site. The details are as below:

- (a) Noise level ranges from 50 dBA to 115 dBA within a radius of 500 metres of the blow out site.
- (b) Hydrocarbons range from 1.0 to 8.0 micrograms per cubic meter.
- (c) Oxides of Nitrogen range from 10.0 to 225.0 micrograms per cubic meter.
- (d) Oxides of Sulphur range from 8.0 to 20.0 micrograms per cubic meter.
- (e) Particulate matter ranges from 65.0 to 116.0 micrograms per cubic meter.
- (f) Carbon Monoxide ranges from 700 to 7000 micrograms per cubic meter.

(c) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been asked to take the following steps:

1. Continuous on site monitoring for gases like carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulphide and to take appropriate precautionary measures to prevent any possible damage to the environment and human habitation in the area.
2. Appropriate measures right now to prevent any possible adverse affects on the environment once the fire is brought under control.
3. Necessary measures for preventing water pollution and to arrange for regular water quality monitoring in the surrounding areas.

(d) As reported by Oil and Natural Gas Commission there is no injury or casualty either to ONGC personnel or to the villagers nearby. As a precautionary measure immediately after the fire, district authorities have evacuated people who wanted to leave from the area, including from the villages of Bodasakurru, Peruru, Gopayalanka, Devarlanka, Mamidithota, Kadaripadu and Ventrikona.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion

119. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether soil-erosion has been taking place on large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the extent of soil-erosion in each State;

(c) the percentage of land affected by the soil-erosion; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government so far to check soil-erosion alongwith the achievements made therefrom, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) A number of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been launched by the Central Government through Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment & Forests. Projects to check soil erosion have also been undertaken with the help of World Bank and European Economic Community (EEC). Apart from above, State Governments are also implementing various soil conservation programmes through their regular State Sector Programme. State-wise achievements may be seen in the statement referred to in (b) and (c) above.

Statement

(Area in lakh ha.)

S. No.	State/UTS.	Geographical Area	Area affected by Soil Erosion*	%age of Area affected by soil erosion	Area treated till the end of 1993-94 (Estimated)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	276.82	115.02	41.55	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	83.58	24.44	29.24	0.37
3.	Assam	78.52	22.17	28.23	3.51
4.	Bihar	173.88	42.60	24.50	16.51
5.	Gujarat	195.98	99.46	50.75	30.35
6.	Haryana	44.22	15.91	35.98	7.86
7.	Himachal Pradesh	55.67	19.14	34.38	4.38
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	222.24	8.83	3.73	3.62
9.	Karnataka	191.77	109.89	57.30	40.16
10.	Kerala	38.87	17.57	45.20	5.68
11.	Madhya Pradesh	442.84	196.10	44.28	58.10

S. No.	State/UTS.	Geographical Area	Area affected by Soil Erosion*	%age of Area affected by soil erosion	Area treated till the end of 1993-94 (Estimated)
12.	Maharashtra	307.76	191.81	62.32	111.13
13.	Manipur	22.36	3.74	16.73	1.36
14.	Meghalaya	22.49	8.37	37.22	1.39
15.	Mizoram	21.09	4.21	19.96	0.80
16.	Nagaland	16.53	4.05	24.50	1.24
17.	Orissa	155.78	45.78	29.39	12.51
18.	Punjab	50.36	10.17	20.00	10.10
19.	Rajasthan	342.21	199.02	58.16	25.45
20.	Sikkim	7.30	3.03	41.51	2.43
21.	Tamil Nadu	130.07	36.40	29.98	19.32
22.	Tripura	10.48	1.67	15.94	1.79
23.	Uttar Pradesh	294.41	71.10	24.75	44.28
24.	West Bengal	87.85	10.33	11.75	5.57
25.	Goa	3.70	2.00	54.05	0.19
26.	A & N Island	8.29	2.59	31.24	0.07
27.	Chandigarh	0.11	0.01	9.09	0.02
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.49	0.12	24.49	1.25
29.	Delhi	1.48	0.74	50.00	N
30.	Daman & Diu	0.11	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	—	—	0.03
32.	Pondicharry	0.49	0.03	6.12	0.12
Total:		3287.78	1266.20	38.51	425.36

N=Negligible (less than 1000 ha.)

* includes Water erosion.

[English]

Cancellation of Trains

120. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the passenger trains have been cancelled during July to December, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zonewise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to restore these trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Projects of Rajasthan

121. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects pertaining to the fresh lease and renewal of lease of mines in Rajasthan are

lying pending for want of the forest and environment clearance;

(b) the details of other developmental projects lying pending with the Government for environment as well forest clearance;

(c) since when these projects are lying pending and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid inordinate delay in giving clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The names of the projects pertaining to the fresh lease and renewal of lease of mines, and other development projects in Rajasthan lying pending for forest and environment clearance alongwith details of pendency and reasons therefor are given in the attached statement;

(d) As and when a proposal is received with full details expeditious action is taken to finally decide the proposal.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Pending since	Reasons of pendency
1	2	3	4
A. Projects for Forest Clearance			
1.	Diversion of forest land for rehabilitation of Gudas and Villages situated in the Core area of Sariska National Park in Alwar district.	August, 1994	Under Process
2.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Gateway Hotels and Resorts in Bundi district.	January, 1995	Under Process
3.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Mudasad Minor under Mahi Project in Banswara district.	January, 1995	Under Process
B. Project for Environment Clearance Mining			
4.	Jhamarhotra Integrated Project of RSMML	February, 1994	Considered by the Expert Committee. Clarifications on forestry aspects awaited.
5.	Balda Tungsten fluorite project of HZL	February, 1994	Considered by the Committee. Revised EMP sought.
6.	Sanu Limestone mine of RSMML	July, 1994	Considered by the Committee. Clarifications awaited.
7.	Soapstone mine of Ms. Chandrakant Jain	January, 1995	Under Process
8.	Limestone mine of Ms Binani Zinc Limited	January, 1995	Under Process
9.	Marble mine Proposal of Shri A. Sharma.	January, 1995	Under Process
10.	Marble mine proposal of Shri R.K. Sharma.	January, 1995	Under Process

1	2	3	4
C Others Sectors			
11.	Dholpur Power (2×350 MW)	Thermal Station January, 1995	Under Process
12.	Bisalpur Project Department, Government of Rajasthan	Irrigation Irrigation January, 1994	Additional information is awaited.
13.	Oil Depot Bharatpur	at March, 1994	Under Process
14.	1.4 MTPA cement plant at Pali of M/s DLF Cement Ltd.	November, 1994	Under Process
15.	Pharmaceutical Plant of M/s ACE Laboratories Ltd., at Alwar	November, 1994	Additional information is awaited.
16.	Formulation Unit of M/s ACE Laboratories Ltd., at Alwar.	November, 1994	Additional information is awaited.

Agreement between India and Iran

122. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in multi-modal and container transportation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which India will be benefited;

(c) the projects that India will undertake in Iran under the agreement;

(d) whether Indian Railways Construction Company will submit its bid for construction of the 200 kms east-west railway within the next two months;

(e) the extent to which India will help Iran in the construction of railway line etc.?

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.R. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In terms of MOU, a sub-group comprising experts in Ports & Shipping, Railways, Road transportation, responsible authorities of multi-modal transport & Customs of the two Governments is to be constituted to work out the details of projects and their implementation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd. (IRCON) and Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITLS), two Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Railways will help in the execution implementation of the projects on commercial basis.

Re-Checking Facility for Coal Wagons

123. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide the re-checking facility to verify weight of the loaded coal in wagons for which Railway receipts are issued;

(b) whether there is also a proposal for insurance cover from collieries to destination for coal transhipment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Facility of re-checking/reweighment is already available on payment of charges laid down in this regard and such requests are duly considered by the Competent authority. Coal is, however, normally booked at 'Owner's risk' for which the facility is normally not allowed. In case of its booking at Railway's risk on payment of 20% extra freight, the facility may be permitted provided that it is operationally feasible, valid reasons exist for allowing the same and the reweighment charges have been paid alongwith the all other charges as due to the Railways.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As coal is transported in open wagons and at Owner's risk rates, insurance cover has not been considered. Such provision will add to the cost of coal and thereby affect the common man adversely.

Eklakshi-Balurghat Railway Track

124. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:
SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Eklakshi-Balurghat Railway track has been started,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Earthwork and Minor bridges have been started. Five Contracts have already been awarded since the work was defrozen. One contractor has started work and the remaining are mobilising. Notices are being issued to them for starting the work.

(c) Does not arise.

Suppliers in Super Bazar

125. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Super Bazar has been introducing suppliers for supply of items to the consumers;

(b) if so, the number of new suppliers introduced during 1994 and 1995 giving the names of the items supplied by them;

(c) whether after the introduction of the suppliers, the suppliers are not placed with repeat orders regularly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure the placement of regular orders on all the suppliers;

(e) if not, the reasons for introducing such suppliers; and

(f) the number of complaints received from the suppliers in this connection and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (Shri Buta Singh) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) to (e) supplies orders are placed depending on consumption and demand pattern which is monitored regularly.

(f) Suppliers after introduction of their items keep on pressing for repeat orders and wherever necessary supplies are repeated depending on availability, consumption and demand. In case of any grievance/complaint pointed out by a supplier, appropriate action is taken.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Supplier	Name of the Item
1.	M/s Sumetil Teflok Coating	Aluminium Utencils
2.	M/s Enclays	Novino Cell & Torch
3.	M/s Sweet Home Appliances Pvt. Ltd.	Akai Brand L.P.G. Appliances
4.	M/s Oriental Gen. Industries	Orient Fan
5.	M/s Plaza Cables Electric (P) Ltd.	Plaza Cables
6.	M/s K. S. Agencies	Seema Bulbs & Tubes
7.	M/s Frexton Cables (India)	Frexton Cables
8.	M/s Capital Crockery House	Bharat Crockery
9.	M/s Singer India Ltd.	Sewing Machine & Elec. Appliance
10.	M/s Sehgal's Sons Mkt. (P) Ltd.	Nirlep Brand Non-stick
11.	M/s Devi Dayal Aluminium India (P) Ltd.	Cookers & Alu. Utencils
12.	M/s Suvidha Appliances	Blue mex brand L.P.G. appliances
13.	M/s Delhi Plastic Emporium	Prince Plastic Product

1	2	3
14.	M/s Krishna Trading Company	Dura Cell Alkaline batteries
15.	M/s Electrical Dolphins	Dolphin Fans
16.	M/s Godrej Foods Ltd.	Jumpine, Mango, Organge Juice
17.	M/s R. V. Sales Pvt. Ltd.	Mid land, Mango juice Etc.
18.	M/s Rasna Enterprises Ltd.	Soft Drinks
19.	M/s Paam Eatables Ltd.	Saga Sweets Noodles etc.
20.	M/s Fun Snakes Pvt. Ltd.	Fun Philips
21.	M/s Goyal Oil Mills	Lazeez Brand oil
22.	M/s Cremica Food Products	Biscuits etc.
23.	M/s Delhi Foods India Ltd.	Richa Pure Ghee
24.	M/s The Assam Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Assam Gold Tea
25.	M/s Modern Dairy Ltd.	Sweta Pure Ghee
26.	M/s A. K. Enterprises	Krishna Brand Papad
27.	M/s Lakkan Pal Foods Ltd.	Vafa James Etc.
28.	M/s Jainco Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Twinkle chips
29.	M/s Sachdeva & Sons Rice Mills Ltd.	Pari Rice
30.	M/s Shri Mahalakshmi Mills	Datia Flour
31.	M/s Shim Bhruli Sugar Mills	Trust Sugar
32.	M/s Aar Dee Overseas	Helicopter Rice
33.	M/s Tips & Toe Cosmetics India	Talcom Powder
34.	M/s Akhi Tissues Pvt. Ltd.	Toilet Rolls Etc.
35.	M/s Diamond Laboratories India	Diamond Phenylol
36.	M/s Bansal Cosmo Care Ltd.	Tooth Brush, Tooth Powder
37.	M/s R.D.M. Traders Pvt. Ltd.	Ayur Herbal Shampoo
38.	M/s Sonic Electrochem Ltd.	Electric Mosquite Machine
39.	M/s S.S. Enterprises	All Out Mosquite Machine
40.	M/s Surgimed	Surgical items
41.	M/s Laaw Melbros Pvt. Ltd.	Medicines
42.	M/s Belsons	Medicines
43.	M/s Asclepius Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	Medicines
44.	M/s Ruchi Network	Injections

1	2	3
45.	M/s Enterprises R.P.D.	Glass Ware
46.	M/s Bharti Textiles	Bandages/Gauze
47.	M/s Mcheil Agro Pharmaceutical	Medicines
48.	M/s Madan Bros.	Medicines
49.	M/s Indus Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	Injections
50.	M/s K.V. Sales	Towels, Bed Sheets
51.	M/s Juneja Agencies	Blankets, Shawls & Lehings
52.	M/s Chandu Parkash & Co.	Mafat Lal Fabrics
	M/s Chawla Textile	
	M/s Sandeep Traders	
53.	M/s Rainbow Carpets	Woollen Carpets
54.	M/s Panipal Pehlwan Handloom Coop.	Tapistry bed covers, Bed Sheets
55.	M/s Panipal Prem Handloom Coop.	-do-
56.	M/s Shaily Enterprises	Towels Shanlapun Duster etc.
57.	M/s Mukta Handloom	Towel Bed Cover, Bed sheets
58.	M/s Lloyd Safe Work	Steel Furniture
59.	M/s Glass 'N' Glamour	Table laws
60.	M/s Vital Display System Company	Data Sign
61.	M/s Bhargava & Bhargava	Display Board Plant & Flower
62.	M/s Ultimatic Tele System Pvt. Ltd.	ERABX System
63.	M/s C.S. Infotech (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Computer Peripherals
64.	M/s Sun Star Communication System Ltd.	Computer and Computers
65.	M/s Bips System Pvt. Ltd.	Computer Peripherals
66.	M/s Singal India Ltd.	Automatic Voltage Stabilizer ups & Power Equipments
67.	M/s S.K. Mehta & Co.	Photophone Audio Visual Prod.
68.	M/s Mahesh Trading Company	Evergent Tools Prayag Fitting & Misc. Hardware Items
69.	M/s R.M. Enterprises	Paints
70.	M/s Public Mills Store	Misc. hardware items
71.	M/s All India Society for Welfare of Women	Petticoat coloured & white
72.	M/s Romica Agencies	Infants Garments
73.	M/s Birbal Dresses Pvt. Ltd.	Ready Made Garments
74.	M/s Indian Equipment Traders	-do-
75.	M/s Kaithal Rubbers & Gen. Mills India	Censtar Brand Computer

1	2	3
76.	Ms Shri Chakradhar International	Calculator
77.	Ms Graphic India	Laminating Machine etc.
78.	Ms Thames Technologies Ltd.	Floppy Amkett
79.	Ms A.K. Sethi & Co.	Tonnors & Developers
80.	Ms Shivam Agencies	Archirs Greeting Card
81.	Ms Charamkala Udyogic Utapadan Sehkar Samiti Ltd.	shoes/chappals
82.	Ms Zypher shoes	Shoes/Chappals
83.	Ms Mitta Enterprises	Washing
84.	Ms Abhinav Enterprises	Philips Tube light chokes etc.

[Translation]

Assistance for Milk processing facilities

126. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought any assistance from the National Dairy Development Board or foreign agencies for providing milk processing facilities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also received such requests from other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the places where these milk processing facilities are proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Federation (PCDF) Lucknow had sent a proposal to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for establishment of 30 MT S.M.P. Plant at Chok Ganjaria, Lucknow in August 1993.

(b) Proposed project cost was Rs. 45.44 crores. The Project was for production of Ghee, Butter, S.M.P., Dairy Whitenar and Cheese.

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received by Government.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Migratory Birds

127. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there has been sharp decline in the number of migratory birds visiting Bharatpur, and other birds sanctuaries in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have analysed the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise the issue of safety of these birds which are killed while passing over Pakistan and Afghanistan, at various international fora in order to safeguard the environment; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) There are no reports about general decline in the number of migratory birds visiting Bharatpur and other bird

sanctuaries in the country. However, it is true that Siberian cranes have not visited the Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur during the last two years.

(b) The population of the western flock of Siberian cranes has dwindled in recent years due to disturbance in their breeding grounds in Siberia and due to hunting and loss of wetlands in the range nations as well staging areas.

(c) and (d) With a view to have an understanding among all the nine range states to eliminate the causative factors which are leading to the decline of the Siberian cranes, a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been drafted with the co-operation of the International Crane Foundation, the Wild Bird Society of Japan and the Secretariat of the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Bonn. The MOU envisages strict protection for the Siberian cranes, identification and conservation of their wetland habitat, exchange of scientific, technical and legal information needed for international co-ordination of conservation measures and implementation of the action plan drawn for each range states. The MOU has been signed by Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Wild Bird Society of Japan and the UNEP/CMS Secretariat. The Government of India has also approved signing of the MOU.

Coastal Regulation Zone

128. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed by his Ministry on the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) has submitted its report in October, 1994;

(b) if so, the findings of the Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of the norms stipulated in the guidelines for construction and opening of hotels and restaurants in the Coastal Regulation Zone area;

(d) whether the Government of Goa has been given permission for construction and opening of some hotels and restaurants in Coastal Regulation Zone area in Violation of the aforesaid guidelines;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to prevent the violation of the aforesaid guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has reported certain violations of the CRZ norms and the matter has been taken up with the

State Government of Goa to ensure compliance of the norms.

(c) The details of the norms are given in the Gazette Notifications issued by the Ministry vide S.O. No. 114(E) dated 19.2.1991 and S.O. No. 595 (E) dated 16.8.1994.

(d) & (e) Steps have been taken to ascertain the facts from the State Government of Goa.

(f) The norms have been issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Any violation of these rules attracts action under the provisions of the Act.

Haldia Fertilizer Plant

129. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haldia Fertilizer Plant has been commissioned for production;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to close it; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The Haldia Fertilizer Project owned by the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) could not be commissioned due to repeated equipment breakdowns during the commissioning. The commissioning activities were suspended in October, 1986 as there was no certainty that the Project would be properly commissioned and operated viably. Presently, HFC has a company including its Haldia Project, stands referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Any decision on the future of this Project would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Doubling of Railway line between Patna and Gaya

130. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any survey report for doubling of Railway line between Patna and Gaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be stated thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. The survey report is expected shortly.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The decision regarding taking up of this work will

depend on the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

Rajdhani Express Trains

131. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the proposed new Rajdhani Express trains from Delhi to other cities for the year 1994-95 have been introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such trains yet to be introduced and proposed to be introduced during 1995-96; and

(c) the routes on which these trains are proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express (weekly) and New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express (weekly). In addition, a weekly Rajdhani Express has also been introduced between Hazrat Nizamuddin/New Delhi and Jammu Tawi and Hazrat Nizamuddin-Madras Rajdhani Express has been extended to/from Trivandrum.

At present there is no proposal for introduction of any new Rajdhani Express.

Fish Farming

132. SHRI S.M. LALJAN PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide technical as well as financial assistance to private individuals to develop fish farming;

(b) if so, the details of schemes being implemented by Government for the benefit of small and marginal farmers who want to develop fish farming; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Government under each scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Government through the respective State Governments/UTs provides technical and financial assistance to fish farmers to develop fish farming.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of development of freshwater aquaculture through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) is being implemented by the States. Under the Scheme, 414 FFDAs have been sanctioned so far covering all the potential districts in the country. Assistance in the form of subsidy is provided to fish farmers for construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds

and tanks, running water fish culture, first year inputs, aerators, integrated fish farming, fish seed hatcheries, fish feed mills, etc.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Central assistance provided to the States/UTs under FFDA Scheme during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.00	22.00	22.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	8.00	13.00
3.	Assam	9.00	12.00	82.00
4.	Bihar	36.00	39.00	59.00
5.	Goa	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	14.00	15.00	17.00
7.	Haryana	31.50	21.00	36.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.00	2.00	7.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.00	2.00	7.00
10.	Karnataka	11.00	11.00	11.00
11.	Kerala	14.00	14.00	14.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	88.31	34.00	120.00
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	5.19	9.00	7.00
15.	Meghalaya	—	1.00	1.00
16.	Mizoram	1.00	5.00	8.00
17.	Nagaland	1.00	4.00	2.00
18.	Orissa	17.00	33.00	76.00
19.	Punjab	32.00	31.00	27.00
20.	Rajasthan	—	16.00	15.00
21.	Sikkim	—	2.00	1.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	13.00	30.00	13.00
23.	Tripura	8.00	13.00	16.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	124.00	111.00	161.00
25.	West Bengal	167.00	79.00	140.00
26.	Pondicherry	1.00	1.00	1.00

Public Distribution System

133. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for distribution of rice to the families of school children in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme under Public Distribution System is linked up with literacy programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ownership Rights on Forest Land

134. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to permit the Kerala Government to grant ownership right to encroachers of forest lands in the State;

(b) the areas where such rights are to be given; and

(c) the condition for granting such rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Formal approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 28,588,159 ha. of forest land for regularisation of pre 1.1.1977 encroachments in forest land in five districts of Kerala namely; Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Ernakulam and Kollam has been accorded by the Ministry on 31.1.95. The proposal of the State Government of Kerala has been approved subject to certain conditions which *inter alia* include ground verification and demarcation of area to be regularised in favour of individual encroachers by the State Government, raising of compensatory afforestation over double the degraded forest land in a phased manner and furnishing of monthly reports to the Ministry giving schedules of the forest land assigned in favour of encroachers.

[Translation]

Railway Bridges

135. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any proposals for construction of railway underground bridges and overbridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this work on each of these bridges is likely to be completed; and

(d) the estimated cost of each of the underground bridges?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Works of construction

of Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis in Gujarat which are under various stages of progress are listed below:

S.No.	Details of Work	Cost		Progress	Target date of completion	
		Rly.	State Govt.		Rly.	State Govt.
		(Figs in lakhs of Rs.)				
1.	Construction of Road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 179 at Km. 327/23-25 near Bharuch.	171.84	103.19	Work will be taken up after State Govt. commences the work on approaches.	Not fixed	Not fixed
2.	Construction of Road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 80 at Km. 172/7-8 near Vapi.	177.32	372.10	Substructure work completed. Overall progress 50%	30.6.95	30.6.95
3.	Construction of Road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 20 at Km. 491/20-22 on Sant Road-Piplod section.	73.46	73.46	Rly. has completed its portion of work	Completed	Not fixed
4.	Construction of Road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 243 at Km. 406/23-24 near Ramoti.	70.40	159.95	Rly. has completed its portion of work. Work on approaches nearing completion	Completed	Not fixed
5.	Construction of Road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 211 at Km. 365/5 between Miyagoan-Karjan	71.40	60.99	Rly. has completed its portion of work. Work on approaches by State Govt. in progress. 56% completed.	Completed	Not fixed.

The Following works are under consideration for inclusion in Railways Works Programme 1995-96.

S. No.	Details of Work	Cost to	
		Rly.	State Govt.
		(Figs in lakhs)	
1.	Construction of Road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 146 at Km. 268/8-10 near Surat.	246.00	246.00
2.	Construction of a Road under bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 11 at Km. 17/2-3 on Sabarmati-Gandhigram section.	65.24	88.53

[English]

Loans to pollution industrial units

136. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved any scheme to give grants or loans to the industrial units closed down for meeting the prescribed environment standards;

(b) if so, the number of units which have been so aided; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned upto December 31, 1994 since the inception of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):
(a) No such scheme has been approved to give grants or loans to the industrial units closed down for not meeting the prescribed environment standards.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Wheat

137. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the major wheat growing States in the country;

(b) the average rate of per hectare production of wheat in these States during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether there has been a wide gap in the average rate of per hectare production in these States;

(d) if so, the measures contemplated by the Government to reduce this gap; and

(e) the extent to which this disparity is likely to be reduced as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The major wheat growing States in the country are— (i) Uttar Pradesh; (ii) Punjab; (iii) Haryana; (iv) Madhya Pradesh; (v) Bihar; (vi) Rajasthan; (vii) Maharashtra; and (viii) Gujarat.

(b) Per hectare production of wheat in the major wheat growing States during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) For increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, crop oriented production programme namely, Integrated Cereal Development—Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; and National Pulses Development Programme are being implemented. Besides, programme for increasing the use of fertiliser in low consumption area and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the productivity of crops. These programmes will help in raising the yield levels in low yielding States and thereby reducing the disparity in yield rates of various States.

Statement

Per Hectare Production of Wheat in Major Wheat Growing States in the Country During 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94

(Yield in Kgs. per Hectare)

States	Yield		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Bihar	1811	1747	2100
Gujarat	2214	2225	1905
Haryana	3596	3621	3619
Madhya Pradesh	1449	1428	1570
Maharashtra	997	1174	1402
Punjab	3803	3770	4011
Rajasthan	2517	2287	1719
Uttar Pradesh	2344	2226	2302
All-India	2394	2327	2373

[English]

Quadrupling of Track

138. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal of quadrupling the tracks between Borivli and Virar in Bombay to run more trains on the section; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is expected to be taken up in the coming years on a priority basis, subject to availability of resources.

Import of Palmolein

139. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of palmolein imported upto January, 1995;

(b) the names of the countries from which import has been made;

(c) whether the delay in import of Palmolein during December, 1994 has resulted in an increasing in the prices of edible oils;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of Palmolein oil;

(e) whether any import has been made by or through a public sector organisation;

(f) if so, whether these countries have charged high rates in December, 1994 and January, 1995; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) A quantity of 1.07 lakh tonnes of palmolein has been imported during the current financial year, 1994-95. The oil was imported from Malaysia/Indonesia.

(c) and (d) The entire contracted quantity of palmolein was imported during the period July-October, 1994. There was no delay in arrival of the imported stocks;

(e) The import of palmolein for PDS was made by the State Trading Corporation;

(f) and (g) No import of palmolein for the PDS was made

during December, 1994 and January, 1995;

Railway Network

140. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considering any massive programme to upgrade the railway network of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether modernisation of Railway network includes areas of passenger and freight traffic;

(c) whether any provisions are being made for improvement of rail tracks and railway crossings and for checking railway accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) and (b): Upgrading and modernisation of railway network is being continuously undertaken within the available resources through Annual Plans. Electrification of dense routes, introduction of modern rolling stock e.g. 3-tier air-conditioned sleeper coach; use of high horse power locomotive, panel operated signalling system, optic fibre based communication system and increased usage of welded rails and concrete sleepers, etc. are some of the steps in the area of passenger and freight operations.

(c) and (d): For improving the railway track, arrears of track renewals are being reduced progressively. Maintenance of track is being done by sophisticated machines. Manning of unmanned level crossings is being done keeping in view the road/rail traffic. Fixation of proper road signs and lights at level crossing is being done to prevent level crossing gate accidents.

Female Sales Assistants

141. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of female Sale Assistants working in the Super Bazar as on date, branch-wise;

(b) the number of applications received so far by the Super Bazar Management from female candidates for the post;

(c) the number out of them appointed as on date and the status of remaining pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A statement is attached;

(b) and (c): There being a ban on fresh recruitment, no application to the post/of Sales Assistant is being entertained.

Statement

List of Women Sales Assistants as on 10.2.95

S.No.	Name of Official	Place of Duty
(1)	(2)	(3)
	R.D.C. Connaught Place	
1.	Miss Rajan Mehindro	Cycle Dept.
1.	Smt. Geeta Kapoor	Office Sty. Store
3.	Smt. Kamla Mangotra	A/Cs Deptt.
4.	Smt. Paramjeet Kaur	Credit Sale
5.	Smt. Man Mohini Nigam	Drugs Deptt.
6.	Smt. Prem Wati	-do-
7.	Smt. Devinder Kaur	-do-
8.	Smt. Meena Sexena	A/Cs. Deptt.
9.	Miss. Subhash Suri	Drugs Deptt.
10.	Smt. Sarla Jain	G&T (c)
11.	Smt. Asha Kiran Sharma	Books & Sty. Deptt.
12.	Smt. Vidhu Bhatnagar	A/Cs Deptt.
13.	Smt. Veena Saughari	C/Store
14.	Smt. Nisha Kapoor	Credit sales
15.	Smt. Asha Khillan Sharma	C/Store
16.	Smt. Tara Sharma	R.M.G.
17.	Smt. Usha Toppe	Membership
18.	Smt. Suman Chopra	C/Store
19.	Smt. Renu Saini	C/Store
20.	Smt. Kanta Sharma	Admn. Deptt.
21.	Smt. Harvinder Kaur	Cycle Deptt.
22.	Smt. Kusum Saxena	Foot Wear
23.	Smt. Sarswati Saxena	Work Study
24.	Smt. Prakash Sharma	Books & Sty.
25.	Smt. Vimal Sharma	Work Study
26.	Miss. Elezabeth Michal	Textile
27.	Smt. Raj Rani	Central Mail
28.	Smt. Usha Mahajan	Purchase
29.	Smt. Versha Khosla	Office Sty. Store
30.	Smt. Sangeeta Gupta	Purchase
31.	Smt. Kusum Lata	Personnel
32.	Smt. Sneh Lata	P.N.G.
33.	Smt. Sarita Chaudhary	House Hold
34.	Smt. Sudha Jain	G&T (c)
35.	Smt. Manita Chhaba	A/Cs
36.	Smt. Babita Saini	C/Store
37.	Smt. Vimla Bajaj	Trade Enquiry
38.	Smt. Suman	Office Sty. Store
39.	Smt. Asha Mahur	A/Cs Deptt.
40.	Smt. Urmila	Central Room
41.	Smt. Suman Lata	G&T (c)
42.	Smt. Rita Sah	Fruits & Veg.
43.	Smt. Sheela Jangla	Central Room
44.	Smt. Kaushlya Pal	Purchase
45.	Smt. Sudesh Chaudhary	Toys Deptt.
46.	Smt. Santosh Chhabra	Personnel Deptt.
	Mini Branches	
47.	Smt. Satish Bala Ghai	Tripolia
48.	Smt. Santosh Kumari	Timarpur I

(1)	(2)	(3)
49.	Smt. Peonau Lata Tondon	Timarpur II
50.	Smt. S.K. Dawar	Parliament Annexe
51.	Smt. Asha Sharma	Shalimar Bagh DESU
52.	Smt. Neena Sain	Vishaka Enclave

R.D.C. INA

53.	Smt. Shobha Rana	INA
54.	Smt. Kanwal Rani	-do-
55.	Smt. Manjeet Kaur	-do-
56.	Miss. Pasminder Kaur	-do-
57.	Smt. Surender Kaur	-do-
58.	Smt. Kunti Devi	-do-
59.	Smt. Kusum Bhargawa	-do-
60.	Smt. Suman Kapila	-do-
61.	Smt. Sunita Kumari	-do-
62.	Smt. Mohini Bhasin	-do-
63.	Smt. Sangeeta Kudesi	-do-
64.	Smt. Parwati Bisht	-do-
65.	Smt. Praveen Anand	-do-

Mini Branches

66.	Smt. Suman Sharma	Moti Bagh
67.	Smt. Anita Rawat	Yashwant Place
68.	Smt. Veena Mala	A.I.I.M.S.
69.	Smt. Laxmi Minocha	Malviya Nagar 'J'

R.D.C. Patel Nagar

70.	Smt. Raj Sood	Patel Nagar
71.	Smt. Saroj Awasthi	-do-
72.	Smt. Veena Sharma	-do-
73.	Smt. Usha Kiran Sharma	-do-
74.	Smt. Nirmal Verma	-do-
75.	Smt. Shahi Malhotra	-do-
76.	Smt. Nirmal Kaur	-do-
77.	Smt. Sunita Bali	-do-
78.	Smt. Seema Gulati	-do-

Mini Branches

79.	Smt. Ram Dulari	Rajouri Garden LIG
80.	Smt. Manju Rani	Nirana Vihar
81.	Smt. Krishna Arora	Shadipur Depot
82.	Smt. Sarita Mehta	Punjabi Bagh
83.	Smt. Chanchal Juneja	Uttam Nagar
84.	Smt. Dhanwanti Devi	Maya Puri

R.D.C. Trilokpuri

85.	Smt. Raksha Sharma	Trilokpuri
86.	Smt. Nishi	-do-
87.	Miss. Meena Kausk	-do-

Mini Branches

88.	Smt. Susai Wadhawan	Shiv Puri
89.	Smt. Sarla Arya	Swasthya Vihar

R.D.C. Noida

90.	Smt. Prem Lata	Noida Sec. 22.
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Soap/Detergent Manufacturers

142. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the washing soaps, detergents, cleaning and washing powders, detergent cakes manufactured in the small scale sector on sale in the Super Bazar;

(b) the names of the washing soaps, detergents, washing and cleaning powders, detergent cakes which are not the products of the top five leading manufacturers of these items;

(c) the rates at which these items are purchased and the rates at which these are sold;

(d) the details of the supply orders placed on the suppliers of the above items during the last 12 months, month-wise;

(e) the reasons for not placing supply orders on some of the suppliers regularly and adequately;

(f) the reasons for placing supply orders more in quantity and regularly on suppliers not supplying the products of the first top five leading manufacturers;

(g) the details of the corrective steps taken in this regard; and

(h) how does the above compare with the Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A statement showing the information furnished by the Super Bazar is attached.

(b) There is no criteria available to ascertain the ranking of manufacturer of washing soaps, detergents, washing and cleaning powders & detergent cakes.

(c) The details are given in Column 3 & 4 of statement I.

(d) To complete the details of the supply orders placed on suppliers of these items during the last 12 months, month-wise involves exhaustive exercise and work load which will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(e) to (g) Supply orders are placed with the respective suppliers depending on the stocks in hand, demand pattern and the indents received from the retail outlets. This is a regular exercise being closely monitored by Super Bazar where it is ensured that no discrimination of any kind is caused to any supplier and this system is working satisfactorily.

(h) Kendriya Bhandar has also reported that supply orders are given keeping in view factors like customers demand, requirements of the stores, stock position etc. The information furnished by Kendriya Bhandar is given at Statement II.

Statement-I

Detail of information regarding Washing Soaps, Detergents, Cleaning & Washing Powders, Detergent Cakes manufacturing in Small Scale Sector in Delhi and on sale in Super Bazar :

S.No. Item Name	Procurement cost P. Kg.	Sale Price P. Kg.
WASHING SOAPS		
1. 555 Washing Soap	16.12	18.55
2. Bobby Washing Soap	15.75	18.10
3. Farishta	15.90*	18.30
4. Farishta Unit	17.20	19.80
DETERGENT POWDERS		
1. Farishta	12.00	13.20
2. 555 Detergent	12.39	99.25
3. Fena	12.23	14.00
CLEANING POWDER		
1. Cadet Cleaning Powder (Farishta Unit)	4.31	5.00
2. Nip (Cenderute Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.)	6.23	7.50
WASHING POWDER		
1. Farishta	11.40	13.10
2. 555 Washing	11.44	13.15
DETERGENT CAKE (250 gms.)		
1. 555 Detergent Cake	3.35	3.85
2. Farishta Detergent	3.50	4.00
3. Fena Detergent	3.59	4.15

*Procurement cost was Rs. 14.90 per kg. upto 8.2.95

Statement II

Brand	Moti Special "255"	Farishta
WASHING SOAP		
Cost Price (per kg.)	Rs. 13.58	Rs. 14.90
Selling price in Kendriya Bhandar (per kg.)	Rs. 15.00	Rs. 16.00
Revised cost price asked for (per kg.)	Rs. 14.54	Rs. 17.00
		(Selling prices will be Rs. 18.50 per kg.) (one supply has been received)
DETERGENT POWDER		
Brand	Fena	Farishta
Cost price (per kg.)	Rs. 12.84	Rs. 12.00
Selling price (per kg.) Kendriya Bhandar	Rs. 13.60	Rs. 13.00

CLEANING POWDER

Brand	JET(ISI)	BUBBLE CLIX (ISI)	CADET
Cost price (per kg.)	Rs. 4.45	Rs. 3.90	Rs. 4.50
Selling price (per kg.) in Kendriya Bhandar	Rs. 4.85	Rs. 4.25	Rs. 4.90
			Rs. 4.78
			Rs. 5.20

WASHING POWDER

Brand	Vijay	Farishta	Nirma
Cost price (per kg.)	Rs. 10.80	Rs. 11.40	Rs. 12.75
Selling price	Rs. 12.00	Rs. 12.30	Rs. 14.00

DETERGENT CAKE

Brand	Farishta	Fena
Cost price (per kg.)	Rs. 14.00	Rs. 15.04
Selling price (per kg.) in Kendriya Bhandar.	Rs. 15.20	Rs. 16.00

[*Translation*]

Central Agricultural University

143. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Agricultural Universities functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more such Universities during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Central Agriculture University, Imphal.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

National Dairy Development Board

144. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has incurred losses during its market intervention operation;

(b) if so, the amount of losses suffered and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to wipe out the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Losses were incurred by NDDB under

Market Intervention Operations in oilseeds/edible oils during 1991-92 and 1992-93. The cumulative losses incurred by NDDB under MIO including the interest thereon aggregated to Rs. 273.49 crores upto 31st March, 1994.

Losses were incurred as in line with mandate of the market intervention operations, NDDB was required to build up stocks of oilseeds/edible oils so as to ensure incentive prices to farmers, carry inventory and release the same during lean season at moderate prices in the interest of consumers. The steep fall in prices of edible oils led to decline in value of inventory which mainly contributed to the losses.

(c) Market Intervention Operations in oilseeds/edible oils by NDDB were started in April, 1989 for a period of 5 years and came to an end on 31st March, 1994. NDDB had been permitted by the Government to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oils at concessional custom's duty during 1994-95 towards part recoupment of losses incurred by NDDB under MIO.

Railway Electrification Projects

145. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached the World Bank for a loan for meeting expenditure relating to railway electrification projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the projects to be financed thereby;

(c) whether the World Bank has expressed its unhappiness over the loan disbursement and slow utilisation of its earlier loans by the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the Railways have given any assurance to the World Bank in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the present status of the World Bank loan for railway electrification projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

(g) At present, there is no ongoing World Bank Loan on Indian Railways for Railway Electrification Projects.

Railway Wagons

146. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are importing wagons for Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such import?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However Container Corporation of India Ltd. a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways is procuring 1500 flat wagons under World Bank Credit through a mandatory global tender. Indian manufacturers are also eligible to participate in the tender.

Committee for Railway Police

147. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SURAJ MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Committee to examine the working of Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force and to find a solution to serious problems like late running of trains, theft of railway property, chain pulling of trains, safety and security of passengers etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Separate machineries are already available to monitor each of these aspects. Close liaison is maintained with GRP and State Police authorities and joint drives of GRP and RPF are organised to ensure proper security and to effectively tackle problems like theft of railway property and passenger's luggage and alarm chain pulling etc.

Own Your Wagon Scheme in South Central Railway

148. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced Own Your Wagon Scheme in South Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) 'The Own Your Wagon' Scheme entails the private ownership of railway wagons to supplement rail transport infrastructure. In the case of special type of wagons a lumpsum freight rate will be charged for the indentified movement of specific streams of traffic. On all other wagons, Indian Railways will pay lease

charges and collect normal freight.

The Scheme has been introduced over all the Zonal Railways, including South Central Railway. The implementation of the Scheme depends on private parties owning wagons under the scheme. So far no private party has owned wagons on South Central Railway under the Scheme.

Fertilizer Concession Scheme

149. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any modified guidelines for implementing the fertilizer concession scheme for 1994-95;

(b) if so, the main features of the modified guidelines; and

(c) the extent to which the revised scheme will help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the modified guidelines, payment of concessional amount on sales of decontrolled fertilizer to farmers is made direct to the manufacturers/Importers (MOP) on the basis of certificate of sales received from the State Government/UT Administration.

The scheme has achieved the desired objective of cushioning the impact on farmers of increase in prices of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. As a result of concession, consumption of these fertilizers has improved.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of MG/NG lines

150. SHRI N. J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Gujarat for conversion of MG/NG lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any progress has been achieved in the gauge conversion work in Chota Udaipur;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Gujarat have requested, inter-alia, for conversion of Ahmedabad-Delhi, Gandhidham-Bhuj, Bhavnagar-Surendranagar, Wankaner-Navlakhi-Maliya Miyana, Ahmedabad-Vijapur, Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar, Rajula-Surendranagar, Windmill-Bedi Port, Chhota Udepur-Pratapnagar and Dabhoi-Miyagam sections into board gauge.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) After discussions with the State Government, it was decided that conversion of such of the narrow gauge lines which got closed down in the recent monsoon fury would be considered on merits. A firm proposal from the Government of Gujarat is still awaited.

[English]

Assistance for Horticulture

151. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to Kerala for the promotion of horticulture during the year 1994-95;

(b) the schemes envisaged by the Government in Kerala for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government have received any progress reports in regard to promotion of horticulture and funds utilisation certificate from the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 1804.44 lakhs has been released so far by the Union Government during the year 94-95 for implementing the central sector/centrally sponsored horticulture schemes in the State of Kerala as per details indicated in the *enclosed statement*. Apart from this, National Horticulture Board and Coconut Development Board have also released Rs. 9.5 lakhs and Rs. 25.71 lakhs respectively for implementation of their schemes in the State.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala have been furnishing progress reports about the implementation of the schemes from time to time. The utilisation certificates for the funds released during 94-95 are not yet due.

Statement

Funds released by Union Government so far during 94-95 for development of Horticulture in Kerala under Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Funds released so far during 1994-95 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.	1064.00
2.	Integrated Programme for Development of Cashew	127.35
3.	Development of Mushroom	14.75
4.	Development of Betelvine	2.83
5.	Development of Cocoa	13.50
6.	Integrated Development of Tropical & Arid and Temperate Zone fruits.	50.00

s. No.	Name of Scheme	Funds released so far during 1994-95 (Rs. in lakhs)
7.	Production & Distribution of vegetable seeds.	3.38
8.	Development of Arecanut	36.00
9.	Development of Medicinal of Aromatic Plants.	0.00
10.	Promotion of Root & Tuber Crops	0.00
11.	Promotion of use of plastic in Agriculture	114.38
12.	Commercial floriculture	0.00
13.	Development of Bee-keeping for increasing Crop productivity	0.00
14.	Coconut Development Programme through State Govt.	378.25
Total		1808.44

Self-Sufficiency in Oilseed

152. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has achieved self-sufficiency in oilseeds;

(b) if so, the total production of oilseeds during 1993-94 and the estimated production during 1994-95;

(c) the special measures taken by the Government to achieve the self sufficiency in oilseeds and to maintain this increasing trend of production in order;

(d) whether any workshop of Rabi Oilseeds has been organised jointly by the Directorate of Oilseeds Research Centre, Hyderabad, University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore and Karnataka State Seeds Corporation; and

(e) if so, the details of the main issues discussed thereat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The production of oilseeds has been increasing year after year and surpassing the targets. The oilseeds production target for 8th plan is 23 million tonnes. The production of oilseeds during 1993-94 is 21.48 million tonnes against the target of 21 million tonnes. The oilseeds production estimates for 1994-95 are yet to be finalised, however, the target for oilseed production is 22 million tonnes.

(c) To increase production of oilseeds, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is under implementation under which assistance is provided

for production and distribution of seeds demonstrations, distribution of sprinklers, improved implements, gypsum and pyrites etc.

(d) The Rabi Oilseed Workshop was organised by the Directorate of Oilseeds Research, at University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore, in which Karnataka State Seeds Corporation also actively participated.

(e) The details of discussion held in the workshop are given in the attached *statement*.

Statement

DISCUSSION

(1) SAFFLOWER

1. The Oil yield levels of available genotypes are low and stagnat. In order to achieve higher seed yield and oil content there is need to develop safflower hybrids. Hence, top priority should be accorded to the hybrid Programme.

2. From the available information on survey of safflower diseases it was suggested to prepare the disease maps for each region especially for alternaria and wilt.

3. The safflower germplasm needs to be screened against aphid at Solapur and Jalgaon on large scale, the modalities of implementation of this programme needs to be worked out. The Director of Research, MPKV may provide the necessary facilities for this study.

(2) LINSEED

1. Based on the discussion held during entomology session, it was suggested to screen all the available germplasm against budfly. The I/c Project Coordinator (Linseed) may please work out the modalities of carrying out the above programme at Nagpur. The Director of Research, PKV, Akola is requested to provide necessary field facilities for the study.

(3) SESAME

1. All the available germplasm should be screened for high yield and high oil content besides evaluating them for desirable physiological parameters.

2. In view of the greater demand for the copies of package of practices for rabi/summer sesame, it was decided to publish a bulletin on rabi/summer sesame production technology from the available information.

(4) SUNFLOWER

1. Lot of germplasm is being maintained by both public and private institutions. In order to facilitate the uses, it was suggested that a catalogue of all the available germplasm be prepared and circulated among the research workers.

2. Owing to the increasing importance of sunflower during rabi/summer and spring seasons in different cropping systems the agronomy group felt the need to identify the production constraints of sunflower and

ways to improve the productivity. For this purpose, each centre has been asked to prepare the status report and submit to the project Coordinator.

3. The incidence of pests and diseases is becoming important in sunflower as it is grown under different cropping sequences. Hence there is a need to initiate research on entomological and pathological aspects of sunflower during *rabi*/summer seasons. So it was suggested to have a separate technical sessions on sunflower entomology and pathology in the forthcoming group meetings.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Since the resources are going to be limited for research in future, there is an urgent need to prioritize our research programmes to cater to our domestic as well as export market.

2. Hybrid technology in sunflower should be standardised by stabilising the male sterile lines and purifying them. Similarly, in safflower GMS lines should be made use of for development of hybrids.

3. As oil is the main product of oilseed crops, the pricing of oilseeds should be based on the oil content so that farmers can reap remunerative income from oilseeds cultivation.

4. For environmental protection and better export prospects, alternate methods of plant protection should be devised to reduce the use of pesticides. Botanical pesticides and biological methods of pest control may be tested.

[Translation]

Railway Crossing in Uttar Pradesh

153. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals for construction of railway crossings in cities and towns of Uttar Pradesh are lying pending for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria fixed for construction of overbridges and underbridges on railway crossing?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: (a) No proposal for provision of level crossing from State Government/Local body is pending.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Busy level crossings (those having more than 1 lakh train vehicle units, a figure obtained by multiplying number of trains passing in 24 hours by the road traffic units) are considered for replacement by road over/under bridge provided the proposal

therefor is sponsored by the State Government duly consenting to sharing of cost.

[English]

Price of Edible Oils

154. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the retail price of each variety of edible oils during January, 1995;

(b) how these prices compare with those of the corresponding period of 1993 and 1994;

(c) the reasons for rise in prices of edible oils;

(d) whether increase in the stock limit of edible oils is responsible for rise in prices; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to keep the prices under control?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) A *Statement* showing the retail prices of major edible oils at selected centres during January 1995, January, 1994 and January, 1993 is a Hached.

(c) The reasons for present increase in the prices of some edible oils may be attributed to slow increase in production, estimated gap of about 5 lakh tonnes in demand and supply, increasing demand and seasonal factors.

(d) and (e) The stock limits of edible oils were revised downwards in September, 1993. In order to contain the rise in the prices of edible oilseeds and oils, the exemption granted to cooperative organisations and State Federations from the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage) Control Order, 1977, was lifted in May, 1994. Subsequently, in June 1994, 22 Corporations and Cooperative Societies were exempted from the operation of the stock limits of edible oilseeds and edible oils subject to the specified limits. The Government has taken several measures for keeping the prices of edible oils within reasonable limits and these include the use of latest techniques of production of edible oilseeds with the help of the Technology Mission on pulses, provision of fiscal incentives for the use of certain specified non-conventional oils in the manufacture of vanaspati, import of palmolein at concessional import duty for supply under the Public Distribution System (PDS), and also the import of other edible vegetable oils by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for supply in the open market. The import of palmolein has also been put under the open General Licence (OGL) in order to augment its domestic availability.

The Inter Ministerial Coordination Committee on Monitoring of Prices reviews the price scenario of essential commodities, including edible oils, and advises the concerned authorities to take appropriate and timely action.

Statement

Month-end retail prices of edible oils

Items/Centres	Jan. 1995	Jan. 1994	Jan. 1993
VANASPATI			
Delhi	42.00	35.00	34.00
Bombay	43.00	38.00	40.00
Calcutta	45.00	36.00	35.00
Madras	45.00	37.00	37.00
GROUNDNUT OIL			
Delhi	48.00	40.00	38.00
Bombay	41.00	36.00	34.00
Calcutta	56.00	48.00	45.00
Madras	42.00	32.00	31.00
MUSTARD OIL			
Delhi	37.00	32.00	28.00
Bombay	38.00	38.00	34.00
Calcutta	39.00	31.00	30.00
Madras	45.00	38.00	36.00

M.P. 10.2

Source : States Civil Supplies Departments.

Shirdi Special Train

155. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new pilgrim-cum-tourist train named 'Shirdi Special' from Hyderabad to Belapur (Maharashtra) was inaugurated during the second week of November, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the special features of the new train;

(c) whether the Government propose to start similar trains from other cities also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) A weekly special train was introduced to run from Secunderabad to Secunderabad via Belapur and Aurangabad for tourist traffic on 11-11-94. However, from 02-12-1994, this train has been rescheduled to run between Secunderabad and Belapur as 7061/7062 weekly express.

(b) 7062 Express leaves Secunderabad at 2200 hours on Fridays arriving Belapur at 1330 hours on Saturdays. In the return direction, 7061 Express leaves Belapur at 2200 hours on Saturdays and arrives at Secunderabad at 1300 hours on Sundays. This Express is being run in co-ordination with Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation who are arranging connecting buses between Belapur and Shirdi.

(c) There is no such proposal to run similar trains at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Shortfall in resource position

156. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and State Governments are facing shortfalls in resource position for the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether any attempt has been made to improve the situation and reduce the gap of shortfall; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) As per the figures of anticipated expenditure, no shortfall is expected in plan expenditure in the Central Sector. However, shortfalls in plan expenditure in the State Sector are expected due to shortfalls in mobilisation of resource vis-a-vis commitments made at the time of Annual Plan discussions. As per the latest estimates, the shortfall in the State Sector is expected to be around 33 per cent of the outlay for 1994-95.

(c) and (d) The States have been urged to step up resource mobilisation efforts so as to bridge the anticipated gap between plan outlay and expenditure during 1994-95.

Allotment of wagons

157. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present system of new wagons allotment being followed for different zonal Railways;

(b) the allotment of new wagon made to each zone during the last three years and to be allotted during 1995-96;

(c) whether there is a shortage of Railway wagons in South Central Railways;

(d) whether the full demand of all zones has been met;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet demand of all zones in full?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) New wagons are allotted to different Zonal Railways taking into account the requirement for lifting and movement of the goods traffic as per target and their existing ownership of wagons.

(b) Allotment of wagons zone-wise during 92-93, 93-94, 94-95 upto January 95 in terms of four wheelers is as under:-

Rly.	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (upto Jan 95)
Central	2907.5	717.5	1452.5
Eastern	898.5	635	3295
Northern	315	35	—
N.E.	180	—	—
N.F.	3535	1353	194
Southern	182	—	—
S.C.	4145	2772.5	2250
S.E.	19534	7892.5	2250
Western	500	—	500

For 1995-96 allotment has not been finalised.

(c) Normally all the demands are met in full. During busy season there is sometimes time lag between placement of piecemeal indents to supply of wagons.

(d) to (f) Procurement of wagons is done according to the need and availability of funds. Procurement of wagons is planned for the entire Indian Railways. The needs of individual Zonal Railways are met from this common pool.

Exclusion of Tax Payers from PDS

158. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where income tax payers have been excluded from the purview of the Public Distribution System;

(b) the saving in subsidy every month as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Advisory Council set up for the purpose has submitted their Report;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Council; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Governments of Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan have reported that they have excluded income tax payers from access to issue of rice and wheat through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) Since the allocation of foodgrains to these States is not proposed to be reduced on the grounds of exclusion of relatively better off consumers from access to PDS foodgrains, there is no question of any saving in subsidy as a result.

(c) The Committee of Minister constituted to formulate recommendations on the National Policy on Public Distribution System (PDS) has submitted its report.

(d) and (e) The Committee of Ministers had recommended that the relatively better off categories of consumers should be excluded from access to PDS foodgrains in order to ensure that larger and more meaningful quantities are supplied to the needy and deserving sections of the society. The Advisory Council on

PDS which considered the report of the Committee of Ministers was of the view that the matter required further discussions with State Governments through the forum of the National Development Council.

Import of Edible Oils

159. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to import edible oils;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about the shortage of oil seeds in the country;

(c) the extent to which the above decision has helped in checking the price rise of edible oils;

(d) the foreign exchange spent for importing edible oils;

(e) the total quantity demanded and actually imported upto January, 1995 and to be imported in the near future;

(f) whether the production of edible oils in 1993-94 is much lower than during 1992-93;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the gap between demand and supply of edible oils and steps taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir, During 1994-95 a quantity of 1.07 lakh tonnes of RBD Palmolein was imported for the Public Distribution System (PDS). It has been decided to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of RBD palmolein during 1995-96 for the PDS.

(b) It is estimated that at present there is a gap of nearly 5-6 lakh tonnes between the requirement and net domestic availability of edible oils in the country.

(c) The import of edible oils has augmented the supply of indigenous oils in the open market and has had a sobering effect on their prices.

(d) and (e) During the financial year 1994-95 STC was authorised to import 1.58 lakh tonnes of palmolein against which a quantity of 1.07 lakh tonnes was imported at CIF value of Rs. 188.94 crores. The imports to be made during 1995-96 are as indicated in reply to part (a).

(f) and (g) The likely net availability of edible oils from all domestic sources during 1993-94 was 61.7 lakh tonnes as compared to 61.0 lakh tonnes in 1992-93.

(h) The gap between demand and supply of edible oils is as stated in reply to part (b). In 1986, Government of India set up a Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses to harness the best of production, processing and management technologies to accelerate self reliance. The Mission has achieved its objective of producing

enough oilseeds to cut down imports by half and is continuing its current efforts to increase production of oilseeds in the country.

Intensified Agriculture

160. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of intensified agriculture on environment; and

(b) the steps being taken to avert ecological disaster caused by intensive Agriculture and to promote sustainable agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Intensive use of inputs has to some extent polluted the soil & water. The following steps are being taken for the Sustainable Agricultural Development without detriment to the long term production potential of soil & water:—

- (1) Adoption of improved soil & water conservation practices, in-situ and run-off management suited to the conditions of individual farm holdings as well as watershed as a whole.
- (2) Encouraging the use of soil ameliorants for improving soil health & productivity.
- (3) Encouraging the use of organic manures including green manuring.
- (4) Promoting Cropping Systems Approach for increasing the production & productivity of crops as a whole against the individual crop approach.
- (5) Encouraging varietal replacement and propagation of newer location specific high Yielding varieties with biotic & abiotic resistance.
- (6) Propagation of adoption of Integrated Pest Management Approach to control the pests and diseases in crops.

Diseases by Parsinium Hipto Forus

161. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that "Parsinium hipto Forus" (locally known as Congress Grass) causes skin diseases and Broncial Asthama is spreading abundantly in Kanpur District of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to stop growth/production of this poisonous grass in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Sir, Parthenium hysterophorus, a weed, "locally known as Congress Grass" grows in many parts of the country including Kanpur. This weed has been reported to cause allergy/skin diseases.

(b) The State Governments have been

up following steps to prevent the spread of Parthenium weed:—

1. Distribution of pamphlets for the control of the Parthenium weed advocating:—

- (i) Physical removal soon-after the on-set of monsoon.
- (ii) Foilar spray of 15% common salt solution, spray of 2, 4-D on young plants and paraquat on matured plants.
- (iii) Blanket spray of Paraquat and Diudon/Atrazine to check the emergence of weed.
- (iv) Observance of precautions to avoid health hazards while physical removal of the weeds.

2. Mobilization of community efforts for controlling the weed in the no-man's lands.

3. Publicity through various media viz. Akashvani, Door-Darshan and Press to create awareness among the public for undertaking prompt control measures.

Pending projects of Gujarat

162. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS to be pleased to state:

(a) the names of projects of Gujarat pending for environment and forest clearance with his Ministry till date;

(b) the names of projects pending with the Regional Office of the State;

(c) since when these projects are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to accelerate the process of approval for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A statement showing the names of the projects of Gujarat pending for environment and forest clearance with the Ministry of Environment and Forests including Regional Office alongwith details of pendency and reasons therefor is attached.

(d) As and when a proposal is received with full details expeditious action is taken to decide the proposal.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Pending Since	Reasons of pendency
1	2	3	4
A. Projects for Forest Clearance			
1.	Baldeva Irrigation Scheme in Bharauich district	December, 1994	Under Process
2.	Setting up of Storage and Handling Plant for LPG at Sikka by M/s Vadilal Chemicals in Jamnagar district	December, 1994	Under Process

1	2	3	4
3.	Harnav Reservoir Project Phase—II in Sabarkantha district	October, 1994	Under Process
4.	Construction of Copper Smelter Project in Bharuch district	December, 1994	Under Process
5.	Construction of SSP distribution Canal in Vadodara district	January, 1995	Under Process.
6.	Laying of pipe line for IPCL in Bharuch district	January, 1995	Under Process
B. Projects for Environment Clearance			
7.	Lignite Based Power Station at Mangrol	January, 1993	Additional information including feasibility for adoption of clean technologies is awaited.
8.	Lignite Based Power Station at Akrimota	July, 1993	The requisite information is awaited.
9.	Combined Cycle Power Plant of GIPCL, Baroda	July, 1994	Additional information was sought which is yet to be received.
10.	Dollatpura weir project Gujarat Electricity Board	February, 1994	Final stage of examination
11.	Captive berth in Village Kovaya, Rajula Taluka, Amreli for cement project of M/s. Larsen & Toubro Ltd., in Gujarat.	September, 1993	The proposal will be considered after the issue of clearance for Cement Plant by EC. for Industrial Projects.
12.	Expansion of Mangrol Fishing Harbour Stage-II.	July, 1994	The project was considered by EC on 24.8.94 and site visit was recommended. The site Visit is yet to be considered.
13.	Construction of a port terminal at Dahej in the Gulf of Combay for handling the liquid hydrocarbon other chemicals—proposal of M/s. Indian Petrochemical Corporation Ltd.	October, 1994	Site visit conducted in January, 1995 Under Process.
14.	Proposed LPG and liquid petroleum product storage facilities by Vadilal Chemicals Ltd. at Sikka.	September, 1994	The proposal was recommended for rejection since the project site lies between the High Tide Line and Low Tide Line. It is being re-examined.
15.	Construction of captive jetty near Dahej port by Indo-Gulf Fertilizers & Chemicals Corporation Ltd., for copper smelting plant at Lakhigam.	September, 1993	Under Process.

1	2	3	4
16.	Construction of Fishery Harbour at Jakhau in Kutch District of Gujarat State.	November, 1994	Under Process
17.	Construction of Fourth Oil Jetty at Kandla Port, Gujarat.	January, 1995	Under Process
18.	Crude Oil Terminal at Vadinar by BPCL.	July, 1993	Under Process
19.	9 million Tonne Oil Refinery Vadinar	October, 1993	Additional Information awaited.
20.	Copper Smelter Project Lak Impur of Indo-Gulf Fertilizer.	September, 1994	Under Process
21.	Solaj mining project of M/s Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd.	January, 1995	Under Process

Freight Earning

163. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- the total freight carried by the Railways during the last nine months till date;
- the total revenue earned there from;
- the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the freight by Railways and the details thereof;
- whether there is any proposal to reduce pressure on road and increase earnings from freight and passenger traffic; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The total revenue earning freight carried by the Railways during April to December '94 is 265.79 million tonnes (provisional).

(b) The total freight revenue earned during the period April to December '94 is Rs. 9934.62 crores (provisional).

(c) to (e) Some of the important steps taken to boost rail traffic and earnings therefrom include special thrust on multimodal transport, simplification of rules for routing and rating including quotation of station to station rates, reduction in minimum chargeable distance for freight traffic, monitoring supply of wagons, agglomeration of piecemeal traffic through forwarders, movement through speed link services, leasing out SLR space and introduction of rail bus, diesel multiple units and main line EMUs.

[*Translation*]

12.00 hrs.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to raise a constitutional issue. This Parliament is the highest institution of democracy. It is the duty of the Parliament to see that the Government machinery functions according to the provisions of the Constitution and democratic values are well protected. If the Government of a State does not function as per the provisions of the Constitution, then should this House act as a mute spectator? Democracy means a government elected by the people, which should

be accountable to the legislature or the Parliament. Earlier, when the Government was constituted, it was in majority. Later on, when the supporting parties withdrew its support, it became a minority Government. A minority Government should immediately seek the vote of confidence in the legislature. If an elected Government rejects such a demand or if a Government fails to pass the Motion of Thanks to the Governor, then what should the Governor do?

The Governor is the representative of the Centre. Has the Governor sent a report to the Centre about Uttar Pradesh? If the Governor has not done so, the Centre can ask for a report.

The premises of those people, who had left the ruling party, are being raided and opium is being seized from there. Further, they are being made the victims of the atrocities of the Police. On the other hand, the people of opposition parties are being lured by money or efforts are being made to compel them join the ruling party by unleashing a rein of fear or terror. When the elected representative of the people become a subject of purchase and sale, this House should not remain silent. It is not that being a State subject, we cannot do anything in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into other issues of Uttar Pradesh. The incidents of abductions, molestation of women, intrusion of court premises and attack on advocates and judges of the High Court, wranglings inside Legislative Assembly building and the most shameful act of molestation of Uttaranchal women at a crossing in Muzaffar Nagar are pointer to a complete anarchy in the State. If such a situation is created in any State and the State machinery does not function according to the provisions of the Constitution then what should this House do or what should be your directions in this regard?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall give you an opportunity after he finishes.

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Shri Vajpayee has a very general reflection. Whether it is the issue concerned with the Parliament or Uttar Pradesh or any other State, whichever party gets less votes it talks like that. They claim that some manipulations have been done in counting of votes or the rules and conventions have been violated. This is what the Leader of the Opposition has spoken. In Uttar Pradesh, Congress Party had given unconditional support to the coalition Government of Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party. This support was against the forces of communalism and criminal elements. Shri Vajpayee has rightly stated that the Congress Party has withdrawn the support.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We always speak truth.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: After withdrawing the support, a leader of the Congress to whom I do not want to name and who is a learned person as well as a veteran leader and has been a former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in

collusion with the BJP was thinking of again becoming the Chief Minister of the State.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to me. He has put his views in a well thought out and dignified manner. If you will try to stretch it, the things will become more difficult. Whatever you have to say, you can say within the parameters.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: I do not want to overstretch it. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had called the special session of the Legislative Assembly for this purpose only. The Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very sensitive issue. One should speak on this only after weighing the pros and cons. If everybody rises up and starts speaking like this, the things will become very difficult. They say that there is constitutional break-down. You can speak on that.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: I am coming to that point. So far as the issue of rules and conventions is concerned, a discussion was held there for one week on the Motion of Thanks to the address of the Hon'ble Governor. In the earlier agenda, the fixed date was 8th February. On that day, the Leader of Opposition after speaking on the Motion of Thanks had brought an amendment and the Hon'ble Speaker had put it to vote. However, the Leader of Opposition demanded a division. When the voting took place, there were 161 votes in favour of that amendment. It clearly indicated that even their people were not with them. There were 219 votes against. There-after the Hon'ble Speaker started the proceedings of the House according to the rules and procedures.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not able to get my point. Please sit down. I am again calling you. Please listen to me.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the conventions and procedure of the House.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The most important issue is that whether the happenings of other House should be discussed here or not? Shri Vajpayee has put his views here with great wisdom and if you try to raise an irrelevant issue, it would be very difficult.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): He has referred to breakdown of the Constitution in the Assembly. He has made a reference.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Hon'ble Governor has been passed as per rules and procedures.

MR. SPEAKER: If a reference of other House is made here, it would not be allowed constitutionally or as per rules. There has been constitutional breakdown. Whether it has happened or not, is an irrelevant issue.

[English]

Your sit down please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Hon'ble Governor has been passed as per the rules and procedure. I would like to state that now their strength has come down in the Legislative Assembly and when they will go to the people, it will again go down. The Government led by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav enjoys majority support and it has been working towards welfare of backwards, downtroddens, minorities and poor farmers.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Vajpayee has raised certain questions about Uttar Pradesh.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You all cannot speak together. You are a newly elected Member. Can't you understand this? Please sit down. I shall give you a chance. If you would not relent.

[English]

I will take action against you. You please sit down now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND (Vaishali): (Interruptions)..**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make this Parliament Municipality of something like that. Now please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a new Member, I will allow you to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you later on. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going to record.

(Interruptions)**

[English]

12.16 hrs.

(At the stage Shrimati Lovely Anand came and sat on the floor near the Table)

SHRIMATI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:@

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is most disgusting on Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee's part.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Why Sir, are you reacting in that manner? I was merely trying to dissuade her.

12.19 hrs.

(At this stage Shrimati Lovely Anand went back to her seat)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We have full regards for women you can speak whatever you want, it will be included in the records and after that Somnathji will speak.

[English]

It was a bit constitutional break-down here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It should not be treated as a precedent I hope.

MR. SPEAKER: We are dealing with individuals; not with precedents.

[Translation]

SMT. LOVELY ANAND: Mr. Speaker, Sir, two serious incidents took place in last December in Bihar. In the first one our party candidate from Kesaria Mr. Chhoten Shukla who was a key Member of our party was brutally killed at 10 p.m. on the day when elections were declared by Mr. Seshan and in an another conspiracy D.M. Gopalganj was murdered and in this incident Mr. Anand Mohan, Chief of our party and myself were implicated as accused. He was beaten blue, his legs and hands were broken and while I was being shifted from Hazipur to Mohammadpur all the lights of vehicle in which I was travelling were switched off and I was able to hear very clearly "shoot him in encounter", these orders were given by the D.M. Muzaffarpur to S.P. Muzafferpur. At that time I was sitting beside Anand Mohanji holding his hand. They were conspiring to separate us but we thought it proper not to leave each other and die together. After than we were brought to Muzaffarpur. There we were made to sit on chair continuously for 48 hours and were not offered anything to eat or drink. I was put in a stingingly stinky room where there was not toilet and bathroom facility. I was kept with a lunatic women.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that Parliament is an august institution but I am very sorry to state that very senior leaders like Atalji, Narsimha Raoji, Chandrashekharji and many other eminent persons are sitting here, but none of them raised this voice against the excesses which were committed on us. Sir, I would request you to constitute a committee to look into the excesses committed on us by the police.

** Not recorded.

@Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

You very well know what is happening in Bihar prior to this incident I had already given you in writing that security cover should be provided to us as our lives are in danger. Bihar police is after me and Mr. Anand Mohan and some day we will fall victim to some conspiracy. We have also written to Rajesh Pilotji in this regard. We have also requested to you but no security was provided to us. Our apprehensions came true and we were made in this manner accused. There is a need to make investigation into the matter. Had not Anand Mohanji been with me that day, then this Parliament would have been disgraced, I would have not been able to show my face before you today because as you know the MLAs of Bihar's Janata Dal are rapist, you can well imagine what police would have done with me and the same situation still prevails there. Now again is election time and therefore we want security.

I would like to ask one question. Distance between Muzzafarpur and Hazipur is at least 75 k.m. The D.M. of Gopalganj was murdered at 4.15 and we were arrested in Hazipur at 4.30. So I would like to know whether Laluji has invented any such train which covers the distance of 75 k.m. within 15 minutes? Therefore I would like to urge that this matter should be investigated. The Government has no guts to face the truth as they are afraid that they would be exposed. They says we have no faith in CBIs investigations. But on the other hand on the question of photo identity cards they say that an enquiry should be conducted by CBI because the papers and the reels which have been found there are imported. But they are not ready to refer the murder cases of D.M., Shri G. Krishanaya and Shri Chhotan Shukla to CBI for investigation. I would like to submit that a investigation should also be done to ascertain the facts behind it.

The second thing which I would like to submit is that there is an atmosphere of elections in Bihar. The Bihar Government is after us. We can again be arrested under any conspiracy and again we can fall prey to some conspiracy. It is your responsibility to ensure our safety.

The third thing which I would like to submit is that despite the fact that we faced this humiliating incident of police atrocity in which we were not given anything to eat and we were made to remain on fasting for ten days, why nobody raised this matter. Even when I was granted bail I was hungry. I am the only Member of Bihar People's Party in the Parliament. That is why Member's of other parties have not raised this issue which is related to a woman, an Indian woman, a Member of Parliament. That is why I am sad and depressed. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you are not able to provide me security it will be much better for me if I resign from the membership of Parliament.....(Interruptions)..... If an enquiry will not be conducted by CBI, we will go on a hunger strike, If we are the murderer, than we should get punishment, we are ready to face that punishment.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon'ble Member has said, particularly in regard to the Government of Bihar and the charges which have been levelled on the Chief Minister,

are totally baseless and false. Shri G. Krishanaya, D.M. of Gopalganj belonged to a 'Dalit' family and was born in a poor family and after completing his education he became IAS in the cader of Andhra Pradesh(Interruptions)..... when the hon'ble Member was speaking, I was silent, then why I am not being allowed to speak.

I was saying that Shri G. Krishnaiya was born in a 'Dalit' family and while he was student used to work as a coolie. After completing his education he became an IAS. The way he was brutally murdered during his tenure in Gopalganj, that will also be remembered in the history of this democracy. Bihar Government is determined to take stringent action against the people of that community which formed a violent mob took law and order in their hands and killed him. It will take action against them even if some of them might have been prominent persons or M.P. This case is under consideration of the court. A high level investigation is being done in this case. So any such type of case cannot be raised in the House. Truth cannot be concealed by giving any explanation in this case. Truth knows no fear. The government can take whatever the steps they want to take in this matter, but no-one can put a veil on the truth. The way a D.M. of a dalit family has been brutally murdered, that shows how some people are trying to take law and order and the constitution in their hands. Today the lives of common man are unsafe due to the activities of the people's party. The State Government of Bihar is trying to check such activities and the people of same party are making hue and cry for this in the House.

Today, in Bihar the lives of downtrodden people are in danger, attempts are being made to spread the violence, No-one can be a leader through A.K. 47 rifle. One will have to adopt democratic methods to become a leader. By spreading violence one can become only a notorious criminal(Interruptions).....

Today we are talking about such a person who is a accused in a murder case and who has been a notorious criminal and history sheeter(Interruptions).....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, I am going to allow you. Please do not stand up. I cannot allow both of you to speak at a time..

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I would like to submit that the Government of Bihar has no objection to conducting of an enquiry but facts must be made public. The Government of Bihar is determined to ensure the security to every person there. The situation of law and order cannot be allowed to deteriorate at any cost. The Government of Bihar will take deal those people with iron hand who would try to violate constitution and no one will be spared in this case. This case is under consideration in the court.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am going to allocate

time to all of you one-by-one on some other important issues. It becomes very difficult when you all start speaking at the same time. As you all have seen that we have listened patiently to what has been said by the hon. lady Member here. We heard her thrice submitting her point though it was recorded once only whatever has been said by her.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody will respect the sentiments expressed by the hon. lady Member. Though it will not be good to brush aside what has been said by her here but alongwith that we should not come to any conclusion at once as we do not know the facts. In context of the statement made by her here, I would like to know the facts regarding her security. That should be reported.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should also come in it.....

MR. SPEAKER: That is a personal matter.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: No, Mr. Speaker, Sir, she was arrested and the report should also give details about the treatment she was meted out after arrest.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, this should also come in the report.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Paswanji, pleased to not drag this issue. I am trying to close the chapter.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I would like to say that a ruling should be given here that police should not take any action against any Member of Parliament even if he or she commits a murder*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may give that ruling, when you occupy this chair*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: (Pune): How you have come to the conclusion that the Member of Parliament has committed the murder ...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Should I not ask anything if any action is taken against you? Please sit down. Let the court will decide the matter*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. R. MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, an IAS officer has been murdered. *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to one aspect of the matter. What has been related to us, if true, is indeed tragic. But it arose out of the broad daylight murder of a member of the IAS—an All-India Service. The IAS is a constitutional service and it enjoys the protection of the

President of India. Therefore, I feel that the basic point that the murder of an IAS officer should be looked into by a Central agency with the concurrence of the State Government should also be taken into consideration. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Right. You please hear me very carefully. What I have said is this. The lady Member has related certain facts. And I have said, "Please examine her statement carefully."

As far as that part of her statement which has some relevance to her person as such is concerned, I would like to get information. The courts are there to decide who is responsible for this. It is not for us to say who is responsible for this.

As far as your statement is concerned, if the State Government is asking the Central Government that some assistance should be given for investigation, let them come to the Central Government. They will take note of it. You have no locus standi. It has to come from the State Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. R. MALLU: Sir, I am happy that you have given some attention to the Lady Member about the violation of the law and order situation. What about our DM from my area who was brutally murdered in Bihar? I want some attention to be given by the same State Government so that justice will be given to his family members. He came from a poor Scheduled Caste family. This IAS officer comes from my constituency and this Parliament is not bothered about the matter. We want that some special attention should be given to the members of the weaker section of the society. His family is on the road. There is nobody from his family to take up the matter. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. For the last 37 minutes we are really discussing what we need not have discussed, not really so far as our jurisdiction is concerned. That is my humble suggestion. Mr. Vajpayee has raised an issue of the supposed breakdown of the law and order machinery or constitutional breakdown in a State of this country. Constitution does not lay down or does not make provision as to whether Parliament as such can decide that question or not. Parliament can only come into that when there is President's rule and when there is the question of approval of that President's rule, if it is decided by the Central Government. And that is an executive decision. Of course, the Supreme Court has laid down certain parameters within which the Central Government has to operate but we cannot decide here. We cannot even recommend to the Government here for imposition of the President's rule. This House will become really a super State Legislature if it will decide what the State Legislature has to discuss and if we come to decisions and give our judgements about the State Governments sitting here, then there will be no end to this. Unfortunately, many of the issues are dealt with our country in a partisan manner, as we have just now with

**Not recorded.

nessed. Therefore, if this House is to take upon itself on deciding this question, then there will be serious question. Further, I believe even Mr. Vajpayee's party had agreed to the question of its support of a Government in a State which will depend on its strength in the State Legislature. Floor of the House is the place to decide this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If the strength itself is in question?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Thank you for your query. I will try to answer in my humble way. Basically, the question has to be decided on the floor of the House. If that was the test as to the majority and minority on paper, then this Government would not have been here or installed on the very first day. There is no majority party here. Mr. Narasimha Rao was not the leader of a majority party. Therefore, there would have been no Government. Let us forget about parliamentary democracy as we are practising here. It may not be ideally functioning because of the law of disqualification, because of shifting loyalties whatever may be the reason. Some are experts there and some are experts here. I do not know how it comes about. Then Sir, that has made a mockery about anti-defection law in this country. How are we going to decide this question. This is a very important question that he has raised. I think it is a question not important for discussion inside the House but outside the House by a political party. By all means, let us bring sanity into our political system. Let it not pollute because people are chagning sides. Mr. Vajpayee is a little grieved because suddenly an erosion has started from his party which is supposed to be a monolithic party. Therefore, he is upset today in what has happened in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, my request is we have got very important things to do in this House. Let us not add to our troubles and worries about these matters. Even if a modicum of the federal system has to be maintained in this country, let us not try to entrench into the areas of a State Legislature. It has also been elected by the people's mandate.

By the popular service it has been elected. Then the power of every State Legislature is being taken away. I submit that will be a very serious thing.

Sir, one more submission I have to make. Let us not assume that just because we are in Parliament, we are unnecessarily more patriotic than people in the State Legislatures, that we are more intelligent than people who are participating in the State Legislatures. Let us not arrogate to ourselves that type of super intelligence or super patriotism. That should not be done. We have our own areas laid down by the Constitution. We are even unable to complete our work. We have to exercise Guiltoline even for the purpose of passing the Budget. Therefore, let us not waste the time in this way.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Defence budget is also passed...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Yes, the

Defence Budget is also passed as Shri Indrajit Gupta has rightly said. He is very precise about it, every year he mentions this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: ...without discussion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yes, it is passed without discssion. Therefore, let us not try to impinge upon it. For political purposes, let us not get into arena which does not belong to us. That is my respectful submission. Thank You.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity. My point is about the recent blow-out in my constituency which is being handled by KG Project of ONGC in Andhra Pradesh.

I am very happy with regard to the ONGC's operations taking place in that area. Amalapuram area of Konaseema in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh is one of the main centres of ONGC's drilling operations. In Ravva Structure of Krishna-Godavari Project, ONGC so far invested more than Rs. 2,000 crore for off on shore drilling operations. So far, the ONGC achieved excellent results and ONGC have decided to invest another Rs. 3,000 crore in the same region during the 8th Plan Period.

Whereas people of this area are very happy about the efforts of the ONGC to tap the natural resources, they are very unhappy about the indifferent attitude shown by the ONGC authorities.

Sir, the recent blow-out in this region took place on the 8th of January, 1995 at 6.55 p.m. which is a third blow-out took place in this region. In 1979 also, at Lingamboina Charla, in Andhra Pradesh one blow-out took place. Also in 1993 at Komarada village, in may same Constituency, a blow-out took place.

This recent blow out is a very serious blow out. Mr. Neil Adams, the world's expert has also given a statement that this is one of the biggest blow-out in the world. So far, this type of blow out has never occurred in this country or anywhere in the world. On the day of blow-out, nearly 6,000 people has been shifted to safer places. Within a radius of 10 Kilometere area, the entire paddy, coconut and other commercial crops have already been damaged. This blow-out has resulted in a lot air pollution. The agricultural scientists are telling that in the next 18 years time, the paddy, coconut and other commercial crops will be damaged due to the pollution casued by the recent blow-out. The ONGC people are spending hundreds and hundreds crores of rupees for the ONGC operations for the control of this blow-out. But they are not sure about the control of the operation blow-out though on the 35th day of the blow-out. In this area, nearly more than half a dozen villages have been affected. Six thousands of people are taking shelter in college and high school buildings. The ONGC is giving them some feeding. So far, the ONGC has not taken up any permanent measure to settle the people also. They are losing their wages. their children are not going to the

villages. In the first instance, the ONGC authorities promised that they are going to construct a semi-permanent house and they are going to construct 500 pacca houses for the victims. But so far they have not done anything to the people. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested a number of times to shift the ONGC Regional Office from Madras to Rajahmundry where a lot of ONGC activities are taking place.

Another lacuna in this ONGC's indifferent attitude is that they are not cooperating with the local officials there. Even the revenue people and the police people are not happy with the attitude of the ONGC because their budget is audiless budget, they are spending crores of rupees for their own purpose, but not for the local area development and the people there. The other important thing is that the ONGC authorities there are not interested about the local area's development in the Konaseema area. In the year 1987 the ONGC has agreed to give Rs. 23 crore and odd for the roads in the Konaseema area to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the amount was revised to Rs. 30 crore in the year 1990. The ONGC has agreed, but so far, no single Rupee has been released by the ONGC for the above purpose. They have also promised, as per the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, to finance construction of four bridges namely, Vasishtha, Yanam-Ydurulanka, Kotipalli-Mukteswaran and Bodasakuru, but they have not sanctioned anything so far.

In the last blow-out the ONGC has not taken any action against the officials who are responsible for this second blow-out in Komarada.

They are always Acting in this manner only and so far they have not taken any action against the ONGC officials who are responsible for this blowout. Since 1987, the State Government has also been asking the ONGC to contribute towards local area development. But they have not given any funds for local development also. The ONGC is using roads and bridges in the area but it is not helping in any way for area development. May I request the hon. Speaker to kindly ask to Ministry to make a statement on this important issue?

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask the Minister. You please sit down now.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: Please direct the Minister to make a statement regarding the compensation to be paid to those people who lost their crops, houses and everything. Once again I request the hon. Minister through you, Sir, to make a statement on this issue and release liberal compensation for damages to the crops and funds for area development and also compensation for the damaged houses of the people and farmers who lost everything in the blowout.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I would like you to make a statement on this subject. *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Please allow me to raise a very important matter. You are allowing only those who are sitting on that side.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you. Please wait.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Will you please allow me too? I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nitish Kumar please. Nitishji, you can speak from your seat itself. Just press the switch on the mike.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the forthcoming legislative Assembly elections, in Bihar, I would like to draw your and the attention of the House towards the Law and order situation prevailing in the state.

Law and order situation in Bihar is deteriorating day by day. According to the instructions of the Election Commission, State Government of Bihar has to deploy the available police force during the elections. Apart from it, 450 companies of Central Police Force is being sent. It means that 32,000 police personnel by the Central Government and 50,000 police personnel by the State Government will be provided, whereas total number of booths to be set up in Bihar is going to be 82,000 only. Static force should be deployed atleast at sensitive and hyper sensitive booths. In view of the availability of police force, only 10 percent booths can be given proper police protection. It means that rest of the 90 per cent booths will remain unmanned and without any protection. That means we are going to see the worst ever election scneario in Bihar. There will be free for all. There will be booth capturing, rigging or all sports of malpractices. I think that it will be the most violent elections.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this and request the Central Government to send the required number of police personnel demanded by the Election Commission. Various political parties of the State feel that there is no possibility of any free and fair elections without sending 1500 companies of CRPF and other Central Forces. I would also like to submit that the people with licenced arms are being asked to deposit them whereas arsenal of unlicenced arms is lying with the people, and no action has been taken to seize it. Criminals who can help the ruling party are being released and others are being terrorised. This is the situation prevailing in the state.

In such a situation, Election Commission should be given free hand to deal with the situation and whatever police force is required, should be deployed there. Through you, we request this only.

12.50 hrs.

RE. MISUSE OF TADA AND DEMAND FOR ITS REPEAL

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am not raising my issue. I am raising an issue which is related to the people, specially the minority people.

Sir, I want to raise the issue of TADA. The message has gone down to the grassroot people that more than 64,888

persons have been arrested under TADA. In some places it has been misused like anything and even women and children have not been spared.

Sir, the State Home Minister is here and I have come here only for this purpose. Through you, I would like to request the Government that TADA should be notified in specific areas where the problem of terrorism is there and the administration should not misuse TADA to harass the common and innocent people. When the women and children are not spared, I do not know what is going on in case of others. That is why my request would be that the Government should notify the TADA Bill for specific areas where national integration and national security is at stake. It should not be used for redressing personal grievances or with a vindictive attitude.

I think the Government should bring in the TADA amendment Bill and notify specific areas for its operation and the innocent people should be released immediately.

Sir, the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have already decided to release people detained under TADA. But there are also many people who have been arrested under TADA in Bombay, Rajasthan and specially in Gujarat. Their number is more than 64,888. So, I request the Home Minister to intervene in the matter and take serious note of it.

MR. SPEAKER: MR. RAM VILAS PASWAN.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, one of our leaders in Assam has been arrested under TADA. TADA should go lock stock and barrel. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, one of the leaders of our Party, who is a State Secretariat member has been arrested under TADA.

MR. SPEAKER: Only MR. Paswan's statement will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the views expressed by Kumari Mamta Banerjee. I do not find any other law which has been misused so openly as TADA. From one of the questions replied in the last session, it is seen that 68 thousand persons were detained under TADA. Out of these detenus 19 thousand belong to Gujarat which is not a terrorist state, Andhra Pradesh is second and then comes Maharashtra. You will find that there has been no misuse of TADA in Janta Dal and CPM-ruled states but the Congress ruled states have grossly misused it. (Interruptions) When we tell the truth you do not accept it but during elections when you need votes, you come to minorities.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): We are supporting you on this issue but you have politicised the matter.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You are also playing the politics. During election campaign Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad

has said that TADA would go otherwise he would quit. I would like to say that TADA should be repealed. TADA should not be applied areawise. When the Bill regarding TADA was introduced in the House, we had said while taking part in the debate that if it is applied areawise, then there are chances that it may be misused. The thing which can not be done by law or in a normal way can never be done by enacting a special law. If elections are being conducted properly today, it is not due to the special law but due to the previous law. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to repeal TADA. If it continues we will oppose it. The Government should not have a vague policy.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I have already submitted that we are in agreement with what Ms. Mamata Banerjee has said.

MR. SPEAKER: What you have submitted probably has not gone on record.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, the misuse of TADA is illustrated by the fact that even leaders of our Party are put under TADA in Assam. His name is Comrade Dekha. This is how TADA is being operated all over the country. Therefore, the demand that TADA be scrapped is one with which we are in unison. This is all that I wish to say. I have also indicated that Miss Mamata Banerjee has for once raised a valid question and we are in support of her.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South): She always raised a valid question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, would you please give me a minute more for raising another item?

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): Sir, I would like to say that TADA is a draconian law which has been misused for a long time now. As it has been said here, under this law more than 68,888 people have been put behind the bar. Unfortunately, out of them 88 per cent are Muslims. Therefore, I am very much intrigued at this and pained to see these innocent people having put behind the bar for no serious charges against them. They have been in jail for years now and are undergoing tremendous torture inside the jail. These innocent people have been tortured for the mistakes which they did not commit at all. Everybody says that this law has been misused. The State Home Minister, Shri Rajesh Pilot, also says that it is being misused. When the Government itself is saying that this has been misused I do not know why the Government has not come forward to scrap the entire law. This has to be done at the earliest possible time, otherwise things will become worse. I hope the Government will give due attention to this particular matter as it is very much urgent and see that TADA is scrapped as early as possible. It is no use promising it in elections. Elections are over. This should be taken up immediately and TADA should be scrapped once for all at the earliest possible time.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): In view of the

fact that there is a statement on record in this House by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs admitting that TADA is being misused and cases of misuse are known to the Government, I really do not see the point of our going on repeating that it is being misused. What is appropriate now is that the Government should come forward with a statement or an assurance that in view of the fact that they agree that it is being misused they are going to take action either by way of repealing that Act or limiting its application to certain areas only. I do not support the idea of limiting its application to certain areas. I would like to know whether they are going to bring any amendment in this regard or whether they are going to repeal that Act. Everybody knows that it is being misused. We go on shouting here, which we have to do. The election results are coming. Some more will come. We do not have to wait for very long. As far as minority community is concerned, the ruling party should have the sense to understand how they have damaged their own cause by alienating the whole minority community by using this Act against them in a very brutal and deliberate manner. I do not know what they intend to do. This House at least should compel the Government to repeal TADA. This is an obnoxious law which is defaming us before the whole world. We talk about human rights and all that. People throughout the world know that this kind of Act is being used here which the Government itself cannot defend. Therefore, Sir, let the Government come forward with some assurance or statement on this.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker Sir, I support the demand that TADA should be repealed. The statement of Shri Jaffar Shanief is on the record. Many people have been arrested under this law and injustice have been done. Shri Tytler Sahib has also expressed his views just now. All of us are raising our voices collectively. The hon. Prime Minister has publicly said that it has been misused and it needs to be amended. He himself has said that it should be amended. Besides it, thousands of people have been arrested under TADA and are in jail. A new way is being adopted. I have been to Lucknow recently. The people of a mohalla/street had invited me. I was informed that a poet and writer has been arrested under TADA.

13.00 hrs.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has released some people but could not release him. His case has been transferred to Jaipur now and the proceedings are going on there. His son and his family members met me and they said that he is quiet innocent. There are thousands of such cases. It is possible now and merely giving statements will not serve the purpose. There is resentment among the people. It is the exploitation of human rights and an attack on personal freedom. This fact can not be covered. We request our colleagues of B.J.P... (Interruptions)... no 80 per cent people are not in it. Most of them are the people of the minority community. There is resentment among the people.

I urge upon the Government through you that this Act

should be immediately repealed. Find out some other effective way to detect the anti-nationals. It has been proved that this act is being misused. Therefore it should be repealed.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, sir, I had no intention of intervening in what is turning out to be a mini discussion on TADA. I recollect very well, Sir, that when this Act was first brought to Parliament we were in the forefront of opposing any such Act, because the very existence of an Act of this kind on the Statute Book of any country is an admission of gross failure of the most essential aspects of governance. We pointedly, even then, made it explicit, on behalf of our party, that such an Act is a slur upon the good name of India and is a direct condemnation of the forty years of misrule of your party... (Interruptions)... I am most astounded at the unbelievable hypocrisy of the Ruling party, being the originators of this Act. Thereafter, despite consistent warnings that it will be misused against political adversaries—repeatedly we pointed out that it is being misused in Gujarat, and elsewhere—they were the perpetrators, they brought this Act into existence, and they misused it.

I am now intrigued, Sir, by the timing of this sudden demand for repeal of this Act. The original purpose of the Act is to enable the State to act effectively against terrorism. Has terrorism vanished because of their misgovernance? Has terrorism gone? Have no more bomb blasts taken place? I am conscious, Sir, that this is not a debate on TADA.

I am also intrigued, Sir, at the unbelievable pusillanimity of this Government. A foreign Prime Minister is telling you that our relations will not normalise unless you withdraw TADA. I am amazed at the unbelievable hypocrisy and pure electoral interest surrounding the demand for repeal of TADA suddenly. We are second to none in our quest for establishing a civilised State and for asserting human rights in this country, but we are certainly not going to accept this kind of hypocrisy on the part of the Ruling party. The Prime Minister speaks in one voice, the Minister of Home speaks in another voice, and his Minister of State speaks in in another voice. All that I ask the Ruling party to do is, if the Government has changed its mind and if it wants to repeal this Act, it must come with facts and figures and it must speak in one voice. Let the Prime Minister come to this House and say as to where the Government stands on this issue. (Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, after independence, no Act of Parliament has been so much misused as TADA had been misused. The Government of India's representatives before the Human Rights Commission had given an undertaking that this Act had been brought to protect the human rights and unfortunately, it had not served any purpose for which it was intended. I agree with what my friends, Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Indrajit Gupta, have said.

Shir S.B. Chavan, several times in this House, in Bombay and in other places of India had said that this Act

is misused again and again by the States Governments. Shri Rajesh Pilot, when he visited Bombay and several other cities—whether during elections or before the elections—had said that: “When you very well know that the States are misusing it what is the purpose of continuing with such an Act?”

I would congratulate Kumari Mamata Banerjee for raising this issue and I would very humbly request the Government to reconsider this. The assurance that the Government had given to this very House at the time of introducing this Bill had not been fulfilled. So, it is high time that the Government withdraws this TADA.

13.10 hrs. PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
Notification under the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 etc.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 574 in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 1994 under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Railway Protection Force, Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7014/95]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989:—

- (i) The Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Tickets and Refund of Fare) Third Amendment Rules, 1994 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 864(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1994.
- (ii) G.S.R. 878(E) published in Gazette in India dated the 23rd December, 1994 containing corrigendum to the notification No. G.S.R. 737(E) dated the 4th October, 1994.
- (iii) G.S.R. 879(E) published in Gazette in India dated the 23rd December, 1994 containing corrigendum to the notification No. G.S.R. 551(E) dated the 29th August, 1991.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7015/95]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the Hindustan Prefab Ltd., New Delhi for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEELA KAUL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Annual Report of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7016/95]

Notification under Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri Aji Panja, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 27(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 1995 making certain amendments in the Second Scheduled to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7017/95]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi for 1993-94 alongwith a statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7018/95]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): On behalf of Shri Kamal Nath I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi for the year 1993-94 under sub-section (1) of section 39 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7019/95]

Notification under Essential Commodities Act, 1995

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri Eduardo Faleiro I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 18(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 1995 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7020/95]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. for 1993-94 alongwith a Statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shrimati Krishna Sahi I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Statement Regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries for the year 1993-94.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts And comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 7021/95)

Annual Accounts and Review of the Audited Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Bombay for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri M. Arunachalam I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay, for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay, for the year 1993-94.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 7022/95)

Notification under the Customs Act, 1962 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to lay on the Table — (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962—

- (i) G.S.R. 574 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding 51 notifications mentioned in the notification.
- (ii) G.S.R. 575 (E) to G.S.R. 584 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to consolidate and continue the concessional rates of import duty or full exemptions which were scattered in earlier notifications.
- (iii) G.S.R. 604 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 252/90-Cus., dated the 12th October, 1990.
- (iv) G.S.R. 845 (E) and G.S.R. 846 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to permit export of gem and jewellery manufactured by exporting units in Export Processing zone and Jhandewalan Jewellery Complex, Delhi, through passengers' baggage.
- (v) G.S.R. 668 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Animal Embryos, when imported into India, from the whole of the basic duty of Customs leviable thereon.
- (vi) G.S.R. 680 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to all goods when imported into India and intended for donation for the relief and rehabilitation of the people affected by the earthquake in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka from the whole of the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon subject to certain conditions.
- (vii) G.S.R. 685 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce the

import duty on steel melting scrap imported for use of melting in hot blast cupola from 50 percent to 5 percent *ad valorem*.

- (viii) G.S.R. 24 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum directing that the whole of the auxiliary duty of Customs which was not levied on specified varieties of wood, imported from Burma, due to a general practice that was prevalent during the period commencing from the 25th July, 1991 to the 12 September, 1991, need not be paid.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7023/95]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1994:—

- (i) The Central Excise (Amendment Rules, 1994 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 665(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 666(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the Vishakapatnam Export Processing Zone at Vishakapatnam as a 'Free Trade Zone.'
- (iii) G.S.R. 667(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods specified in the Notification when the same are supplied to units in seven specified Export Processing Zones from the whole of the excise duty leviable thereon.
- (iv) G.S.R. 679(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to all goods donated or purchased out of cash donations, for the relief and rehabilitation of the people affected by earthquake in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka from whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon, subject to certain conditions.
- (v) G.S.R. 764(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 121/94-CE, dated the 11th August, 1994.
- (vi) G.S.R. 765(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification Nos. 214/86-CE and 217/86-CE, dated the 25th March, and 2nd April, 1986 respectively.
- (vii) The Central Excise (Twelfth Amendment) Rules 1994 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 766(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (viii) G.S.R. 767(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 2/94-CE dated the 1st March, 1994.

- (ix) G.S.R. 768(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 24/94-CE dated the 20th May, 1994.

- (x) G.S.R. 769(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 351/86-CE dated the 20th June, 1986.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT. 7024/95]

- (3) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) The Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for determination of Injury) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) The Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Countervailing duty on subsidized Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 9B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing the Additional Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce, as the designated authority for the purposes of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and collection of Countervailing Duty on the Subsidized Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995.

- (ii) G.S.R. 4(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, as the designated authority for the purposes of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7025/95]

- (5) A copy of the Twenty-fourth Valuation Report (Hindi

and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on the 31st March, 1994 under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT 7026/95]

(6) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 1993-94 together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT 7027/95]

Statements showing action taken by Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during the various sessions of Lok Sabha.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Lok Sabha:—

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|------|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| (1) | Statement No. XXXV
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7028/95) | — Thirteenth Session, 1989 | Eighth Lok Sabha |
| (2) | Statement No. XXXIII
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7029/95) | — Second Session, 1990 | Ninth Lok Sabha |
| (3) | Statement No. XXIX
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7030/95) | — Third Session, 1990 | |
| (4) | Statement No. XXV
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7031/95) | — Sixth Session, 1990 | |
| (5) | Statement No. XXVI
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7032/95) | — First Session, 1991 | Tenth Lok Sabha |
| (6) | Statement No. XXII
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7033/95) | — Second Session, 1991 | |
| (7) | Statement No. XXI
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7034/95) | — Third Session, 1992 | |
| (8) | Statement No. XIX
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7035/95) | — Fourth Session, 1992 | |
| (9) | Statement No. XVI
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7036/95) | — Fifth Session, 1992 | |
| (10) | Statement No. XV
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7037/95) | — Sixth Session, 1993 | |

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|------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| (11) | Statement No. XI
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7038/95) | — Seventh Session, 1993 | Tenth Lok Sabha |
| (12) | Statement No. X
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7039/95) | — Eighth Session, 1993 | |
| (13) | Statement No. VIII
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7040/95) | — Ninth Session, 1994 | |
| (14) | Statement No. V
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7041/95) | — Tenth Session, 1994 | |
| (15) | Statement No. III
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7042/95) | — Eleventh Session, 1994 | |
| (16) | Statement No. I
(Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7043/95) | — Twelfth Session, 1994 | |

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi for 1993-94 alongwith a statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): On behalf of Shri S. Krishna Kumar I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of working of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7044/95]

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited for the year 1993-94 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT 7045/95]

Annual Report and Review on the working of the Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum for 1992-93 alongwith a statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PAWAN SINGH GHATOWAR): I to beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Cancer

Centre, Trivandrum, for the year 1992-93 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum, for the year 1992-93.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7046/95]

13.12 hrs

[English]

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following three Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 8th December, 1994.

- (1) *The Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Bill, 1994*
- (2) *The Appropriation (No. 6) Bill, 1994*
- (3) *The Appropriation (Railways) No. 6 Bill, 1994*

13.13 hrs

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Sir, I beg to lay the following reports of the Committee on Agriculture:

- (1) Thirteenth Report—A Report on Khesari Dal
- (2) Fourteenth Report on action taken by Government on recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee on Annual Report (1992-93) of Department of Agricultural Research & Education.
- (3) Fifteenth Report on action taken by Government on recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Committee on Annual Report (1992-93) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (4) Sixteenth Report on action taken by Government on recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee on Annual Report (1992-93) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

13.13½ hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tenth Report and Minutes

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on Working of Central Board of Direct Taxes of the Ministry of

Finance (Department of Revenue) and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

13.14 hrs.

[English]

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1975."

*The motion was adopted.***

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: I introduce the Bill.

13.14½ hrs.

[English]

Explanatory Statement giving reasons for immediate Legislation by the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7047/95]

13.15 hrs.

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for an International Airport at Chandigarh

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): There is an urgent need for an International Airport at Chandigarh to operate international flights to Europe and Middle East from Chandigarh.

A very large number of people of Punjab who are settled in various parts of the world and contribute immensely to the foreign exchange reserves of India have come to Delhi for onward journey. Besides, there is ample scope of air lifting of flowers and vegetables from Chandigarh to various foreign destinations.

In view of heavy congestion and various bottlenecks at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, it will be useful to operate such services from Chandigarh.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to consider this matter urgently.

(ii) Need for Electoral Reforms

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr.

*Published in Gazette of India extraordinary Part II, Section 2, Dated 14.2.95.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

Speaker, Sir, Electoral Reforms in our country are now overdue and inevitable. Muscle power and money power will have to be eliminated. It is also experienced that a large number of candidates are entering the electoral fray and complicating the process. The incidence of candidates having failed to obtain party tickets and coming forward to contest elections as independents is very much on the increase. Thus, the number of candidates needs also to be brought down. Therefore, electoral reforms are the need of the hour to make elections free and fair.

I would, therefore, request the Government to bring in necessary amendments to the relevant electoral laws after careful considerations and due consultations with all concerned.

(iii) Need to open Seamen's Employment Office at Madras

SHRI P. P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore): The Madras Port has been portrayed as "the Eastern Gateway of India". It is the second largest port in India in terms of traffic. It has been extensively expanded and modernised. An outlay of Rs. 570 crore has been provided for the development and modernisation of the Madras Port in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

But there is no Seamen's Employment Office at Madras. In exercise of power under section 12(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and in pursuance of the Madras High Court order dated 30.4.92, the Government of India opened a Seamen's Employment Office at Madras on 23.4.93. But in pursuance of the decision of the Appellate Bench of Madras High Court reversing the earlier single judge decision of the Court, the Seamen's Employment Office was closed in August 1994. Then a Special Leave Petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the order of the Division Bench of the High Court of Madras. The Special Leave Petition was dismissed by the Supreme Court with liberty to the petitioners—The National Union of Seafarers to make a representation to the Government of India for continuing the Seamen's Employment Office at Madras. The Supreme Court directed the Government of India to decide the demand within two months of the representation. The petitioners have submitted their representation to the Government of India on 25.10.94 for continuation of the Seamen's Employment Office.

There has been a continuous demand by shipping companies, Seamen National Union of Seafarers of India and also by others for the opening of Seamen's Employment Office at Madras. Their demand is genuine.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to open Seamen's Employment Office at Madras immediately.

(iv) Need to take Immediate Measures to Check the Menace of HIV Disease by Adopting Ayurvedic Medicines

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA (Shimoga) : The August House is well aware of the fact that several people lost their lives due to the spread of plague in the country during the year 1994. Jaundice, malaria, diarrhoea and other diseases were also detected in many parts of the country.

During this year the situation has become serious due to fast spreading of HIV disease in the country. All known methods of treatment for curing this disease have failed. Therefore, there is an urgent need to try out alternative systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Yoga and Tibetan medicines.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take immediate measures to check the menace of HIV disease by encouraging the "Ayurvedic" medicines throughout the country.

[Translation]

(v) Need to Implement Various Centrally Sponsored Development Projects in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Indo-Canadian Agriculture Extension Scheme was introduced on a selective basis in three districts of Uttar Pradesh. The awareness programme of proper farm management techniques and scientific farming was organised for some selected farmers, as a result of which the agricultural production was doubled during the first year. The farmers also utilised the improved agricultural implements from the farmers assistance centres of the project and many rural women started their own business after getting training from the sewing training centres. Selected trained women and providing health education and first aid to the rural women in every village under the Mother and Child Care Programme. These programmes have created awareness towards education among the rural people.

In regard to scientific farming and other welfare projects, HarDOI, Lakhimpur Khiri, Sitapur, Unnao and Farukhabad districts of Uttar Pradesh are backward districts. On account of the lack of proper management and scientific techniques, this area is totally cut off from the mainstream of development ever after abundance of agricultural resources.

Therefore, I request the Government to implement various agricultural, social welfare and industrial development schemes under the Karim Nagar Project of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Indo-Canadian Agriculture Extension Scheme in the above mentioned districts, of HarDOI, Lakhimpur Khiri, Sitapur, Unnao and Farukhabad in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to Constitute a Separate State of Uttaranchal/Uttarakhand.

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposal of the Government of Uttar Pradesh of constituting a separate state comprising 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh has been pending with the Government of India for the last three and a half years. On 12 August, 1991, the then Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent a proposal to the Central Government with regard to constituting a separate State of 'Uttaranchal' by merging these 8 hilly districts. Thereafter,

many clarifications were sought from Uttar Pradesh Government, which were duly submitted. But the Government of India has neither issued any statement nor made its point of view clear in this regard so far.

The present Government of Uttar Pradesh has once again sent a similar proposal to the Central Government in August, 1994.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to immediately take steps in the direction of constituting a separate state of Uttaranchal/Uttarakhand and initiate the process thereof.

[English]

(vii) Need to introduce one more Mail Train Between New Jalpaiguri and Sealdah

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (RAIGANJ): I would like to draw the attention of the House that Siliguri Municipal Corporation is becoming a Metropolitan city day by day. It is the second biggest city of West Bengal. Particularly Siliguri may be recognised as Gateway of North Eastern part of the country. The North East Zone including North Bengal is famous for tourism. Every year thousands of foreigners visit Darjeeling through New Jalpaiguri Railway station, which is only three kilometres far from Siliguri. Darjeeling earns a lot of foreign exchange by exporting good quality of tea. But the city is completely neglected so far as railway communication is concerned. There is only one mail train named Darjeeling Mail running between New Jalpaiguri and Sealdah, which usually runs late.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to introduce one more mail train between new Jalpaiguri and Sealdah in the morning for the interest of the people of North East Zone.

[Translation]

(viii) Need to open a Navodaya Vidyalaya and a Central School in Dehri-on-sona in Rohtas District of Bihar

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, district Rohtas of Bihar has a population of about 20 lakh which is mainly inhabited by poor farmers, labourers, the downtrodden, traders and the minorities. The economic condition of these people is not good. They are not capable of sending their brilliant children to other places for better education. Unfortunately, there is not a good school in this district and despite the provisions made by the Government no Kendriya Vidyalaya or Navodaya Vidyalaya has been set up there by the Central Government. Due to this reason thousands of brilliant students are devoid of good education and as such cannot make any contribution towards national development.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to kindly set up a Navodaya Vidyalaya and a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Dehri-on-sona in Rohtas district of Bihar during the current financial year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2.20 p.m.

13.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

14.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Seven Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATUARY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): I bet to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu and Kashmir issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period beyond 2nd March, 1995 till 17th July, 1995."

As this august House is aware, in view of the then prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, a Proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution was issued by the President on 18 July, 1990, in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir on the recommendation of the Governor. Since the law and order and security situation in the State continued to be serious on account of the unabated actions of Pakistan to fuel and abet violent subversion and terrorism in certain parts of the State, approval of both the Houses of Parliament was obtained from time to time, for the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated 18th July, 1990. The current spell of President's Rule in the State shall be in force upto 2nd March, 1995.

The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has mentioned that, on account of sustained operations of the security forces the militants have been brought under significant pressure, and there is improvement in the security situation of the State. There also appears to be a realisation among sections of the militants regarding the futility of violence in the face of determined action by the security forces.

Several developments during the last year, for example, the peaceful resolution of the impasse at the Hazratbal shrine and the peaceful conclusion of the Amarnath Yatra, despite the concerned attempts by certain militant groups to disrupt it, have come as a set back to the militants and have had a positive impact on the situation. Efforts of political parties to revive their activities, have also been noticed although they have yet to gain the desired momentum. It is expected that these will progressively grow and gather further momentum.

Some problems and bottlenecks which had persisted

with reference to certain procedural requirements relating to the electoral process in the State have been more or less resolved. These pertain to the delimitation of constituencies and work relating to the revision of electoral rolls which has been taken up under the supervision of the Election Commission.

The policy of openness and transparency followed by the Government vis-a-vis the State whereunder, apart from ordinary visitors from within the country and abroad, a large number of foreign delegations, dignitaries and journalists, etc. have been visiting the State, regularly, has enabled a better insight and understanding of the situation and helped to expose Pakistan's continuing massive propaganda and disinformation campaign and annexationist designs in the State. This, and the related development at the international level have also had a positive impact on the ground situation.

Together with the impact of the security operations on the morale of the militants, there are signs of desperation among them and Pakistan. There are reports of attempts to induct an increasing number of foreign mercenaries, including Pakistani nationals into the State; to build up caches of arms and ammunition; to improve weaponry and upgrade violence; and to try and strike at soft targets even in the Jammu region to give the impression that militancy is wide spread, to inflame communal passions, and to generally try and spread a feeling of terror. The latest example of this was the perpetration of a series of blasts at the Maulana Azad Stadium on 26 January in which eight persons were killed and over fifty injured. Threats to political leaders etc. are also being issued persistently. The clear aim is to try and do everything possible to thwart the reemergence of political activities and restoration of democratic institutions in the State. It is also clear that Pakistan will continue with such efforts to impede progress towards the restoration of normalcy particularly by trying to maintain an atmosphere of terror and fear among the people.

In this background, the Governor has stated that, although such has been achieved with regard to the security situation and improvement in the overall atmosphere, it is premature as yet to commence immediate action and steps for the installation of an elected Government in the State. According to him, it would be necessary, by sustained action, to further reduce the fear of the gun and contain actual and potential violence. In view of this, he has opined that the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution for some time more and has recommended that the Proclamation under Article 356 in relation to the State may, for this time being continue to remain in force till the end of the period of the Proclamation which expires on 17th July, 1995.

The report and recommendation of the Governor have been considered, and in the view of the Government, in addition to the aspects brought out in the report of the Governor, there have been several other developments

also which show a marked change in the mood of the people and the overall situation.

Concerted measures have been taken during the past year to bring about greater coordination between the Security Forces and the civil administration and police; and, to reactivate the local administration, create greater accountability and increase the access and confidence of the people in it. Sustained steps have also been taken to accelerate economic and development activity in the State, for which substantial additional financial assistance has been provided to the State Government. Regular reviews of progress have been held to monitor the progress at the Central Government level, and senior officials have been continuously visiting the State and interacting with the State and local administration officials. Considerable emphasis has also been laid on the need for effective monitoring and supervision at the State and District level also. All these efforts have definitely led to a degree of activation and revival of normal activities of the local administration, and have had a positive impact on the overall situation by way of isolating the militants, and with reference to the mood and aspirations of the people.

Other steps have also been taken such as release of a large number of detainees, including some prominent secessionist leaders, which have also helped to focus attention towards the need to end the culture of violence, and the reactivation of the political process. There are welcome signs that voices of moderation and peace have drawn increasing and positive response from the people. A wide ranging public debate is clearly on in the State, which could be said to mark the beginning of a political process in a wider sense.

In the above situation, the Government are confident that the developing situation will lead to the initiation of the democratic process in the State in the coming months, even though we are fully aware of the desperate efforts that are likely to be made from across the border to maintain violence at a high level and thwart every prospect of peace.

After giving careful consideration to the matter, the Government agrees with the recommendations of the Governor that for the present it would be necessary and desirable that President's Rule is extended in the State, till 17th of July, 1995. The Government will keep the situation under continuous review and take further steps as may be found feasible and necessary, consistent with its desire to restore the democratic institutions in the State at the earliest, without compromising with the essential security requirements arising out of the situation as it may develop.

In view of the position explained above, I solicit the approval of this august House to extend President's rule in the State of Jammu and Kashmir for a further period beyond the 2nd of March, 1995 till the 17th of July, 1995.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in

respect of Jammu and Kashmir, issued under Article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period beyond 2nd March, 1995 till 17th July, 1995."

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is with considerable sadness that I participate yet again in a discussion on a Resolution moved by the Government asking for yet another period for the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

If I recollect right, I seem to have participated in each of these discussions, each of these six-monthly enhancements, not simply from 1990 but indeed from the earlier imposition of Governor's rule there. It is a very saddening task to speak on this subject. Just before the commencement of this discussion, I did ask my senior and revered colleague, Com. Indrajit Gupta, what am I to say on this subject, and he very wisely said that there is nothing left to be said; we have said all that has to be said, in the last five years. So, there is nothing new that we can say. All the comments we have to make about the competence or otherwise of this illustrious Government have been made in the last five years. Yet I must perform my duty and I must share with the hon. Union Home Minister, what I think continue, to bedevil the situation, or continue to trouble us in this trouble State of the Union.

I am struck by the irony of the headline in one of the newspapers today—I think attributing it to some source in the Government—which said that the situation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is normal but the Constitutional position is yet to be restored. I think this really sums up the irony of the double speak in which we engage ourselves whenever we refer to this trouble Valley of the State. I know that the time allotted to this debate is very short and a number of other speakers wish to join and share their views with the Government. So, rather than labouring over this, I shall be very brief. I pointedly share with the hon. Home Minister what I think continue to be the issues or what I think are some of the more recent eruptions of worry in that troubled Valley.

I think the principal responsibility of the Government and the principal task before all of us, not simply of the Government but certainly of us in the Opposition as well, is to counsel the Government, to advise the Government and to lead the Government into a path that would enable them firstly, to contain and, thereafter, to counter an externally aided and abetted insurgency in the Valley. That is the crux of the problems and will remain till such time as the Government is not able to address itself purposely, positively and meaningfully to that task.

And while reminding the hon. Home Minister of that task, may I also remind him of an unanimous resolution that both the Houses of Parliament have adopted about the position of our Parliament in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir? That, Sir, is not simply a cosmetic exercise that the Parliament had engaged in, and if the Government and the collectivity of the Opposition adopted a resolution in both the Houses of Parliament, it does not lie with me to remind the hon. Home Minister that resolution has some standing and that resolution should not become yet

another piece of paper to collect more dust in the archives of our Parliament.

The second, Sir, and I think the most important task before this Government—and this responsibility is only of the Government in which we can do nothing at all, and it is in this task that the Government has more signally failed. It is to restore the authority of the State of India from which only can flow the authority of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. We, rather, glibly talk of normalcy. I would request the Union Home Minister to share with us the effectiveness of the Government at the village level in the Valley. That, Sir, is the measuring yardstick. Unless your Government has been able to assert the authority of the State at the level of the village, unless at the level of the village the patwari or the lowest of the village official is able to assert the authority of the State, we would not be able to do the immediate task that the State is enjoined to perform, as part of its constitutional obligation.

On the third point. I would elaborate a little bit. I want to leave a request with the hon. Minister, through you, that for the sake of the Valley, please do not subserviate the interests of two-thirds of the geographical State of Jammu and Kashmir. At the present moment, in the situation that is obtaining, it appears that the Valley is holding a kind of veto over developments, whether in Ladakh or in Jammu or other Districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Now this a highly unsatisfactory situation.

I have received here, just earlier, a representation from some prominent citizens of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, representing Ladakh. Amongst the signatories to this representation are hon. Shri Namgyal, who is a former Union Minister of State and who is the Vice-president of J&K PCC(I), Shri Ven. Khanpo Rimpoche, President of Gompa Association of Ladakh, Shri Akbar Ladakhi, President, Ladakh Muslim Association, Shri Sonam Norboo, Member of the ruling party's District Congress and various others.

Now, I have always been of the view and I reiterate that view that for the sake of the Valley, you do not hold developments in the rest of the State as being subservient somehow to what is happening in the Valley.

Therefore, please examine these three or four simple demands of Ladakh or Jammu very seriously and we would benefit if you share the views or the thinking of the Government in that respect. Firstly, it is about the establishment of the autonomous Council for Ladakh. This has been a long-standing demand. It has often been discussed. If I am not mistaken, the Government has already accepted, in principle, the establishment of such a Council. What is holding it up?

Secondly, and this has been a demand of the citizens of Ladakh for a very long time and I personally am of the view that it fully merits such a special consideration, Ladakh was not subjected to income-tax and it ought not to be subjected to income-tax.

The peculiarity of Ladakh, the occupations of the citizens in Ladakh, the total revenue collection from Ladakh etc., do

not warrant the imposition of tax because the cost involved in collection of tax is more than what you actually receive.

The third point is, I do not see any reason why either Jammu or Ladakh ought to continue to remain unrepresented in Parliament simply because we are unable to restore normalcy at the speed or in the manner in which we wished to do it earlier. Please examine the possibility of having a representative of Ladakh in this Parliament who would share with us, as a citizen from that State, what are his views on Kashmir and what can be done in that State. Similarly, from Jammu also, a representative should be elected to represent in Parliament.

The only point that I wish to underline here is whatever I am suggesting in regard to these three proposals is within the existing Constitution of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and not outside of it. Therefore, all that requires really to be done is for the Union Government to take an initiative and share with us its thinking on the subject.

When the issues concerning the Valley are addressed I would like to leave one thought without labouring it too much. I do believe that development is required for the Valley. I do believe that the economic normalcy has to be restored. I do believe that the normal citizens of the Valley are now utterly weary of the seemingly endless trouble that has afflicted them. I do believe that essential developmental work is necessary in the Valley. But not any of these is possible unless you have people's participation and therefore you come back to one of the earlier points that I had made about restoration of the authority of the state and establishing village level participation in the entire Valley.

Very briefly I would like to share with the Government the contours of today's Kashmir and briefly I highlight them. I would request hon. Home Minister to clarify some of the questions that I have asked. I would like to know what is the Government doing about languishing expatriates who are rendered as refugees in their own country who are now over 3,00,000. The Kashmiri pandits who are now rendered expatriates lead a miserable life for the past so many years. What is the new initiative that the Government intends taking about restoring normal existence to these refugees, who are rendered refugees for no fault of their own? What does the Government have in mind when it talks of elections while near about 3,00,000 of them live outside their home? How would they participate in the elections that the Government is talking of?

The second thing which I would like the Government to clarify is this. We do not have access to information. I am intrigued, I am somewhat anxious by the report that I have read. The reports to me, indicate a kind of situation of civil war amongst the insurgent groups within the insurgency in the Valley. This internal civil war within the insurgent groups in the Valley, particularly illustrated by two incidents, to me, has many significant aspects. But I cannot elaborate the aspects until the hon. Home Minister shares with us the details of them. First is the killing that has recently taken place in the vicinity of Dargah

Hazratbal. What are the details of that? How could such a killing take place? Is that a killing between rival insurgent groups? Are we to go by what the newspapers have reported? I would request the hon. Home Minister to clarify what are the details of this incident.

And what actually does this represent? What does it represent for the situation within the Valley and what does it represent for the future of normalising in that Valley?

The second incident, Sir, as part of the civil war within the insurgency, is that there are reports that have been appearing about Charar-e-Sharief, some of the reports on Dargah Charar-e-Sharief appear to be extremely alarming. I would not go by these newspaper reports, to the extent of not even repeating them in the House, but I would request the hon. Home Minister to inform us about the details of what is happening at Charar-e-Sharief near Badgaon. What exactly is happening? How is it possible that day-after-day such reports appear in the newspapers and if these reports are not factually correct, then why has the Government not come out with a factual and correct version of what is actually happening there? We would benefit if the Government lets us know about Charar-e-Sharief.

The second aspect is that I will request the Government to share its thinking with us.

I do believe that the Government is internationalising the situation through default. There was some news about access of Red Cross and Amnesty to the Valley. What are the details of it and what is the Government's thinking about it? Are Amnesty International and the Red Cross going to visit the Valley? What kind of access is it? Is it free access or not free access? We would like to know the details. I am concerned also about the rationale of the Government in permitting Indian citizens to attend the Conference as representatives of Jammu and Kashmir, a Conference of the Islamic Countries—OIC: The Organisation of Islamic Countries. What were the Indian representatives of Hurriyat doing in that Conference and what thought or thinking process, rationale has persuaded the Government to take this initiative? The Government must explain its stand.

Sir, I do not want to take too much time. But I do think that, at least, in substance, because of the inaction of the Government, we have made our foreign policy also as a kind of captive to the prevalent situations, this lack of resolution in the Valley of Kashmir. This is costing the country dearly, because we lose a great deal of the international bank balance of goodwill that India has, a great deal of that bank balance and time spent in unnecessary initiatives of all kinds because Pakistan is determined to raise this issue in each and every international forum and then we are constrained to rebut what Pakistan is doing. And this is not only shackling India's foreign policy initiatives, it is reducing it almost to a one issue policy and it is causing grave depletion in India's international standing. Perhaps, the hon. Home Minister would explain his thinking on this.

Sir, we would like to know the details of the Jammu

blasts. It was obviously an attempt against the life of His Excellency, the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. It was a very serious incident. Since the incident took place, this is the first opportunity, and it is an opportune moment for the Government to give us all the details about it. I am also constrained to ask about the avalanche because I found it horrific. We will do not have factual information about the recent avalanche that occurred between Qazikund and Banihal. How many people actually got killed? I realise that an inquiry has been ordered into it. I do not wish to preempt the inquiry. I do not expect the Union Home Minister to tell us who is to be blamed or who is not to be blamed pending the inquiry. But we are certainly entitled to know how many actually perished. There are such diverse reports, some newspapers report said that there are nearabout 600 vehicles that were held up and others said that there are 200 vehicles that were held up.

We would like to know the factual details of this horrifying incident that took place at Banihal. Surely, there has been a failure somewhere. That failure will be established by the enquiry that has already been ordered. I do not wish to pre-judge or preempt the enquiry. But I do wish to know the details.

Sir, I would like to conclude in just two or three sentences. The challenge that we face in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Valley, is a challenge to Indian statecraft. It is not simple a challenge to this Government or any other Government. It is a challenge to the Indian Statecraft given the most unrelenting, externally-aided and abetted insurgency. How does India, through the excellence of its statecraft, find a civilised, a humane and a democratic resolution to the problem the afflicts all of us. The problem has got focussed, no doubt in the Valley. But it is a problem for all of us. It is a challenge. It is a challenge to the collectivity of India and it is an externally-aided insurgency, then that external agency, namely, Pakistan, is not simply challenging this Government or any other Government, it is challenging the might of India. This is the challenge. How to find a solution in respect of this problem? How to find a civilised solution, a humane solution and a democratic solution? I leave a thought with the Union Home Minister who is a man of great experience and learning. In the meeting of this challenge, the Armed Forces and the Para-military forces have an onerous responsibility to perform. It is very easy to find fault with what they do. Day in and day out, these young soldiers, the young-boy soldiers of the Para-military Forces stand in the bitterest of cold, alone, invaded by all kinds of fears, all kinds of difficulties, all kinds of prejudices that we transfer from here. I stand for all those soldiers. Theirs is a very very serious responsibility, a very very grave responsibility. Let us be very mindful of the treatment that we meet out to our soldiers and also to our Para-military Forces personnel. The flippancy or the light-heartedness with which we treat their fears, the challenge that they meet on every day, that must receive adequate and continuous support from the Government.

We must now, I believe, take the offensive, an

international offensive certainly against Pakistan, an international diplomatic offensive against their human rights record, for example, in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. We must highlight and bring out fully what the present head of that Pakistan-occupied portion of Kashmir is already speaking. There is a great disaffection there. We would like the Union Home Minister to share the details about it with us.

Sir, the Government continuously talks of it. This is my concluding sentence and my concluding advice. I do not wish, in any sense of being disrespectful to the Union Home Minister. But the Government, as a collectivity, keeps on talking of a new initiative in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. There is one very significant new initiative that this Government can take. So far, they have tried their hand. They have done all that they could or they can. The best, the most significant and the most telling new initiative that this Government can now take in respect of finding a proper solution to the State of Jammu and Kashmir is for this Government to vacate the Chair of office to which they no longer have any right. Let this new initiative come from a new Government.

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now subsequent speakers will have ten minutes. There will be a bell immediately after eight minutes are over and then there will be a grace of two minutes. So each speaker will have ten minutes.

Shri Naval Kishore Rai to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to make my point in the discussion on the motion of the Hon'ble Home Minister which calls for extending the President's rule once again in the State of Jammu and Kashmir till 17 July, 1995 under Article 356 of the Constitution. The President's rule has been time and again extended in Jammu and Kashmir under Article 356 and every time all the parties give their suggestions and opinions to the effect that democratic process should be restored there and these suggestions remain pending as before. The Government does not come out with a concrete democratic package and regionalism is on the increase in the state.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Government till when shall it rule the state of Jammu and Kashmir in this fashion with the help of Article 356. Regionalism raises its ugly head when no attention is paid to the restoration of democratic process and when there is discrimination on the basis of language, region and other things. There are many reasons in Kashmir. The way President's rule is extended there time and again with the help of Article 356, I personally feel that no solution to the problem can be evolved unless a political package is formulated therefor on the basis of which democratic process can be set in motion within the stipulated time frame by conducting elections from Panchayat level to state Government level. But the Government says repeatedly that it is going to adopt democratic process

but doing otherwise with the help of Article 356, thus maintaining a status quo. Recently, it was also talked in the Hon'ble President's Address about amending the electoral rolls and many other things culminating at adopting a democratic process. This way, the period of President's rule was extended further many times but nothing is being done to strengthen the democratic system. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Home Minister that he should try to find a comprehensive solution to this problem by bringing forward a political package for the state within a stipulated time period. His motion seeks to extend the time period but efforts should also be made to strengthen democratic system and conduct elections at all levels within this period so that the regionalism of Kashmir that raised its ugly head due to repeatedly banking up Article 356 does not affect other parts of the country and this does not unnecessarily become an international issue to be raised in international fora. Therefore, there should be no further delay. (15.02 hrs.)

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

Sir, I would like to know from the Government by when will it make an announcement of Political package and conduct elections at all levels by a democratic process and try to find a political solution to this problem. Secondly, the way the Hon'ble Minister makes claims of normalcy by citing the examples of Amarnath Yatra and other things.

Hon'ble Jaswant Singh ji has also touched upon the problem of migrants. We should definitely pay attention to the problems of migrants who are living as refugees. But I would like to know the arrangements the Government of India has made for development, rehabilitation and living of patriotic Muslim Grjarurs who are compelled to live there; who have been divested to their houses and property and are fighting against the militants there? If no arrangements have been made, what are the reasons therefor? On the one hand, a refugee is provided all the facilities in the country but on the other hand nothing is thought about Muslim Gurjars. I would like to know what concrete steps and announcements are going to be made for them?

I will not take much time, as many Members have to speak. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I on behalf of myself and my party express grave concern and emphatically demand that Article 356 should not be repeatedly used and steps should be taken to check regionalism in Kashmir. The discrimination should be stopped, elections may be conducted at all levels, announcement of political package be made and democracy restored there. How far is it judicious to continue to have Article 356 for so long if the Government of India firmly believes in democracy. Therefore, through you, I would like to say that the way the issues of Vidharbha in the home state of hon. Home Minister. Telangana, Uttarakhnd and Jharkhand are becoming hot issues are all because of discrimination only. Such issues including Kashmir will continue to be hot spots and regionalism will acquire serious dimensions if police raj continues, democracy is not strengthened and the problem of Kashmir is not solved by restoring democracy there with the help of consolidated political package. Therefore, the

Home Minister should announce such a scheme today itself which helps to strengthen democracy and weaken regionalism. Kashmir problem should be solved democratically through a political package or the situation will worsen further.

With these words, I demand the restoration of political process and a political package and draw attention towards the problems of Muslim Gurjars and conclude.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution to extend the President's rule up to July and I would also emphasize that the extension of the President's rule should be till such time as is required to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir because democracy without rule of law is no democracy at all.

We must realise that in Kashmir we are not facing a normal situation. The situation is quite abnormal there. We have all recognised that there is insurgency in Kashmir. As far as the situation of insurgency goes, it has its time plan where the Government is required to restore normalcy. All over the world we have experienced this phenomenon. Even in India, in Nagaland and Mizoram, when the insurgency started, it took nearly 15 to 28 years for the normalcy to be restored. That is the process which we cannot ignore. The mechanics of insurgency entail that after the start of insurgency there is a period when it reaches the peak and when it subsides and thereafter a situation is created to restore normalcy. That is exactly what we are seeing. It was in the period of 1991 to 1993 when the insurgency had really reached the peak.

After that we have been witness to a different situation. The improvement of the situation in Kashmir is evident from what Mr. Jaswant Singh has just stated because the tone of his speech in 1991 was different. I remember this because I have also been participating practically in every debate on Kashmir since 1991. The tone of his articulation has certainly been that, as recognised by the Government, that the situation in Kashmir has definitely improved. In 1991 what I said and in 1995 what I say is certainly different.

We have witnessed that the population at least in Jammu and Kashmir and in Kashmir Valley have totally alienated those with pro-Pakistani bias, I would say this is a tremendous credit to the Government. I have served for five years in Kashmir and know the intricacies of the problem in that place. Since 1987 the situation started deteriorating by and by. It was not in isolation, but in reaction to what was happening elsewhere in India when communal fervour, for which certain forces in this country were responsible, was at the height and reached its peak with the demolition. Pakistan and its allies tried to communalise the situation in Kashmir. But we have seen through it now.

It has now been felt that the essence of Kashmiri culture has been secularism. This has been evidenced by the recent statements by some so called secessionist leaders

who themselves articulated that the refugees who have gone out should come back. These statements are indeed encouraging. In the last three years we have seen a gradual improvement of position to the extent that the foundation for a political process has already been laid down. Six months ago if you went through the media reports, the only reports available were about militant activities—so many killed, so many captured, etc. But in recent times you have witnessed a change and some demand for a political process in Jammu and Kashmir is also evident in the media.

So, the talk about militancy has been reduced to that extent. The security forces also have taken the initiative to the extent that when in 1991 there were areas in Jammu and Kashmir and in Kashmir Valley where the security forces could not venture into, today there is no area where the security forces cannot go. The militants have definitely been put on the run. This is evident from the fact that local militancy has been reduced whereas there is a greater induction of mercenaries. This itself is evidence of the desperation into which Pakistan has come. For, after having attempted to subvert the entire population of the Valley and having seen that they have failed, now Pakistan is entirely dependent on two factors. One is the mercenaries and the other is the pro-Pakistani militant outfits. All the incidents which have taken place in the last six months are related to these outfits. Jaswant Singhji spoke about the rivalry among insurgent groups because definitely there is a divide among the militants about the course that is to be adopted and that in itself is an evidence of the sound policy which the Government has followed.

First, we must address the main problem which led to this situation. We are all aware that whatever other causes, historical, political or others may have been, the main cause has been the total collapse of the administration in the Valley and a tremendous amount of corruption to which the people are exposed to.

Sir in 1987, when I was in the Valley I had the misfortune of watching people carrying jerrycans on their backs for hours on end from the hill tops to their houses. There were no roads and there was no electricity. This was in 1987, not very long ago. That is what basically the people of Kashmir, specifically those residing in rural areas have been deprived of and that essentially has to be addressed today. How we are going to do is the factor which the Government will have to address.

As far as the political process is concerned, the ground has been laid. Now, what plan we have to adopt is the question. I have offered a suggestion. We must try to examine whether the Panchayati Raj Bill which has been passed can be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir and whether we can start with Panchayat elections. The second factor, which Jaswant Singhji has brought out, with which I entirely agree, is that for the sake of Kashmir Valley we should not deprive two-thirds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their just demands. As far as Ladakh is concerned, I have demanded in 1991 that a Hill

Council should be set up and I would request the Government to look into this matter and call the representatives of the various parties of Ladakh and once and for all resolve this problem. I would also urge the Government to examine whether such Hill Councils can be set up for Jammu as well as the Valley because these three regions are totally different from each other. There is hardly any commonality and that is precisely the reasons why a different set of administrative machinery is required for these three regions. So, this is one factor that must be addressed to and which will also give the people an opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

The second factor I would like to put forth is about the civil-military relationship. Whatever is said by the Government, I would like to put forth here what I observe. There is yet a lot to be done in this area.

The coordination between the security forces has improved drastically from 1987. Still, there is room for integration. I had recommended that district level coordination authorities should be set up between paramilitary forces and independent agencies. There should be rapid action teams in each district supported by proper intelligence. This has been done to a certain extent. That is why there has been a better targeting of the militants to the extent that the common people have not been harmed in these encounters.

So, what is required is greater coordination.

The second factor is that the Army has been operating in the Kashmir Valley for a long time. The relationship between the Army and the civilian population is extremely cordial and you will hardly find any complaint against the Army, per se. I would request—as was done in Mizoram and as was done in Nagaland—that the Army should be involved in civic action programmes because we all know that at the grassroot level, the administrative machinery that is existing is only in name. So, what is required to be done is this. We must look after the immediate basic needs of the people. For this purpose, the Army must be given sufficient fund to take up civic action programmes.

About human rights, I would like to just put forth two points....(Interruptions)...

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): His argument is that in due course the entire country should be handed over to the Army....(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: The situation of insurgency has proved world over that when the security forces are employed in offensive actions against terrorists, they should also be employed for other actions which would give a healing touch. Force with compassion is the essence.

About human rights, I would say that we are all aware that the Western countries have been trying to impose their values of humane rights; and thereby interfere in the internal affairs of developing countries. I even opposed the Human Rights Commission Bill at that time because India is a democratic country which has got all the institutions which are required. Whether it functions or not is a different factor. That is why, when you talk about TADA,

you say that TADA should be removed. I have heard that in the morning also. But, what is happening at the grassroot level? May I know whether the rule of law is really established in this country or we are going to leave the common man to his fate?

Lastly about human rights I want to say only one thing. That is, the Americans fought a civil war on one issue. That is, on the right of a State to succeed. Millions died because of that; and at that time, violence was employed by the State as an instrument for the integration of the nation. As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned—whether there is a problem in Jammu and Kashmir or not—the question is, whether it is a part of India or not? That is why, this Government and this country will have to employ all methods to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India so that if the Americans say that they are trying to implement their values of human rights on us, we will not abide, since they have fought a civil war on this basic issue.

The second factor about human rights is—as Shri Jaswant Singh has just now brought out—about the Armed Forces that are operating. When a young soldier operates in the circumstances of insurgency, he is afflicted by the fear of unknown. This is the most difficult job, a soldier can undertake. So, we must also look after the human rights of the soldiers themselves who are in operation. So many soldiers have died and what has been done to them? I do not think that the Armed Forces in this country have ever employed an instrument of terror for the sake of terror. Of course, in the process of operations, some things happen which are inevitable because the terrorists use human beings as shield. That is their way of operation. In that case, if there are some excesses or some incidents, they have to be overlooked because the question is of human rights of the common people. So, whether we are going to give advantage to the terrorists by curbing the acts of security forces is the question. So, there are some issues which the Government will have to address itself to. I feel that the Government is going with the concrete plan of action which is flexible. There has been tremendous improvement in the last three years from 1991. The process of curbing insurgency and establishing normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir has started; and in due course of time, the Government will be successful in establishing complete normalcy by starting the political process in its true form.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though we are not against Article 356 of the Constitution yet prevailing conditions have compelled us to support this Resolution. It appears from the Presidential Address to both the Houses that the Government is in the State of complete self-complacency. They think that they have made big strides. The pilgrimage to Amarnath has passed off peacefully and the Government think that it has done a great job. But Maulana Azad Stadium episode on Republic Day does not find any mention in the Presidential Address. The encounters are still taking place. Some people

have become the victims of militants. It is true that the militants are responsible for the incident of 26th January, but the securitymen deployed there are also equally responsible. Where were the securitymen, when the bombs exploded? How did it become possible for the militants? Despite that, the Government is talking of complacency.

Moreover, the incident of Hazratbal was also not mentioned in the Presidential Address. In other words, the fifth paragraph of the Address deals with Kashmir and the sixth with the North—East region including, Mizoram. The seventh paragraph deals with Jharkhand and the eighth with Ultrakhand. If all the four paragraphs are viewed together, it clearly proves that the tribal population of Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and other areas is not satisfied with the performance of the Government. The Government will have to find out where does the fault lies. The situation is same everywhere.

Everybody knows that the issue of Kashmir is a different one. The another issue connected with this is that it is adjoining Pakistan and the militants are getting all kinds of help from there only. As a result, the situation in Kashmir has become highly explosive. On the other hand, the Government has not been able to understand the problems of tribals. If the Government will not think of the development of hilly areas and their problems are not viewed in wider perspective, the situation cannot improve there. The Government has only one simple solution in its mind that wherever the situation will precipitate, it will create a new State. Earlier Assam was divided into seven states but the problems remain unresolved till date. A new cell has already been created for Jammu and Kashmir affairs in the Prime Minister's office. Later on, an economic package was also declared for that State but has the Government ever given attention towards the development work being undertaken there? The situation today is such that the Hon'ble Governor has almost become inaccessible and the Chief Secretary has been staying in Delhi for the last three months. If people have some problems, to whom will they approach? Had there been an elected Government, the Centre would have blamed the State Government for swallowing the developmental funds. But, today there is no elected Government. Then who is procketing the money? All the contractors there are having close links with the militants and hence no work is being undertaken there. As a result, the people's sufferings are mounting. The economic plight of the people has deteriorated further. There is no monitoring of the use of the funds being released by the Centre.

A great deal is being talked about the militants. I would like to put forth my views in brief. It is true that the militants are falling in the encounters and their strength is decreasing. I would like to ask the Government how many militants were encountered while crossing the borders and how many of them killed? It has become necessary to know because apart from some pro-Pakistanis, majority of the population is of nationalists. It would not be in the interest of the nation if no difference is made between the

militant and military. Distinction must be made among them. This question is required to be given serious attention. But again the point is how many encounters took place and how many of them were killed while they were going to get trained in Pakistan or during their return.

So far as the political process is concerned, the Government is only thinking of election. But in my view, the situation is not ripe now for holding elections there. If elections are held in such a situation, it will be a sheer mockery of democracy. In these elections, the militants will either contest themselves or will force the people to vote for the candidates of their choice. Under such circumstances, the Government will lose its hold over the affairs of the State. The Government should maintain contacts with the nationalists. In this connection, a report can be asked for from the Hon'ble Governor or some other agency can be engaged to assess the real situation. The persons like Samar Shah are not getting any recognition there.

Sir, I would like to remind the Hon'ble Home Minister of an old incident. He must have heard about Shri Maqbool Sherwani. I am not talking about Shri Maqbool Bhutt. When Pakistan had attacked India in 1947, the first man of Kashmir to become a martyr was none other than Shri Maqbool Sherwani. His only fault was that he had not respected the call of Jinnah Saheb before the division of the nation. At that time, Maqbool Sherwani had stated that the Hindus and Muslims of Kashmir were a single entity and they will not follow Shri Jinnah. He Hon'ble Minister would remember that how brutally and mercilessly he was battered to death. However it is regretting that so far no memorial has been set up at Baramulla to commemorate him.

Further, no incentive or encouragement is being given to those people who are fighting against the militants. It can leave a big impact in Baramulla. The Government should honestly help them out and inculcate such a feeling that their State is being given top priority.

Though Laddakh is a part of Kashmir, it remains cut off from Kashmir for 8 months. In winter, one does not find a way to reach Laddakh. The Government does not think about the people of Laddakh. A few days ago, I had been there. There, the prices of every item is three or four times high. At present Laddakh is peaceful and there is no sign of any disturbance. Why has the Government not thought about the development of Laddakh so far? Will the Government think about them only when the situation will go out of hand?

In 1989, the Government led by Dr. Farooq Abdullah had signed a Hill Council Tripartite Agreement with Laddakh. Why has it not been implemented so far. Does the Government want to play on their nobility.

There are Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists in Laddakh. Hindus and Buddhists have been given the status of tribals but why has the Muslims been discriminated against them? The Government can give the status of tribals to the Muslims of Lakshadweep because Shri P.M. Sayed is a

Muslim. Then what is the fault of the Muslims of Laddakh. The Government is not able to understand this simple problem.

As regards 'Dogri' language, the Government has time and again assured that it would be recognised soon but the same has not been done so far. The Government boasted of their achievements under paragraph 5 but the situation, instead of improving, will deteriorate further. As the time is ticking away, the Government should try to control the situation. I am hopeful that if the Government takes appropriate steps, no party will speak against it. Despite our opposition to Article 356, we have been extending full support to the Government. It means that if the Government takes concrete steps and try to resolve the problem, we are with them. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, once again, willy-nilly we have to go through this periodical exercise. There is no option for us. I am intrigued by one small thing. I find that the Resolution which has been moved by the hon. Home Minister seeks to extend this proclamation for only a little more than four months and not six months.

There is a further period beyond 2nd March 1995 till 17th July 1995. Normally, in the past, we have been voting to extend these proclamations of Governor's Rule for six months at a time. This time, I do not know whether there is any printing error. But it seems to be only up to 15th July, which does not cover six months. Is there any significance behind this? I would like to know from Mr. Chavan about it. Is it that the Government has already planned to create a situation by that time whereby they will be in a position to hold elections in Kashmir! I don't know! But we should be told. Otherwise, in July we will have to come back here again and go through this repeat performance.

As far as we are concerned, we do not at all think that elections at the moment — at the moment means in the present prevailing situation in the Valley — are a feasible proposition. No elections can be held unless the people cooperate in those elections. Without public cooperation, there can be no successful elections. At the moment, the alienation which exists between the people in the Valley and the Government of India has not shown any sign of being reduced.

There are, I do agree, one or two slightly hopeful signs in some other direction. One sign is the fact that from all the reports that we are getting we can see that the people are getting increasingly disillusioned with Pakistan. That is a fact. I have no time to go into the analysis of all those. But it is a fact. It may be due to the fact that they had expected something more from Pakistan but that had not come to pass. This could be one of the reasons, apart from the diplomatic reverses which Pakistan has suffered on this issue in many international fora and the fact that the Pakistani Army is certainly not coming to the Valley to rescue anybody. So, there is a disillusionment with

Pakistan and it is growing. There is also, I am told, a feeling of revulsion to some extent against those militants or insurgents or whatever you like to call them, because of the excesses which they have begun to commit against the ordinary civilian population. We had the same experience in Punjab and I think the Home Minister remembers it. After some period, after a long time of suffering and fear, people begin to turn against these people who in the beginning appear as their saviours, but later on resort to intimidation, terror, extortion, atrocities and so on. This is happening in Kashmir also, no doubt, partly due to the fact as was mentioned earlier, that there has been an induction into their ranks of people who are not Kashmiris at all. People who are mercenaries from Afghanistan, from Saudi and other places have been recruited, via the good agencies of Pakistan, I am sure! There have also been operating in this area.

So, these are somewhat positive signs which may develop later into something more helpful. But my point Sir is that there can be no qualitative change in the situation unless the Government, for goodness' sake, stops considering it purely as a law and order problem and does deal with it as a political problem first and foremost, which it is not doing.

I would like to say that it is not showing the slightest initiative in that direction. The roots of this insurgency do not lie outside Kashmir. Some people think that they are all creation of Pakistan behind. No. Pakistan has interfered, is interfering, is trying to wage what is described, as a proxy war and so on. No question of underestimating the mischief that they have created. But the roots of this insurgency lie in the Valley itself and they have to be dealt with there. Why these people, who at one time, stood behind Sheikh Abdullah in order to bring India into the Indian Union; why these people who repulsed the Pakistani invaders; have become alienated like this from us completely? Now, who is going to go into this whole history of what happened? Now there is no time also. But, should not our Government give serious introspective thought to what has happened over the years and why have we been landed in this predicament now?

It has become a bleeding wound for us. A wound which is bleeding and does not stop bleeding. Thousands of people have lost their lives. I do not know the exact number. So, now it is time that we, by we, I mean the Government, take some positive steps; I am sure the entire country, the entire House will be with them. The Government is not changing its attitude at all.

Sir, for one thing, it is rather embarrassing to talk about individuals; I do not like doing that. But the fact remains that with the type of Governor that we are persisting with in Kashmir—I do not know him personally, I have nothing against him, he may be an excellent man, he may have been a very good soldier in his time, I do not know—but certainly in the role which he is supposed to play as Governor of Jammu & Kashmir in the present situation, I would humbly suggest that he is not the best fitted person. He has no political interaction with people. A Governor

must be somebody who can be open to the people, talk to them, hear them, listen to them with sympathy, otherwise no Governor, you see, in the present situation will be able to do anything.

There is a paper called "The Kashmir Times" of 28th October which has given figures to show that during the 593 days that he has been in office, the Governor has granted audience to 85 civilians which works out to one person per week on an average. This kind of Governor would not do. You can say that he has got Advisors who are doing the job, he need not do it. I know he has got some good Advisors like General Zaki and so on. But the Governor is, after all a symbol of something. He is not just a figurehead. In this situation, he is a symbol of India as far as the people there are concerned. Therefore, we have mentioned this matter, times without number, even to the Prime Minister himself, but for some reasons or other, which I am not entitled to probe into, the Government of India, the Home Ministry and the Prime Minister seem to have unbounded confidence in the present Governor. I do not want to say anything more about this. I think there should be a change. There should be a change. I am happy that he escaped that attempt on his life on the 26th of January. At the same time that incident of three bombs exploding just almost below the dais on which the Governor was standing gives a untruth, I think, to the claim that the militants are being curbed, their activities going down, the security forces are getting on top and so on. What kind of intelligence have we got? Where a Governor is to deliver his address after a few minutes and below the platform on which he is standing there are planted three bombs which go off and might easily have caused much more heavy casualties than they did! Then you can say that—that is a worse thing to think of—there was collusion, that people who planted these bombs were people who were in collusion with the militants. In any case, it shows that the capacity of the militants is certainly not going down. So, I would suggest that in the case of the Governor, something should be done.

Secondly, it is a very delicate matter to talk about our security forces. As I know, it can be misinterpreted, it can be misused and all that. Nevertheless, to keep silent on this issue is something which I do not think is correct in today's situation. There are many types of security forces. There are paramilitary forces like CRPF and BSF, there is the regular Army, and there are other forces. But there are published reports, not by foreign agencies but by our own journalists some of whom are personally known to us and whose intentions cannot be questioned, who have been to Kashmir, come back, written the reports, which are very disturbing, at least as far as the Border Security Force is concerned. The regular Army, I think and I am glad to say, is being unnecessarily maligned by people who want to attack India on the question of violation of human rights and all that. The Army is generally more disciplined. It is a better trained and a more disciplined force. But reports

about the BSF are so many. I do not know that the Government or the high command of the BSF is doing in the face of all these reports which cannot be denied.

Only the other day, I forgot the name of the place, five people who were shopkeepers, who were sitting inside their shops were dragged out of their shops, shot and killed on the streets. All kinds of killings which took place at Kupwara, the earlier incidents—I am sure the Minister remembers them—so far as Brij Bera have left deep scars on the minds of the people. There are all types of humiliations, I do not know whether these officers of the BSF and other paramilitary forces trust anybody there. It seems there is some kind of bias against anybody who is a Kashmiri, perhaps because he is a Muslim. To drag a Doctor out of his car, give him two slaps and abuse him, and then the number of cases of torture, the number of cases of rape, I regret to say, the militants are also doing these things. But that is no comfort for us. The militants are also doing these things. But that is no comfort for us. The militants are not our people. These things should be somehow or other stopped. I do not know whether the Government has the desire, the will or the capacity to do it, but I think a uniformed force which is wearing uniforms can be made to subscribe to better standards of discipline. I do not mind their going and shooting any number of militants they want to shoot. If they are clashing with the insurgents, let them clash; all power to their below. But when they come in confrontation with the civilian population, men, women and children they have to be hundred times more cautious and careful. Otherwise, they are regarded as an army of occupation; this is something which will be disastrous for us.

There is talk of delimitation being carried out in the constituencies. Mr. Chavan has said just now that that work has been taken in hand.

I do not know whether delimitation can be done when there are no census figures. The last census was taken in 1981. Without up-to-date census figures, how can delimitation of constituencies be carried out? So, this is the think which I take with a pinch of salt that this work is being carried out.

The other point that I want to make is that just as you want to stick to this Governor, you are welcome to do it, please do not stick only to old leaders and old parties which used to function at one point of time in the Valley. Dr. Farook Abdullah is a dear friend of mine and I hope he does not misunderstand if I say that apart from him and his National Conference which used to function in every village of the Valley at one point of time, there are new and young leader. Dr. Abdullah had such prolonged periods of absence from the Valley that his cadres have been left unprotected. That Organisation is by no means what it used to be. But new leaders have come up. Do you recognise them? There are new leaders who at one time allied with the militants have changed their position, who no longer want to rely on the gun but want to have negotiations, talks and dialogues. I think you know the names of Shabir Shah and Yasin Mallick. What are you

doing to encourage them? Have you extended any hand to them? The other outfit which is directly financed and armed by Pakistan, the ISI and the Hizbul Mujahidin who are the biggest enemies that one can imagine we have got, are trying to liquidate the JKLF leaders because JKLF leader want dialogue and not gun.

Sir, last year you remember when the Hazratbal crisis took place, when we tried to get the militants out of the shrine peacefully; one JKLF leader Idriz was instrumental in bringing out these militants. Of course, there were people on our side also who helped in bringing out the militant. Then he was killed by Hizbul Mujahidin. So, you should remember there are different ways of fighting. The people are fighting in their own way and are looking in vain to the Government of India to stretch out its hand and take some initiative.

I believe that Pakistan is relying on American plan called the Dixon Plan. Shabir Shan has said in one statement that he wants to use the needle and the thread to saw the three parts of Kashmir together into one fabric. But there is a plan called Dixon Plan by which the Americans want to split up Kashmir into two or three segments and Pakistan may be replying on that. So, it is time we were more active in our diplomacy, in our moves and there should be an open attitude without pre-conditions. When we sit at the table for dialogue then all these pre-conditions can be put on the table and discussed, either accepted or compromised with or rejected.

16.00 hrs.

But do not being by saying that there must be such and such precondition otherwise we will not talk to anybody, then this problem will never be solved.

So, Sir, these are some of the points I wanted to make because I am sure, after four or five months we will be here again, discussing another resolution, which I hope Mr. Chavan will not bring. In the meantime, the proposal which was made here sometime ago by Shri Sudhir Sawant also that "Can you consider the question of at least holding the punchayat elections at the local level?" I do not know whether it can be done because there also the question of constituency, voters list and all that will come and you have not got the census, you have not got the population figures and you have not got anything.

But anyway, it is worth considering as a method of defusing the crisis. So, please consider it and please do not go on thinking that you are going to solve this problem by the power of the gun. It will never be done. However, gun is required sometimes, there is no doubt about it. But mainly it is a political issue and it has to be solved politically. So that is what I have to say, Sir....
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are once again going through this formality. My preceding speakers have said a lot about Jammu and Kashmir and the issue does not need to be dwelt upon at length but it is quite painful that after every 6 months we gather here, deliver long speeches

which barely seem to prompt the Government to act. It does not seem that the suggestions given from this side are pondered over and this is regretful because there is no trace of a beacon of light across this long dark tunnel the reason being that this Government lacks in a policy or any plans to deal with it. There should have been a long term planning about it but there is not even a short term one. Nobody knows what is going to happen tomorrow. We, generally, ask here what is being done in the Ministries. The Statements differ from person to person. In other words, nobody knows what policy will be followed during ensuring two-three days. So, how can we expect a long term policy from this Government. Hence, the painful part of it is that any beacon of light visible in future will be welcome but in case it is otherwise and we don't know what we are doing and where we are going, then I don't know how can these problems be solved?

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has taken charge of this department but I am not able to see any change in it. The hon. Prime Minister is not present here though he should have been because he is looking after the department of Kashmir affairs. The hon. Minister is also maintaining a status quo and there is no discernable change, no progress from any point of view, so that we could realise that some initiative has at least been taken and the first step taken in a long journey, in the right direction would definitely lead us to our destination sooner or later. But it seems from the wrong and unreasonable statements issued that the confusion is further confounded and this is why when, today, we are speaking about the same thing here twice, thrice, or even four times, our indignation has turned into a painful concern. We are repeatedly searching for a solution to this problem. There is no hope of the government doing anything but we are left with no alternative and, thus, we are compelled to support it, may be for the whole term of five years expiring in July and what will happen next is not known. It is further a matter of more grave concern that this Government is not able to put to use its will power if it is present there even in the least because it has been bogged down in the quagmire of appeasement policy and the politics of vote-bank so much so that it is least interested in safeguarding its national interests.

I will corroborate my contention by citing an example in a minute or two. Mr. Chairman, Sir, a resolution regarding Jammu and Kashmir was passed with great pride, hopes and enthusiasm in this very House. The hon. Speaker was on his legs to read out that resolution. Subsequently, we hoped that the Government would take some steps because both the Houses had equipped it with enough will power but it is quite shameful that such a resolution was also consigned to some dustbin. The fate of that resolution is unknown. That resolution spoke of occupied Kashmir. Today, we are not able to control the territory of Kashmir within our jurisdiction. Just now, Shri Indra Jeet Gupta demanded that elections should be held in villages. Who controls villages? Are the orders of the government of India complied with in villages? Take the example of Charar-e-sharief. We are not aware of the ground realities there. But

we come to learn from newspaper reports that even our army cannot enter the five km. belt surrounding the pilgrim centre guarded by the militants. That area is inaccessible for us. Such things were first witnessed in Kashmir valley, these spread to Doda and today militancy is blatantly encompassing Jammu in its fold. In his statement, the hon. Home Minister says that the situation is turning for better and the morale of militants is dampening. I don't believe that the hon. Home Minister has the sort of informations that we possess. He should possess more information than us and if he does not, then it is a very dangerous thing. He is here compelled to issue statements indicating that the situation is turning normal and if it deteriorates again, then we will see how to tackle it. This is akin to that famous story in which after every slap a person dares the persons beating him to slap him once more and face the consequences. Therefore, I don't believe in the situation turning normal. You are also aware that the situation is not good but in keeping with the customary formalities you are forced to issue such kind of statements. How long will this continue? There should be a change of direction somewhere, an act of safeguarding our national interest so that we can achieve our objective even after 5-10 years. Today, we are not even aware of the path we should choose for ourselves.

When the rostrum where from the hon. Governor had to deliver his address in Jammu on 26th January was not secure, how can we imagine that normalcy is being restored? The newspaper reports revealed that five children were killed in a bomb explosion at Jammu-Nagrota by-pass. During search operation, the police found 900 detonators from there. The Army core head-quarters is situated at Nagrota which contains a large contingent of our army. Explosives are openly smuggled out from there but we can detect these only when a mishap takes place. We are able to apprehend such anti-national elements after they commit mistakes and are not competent to anticipate their illdesigns and you claim that the situation is returning to normalcy.

Our deputy leader Shri Jaswant Singh has also urged as do I that the Government should apprise the House of the real ground situation with regard to Charar-e-sharief. Does the situation prevailing there coincide with what newspapers reveal and do you want to repeat Hazratbal episode there? That is, first let the situation go out of hand, dramatise it and then say that we have brought it under control in order to earn applause.

[English]

You create a situation just to get credit. I hope, the situation is not like that. Would you kindly clarify?

[Translation]

Our information with regard to 'situation turning normal' is that 150 offensives have been launched against our forces in January alone. How can normalcy be restored when assaults on our armed forces are on an increase?

Similarly, civilians are no exception. I have with me the figures of Kishtwar which reveal that there have been eight

attacks during the month of January alone. Now broad-day-light kidnappings are also resorted to and there is nobody to check this. Given such a situation, how are you talking of holding elections there when the government is not able to protect the life and property of the citizen there?

They talk of development. The Government also say that crores of rupees are sent there. But the whole money is going in the hands of terrorists. I have been speaking here about Dulhasti project in Doda for the last two years but the work on this project is still to start. It is not being taken up because the terrorists will not allow it. Further, the construction of road is also not being undertaken because Border Road Organisation is afraid of terrorists on onslaught. But the Government claims that the situation is improving. On the other hand, we have been blaming Pakistan for the deteriorating situation. I also agree that Pakistan is successfully waging a proxy war. That country is neither suffering any human casualty nor there is any pressure on it. Based on my experience so far, I would like to state that unless a clear signal is sent to Pakistan that it will have to pay a heavy price for its nefarious activities, the attitude of Pakistan is not likely to change. It will not change its policy even under international pressure. The Government should also think in this direction. If Pakistan continue to indulge in such acts, it will have to be taught a lesson.

I would like to say a few words about the security forces. As Shri Indrajit Gupta has stated that the security men are also involved in the disturbances, I would like to say that such persons should be given stringent punishment. The Government should set a precedent. I beg pardon from Shri Gupta and would like to state that there is a tendency among big journalists to print such news-items as front-page headlines. A few days ago, there was a headline in a newspaper that the army had admitted that it was to court-martial a higher official. However, the Government immediately denied it. It is regrettable that the news of denial was given very little space on a corner side of the newspapers. The para-military forces are in great difficulty there. They are being subjected to injustice. The Government should give them due protection.

In the end, I would like to submit that the Government should take effective steps to solve this imbroglio.

16.14 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1994, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th December, 1994, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th February, 1995, with the following amendments:—

ENACTING FORMULA

That at page 1, line 1 for the word "Forty-fifth" the word "Forty-sixth" be substituted.(1)

CLAUSE-1

That at page 1, line 4 for the figure "1994" the figure "1995" be substituted.(2)

CLAUSE-3

That at page 1, for lines 10 and 11, the following be substituted namely:—

"3.(1) The Special-Protection Group Ordinance, 1995 is hereby repealed.(3)

Repeal
and Saving

Ord. 1 of 1995

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.

16.15 hrs.

SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP (AMENDMENT) BILL

As Amended by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1994, which has been returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments.

16.16 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE INFORCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR-(CONTD.)

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I begin by borrowing a quotation from Mr. Jagmohan with whom I generally disagree on the situation of Kashmir. He quotes Emile Zole to say:

"While truth is buried underground, it grows, it chokes, it gashers such an explosive force that one day it bursts out, it blows everything up with it."

Mr. Chairman, the recent explosion on the 26th January, 1995 was one such explosion which should make us conscious of the reality and the truth and give us the strength and the spirit and the determination to face the truth. And what is the truth in Kashmir? One truth is that there is a proxy war, that there is terrorism, aided and abetted by an outside power trans-border terrorism as we call it — amounting to a proxy war and we are unable to cope with it.

We are unable to cope with it. We have been unable to

checkmate Pakistan politically and diplomatically and we have not been able to stop Pakistan from this game of aid and abetment. The other truth is that there is total alienation among the people of Kashmir. I am not one who would condone terrorism. Terrorism cannot be condoned by any civilised society. But are we able to cope with this total alienation of the Kashmir people?

Prof. Hiren Mukerjee, one of the most eminent people in our public life, recently said on February 25, 1994,:

"Even today, perhaps, the best of us do not quite realize the depth of Kashmiri alienation and are unready to ponder ways and means of overcoming it."

There is a vicious cycle. Alienation, repression, more alienation, more repression and it goes on and on and the Kashmiri people are being ground between two stones, the terrorists on one side and our security forces on the other. And, there is no go for them. There is a desperateness in the situation. There is frustration. He says that we do not see light at the end of the tunnel. I do not know what light the Kashmiris see at the end of the tunnel.

When we suspect the entire population to be hand in glove with the terrorists, when we start shooting at our own people, when we use our Armed Forces against our own people, then, how can solve this conundrum, I really cannot understand.

Sir, there have been any number of killings, thousands and thousands of them. I shall not give full credence to what the international Press has reported, to what Amnesty International has said. But I am still to see a point by point rebuttal of whatever allegations the Amnesty International has made, a case by case rebuttal. But let us forget that. We do not have to count our wounds, Mr. Minister! There have been thousands of people killed. There have been custodial deaths in hundreds. There have been thousands of people under detention. People have been killed in encounters. Houses have been burnt, bastis have been burnt, entire mohallas in Srinagar town were put to torch and black laws continue to be in operation; not only TADA that we complain of in the rest of the country but the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, the Public Safety Act of Kashmir. And now we have lost all pretence. There is not even a sense of shame when we kill our own people. Previously we used to say, "We are protecting the people against the militants; we are there to protect the people". Then we thought, it did not pass muster. So we have started saying "We are suppressing the militants, and militants only" and now we have gone to a phase where we are repressing the people of Kashmir, the people as a whole.

In whom does sovereignty reside? Sovereignty does not relate to a territory only. Sovereignty resides in people. If all the people of Kashmir are against us, and if we are there to treat them as our enemies, then I do not see any solution to this problem.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that we can pat ourselves on the back and say that it is patriotic and nationalist on our part to fight for Kashmir to the last Kashmiri. That

Pakistan can say. Pakistan is prepared to fight for Kashmir to the last Kashmiri. But can we say that? Can we accept that as a basic of our policy?

We seem to have adopted some colonial methods, rather with less efficiency. We are such less efficient than the colonial powers used to be and the colonial powers used to play this game. First, either use force or divide the people. Or finally get some power brokers, put them up, instal them in the *gaddies*; they would last for a while, you can replace them. They are expendable. One set can be replaced by another. Are we playing the colonial game in Kashmir? I would like to know it from the hon. Minister.

The judiciary in Kashmir has thrown up its hands. It says that it cannot deal with the situation. A Judge of the High Court in his Judgement has said: "We pass any number of orders but the Executive does not carry them out. The Executive does not bother, does not take notice of the orders." Thousands and thousands of Habeas corpus orders against detention just go abegging and the orders of the High Court are not even worth the paper on which they are written. There is an order on record by a S.P. of Srinagar which says: "If somebody comes to you and files a complaint, do not accept that complaint, do not accept that FIR without the approval of the higher authorities." So, where does the citizen go? He cannot go to the Governor. He has no access to the Governor. He cannot come to the Home Minister. He has no access to the political parties in our country. Where does our Kashmiri brother go? Therefore, the situation goes on worsening everyday.

Now have put up some cosmetics. We have even established a National Human Rights Commission. I must say that the attitude of the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, as revealed in some of his public statements, is strange and tragic indeed. In one statement he justified torture. He says that you cannot get the truth without it and you have got to use it sometimes. Let the police officer say that, not the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission. And then he compares the atrocities committed by the terrorists and the atrocities committed by the Government forces as if it were a game, a tennis match between the two of them. As Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, he has to speak about the human rights, not about the perpetrators, not about the subjects but about the objects of atrocities. Are they being subjected to violation of human rights or not? That is the question for the Human Rights Commission. But that is not the attitude and that is why the Human Rights Commission itself is losing its credibility and I do not think that that cosmetic is going to serve us any more.

16-22 hrs.

[Shri P.C. Chako in the Chair]

We have the famous case of Mir Waiz Farooq of Kashmir who was killed. Then, there are cases of Mir Waiz of South Kashmir, of Prof. Mushirul Haque and of Dr. Guru. Now, I was told that they have all been eliminated by the militants and we have got the killers in our hands. We have solved the cases. I want to put a question to the Hon.

Minister. I wrote him a letter and I wrote a letter to the Governor: "Why do you not put them on trial?" I ask the question again today. If you have got the culprits in your hand and if you know the identity of the killers, them atleast for God's sake, place the whole truth before the people. Whom are you trying to protect?

Then, we have issued an economic package; we issued a development package. Sometimes, we enter into a game of musical chair in administration. You talk about the change of the Governor. That change has also taken place. Gen. Krishna Rao was sent there with great hope. But can merely a change of Governor change the situation unless we have got a policy, unless we have got a political package to offer to the people of Kashmir? Financial package will not do, development package will not do, economic package will not do administrative reorganisation will not do and political reshuffles in Delhi will not do, unless you have a solution to the problem and unless you deal with it with a policy.

And you speak of an election! That election is going to be a farcical election. You cannot even revise the electoral rolls. You cannot delimit the constituencies. If you hold the elections, you will not be able to find even Presiding Officers or Polling Officers. You will be able to get the people to vote only at the point of a gun and the world will not believe you. It will not serve any purpose at all. I will bring a shames to our democracy. Instead, please apply your mind and act with a statesmanship. I think it is not beyond our wisdom to find a political solution, if you treat it as a political problem. I asked the hon. Minister, "Why do you not call the political parties for consultation?" It is a national problem. It is not a Congress Party problem. It is not only a Government problem. Why do you not enter into a dialogue with all the political parties to find out a solution, which is acceptable to all the people of India which is in consonance with our democratic traditions and with our cultural heritage and with the spirit of Kashmir?

I also ask him one thing more. You have now many political leaders floating around in Kashmir. You released the Hurriyat Leaders. You have been allowing them to go abroad. You permit them to talk to the President of Pakistan. But you are not prepared to talk to them.

I do not understand this anomaly. You have got now at least half a dozen people who are around, who are being interviewed, who are issuing statements, who have publicly given up the culture of the gun, who are prepared to talk to you. Have you invited them? Why don't you invite them formally? Why should you talk only to Farooq Abdullah, and that too privately? Have you had any formal negotiations even with Farooq Abdullah? His party, at the last meeting of its Working Committee in Jammu, passed a resolution saying something—maybe I agree with it or I do not agree with it. After that, what was the response of the Government of India? I am yet to see a response from the Government. Therefore, I plead with you for a political package, for a political solution. Take it as a political problem. Invite, on the one hand, all the political parties of India to help you find a solution, and invite, on the other

hand, all the political leaders of Kashmir, I would say, unconditionally. Let them just sit across the table with you and say: "Look brother, sovereignty is not negotiable, terrorism is not acceptable; short of that, come on, let us have your terms, let us find a meeting point." Autonomy is the key word, Mr. Minister, and unless you give some flesh and blood to autonomy, unless you give some meaning to the concept of autonomy, Kashmir will not be saved and we shall lose Kashmir. Your army will not save Kashmir, extension of Presidential rule will not save Kashmir. Governor's change will not save Kashmir. Any economic charity that you show towards Kashmir, will not save Kashmir. Kashmir will be saved only by winning the heart and mind of the people of Kashmir. And that can be done not by your bullets but only by a dialogue. Let us start a dialogue. Let us concede the question of autonomy, and work out the limits of autonomy, let us have a sincere and a meaningful dialogue. That is all I want to say, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Shahabuddin Ji. We have six speakers and only seven minutes are left. So, please bear with us.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir we have been waiting here since two o'clock. Our names are also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anna Joshi Ji, two Members from your party have already participated. We have to allow other parties also.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Yes, sure, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Now I call the name of Shri V.S. Rao, Mr. Rao, please finish within two minutes.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijaywada): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to participate in this discussion. With a heavy heart we are supporting the Resolution moved by the Home Minister because there is no other alternative. On earlier occasions when similar resolutions had been moved, at that point of time also we supported it. But, at the same time, the Government was giving a hope and the Members were very hopeful that the situation in Kashmir will return to normalcy, elections will be held and democracy will be restored. But, unfortunately, it has not happened. The hopes of the people were raised when the hon. Prime Minister declared from the ramparts of the Red Fort that the Government was taking all necessary steps to hold elections. But I think the Prime Minister should not have given such wrong impression to the people because the hard realities in the Valley are altogether different. I do not wish to repeat what my predecessors have already told. Still hundreds of people are being killed in Kashmir. In the matter of just six-and-a-half months, 526 civilians were killed and 986 persons were injured due to the terrorist violence. The terrorists have attacked our security forces 1,275 and in each incident one or two security personnel were killed. When this is the situation, it is not conducive to hold elections there. But, at the same time, at least now that the Prime Minister's office is handling the Jammu and Kashmir situation directly, unlike in the previous times, we

hope and we suggest that the Government should take all necessary steps which have brought the situation to this level. One of the most important things is the administration which, we are told, has come to a grinding halt and lot of corruption is there. I suggest to the Government to send very honest and dedicated officers there so that what all the Government wants to do and what all help and resources the Government is pumping there, should directly reach the targeted people and they do not feel that they are being neglected.

It is because of lot of unemployment there. Though my friend Shri Shahabuddin has said that all these things may not work, we are hopeful. It is not that earlier the Government of India has not sent the money. It has made available lot of money. But that went into the pockets of some influential political leaders or the corrupt officials which has given a wrong impression and alienated the youth of Kashmir. Now the Government should look to that aspect.

My suggestion to the Government is to kindly open a dialogue and have negotiations with all the people who are having different shades of opinion and find out to what extent the Government can agree to some of the suggestions without compromising the sovereignty, the territorial sovereignty. Under any circumstances, we cannot compromise with that.

A big nation like the U.S.A. is speaking in a different tone very recently and the Assistant Secretary of State has talked on several occasions that the U.S.A. does not recognise the Instrument of Accession of Jammu and Kashmir to our country. And we are not going to accept this. Without compromising on that aspect, we should find out how best we can make the people of Kashmir feel that they will be able to shape their State, their destinies and their prosperity. The Government must think about this seriously.

I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Now I request Shri Inderjit to speak. Shri Inderjit, your time is limited to two minutes.

16.32 hrs.

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak a few words. But, quite honestly, I do not know what I can say in two minutes.

However, I must say that I rise to support the Resolution seeking extension of President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir. I have noted with interest what my namesake Shri Indrajit Gupta and later Shri Shahabuddin have stated. Now, it is interesting that the Government is seeking extension of President's rule only until July 17th and not for a whole period of six months. I believe there are certain constitutional constraints and there are certain limitations imposed on us by the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. I hope that the hon. Home Minister, when he replies to the debate, would adequately explain the whole thing since my time is limited.

Sir, both Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Shahabuddin have strongly demanded a political solution. But I think, in doing so, they seem to ignore one basic fact that we are facing a proxy war in Kashmir. Wars have not been, and have never been, solved through political methods. Wars have to be won with weapons. First of all we have to defeat Pakistan in its attempts to wage a proxy war across the border. Therefore, I would strongly urge the Government to do whatever it can do in its power to defeat Pakistan in its clandestine and nefarious and abominable game. Of course, they have stepped up recently their own efforts to destabilise the situation. This is reflected in what happened on the occasion of the Republic Day in Jammu. I believe that the metal detectors were not able to detect; the sniffer dogs were not able to detect because it seems that Pakistan had succeeded in smuggling in highly sophisticated weapons which perhaps are being operated not on the basis of timing but through remote control.

Therefore, Pakistan is going all out and is determined to do two things—firstly not to allow normalcy to be restored at any price and secondly not to allow elections to be held. Sir, I would venture to submit that so far as a political process is concerned, first you must seek to defeat the militants and Pakistan's efforts at inducting so many mercenaries. Subsequently—and, perhaps, not necessarily subsequently but, perhaps, even simultaneously—we would try the political process to the extent that we should be willing to talk to everybody. I agree with my friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta. I do not think that we should lay down any preconditions. We should be prepared to talk. And I say this from my own experience of what happened in Darjeeling.

At one stage, the leader of the Gorkha Movement was being denounced as anti-national. But we agreed to talk to him Sardar Buta Singh who was the then Minister is present in the House today. We should be willing to talk to who are willing to talk.

The elections in Kashmir are not going to be easy to be held. There is a tremendous threat of militants. Pakistan will not allow elections to be held. In such a situation, I think, we should seriously consider the possibility of an alternative political process. I would strongly urge the Home Minister that we should consider the question of *de facto* revival of the Assembly. I am not saying *de jure*. I am merely saying that we had an Assembly. That Assembly stands dissolved. We should take advantage of the ex-MLAs and constitute them into an advisory body which could then perhaps advise the Governor both at the State level as well as at the district level so long as we are not able to hold elections.

Well, Mr. Chairman, you have already given me more than two minutes. But I may take just another half a minute in regard to Ladakh. I think, we are not being fair to Ladakh. It was my privilege to visit Ladakh earlier this year. It is a beautiful part of our territory and the people are today in great agony because certain promises which were made to them have not been carried out. I think, we should carry out the promise of giving to the people of Ladakh the autonomous Hill Council which was promised, if I

remember, right, by my good friend, Sardar Buta Singh, in his capacity as the Home Minister. This must be done.

One last thing is in regard to the question of income-tax. Since 1962, the people of Ladakh were exempted from the payment of income-tax. But for some unknown reason, since 1988-89, the basic reason for giving them exemption has been totally ignored and income-tax has been imposed on them once again. I strongly urge upon the Government to try and restore the earlier position and give the people of Ladakh a deal which is both fair and just.

16.27 hrs.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I rise to support the Resolution moved by hon. Minister. Now it is a sorry state of affairs that we the people of India throughout the length and breadth of our great nation have to sit together without representatives from Kashmir, when we always discuss Kashmir. Now it is a matter of great effort which has been taken up by the Government of India. I am sure, the Government of India has not claimed that what should have been done, all has been done in Kashmir. But, of course, great efforts have been taken to bring back the normalcy in Kashmir. The first thing which we think of is to bring back the political situation, the political process in Kashmir. For that, we all think of bringing political parties together. But is a sorry state of affairs that we cannot even think of political parties which are functioning there in the normal way. I think, it is a matter of extraordinary efforts which the Government of India, especially the Department of Kashmir which has been specially formed for the purpose to take up a this juncture, has been doing.

I may also suggest some kind of conferences which the Government of India can take up along with the representatives of various other bodies like Parliament. I can also think of suggesting that some persons from Kashmir may be brought to Rajya Sabha. With all respect to the Election Commission, it may not be proper to say that there is no Assembly, so we should not bring a representative from Kashmir to the Council of States. But this is also a matter which can be thought of by bringing some representative from Kashmir in the Council of States. I think, it is something that we can do and that will be quite a fairer move.

Another suggestion which I would like to make is to nominate some Members from those areas to represent in Parliament. The other suggestion which has been made in like holding elections in the rural areas for the basic sector like Panchayat or rural bodies where elections could be conducted. I do not think even now the situation is such elections also are possible. But earnest effort must be taken, if not for holding elections to the Assembly, at least to think of holding elections in the rural bodies like Panchayat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Now, I am finishing. I am not taking the time because very little time has been given to me.

Now, with regard to the attack on the Governor, I am

sure that steps are being taken to fight out insurgency and to see that the efforts of Pakistan in this regard are foiled. But we have to go a long way to see that these efforts of the external agencies like Pakistan are stopped. It is a fact that in Pakistan this is always an election issue. They want this issue to be kept open. This issue is always kept open by all the parties. So, I think, in the international fora, it is for us to go further. Of course, we are going further in this regard. But we have to go further by starting negotiations with others, especially by forging ahead with the Simla Pact which has been the basis on which we are fighting on this very important aspect.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that I am required to speak for two minutes.

Sir, we have got no option other than to support the measure which has been brought in for the consideration of the House, subject to the comments that follow.

Sir, the Kashmir problem is basically a multidimensional problem which, according to me, is a lethal combination of Islamic fundamentalism and Pakistan's political adventurism, coupled with the United States global policy of interference in the sovereign States. Therefore, basically speaking, there are three dimensions. We have to fight the Islamic fundamentalism, we have to fight Pakistan's adventurism and, at the same time, we have to fight against the American global policy of interference.

Sir, my complaint against this Government is that they are not taking a comprehensive view of these dimensions. I can give many instances wherein the Government's witnesses could be exposed, but because of the shortage of time, I do not venture to do that.

Sir, there is need for reviving the political process. But a controversy arises: What we really mean by political process? Does the revival of political process mean an election or does it mean something else also? The revival of political process does not mean an election, which is merely an end product of this process. That may be the ultimate result of the process of political initiative or political process. Unfortunately, some of our leaders in this country think that election is the beginning of a political process. Sir, with all humility, I differ with them. The political process, in the context of Jammu and Kashmir situation, should be to appreciate the grievances of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The approach to the problem is absolutely an apolitical one, to defend secularism, to defend the unity and integrity of the country and to defend the symbol of Indian sucularism as such. Therefore, Sir, it is a question of winning the hearts. It is not a political interest in occupying a practical part of the territory of our country. Therefore, there should be reversal of approach to the problem. The time for the revival of political process is right; there is no doubt about it and I agree with the hon. Home Minister. But elections cannot be held in this abnormal situation. If election is forced, it will be a contrived election and that will go in the interest of our enemies across the borders. So far as this political process is concerned, that must be broad based.

It must not be handled by the present stiff approach or

narrow approach. We have to talk to them. We have to hold a dialogue with them. We have to understand the reality. We have to feel that the people of Kashmir are being constantly alienated from us. Therefore, there should not be simply certain parties, certain personalities to be talked to. The other parties, other personalities and even those who were once in the camp of the militants earlier, have changed their view because of the change of the situation internationally and domestically also. They should also be consulted. Their views are also to be taken in to account. In this connection, we may mention many personalities, as for example, the JKLF. They have abandoned their former position. So far as the other groups like the Jammu and Kashmir League are concerned, they have given up their earlier position, departed from the earlier position of ultra-militancy. What is the harm if we talk to them? Our Government's policy has been that they will hold talks but under a certain condition. The condition should be the unity of the country. The condition should be the approach of fighting those enemies who are putting hurdles in our way of solving the problem. Therefore, there should be a broad-based dialogue and we should accept what comes out as a consensus. The Kashmiris are also patriots as we are. In this case, the most important aspect of the problem should be that secularism is to be guarded, protected and preserved so that India can maintain its present policy in the international arena.

With this I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (PUNE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, not delving into the background of this Resolution, I would like to suggest some measures to resolve this problem.

In the Address of the Hon'ble President, little concern has been expressed about Kashmir. Although the elections in Maharashtra on 12th February find a mention in the Address yet there is no mention of the bomb explosions at Maulana Azad Maidan on 26th January. This is an example of the lack of responsibility at P.M. Office.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get a chance to speak about it on the President's Address later but not now. Now we are dealing with another subject.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: It has appeared in the President's Address and that is why I am saying this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you got any suggestion to offer?

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: I have got a three dimensional suggestion. Just as it is a multi-dimensional problem, so the solution is also multi-dimensional.

[Translation]

It should be made clear to Pakistan that if it continues to interfere in our internal problems, we shall have to adopt stiff measures to counter it. What steps the Government is taking in regard to check the flow of funds

along the Indo-Pak border, stopping training of and assistance to militants and abolishing the camps giving shelter to the militants?

[English]

Either they should be destroyed or the World body should be informed about those camps and they should be asked to direct Pakistan to abolish those camps.

[Translation]

In order to bring the people of Kashmir in the national mainstream, we should make efforts in the direction of economic development. On the one hand, there is Article 370 according to which the person living outside the state cannot contribute in the economic development of that state. On the other hand, we say that the state should be economically developed. I mean to say that if we cannot abolish Article 370, we should evolve an alternative so that the other people and intellectuals could also go there and set up industries. All necessary infrastructure should be made available to them so that they could realise that they are a part of India. There is a need to win their hearts so that a feeling of patriotism is developed in them and they could feel at home. However, no alteration is being paid in this direction.

The Government is thinking of holding elections there. A committee has also been set up for undertaking the work of delimitation of constituencies. About three lakh Kashmiri Pandits have been living outside the state. Similarly, several Laddakhis and muslim Gujjars are also living outside the state. First of all, the Government should rehabilitate them. Their children are knocking at one door after another. The elections should be held only after their rehabilitation. There is also a need to inculcate confidence in them. When lakhs of Kashmiris have left, it is useless to prepare electoral rolls there.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Shri Karn Singh issue statements from time to time. In such a situation, we are required to explain the things to the public. Further, the hon. Governor of the state also issues statements. We should be united on the basic issue of Kashmir. Just now, Shri Shahabuddin has said that we should call on all party meeting. We also have some suggestions in regard to Kashmir. We have attachment with the Kashmiris. Whenever a policy is evolved on Kashmir, everybody should be taken together. A programme should be chalked out to implement the policy. The misdeeds of Pakistan should be brought before the world. Today, Mahajirs are being killed in Pakistan. The Government should evolve a scheme to tell the world about the role of Pakistan in Kashmir affairs.

Recently, Atalji had gone to U.N.O. He put forth his views in a very offensive manner. Had he not done so, they would have been in dark. The Government should adopt some measures to deal with Pakistan and raise this issue at world forum. Thus, Pakistan will not dare to raise Kashmir issue at international level again. With these words, I support this Resolution.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduaras): Mr. Chairman,

Sir, my hon. friends who spoke before me have spoken on all the matters relating to Kashmir. Shri Inderjit Gupta and Shri Syed Shahabuddin have also spoken on these issues. I also support their feelings.

The problem of unemployment is aggravating in Kashmir. You have made a provision of reservation and I would like to know that how many people have been provided reservation in the vacancies in the Government offices? There are so many Kashmiris working in the Government offices in Delhi. You always say that Kashmir is an integral part of India. You only say such things but have done nothing for them. There are so many problems about Kashmir and these problems should be solved through negotiations with the people of all walks of life there. If it is not possible for the representatives of the Government to visit Jammu or they do not have time to go there then those people should be called to Delhi for talks. If you so desire, you may take a delegation there comprising the members from all the parties and can discuss the matter with the people of Kashmir and know their feelings. These all steps should have been taken earlier. Pakistan is trying to internationalise this problem and trying to take advantage of the situation by flaring up the communal feelings of the Hindus and Muslims. That is why Muslims are afraid of to show their patriotism and people have doubts about us that we can be traitors and we can demand for another Pakistan or segregate Kashmir from India. In this way our community is being doubted. This problem is not related to any cast or religion. India belongs to all and its policy of secularism is well known to the whole world.

Pakistan has lost 2-3 wars with us. If Pakistan again tries for any misadventure it will get appropriate reply. In future also we should not hesitate to deal heavily with Pakistan, if the need arises to fail the designs of Pakistan. It is improper not to respond to their hostile behaviour and bear it quietly, rather we should adopt a policy of bullet for bullet. The Government has to take a tough stand on it. India is adopting the policy of secularism and fraternity. It is not a policy in regard to language or religion. India belongs to all and having regard to the situation which is prevalent there it is proper to extend the period of President's rule.

16.57 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair) It is my suggestion to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to take an all-Party delegation and hold talks with the people there. This process was started earlier also but it was discontinued. We can bring people together by visiting Kashmir and talking to them and listening to their problems and difficulties. In this way we can bring them closer to the mainstream.

With these words I conclude. You don't give us a chance to speak. Please do remember that RSP is also a party and should be given a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHAKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker Sir, my friends and colleagues in this debate, have concentrated largely on the Kashmir and Jammu areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to have your permission to concentrate exclusively on questions relating to Ladakh.

Sir, we are very familiar with the problems that have been posed in the areas of Kashmir, in particular and Jammu as well. But perhaps we are not as conscious as we ought to be of the growing dissatisfaction in Ladakh owing to tardiness on our part in implementing agreements that we have already reached with them. The House would recall that on the 27th of October, 1989, that is, over five years ago, a tripartite agreement was negotiated by the Government of India, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Ladakh Buddhist Association, which was to lead to the establishment of an Autonomous Hill Council for the area of Ladakh in exchange for which the Ladakh Buddhist Association which had been spearheading the movement for the separation of Ladakh from the State of Jammu and Kashmir and its reconstitution into a Union Territory was withdrawn. Having arrived at that stage, it turned out that the Government which followed ours in December of 1989 did not follow up the 27th October, 1989 Agreement with the result that it was not until the Congress returned to the Treasury Benches in June, 1991 that the issue of fulfilling the assurances given to the Ladakhis was taken up once more.

Under the guidance of our Home Minister Shri S.B. Chavan an Agreement was reached at negotiations held in Delhi on the 9th and 10th of October, 1993 that an Autonomous Hill Council would be established for Ladakh.

1700 hrs.

Today we are one year and more than four months after the date of that agreement. But the people of Ladakh are no nearer the Autonomous Hill Council today than they were during the period July-October 1989 when they were agitating for Union Territory status. I think all sections of the House would agree that this is less fair to the people of Ladakh. The people of Ladakh have played an exceptionally important role in maintaining the secular character of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and in facing enemies of India both on their eastern flank as well as on their northern flank; they have stood four square with India through all these difficult years and I think it is only fair that they should be given this opportunity of being able to run their affairs in accordance not merely with their demands, but with a solemn agreement entered into by the Congress Party Government twice over—once in October 1989 and again in October 1993.

We have seen in the Darjeeling hills that this acute problem of what was to be the status of the Gorkha people of Darjeeling *vis-a-vis* the plainsmen of West Bengal, was solved by the invention of this system of a Hill Council for the people of the Darjeeling hills, in consequence of which, I am happy to see that today there is an excellent

relationship between the Chairman of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

Equally, we have seen in Mizoram that while the insurgency of the Mizos against the Mizoram Government was going on, the people of the minority tribes who lived in the southern part of Mizoram around the area of Siaha felt that they could continue as part of Mizoram by having an Autonomous District Council for themselves.

This technique of an Autonomous District Council is one that is integral to the Constitution of India and it has been used enormously successfully in different parts of the country to defuse what one might call subregional resentment about the majority within any region. It was in the light of that wisdom that we arrived at this tripartite agreement with the Ladakhis in October 1989. The importance and significance of the Autonomous Hill Councils might also be seen from the fact that it was precisely those subjects that were entrusted to the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, the agreement which brought that about which has led to many of their entries which you now find annexed in the Schedule XII of the Constitution relating to the functions, duties and responsibilities of the Panchayati Raj and Nagar Palika institutions.

In the light of this, I have two appeals to make and with that I am concluded. One is an appeal addressed through you to Shri Buta Singh who was then the Home Minister and who has now made a spectacular re-entry into the Union Government. It was under his leadership that the tripartite agreement was signed and therefore, it is incumbent upon him now as a member of the Government of India to ensure that the promises that he made way back in October 1989 are fulfilled at least in February 1995. At the same time I also appeal through you to our present Union Home Minister who accepted the obligations of the October 1989 agreement, gave them concrete shape in October 1993, but is still to provide the Autonomous Hill Council to the Ladakhis, to please make a statement during the course of his reply here itself as to when the Ladakhis might expect to be able to actually exercise the privileges that have been accorded to them in principle for the last five years and more.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Hon. Speaker Sir, now I would like to draw the attention of this august House to Jammu and Kashmir issue. I wholeheartedly support this issue. Now we are living in India which is a free country. We are following democracy. But we are not playing like a democracy. We are sometimes allowing some people to tarnish this. I am very sorry for this. We are living in a secular State and if we are living in a secular State, we must play like a secular State.

In India, there are so many people living, representing so many religious faiths.

Now, our population is around 85 crores. But we are not caring for them. We are not feeding them. They are poor people. They are actually believing in Parliament. But I am sorry that we are not giving them a good administration.

Now, what is administration; Administration, in a democracy, means criticism of the Government without fear or favour.

I myself suggest here that we should carry the people in a peaceful bond. We are living in a democratic country. We are independent now. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should look after the interests of the people. We should keep this House sacred.

You have sometimes deprived us of speaking here. Why should you deprive us?

Now, elections are going on in five States. You have called us here. You have given us summons to come and sit here. How can we sit here? We have to see the people: Unless we see the people, how can they vote? How can they exercise their franchise? Am I correct or not? We are sitting here like foolish people.

We are living with the poor people. I am also a tribal. I am a very poor man.

Thank you, Sir, I am very happy Namaskar.

SHRI MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must first express my grateful thanks to all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussions. I do not say that they have supported the Resolution willingly, but grudgingly though they have supported the Resolution. Everyone of us is having a kind of anxiety in his mind that here is a problem which, in fact, is defying all the attempts that the Government has been making, all the attempts which we are collectively making.

I have no objection to the suggestion, which one of the hon. Members, Shri Sahabuddin has made and some others have supported: why not have the meeting of all the parties and try to discuss with them? And why is the Government trying to keep something to itself and not giving full facts to the House? I can well understand their anxiety. But hon. Members should also be able to appreciate the difficulties that the Government also faces. I would request you to bear with us for some time. Thereafter, may be, we will be able to call the meeting of all the main leaders of political parties, and, in an atmosphere of informality, it should be possible for us to discuss at great length and try to find out how best we will be able to find a solution to his problem.

There can be no compromise on the basic character of our polity; there can be no compromise on the sovereignty and the integrity of India. Kashmir is going to be part and parcel of India and there can be no compromise on that issue at all. Let us be very clear about it.

In fact, I had also publicly stated that the Government is prepared to talk to anyone who is prepared to discuss matters with us, though my previous stand was that if we have to concede anything a the stage, might be, that that becomes a starting point for further negotiations in the matter. If we have exhausted more than half the points which we can possibly offer to them, then, of course, after the elections, might be, they will be full of frustration and

say that having given more than half, it is paractically nothing and so, they may feel that we are not offering them anything. That is the kind of fear that I had in mind. But, looking in to the kind of feeling that the hon. Members have expressed here, there is no harm in probing their mind and trying to find out as to what it is and if we can possibly reach some kind of a solution. We will be too happy to do the same. Some of the hon. Members seem to feel that this is a three dimensional approach th.at they are suggesting; and some other hon. Members — most probably because of their particular backgroud are almost forced to say that we have to speak in the language which Pakistan can understand. I have no doubt about it. I am also prepared to do the same thing, but we must also understand as to what would be the implications if I were to say so. This is not merely between Pakistan and India—this is a misnomer. Neither India nor Pakistan is going to be the beneficiaries of the solution, it is the third party which, in fact, is anxiously waiting to try to complicate the situaiton. Taking advantage of the closeness which some of the party leaders have got, they come closer, try to understand what exactly we are thinking about it, and if it does not suit them, then, they try to create problems and try to see that the solution to the problem becomes almost an impossibility. Are we prepared to to the line which they would like to have?

Let me take this House into confidence. At least I have no doubt in my mind that some of the interested parties can be satisfied only when independence is granted to Jammu and Kashmir. If independence is not granted, they would try to create all the problems that are possible, in spite of the fact that they knew that Pakistan is doing everything. They were on the point of declaring it a terrorist State I have in my possession, a document or a research paper which, in fact, has been published by the Republicans in America in which they have clearly stated that the Democrats are creating problems in India and they are trying to encourage Pakistan to that extent. Pakistan is — this is almost known to everyone—supplying arms, arranging camps, arranging all the weapons and also providing logistic support to them. These are all things which are known to everyone concerned.

Do not think that matters are so simple as that if we give some kind of a threat to them, Pakistan is going to keep quiet about it. Retaliation will not be from Pakistan, Retaliation will be from a different source altogether. I would not like to go into the details of the same. But let me sincerely take the House into confidence that what we are really worried about is the involvement of a number of parties who, in fact, are creating complications in the solution of this problem about which we are worried. We are not so much worried as to what Pakistan is going to do. We have defeated Pakistan so many times and we are capable of defeating Pakistan any time. There is no problem about it in spite of of F-16s and all the rest of it which Pakistan has acquired. At least I have no doubt in my mind. Our security forces are quite capable of dealing with the situation and giving a fitting reply to Pakistan.

But knowing this also, I have to contain my feelings and

try to understand as to how best we will able to find solution to the problem. The first dimension is that we know about the people. According to me, that is the first priority. If we take people into confidence and if the people feel that here is a Government which is prepared to stand by them, Pakistan or no Pakistan, they will always stand by us. At least I have no difficulty on that score. Now the stage has come when we say that there is a qualitative change in the attitude of the people. The people were thinking that this was *jehad* and for the sake of *jehad*, whosoever waged the war, they will have to be with them. But they hav now realised that here are people who are perpetrators of the worst kind of crimes. They are committing the crimes, extorting money from the people, raping the women and doing all kinds of things which has made them realise now that this is not *jehad*, this is not a religious war. And when they talk of *jehad*, are they not aware that Kashmir has just three millions of Muslims while India has about fourteen crores of Muslims? In India, we do not make any difference between Indian whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Christians or Parsees. We treat everybody equal. The day we begin making this kind of discrimination between people and people, I am sure, the country will go to dogs and it will be divided into a number of pieces. At least I have no doubt, about it. So, our cornerstone of the entire thing is secularism. We cannot give up secularism at any cost. That is why I said, Pakistan is only interested in this aspect of it. The rest of the people may not be. Pakistan would like to create conditions for the two-nation theory which we never accepted. Now they are almost forcing people of Jammu and Kashmir to accept that two-nation theory. Since they are Muslims, that is why they are claiming that they should come on their side and those who do not speak this language, they consider as their enemies.

One of the hon. Members said that he wanted to have the complete information. Of Course, it will be difficult for me to give the complete information. But prima facie, I can tell you that amongst the militant groups also, at the time of Amarnath Yatra, there was a big section which, if fact, was in favour of having a peaceful Yatra, not to distrub the same and invite all the migrants who had migrated from that area.

But there were some hardcore militants amongst them who did not like the idea and they were totally opposed to the idea of these migrants coming back. No question of any kind of compromise on this issue was the attitude of some of the hardcore militants. But there is no doubt that we have succeeded to a considerable extent. When I say “we have succeeded”, that means they themselves have succeeded and not we. They themselves have created a condition in which among the Hurriyats also there are sections who, in fact, are totally opposed to the idea of Hindus not being invited back into the Valley. Now it is only a question of persuading our local people to use their wisdom regarding going back. The only point which, in fact, must be worrying some of the hon. Members is this. Ultimately, what is going to happen to the right of franchise of migrants? Fortunately for us, the

Chief Election Commissioner has issued orders that their names will be taken on the rolls wherever they are, be they in Jammu or in Bombay or in Delhi and they will have the right of franchise. On that score, we need not have any kind of difficulty at all. The only point is some of them have expressed their willingness to go back. There are some people who are inviting them to come to the Valley as their brothers. It is entirely for them to take their own decisions. In fact, we are trying to encourage these elements to go back so that it should give the impression of normalcy in that area. So, our effort is to see that they are being properly encouraged to go to the Valley themselves, see things for themselves, meet their friends there and if they are satisfied themselves that there is no danger involved, and they can go back. That is a matter for them to take a decision. We are always prepared to give the required assistance to them from the Government side so that the idea of some people, to create a rift amongst them and discourage the feeling of brotherhood which in fact existed and is still existing, do not succeed. That is the whole purpose as to why we would like to see that they go back.

A point was raised as to why Government thought in terms of asking for extending the President's rule for four-and-a-half months instead of the usual practice of asking extension for six months. In fact, we feel quite confident that within four and a half months, the way things are happening, there might a change in the hearts of people and it might be that a large number of people might think in terms of having elections in the area. If it succeeds, nothing like it. At the same time, let there be no illusion about it. In fact, we ourselves are not prepared to hold elections at the village level and at the grassroot level or the panchayat level. Perhaps holding the panchayat elections is much more difficult than holding elections to Parliament or Assembly. But that is one of the factors. Another reason is the term of four-and-a-half months completes the period of five years, if it has to be beyond five years, then we will have to amend the Constitution. It will definitely have a separate procedure and if that procedure is adopted, I do not find any reason as to why it should not be possible. Let God forbid a thing of that nature. Then certainly, by all means, we will have to again come before the House and request the House to extend President's rule because ultimately, we should have elections in the area in the correct way of keeping the people and the other machinery totally away.

The hon. Member, Shri Shahabuddin I do not know but I hope he has said with good intentions

that 'you won't get the machinery for holding the elections. At least, I have no doubt about it.

In Punjab also similar kind of threat was administered and we could get all the machinery that was necessary for holding the elections in Punjab. there is no reason to believe that a similar kind of a situation does not exist there. There is only the fear of the gun. There is a change in the attitude. But the fear of the gun is there, nobody can deny that. Once that is removed, at least, I do not find any reason as to why the staff for holding the elections will not be available or agents will not be available or people who, in fact, will provide all the security which the local people require, will not be available.

One of the very dangerous suggestions which was made here—I am sure the hon. Members did not mean it was when they said that in the two-thirds of the areas, we can hold elections and for the rest of the Valley we can just keep quiet. This is exactly what Pakistan wants and if we fall into this trap, then of course, the solution is an impossibility. I do not think that, even at the cost of dragging on the kind of a situation in which we are, for some time, if it becomes absolutely necessary, we will continue with this kind of a situation but we should not agree for not holding the elections in one particular area and for the rest of the areas we will go ahead with holding of the elections. That will be disastrous, according to me. Of course, it might be that the suggestions which the hon. Member made was not really that serious about following that kind of a line.

Hon. Member, Shri Jaswant Singhji has said that there is no Government recognised at the village level. Yes, it is a fact. It is not new. If it is known and if it is recognised, then the solution is already there. What else you want? At the local level still the local man is with us. But left to himself he cannot come out of the house because of the fear of the gun. If they are really so conscious and so confident that because of the religious feelings and without anything else, they (the people) will definitely come with them do not administer the threat. Allow them to come out and I am sure that everybody will come out. There is no reason as to why they should feel that we are not doing anything in this respect. So, that will be another thing.

In this context—in fact, it will be very unfair on my part not to admit that I have held discussions with the Ladakhi people. When I started the discussion, it was both Leh and Kargil areas and the condition precedent was, you have to lift the social boycott. You have to give land for Buddhist Pagoda in the Kargil area and they have to lift the social boycott.

Both the things were agreed and both the parties have lifted this kind of a ban. That is why we are feeling quite confident that if you have to give the Hill Council for Leh and keep a provision for Kargil because they are under threat, some of the people are threatening them saying that 'if you are to accept this, then you will have to face some kind of a trouble thereafter.' Because of that threat, might be, the people of Kargil are still not that confident but we have provided that whenever the Kargil people want, the same pattern will be applicable in the case of Kargil. So, Leh and Kargil areas are backward areas, there is no question about it. So, if the Hill Council concept is accepted by one and then extended to the other, I do not find any reason as to why we should not be able to do the same. It is now at the last stage of consideration and I am sure that very soon it should be possible for us to find solution to this Ladakh problem.

A point was made about the income tax concessions which they were enjoying so far. For some reason, this concession was withdrawn from that area. The total amount which is being collected is, in fact, not very big. I am sure, I should be able to persuade my colleague the Finance Minister to concede this point. But ultimately, as you know, the Finance Minister too has his limitations and he is bound to preserve every bit that he can. Anyway, let me try and I am certainly going to do my best to see that this concession which was enjoyed by them so far should not be withdrawn, especially at a time when we are trying to win them over. There is no doubt that they are bound to feel frustrated because of the time factor. Much time is definitely gone by and they are feeling rather frustrated. That is why it becomes all the more necessary to consider this aspect as early as possible.

As regards the aspect of development and all other related matters, this, in fact, is one of the factors which could win over the hearts of the people. In fact, a conscious effort has been made and the concerned people have been made responsible for proper accounting. They will have to account for each and every pie which is being spent in Jammu & Kashmir area. A team of officers has been appointed for monitoring the progress, physical as well as financial. If both these things are properly looked after and monitored, I, at least, have no doubt in my mind that they will be able to give a good account of both plan and non-plan expenditure. There has been a departure from the policy that we have been following so far and with that kind of a change in policy, I think the people of Kashmir will be tremendously benefited.

Certain other points were raised by hon. Shri Jaswant Singh. He has asked as to how some of the people were

allowed to attend the meeting of the OIC. In fact, I require some more time to give the information because I have to get all the details which I do not have with me just now. I have to find out as to what exactly are the reasons.

Another point that he has raised is about the security failure at the time of the Jammu bomb blast. I have no doubt in my mind that there should not be any laxity in security matters. Whosoever is responsible for maintaining the security in an area where the VVIP was to address a meeting, they should have taken all the necessary care and see that the whole area is scanned thoroughly and all the security arrangements are properly done. They should not take any chance especially in an area where you can anticipate some kind of trouble. The CBI is making an inquiry into the matter and thereafter it will be possible for us to find out what exactly were the reasons and who were the people who actually failed in their duty. I can assure the House that will be able to take whatever action is called for, depending upon the kind of CBI report that we will be getting.

About the victims of the avalanche, the figures that I have here are not exact, but if my memory has not failed me, about 50 to 60 people were killed and some other people were badly injured in the avalanche.

Mr. Rai wanted some kind of a political package. I have explained our position.

As far as the administration is concerned, there is no doubt that it is rather in a bad shape. But we cannot possibly think of totally scrapping the administration in that area. We have to see that proper correctives are applied so that the administration is not allowed to be used by the militants. After attending to these aspects, I don't think there can be any reason to suspect whether the administration will be amenable for the kind of exercise that they promise to undertake.

Sir, about the violations of human rights committed by the soldiers and paramilitary forces, I do not think we can overlook them. My hon. friend, Major Sawant has suggested this, but with the Human Rights Commission and other human rights organisations world over, we cannot ignore the excesses committed by the paramilitary and armed forces.

Sir, these were the main points which were raised by the hon. Members. I can assure all the hon.

Members that we will try to call a meeting of the leaders of all political parties and with their cooperation it should be possible to find some kind of a workable solution. If we have any reservation, certainly in a meeting of that nature, it will be possible for us to take them into confidence and explain to them our difficulties.

So far as the people of Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, in fact, we have every hope that we should be able to bring about a change as early as possible so that they come to the mainstream and they are able to contribute for the good of the nation. Actually they are part and parcel of India. They have been isolated so far. So, they should get the opportunity of having their own representative in the Parliament as well as having their Legislature. I do not think that the proposition of reviving the old Assembly is going to be a practical proposition. At least I do not subscribe to that point of view at all. Let us not create a make-believe sort of a thing. In fact, they have lost their life. Their tenure is over. To revive that Assembly again will not be taken kindly by the local people. I do not think that we can possibly go ahead with that sort of a thing.

Sir, these were some of the points which were raised and I have tried by best to explain the position as it is obtaining today and thereafter I can only assure the hon. House that at an early opportunity we will call the meeting with all leaders of the Opposition and discuss the matter with them to find out as to how best we should be able to find a solution to this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give one suggestion. The Hon'ble Minister had given an assurance in July in regard to the Hill Council for Laddakh and he had categorically stated that it is under his active consideration I would request you sir that Laddakh is a peaceful area and people of Laddakh want peace. but the question of Hill Council for Laddakh repeatedly...*(Interruptions)*...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This point has already been made by other Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: He has also given the reply but he has stated that it is under consideration. I would request you, sir, that please take the final decision as early as possible, Six months before also you had said that it is under consideration and still you are saying so.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in

respect of Jammu and Kashmir, issued under Article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period beyond 2nd March, 1995 till 17th July, 1995."

The motion was adopted.

17.37 hrs.

SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP (AMENDMENT) BILL

Amendments made by Rajya Sabha

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has written to me saying that there is a small amendment which has to be done. It seems everybody agrees.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Sir, if the hon. Members give me the indulgence, there are three amendments that the Rajya Sabha has passed. One was about the 1994 amendment to the SPA Act. Now this is the fifth year and that is why it will be necessary to make allowance for that and second will be the repeal of the Ordinance which we had issued. These are the two main things.

I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Act, 1988 be taken into consideration."

"Enacting Formula

That at page 1, line 1 for the word "Forty-fifth" the word "Forty-sixth" be substituted. (1)

Clause-1—Short Title and Commencement

That at page 1, line 4, for the figure "1994" the figure "1995" be substituted. (2)

Clause-3—Repeal and Saving

That at page 1, for lines 10 and 11, the following be substituted namely:—

Ord. 1 of 1995 "3. (1) The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 is hereby repealed" (3)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Special Protection (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration"

"Enacting Formula

That at page 1, line 1 for the word "Forty-fifth" the word "Forty-sixth" be substituted. (1)

Clause 1—Short Title and Commencement

That at page 1, line 4, for the figure "1994" the figure "1995" be substituted. (2)

* Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

Clause-3—Repeal and Saving

That at page 1, for lines 10 and 11, the following be substituted namely:—

Ord. 1 “3. (1) The Special Protection Group of 1995. (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 is hereby repeated”(3)

The motion was adopted

Enacting Formula

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That at page 1, line 1 for the word “Forty-fifth” the word “Forty-sixth” be substituted”. (1)

The motion was adopted

Clause 1—Short Title and Commencement

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That at page 1, line 4, for the figure “1994” the figure “1995” be substituted.” (2)

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3—Repeal and Saving

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That at page 1, for line 10 and 11, the following be substituted namely:—

Ord. 1 “3. (1) The Special Protection Group of 1995. (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 is hereby repeated”(3)

The motion was adopted

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I beg to move:

“That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to.”

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Members wanted to know as to what happened with respect to the blow-out. The Minister wants to make a statement.

17.40 hrs.

Statement by Minister

Fire at the ONGC Well at Pasarlapudi in Andhra Pradesh

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): Sir, during the zero hour today, hon. Member Shri Balayogi raised the matter regarding the fire at the ONGC well at Pasarlapudi in Andhra Pradesh. I would like to inform the hon. Members the present position in this regard.

A severe blow-out occurred at Well Pasarlapudi 19 located near Devarlanka village, Amalapuram Mandal in East Godavari District (Andhra Pradesh), K. G. Project, Southern Region of ONGC on the 8th of January, 1995 at about 18.58 hours. There was a sudden uncontrolled gushing of natural gas under high pressure and the well caught fire within a very short time. As a result, the mast of the drilling rig collapsed and some of the other drilling equipment also got damaged. To ascertain the reasons of this blow-out a high level Enquiry Committee has already been formed and a report is expected shortly. There was not loss of life due to blow-out and fire on this well. Immediately action was taken by the Project authorities to alert the District authorities, and District authorities promptly evacuated by mobilising buses immediately, as a safety precaution, the families who wanted to move out from the village up to 5 km radius namely, Bodasakurru, Peruru, Gopayalanka, Devarlanka, Mamidithota, Koduripadu and Ventrikona. The District Collector and other senior officers visited the site in the night and supervised the operations of evacuation along with ONGC officers. Medical and relief camps were organised and also food and clothing was distributed in the relief camps. All these steps were taken in close coordination with the District Authorities and they extended full cooperation.

A total of Rs.48 lakh has been advanced by ONGC to the District authorities for relief and rehabilitation work till 18th February, 1995. Of this amount, Rs.33 lakh is to be spent on relief measures and the balance of Rs. 15 lakh is towards construction of temporary shelters.

Simultaneously, action was also taken to mobilise the fire fighting equipment of ONGC and the District Administration for water spraying on Pasarlapudi well No.8, well head and Early Production System which is about 288 metres away and Gas Trunk Pipeline from Talipaka to Kakinada which is 100 metres away from the blow-out well site for ensuring safety of these installations.

Also immediate action was taken for mobilisation of senior officers from the Regional Office, Madras and experts from the Crisis Management Team, equipment pertaining to Crisis Management Team from Narsapur and Baroda and also excavator for preparation of water pits for blow-out control and fire fighting equipment.

Mr. Neil Adams Fire Fighting Inc., Houston were mobilised and their experts reached the site on 12th January, 1995 for assisting ONGC Crisis Management experts for blow-out control and fire fighting.

Flame height is about 88 Metres and primarily dry gas is blowing out of the well and burning. In about 288 Metres periphery, there is intense heat and there is no pollution due to blow out and burning of this gas. Except for some paddy fields and coconut trees within 588 Metres radius of well mouth which are being affected due to heat and there is no environmental impact. However, this is being continuously monitored.

On 8th January, 1995, approximately 1588 families were moved from these villages to the relief camps and since then a large number of families have returned to these villages and at present about 245 families are residing in relief camps. These families are now being shifted to semi-permanent relief camps near Allavaran and Peruru till the blow-out is finally controlled and well capped.

Senior officers from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas including the Secretary and myself visited the site to review the progress of ONGC's operations to control the blow-out and to cap the well. As directed by me, ONGC have been providing compensation, health-care and relief in consultation with the District Administration. In this regard, a Press Release was also issued on 29.1.1995 at the conclusion of my visit to Andhra Pradesh. The Hon'ble Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Assembly, along with MPs and other MLAs have also visited the blow-out site.

It is to be noted that incidents of blow-out are not uncommon in the oil exploration industry. All over the world, while drilling there have been several severe blow-outs during the history of hydrocarbon exploration.

The detailed action plan to quench the fire is proceeding as per the detailed plan drawn up by ONGC's Crisis Management Group which is backed by M/s. Neil Adams Fire Fighters Inc. All efforts are being made to control the fire... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed in this House.

17.47 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL
OF CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS
(REGULATION) ORDINANCE
AND
CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) BILL

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We shall take up items 21 and 22 together. There is a Statutory Resolution. Is there anybody who wants to move it?

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: "That this House

disapproves of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) ordinance, 1995 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1995) promulgated by the President on the 17th January, 1995."

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to regulate the operation of cable television networks in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill provides the following:

First, the registration of cable operators. Secondly the obligation to ensure that the programmes conform to the programme and advertising codes to be notified by the Central Government. Thirdly, Sir, the obligation to retransmit at least two Doordarshan channels, of the choice of the cable operator. Fourthly, obligation to use only such equipments for the cable television network which conforms to the Bureau of Indian Standards' specifications. Fifthly, penalties for violation of the obligations. Sixthly, designation of competent authority having powers to sanction, prosecution and to issue restraint orders in public interest to prohibit the cable operators from carrying out any particular programme. And seventhly, the other incidental and consequential provisions.

Sir, the Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications. The Standing Committee on Communications submitted its Report on 27th August, 1993. Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee and the suggestions made by the cable operators, certain amendments to the Bill were considered essential. In the meantime, Sir, a development took place, viz., the reported attempts being made by certain big companies to buy out smaller cable operators so that they have exclusive control over a large area.

It was therefore, decided to operationalise the cable law immediately through the promulgation of an ordinance so as to provide a sense of security to the small cable operators, ensure adherence to the various codes and to empower appropriate authorities to prescribe the carriage of undesirable programmes or channels. The President, accordingly, promulgated the Cable Television Network Regulation Ordinance 1994 on the 29th of September 1994.

The Ordinance and the rules framed thereunder

provide for registration of cable operators at the Head Post Offices after paying a nominal fee of Rs. 58, adherence to the prescribed programme and advertising codes which are spelt out separately in the rules, mandatory carriage of any of two Doordarshan channels, replacement of existing equipment being used by the cable network with that and meeting the specifications laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards within a period of three years from the date of establishment and publication of the same. Besides these, the ordinance also provides for penalty including fine and imprisonment for violation of various provisions as well as for non-adherence to the programme and channel codes.

The Government has accepted the demand made by the cable operators that they should not be held responsible for the programmes of foreign satellite channels which can be received without the use of specialised gadget decoder. However, the Government has retained the power to prohibit the operation of cable network in such as areas as it may consider necessary, in public interest and for the maintenance of law and order.

So, I would like to inform the hon. House that we are in the process of drafting a comprehensive Bill under which the electronic media should operate. This is under the direction of the Chair of the Rajya Sabha. Cable television will also form part of it. The various suggestions made by the hon. Members now will be reflected in it. After the comprehensive Bill is ready, I will bring it to the House.

With these words, I commend the Cable Television Network Regulation Bill 1994 for approval of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Ordinance, 1995 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1995) promulgated by the President on the 17th January, 1995."

"That the Bill to regulate the operation of cable television networks in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, let me start from the last point made by the hon. Minister regarding the comprehensive Bill being proposed covering the whole gamut of electronic media which will also include the cable television.

Sir, there was a demand for a long time that this country needs a comprehensive national media policy because in the radically changed circumstances by the satellite technology our nation, our country, our values are facing the onslaught of alien culture. We are very much in the midst of cultural invasion not only from the foreign satellite channels which are again being routed through cable operators but have grown in large numbers.

Then again there is the larger menace of the operation of multi-national companies and big business in this emerging new cable market, in this new emerging market in India for operation of such things like movies and other related things.

In this regard I would like to just draw the attention of this House to a very important statement made by a famous Latin American film director in the last Film Festival held at Bombay. Mr. M. Littin, who had been imprisoned and exiled for more than two decades, has said recently that in the Latin American countries, which had been very proud of their films, there it is being noted that lesser and lesser number of films have been produced and the whole market is being occupied by the American motion pictures. And he lamented that the countries, which could be proud of their film production, were just trembling and shivering before the latest onslaught. Even in the CATT discussions, we had seen that France had objected to the possible invasion in their culture, in their movies and others. There also and in many European countries also we do find today that there is invasion. The multi-national companies and particularly the U.S. movie lobbies are just invading not only the market but also the cultural values of these countries. This menace is there in our country also. The point is, how to save our culture, how to save our nation from the onslaught of this alien culture. This is a problem, which is being accentuated by a handful of cable operators.

By the promulgation of this Ordinance or for that matter any Bill, I do not think that we shall be able to contain this. We shall have to find out our new ways taking lessons from some Asian countries, what China has done today vis-a-vis the programmes being beamed from Hong Kong. The small countries like Malaysia have done this not only in relation to the cable trade but also vis-a-vis the satellite channel. Instead of taking lessons from such countries, we ourselves are moving in just a reverse direction.

We are amazed, we are rather distressed to notice that our own electronic media, which till today is under the monopoly control of the Government, which has not cared for the implementation of the Prasar Bharati Act, which was passed unanimously long back in 1998 by this House,

is coming to collaborate with MTU. There is a proposal to this effect going on and discussions are going on...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rup Chand Pal, you can continue your speech next time.

The House stands adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 14th March 1995, at 11 a.m.
18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 14, 1995/Phalgun 23, 1916 (Saka).

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