

(e) whether this move has created any resentment in the UPSC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) and (b) Proviso to clause (3) of Article 320 of the Constitution of India empowers the President to make regulations in respect of posts to be exempted from the purview of Union Public Service Commission. All regulations made under this clause are laid before each House of Parliament and are subject to such modifications, whether by way of repeal or amendment, as both Houses of Parliament may make. 1334 posts have been exempted from the purview of the UPSC since 1985 in exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution on the President.

(c) and (d) Certain posts in the Patent Office under Department of Industrial Development are being considered for exemption from the purview of the Commission.

(e) and (f) Does not arise since constitutional provisions empower the President to exempt any post from the purview of the Commission.

Siachen Issue

3244. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Siachen issue was discussed in Prime ministerial one to one talks in Lahore;

(b) the total number of persons killed during the last three years in this area;

(c) whether Pakistan is not honouring the cease-fire in this area; and

(d) the outcome of the Lahore discussion on this Siachen issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A total of twenty eight (28) Army personnel have been killed in this area during years 1996-98.

(c) During talks on Siachen on 6 November 1998 as part of the composite dialogue process between India and Pakistan. India proposed a cease-fire in the Siachen area as a first step towards an atmosphere of trust and confidence. This proposal was not accepted by Pakistan.

(d) Does not arise.

Command Area Development Programme

3245. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released by the Union Government to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme during the last three years till date, year-wise; and

(b) the details of the target fixed and the achievements made by the State Governments in this regard during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The details of funds released by Central Government of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh under centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme during the last three years till 1997-98, yearwise are as under:

Year	NDS Released (In Rs. Lakh)
1995-96	2204.13
1996-97	2022.60
1997-98	3057.83

(b) The details of the targets and achievements made on field channels, field drains and warabandi activities under the programme by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh during the last three year are as follows :-

Area in 000 ha.

Year	Field Channels		Field Drains		Warabandi	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1995-96	75.00	117.08	49.66	39.24	300.00	198.42
1996-97	121.00	126.00	65.42	53.77	225.00	205.79
1997-98	99.63	112.82	58.45	45.64	155.00	170.26

[Translation]

Baragi Dam

3246. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the oustees of Baragi Dam stage a dharna protesting against the proposal for increasing storage capacity of the dam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the view-point of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) and (b) No such matter has been reported by the State Government to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Crop Failure

3247. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sent any Central team to the States to assess the damage caused to crops;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any relief/assistance to the farmers following damages to their crops in the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of damage due to natural calamities (including damage to crops) by utilising the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Entire Central share of CRF for the year 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 996.11 crore has already been released to all the State Governments.

In addition to CRF, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for calamities of rare severity. The National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC), in its meeting held on 15.3.1999,

considered the requests from the States for assistance from the NFCR for various natural calamities and approved a total assistance of Rs. 497.10 crore.

Procurement Price of Sugarcane

3248. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cane growers have demanded to fix the procurement price of sugarcane at Rs. 100 per quintal in view of rising prices of agriculture inputs; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane and not the procurement price of sugarcane. For the sugar season 1998-99, Government of India has already fixed the SMP of sugarcane at Rs. 52.70 per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 8.5% in accordance with the provisions of clause 3 of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1996.

[English]

Subsidy Bill of Urea

3249. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the sharp hike in prices of Urea, it is likely to have little impact on the Subsidy Bill of this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove subsidy without affecting common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) and (b) The sale price of urea was increased from Rs. 3660 per Metric tonne to Rs. 4000 per Metric tonne with effect from 29.1.1999, representing an increase of 9.2 % only.

The savings due to the increase in the price of urea is estimated to Rs. 4.83 crores in the current financial year and Rs. 715 crores in a full year.

(c) The impact of the urea price increase on the cost of cultivation is likely to be less than one percent,

while the impact on the general price level would be negligible.

[Translation]

Sardar Sarovar Dam

3250. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently given any verdict in regard to Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government as well as the Governments of participating States;

(c) since when the construction work of the project has started, the estimated cost at the time of its inception and the funds spent thereon till date, year-wise;

(d) the details of sources from which the funds have been mobilised;

(e) whether the project has witnessed abnormal escalation in terms of time and cost over-run;

(f) if so, the reasons for such high escalation;

(g) the present status, revised cost and time schedule for the completion of the project; and

(h) the details of the oustees of the project and effective measures taken/being taken by the Union Government for their rehabilitation and welfare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India is Writ Petition No. 314/94 has passed an interim Order on 18th February, 1999 permitting to raise the Sardar Sarovar Dam upto EL 85 Metre excluding bumps required for the safety to the dam. The Government of Gujarat has accordingly resumed the work on Sardar Sarovar Dam from 19th February, 1999.

(c) Construction work of Sardar Sarovar Project was started on 24th April, 1987 at the approved estimated

cost of Rs 6,406.04 crores (1986-87 price level) and the year-wise expenditure incurred thereon so far is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year		Total Expenditure incurred
1.	1987-88	496.19
2.	1988-89	162.25
3.	1989-90	198.19
4.	1990-91	422.67
5.	1991-92	600.08
6.	1992-93	536.12
7.	1993-94	749.06
8.	1994-95	681.75
9.	1995-96	777.27
10.	1996-97	901.22
11.	1997-98	1117.23
12.	1998-99 (Up to January, 1999)	931.43
Total		7573.46

(d) Main sources of fund for the project are budgetary provisions made by the Government of Gujarat, share received from the participating States as determined in accordance with award of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal against the expenditure incurred by the Government of Gujarat, Mobilisation of fund by the Government of Gujarat/Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd. by way of Public Deposits, Bonds, Loans and Inter-corporate deposits. The Government of Gujarat is also receiving Central Loan Assistance from Government of India in lieu of outstanding balance of World Bank Loan and under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The main reason for high cost escalation of the project is delay in completion of the project due to stay granted in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319/94 filed against construction of the project by the Supreme Court of India and escalation in cost of construction.

(g) Physical Progress of various components of the project as on January, 99 is as under :

Sl. Component No	Excavation %	Concreting %	Drilling %
A. DAM			
1. Main Dam	101.88	83.26	84.40
2. River Bed Power House			
Open	95.44		
Underground	91.01		
3. Canal Head Power House	100.00		
4. Vadgam Saddle Dam	100.00		
B CANALS			
	Earthwork %	Lining %	Structural concrete %
5. Narmada main Canal (0 to 144.5 km)	99.42	99.95	96.66
6. Branch Canals Phase-I (0 to 144.5 km)	93.40	83.32	94.83
7. Distribution System (0 to 144 km)	82.30	91.80	91.12
8. Phase-II (144 to 263 Km)			
a) Narmada main Canal	—	80.24	81.22
b) Seven major structures	91.79	20.37	67.78

The revised estimate of the project is under preparation by Government of Gujarat. The Project was scheduled to be completed by 2000 AD. However, completion of the project is dependent on disposal of Writ Petition pending before the Supreme Court, the availability of funds and pari-passu implementation of Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures of Project Affected Families by the party States as per the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) Award.

(h) As per the present estimates 40727 families are likely to be affected due to submergence because of Sardar Sarovar Project. Out of these 4600 are from Gujarat, 3113 from Maharashtra and 33014 from Madhya Pradesh.

As per the present estimates 10,447 Project Affected Families have been settled upto 31.1.1999 and balance families likely to be shifted are 30,280. The respective State Governments are taking necessary measures for resettlement of the families based on their own policies which are much more liberal than those provided in the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award and the same is being closely monitored by the Resettlement & Rehabilitation Sub-Group of Narmada Control Authority headed by the Secretary, Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Pending Scheme of U.P.

3251. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some development projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Planning Commission for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not clearing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Watershed Development Scheme

3252. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under the National Watershed Development Scheme in the rain-fed areas of Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan particularly in Patan;

(b) whether the set target could not be achieved under the above scheme;

(c) if so, the details of target set and achievement made in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) An area of 2,92,579 ha. has been developed under the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas against the target of 3,34,261 ha., in Gujarat, during the VIIIth Plan. No Watershed was taken up in Patan.

Agriculture Produce

3253. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been formulated to increase the agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agricultural produce are being imported;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to ban the imports of such item; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Policy on food security announced by the Government seeks to double food production and make India hunger free in ten years. At regionally differentiated strategy, based on agro-climatic regional planning, will be adopted to realize the full potential of each region for the development of agriculture.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The import policy of the Government is primarily based on augmentation of domestic supplies to meet the local requirements and providing inputs at reasonable price to the processors/manufacturers of agricultural products.

[English]

Bus Service between Lahore and Delhi

3254. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the time by which the regular bus service between New Delhi and Lahore is likely to begin?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : The regular bus service between New Delhi and Lahore has begun on 16th March, 1999.

Coconut as Oilseeds

3255. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coconut has been declared as an oilseed by the Government; and

(b) if so, the benefits being given to coconut cultivators by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Coconut was declared as an oilseed of tree origin in October, 1990.

(b) The support being provided to coconut farmers through the Coconut Development Board (CDB) under Ministry of Agriculture is given in the enclosed Statement. Further, to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers, Government of India fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling copra and Ball Copra every year. The MSP fixed for the 1999 Season at Rs. 3,100/- per quintal for Milling Copra and 3,325/- per quintal for Ball Copra of Fair Average Quality are Rs. 200/- per quintal higher than for the previous year. Farmers are also supported to the extent of Rs. 25,000/- per hectare for installation of drip irrigation system for all horticultural crops including coconut.

Statement

Incentives/Facilities Provided to Coconut growers during 1998-99

Programme	Incentives/facilities provided
1	2
1. Production and distribution of planting material	(i) 100% assistance for establishment and maintenance of Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farms for coconut.
	(ii) 100% assistance for setting up nurseries for production and distribution of quality seedlings at Demonstration-cum-Seed Production farms.
	(iii) 50% assistance for production and distribution of Tall x Dwarf hybrid coconut seedlings.
2. Area expansion	Rs. 6,000/- per ha. in 3 annual instalments.
3. Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement:	
(i) Removal of disease advanced/ senile palms	Rs. 200/- per palm
(ii) Subsidised supply of quality seedlings for replanting	Rs. 5/- per seedling
(iii) Subsidy for promoting fertiliser application and plant protection.	Rs. 8/- per palm (Rs. 1280/- per ha.)
(iv) Assistance for multi-species cropping including green manure crops	Rs. 200/- per ha. towards cost of planting material.
4. Integrated control of major pests and diseases	50% assistance for integrated control of leaf earing caterpillar.
5. Coconut Technology Development Centre :	
(i) Financial aid to artisans	Maximum of Rs. 5000/- per unit.
(ii) Financial assistance to coconut processing industries.	Rs. 1.00 lakh or 25% of the capital cost of the plant and machinery.

1	2
(iii) Financing small and medium milling units to install efficient expellers	Rs. 1.00 lakh of 75% of the cost of expeller in the form of loan at low rate of interest.
(iv) introduction of improved copra dryer	50% of the cost of dryer or Rs. 10,000/- whichever is less provided to coconut farmers for processing of coconuts into copra.
6. Extension and publication activities :	
(i) Training	Training of unemployed youth in harvesting and plant protection on coconut. Training of unemployed youth and rural women in manufacturing of coconut handicrafts. Training of farmers in scientific coconut cultivation.

National Statistical Commission

3256. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a National Statistical Commission to centralise the collection and dissemination of economic data;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have framed any national policy on dissemination of data; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Government have decided to establish a National Statistical Commission to critically examine the deficiencies of the present statistical system. The need for timely and reliable statistics for policy formulation and planning cannot be over emphasised and there is reason to believe that with progressive dismantling of the system of economic controls, the quality of data flows has weakened. The Commission is to recommend measures for a systematic revamping of the statistical system.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details, inter-alia, are as follows:

'Dissemination of official statistics in the form of reports, ad-hoc and regular publications, etc. as at present shall continue. Validated data, though unpublished, including unit/household/establishment level data after deleting their identification particulars to maintain confidentiality shall also be made available to the national and international data users in the form of hard copies and on magnetic media on payment basis. The price of data shall include the cost of stationary, computer consumables and computer time for sorting information but will not include

the cost of collection and validation of data. No data which are considered by the concerned official data source agency to be of sensitive nature and the supply of which may be prejudicial to the interest, integrity and security of the nation, will be supplied. Survey results/data shall be made available to the national and international data users after the expiry of three years from the completion of the field work or after the reports based on survey data are released, whichever is earlier. The Department of Statistics will be the nodal agency for dissemination of official statistics produced by Central Government Ministries and Departments. A Data Warehouse is planned in the Department of Statistics for the purpose.'

Foot and Mouth Disease

3257. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several cattle in Kerala died due to foot and mouth disease, an epidemic that spread in cattle of Kerala recently;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government consider to provide adequate arrangements to make available the vaccine for extensive vaccination of cattle; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India became aware about the high incidence of foot and mouth disease in Kerala only on 12.3.1999 following the receipt of a reference (letter No. E1-6877/99 dt. 9.3.1999) on 12.3.1999.

(b) The State Government has been requested to furnish detailed epidemiological information about the incidence for the purpose of further investigation by Indian Council of Agricultural Research scientists.

(c) The Government of India will provide grant-in-aid under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Control of

Animals Diseases" on receipt of proposals from the Government of Kerala as per the guidelines of the scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

High Yielding Varieties of Pepper and Cash Crops

3258. PROF P. J KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research is undertaken in ICAR or other research institutions on high yielding varieties of pepper and other cash crops; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Research on pepper and other cash crops are underway in I.C.A.R. Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and different Centres under All India Coordinated Research Projects of respective crops. List of Research Institute of ICAR and varieties developed are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

A. List of Research Institute of ICAR concerned with pepper and other cash crops.

1. Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut, Kerala. (Black Pepper)
2. Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur (Maharashtra).
3. Indian Institute for Sugar Cane Research, Lucknow (U.P.)
4. Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
5. Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry (A.P.)
6. Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore (West Bengal)

B. Varieties Developed

1. Black Pepper — Panniyur 1 to 5, Subakara, Sreekara, Pournami and Panchami.
2. Cotton — F414, H777, RST9, G.Cot. 12, LRA 5166, MCU7, RG8, ID327, Hybrid-4, JKHY-1, MECH-1, Savita, DCH32, Fateh.

3. Sugarcane — Co205, Co658, Co6806, Co6907, Co7219, Co7314, Co7527, Co7508, CoC671, Coj64, Colk8001, Colk8102, CoPant, 84211.
4. Jute — JRO632, JRO878, JRO524, JRC321, JRC 212, JRC7447, KTC-1, PB06.
5. Mesta — C583, AMC 108.
6. Tobacco — Jayasri, Godavari spl, Swarna, Hema, Bhavya, Gauthami, CM-12, Virginia, Gandak, Behar, Sona, Vairam, Bhagyalakshmi.

[Translation]

Irrigation/Water Logging in Bihar

3259. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mokama, Barahia Lakhisaral, Suryagarh and Taal irrigation project in Bihar has not been implemented so far and draining of water logged in these areas has also not been undertaken so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take any concrete step to implement the said project; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work on the said project is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Mokamah Tal area was inspected jointly by officers of Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), Ministry of Agriculture and the Agriculture Department of Bihar Government on 13.9.97 in connection with drainage improvement/development of the area followed by a meeting taken by the Union Minister for Agriculture with the Ministers of Water Resources and Agriculture, Government of Bihar and concerned officials of Centre and State Governments on 14.9.97 when it was decided that a report on drainage improvement of Mokamah Tal area should be prepared by the Government of Bihar in consultation with GFCC within 30 days. Subsequently, GFCC furnished a note outlining development of the Tal area in three phases consisting of immediate (2-3 years), short term (3-5 years) and long term (5-10 years) measures. So far no report has been received from the State Government. Flood Management including drainage being a State subject, preparation of report and taking up their execution is the responsibility of the State Government.

Heavy Water Plant

3260. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up heavy water plants in the country particularly in Bihar during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ravine Development Project

3261. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received the Uttar Pradesh Government to launch the ravine development project financed by the European Economic Community in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the said project have been cleared;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to take a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A Project proposal for Ravine Stabilisation Programme in Uttar Pradesh with European Economic Community assistance was received.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Project was cleared in 1997.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Flood Control

3262. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sent any group of experts to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to check flood fury;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the suggestions made by the group in its report,

(c) the details action taken by the Union Government on the said report, if any; and

(d) if not, the other alternative arrangement made by the Union Government to control the floods in said States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (c) Government of India has not sent any Group of Experts to check flood fury in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. However, Government of India has constituted an Expert Group headed by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission and with representatives from the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in November, 1998 to identify schemes for mitigating the adverse affects of floods in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and to prepare an action plan for their implementation. The expert group has so far held one meeting.

(d) Does not arise.

Malihan Jheel

3263. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have written to Uttar Pradesh Government about Malihan Jheel in Allahabad to check the flood fury; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had written to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to intimate whether or not the detailed survey for the flood control works to project the Malihan Lake in Allahabad district had been completed as well as to indicate the present status of the preparation of the detailed scheme. The problem area was jointly inspected by a team, comprising of the officials from Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) and the State Government on 26.3.97 and 27.3.97 and the team made some recommendations/suggestions for preparation of a detailed project report for flood protection of the area. Since the formulation, funding and execution of the flood management scheme is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, the report of the team was sent to the Government of UP for taking suitable action.

Seeds Act, 1966 and Insecticide Act, 1968

3264. SHRI K. S. RAO :

SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from State Governments for amendment in the Insecticide Act, 1968 and Seeds Act, 1966;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision of the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the amendments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh have suggested certain amendments in The Insecticides Act, 1968. These have been examined by a Committee in which the representatives of the States were also members. On the basis of recommendations of this Committee, amendments in The Insecticides Act, 1968 are under consideration.

Government of Andhra Pradesh have suggested certain amendments in The Seeds Act 1966. The Committee under Shri M.V. Rao has considered these in consultation with State Governments. The recommendations for amendment of The Seeds Act, 1966 are under consideration.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme

3265. SHRI NRIPEN GOVILAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study regarding effective implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Assam has been conducted by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Union Government to implement these schemes effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No such study has so far been undertaken by the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) For effective implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the concerned Central Ministries/ Departments monitor and review the progress made, from time to time, in conjunction with the Planning Commission.

Fake Passports

3266. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Number of persons arrested during 1997-98 and 1998-99 with fake passport and for giving false statement for getting visa; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check these illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

So far as the second part of the question is concerned, since visas are processed and issued by the foreign Missions in India, the information is not available with the Government.

(b) As and when a person with fake passport is caught, legal action as per the provisions of the law is taken

by the concerned authorities and the passport is impounded/revoked.

Plan for Development of Backward area of Maharashtra

3267. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared an action plan for the development of most backward and poverty stricken areas of Maharashtra on the line of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of action being taken by the Government for the implementation of said action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Central Assistance is allocated for Special Area Programme such as Western Ghats Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan, etc. and various poverty alleviation schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Haj Pilgrims

3268. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total expenditure incurred on the Indian officials of Haj pilgrim duty performed during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to reduce such expenditure in the light of serious economic crisis faced by the country; and

(c) the total expenditure expected during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Expenditure incurred on Haj deputationists during the last three financial years is as follows :-

Year	Total Expenditure (in Rupees)
1995-96	1,64,95,182/-
1996-97	5,53,45,940/-
1997-98	5,87,92,045/-

While every effort is made to effect economies, it may be noted that over the last three years, the number of pilgrims performing Haj through the Haj Committee has increased from about 50,000 to over 63,000 which has contributed to the increase in the number of deputationists. For Haj-1998, Government had sent 398 deputationists to Saudi Arabia consisting of the medical mission and administrative staff. This year, based on an assessment of minimum requirements, Government have reduced the number of deputationists to 362.

The total expenditure expected to be incurred on account of the deputationists for Haj - 1999 would be about Rs. 5,83,56,000/-.

Heavy Water Plant in Orissa

3269. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the heavy water plant at Talcher of Orissa is not in function at present; and

(b) if so, the specific measures being taken by the Government to make it functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The functioning of heavy water plant at Talcher totally depends upon the functioning of the plants of M/s. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and availability of feed stock (ammonia synthesis gas) therefrom. Since the working of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. Plant continues to be erratic and uncertain no specific measures can be taken by the Department to make the heavy water plant functional at present.

Pay Scales/Allowances for SOs/DOs

3270. SHRI AJIT JOGI :

SHRI P. SANKARAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government for revision of pay scales of Assistants and Section Officers and also desk allowance of Desk Officers of the Central Secretariat Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Representa-

tions have been received from the CSS Forum etc. for grant of higher pay scales for the grades of Section Officers and Assistants of the Central Secretariat Services (CSS) on the analogy of the pay scales recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission for comparable grades of DANICS/DANIPS etc. The issues of pay scales recommended for the officers of DANICS/DANIPS and desk allowance for Desk Officers of CSS are under consideration of Government but it is not feasible to specify precisely the time likely to be taken in deciding the issues.

Cosmic-Rays

3271. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA :

SHRI H.P. SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to form a special team of scientists to develop cosmic-rays to explode the Atomic Energy Plants and explosive depots base in other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several developed countries scientists are in advanced stage of developing cosmic-rays;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to conduct research in this filed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal and therefore the question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No information available and therefore the question does not arise.

(e) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

3272. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai has been severely hit by sanctions imposed by US Government after nuclear tests in May, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists of the institute have urged the Government to take immediate steps to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

Criteria for Holidays

3273. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Shivratri festival has not been included in the list of Holidays either gazetted or restricted;
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the criteria laid down for declaring the festivals as holidays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The Central Govt. administrative offices observe 17 holidays in a year. This includes 14 compulsory holidays on pre-noticed occasions. The remaining 3 holidays are selected every year from another notified list of 12 occasions, and, Shivratri is one of them. After selection of three holidays the remaining 9 occasions are included in the list of Restricted Holidays. However, during 1999, Shivratri fell on Sunday, 14th February, which is otherwise observed as weekly off.

[Translation]

Fodder for Milch Cattle

3274. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
 SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the total number of milch cattle in the country and the quantity of fodder made available to them during the last three years;
 (b) if so, the estimated number of milch cattle and per cattle quantity of fodder available to milch cattle in each State per day;
 (c) whether the quantity of fodder available to cattle is less than the quantity required for healthy life of cattle in the country; and
 (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate quantity of fodder to cattle in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Livestock population including milch cattle in the country is enumerated in quinquennial livestock census.

No systematic estimate on the quantity of fodder has been made so far. However, as per the estimate made in 1993 by Policy Advisory Group of Ministry of Environment & Forest, the total availability of dry and green fodder in the country for entire animal population was 398.68 and 573.50 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The population of milch cattle in the country as per the 1992 livestock census is given as under :-

Type of animals	Number in thousand
Indigenous milch cows	52001
Crossbred milch cows	5792
Milch buffaloes	40275

Dry and green fodder availability for the States and Union Territories is given in the enclosed Statement. The availability of green and dry fodder per day per cattle ranges from 3.3 to 20 kg & 3.4 to 6 kg respectively as per available data.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main reasons for less availability of fodder are the decrease in grassland and pasture and availability of less land for fodder cultivation. The steps taken by the Government, to improve fodder availability to cattle, in the country, are given as under :-

1. Implementation of Central Sector Scheme on Central Feed and Fodder Development organisation, comprising three components, viz (i) Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration; (ii) Central Fodder Seed Production Farm; and (iii) Central Minikit Testing Programme of Fodder Crops.
2. Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development comprising seven components :
 - (i) Strengthening of fodder seed production farm (75:25)
 - (ii) Establishment of fodder bank (75:25)
 - (iii) Seed Production through registered grower (25:75)
 - (iv) Establishment of silvipasture system (100%)
 - (v) Grassland development including grass reserves (100%)
 - (vi) Sample survey for area, requirement and production of fodder crops (100%)
 - (vii) Enrichment of straws and cellulosic wastes (100%)

Statement

Green and Dry Fodder availability during last three years and daily availability per Milch Cattle

S.No.	States/UTs	1996		1997 (Million Tonnes)		1998		Daily availability in Kg	
		Green	Dry	Green	Dry	Green	Dry	Green	Dry
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	40.32	-	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	-	-	-	-	0.005	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Goa	-	-	-	-	6.00	-	-	-
6.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	26.00	9.60	-	-
7.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	28.07	9.76	15.00	6.0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	4.00	3.70	-	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	3.96	1.91	10.00	5.0
11.	Kerala	5.00	-	5.20	-	-	5.50	9.00	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	87.60	68.43	-	-
13.	Maharashtra	-	40.00	-	42.00	-	39.50	-	5.0
14.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	1.50	-	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	0.41	-	0.44	-	0.20	0.10	-	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	0.03	3.04	20.00	-
17.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa	-	-	-	-	2.65	11.75	-	-
19.	Punjab	49.00	19.00	50.00	19.00	52.00	18.00	18.00	-
20.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	-	7.60	9.81	-	-
23.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	0.01	-	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	71.14	62.08	-	-
25.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Union Territories</i>									
1.	A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	0.04	-	10.00	-
2.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.33	4.4
3.	Dadra & N. Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Pondicherry	1.10	-	1.25	-	1.26	-	14.20	-
	IGFRI, Jhansi	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.30	3.4

[English]

Diversion of Water

3275. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that water for irrigation purpose is being provided to industrial sector from various reservoirs of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against this diversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Water Resources Development Projects are planned for various uses such as irrigation, power generation, drinking water supply, industrial water supply; flood control etc. In some of these projects specific allocation for industrial water supply is also made. No information regarding diversion of water meant for irrigation purpose to industrial sector is kept at the Centre.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telugu-Ganga Irrigation Project

3276. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the Telugu-Ganga Irrigation Project, Andhra Pradesh stands at present;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for its expeditious completion;

(c) the total funds likely to be spent for the completion of this project; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted modified estimate of Telugu Ganga Project for Rs. 1977 crores during March, 1996 without resolution of the inter-State issue, so the project was sent back to State during July, 1996.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 2149 crores is required for completion of the project as per summary record of discussions of the Planning Commission for the IX plan. The Project is likely to be completed beyond IX Plan.

Bakrol Irrigation Project

3277. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision in regard to grant technical clearance to Bakrol Irrigation Project, Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Union Government has not taken any decision due to non-compliance of the observations of Central Water Commission by the Government of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Production of Peanut

3278. SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUI BISEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production of peanut in the country during each of the last three years and current year also; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided by Government to each State particularly Madhya Pradesh for the production of peanut during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The production of peanut (groundnut) in the country during the last three years and expected production during 1998-99 is given below:-

Year	Production (Lakh Tonne)
1995-96	75.79
1996-97	86.43
1997-98	78.45
1998-99	81.68 (estimated)

(b) The financial assistance provided to the States under the scheme of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the last three year and during 1998-99 is given in the enclosed Statement. The scheme includes assistance for peanut (groundnut) development.

Statement

Statement showing the Financial Assistance provided to the States under the scheme of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during the last three years i.e. from 1995-96 to 1997-98 and during the current year i.e. 1998-99.

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	R E L E A S E S			
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Released upto Feb. '99)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1413.39	1299.67	1502.00	1100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.10	34.32	40.00	40.00
3.	Assam	166.02	50.00	—	70.00
4.	Bihar	97.98	74.00	—	—
5.	Gujarat	549.45	666.00	1142.00	330.00
6.	Haryana	162.50	226.00	296.36	250.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	29.50	10.00	—	40.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	23.32	—	80.00
9.	Karnataka	183.38	694.85	653.14	700.00
10.	Kerala	132.24	26.66	50.00	50.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1144.43	1590.45	1249.00	1200.00
12.	Maharashtra	1032.27	1325.66	1050.00	1100.00
13.	Manipur	108.26	164.00	110.00	100.00
14.	Meghalaya	6.00	10.00	20.00	25.00
15.	Nagaland	—	—	—	80.00
16.	Orissa	444.00	632.00	500.00	500.00
17.	Punjab	7.60	40.32	100.00	100.00
18.	Rajasthan	1332.50	1603.53	1650.00	1230.00
19.	Sikkim	48.68	46.66	55.00	60.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	951.70	894.32	832.50	625.00
21.	Tripura	21.09	33.92	35.00	50.00
22.	Uttar Pradesh	730.21	932.32	921.00	600.00
23.	West Bengal	205.70	200.00	250.00	196.00
Total		8820.00	10569.00	10456.00	8526.00

*[English]***Aquaculture**

3279. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries engaged in aquaculture in Orissa at present ;

(b) the number of applications pending for setting up industries on Aquaculture in the State; and

(c) the number of applications approved by the Government during 1997 and 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a)

There are about 6,500 Units engaged in shrimp aquaculture in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Out of the 1071 applications received by Aquaculture Authority from Government of Orissa, approvals were issued for 43 cases during 1998. No applications were received during 1997.

No First Use of Nuclear Weapons

3280. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI K.L. SHARMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and India have lately committed to the 'No first use of Nuclear Weapons';

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed between the two countries in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by both the countries to ensure that there is no scope for accidental nuclear war?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) India has announced a policy of 'no-frist-use' and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States. We have also indicated our readiness to negotiate binding agreements on no-first-use, bilaterally or multilaterally. China has declared policy of no-first-use against nuclear weapon States and non-use against non-nuclear weapons States and nuclear weapon free zones. China has called on the nuclear weapon States to begin negotiations aimed at concluding a treaty on the no-first-use of nuclear weapons. No agreement has been signed between India and China on no-first use till date.

(c) India's nuclear doctrine minimises the risk of accidental nuclear war. India and China have agreed to a range of confidence building measures in the conventional field. No discussions have yet taken place with China on measures to build confidence in the nuclear field.

Production of Pulses

3281. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce training programmes for farmers under the National Pulses Development Project;

(b) if so, the number of training programmes conducted in each State particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) the details of improved implements provided to the farmers in Maharashtra under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Training of farmers and Demonstrations are components of the scheme of National Pulses Development Project for increasing the production and productivity of pulses.

(b) The number of training programmes conducted in various States including Maharashtra during the last 3 years as intimated by the States Governments is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The total number of improved implements provided to the farmers in Maharashtra as intimated by the State Government is given below:

Year	Total No. of improved implements
1996-97	5,497
1997-98	3,044
1998-99	1,670 (Target)

Statement

State-wise Number of Training Programme Conducted in Various States in the Country during the last 3 years

S. No.	State/U.Ts	No. of Training Programme		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Target)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	64	20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	12	6	20
5.	Goa	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	3	11	20
7.	Haryana	6	9	10
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6	2	—
9.	J & K	15	3	10
10.	Karnataka	21	21	20
11.	Kerala	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	32	40

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Maharashtra	27	20	20
14.	Manipur	12	40	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—
16.	Nagaland	—	—	—
17.	Orissa	16	20	10
18.	Punjab	5	8	10
19.	Rajasthan	18	22	20
20.	Sikkim	—	—	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	31	10	10
22.	Tripura	—	—	—
23.	Uttar Pradesh	39	49	20
24.	West Bengal	4	—	—
25.	A & N Islands	—	—	—
26.	Delhi	—	—	—
Total		257	317	230

Funds for Development of Projects

3282. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI D. S. AHRIE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently sanctioned funds for the State of Karnataka and Maharashtra for development of projects;

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

(c) the quantum of amounts released so far for the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Planning Commission have not sanctioned any funds over and above the central assistance provided for the State Plan in the current year for the State of Karnataka and Maharashtra. While the normal central assistance is given block from and is not tied to any specific schemes/projects, the assistance for Externally Aided Projects as well as that under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme is given for specific projects. The central assistance under various components is released by Ministry of Finance as per prescribed guidelines.

Fishing Harbour

3283. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the construction of some fishing harbours during Ninth Plan; and

(b) if so, the States where these fishing harbours are proposed to be constructed along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore have recommended detailed investigations of ten sites for development of fishing harbours during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The name of the proposed sites are as follows:

Site	State/Union Territory
1. Okha	Gujarat
2. Agardanda	Maharashtra
3. Gangolli	Karnataka
4. Muthalapozhy	Kerala
5. Diamond Harbour	West Bengal
6. Krishnapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
7. Karaikal	Pondicherry
8. Rameshwaram	Tamil Nadu
9. Dhamra Stage-II	Orissa
10. Vanakbara	Daman & Diu

[Translation]

Production of Foodgrains

3284. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under foodgrain cultivation in the country is more vis-a-vis other countries of the World;

(b) if so, whether the yield of foodgrains per hectare in the country is less than even the average foodgrain production in the World;

(c) if not, the details in this regard; and

(d) the name of the country having the highest lowest yield of foodgrain per hectare alongwith the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The area under foodgrains in India is highest in the World. However, the yield is lower than the world average.

(d) As per the data available in FAO's Production Year Book-1997, France had the highest (6774 kg.) and Kazakistan the lowest (792 kg.) yield per hectare among the countries producing foodgrains including wheat and paddy etc. during the year 1997.

[English]

Attack on Indians

3285. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are increasing number of Indian nations who are falling victim to skin head attacks in Moscow and other Russian cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such attacks on Indian expatriates and students in Russia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no specific targeted threat to the Indian community in the Russian Federation. They face problems similar to those faced by other foreign nationals. In 1998, 14 such incidents on Indian nationals by some anti-social elements "skin-heads" had come to our notice. This year, no such incident has been reported.

(c) Our Embassy in Moscow and the Consulates General in St. Petersburg and Vladivostok have been regularly sensitising the Russian authorities, both at the federal and local levels, of our extreme concern at incidents affecting Indian nations. The Russian authorities have as a result taken various steps to prevent such incidents. Regular contacts have been maintained with the Indian community including businessmen, students, journalists etc. to reassure them. They have also been advised to take adequate precautions and to immediately report any incidents to the police authorities and keep the Embassy/Consulates General fully informed. The Indian community has been actively encouraged to register themselves and those of their families with our Missions /Posts to facilitate prompt and appropriate consular advice and assistance.

[Translation]

Remunerative Price of Agriculture Produce

3286. SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce;

(b) if so, whether the Government would formulate any action plan for determining the remunerative price

of agricultural produce so that the agricultural production may increase and the farmers may get the remunerative price of their produce; and

(c) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government announces each season minimum support prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The MSPs are declared on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors. The MSPs fixed by the Government not only cover cost of production, but also provide a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve production and productivity.

[English]

Incomplete Central Projects

3287. SHRI D. S. AHIRE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The details of Central Projects which were not completed in their stipulated period of completion during the Eighth Five Year Plan in Maharashtra and Karnataka, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the total increase in the estimated cost of each of these incomplete projects;

(c) the additional amount likely to be spent on these projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the concrete steps taken for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The details of central projects in the State of Karnataka and Maharashtra along with delays, cost increase and balance amount to be spent in the 9th Plan are given in the enclosed statement. One project namely Panvel-Karjal New line will be completed in the 10th Plan.

The reasons for delay vary from project to project. The reasons, generally, include: delay in land acquisition, delay in obtaining environmental and other clearances, inadequate funds, delay in award of contracts, delayed supply of equipment as also delay in civil works.

(d) The concrete steps taken for completion of those projects are as follows :

- (i) Monthly as well as quarterly monitoring by the Department of Programme Implementation. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and helps the management in taking remedial measures.
- (ii) In-depth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and Administrative Ministries with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.
- (iii) Inter-ministerial coordination.
- (iv) Setting up of Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of various contracts, packages, and solving of land acquisition and other problems.
- (v) Making funds available to complete the projects on schedule.

Statement

Central Projects under Implementation in the State of Karnataka and Maharashtra

Unit : (Cost/Expenditure : Rs. In crores)

Sl. No	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. Appro	Date of Commissioning		Time over-Run Original Revised (Months)	Cost		% Cost over Run on Original (Revised)	Cumulative Expenditure	Balance Cost to be spent during 9th Plan
				Original (Revised)	Anticipated (L.Rep.)		Approved	Anticipated			
State : Karnataka											
Sector : Atomic Energy											
NPC											
1.	Kaiga Atomic PWR Karwar Karnataka	MW 2*235	1987/06 1998/10	1995/12 1998/11	1999/10	46 11	730.72 2275.00	2275.00	211	2211.24	63.76
Sector : Railways											
GC											
2.	Arskere-Hassan Manglor SR Karnataka	KMS 236	1995/04 1997/03	1998/03 2000/03	2000/03	48 0	186.16 219.63	219.63	18	88.10	131.53
WS & PU											
3.	Wheel Shopcap Augment, Wap Bangalore, SR Karnataka		1998/03	1998/03	1999/03	36	21.43	21.43	0	17.84	3.59
Sector : Surface Transport											
Ports											
4.	Crude & Pol For MRPL Mangalore Karnataka	6.5 Million Tons P.A.	1994/06	1998/12	1998/09	21	238.14	238.14	0209.67	28.47	
State : Maharashtra											
Sector : Civil Aviation											
AJ											
5.	Housing Complex & other Navi Mumbai Maharashtra	1525 Houses	1983/08	1993/10 1994/04 1995/12	1998/12	62 36	22.00 45.00	49.00	123 9	40.71	8.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
6.	Const. Hanger No. 4-S. Cruz Mumbai Maharashtra		1993/11	1996/12	1998/12	24	49.00	66.53	36	30.31	36.22
AAI											
7.	TRNL-COMPLEX Ph-III Mumbai Maharashtra	No. 2100	1993/05	1996/10	1999/08	34	84.12 105.49	142.32	69 35	96.86	45.46
Sector : Coal											
WCL											
8.	Pimplegaon OC Chanderpur Maharashtra	0.60 MTY	1991/03	1997/03	1999/03	24	44.51	44.51	0	41.21	3.30
Sector : I & B											
D.D.											
9.	T.V. Exp. Mumbai Maharashtra		1989/03 1995/11	1994/03 1996/03	1998/12	57 33	20.18	39.36	95	27.56	11.80
Sector : Petrochemicals											
IPCL											
10.	Expn. Ethlene AT MGCC Nagothane Maharashtra	TPA 1 LAC	1992/05	1995/11	1998/09	34	177.58	177.58	0	131.54	46.04
11.	HDPE Polyet- Hylene, MGCC Nagothane Maharashtra	TPA 75000	1992/05	1995/11	1998/09	34	158.78	169.97	7	113.69	56.28
Sector : Petroleum											
HPCL											
12.	Ms. Maximisation Mumbai Maharashtra	BSD 14000	1993/09	1996/06	1998/12	30	45.27	45.27	0	31.86	13.41
Sector : Railways											
GC											
13.	Gondla-Cha- ndalort, SER Maharashtra	KMS 258.50	1992/12 1994/04	1996/12 1997/03	1999/03	27 24	158.83 215.14 232.52	232.82	47	221.23	11.59
NL											
14.	Parvel-Karjat, CR Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 28.05	1996/02	1997/03	2002/12	69	89.00	106.89	20	0.95	20.00 (About Rs. 85.94 crores to be spent in the 10th Plan)

Nuclear Safety Research Institute

3288. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently set up a nuclear safety research institute in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has set up a Safety Research Institute (SRI) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. Selected aspects of research relating to nuclear power plant safety, radiological and environmental safety, fire and industrial safety will be addressed during the initial phase of the project. The main objective of the SRI will be to carry out and promote safety related research in selected areas of

relevance to regulatory decision making. SRI will bring together designers, operators and regulators for implementation of research programmes aimed at resolving safety related issues.

[English]

Water Management Programme

3289. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing sub-schemes under the National Water Management Programme, State-wise;

(b) the details of cultural command areas that are likely to be covered under these schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(d) the total financial assistance received from the World Bank for the implementation of these schemes during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the details of Central assistance provided to each State during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government of India had launched National Water Management Project (NWMP) with World Bank credit assistance of SDR 93.2 million (US\$ 114.0 million equivalent) in FY 1987-88 to increase agricultural productivity and farm incomes in selected schemes through the provision of a more reliable, predictable and equitable irrigation service. In all 114 schemes in 11 participating States covering a CCA of 5.229 million hectares were undertaken NWMP. The NWMP has since closed on 31.3.1995.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sugarcane Research Centres

3290. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sugarcane research centres located in Maharashtra; and

(b) the allocation made by the Union Government for these centres during the last three years and proposed to be made for the year 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The details of the Sugarcane Research Centres in Maharashtra run by different sectors are as follows:

(i) Regional sugarcane & Jaggery Research Station, Kolhapur.

(ii) Central Sugarcane Research Station (MPKV), Padegaon.

(iii) Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Manjari, Distt. Pune.

(iv) Sugarcane Nursery-cum-Demonstration Farm, Deolalipravara, Distt. Ahmednagar.

(v) Central Sugarcane Research Station, Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Krishnagar, Akola

(vi) Regional Sugarcane Research Station, Basmathnagar, Distt. Parbhani.

(vii) Sugarcane Research Centre, Dapoli, Distt. Ratnagiri.

(b) the allocation made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research under the central sector for ;

	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	95-96	96-97	97-98	Proposed for 1999-2000
(1) AICRP on Sugarcane at				
i) CSRS, Padegaon	4.51	4.35	4.35	12.74
ii) RSJS, Kolhapur	4.25	2.80	2.80	7.00
(2) The allocation made by the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture:				
Centrally Sponsored scheme	9.52	2.64	3.75	5.25

In order to support research projects taken up by research centres on sugarcane etc., grants-in-aid are provided from the Sugar Development Fund. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, the Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune has been sanctioned Rs. 159.721 lakhs in 1997-98 and Rs. 32.13 lakhs in 1998-99. An amount of Rs. 158.951 lakhs has been disbursed to this Institute in 1998-99. No allocations are made centre-wise on year to year basis.

Poultry Farming

3291. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the fund provided in the form of loans/grants to NGO's by the Government for poultry farming and livestock development in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide additional funds to the poor people for poultry farming and also considering to write-off the loans given to those persons who are living below-poverty line; and

(c) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India has not provided any loan/grant to NGO's for Poultry Development and Livestock Development in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

[English]

Suggestions from C.V.C. to Fight Corruption

3292. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some suggestions from Central Vigilance Commission for changes in the existing laws to fight corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has supported enactment of an appropriate Act, to forfeit the properties of the corrupt public servants which is at present being considered by the Law Commission. Suggestion from the CVC for framing rules and procedures under Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance.

Strengthening Democracy

3293. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on ways to strengthen democracy was held in Delhi during February, 1999;

(b) if so, countries who participated in the conference; and

(c) the outcome of the conference and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. A non-governmental conference titled 'First

Global Conference on Democracy' was organized at New Delhi from February 14-17, 1999 by the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and the Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi in collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy, Washington.

(b) As this was a non-governmental conference, participants attended in their individual capacity and not as representatives of their countries. It is understood that around 400 delegates from around 70 countries participated in the Conference.

(c) The outcome of the conference was the affirmation of democratic values and democracy as the most acceptable form of government. The conference also started a process of building a worldwide network of Democracy in countries, which were at different stages of democratic development.

As the Government of the largest democracy in the world, Government is fully supportive of such endeavours to promote and strengthen democracy.

Prices of Molasses

3294. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sugar output sees crash in prices of molasses" appearing in the Economic Times dated January 27, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interests of sugarcane growers and save molasses prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) The likely sugar production during the current sugar season (October-September 1998-99) is 150 lakh tonnes of which, the share of Maharashtra works out to about 52.50 lakh tonnes. As per the information received from the sugar factories, the molasses prices ranged between Rs. 30-Rs. 292 per quintal during 1997-98 season and during current crushing season (upto 10th February, 1999), the price of molasses are in the range of Rs. 13-Rs. 189 per quintal. As the production of sugar during the current crushing season (October-September) is expected around 150 lakh tonnes as against 128 lakh tonnes during the last crushing season, the price of molasses are expected to remain at a low level. Moreover, molasses has been de-controlled with effect from 10th June, 1993 and it is also under OGL Category for export.

Cauvery Water Dispute

3295. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the dispute on sharing of Cauvery water has been resolved by the Government;
- (b) if so, the share of water claimed by each basin State and the actual share of water being utilised by them at present;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to resolve this issue; and
- (d) the time by which the issue is likely to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Disputes on sharing of Cauvery water is under adjudication before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal constituted by the Union Government on 2nd June, 1990. The Tribunal has so far given an interim order on 25.6.1991. Implementation of the interim order is being monitored by Cauvery River Authority constituted under a scheme, namely, "Cauvery Water (Implementation of the Order of 1991 and all subsequent related orders of the Tribunal) Scheme, 1998", and notified in official gazette on 11.8.1998.

(d) No time frame has been given to Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal for giving the final award.

Haj Pilgrims

3296. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of arrangements that are being made this year for providing accommodation to Haj Pilgrims at Makkah and Madina;
- (b) the details of criteria and guidelines observed for providing the accommodation including the space to be provided per pilgrim and the distance from the Harem-Sharief at Makkah and Madina; and
- (c) the total amount collected from the Haj pilgrims during the last three years and total amount spent on providing the accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) In Makkah, the buildings are selected by the Building Selection Teams, sent by State Haj Committees from India. Each member stays in Makkah for a period of three weeks and selects the buildings offered by the Moallims, landlords, lessors, agents, and power of attorney holders. The Consulate General of India, Jeddah, provides them with assistance to measure the distance and the capacity of the buildings.

In Madinah, the Haj Committee delegation signs an agreement with pilgrims services groups to provide accommodation to Indian Hajis.

Criteria for selection of buildings in different categories, i.e., Category-I and Category-II, is laid down by Haj Committee, Mumbai. There is only one uniform category of accommodation in Madinah.

Category-I accommodation consists of new buildings, having lift facilities if more than four floors. These buildings have to be situated at a distance of 600 mts. from the Haram Sharief.

Category-II consists of buildings situated upto a distance of 1000 mts. from Haram Sharief. This category has the following three sub-categories in terms of distance from Haram Sharief:-

- (i) 0-800 mts. from Haram Sharief;
- (ii) between 800-850 mts. from Haram Sharief; and
- (iii) between 850-1000 mts. from Haram Sharief.
- In Madinah, the criteria fixed is :-
- 30% pilgrims will be housed within the first Ring Road
 - 25% on the Ring Road and
 - 45% within the 750 mts. from the Masjid-e-Nabwi

In Makkah, each pilgrim is provided with accommodation space of 2.5 sq. mts. In Madinah, depending upon the local Governor's decision, it can be upto 4 sq. mts. in some buildings.

The Haj Committee, Mumbai, has provided the following figures of the total amount collected from the pilgrims during the last three years and the total amount spent on provision of accommodation:-

	1996 (Rs.)	1997 (Rs.)	1998 (Rs.)
(a) Amount Collected	242,76,12,305/-	263,02,78,470/-	356,62,22,811/-
(b) Amount Spent	56,58,12,125/-	73,81,88,603/-	103,64,04,837/-

The total amount spent during the last three years including payment of Foreign Exchange to the pilgrims and compulsory dues etc., is as follows :-

207,18,00,594/- 258,83,67,194/- Not yet finalised

Cadre Review

3297. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made any assurance to the employees of the Regional Passport Office that Cadre Review in the RPO will be completed during the current financial year (1998-99); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the All India Passport Employees' Association were informed in December, 1998 that efforts were being made to have an early and definite decision on cadre review preferably within a period of about two months.

Cadre review of the Central Passport Organisation is under active consideration of the Government.

Expert Committee of ICAR

3298. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on crop productivity has advised diversification of crops in Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee observed that the area under rice and wheat has increased and the rice-wheat cropping system becomes the predominant. The Committee suggested diversification with other crops such as maize, mustard, groundnut, soybean, etc.

The Committee also suggested the cultivation of summer moong (60-65 days crop) in place of summer rice, and popularisation of green manuring and diversification with vegetables and fruit cultivation.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, State Governments of Punjab and Haryana, and State Agricultural Universities have been provided with the report for consideration and follow up action.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, which is the nodal department for agricultural development, has constituted a Steering Committee for monitoring and implementation of the recommendations. The Chairman of the Committee is Joint Secretary (Crops) Department for Agriculture & Cooperation, Govt. of India, and members are from the Department

of Agriculture & Cooperation, Govt. of India, Punjab and Haryana State Departments of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities. The Committee has held meetings at New Delhi and Chandigarh for monitoring and implementation of recommendations.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has discussed the researchable issues and follow up action and has contemplated to intensify research activities in maize, pulses, oilseeds, forages, vegetable crops and post harvest technology.

Extradition Treaty

3299. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the names of the countries with whom India propose to sign extradition treaty in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : The Government of India has so far concluded Extradition Treaties with 10 countries (Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Hong Kong, Nepal, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A.) and is in the process of negotiations to finalise the text of the Extradition Treaties with 22 countries which are : Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Poland, Romania, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, UAE, Uganda and Ukraine.

Direct Recruitment of Dy. SP

3300. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the percentage of direct recruits at the level of Deputy Superintendent of Police from 20% to 10% in new recruitment rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against this proposal; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) and (b) Concurrence of the UPSC has been sought on this Department's proposal refixing the direct recruitment quota in the grade of Dy. SP in the CBI from the existing 20% to 10% in the new Recruitment Rules, which became necessary pursuant to the acceptance of the report of the Fifth Pay Commission by the Government.

(c) and (d) No. representation raising this specific issue has been received by the CBI.

[Translation]

Oil Processing Units

3301. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places where the soyabean and mustard base processing of Oilseed plants in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been set up by the Oilseed Association with the assistance of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and National Dairy Development Board;

(b) if so, the time by when these have been set up;

(c) whether all these plants are functioning at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) have not provided financial assistance to the oilseed Association for setting up of Soyabean and Mustard base processing plants in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Fund for Tamil Nadu

3302. DR. SAROJA V : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds for various developmental schemes of Tamil Nadu are not released by the Government during the last three years;

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

(c) the reasons for non-release of the funds; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Governments to release the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Crop Diseases

3303. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :

SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that crop diseases are increasing in the country day by day;

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

(c) the strategy formulated by the Government to check increase in crop diseases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Regular surveys of crops are undertaken by various Central and State Government organisations in the country to monitor incidences of crop diseases and also to formulate strategies to check the crop diseases. As per results of these surveys crop diseases are not increasing in the country.

Integrated Disease management is being promoted which includes use of resistant cultivars, quality seeds, cultural methods including good sanitation, biocontrol and only need based use of pesticides.

Command Area Development Programme

3304. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present fixed ceiling of per hectare for construction of field channel under the Command Area Development Programme;

(b) whether the ceiling is applicable to each State;

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

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government to raise this ceiling; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The present ceiling of cost per hectare for construction of field channel in different states is as follows :-

States	Cost
(i) North-eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and Indira Gandhi Nahara Pariyojana of Rajasthan	Rs. 10,000 per hectare to be shared equally between the State and Centre.
(ii) Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Centre, Punjab, Rajasthan excluding Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana, Tamilnadu and Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal excluding hilly areas.	Rs. 6000 per hectare to be shared equally between the State and Centre.

The higher rate than Rs. 6000 per hectare has been approved by Government of India in respect of States mentioned at (i) above, in view of the difficult terrain and other specific problems in the areas.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has requested to raise the cost of construction of field channels to Rs. 10,000 per hectare in July, 1996 and now (March, 1999) to Rs. 15,000 per hectare. In the matter, no decision has been taken by Government of India.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

3305. SHRI K.S. RAO :

SHRI U.V. KRISHNA RAJU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for setting up of some more Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) There are 16 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) functioning in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government has requested for setting up of KVKs in seven districts viz., Nellore, Prakasam, Adilabad, Krishna, Khamam, Nizamabad and Cuddapah.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has a proposal to strengthen the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVK in Nellore, Prakasam, and Adilabad districts during the IX Five Year Plan. The establishment of KVKs in the remaining four districts will depend upon the availability of additional financial resources to the Council for the purpose.

Fund for Assam

3306. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam for the development of backward areas of Assam during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) There is no proposal pending with Planning Commission for development of backward areas of Assam. However, Planning Commission supplements the efforts of the State Government in ameliorating the special problems faced by certain areas through special Central Assistance under Special Area Programmes, including Hill Area Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, North Eastern Council and Tribal Sub-Plan.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Burning of Indian Flag

3307. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian National Flag was burnt during the Republic Parade celebrations of India in U.K.;

(b) if so, whether the Union Govt. has received any report about this incident;

(c) if so, whether the U.K. Police did not take any action while Indian National Flag was burnt in their presence;

(d) if so, whether India lodged any protest to British Govt. in this regard; and

(e) if not, main reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The British Police upon being queried have informed the Indian High Commission in London that "unfortunately the burning of a national flag is not an offence in the U.K."

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Agricultural Production

3308. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a considerable drop in agricultural production during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the extent to which the production decreased during the above period;

(c) the target fixed/achieved for agricultural production of the above period; and

(d) the efforts being made to increase the agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There is a general trend of increase in agricultural production, though there are fluctuations due to climatic conditions. The production of agricultural crops during 1996-97 had increased by 9.3 percent but exhibited a decline of 5.8 percent during 1997-98 due to adverse weather conditions. The production in 1998-99 is again up by about 3.9 percent.

(c) The targets/achievements of various crops during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given as under :

(in million tonnes)

Group of Crops	1996-97		1997-98	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Foodgrains	193.5	199.4	200.0	192.4
Oilseeds	23.0	24.4	25.5	22.0
Sugarcane	270.0	277.6	280.0	276.3
Cotton*	13.0	14.2	14.8	14.0
Jute & Mesta@	9.0	11.1	9.8	11.1

*Million bales of 170 Kg. each

@ Million bales of 180 Kg. each

(d) In order to increase production and productivity of various crops, the Government is implementing crop specific centrally sponsored/central sector schemes under which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field

demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years through adoption of regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

[Translation]

Increase in Terrorist Activities

3309. SHRI GAURI SHANKAR CHATURBHUI BISEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing terrorist activities in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the countries which are supporting and patronizing these activities;

(c) whether talks were held with these countries to check these activities;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to check these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) Government are aware of the terrorist activities in the North East. Reports indicate that agencies inimical to India's interests, particularly those of Pakistan, are assisting some of the terrorist groups in the North East. These groups are reported to be misusing the territories of neighbouring countries including Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Government have been apprising these neighbouring countries regularly about this. These countries have assured co-operation in this regard. The matter has also been taken up with Pakistan.

Steps taken by the Government to deal with the insurgent activities in the north-eastern States include, *inter alia*, sanction of special central assistance; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State police forces; deployment of additional units of central security forces; reimbursement of security-related expenditure; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas" and notification of the major insurgent groups as "unlawful associations". The situation is kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

[English]

Takeover of ICWA

3310. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take over the Indian Council of World Affairs;

(b) if so, the details indicating the reasons and its objectives;

(c) whether an ordinance in this subject issued in 1990 was struck down by the High Court as *Ultra vires* of the Constitution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI BASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) In its report of July 1990, the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs has expressed the view that "unless ICWA is taken over by the Government, there would be further deterioration in this institution." The Committee recommended that the Ministry of External Affairs should come forward and make efforts to revive the proposal of take over of ICWA by Government. The proposal is under examination of the Government.

(c) and (d) In June 1990, Government promulgated the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance on the basis of which, ICWA was declared an institution of national importance and converted into an incorporated autonomous body. By its judgement of 10.09.1990, however, a Single Judge Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, allowed a Writ Petition declaring the Ordinance *ultra vires* the Constitution, beyond the competence of Parliament as well as violative of Article 14, 19 (i) a and 19(i) (c) of the Constitution.

Delayed Mega Projects

3311. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60% of mega public sector projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether their costs have been escalated by more than 50%;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on January 1999, out of 39 projects, 23 projects were running behind schedule with respect to their latest approved schedule.

(c) 12 out of 39 mega projects are having cost escalation of more than 50%.

(d) The reasons for delay vary from project to project. However, in general, the reasons include: delay in land acquisition, delay in obtaining environmental and other clearances, inadequate funds, delay in award of work contracts and packages, failure of civil contractors, delay in supply of equipment and law and order problems.

(e) The projects face various types of problems during the course of implementation. The exact measures taken to ensure speedy implementation depend on the nature of the problems being faced by the projects. The important measures being taken, in general, are as follows:

(i) Monthly as well as quarterly monitoring by the Government. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures.

(ii) In-depth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and Administrative Ministries with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

(iii) Inter-ministerial coordination.

(iv) Setting up of Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages solving of land acquisition and other problems.

(v) Making funds available to complete the projects on schedule.

Indo-Sri Lanka Ties

3312. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pacts signed between India and Sri Lanka during the last three years ;

(b) whether the Government have received these agreements ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) During the last three years, three agreements have been signed between India and Sri Lanka.

- (i) An Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments between India and Sri Lanka was signed in January, 1997
- (ii) A Credit Agreement was signed in January 1997 to make available the second tranche of US \$ 15 million to the Government of Sri Lanka.
- (iii) An Agreement to establish a Free Trade Area between India and Sri Lanka was signed in December, 1998.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Shrimp

3313. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual production of shrimp during each of the last three years;
- (b) the reasons for sharp decline in the production of shrimp; and
- (c) the steps taken to increase the production of shrimps in view of the increase in demand of shrimp in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The annual production of shrimp during 1995-96 to 1997-98 is given below :

Year	Shrimp production (000 tones)
1995-96	331
1996-97	361 (Provisional)
1997-98	362 (Provisional)

(b) There has been no decline in the shrimp production during the above period.

(c) The steps taken by the Government for increasing the production of shrimp inter-alia include:-

- (i) development of scientific shrimp farming through Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies and providing package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp growers;
- (ii) encouraging establishment of integrated shrimp farms and support facilities such as seed hatcheries, feed mill,

etc. in the Government/Public/Private sectors;

- (iii) human resource development by establishing demonstration-cum-training centres; and
- (iv) issue of guidelines outlining measures for development and management of sustainable brackishwater aquaculture practices, etc.

[Translation]

Irrigation Facilities

3314. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of acres of land in the Northern States of the country viz. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan remain unirrigated due to shrinking of water resources, fall in the level of ground water and non-availability of adequate irrigation facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch an action plan in those States where the adequate irrigation facilities are not available;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Keeping in view the need to cover additional areas under irrigation, the Government has taken/proposed to take various policy and programme initiatives. These include revision to National Water Policy (1987). Command Area Development Programme, preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit area, water management practices, promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and people's participating in management of water for diverse uses and regulatory measures for controlling over exploitation of ground water through Cen-

tral Ground Water Authority. Besides, the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) recently approved by the National Development Council has one of the strategies of irrigation development to complete all on-going projects, particularly those which were started during pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period as a time bound programme to yield benefits from the investments already made. In Keeping with the strategy, additional areas will be covered under irrigation facilities through expeditious completion of selected on going major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects for which Accelerated Irrigated Benefits Programme (AIBP) launched by Govt. of India in 1996-97 is being continued in the Ninth Plan. Statewise details of release of Central Loan Assistance under AIBP during the last three years are given in statement attached.

Statement

Central Loan Assistance (CLA) released to various States under AIBP during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	CLA released during		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (till date)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.26	74.00	79.67
2.	Assam	5.23	12.40	13.95
3.	Bihar	13.50	14.04	12.03
4.	Goa	—	5.25	—
5.	Gujarat	74.773	196.90	217.71
6.	Haryana	32.50	12.00	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	6.50	2.50
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.30	—	—
9.	Karnataka	61.25	90.50	83.50
10.	Kerala	3.75	15.00	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	63.25	114.50	85.50
12.	Maharashtra	14.00	55.00	40.30
13.	Manipur	4.30	26.00	—
14.	Orissa	48.45	85.00	31.25
15.	Punjab	67.50	100.00	—
16.	Rajasthan	2.675	42.00	53.47
17.	Tripura	3.773	5.10	3.05
18.	Tamil Nadu	20.00	—	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	43.50	78.00	46.50
20.	West Bengal	5.00	20.00	10.00
Grand Total		500.00	952.19	679.43

AIBP was launched by Govt. of India in 1996-97 for providing loan assistance

to the States for accelerated implementation of large irrigation and multipurpose projects.

Scope :

1. Projects costing more than Rs. 500.00 crore or more and beyond the resource capability of the States
2. Projects in the advanced stage of construction and with just a little additional resources could be completed.

Eligibility :

1. Projects which have received investment clearance from Planning Commission.
2. States are to provide matching share from their own resources.

[English]

Agricultural Expertise

3315. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Africa has sought agricultural expertise from India; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a Draft Declaration of Intent in the field of agriculture and food processing industry, mainly intending to promote cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture, has been received.

Upper Krishna Project

3316. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated cost of the Upper Krishna Project, Stage I and II, separately;

(b) whether the Upper Krishna Project has been completed;

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

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed; and

(e) the total World Bank loan utilised so far under this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The estimated cost of Upper Krishna Project is as under :-

Stage I — Rs. 1214.97 crores (approved in September, '90)

Stage II — Rs. 2786.17 crores (submitted by the State in April, '96)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The main reasons for delay in completion is due to constraint of funds, rehabilitation, resettlement and inter State problems.

(d) Upper Krishna project Stage-I is likely to be completed by the year 2000 and Stage-II being an unapproved project is likely to be completed beyond IX Plan.

(e) An amount of about US\$292 million of World Bank assistance has already been utilised on the project.

Haj House

3317. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Haj Houses built so far by Government in different States, State-wise;

(b) whether these Houses are not adequate to meet the huge rush of Haj pilgrims;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to construct more Haj House in near future;

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

(e) whether facilities provided in these Haj Houses are not adequate; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the standard of facilities provided in these Haj Houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Central Government have not built any Haj House anywhere in India. The Haj Committee, Mumbai, has however, built one Haj House in Mumbai. Similarly, State Haj Committees of West Bengal and Gujarat have also built their Haj Houses at Calcutta and Ahmadabad respectively, with some financial assistance from Haj Committee, Mumbai.

(b) The Haj House in Mumbai is quite adequate to meet the requirements of Haj pilgrims leaving for Saudi Arabia and from Mumbai.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The facilities available in the three above-mentioned Haj Houses are reported to be adequate.

(f) Does not arise.

Venture Capital Fund

3318. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to float Rs. 1000 crore Venture Capital Fund to boost the Information Technology Industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Department of Electronics is setting up a venture capital fund of Rs. 100 crores. Venture capital has been an important trigger in the growth of Information Technology (IT) industry around the world. The objective for setting up this fund is to promote Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the software and IT sector in India.

Import of Milk Powder

3319. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether milk powder is being imported in the country from the foreign suppliers by the Government and private agencies;

(b) if so, the names of suppliers countries/agencies and the quantum imported during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken to ensure that the imported milk powder is of requisite standard quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the concerned Departments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as the same is received.

Grant of Visa

3320. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA action of not to grant the visa to the top scientists of the country have been withdrawn;

(b) if not, whether this matter was discussed during the recent bilateral talks held between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the outcome of talks on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) In July 1998, seven Indian scientists working in the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA, were asked to wind up their work and leave the US. Similar action was not taken in the case of the remaining 23 scientists from India working at NIST.

US Spokesman subsequently stated that this action was not an across the board restriction on scientists from India, but on researchers from institutions which, the US believed, were involved with India's nuclear and missile programme.

(b) and (c) GOI position is that coercive and unilateral measures whether in the economic or technology field are counter-productive. Government considers US decision to deny visa and terminate research projects of certain Indian scientists as unwarranted. We do not agree with any targeted policy of denying and revoking visas particularly those which come in the way of scientific exchange and interaction.

The matter has been taken up with the US Government, including in the recent bilateral talks. There is no change in the US position so far.

[Translation]

Setting up of a Review Committee

3321. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up any committee to analyse the reasons for non-completion of the Five Year Plan within the scheduled time and also to analyse the reasons for cost and time over-runs of several important projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the recommendation submitted to the Government and the decision taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) No Committee has been set up to review non-completion of the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, there is a mechanism of Standing Committees of Central Ministries/Departments to go into cost and time overruns of important projects.

The Government have also decided that in every case in which the project cost overrun is of over 20 per cent and is accompanied by time overrun of over 10 per cent (or such other time and cost overrun norms, as may be deemed appropriate by the Planning Commission, for

different types of projects), the Revised Cost Estimates should be brought up for approval of Government only after responsibility is determined for the cost and time overruns. Accordingly, the Planning Commission have devised a mechanism for fixing the responsibility in this regard and have circulated the same to the Secretaries/Financial Advisers of all Central Ministries/Departments for compliance.

[English]

Import of Butter Oil

3322. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import butter oil;

(b) if so, the total quantum of butter oil imported during 1996-1997 and 1998 separately;

(c) the total quantum of butter oil proposed to be imported during 1999-2000;

(d) the countries from which the butter oil is being imported; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (e) The Import of butter oil is under OGL. This Department has no proposal under consideration to import butter oil.

No import of butter oil has been reported for the period April, 1996 to March, 1997. The details of butter oil imported during April, 1997-March, 1998, and April, 1998 September, 1998 are as given below in the table:

Table

Name of the Country	April, 1997-March, 98 Quantity (Kg)	April, 1998-Sept. 98 Quantity (Kg)
1. Australia	289400	211000
2. Netherland	260	—
3. Newzealand	3170200	1791120
4. USA	784	—
Total	3460644	2002120

Support to Iraq and Cuba

3323. SHRI T GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been extending support to the people of Iraq and Cuba; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance extended by India to them during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has been extending assistance to Iraq and Cuba under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. Details of such assistance given to the two countries in the last three years are contained in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of assistance given by India to Iraq and under Cuba the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99

IRAQ

I. Civilian Training

India offered 100 slots during the last three years to Iraq for training of Iraqi candidates in various fields including News Agency Journalism, Computer Software and Hardware, Banking, Production Management, Standardisation, curriculum Design and Instructional Material-Development, Rural Development, Urban Development Management, Human Resource Planning and Management, Management Development for Senior Executives, Fertiliser Quality Control, Auditing, Diplomacy, Small Industry Financing, Training Methods and Skills, Business Advisors Training Programme, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, Textile Testing and Quality Control, Educational Planning and Administration etc.

II. Study Visits

The following visits were financed under India's ITEC Programme in the last three years.

1. A team of two Doctors and one Pharmacist from Iraq visited India to interact with various medical authorities in India from 11.1.96 to 18.1.96. The team visited AIIMS, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, Leprosy Institute, Agra, Ranbaxy Research and Development Centre-Gurgaon, Dabur Research and Development Centre, Ghaziabad etc.

2. A 4-member Indian team from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, visited Iraq from 30-11-96 to 8-12-96. The team interacted with authorities from the Ministry of Agriculture, Iraq and visited various Agricultural related places.

3. A 5-member delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Agriculture from Iraq visited India from 26-4-97 to 6-5-97 to interact with Deptt. of Agriculture Research and Education, I.A.R.I., New Delhi, NDRI, Karnal, PAU, Ludhiana and CAZRI, Jodhpur etc.

4. A 3-member Indian team of Economist/Statisticians visited Iraq for a period of one week from 11-5-97 to 16-5-97.

III. Assistance for Disaster Relief :

1995-96 (1) Air freight borne by the Govern-

ment of India on relief assistance sent to Iraq by the Indian Humanitarian Initiative—Rs. 10.82 lakhs.

(2) 56 MT of tea — Rs. 50 lakhs.

(3) Medicines and pharmaceuticals — Rs. 2.85 lakhs.

(4) 1000 MT of Wheat—Rs. 65.75 lakhs.

1996-97

(1) Milk powder, baby food—Rs. 50 lakhs

(2) Medical equipment and appliances—Rs. 150 lakhs.

1998-99

School stationery—Rs. 50.67 lakhs.

CUBA

I. Civilian Training :

India offered 60 slots during the last three years to Cuba for training of Cuban nominees in various fields including Diplomacy, Fluid Control Research, Mill Management, Computer-Software, Standardisation, Bio-Medical Equipment, Rural Development, Urban Development Management, Production Management, Human Resource Planning and Management, Textile Quality Control, etc.

II. Study Visits :

A four-member delegation from Cuba led by Mr. Aldo Blanco, Executive Secretary and Advisor to the First Vice-Minister of Sugar, visited India from 13 to 25th February, 1994 to undertake study in the field of sugar production and its machinery.

III. Projects and projects-related assistance :

In 1995-96 a 10 KW Solar Photovoltaic Power plant was set up at a cost of Rs. 58.65 lakhs the Central Electronics Limited, Sahibabad (U.P.). In 1997 spares worth Rs. 1.42 lakhs were also supplied.

IV. Military Training : One NDC slot was utilised in 1995-96.

V. Aid for Disaster Relief : In 1996-97 medicines worth Rs. 5 lakhs were supplied.

Bill on Cyber Crimes

3324. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bill on cyber crimes gives enough power to go about the cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any case has been booked in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The proposed Information Technology Bill 1999 lays down the legal framework for electronic-commerce. The Bill also provides for penalties for computer crimes, unauthorised access to computer network, computer database and offences such as tampering with the computer source documents, electronic forgery and other types of computer crimes.

(c) and (d) Action would be possible when the Bill becomes law.

North Korean Assistance to Pakistan

3325. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China, North Korea aided Pak. : CIA" appearing in the 'Pioneer' on February 12, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Pakistan's Ghauri missile is a version of North Korean Nodong missile having a range of 800 miles; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the government to inform North Korea not to transfer missile related technology to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen press reports cited above, based on a report by the Central Intelligence Agency of the USA, that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) assisted Pakistan's ballistic missile programme.

(c) It is widely believed that the Ghauri missile is a Pakistani version of the DPRK's 'Nodong' missile.

(d) Government have drawn the attention of the DPRK Government to these reports and conveyed India's concerns over DPRK's involvement in a programme that has an adverse effect on India's security.

Nuclear War

3326. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an 'independent' task-force of the

United States Council of Foreign Relations has in a report warned that both India and Pakistan are heading for a nuclear war; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The Report of the Independent Task Force on "US policy towards India and Pakistan" co-sponsored by the Bookings Institution and the Council on Foreign Relations published in September 1998, recognises India as the potential strategic partner of the US and States that India has the potential to become a major power in Asia in the next century. The report refers *inter alia* to an "increased likelihood" that nuclear weapons could be used in a conflict in South Asia either by design or by accident. It has stated that this assessment is not universally shared, as nuclear deterrence could contribute to stability as it did between US and the Soviet Union. The co-sponsors of the Task Force Report are independent think tanks.

(b) Governments has repeatedly made clear that India has no aggressive designs. Through the historic Lahore Declaration signed between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan on February 21, 1999, both countries have agreed to take immediate steps for reducing the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons and for confidence building in the nuclear and conventional fields aimed at prevention of conflict.

Sarkaria Commission

3327. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarkaria Commission has made recommendations to the Union Government to transfer some Agriculture Departments to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cryogenic Engine

3328. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first of six cryogenic stages contracted from the Russian Space Agency Glavkosmos has arrived in India;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the cryogenic engine will produce 12 tonnes of thrust in the third and crucial stage of GSLV;
- (d) whether this 49 metre 402 tonne GSLV will allow India to launch satellites weighing 2.5 tonnes in the orbit at a height of 36,000 kms; and
- (e) if so, the time by which other cryogenic engines are expected to arrive from Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a), (b) and (e) As per the modified agreement between ISRO and Glavkosmos, Russia, Glavkosmos, has to supply a technological mock-up for ground use, a propellant filling mock-up for cryogenic stage filling trials before launch and 7 flight stages.

So far technological mock-up and propellant filling mock-up and one flight stage have been received in India. The first flight stage has been received in September 1998. The remaining stages are expected to be ready every 6 months.

(c) Cryogenic engine carried about 12 tonnes of propellant in the third and crucial stage of Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and produces a thrust of 7.5 tonnes.

(d) GSLV in the initial development flights will carry spacecrafts of mass of about 1600 kg. to geostationary transfer orbits (175×36000 km.). This capability will progressively improve to 2000 kg class in operational flights.

[Translation]

Funds under MPLADS

3329. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether funds are being made available by the Union Government to MPs under the MPLADS are not adequate for carrying out developmental work in their constituencies;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to prescribe any separate fund for Members of Parliament in implementing the Employment Assurance Schemes, and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said fund is likely to be announced; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) As per announcement made by the Government in the Parliament, the allocation of Rs. 1 crore per year of MPLADS funds stands increased to Rs. 2 crore per year per M.P.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Visa Policy

3330. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any uniform visa policy regarding issue of visa to the peoples of neighbouring countries;
- (b) the number of neighbouring countries with whom India has free entry without visa;
- (c) whether the Government propose to add some more countries in the list of free entry to give boost to trade and commerce:
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the countries with whom negotiations are going on in this field; and
- (f) the response of those countries to the proposals of Indian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Government formulates the visa policies vis-a-vis individual neighbouring countries taking into consideration all the relevant requirements including reciprocity.

- (b) India has visa free entry with two neighbouring countries – Bhutan and Nepal.
- (c) At present there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.
- (d) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Hike in Prices of Potato and Onion

3331. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI :

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up any Committee or Commission to identify the reasons for sharp hike in the prices of potato and onion during the last three years and to punish the guilty persons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have any scheme for estimation on fruit, vegetables and minor crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds earmarked for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the purpose; and
- (f) the extent to which it is likely to help in collecting the information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) The prices of potato and onion during 1995-96 and 1996-97 were normal. However, their prices during the lean period of the current year increased on account of fall in production due to unfavourable weather conditions. No Committee has been set up.

(c) to (f) The Government of India is implementing a scheme of Crop Estimation Surveys for Fruits, Vegetables and Minor Crops on a pilot basis in 10 States covering 14 crops. The coverage being limited in terms of States/crops, it has not been possible to generate all-India estimates of fruits and vegetables.

During 9th Five Year Plan, it is envisaged to implement the scheme in all States/UTs covering all important crops at a proposed outlay of Rs. 32.75 Crore.

The scheme once implemented comprehensively, would help generate estimates of area, yield and production of fruits, vegetables and minor crops at all India basis.

[English]

Delhi Milk Scheme

3332. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to non-availability of milk of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS), people find it very difficult to meet their needs;

(b) if so, the specified reasons for not being able to supply the required quantity of milk;

(c) the present installed capacity of the plant in Delhi Milk Scheme and the percentage of the utilisation of the installed capacity;

(d) the reasons for which the plant of DMS does not function at its full capacity; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to increase the supply from present level of supply to its production capacity level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The milk in Delhi is being supplied by various organisations including Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy. Though the Delhi Milk Scheme is supplying 4 lakh litres of milk per day, the demand of the consumers is being met by other organisations. The capacity of Delhi Milk Scheme alone is far below the demand of citizens in Delhi.

(c) The present installed capacity of the plant is 5.00 lakh litres per day and its present utilisation is about 80%.

(d) The DMS operates at a production capacity in accordance with the budgetary support made available to.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

Kashmir Issue

3333. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

SHRI H.P. SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Africa and France endorsed India's position on Kashmir in a separate statement recently;

(b) whether both the visiting speakers of France and South Africa have pointed out that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and should be solved under the Simla Agreement, 1972; and

(c) if so, whether this is the first time that both these countries agreed to support India's view on Kashmir and expressed their views against the third party interference on J & K affairs?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) South African and French leaders have recently stated that Jammu and Kashmir is a matter for bilateral discussions between India and Pakistan. This view has been expressed by them in the past as well.

Jabalpur Quake Fund

3334. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has in a recent report revealed misappropriation of crores of rupees from the Jabalpur Quake Fund;

(b) if so, the details of the financial irregularities and the amount misused from the said quake fund, indicating the total quake relief fund given by the Union Government; and

(c) the steps taken in the light of the CAG's report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1997-98 is awaited.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Delhi Milk Scheme Crates

3335. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the crates in which milk of Delhi Milk Scheme is being supplied are so dirty that any time any disease can take an epidemic situation in Delhi;

(b) the reasons for which the crates in which the milk is supplied are not being cleaned;

(c) the action the Government propose to take against those who are responsible for this; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to clean the crates in which milk is being supplied on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) The crates are cleaned by using crate washers. The crates with harder deposits of milk are segregated and separately cleaned by manual pressure/using high-pressure water nozzle. Some times due to mechanical failure in the process, some crates may escape with the deposited milk solids. But however, there is no possibility of spread of an epidemic through milk crates, which are basically used for storage of milk pouches and milk does not come in contact with the surface of the plastic crates at all.

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

(d) The process for introducing crate washer with the latest technology has been initiated.

Fund for Bihar

3336. SHRI H.P. SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount out of the total funds allocated to Bihar under the Ninth Five Year Plan spent along with the heads under which it has been spent;

(b) whether the Bihar Government have furnished necessary figures to the Union Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the efforts made to obtain these figures from the State Government; and

(d) whether the balance amount is likely to be added to the amount proposed to be allocated under the Ninth Five Year Plan in case the amount provided in the Ninth Five Year Plan has not been spent in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) An outlay of Rs. 16,680 crore (at 1996-97 prices) for the Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) of Bihar has been approved. This comprises Rs. 6512.65 crore of State's Own Resources and Rs. 10167.35 crore of Central Assistance.

(b) Against the approved outlay of Rs. 2268.42 crore for Annual Plan 1997-98, it has been reported by the Government of Bihar that expenditure incurred during this period is of the order of Rs. 1663.87 crore. The expenditure was incurred under the heads of Agriculture & Allied Activities, Rural Development, Irrigation & Flood Control, Energy, Industry & Minerals, Transport & Communication, Science & Technology, General Economic Services and Social Services.

(c) As per the existing procedure, the State Government is required to furnish necessary information on plan expenditure after the close of the corresponding financial year.

(d) No, Sir.

Tirade by Pakistani Foreign Minister

3337. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani foreign minister had recently launched a tirade against India at a luncheon briefing for the visiting Indian Parliamentarians in Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Foreign Minister of Pakistan addressed Indian Parliamentarians during their recent visit to Pakistan on 12-13 February 1999 to participate in an Indian-Pakistan Parliamentary Conference organised by the Jang Group of newspapers. The Foreign Minister made a number of allegations against India. He was critical of India's policies with regard to issues that are being discussed as part of the composite dialogue process.

The composite dialogue process is aimed at building trust and confidence, exploring avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation and addressing outstanding issues. During the course of the first round of the dialogue process, India presented reasonable, practical and realistic proposals on all the subjects under discussion. Government hope that the Government of Pakistan will respond constructively to these proposals.

Development Board for Vidharbha Marathwara

3338. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Development Board for Maharashtra was set up by the Union Government in 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have noticed any developmental backlog in the State at the time of setting up of Board;

(d) if so, the details of developmental backlog removed out of the total backlog; and

(e) details of developmental backlog to be removed in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra State at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (e) Three Development Boards for Vidharbha, Marathwada and Rest of Maharashtra were set up in 1994 under Article 371 (2) of the Constitution to ensure equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure over the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole; and to provide an equitable arrangement for adequate facilities for technical

education and vocational training and adequate opportunities for employment in services under the control of the State Government. The Indicator and Backlog Committee constituted by the Governor of Maharashtra to identify Regionwise/sectorwise imbalances has estimated the financial backlog at Rs. 6961.02 crore as on 31.3.1994 for the Vidharbha Region of the State of Maharashtra.

Detention of Indian Envoy

3339. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on August 14, 1998, the Indian envoy and his son were detained in Islamabad;

(b) if so, whether India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan authorities;

(c) the main reasons of their arrest;

(d) whether Pakistan had also earlier detained Indian envoy; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to see that Pakistan does not indulge in such activities which are against the international law?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. There was no incident on 14.8.1998 of abduction and unlawful detention of any official of our Mission in Islamabad, nor was there any case of abduction and unlawful detention of any family member of our Mission officials.

There have been incidents in the past of abduction and unlawful detention of officials of our Mission in Islamabad by Pakistani official agencies. On these occasions, Government have lodged strong protests and asked Pakistan to abide by the provisions of the bilateral Code of Conduct and international conventions relating to treatment of Mission personnel by taking all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of our Mission personnel in Islamabad.

Sea Water Intrusion

3340. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Study blames industry for sea water intrusion" appearing in the Times of India dated February 6, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether there is large scale impact on the agricultural areas on coastal belts and also in Kutch District of Gujarat resulting migration of farmers; and

(d) if so, remedial measures taken by the Government to handle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report published in the paper indicates sea water intrusion due to overdrawal of ground water by Industries in Kutch district.

(c) Yes, this has been noticed in the coastal areas of Saurashtra and Kutch districts.

(d) Government of Gujarat (Narmada Water Resources and Water Supply Department, Gujarat) appointed high Level Committees I and II in the year 1976 and 1978 respectively, to study and recommend measures to counter problems of ingress of Salinity in the coastal areas of Saurashtra and Kutch. As recommended by these committees, the salinity ingress prevention works were taken up since the year 1980. Under the Salinity control Techniques, the construction of Tidal Regulators, Bandharas and Static barriers have been taken up. So far an expenditure of Rs. 214 crore has been incurred to recover an area of 13942 ha.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 noon.

11.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. Hon. Members, I will hear you. You may kindly go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will hear you. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Demands for grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for 1999-2000. Annual Report alongwith Audited Accounts and review by the Government of the working of Paschim Banga Rajya Prarthmik Shiksha Unnayan Sanstha, Calcutta for 1997-98 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2694/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paschim Banga Rajya Prathamik Siksha Unnayan Sanstha, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paschim Banga Rajya Prathamik Siksha Unnayan Sanstha, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2695/99]

Demands for grants of the Department of Electronics for 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : On behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Electronics for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2696/99]

Demands for grants of Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for 1999-2000.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2697/99]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2698/99]

Demands for grants of the Department of Atomic Energy for 1999-2000 and the Statement showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report/Audited Accounts of ECI Hyderabad 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2699/99]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report/Audited Accounts of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2700/99]

.....(Interruptions)

Annual Report along with Audited Accounts and Review by the Government of UP Projects and Tubewell Corporation Limited Lucknow now for 1994-95 and 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (a) Review by the Government of the working of the U.P. Projects and Tubewells Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96.
- (b) (i) Annual Report of the U.P. Projects and Tubewells Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (ii) Annual Report of the U.P. Projects and Tubewells Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1995-96, 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-2701/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2702/99]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year, 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997- 98.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2703/99]
- (7) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1999-2000.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2704/99]
- (8) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1999-2000.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2705/99]

Demand for grants of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and pensions and UPSC for 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : On behalf of Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Union Public Service Commission for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2706/99]

....(Interruption)

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha.

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on

the 15th March, 1999 agreed without any amendments to the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Repeal Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th March, 1999".

12.04½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Third Report

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.05 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Reports**

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): I beg to present the following Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee :-

- (1) Sixth Report on Infructuous expenditure of Rs. 29 crore—Communication Network.
- (2) Seventh Report on Action Taken on 13th Report of Public Accounts Committee (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Union Government Appropriation Accounts (1994-95) Defence Services.
- (3) Eighth Report on Action Taken on 102nd Report of Public Accounts Committee (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Assessment of Religious and Charitable Trusts.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is here to reply. I appeal to you to please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is ready to reply. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

12.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at
Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (JALORE) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have asked the hon. Speaker to adjourn the business of the House so that we can take up this issue. But unfortunately, we have not been able to impress upon the Speaker and nobody is listening to us.....(Interruptions). This cannot be allowed to go on indefinitely....(Interruptions). We have already suffered for years(Interruptions)

14.01 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Buta Singh and some other hon. Members come and stood on the floor near the Table.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Presentation of Reports.

14.01½

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LABOUR AND WELFARE

Ninth Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the Ninth Report and minutes of the sitting of the Committee (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on the 'National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Bill, 1999.

14.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM
AND CHEMICALS

Seventh and Ninth Reports

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR (DIBRUGARH) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals :

- (1) Seventh Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (12th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants—1998-99 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- (2) Ninth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (12th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants—1998-99 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Fertilisers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You go back to your seats. I will hear you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please go back to your seats? I will hear you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is coming. Please go to your place.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your place. I will hear you. The Prime Minister is going to come. I will give chance to one or two Members from every party and then the Prime Minister will respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I request you to please go to your seats? I will hear you. The Prime Minister is also coming.

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are senior Members. Please go to your place.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your place. I will hear you. You are senior leaders. Do not disturb like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are wasting the time of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will hear you. But please go to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : May I request the hon. Members to please go to their seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 hours.

14.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 18, 1999/Phaguna 27, 1920 (Saka)

Corrigenda to
Lok Sabha Debates (English Version)
Wednesday, March 17, 1999/Phalgun 26, 1920(Saka)

Col/line	For	Read
48/6(from below)	340.88	304.88
49/15(from below)	DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL	DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL
63/23	1748.1	1748.0
99,100/22	3.04	.034
111-112,	Last three columns under item No.4 should be read as follows: 0 209.67 28.47	
125/12	SRI U.V.KRISHN RAJU;	SRI U.V. KRISHNARAJU.
133/23	35.26	35.25

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